

Water Environment

Objective		Significant Achievements against Objective, 2017 - 2022
WE1	MAINTAINING WATER STATUS - continue to maintain and where possible enhance the quality of the water environment that is already deemed to be at good status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste water treatment for all new development effectively controlled by Local Authorities and CNPA through planning process. • Pollution Prevention Plans required as part of developer's Construction Method Statements. • Through consultation process, SFB ensure that instream developments and abstractions do not impact on "Good" ecological status or important species. • SUDS widely promoted for new developments. • SEPA lead on protecting water quality status through ongoing water quality and ecology monitoring , licenced site inspection, improving licensed discharges, permitting new activities through CAR to control their impacts, pollution incident response and enforcement action. • Observance of Forestry and Water guidelines to minimise impact of forestry.
WE2	IMPROVING WATER STATUS - Improve the status of the water environment where it is failing to meet good status, focussing on priority measures requiring delivery by 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Water improvements to waste water treatment, eg sewers and pump station at Kingussie upgrade to reduce the number of overflow events. • Misconnections at Aviemore Highland Resort resolved, reducing pollution risk to the Milton Burn. • Continual efforts to reach higher standards in water treatment eg Phosphate and Nitrate levels. • Good level of take up by farms of agri-environment schemes for agriculture near water courses. • River restoration and mitigation works on Kincaig to Dalraddy A9 dualling on water courses crossed (SFB and Transport Scotland). • Fish barriers addressed to achieve RBMP good status-Broad Burn, Burn of Tervie, River Nethy (u/s Nethy Bridge), River Fiddich (d/s Dufftown), Dulnain (Feith Mor), Knockando Burn. • Water flows and Levels improved to achieve good status-Ballintomb burn, Aberlour Burn. • Water Quality improvement to good status-Loch Insh, Green Burn. • Ecological pressures resolved to achieve improved status - River Avon, River Feshie, River Luineag (u/s Loch Morlich), R. Dulnain-upper catchment, R. Gynack, R. Calder, R. Feshie (main stem d/s R. Eidart) & R. Tromie -Allt Garbh Ghag.
WE3	WATER QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS - Improving understanding of key characteristics that are important to water quality within the Spey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant thermal uplifts arising from new distillery cooling waters avoided (CNPA Planning). • Cumulative impacts of industrial thermal outputs investigated (SFB), with concerns on Fiddich reported to SEPA. • MC community engagement events held to improve public understanding. • Development of Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Supplementary Guidance for developers (MC). • Work ongoing to determine if acidification an issue in upper catchment.

	catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPA comprehensive review of the water quality in 2013 in response to NS concerns about FWPM confirmed general wq was high, FWPM technical group on-going. • SEPA now monitoring at Loch Morlich where there is a water quality issue. • Sediment tracking project in the Spey and other rivers underway. • SFB contribute to Scottish River Temperature Monitoring Network (MSS) on-going water temperature monitoring. • SCI/SFB installed temperature loggers in Raitts Burn and Calder.
WE4	MANAGING WATER QUANTITY - Better understand and deal with issues associated with low water flow, storage and abstraction regimes within the Spey catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFB commissioned Envirocentre to produce revised report on Water Abstraction throughout the Spey Catchment (2021). • SFB liaising with SEPA's Hydro Review Team to propose reductions in water diversions for hydroelectricity, including re-watering of the Allt Bhran and Cuaich, will form part of the 3rd cycle of River Basin Management Plan. • On-going management of abstraction through SEPA permit reviews. • SFB launched #Release the Spey campaign (link).
WE5	CLIMATE CHANGE - Develop catchment resilience against the impacts of climate change, such as increased frequency and intensity of high rainfall events and associated spates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of 10 SCI projects delivered, all include climate change resilience elements. • Extensive riparian fencing and tree planting projects River Spey at Kinchurdy, River Truim and River Calder sub-catchments. • Delivered through various plans and strategies including Flood risk management plans. • CNPA secured Heritage Horizons Lottery Funding to deliver projects upstream of PVA's to help improve climate change resilience. • Increased awareness of water scarcity issues following 2018 drought. SFB did a good report on the effects of flood events on salmon. • Extensive land manager-led peatland restoration which includes ditch blocking carried out across upland areas of catchment, contributes to slowing runoff. • Allt Lorgy project awarded the 2020 UK Rivers Prize at River Reach Level by the River Restoration Centre, in recognition of significant outcomes ten years on.