

Working together to protect and improve the Solway Tweed water environment:

Getting involved in developing the second river basin plan



Solway Firth

What is this consultation about?

This consultation:

- outlines the timetable and work programme for the development of the second river basin management plan in 2015;
- highlights the opportunities and structures/groups in place to enable you to influence the development of second plan;
- provides you with the opportunity to let us know of any additional ways in which you would like to get involved in river basin planning;
- sets out how we propose to develop a second plan that enables more efficient and integrated management.

Who do we want to respond?

This consultation is aimed at everyone with an interest in the water environment, such as public bodies involved in water environment management, together with land and water managers, and commercial users.

Why is protecting and improving the Solway Tweed's water environment important?

We all enjoy the benefits of a clean and healthy water environment. The rivers, lochs/lakes, coastal waters and groundwater of the Solway Tweed river basin district are important for industry, commerce and recreation, and are fundamental to the wellbeing of communities. The river basin district is largely rural and is home to approximately 450,000 people. The Solway Tweed's water environment also supports an enormous diversity of wildlife and habitats, including species and habitats of national or international importance because of their uniqueness or rarity. There are also many excellent salmon and sea trout rivers in the river basin district.

The Solway Tweed river basin district (see Figure 1) incorporates the catchments that feed into the Solway Firth and Tweed estuaries, the estuaries themselves and the groundwater that underlies the river basin district. The river basin district has an area of around 17,500 km^2. In Scotland this incorporates the Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway and small parts of Ayrshire; and in England, parts of Northumbria, the Lake District and Cumbria. The main river catchments include the rivers Tweed, Eden, Esk, Annan, Nith, Dee-Ken, Bladnoch, Cree and their associated wetlands.

Figure 1: Map of Solway Tweed RBD



What is river basin planning?

River basin planning is the process we use to prioritise and co-ordinate efforts to protect and improve the Solway Tweed water environment. It is an ongoing and cyclical process, involving public bodies[1] working alongside land managers and users of the water environment to develop and deliver a river basin management plan. The plan is developed around river catchments (or river basins) because what happens in one part of a river catchment can affect other parts of the catchment. In the Solway Tweed district, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment Agency are jointly responsible for leading and co-ordinating the river basin planning process.

River basin planning involves:

- **assessing pressures** and **impacts** to identify where improvements to the water environment, or action to prevent its deterioration, may be required;
- **reviewing and updating** our targets (objectives) to improve the condition and/or prevent deterioration of the water environment;
- **identifying** the most appropriate **actions** (measures) and **determining** the most **appropriate organisation/ individual to take action**;
- **monitoring** the **condition** to see if it has improved or been safeguarded from deterioration.

Every six years a river basin management plan is published – an update to the previous plan – which sets out what has been achieved and where efforts are needed to continue to protect and improve our water environment over the next six years.

In 2009, the Solway Tweed's first river basin management plan was published, highlighting that 49% of water bodies are in a 'good' or better than good condition. This plan has been fundamental in driving forward and co-ordinating actions to protect and improve the water environment on the basin scale. As a result, we're already seeing a wide range of measures being delivered on the ground.

We are now at the stage of formally reviewing progress in relation to the delivery of the first river basin management plan measures[2] and working towards producing a second river basin management plan by 2015. This document sets out how the second river basin plan will develop and how we will encourage your participation in this process.

It is important that you are involved

Effective river basin management planning requires the active involvement of those public bodies with a legal role in managing the water environment, together with other land and water managers, and commercial users that use or impact on the water environment.

We are asking a number of questions throughout this document to help guide your response, but we are interested in any of your views at this stage.

[1] These public bodies are the responsible authorities listed in schedule 2 of The Water Environment (Relevant Enactments and Designation of Responsible Authorities and Functions) (Scotland) Order 2011 and include Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Water, Forestry Commission Scotland, Canal and River Trust, local authorities, national park authorities and district salmon fisheries boards.

[2] Progress will be published within our 'action update' report which is required to be submitted to Europe by December 2012.

How you can respond to this consultation

You can respond by:

- completing the online response form on the SEPA website
- sending a response by email to **rbmp@sepa.org.uk**
- sending a written response to:

River basin planning – consultation response
SEPA
7 Whitefriars Crescent
Perth
PH2 0PA

If you wish your comments to remain confidential, please state this clearly as part of your response.

Consultation responses should be returned by **28 February 2013**.

Next steps

Your comments will be used to shape how the updated river basin plan will be developed. A summary of consultation responses will be published by June 2013 explaining how your input has been used to influence the river basin planning process. It will be distributed to those who have submitted comments as well as being published on SEPA's website, with links from the Environment Agency's website.

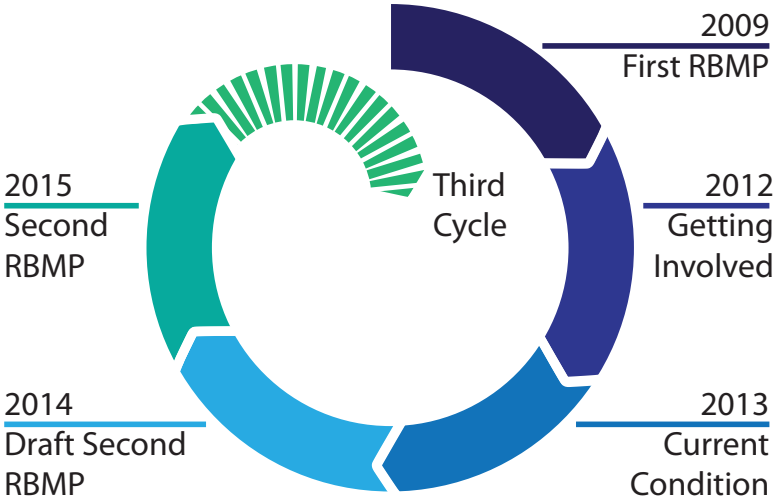


River Tweed, Coldstream

Developing the updated river basin management plan: timetable and work programme

There are a number of steps (statutory requirements[3]) we have to take in the process of producing the second river basin management plan. The purpose of each step is outlined in Table 1. We will also take account of other consultations that are happening during the development of the second plan, such as any reviews of heavily modified water bodies[4].

Figure 2: Cycle diagram



To make it easier for you to be informed and get involved, we will publish a document at each step, either for information or consultation. Your responses to each consultation will influence the next step in the process, ultimately informing the second river basin management plan and ensuring it is fit for purpose.

Further to the formal consultations described below, at the end of 2012 we will also be publishing an action update which will review progress in the implementation of the planned programme of first cycle measures. We will use this to identify gaps in delivery and help prioritise action.

Table 1: Timetable and work programme for the development of the second river basin management plan

RBMP publication	Purpose	Consultation period
Getting involved in developing the second river basin plan (this consultation)	Sets out the timetable and work programme to produce the second RBMP. Explains how people can get involved in river basin planning. Highlights the specific points in the river basin planning cycle where their active input is required and the consultation measures we will undertake to ensure their involvement. Ask stakeholders to suggest new ways to get involved.	28 August 2012 – 28 February 2013

[3] These steps are required by the EU Water Framework Directive and set out in The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (Solway Tweed River Basin District) Regulations 2004.

[4] The agencies have identified water bodies for designation as heavily modified where they are substantially altered in character for purposes such as navigation, power generation, public water supply provision, recreation, land drainage and other important human sustainable development activities and where their physical characteristics cannot be restored without significant adverse impacts on the uses served by the alterations or on the wider environment.

Current condition and challenges for the future[5]	Risk assessment of the attainment of objectives set out in the first river basin plan and provides evidence base for updating and reviewing objectives and the programme of measures. Description of the services (social, economic and environmental benefits) a healthy water environment provides. Identifies and consults on the significant water management issues that should be the focus for the development of the draft river basin management plan and future implementation.	22 December 2013 – 22 June 2014
Consultation on changes to heavily modified water bodies within Scotland - Initial review of heavily modified water bodies within the English portion of the river basin district took place in 2011.	Proposal to designate new or make changes to the existing list of heavily modified water bodies.	22 December 2013 – 22 June 2014
Strategic environmental assessment scoping report	Determines the detail and scope of the assessment of the second river basin management plan and the proposed consultation arrangements for the environmental report.	22 December 2013 – 22 March 2014
Draft river basin management plan	Presents the story of implementation of the first plan. Consultation to propose revised environmental objectives for water bodies and updates to the programmes of measures, including new national measures and strategies.	22 December 2014 – 22 June 2015
Habitat regulations appraisal	Determines the impact of the plan on Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, undertaking an appropriate assessment if the plan would have a likely significant effect on any of these sites.	Appraisal will be completed before 22 December 2015.
Strategic environmental assessment report	Sets out potential environmental effects of implementation of the second plan, mitigation of impact, investigates and presents reasonable alternatives to the plan.	22 December 2014 – 22 March 2015
Second river basin management plan	Sets out the objectives for the water environment and presents the strategy for meeting those objectives between 2015 and 2021.	No consultation required. Document will be published on 22 December 2015.
Strategic environmental assessment statement	Summarises how the strategic environmental assessment and any views expressed on the environmental report and/or draft river basin management plan have been taken into account.	No consultation required. Document will be published on 22 December 2015.

[5] For the first plan we produced three separate documents at this stage: an environmental characterisation of the water environment; an economic characterisation of the water environment; and a summary of significant water management issues. The Water Framework Directive only requires formal consultation on the summary of significant water management issues. This time we are combining these documents into one formal consultation.

For each consultation we will:

- post easily accessible electronic consultation documents on the SEPA website;
- provide printed copies free of charge on request;
- inform statutory consultees;
- advertise the consultation through relevant national and local media and on SEPA's and the Environment Agency's Facebook and Twitter webpages;
- provide stakeholder networks with a non-technical electronic newsletter/factsheet that they can distribute to their networks to raise awareness of the consultation;
- investigate options to provide displays/hard copies in key locations e.g. libraries, community centres in more remote locations;
- provide a list of questions to guide consultation responses;
- provide facilities for both electronic and paper-based responses to the consultations;
- resolve any differing views by negotiation, or if this is not possible, then the matter will be referred to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and/or Scottish Ministers.

Question 1

Will the consultation opportunities outlined above enable you to contribute to the river basin planning process? If not, can you suggest any additional methods? Please also let us know if you feel that any of the methods are not appropriate and should not be a priority?

Involving you in developing the second river basin plan

Production of the first river basin management plan was underpinned by considerable stakeholder engagement. Working with stakeholder groups and through information available on the SEPA website, with additional information and/or links from the Environment Agency's website, a wide range of stakeholders interested in the water environment were able to get involved in the planning process.

This engagement resulted in the publication of a good quality, ambitious, river basin management plan and a challenging programme of measures. We wish to build on and strengthen this approach and propose that the development of the second plan will also be underpinned by a high level of stakeholder involvement.

We would like you to make suggestions about how we can make our engagement work as well for you as possible, making the best use of the resources that we have.

Solway and Tweed Area Advisory Groups

The Solway and Tweed Area Advisory Groups, which comprise of English and Scottish stakeholders, are crucial to the river basin planning process and we will continue to draw on the expertise of the members to inform and advise on river basin planning.

In order to make the most effective use of stakeholder resources, the Tweed Area Advisory Group will continue to be embedded within the Tweed Forum, who has an extensive track record of successful catchment management planning in Tweed. Operating on an issue-led basis, the Tweed Forum co-ordinates two sub-groups which incorporates RBMP objective delivery – 'riverworks' and 'improving wetlands'.

The Solway Area Advisory Group was a new river basin planning group established in 2006 to ensure cross-border collaboration for the Solway portion of the river basin district. It has two active sub-groups focusing on geographic areas: North Solway and South Solway.

North Solway, South Solway and the Tweed Forum are well established stakeholder networks – the Tweed Forum receiving international recognition by the UNESCO-HELP programme for its 'standard setting' work, particularly the catchment management planning initiative.

Key work areas:

- Provide local advice on river basin planning.
- Contribute to the identification of pressures and measures which will help inform objective setting.
- Preparation of information which outlines the pressures and objectives for the water environment, either at the sub-basin/catchment scale or by issue, which also sets out how the area advisory group is working locally to protect and improve the water environment.
- Ensure river basin planning objectives to protect and improve the water environment are embedded within local planning processes and policies.
- Assist with co-ordination of local measures delivery. Local sub-group/task group working to tackle issues such as pressures on small water bodies, invasive non-native species, diffuse pollution, deliver multiple benefits, and raise awareness of key river basin planning messages.

Membership:

Area advisory group membership generally comprises of those with a responsibility for the management of the water environment together with key water and land managers. However, membership is flexible with the potential for additional members to be co-opted on single meetings, to cover specific agenda items or for a short period to advise on a particular issue.

Full membership is listed in Appendix 1.

Meeting frequency: Twice a year.

Question 2

As we move towards the second river basin planning cycle, are there any ways that the area advisory groups can work more efficiently and effectively so they work better for you and for river basin planning?

National groups

National groups in both Scotland and England will influence work within the Solway Tweed river basin district.

In Scotland, SEPA established three national advisory groups between 2006 and 2009: the **National Advisory Group**; the **Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group** and the **Fish and Fisheries Advisory Group**. In England, the Environment Agency established a **National Liaison Panel** to develop national approaches to support river basin planning.

Further detail on the purpose, membership and key work areas of these groups can be found in Appendix 1.

Engaging wider stakeholders

Continuing to engage a wide group of stakeholders in the management of the water environment remains a key priority. In developing the first river basin management plan, we engaged wider stakeholders through a comprehensive stakeholder network which was already in existence. This enabled us to make the most efficient and effective use of our resources.

We will continue this approach by:

- continuing to use new or established sub-groups and catchment groups to engage those working at the grassroots level;
- continuing to work with advisory group members to make more effective use of partnership events, their contact networks and investigate delivery of larger scale awareness raising events at key points as we work to produce the updated plan.

Question 3

Will our proposals enable you to get involved in river basin planning? Should we be considering other ways to involve you in river basin planning? Please provide suggestions as to how we could involve you, and at what stage.

Engaging with key sectors

Focused involvement with specific sectors through regular ongoing engagement, or through workshops held at key points in the river basin planning cycle played a very important role in the development of the first river basin plan. The dialogue allowed us to gather data on environmental pressures and their associated impacts, and identify the measures required to deliver improvements. Feedback from this involvement has been positive and we propose to continue this approach as we develop the second river basin plan.

We will continue this ongoing engagement with key sectors such as water companies, local organisations and authorities, hydropower operators, distilleries, and fishery trusts and boards.

In addition to continuing to engage the sectors listed above, we propose to focus efforts to work closely with the rural land use sector, recognising that they have a key role to play in many aspects of river basin management, such as:

- reviews of heavily modified water bodies;
- the management of rural diffuse pollution through:
  - the implementation of the **rural diffuse pollution plan for Scotland;** and
  - the **catchment sensitive farming approach;**
- any restoration plans.

Question 4

We have found focused workshops a really good way of working with you. What kind of workshop can you or your sector contribute to? We will consider all suggestions and the feasibility of resourcing them.

Question 5

Are there any barriers which you or your organisation face which may curtail or prevent you from participating in river basin planning? How can these barriers be lessened?

Building on achievements for the second cycle and plan

Producing the second plan provides an opportunity to learn from experience, build on what we achieved first time round, and take into account new issues. We have identified four key areas which we would particularly like to continue and develop further as we produce the second plan.

1. Sharing river basin planning data.
2. Working at a catchment scale, especially identifying opportunities for collaborative delivery.
3. Identifying how the water environment benefits people.
4. Considering the influences of climate change on our objectives and measures.

1. Sharing river basin planning data

We have successfully presented joint Environment Agency and SEPA data for the basin, producing joint maps, tables and water body-specific information during the first cycle of river basin planning, and we will continue to develop and expand the way we exchange and present data. We will continue to work with key sectors in a timely way, considering their data and information to ensure that the second river basin management plan is based on the best available information.

Furthermore, we want to continue to make data available to stakeholders, which is easy to use on a day-to-day basis and which clearly communicates the priorities for the water environment at a scale which is meaningful.

To do this we would like to continue to increase accessibility to data by:

- updating the RBMP web tools available on the SEPA website at appropriate points e.g. interactive map, water body information sheets and the data download tool;
- continuing to place information on classification updates on the SEPA website on an annual basis and linking to the information on **Environment Agency's website** and **Scotland's Environment Web**;
- investigating how we can further improve sharing our map-based information so that we can hand over spatial information to you;
- producing information to help identify where the water environment can accommodate further sustainable development without deterioration and where preventative action needs to be targeted because the water environment is at risk of deterioration.

Question 6

Please tell us what river basin planning data would be most useful to you as we move into the second cycle?

2. Working at the catchment scale

Working on a catchment scale, considering the whole area of land drained by the river and its tributaries, allows us to consider all the potential impacts on that river system, rather than looking at problems in isolation. A whole catchment approach allows complimentary solutions and projects to be designed, making best use of resources and providing multiple benefits.

Working at the catchment scale is well-established and is already delivering great results in parts of the Solway Tweed river basin district (see Box 1). However, we can continue to learn how to improve our catchment working, drawing on the lessons learned from existing initiatives and from new initiatives, for example, the **Defra funded pilot catchment initiative on the Eden and Till** running during 2012. Additionally, stakeholder feedback to our first area management plans was that these documents would be more useful if they described exactly what measures are required at a catchment scale.

Existing catchment-scale initiatives in the basin district

Catchment plans have been developed for the Annan, Dee-Ken, Nith and Tweed. In Tweed, the Tweed Forum has fully integrated river basin planning objectives within the relevant sections of their catchment management plan. This is translated into on the ground focused action by the working groups. This has enabled the development of multi-benefit projects which deliver the objectives of several plans and policies.

Elsewhere, the Eden Rivers Trust is a key partner in the river basin, co-ordinating delivery with others at the local level for the rivers Petteril, Leith, and Lyvennet, and Hoff, Helm and Trout Becks.

Implementation of the first river basin management plan has started to use a catchment approach. There are two first cycle **SEPA-led diffuse pollution priority catchments** within the Solway Tweed area – the Galloway coastal and Stewartry coastal catchments. In addition, the following rivers are all catchment sensitive farming areas in England: rivers Waver and Wampool; River Eden and tributaries; Tweed, Aln, Coquet and coastal streams.

Catchment-scale projects to tackle riparian invasive non-native species have also taken place in the Tweed, Annan, Nith, Luce, Bladnoch, Cree, Fleet, Ken-Dee, Urr, Eden, and Till.

We want to continue to invest time and effort to make catchment working successful, as we work to implement the first plan's objectives and work towards the production of the second plan. We will do this by:

- learning from existing successes and sharing best practice within and outside of the river basin district regarding approaches to working together; information sharing; and managing environmental information;
- continuing to support catchment-level working in North Solway, South Solway and the Tweed, through the provision of data, prioritising those areas where action is required;
- investigating how we can best communicate and present catchment-scale river basin planning information;
- continuing and expanding the diffuse pollution priority catchment initiative in Scottish catchments and catchment sensitive farming in English catchments;
- supporting catchment-wide invasive non-native species projects through the implementation of relevant biosecurity plans and processes;
- working to restore water bodies using a multiple benefits approach considering restoration, natural flood management, biodiversity, climate change and green networks.

Question 7

As we move towards the second river basin planning cycle, are there any ways that we can work more efficiently and effectively at the catchment-scale?

Question 8

Are there geographic areas or issues we should treat as a priority for a catchment-scale approach, and why?

3. Identifying how the water environment benefits people

The quality of the Solway Tweed's water environment is important for the economy and social well-being. We want to make sure that our efforts to protect and improve the water environment maintain and enhance these benefits. We can do this by focusing protection and improvement on waters that are making, or have the potential to make, the greatest contribution. These would include, for example, waters on which fisheries are based and those on which tourism businesses rely. It would also include waters that supply our drinking water; those which provide recreational opportunities and cultural connections in our towns, cities and the countryside; and those which contribute to the reputation for quality of some of our important industries, such as whisky and salmon production.

Population growth and climate change are likely to mean we will all need the water environment to do more; to provide us with more water; assimilate more waste waters; and store and dissipate flood waters. Improving ecosystem health in the right places can help maintain and increase its capacity to provide these services.

To get the most out of river basin management, we need to increase our understanding of where our actions can deliver the greatest benefits. One of the required steps in updating the river basin management plan is a review of the characteristics of our river basins, including an economic analysis of water use. As part of this, we will focus on gathering and analysing information to improve understanding of the potential wider economic, social and environmental benefits we could achieve by appropriate targeting of our efforts to protect and improve our waters.

We will update on progress with this in our consultation *Current condition and challenges for the future* to be published in 2013 (see Table 1).

4. Considering climate change

Some of the effects of climate change may have significant consequences for the water environment and its management. The predicted increased incidences of prolonged dry spells might lead to reduced water quality and exacerbate the impacts of water abstraction. More frequent heavy rainfall events may lead to increased run-off and leaching of sediments and pollutants. They may also lead to changes of the physical characteristics of rivers. Along our coasts and estuaries, sea level rise may affect the extent and quality of shore and intertidal zone habitats.

As part of the river basin planning process, we intend to start to build up a picture of how climate change may affect the water environment and its ability to meet our water needs and accommodate our waste effluents without deterioration. This will enable us to plan how to safeguard the Solway Tweed's high quality water environment under a changing climate.

Question 9

Do you agree with the four key areas that we want to continue and develop further as we work to produce the second river basin plans?

Integration with other plans and processes

The river basin management plan is not the only plan that will help to protect and improve the water environment. Continuing to seek integration and ensuring that key river basin planning objectives are reflected within the plans, policies and processes of our partners, especially local authorities, is essential to ensure that we follow a joined-up approach.

We also need to collaborate in a strategic way to ensure that the delivery of river basin planning objectives enables the attainment of wider policy objectives such as green networks, flood risk management and climate change adaptation, and vice versa, prioritising those projects which deliver these multiple environmental benefits.

As we move towards the second river basin plan, we will continue to ensure this happens by building on the partnerships and relationships developed through the area advisory groups; formal responses to consultations; and by continuing to deliver tailored workshops to raise the profile of river basin planning where appropriate.

The following highlights the emerging areas where we need to focus efforts to ensure co-ordination during the second river basin planning cycle:

- **Flood risk management**

  Since the first river basin planning cycle, we have adopted a new approach to manage the risk of flooding in line with the Floods Directive. One of the requirements of the Floods Directive is for flood risk management to be co-ordinated with river basin management planning[6] in order to ensure that we make the best use of the time and resources of those involved in both processes. As the competent authorities for implementation of flood risk management, we commit to ensuring linkages between the two planning processes.

  Action to tackle flooding will be co-ordinated through flood risk management plans which are required to be produced by 2015. To help inform these plans, we are looking at how we can work with existing groups in the area. Cross border co-ordination of these plans will be further aided by the **Cross Border Advisory Group** (comprising of the Environment Agency, SEPA, Scottish Water and local authorities) which meets to consider how flood risk management activities impact both sides of the border.

  This co-ordination and collaboration will also help us to identify where the plans are mutually supportive, and therefore where we can get complimentary solutions, or indeed where potential conflict between them needs to be managed.

- **Marine spatial plans**

  Management of activities in our marine and coastal environment will be co-ordinated through national marine plans and, where developed, a suite of regional marine plans. Where a regional marine spatial plan is required, marine planning partnerships will be established to co-ordinate its preparation and implementation. We will ensure that we link effectively with the marine planning partnerships so that the marine spatial plans are developed to reflect river basin planning objectives.

- **Water shortage plans**

  Action to manage periods of low rainfall are co-ordinated through national plans, and where required, a series of sub-plans which include both sector and geographic detail. In developing these plans, we work closely with stakeholders to ensure the correct balance is made between ensuring the environment is protected, at the same time as managing the consequences for human and economic activity.

  The national water shortage plan for Scotland will undergo consultation during 2012, and sub-plans will be developed over the following two years. In England, drought plans have already been consulted upon and are being implemented. Reference will be made to these during the development of the second river basin management plan.

[6] Floods Directive Article 9 (3)

Question 10

How can we better integrate or co-ordinate more effectively with other plans and processes to ensure RBMP objectives are incorporated? Can you suggest how we could do this?

Question 11

Are there key dates in your planning timetable we need to be aware of so we can plan to integrate during review or consultation opportunities?

List of consultation questions

Below is a reminder of all the questions that have been asked within this consultation document. The closing date to get your responses to us is 28 February 2013, and full details on how you can respond is covered on page 5.

We look forward to receiving your responses.

Question 1

Will the consultation opportunities outlined above enable you to contribute to the river basin planning process? If not, can you suggest any additional methods? Please also let us know if you feel that any of the methods are not appropriate and should not be a priority?

Question 2

As we move towards the second river basin planning cycle, are there any ways that the area advisory groups can work more efficiently and effectively so they work better for you and for river basin planning?

Question 3

Will our proposals enable you to get involved in river basin planning? Should we be considering other ways to involve you in river basin planning? Please provide suggestions as to how we could involve you, and at what stage.

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Question 6

Please tell us what river basin planning data would be most useful to you as we move into the second cycle?

Question 7

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Appendix 1: Solway and Tweed Area Advisory Group members

Solway

Cairnryan Port Authority

Consumer Council for Water

Country Landowners Society

Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Dumfries and Galloway Council

East Ayrshire Council

Eden Rivers Trust

Environment Agency

Forestry Commission Scotland

Galloway Fisheries Trust

National Farmers Union (England)

National Farmers Union (Scotland)

Natural England

Royal Society for Protection of Birds

Scottish Borders Council

Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate

Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Power (Galloway Hydro)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Water

Solway Firth Partnership

South Ayrshire Council

South Lanarkshire Council

United Utilities

Tweed

Commerce and industry – Paper Federation

Consumer Council for Water

Country Land and Business Association

East Lothian Council

Environment Agency

Forestry Commission Scotland

National Farmers Union Scotland

Natural England

Northumberland County Council

Northumberland National Park

Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Northumbrian Water

River Tweed Commissioners

Royal Society for Protection of Birds

Scottish Borders Council

Scottish Enterprise Borders

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Scottish Natural Heritage

Scottish Land and Estates

Scottish Water

South Lanarkshire Council

Tweed Forum

Appendix 2: National advisory and policy groups with a role in the Solway Tweed

National Liaison Panel for England

Purpose: Core strategic group to develop national approaches to support river basin planning. Includes representatives of all major stakeholder sectors and key national organisations who can help deliver the measures to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

Key work areas:

- The liaison panel takes the action required at the national level to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This includes enabling and encouraging action by others.
- Panel members help with the implementation of the directive by contributing knowledge, understanding and information. They add value, contributing to the delivery of national measures and assisting with stakeholder engagement through their own networks.
- The panel has a role in tracking general progress of implementation of the river basin management plans and the measures they contain – members will advise on national mechanisms to aid progress.

Membership: Defra; Environment Agency; Highways Agency; Natural England; Forestry Commission; OFWAT; Canal and River Trust; Marine Management Organisation; Local Government Association (represented by Bradford City Council; Water UK; National Farmers Union; National Trust; Country Land and Business Association; Confederation of British Industry; United Kingdom Major Ports Group; Consumer Council for Water; Wildlife and Countryside Link (represented by RSPB); Central Council of Physical Recreation (represented by Royal Yachting Association); Fisheries and Angling Conservation Trust (represented by Salmon & Trout Association); Association of Drainage Authorities; The Rivers Trust; Shellfish Association of Great Britain.

Meetings: Twice a year.

National Advisory Group for Scotland

Key work areas:

- Help identify national RBMP priorities for action and contribute to the delivery of action.
- Help co-ordinate the integration of the river basin management plan with other national plans and policies.
- Improve awareness of river basin planning in Scotland through communication within own organisation and wider sector.
- Provide national support to area advisory groups.
- Help inform government policy on water environment issues.

Membership: Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers; British Hydropower Association; British Ports Association; Canal and River Trust; Confederation of British Industry Scotland; Chemical Industries Association Coal Authority; Confederation of Paper Industries; Convention of Scottish Local Authorities; District Salmon Fisheries Boards Scotland; Environment Agency; Federation of Scottish Aquaculture Producers; Forestry Commission Scotland; Highlands and Islands Enterprise; National Park Authorities; National Farmers Union, Scotland; Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland; Scotch Whisky Association and Malt Distillers Association; Scottish and Southern Energy; Scottish Coastal Forum; Scottish Council for Development and Industry; Scottish Enterprise; Scottish Environmental Link; Scottish Land and Estates; Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation; Heads of Planning Scotland; Scottish Water; Scottish Sports Association; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Scottish Natural Heritage; SportScotland; The Crown Estate; UK Major Ports Group; Waterwatch Scotland.

Meeting frequency: Twice a year.

Diffuse Pollution Management Advisory Group

Key work areas:

- Provide a decision-making and co-ordination framework for the effective delivery of rural diffuse pollution mitigation in Scotland, ensuring input from a cross section of rural, environmental and biodiversity interests.
- Deliver the **rural diffuse pollution plan** and associated action plan, which promotes national awareness and a focused priority catchment approach.
- Help inform government policy on diffuse pollution matters and integration with wider agriculture policy.
- Deliver a communications plan to co-ordinate awareness raising.
- Ongoing support to the priority catchment approach. Ensuring that action to tackle diffuse pollution is integrated, where feasible, with action to restore physical changes to the water environment that are associated with rural land use.
- Task groups working on embedding river basin planning objectives with the Scottish Rural Development Programme and developing a one-stop-shop diffuse pollution guidance note.

Membership: Association of District Salmon Fishery Boards; Confor; Forestry Commission Scotland; National Park Authorities; National Farmers Union Scotland; Scottish Environment link (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and WWF Scotland); Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Scottish Government; Scottish Land and Estates; Tenant Farmers Association; Scottish Natural Heritage; Scottish Water; Scottish Golf Environment Group.

Meeting frequency: Quarterly.

Fish and Fisheries Advisory Group

Key work areas:

- Provide strategic advice on monitoring and classification of fish populations, and protection of fish populations and fisheries interests when regulating activities which affect the water environment, specifically hydropower development and marine renewables.
- Provide national guidance on fish passes and screens.

Membership: Association of District Salmon Fishery Boards; Environment Agency; the Rivers and Fishery Trusts of Scotland; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Scottish Natural Heritage and Marine Scotland.

Meeting frequency: Three times a year.