

Record of decisions

Introduction

Targets for water quality and flows are determined for Natura 2000 sites by Natural England with reference to Common Standards Monitoring Guidance (CSMG). Targets for these elements similarly form the basis for assessments of the ecological status of water bodies under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Water dependant Natura 2000 sites are defined as protected areas under the WFD.

Where possible a single target should be set for elements that are common to the water body and coincident Natura 2000 protected area. However, where achievement of the targets based on CSMG is not possible in the next river basin planning cycle then interim progress goals have been agreed by Natural England and the Environment Agency. These can be in the form of numerical targets or, if inappropriate to set quantitative targets, descriptive measures that will achieve, by 2021, progress towards the long term targets set using CSMG. Where only the CSMG target is expressed, this is the target for 2021.

This document summarizes the decisions made by Natural England and the Environment Agency on the standards that need to be achieved for elements of environmental quality that support the achievement of objectives for the named Natura 2000 protected area. The draft second river basin management plans were used to consult the public about the locally proposed measures and targets. Note that for Cumbria rivers, the need to gather additional data and extended discussions meant that the values were not available during the updated River Basin Management Plan consultation.

Where it has not been possible to agree specific targets, usually because further technical work is required, these will be indicated by an asterisk or referenced by a comment against the target. In these cases the proposed CSMG target is included as advice from Natural England but it is subject to further validation throughout the period of the consultation and beyond. Where no interim goal or CSMG targets are specified, it is currently considered that the elements are not relevant, or are insufficiently understood for this river.

CSMG

Target Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021

Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)

Low flows

Low-moderate flows

Moderate-high flows

High flows

This WB does not include any of the SSSI/SAC

Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)

As annual and growing season means ($\mu\text{g/L}$)

Acidification

pH

Acid Neutralising Capacity (ANC)

Organic Pollution

Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)

Total ammonia (mg/L as 90%ile)

Mean Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/L)

Dissolved Oxygen (% saturation as 10%ile)

CSMG**Target Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021****Flows** (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)

Low flows	5	Flow to the river is regulated, and with a high compensation flow. After 2022 the river will...
Low-moderate flows	10eventually be returned to a natural flow regime, and hence the CSMG Table 2 natural flow target.
Moderate-high flows	10	
High flows	10	

Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)

As annual and growing season means ($\mu\text{g/L}$) 5 10; EA to assess if WB is meeting nn tgt of 5 when sufficient data at the necessary limit of detection..

Acidification

pH n/a.....P continued .. Is available
Acid Neutralising Capacity (ANC) n/a

Organic Pollution

Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.030	0.03
Total ammonia (mg/L as 90%ile)	0.250	0.25
Mean Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/L)		EA no longer measure BOD, use DO instead
Dissolved Oxygen (% saturation as 10%ile)	85	85

The targets and goals underpinning the conservation objectives for rivers within River Ehen Natura 2000 site have been jointly agreed between Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Natural England

Comment: See audit trail and flow chart for record of discussions. Note that contrary to the standard wording of the database, the SRP targets relate only to annual means, not to growing season means - CSMG targets for the latter have not been agreed by EA.

Agreed by: Simon Humphries

Date: 20 May 2016

Environment Agency

Comment: A technical feasibility assessment will need to be undertaken where it has not been possible to agree long term CSMG targets.

Agreed by: Stewart Mounsey

Date: 07 June 2016
