Scotland’s rural diffuse pollution plan

“Moooo” - ving back from the waters edge

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Rural Diffuse Pollution in Scotland

- Current condition of surface and ground water bodies in Scotland River Basin District

- DP from agriculture is largest pollution pressure
- Nutrients, pesticides, soil, faecal contaminants – driven by rainfall and land use activities
- Impacting on bathing and shellfish waters, surface and groundwater's
Tools to Reduce rural DP...
General Binding Rules
– what activities are covered

Sheep Dipping
Pesticide application

Fertiliser application & storage

Keeping of Livestock

Land Cultivation

28/06/2007
Scotland and SEPA’s Approach to rural DP Mitigation

National approach

Priority catchment approach

Catchment selection based on good science demonstrate impact, pollutant source and pathways.

Evidence Base

Awareness Raising

Targeted Engagement
National approach

Diffuse pollution – a challenge for Scotland?

What is diffuse pollution?
Diffuse pollution can be described as the diffuse and dispersed loss of pollutants such as nutrients, chemicals, bacteria and sediments to the surrounding environment. Effluent from diffuse pollution can be a significant problem in terms of their impact on water quality and the corresponding environment.

Managing manures for maximum benefit

SEARS - why was it developed and launched?

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www.sepa.org.uk
SEPA’s 1st cycle Priority Catchments were prioritised on:

- human health impacts,
- WFD classification
- statutory designations

- 14 priority catchments included 23 bathing waters
Catchment walking – what did we do what did we find?

- 18 months
- 5835km walked
- 5169 non compliance with GBR’s
- Numerous other pollution sources discovered
- Most common issues
  - GBR 19 75%
  - GBR 20 22%
Awareness raising – what has been delivered?

Over 430 events since June 2010
- Workshops
- Focus groups
- Formal conferences

All awareness raising events SECTOR lead
Production of specific guidance
Articles, twitter, POD
One to one visit – where and what did we do

• 1 to 1 visits started March 2011 and finished December 2014 (45 months delivery time)

• 3221 visits completed in the 14 PC

• Only 33% of land managers visited were compliant with agricultural regulations at initial engagement
1 to 1 farm findings

75% of units

25% of units

63% of units with slurry
How are land use activities changing
## Summary of cycle 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Duration of work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>14 catchments 5835 Km</td>
<td>March 2010- May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness</td>
<td>Events &amp; guidance</td>
<td>October 2010 – present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to1</td>
<td>Visits Farms in operational areas</td>
<td>March 2011 - Dec 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Revisits</td>
<td>To non compliant farms</td>
<td>January 2013 – to completion</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1003 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; visits completed, 449 compliant, 410 working towards, 144 No work started no attempt to achieve compliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Revisits</td>
<td>To those farms non compliant at 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; revisit and those working towards compliance –mainly in ugie and south esk</td>
<td>April 2015 – May 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>172 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; visits to non compliant and those working towards compliance , 40 compliant, 24 working towards, 59 no work started</td>
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Successes/benefits to date....

- Behavioural change is occurring on the ground - 85% of land mangers at first revisit have started or completed mitigation work

- Environmental response – slow, but modelling indicates effective at field/local scale. Step change in catchment classification and bathing water quality will be dependent on other pressures being mitigated against

- Sector buy-in to the problem and process
RBMP Cycle 2 Next Steps

- Complete work in initial 14 priority catchments (23 bathing waters)
- Start work in cycle 2 catchments including Scotland's 16 remaining bathing waters
- Continue to work with land managers to reach compliances
- Monitor effectiveness
- Tackle rural sewage, targeted rules, fixed penalties...
If GBR’s fail to secure bathing water improvements what’s left for the regulator and sector

- cow nappies, seems to be the rage in Germany.
Thank you for listening

Further information is available at:

www.sepa.org.uk/diffusepollution

www.farmingandwaterscotland.org.uk