

NORTH DEVON COASTAL STREAMS

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

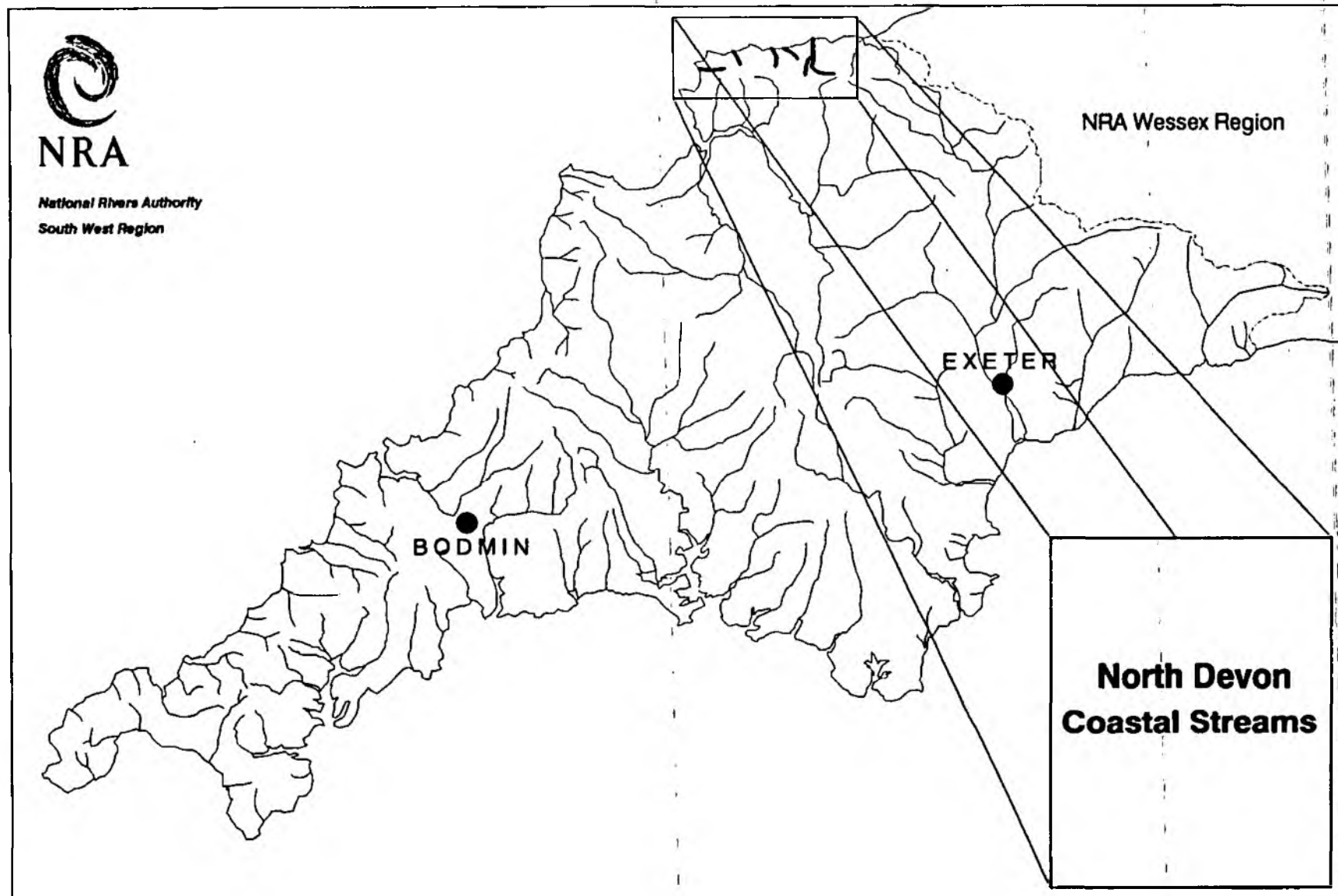
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National Rivers Authority South West Region



North Devon Coastal Streams

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 ACTIONS

The area covered by the plan includes the popular coastal resorts of Ilfracombe and Combe Martin. Watercourses include the River Uمبر, Sterridge Stream and Wilder Stream. On the latter sit the Upper and Lower Slade Reservoir which provide water for Ilfracombe and a valuable local amenity for fishing and walking.

The main water quality problems relate to the inadequacy of the current sewerage system and major schemes are planned within the next few years to achieve bathing water standards.

The aims of the plan are to achieve water quality objectives and enforce pollution, fisheries and water resources legislation.

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 work is needed.

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
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POLLUTION CONTROL

Carry out review of water quality in the catchment.

Followed by investigation of causes of non-compliance with river quality objectives and take action to remedy.

Prepare catchment description.

Carry out blue-green algae action plan.

Pre and post-scheme appraisal of SWWS capital improvement programme.
In particular:-

i) Ilfracombe sewerage scheme

ii) Combe Martin sewerage scheme

Determine deemed discharge consents.

ACTIONTIMETABLE

1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
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POLLUTION CONTROL (Contd)

Baseline water quality
survey of groundwater to
establish :

- a) suitability for
potable use
- b) compliance with
relevant EC Directive
Standards.

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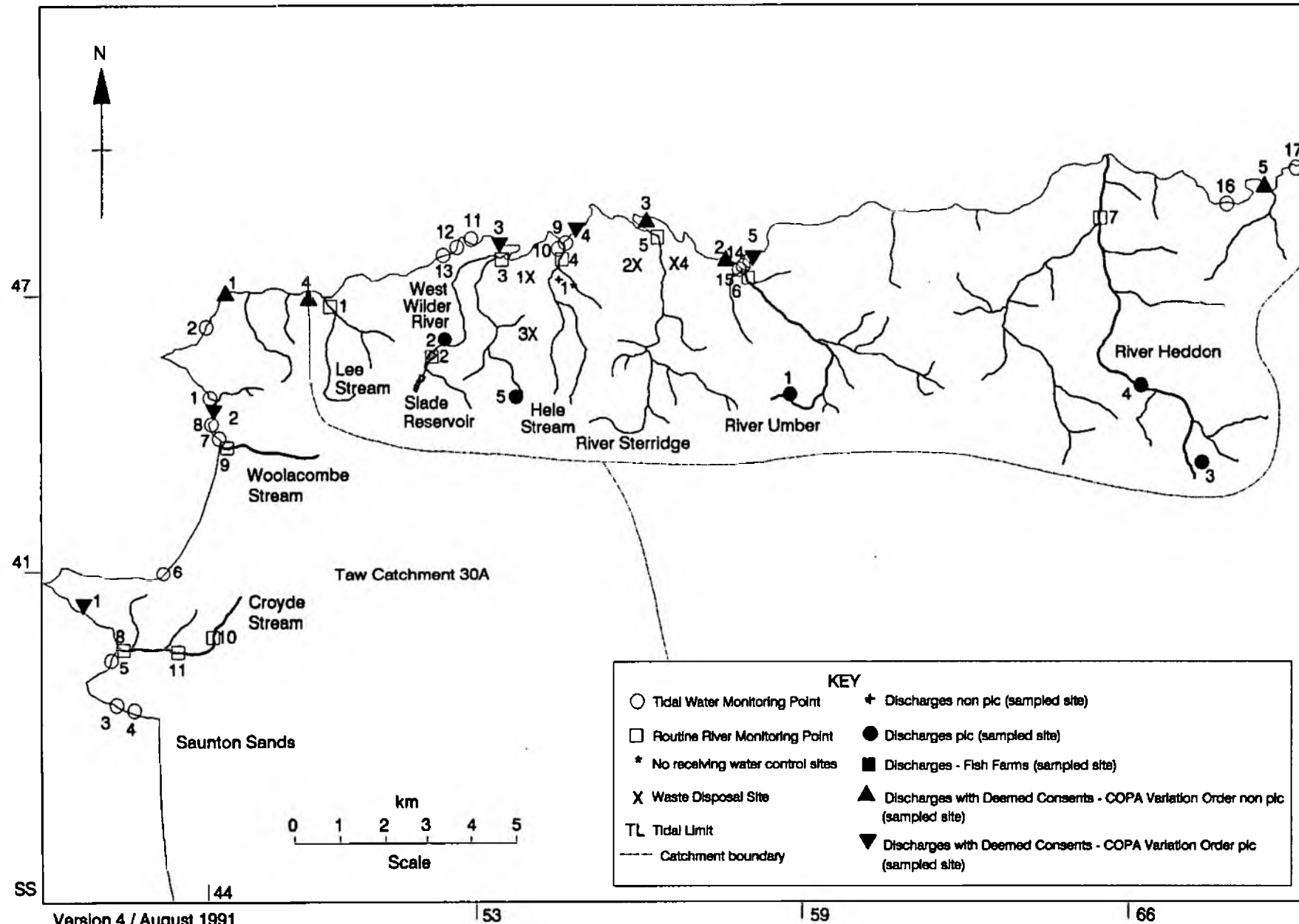
APPENDIX 1

CATCHMENT MAPS

KEY

- Tidal Water Monitoring Point
- Routine River Monitoring Point
- Discharges plc (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

North Devon Streams 31A



NORTH DEVON STREAMS 31A

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
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DISCHARGES NON PLC

1*	P31A/P/1	SS53404738	Hele Valley, Ilfracombe Holiday Park STW	
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DISCHARGES PLC

1	WSTW3296FE	SS58604480	Coombe Martin	Sewage treatment works
2	WWTW3835D	SS512459	Slade	Water treatment works
3	WSTW3314FE	SS658311	West Buckland	Sewage treatment works
4	WSTW3234FE	SS66474497	Parracombe	Sewage treatment works
5	WWTW3818FE	SS528443	Horedown	Water treatment works

DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS -- COPA VARIATION ORDER NON PLC

1	P30A/P/405	SS42164676	Bull Point Lighthouse	
2	P31A/P/400	SS57104738	Sandyway Holiday Park, Berrynarbor	
3	P31A/P/401	SS55804800	Watermouth Holiday Park, Ilfracombe	
4	P31A/P/402	SS47924649	Smugglers Cottage, Lee, Ilfracombe	
5	31A/P/403	SS69284943	Lee Abbey, Lynton	

DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER PLC

1	OUT3514	SS42164026	Croyde Village	Outfall Site for current dangerous substances
2	WSTW3332FE	SS45154419	Woolacombe	Outfall Site for proposed dangerous substances
3	OUT3530	SS52214814	Cheyne Beach	Outfall Site for current and proposed dangerous substances
4	OUT3532	SS53704807	Hele Village	Outfall
5	OUT3512	SS57514772	Combe Martin	Outfall Site for current dangerous substances

WASTE DISPOSAL SITES

1	1114	SS530466	Killacleave, Ilfracombe
2	11BL	SS554470	Near East Hagginton, Berrynarbor
3	11FH	SS531456	Killacleave, Ilfracombe
4	11GB	SS560476	Bamants Wood, Combe Martin

TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BATHING WATERS

1	B1062	SS45354450	Barricane Beach	Non-identified bathing water
2	B1064	SS45854605	Rockham Bay	Non-identified bathing water
3	ECB1040	SS44553760	Saunton Sands	EC Identified bathing water
4	ECBR1040	SS44653752	Stream A	Watercourse to beach
5	ECB1050	SS43473930	Croyde Bay Beach	EC Identified bathing water
6	ECB1060	SS44754085	Putsborough beach	EC Identified bathing water
7	ECB1061	SS45624370	Woolacombe Beach	EC Identified bathing water
8	ECBR1061	SS45754355	Stream A	Watercourse to beach
9	ECB1070	SS53554792	Hele Beach	EC Identified bathing water
10	ECBR1070	SS53584780	Stream A	Watercourse to beach
11	ECB1071	SS51824790	Capstone Beach	EC Identified bathing water
12	ECBR1071	SS51784785	Wilder Brook	Watercourse to beach
13	B1072	SS51454780	Tunnels Beach	Non-identified bathing water
14	ECB1080	SS57724732	Combe Martin Beach	EC Identified bathing water
15	ECBR1080	SS57484720	Furzepark Stream	Watercourse to beach
16	B1086	SS67954890	Woody Bay	Non-identified bathing water
17	B1087	SS70054690	Wringcliff Bay	Non-identified bathing water

NORTH DEVON STREAMS 31A (cont)

ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING

1	R31A001	SS47984650	Prior to beach	Chemical/biological site
2	R31A015	SS50624567	Lower Slade	Chemical/biological site
	R31A017		Reservoir	Freshwater Fish Directive
	R31A018			Algological site
	R31A019			EC surface water abstraction
				directive monitoring site
3	R31A002	SS51784777	Prior To Beach	Chemical/biological site
4	R31A003	SS53554777	Prior To Beach	Chemical/biological site
5	R31A004	SS55574818	Prior To Beach	Chemical/biological site
6	R31A005	SS57674725	Prior To Beach	Chemical/biological site
				Tidal water quality monitoring
				point - bathing waters
7	R31A006	SS65494841	D/S Trentshoe Trib	Chemical/biological site
8	R30A028	SS44433918	Croyde	Chemical/biological site
9	R30A005	SS45784355	Woolacombe U/S Br	Chemical/biological site
10	R30A032	SS46813975	U/S Kennel Lane	Chemical/biological site
				Dangerous substances control
				site
11	R30A031	SS45803920	D/S Crowborough Fm	Chemical/biological site
				Dangerous substances directive

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.