Moving towards common standards monitoring guidance targets for SAC rivers

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 will be used to consult the public about the locally proposed measures and targets.

Where it has not been possible to agree specific targets, usually because further technical work is required, these will be indicated by an asterisk. 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.

GB109055036790 R Lugg - conf R Arrow to conf R Wye (river) Severn River Basin District

	CSMG Target	Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021
Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)		
Low flows	10	10; Implement RoC conclusions. Assess effects of trickle abstraction on target compliance.
Low-moderate flows	10	10; Implement RoC conclusions. Assess effects of trickle abstraction on target compliance.
Moderate-high flows	15	15; Implement RoC conclusions. Assess effects of trickle abstraction on target compliance.
High flows	10	10; Implement RoC conclusions. Assess effects of trickle abstraction on target compliance.
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	50	Implement Nutrient Management Plan 2014 (Atkins report to Environment Agency and Natural England)
Acidification		
pH		
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.025	0.025
Total ammonia (mg/L as 90%ile)	0.250	0.25
Mean Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	1.500	1.5
Dissolved Oxygen (% saturation as 10%ile)	85	85; Investigate localised failures and put remedial measures in place

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High flows	15	15; Implement RoC conclusions. Assess effects of trickle abstraction on target compliance.
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Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		
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High flows	15	15; Implement RoC conclusions. Assess effects of trickle abstraction on target compliance.
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	30	Implement Nutrient Management Plan 2014 (Atkins report to Environment Agency and Natural England)
Acidification		
pH		
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.025	0.025
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Dissolved Oxygen (% saturation as 10%ile)	85	85

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Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)	
Low flows	
Low-moderate flows	
Moderate-high flows	
High flows	
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)	
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	
Acidification	
pH	
Acid Nuetralising 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)	

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As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	30	30; Implement Nutrient Management Plan 2014 (Atkins report to Environment Agency and Natural England)
Acidification		
pH		
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		
Organic Pollution		
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High flows	10	10; Implement RoC conclusions. Assess effects of trickle abstraction on target compliance.
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	25	Implement Nutrient Management Plan 2014 (Atkins report to Environment Agency and Natural England)
Acidification		
pH		
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.025	0.025
Total ammonia (mg/L as 90%ile)	0.250	0.25
Mean Biological Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	1.500	1.5
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The targets and goals underpinning the conservation objectives for rivers within River Wye Natura 2000 site have been jointly agreed between Natural England and the Environment Agency.

Natural England

Comment: The targets entered here are the most stringent for each water body, but some reaches have less demanding objectives (see the Favourable Condition Tables and target setting audit trails held by local NE teams).

Agreed by: Mark Taylor & Elisabeth Harris

Date: 08 August 2014

Environment Agency

Comment: Natural Resources Wales support the Common Standards Monitoring guidance underpinning the targets applied, but have yet to review the targets on welsh sections of the SAC.

Agreed by: Andrew Osbaldiston

Date: 13 August 2014