

RIVER YEALM

CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
South West Region*

C O N T E N T S

MAP OF NRA SW REGION SHOWING TARGET CATCHMENT

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



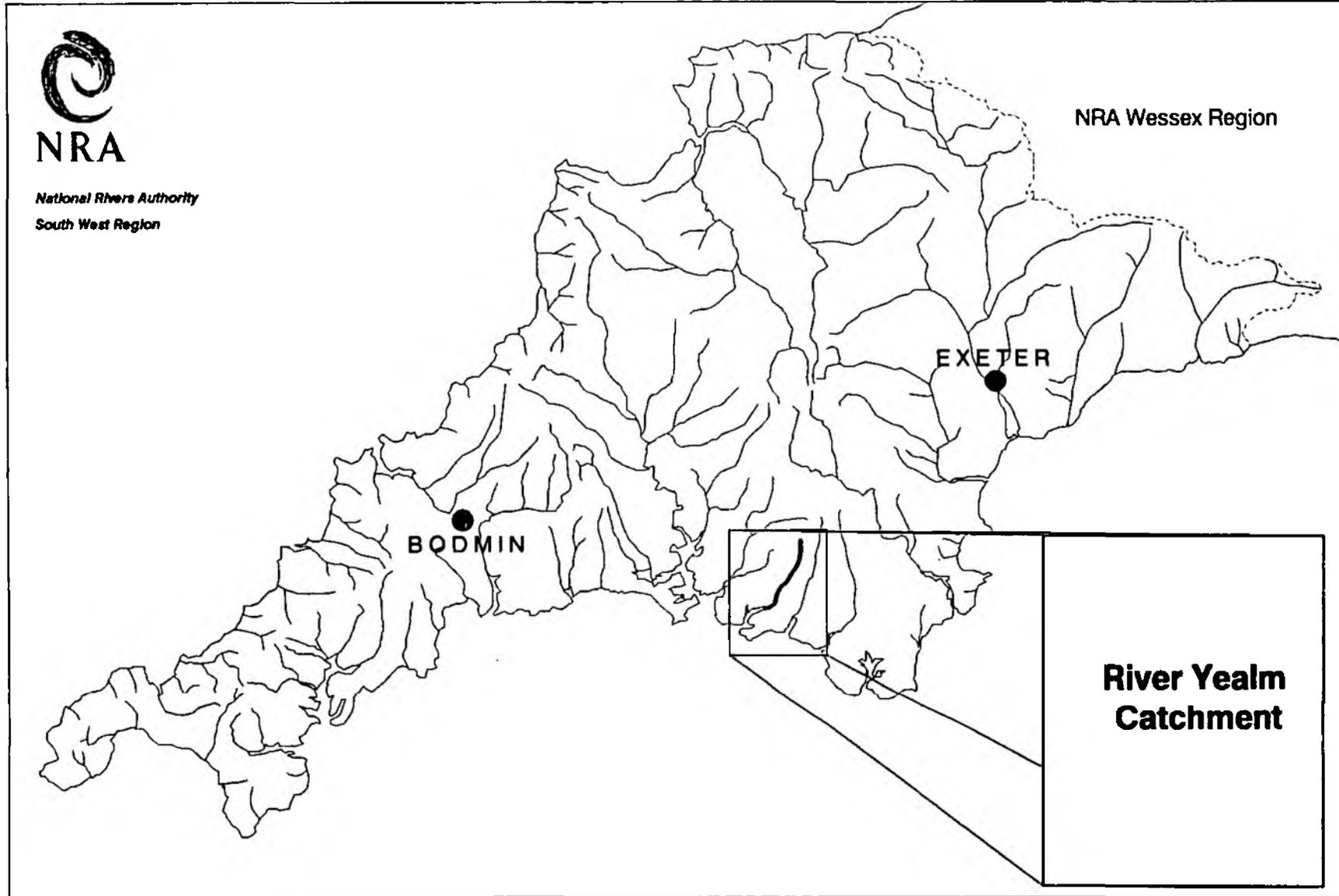
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National Rivers Authority South West Region



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1. INTRODUCTION

CATCHMENT ACTION PLANS are designed to be a simple, practical means of directing resources to achieve environmental improvements on a priority basis, between and within catchments. They set out the essential routine tasks, and a five year programme of specific actions for each catchment to meet regional and national targets. Changes may occur where unplanned work such as an extreme drought requires priority.

The NRA has inherited a legacy of environmental challenges arising from the use and abuse of our natural resources. Although significant progress has already been made it will be many years before all the work needed can be assessed, funded and carried out.

To achieve the environmental objectives will require not just the clear, vigorous direction of the NRA towards priority work but the help and support of the whole community.

The NRA has consulted with the Regional Advisory Board and Advisory Committees and the local interests about the draft action plans and the format is the outcome of those discussions.

Progress to achieve the Action Plan objectives will normally be reviewed on an annual basis but more frequently where severe problems have been identified.

2. ROUTINE SERVICES

Despite the fact that the NRA is largely a reactive, regulatory body it is possible to plan for much of the environmental protection work even the fact that unpredictable events will occur!

Much of the routine workload such as monitoring, enforcement of statutes and dealing with pollution and flooding incidents needs to have clear priority to ensure that it is dealt with to satisfactory standards throughout the region.

This essential work is carried out according to need in all catchments.

The NRA SW handles over 3000 pollution incidents a year. the majority of which are reported by members of the public. Many are attended within minutes and most within a few hours. In some cases major operations are undertaken to control the pollution and minimise impact on the environment.

Several thousand routine inspections of industrial premises, farms, weirs, fish passes and treatment works are also undertaken. In many cases improvements are required to minimise the risk of pollution or to ensure protection of fish and conservation of the water environment.

As part of the overall environmental protection exercise many flood defence schemes and thousands of planning applications are screened; hundreds of farm pollution grant proposals and effluent discharge applications are processed each year. Many new or varied abstraction licences and drilling consents are also processed to protect surface and underground waters.

Each year about 67,000 samples of rivers, lakes, ground and tidal waters and effluents are taken. Around 1.25 million chemical tests are made on these samples to ensure water quality standards are met and to identify where enforcement action is needed.

In addition detailed studies of samples of invertebrates, fish, algae and plants are undertaken to provide information on the status of the aquatic communities and to test the accuracy of the conclusions of chemical monitoring.

The key abstractions, discharges and monitoring sites for this catchment are marked on map(s) in Appendix 1.

Routine regulatory action is taken to ensure the conditions of thousands of discharges, abstractions and other legal requirements are enforced and illegal fishing is curtailed.

The NRA SW also handles many hundreds of letters and enquiries for information from the Water Act Register and provides press releases, reports and other information to a wide range of interests in the community.

3. CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

The Yealm is a small river with moderate runs of sea trout and a small run of winter salmon. It has some pollution problems mainly associated with surface run off and silt which has affected some spawning gravels.

Functional officers have identified the main challenges to the achievement of environmental objectives. Where solutions are clear they have been programmed. In other cases further investigations are needed to determine the way forward.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>TIMETABLE</u>				
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
<u>FISHERIES</u>					
Enforce and monitor fixed net legislation.					
Enforce and monitor netting ban for sea fish in estuary.					
Implement new rod season change by byelaw.					
Survey all weirs and fish passes. Plan and implement fish pass installation/improvements.					
Extend range of migratory fish beyond Blachford. Trap and truck in interim, if practical.					
Survey for trash dams/plan clearance					
Plan and implement spawning gravel rehabilitation.					
Carry out juvenile fish population survey in 1991.					
Monitor shell fish culture.					
Monitor sand eel netting.					
Carry out annual redd count.					
Survey fish counter site.					

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

POLLUTION CONTROL

Carry out review of causes of water quality deterioration and take appropriate action.

Assess impact of discharge from china clay industry and review consents.

Task Force Inspection Programme to ensure remedial action.

Assess impact of acidic run-off in headwaters and consider remedial action.

Assess improvements to Cornwood STW and Lee Mill STW

Determine deemed discharge consents.

Prepare catchment description.

Baseline water quality survey of groundwater to establish:

(a) suitability for potable use;

(b) extent of contamination by substances controlled by EC directives.

WATER RESOURCES

Review prescribed flow arrangements for public water supply sources in headwaters.

Review water resource strategy in the catchment.

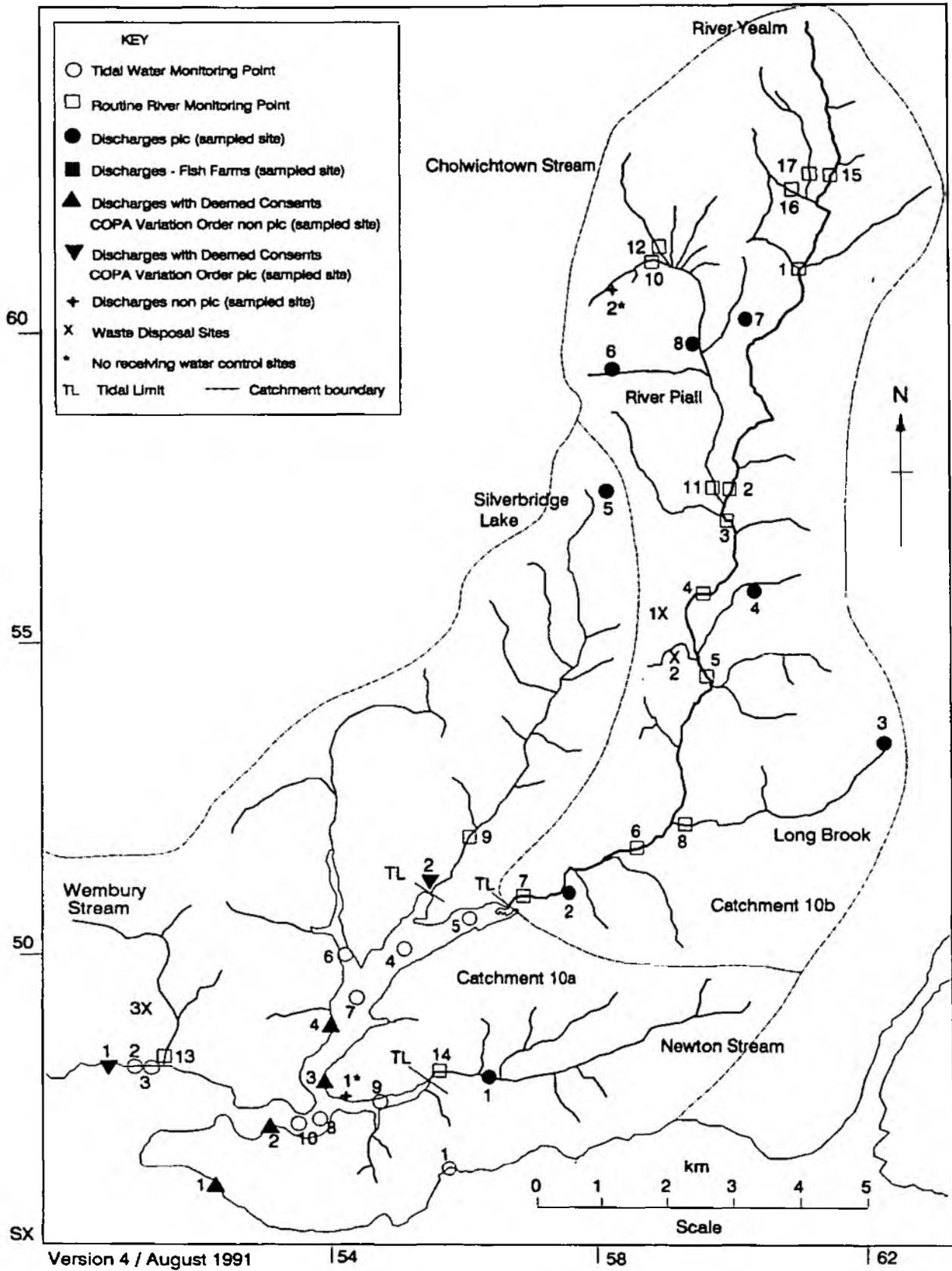
APPENDIX 1

CATCHMENT MAPS

KEY

- Tidal Water Monitoring Point
- Routine River Monitoring Point
- Discharges pic (sampled site)
- Discharges - Fish Farms (sampled site)
- ▲ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order non plc (sampled site)
- ▼ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order plc (sampled site)
- + Discharges non plc (sampled site)
- X Waste Disposal Sites
- TL Tidal Limit
- No receiving water control sites

Yealm Catchment 10A & 10B



YEALM CATCHMENT 10A & 10B

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
DISCHARGES NON PLC				
1*	P10A/P/20	SX54104797	International Paints	Site for current dangerous substances Trade effluent
	P10A/P/26	SX54094797	International Paints	Site for current dangerous substances Trade effluent
2*	P10B/P/13	SX58606010	Headon Works CP 7/8	China clay works
DISCHARGES PLC				
1	WSTW4700FE	SX56534835	Newton Ferrers	Sewage treatment works
2	WSTW4836FE	SX57695139	Yealmpton	Sewage treatment works
3	WSTW4826FE	SX62325351	Westlake	Sewage treatment works
4	WSTW4648FE	SX60355563	Lee Mill Ind Est	Sewage treatment works
5	WSTW4769FE	SX58305710	Sparkwell	Sewage treatment works
6	WSTW5314D	SX58785902	Houndall	Water treatment works
7	WSTW4550FE	SX60805940	Cornwood	Sewage treatment works
8	WSTW4662FE	SX59815940	Lutton	Sewage treatment works
DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER PLC				
1	WSTW4824FE	SX50904829	Wembury	Sewage treatment works
2	WSTW4522FE	SX55445113	Brixton	Sewage treatment works
DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER NON PLC				
1	P10A/P/22	SX53414640	Warren Cottage	
2	P10A/P/21	SX53904756	Ferry Cottage	
3	P10A/P/23	SX53934804	Lifeboat House	
4	P10A/P/25	SX54154895	Thorn House	
WASTE DISPOSAL SITES				
1	11FW	SX597555	Strashleigh Hams, Lee Mill	
2	11FN	SX594548	Challansleigh Farm, Plympton	
3	11EY	SX519496	Churchwood Vally, Wembury	
TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BATHING WATERS				
1	B0395	SX56684667	Stoke Beach	Non-identified bathing water
2	ECB0400	SX51604850	Wembury Beach	EC identified bathing water
3	ECBR0400	SX51754855	Wembury Stream	Watercourse to beach
TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - ESTUARY QUALITY				
4	E10A6	SX55205030	off Warren Point	Routine monitoring site
5	E10A7	SX56005090	Upper Estuary	Routine monitoring site
6	E10A3	SX54055045	Cofflete Creek	Routine monitoring site
7	E10A5	SX54354925	Wembury House	Routine monitoring site
8	E10A4	SX53904770	Lower Estuary	Routine monitoring site
9	E10A2	SX54804785	Newton Creek	Routine monitoring site
TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BIOTA SAMPLING				
10		SX537476	Yealm Estuary	
ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING				
1	R10B022	SX61476088	Hele Cross	Chemical/biological site Dangerous Substances Directive
2	R10B002	SX60255720	Fardel Mill Farm	Chemical/biological site
3	R10B024	SX60195702	Marks Bridge	Chemical/biological site

YEALM CATCHMENT 10A & 10B (cont)

ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING

4	R10B003	SX59975575	Lee Mill Bridge	Chemical/biological site
5	R10B021	SX59855432	Popples Bridge	Chemical/biological site
6	R10B004	SX59025199	Yealm Bridge	Chemical/biological site Freshwater Fish Directive
7	R10B005	SX57105100	Puslinch Bridge	Chemical/biological site Dangerous Substances Directive
8	R10B014	SX59365212	Yealm Bridge (New)	Chemical/biological site
9	R10B018	SX56105201	Brixton	Chemical/biological site
10	R10B007	SX59256083	Quick Bridge	Chemical/biological site
11	R10B008	SX60135716	Marks Bridge	Chemical/biological site
12	R10B006	SX59156088	Prior/River Piall	Chemical/biological site
13	R10A001	SX51754852	Prior to beach	Chemical/biological site
14	R10B015	SX55584820	At Bridgend	Chemical/biological site
15	R10B025	SX61706202	Yealm	EC Surface water abstraction directive monitoring site
16	R10B027	SX61236184	Ford Brook	EC Surface water abstraction directive monitoring site Biological site
17	R10B026	SX61286196	Broadall Lake	EC Surface water abstraction directive monitoring site Biological site

NRA DUTIES AND POWERS

The Authority has statutory duties and powers in relation to water resources, pollution control, flood defence, fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation along with various other functions given under the 1989 Water Act.

Whilst most of the Authority's duties and powers are exercised in respect of inland waters in England and Wales, it also has substantial responsibilities for the marine environment around the coast of England and Wales. For pollution control and fisheries purposes it has duties and powers out to distances of three nautical miles and six nautical miles respectively, the six miles being for salmonid protection. For flood defence it is responsible for a large number of sea defences (but not coastal protection which falls within the remit of local authorities).

As well as new duties, the NRA has also inherited other duties and powers under earlier legislation such as the 1963 Water Resources Act, 1975 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, and 1976 Land Drainage Act.

The Authority also has responsibility for implementing a number of Statutory Instruments, Orders, Notices and Directives relating to the 1989 Water Act. Various European Community Directives on the protection of the aquatic environment eg. Bathing Water Quality, Surface Water Quality, and Freshwater Fishlife also strongly influence its work.

NRA MISSION STATEMENT

The National Rivers Authority will protect and improve the water environment. This will be achieved through effective management of water resources and by substantial reductions in pollution. The Authority aims to provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea. In discharging its duties it will operate openly and balance the interests of all who benefit from and use rivers, ground waters, estuaries and coastal waters. The Authority will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards its employees.

NRA AIMS

To achieve a continuing improvement in the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters, through the control of water pollution.

To assess, manage, plan and conserve water resources and to maintain and improve the quality of water for all those who use it.

To provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea.

To provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.

To maintain, improve and develop fisheries.

To develop the amenity and recreation potential of waters and lands under NRA control.

To conserve and enhance wildlife, landscape and archaeological features associated with waters under NRA control.

To ensure that dischargers pay the costs of the consequences of their discharges, and as far as possible, to recover the costs of water environment improvements from those who benefit.

To improve public understanding of the water environment and the NRA's work.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The overall priority is to continue the improvements which were started in the last year in the following key areas.

WATER RESOURCES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Improve response to licence applications.
- Establish Water Resources planning forum.
- Progress schemes to ameliorate low flows.
- Implement groundwater protection policy.

POLLUTION CONTROL

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Introduce charging for discharges scheme.
- Implement new consenting policy; begin review of deemed consents.
- Complete 1990/91 survey and consult on water quality objectives.
- Carry out EC Directive requirements.
- Introduce new monitoring programmes for effluents and controlled waters.
- Establish a regional laboratory service.

FISHERIES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Review licence and other charging schemes.
- Harmonise stock assessment techniques.
- Extend programme of restoration and rehabilitation of fish stocks.
- Increase action to control illegal fishing.
- Submit new fishery byelaws to MAFF for confirmation.

RECREATION

- Continue implementations of Water Act Code of Practice.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Improve cost recovery from the recreation service.

CONSERVATION

- Establish database for regulatory purposes.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Promote conservation schemes.