River Basin Management in Scotland

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SEPA
Where are we in the process?
RBMP Objectives:

SEPA’s role as ‘Competent Authority’

No deterioration
- New applications – regulation (CAR)
- Inspection/compliance/enforcement
- Pollution incident response
- Planning & advice

Improve to Good Status
- Regulation - licence reviews (incl Quality & Standards)
- Awareness/advice/partnerships
- Diffuse pollution work (GBRs)
- Water Environment Fund

Underpinned by environmental monitoring (chemistry/hydrology/ecology)
How are we doing?

- Meeting targets associated with licence reviews (approx 50% of water bodies targeted, 1000km) for improvement

- Shortfall associated with diffuse pollution and restoration of physical impacts – LAND USE

- Classification problematic as a performance measure in first cycle – ‘noise’ due to changing standards, water body changes, improved data.

- But Scotland doing relatively well
Pressures causing water body downgrades in Scotland

- Water Quality
- Physical condition
- Barriers to fish movement
- Flows and Levels
- Invasive Non-Native Species
Water quality - pressures

- Rural diffuse pollution: 450
- Wastewater: 150
- Toxic substances and urban diffuse pollution: 5
- Contaminated land: 5
- Acidification: 5
- Other problems: 5
Scottish Water – Quality & Standards

Environmental upgrades (~£100m/yr)
Capital maintenance (£250m/y)

RBMP first cycle planned
improvements to water bodies
• 120 water bodies - sewage discharges
• 25 water bodies - public water supply
• 5 water bodies - diffuse urban sources
Diffuse Pollution (rural)
Priority catchment approach

Evidence Base

Awareness Raising

Targeted Engagement

Underpinned by General Binding Rules
Physical restoration

Morphology

Fish Barriers
Restoration Fund/WEF Spend

Project spend

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Spend</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009/10</td>
<td>£133,788</td>
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<td>2015/16</td>
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Pluscarden Weir (Elgin)
Almond Barriers (W. Lothian)
Almond Barriers (W. Lothian)
Stane Gardens, Shotts
Stane Gardens, Shotts
‘Step changes’ required

• Diffuse pollution (underpinned by regulation)

• Physical restoration (voluntary, incentive based)
Land use impacts

Morphology

Diffuse Pollution
Challenges & Opportunities

- Resources
- Cost benefit
- Ecological response – better tools
- True catchment management
- Partnerships and multiple benefits
- May require compromises?