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.

GB107042016670 River Itchen (Cheriton Stream) (river) South East River Basin District

	CSMG Target	Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021
Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)		
Low flows	5	5; Split this unit into two, as lower part = River from flow data (10/15/20/10), with upper = headwater
Low-moderate flows	10	10; Longterm target should be CSM + EA RoC Site Action Plan water resource actions for all flows
Moderate-high flows	15	15; Interim 2021 goal = EA RoC SAP exc. Southern Water reductions
High flows	15	15; Refer to recording sheet of audit trail, to be published on NE website
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	20	40; Unit to be split. Headwater = 20/ River = 30/50.
Acidification		
pH		n/a
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		n/a
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.021	0.021; NE England only guidance - same applies to long term target
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

	CSMG Target	Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021
Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)		
Low flows	10	10; WB covers 4 SSSI units - refer to recording sheet - all have same targets
Low-moderate flows	15	15; longterm target = CSM + EA RoC SAP water resource actions
Moderate-high flows	20	20; 2021 = SAP exc Southern Water's sustainability reductions
High flows	10	10
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	30	74; Min/max on recording sheet as varies between SSSI units and 74 only in part of one unit
Acidification		
pH		n/a
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		n/a
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.021	0.021; NE England only guidance - also applied to longterm target
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

	CSMG Target	Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021
Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)		
Low flows	10	10
Low-moderate flows	15	15; long term target CSMG = CSM + EA RoC SAP.
Moderate-high flows	20	20
High flows	10	10; interim progress goal 2021 = CSMG + EA RoC SAP exc Southern Water reductions
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	40	55; CSM = 46 (HES), interim = 55 based on modelling
Acidification		
pH		n/a
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		n/a
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.021	0.021; NE England only guidance - should be CSM as well
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

	CSMG Target	Interim Progress Goal (quantitative target or descriptive measure) by 2021
Flows (% deviations from daily naturalised flow)		
Low flows	5	5; Longterm target = CSM + EA RoC SAP water resource actions
Low-moderate flows	10	10; Interim 2021 goal = EA RoC SAP exc Southern Water's sustainability reductions
Moderate-high flows	15	15
High flows	20	20
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus ('orthophosphate' expressed as P)		
As annual and growing season means (µg/L)	20	40; CSM may be revised upwards following longterm analysis of groundwater
Acidification		
pH		n/a
Acid Nuetralising Capacity (ANC)		n/a
Organic Pollution		
Un-ionised ammonia (mg/L as 95%ile)	0.021	0.021; NE England only guidance - should be CSM as well
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

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

Natural England

Comment: Refer to recording sheet of audit trail, to be published on NE website, due to constraints of database. This documents all discussions and evidence base behind decisions, as well as people involved in process (NE and EA staff)

Agreed by: Louise Bardsley

Date: 16 September 2014

Environment Agency

Comment: Dependent on future investigations - targets may be altered following improved evidence base

Agreed by: Mike O' Neill

Date: 23 May 2014