

Farmers' perception of Scotland's diffuse water pollution regulations in the Eye Water and Pease Bay Priority Catchment

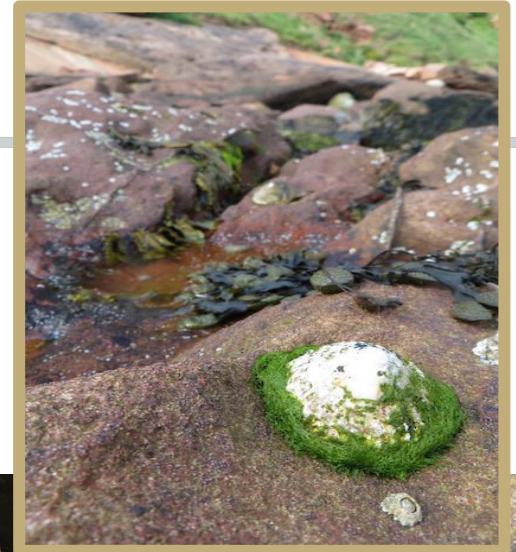
International Water Resources Association (IWRA)
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Agenda

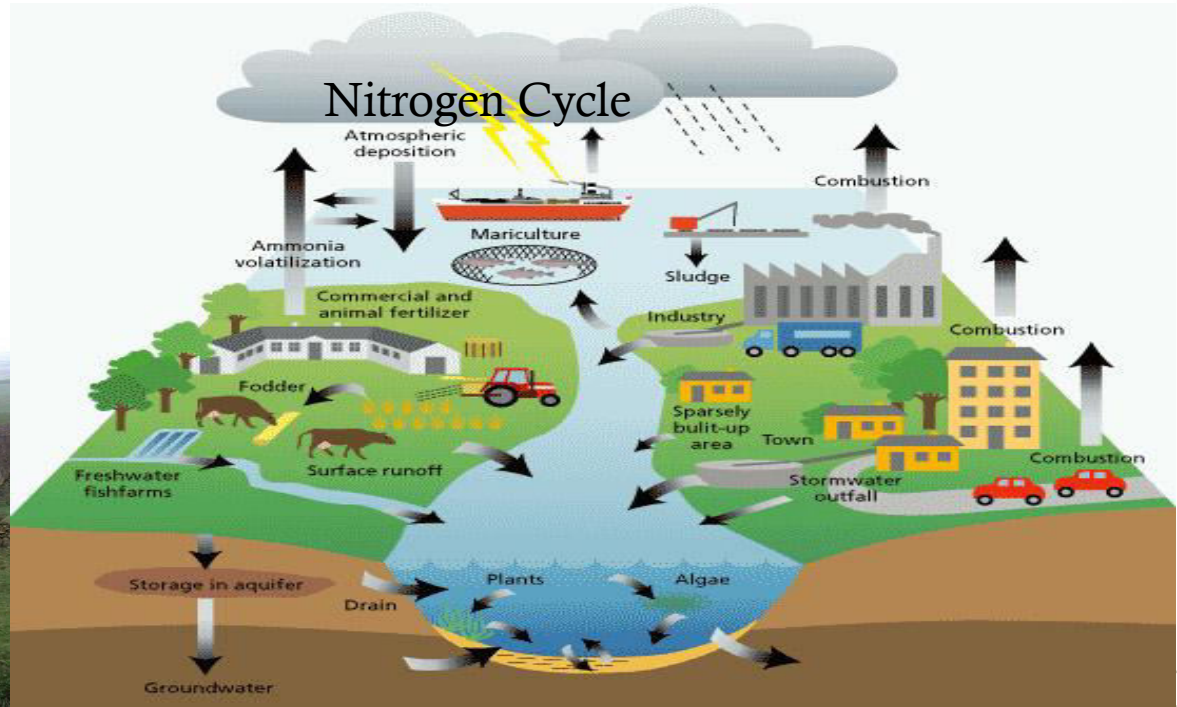
1. Introduction: The Concern
2. Legal and Regulatory Approaches: Scotland
3. Engagement of Stakeholders
4. Case Study: Eye Water and Pease Bay, Scotland
5. Recommendations



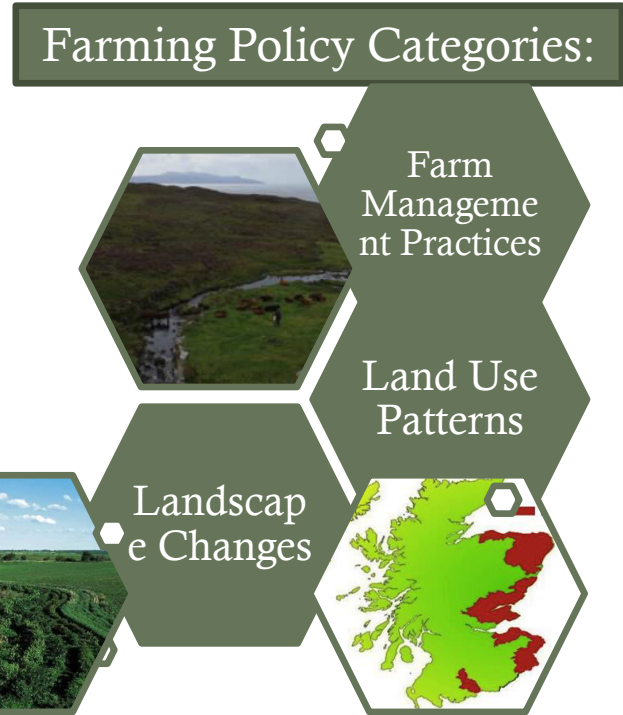
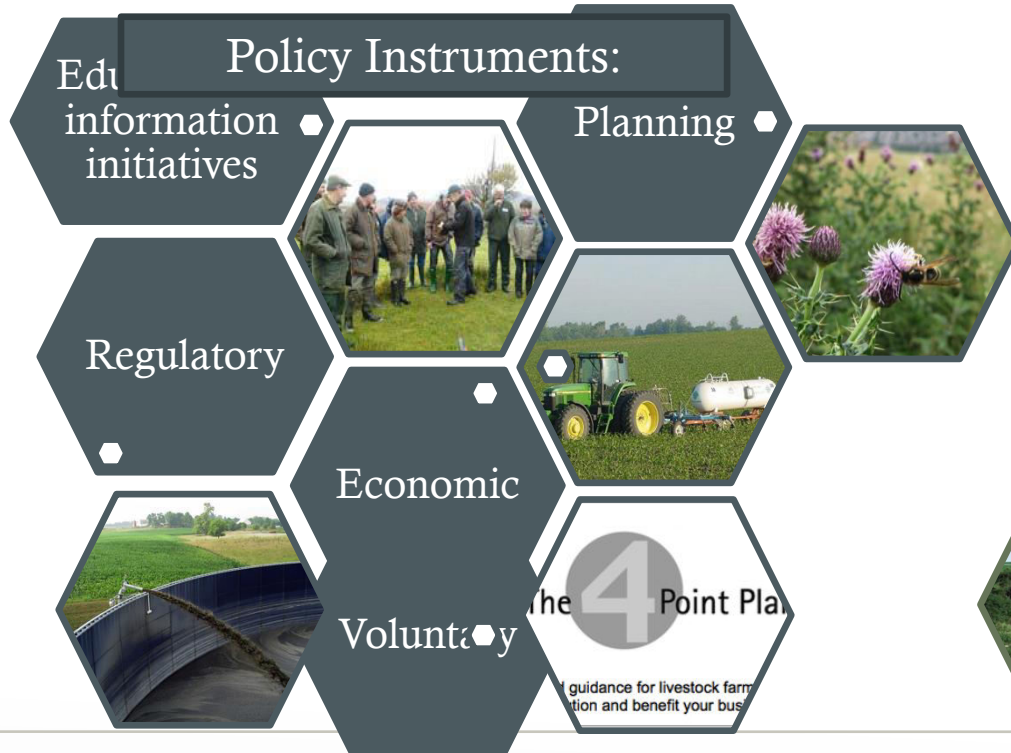
Introduction: The Concern Water Quality

Diffuse/Non-Point Pollution Impacts:

- Ecosystems
- Human health
- Food production
- Economy



Legal and Regulatory Approaches



Scotland's Policies

2000

Water
Framework
Directive
(2000/60/EC)

2003

Water
Environment
and Water
Services
(Scotland) Act
2003 (WEWS)
and River
Basin
Management
Planning

2008

Water
Environment
(Diffuse
Pollution)
(Scotland)
2008

2013

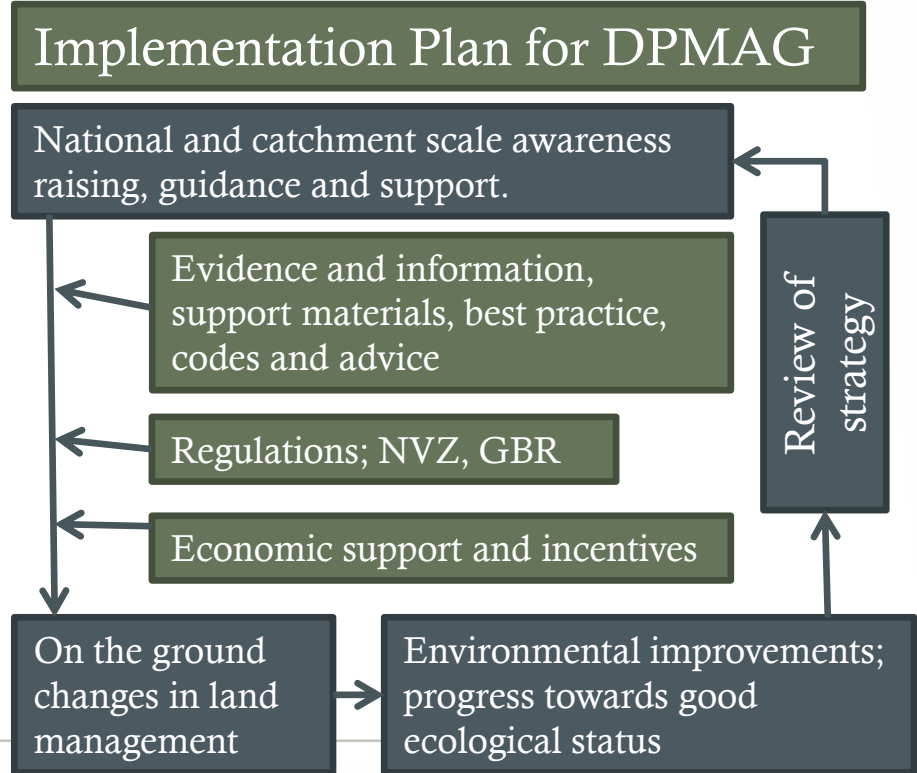
Water
Environment
(Controlled
Activities)
2005/2011/2013
CAR

- General Binding Rules

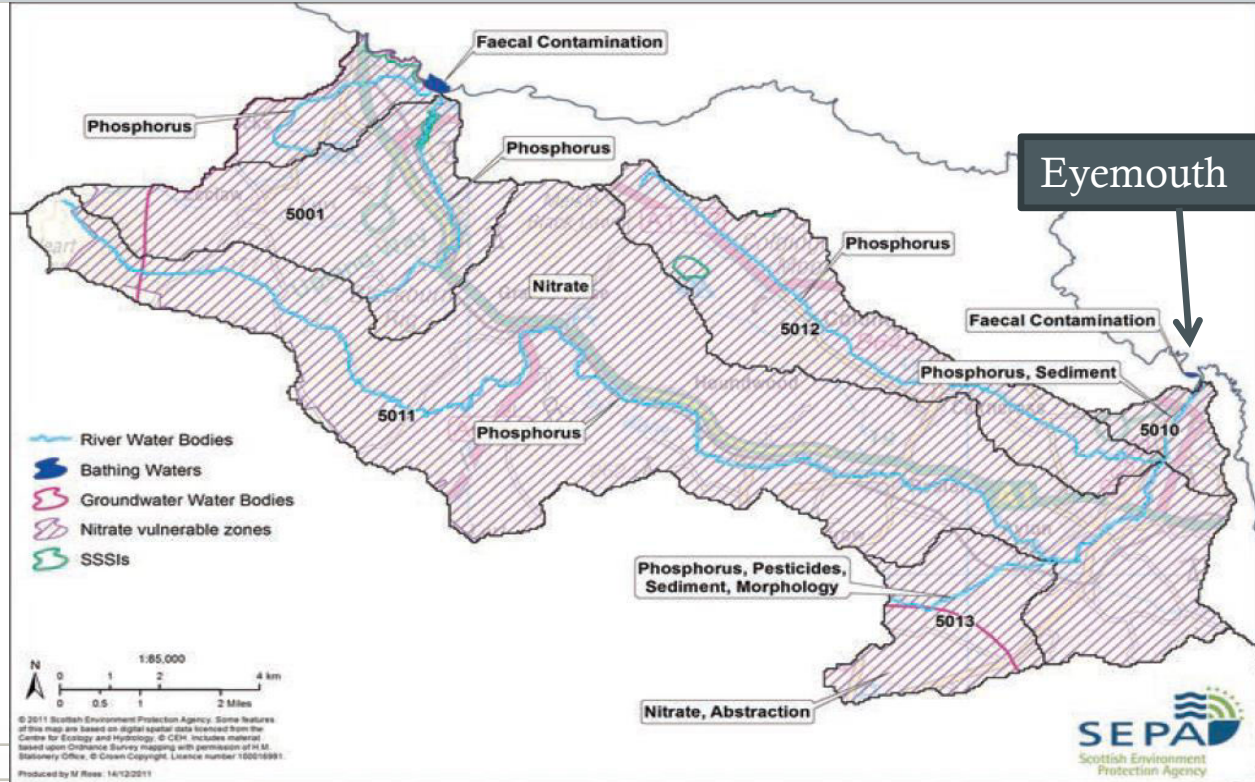
Scotland's Engagement of Stakeholders in Policy

Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group (DPMAG)

- For the delivery of RBMP
- Established late 2009
- Under Section 17 of WEWS Act
- SEPA, Scottish Government, National Farmers Union Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, James Hutton Institute, etc



Case Study on Eye Water and Pease Bay Catchment: Pollution Pressures



Case Study: Methods

Qualitative semi-structured interviews

1. Farmers
(10 farmers and the National Farming Union)
2. Government
(Scottish Government, SEPA)
3. Environmental experts
(SAC Consulting, Tweed Forum)

General Information

Diffuse pollution and its importance

Regulations and participation

Mitigation

Case Study: Results & Conclusions

1. Farmers and understanding diffuse pollution

- Most farmers do not fully understand the negative impacts
- ‘I can’t understand how they work it out...**So the experts tell me that 1,000 sheep are dirtier than 4,000 people in Eyemouth** somebody said...There’s no better fertilizer for the land than sheep dung. **No not much of it gets down to the rivers. I don’t see.**’ – Farmer

2. Farmers understanding regulations and their participation

- ‘As far as I am aware I endeavour. **If I don’t achieve it, it’s not because I haven’t tried.**’ – Farmer
- ‘**It all has to do with the finance...**particularly provision of water supply for livestock and which fields you put animals into, access to pasture...’ – Farmer
- ‘pretty annoyed if action wasn’t taken against, basically **they’ve gotten away with doing nothing and we’ve spent a lot of money...** - Farmer

3. Change in relationship between SEPA and Farmers

- Farmers have seen an improvement between their relationships from the **increase of effective collaboration, educated personnel, and advisory approaches**
- ‘someone like [the catchment coordinator] comes along and they speak to them for half an hour over a cup of coffee and they change their mind because he and his common sense. **He understands the practicalities and is able to make change..**’ – Farmer

Recommendations

- 1) Approaches tailored towards the farmer and his needs
 - 1) Meetings, workshops, site-visits or just a good chat with a trusted person
- 2) Develop a two way communication to share the objectives, successes and frustrations
- 3) Provide financial outputs
- 4) Address the inequality of those not complying

Thank you for listening!

'In every respect, the valley rules the stream'

H.B.N Hynes (1975)



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