

SEPA – Diffuse Pollution Priority Catchment Work



Bruce McCleary
Catchment Coordinator
Land Unit, SEPA

Diffuse pollution in Scotland

- Scotland's water quality is generally good!
- **Rural Diffuse pollution** now the largest pollution pressure



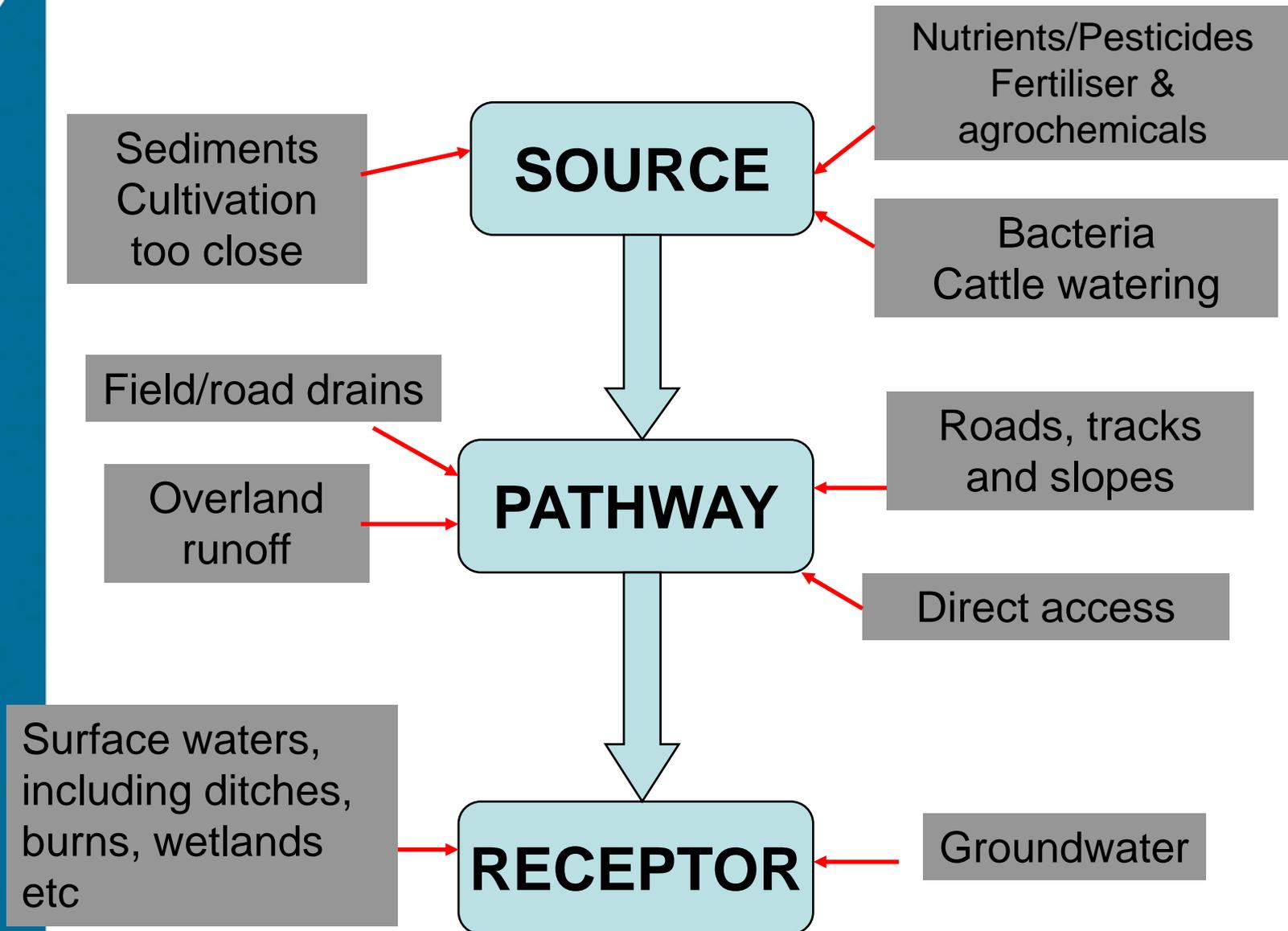
- Individually minor, but collectively significant
 - Sources include sediment, nutrients, bacteria & pesticides
- Transported from land to burns and rivers
- Heavily influenced by rainfall

Why is diffuse pollution a problem?

- Soil/sediment -> increased turbidity & habitat smothering
- Nutrients (N and P) -> eutrophication of surface waters (algal blooms) and disruption to aquatic species. Drinking water also affected
- Bacteria -> impact on human health (bathing & shellfish waters)
- Pesticides -> severe impact on aquatic organisms. Drinking water also affected

=> Overall reduction in water quality





Regulations

Diffuse Pollution General
Binding Rules

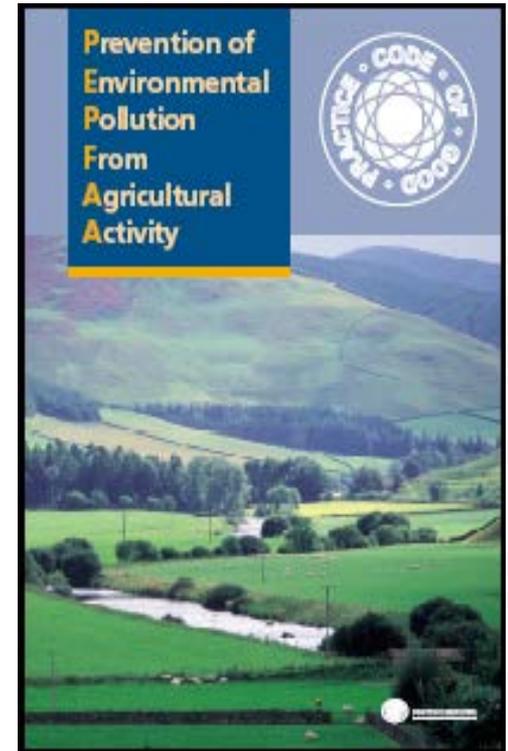
Introduced in 2002

Based on a range
of good practice

Rules focused on **land** and
run-off management

**The DP GBR's apply to all ditches,
burns, rivers & lochs**

Cover all land use activities



The Diffuse Pollution GBRs cover....

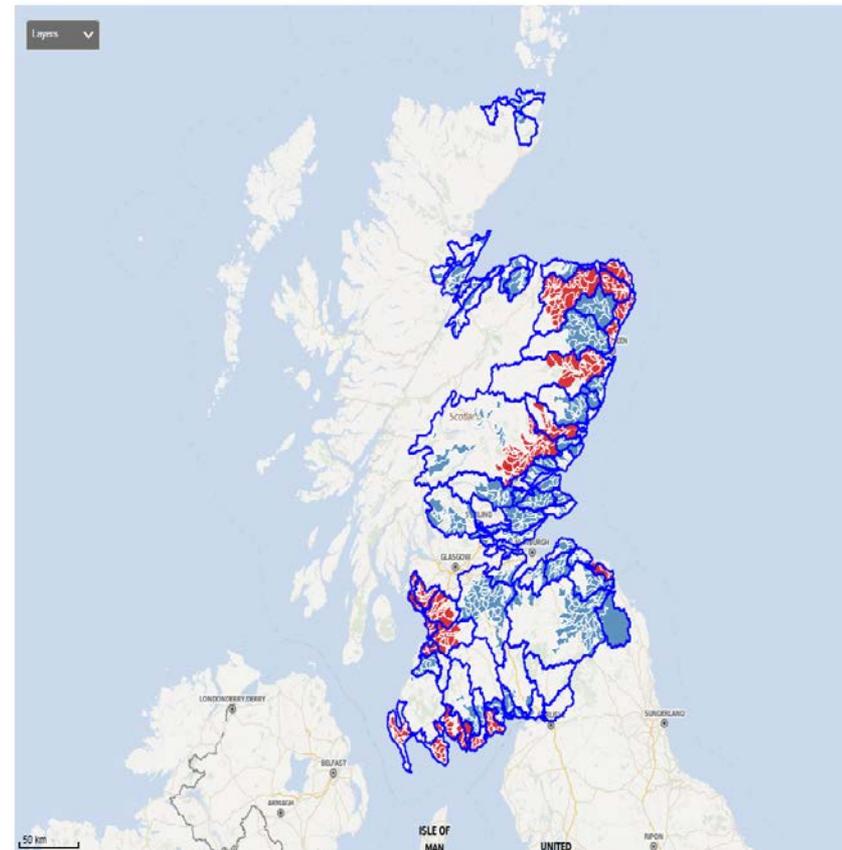
- Storage and application of fertiliser (GBR18)
- Keeping of livestock (GBR19)
- Cultivation and harvesting of crops (GBR20)
- Run-off from agricultural or forestry activities
- Construction and maintenance of water bound roads and tracks (forestry)
- The handling and use of pesticides
- Operating sheep dipping facilities

The DP GBR's apply to all ditches, burns, rivers & lochs

What and Where are Scotland's Priority Catchments?

- They are catchments that are failing to meet water quality standards specified under Water Framework Directive
- They are catchments that require a focused catchment management approach to improve water quality
- 14 catchments were selected as Scotland's first priority catchments (2009 – 2015)

Operational areas in RBMP1 and 2 PCs



First cycle approach

- Catchment-wide approach required to reduce diffuse pollution
- 3 stage approach:
 1. **Catchment walks** - Evidence base – catchment walking & use of science
 2. **Awareness Raising** - workshops, pod cast, leaflets, meetings, articles and press release
 3. **1:1 Site visits** - 1 farm visit / day / per officer (steading and total land owned)
- Revisits to non compliant land managers **max 3** revisits prior to enforcement action being initiated, ultimately some farms may get 4 – 5 revisits.

1:1 Site visits - Steading audit

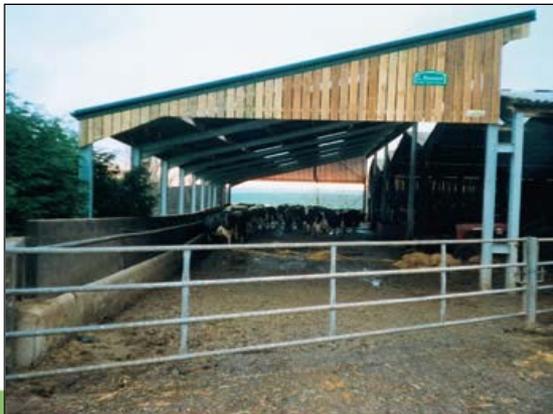
- Walk round the steading with land manager and assess compliance with:
 - SSAFO (Silage/Slurry)
 - Oil storage Regs
 - GBR 's



Discuss any required action or options where required.

Reducing diffuse pollution risk - steading

- Maintenance of existing structures (routine repair)
- Clean dirty water separation (repair roof gutters & downcomers)
- Roofing dirty yard areas & midden areas
- Diverting lightly contaminated drainage to a constructed farm wetland.
- Think about covers on slurry stores.
- Additional slurry storage (aiming towards 6 months, better use of nutrients).



Examples of GBR 18 breaches

Frozen ground and
<10m burn



Fertiliser prill <2m burn



<10m from burn



Minimum distances from drinking
water supplies, ditches & burns
(50m, 10m & 2m)

Not on snow- covered or
waterlogged ground (or
Slurries on frozen)

Match applications to nutrient
requirements of crop

Examples of GBR 19 breaches



Poaching Mitigation



Poaching Mitigation



Poaching Mitigation



Examples of GBR 20 breaches



Cultivation Mitigation



Galloway/Stewartry To Date.....

- **>500** farm visits completed.
- **>90%** all had a GBR breach recorded in the field.
- **63%** have had a SSAFO breach recorded on the stabling.
- **35%** have had less than 6 months slurry storage at the time of the first visit.
- Biggest issue - GBR 19 breaches.
- **>360** Revisits carried out to date:
- **1st** Revisit: **60%** complied **40%** working towards
- **2nd** Revisit: **92%** complied **8%** working towards
- No enforcement started

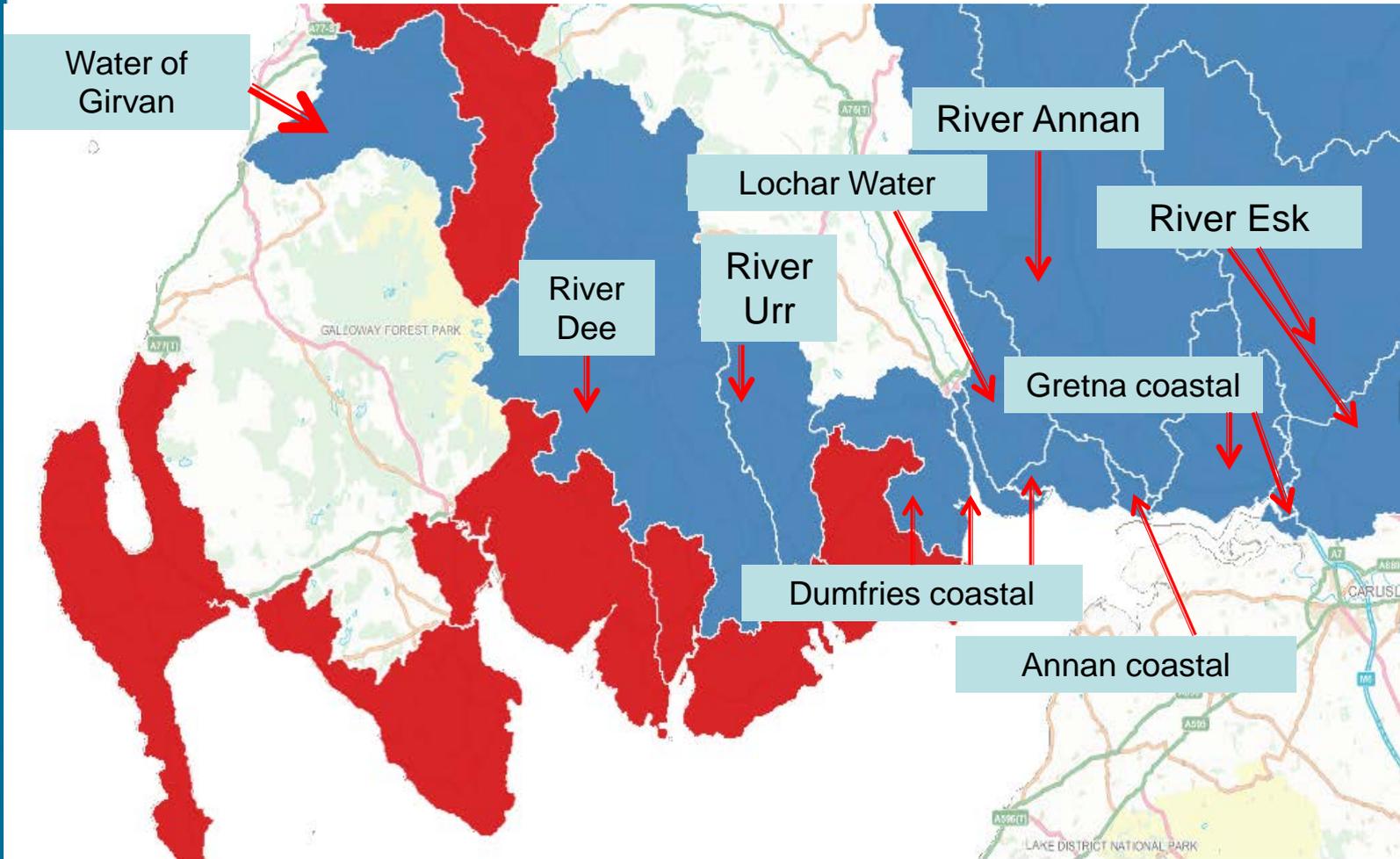
Cycle 2 Next Steps

- **Complete work in initial 14 priority catchments**
- **Start work in cycle 2 catchments**
- **Continue to work with land managers to reach compliance**
- **Monitor effectiveness**
- **tackle rural sewage, targeted rules, fixed penalties.....**

Cycle 2 Next Steps

RED – Cycle 1 PCs

BLUE – Cycle 2 PCs



RBMP2 – revised PC approach

- **NO** catchment walking in any new priority catchment
- Awareness raising continues as per Cycle 1 + introduction of national awareness raising campaign
- Straight to 1 to 1 visits in targeted areas based on downgrades and knowledge of issues from first 14 – (very targeted to where risk / problems are)
- 2 farm visits per day per officer (steading and % of fields based on risk)
- Maximum of 1 follow up visit to non compliant farms to see what actions have been taken. If **NO** action / remedial work has been initiated then enforcement action will be taken.

Story so far.....

River Dee PC

- **>90** farm visits completed.
- **55%** compliant **45%** non compliant
- Biggest issue - GBR 19 breaches.

River Urr PC

- Initial visits nearly completed.
- Good compliance
- Biggest issue - GBR 19 breaches.

Dumfries Coastal PC starting 2017

What does it mean for you?

- **ALL findings will be discussed before leaving farm**
- **This includes advising which mitigation measures may be suitable for the site and agreeing workable timescales**
- **Contact co-ordinator or NFUS if any concerns**
- **>500 visits carried out in Galloway/Stewartry - no major reported concerns**

DON'T



PANIC

You are in > Home > SAC Consulting > Farming & Water Scotland

Farming & Water Scotland

Our website provides ideas, information and contacts to help you reduce diffuse pollution risks from your farm and benefit the farm business.



Reducing diffuse pollution risks can benefit your business in a number of ways, for example making better use of nutrients in slurry and manure or an improvement in livestock health through cleaner drinking water supplies.

It can also help you to stay on the right side of the Regulations and protect farm payments, whilst protecting surrounding water quality.

Further information and links.



[Diffuse Pollution](#)



[Soils & Nutrients](#)



[Livestock](#)



[Arable](#)



[Scotland's Water](#)



[PEPFAA Code](#)



[Funding & Resources](#)



[Know the Rules](#)



Thank You

Bruce McCleary/Jackie McColm

Diffuse Pollution Catchment Coordinators

SEPA Land Unit

bruce.mccleary@sepa.org.uk

jackie.mccolm@sepa.org.uk