



Monitoring of water quality for evidence based policy

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Why monitor?

Through measuring and monitoring we can provide data and evidence which show how the status of our waters is changing in response to management and other pressures. Our current monitoring programme sets out to monitor changes that might be brought about by climate change and diffuse pollution and to investigate the cost-effectiveness and acceptability of potential mitigation/adaptation strategies.



Detecting evidence of change in soil and water

Sites: Glensaugh and Sourhope part of the Environmental Change Network (ECN)
Methods: Long term monitoring
Outcome: Long term data on environmental change (see PC display on data capture)
Policy relevance: Obligations under international climate change and acid deposition protocols



Protection of coastal bathing waters

Site: Cessnock Water – SEPA Monitoring Priority Catchment and SAC Environmental Focus Farm
Methods: Improving slurry storage; farm wetlands
Outcome: Lower risk of bathing water contamination; improved public health
Policy relevance: Bathing Waters Directive



Restoration of degraded habitat, diffuse pollution

Site: Tarland
Methods: Stream substrate improvement; wetlands for wastewater treatment; riparian corridors
Outcome: Demonstration of improved river management and ecological improvement
Policy relevance: Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive



Uptake of environmentally sensitive farming with respect to NVZs and eutrophication

Site: Lunan Water – SEPA Monitoring Priority Catchment and SAC Environmental Focus Farm
Methods: Introduction of nutrient budgeting, erosion control, septic tank mitigation
Outcome: Reduced pollutant loads to ground and surface waters
Policy relevance: Water Framework Directive



Looking to the future

Our future monitoring will include measures of morphology of river systems and ecological impact so that we can assess the full range of pressures that impact on water bodies. From this basis appropriate management intervention to meet good ecological status may be prescribed.

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