

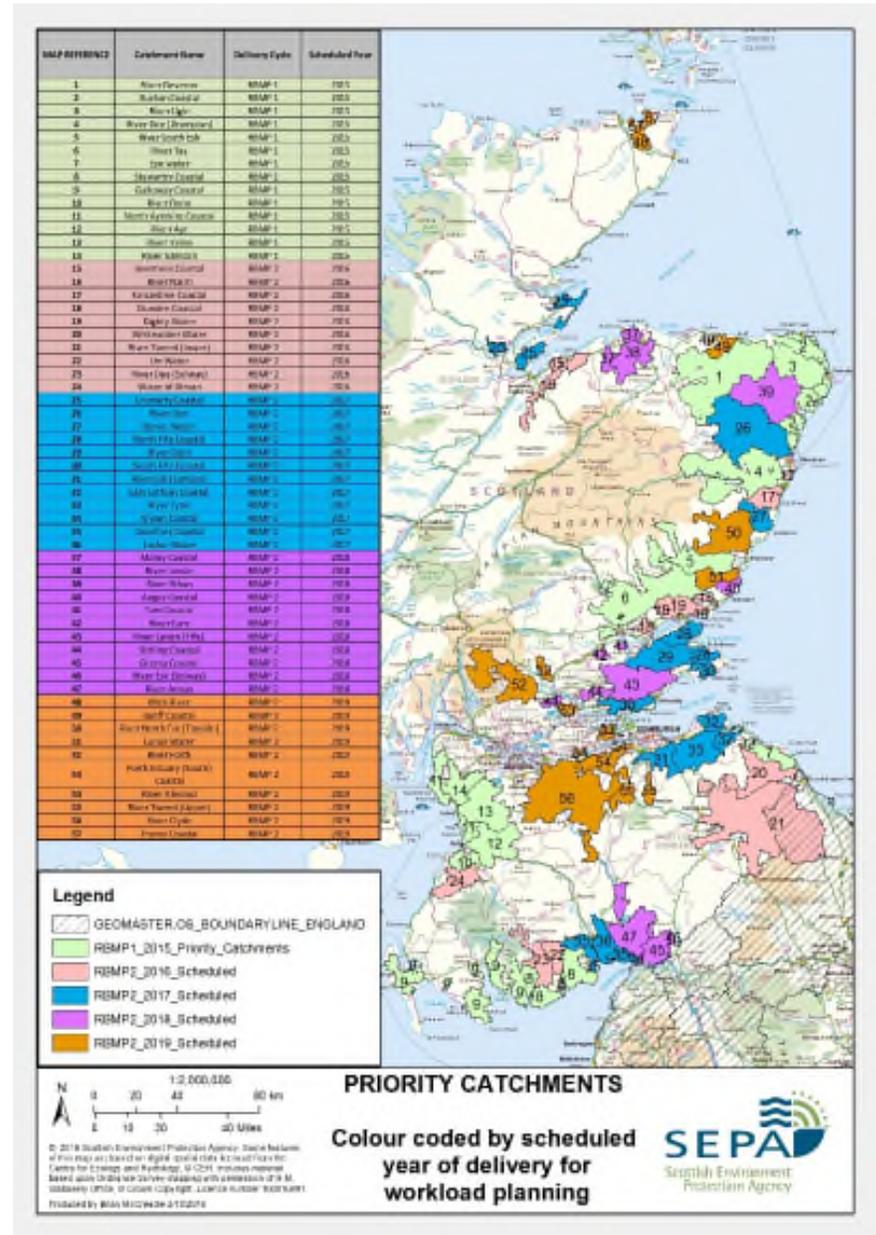
SEPA – Priority Catchment Work



Jackie McColm
Land Unit, SEPA

What and Where are Scotland's Priority Catchments?

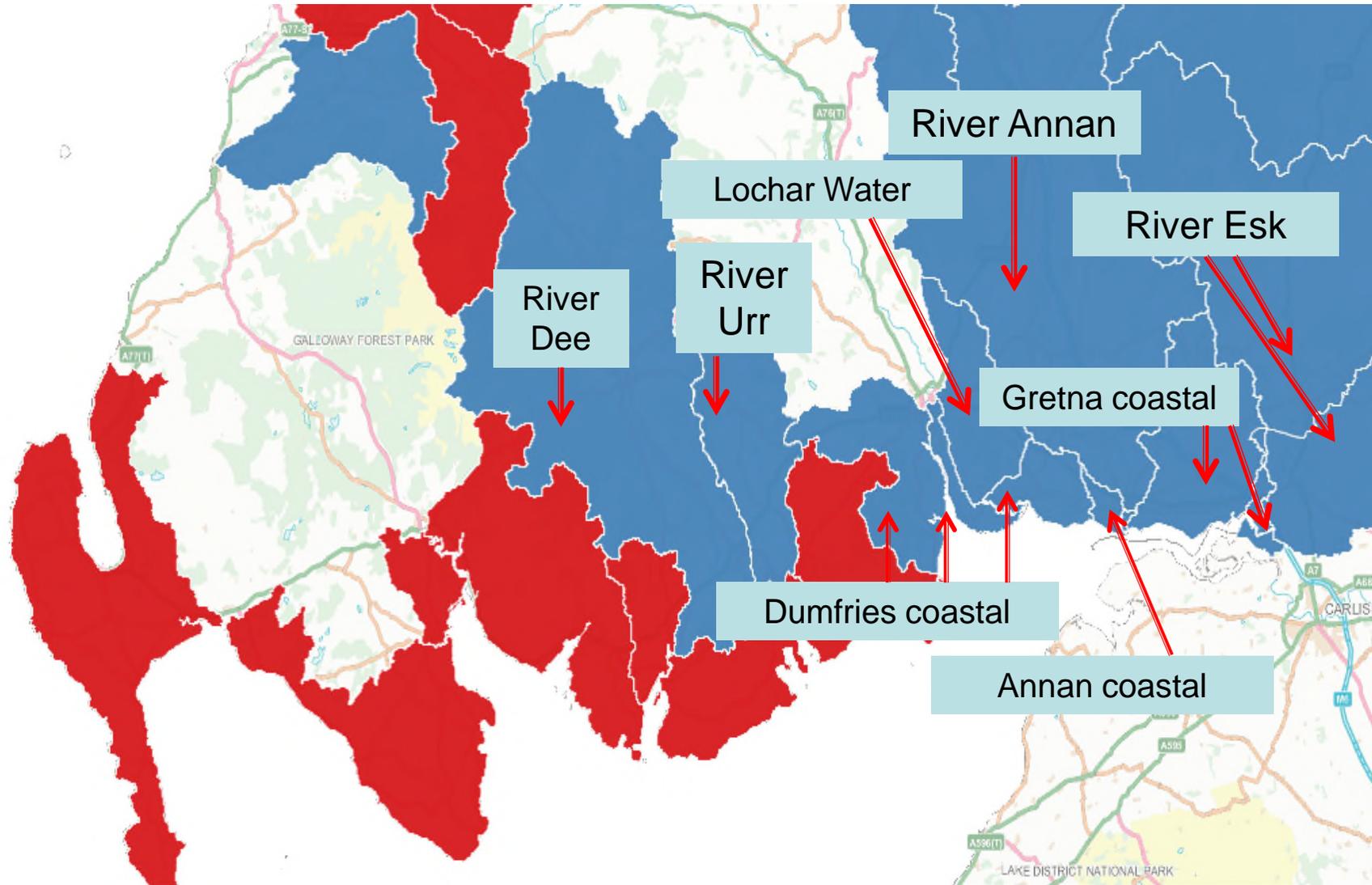
- They are catchments that are failing to meet water quality standards specified under Water Framework Directive
- They are catchments that require a focused catchment management approach to improve water quality
- 14 catchments were selected as Scotland's first priority catchments (2009 – 2015)



Dumfries & Galloway Catchments

RED – Cycle 1 PCs

BLUE – Cycle 2 PCs



SEPA's Priority Catchment Approach

- More targeted approach-working with the rural sectors (agriculture, forestry etc) to achieve better water quality which benefits everyone.
- Specialist officers-understand pressures on sectors and work with them to achieve mutually acceptable outcomes.
- Been very successful in building bridges between SEPA and agricultural sector.
- Approach quoted as an exemplar in Europe.

Agrochemicals

Storage &
application of
slurry/FYM

Cultivation
too close

SOURCE

Cattle waterings

Roads, tracks
and slopes

PATHWAY

Field/road drains

Overland
runoff

Direct access

Groundwater

RECEPTOR

Surface waters
(ditches, burns,
wetlands etc)

Why is diffuse pollution a problem?

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

=>Overall reduction in water quality

Why is diffuse pollution a problem for you?

- Loss of soil- its always the good stuff you lose!
- Loss of applied nutrients –waste!
- Livestock poaching destabilises banks, leading to soil loss and erosion.
- Transmission of livestock diseases- **Johne's**
- Soil compaction-reduces yields, increases erosion risk, more run-off-more flooding.
- Fills ditches/watercourses requiring maintenance-stop it going in in the first place!
- Cross compliance-most GBR breaches are also cross compliance breaches.

“Wull’s Law”

Soil, nutrients and pesticides
going down a river aren’t doing
anyone any good....



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

Common field issues

- **Livestock poaching**-most common issue we find
- Badly sited ring feeders
- Badly sited FYM heaps
- Cultivation issues- compaction, tramlines
- Broken/ineffective field drainage systems
- Application of slurry/FYM within 10 metres of watercourse

Examples of GBR 19 breaches



Potential solutions

...it's not always about fencing



- Relocating livestock feeders & salt licks
- Providing shade/shelter away from burns
- Maintaining field drains, troughs etc
- Preventing compaction from livestock
- Stock management

Poaching Mitigation



Potential solutions



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 steading.
- **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

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

- **>50** farm visits completed.
- **76%** compliant **24%** non compliant
- Biggest issue - GBR 19 breaches.

Dumfries Coastal PC

- **>165** farm visits completed.
- **69%** compliant **31%** non compliant
- Biggest issue - GBR 19 breaches

Lochar Water PC

- **>80** farm visits completed.
- **65%** compliant **35 %** non compliant
- Biggest issue - GBR 19 breaches

Cycle 2 Next Steps

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

Thank You

Jackie McColm

Diffuse Pollution Catchment Coordinator

SEPA's Land Unit

jacqueline.mccolm@sepa.org.uk

Tel:01387 720502