

**Draft Screening Report on the
determination of the need for a
Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA) for the:**

**Draft 3rd Cycle River Basin
Management Plan for the North
Western, Neagh Bann and North
Eastern River Basin Districts (2021
– 2027)**

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Contact Details

Name of Responsible Authority

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for Northern Ireland (DAERA – NI).

Contact Name & Job Title

Mr Neil McAllister, Grade 7, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA); an Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for Northern Ireland

Address

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Water Management Unit
17 Antrim Road
Lisburn
Tonagh
Co. Antrim
BT28 3AL

Email: neil.mcallister@daera-ni.gov.uk

Tel: 028 92 623 166

Background

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 requires the production and implementation of a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) in six yearly cycles. The RBMP takes an integrated approach, identifying those water bodies which can be classified as being at 'good or better' status. It also sets the objectives and a programme of measures for the next six year cycle to help improve those water bodies which are classified as below 'good' status.

The 3rd cycle RBMP period runs from 2021-2027. The publication of the draft RBMP for the 3rd cycle RBMP period was delayed due to key staff being re-deployed in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The draft plan provides an update on the health of Northern Ireland's water environment (the status of water bodies), but also sets out our targets (objectives) and actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years. The draft plan covers the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern River Basin Districts (RBD), and includes detailed status updates on each RBD.

The public consultation is open for a period of six months until the end of October 2021. NIEA encourages you to respond as early as possible due to the shortened timescales in preparing the final river basin management plan for December 2021.

Information about the Plans

Background

The Water (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ensure that the Water Framework Directive (as transposed) and the various supporting pieces of water legislation continue to operate in Northern Ireland after 1 January 2021. These supporting regulations are listed at Schedule 2 of The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. Integrated catchment planning through the preparation and implementation of a RBMP is a key element in implementing the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. The regulations take an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment. It applies to groundwater and to all surface water bodies, including rivers, lakes, transitional (estuarine) and coastal waters out to one nautical mile.

The regulations use five status classifications for surface waterbodies: High, Good, Moderate, Poor and Bad and two status classifications for groundwater bodies: 'Good' and 'Bad'. The regulations require us to aim to achieve good status in all waters by 2015 or, if that is not possible, by 2027 at the latest. The RBMP is developed in Northern Ireland by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), an agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in co-operation with the Department for Infrastructure.

In 2009 the first set of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) as required by the regulations was published for each River Basin District within Northern Ireland. The Plan identified where our water environment is in good or excellent condition and set out objectives for improvement or prevention of deterioration. This established a baseline against which the effectiveness of future river basin management measures would be assessed and monitored. Over the period of implementation of the 1st cycle RBMP, between 2009 and 2015, status assessments showed an improvement from 28 % to 37 % of all water bodies. As required by the regulations, the plan is to be reviewed and updated every 6 years. In 2015 the 2nd RBMP was published providing an overview of changes and progress that have been made.

The 2nd cycle plan published in 2015 built on the baseline established during the first cycle plans and incorporated 136 specific measures to improve the waterbodies not yet at 'good' status and to prevent deterioration of individual river, lake, marine and groundwater bodies. In the mid-cycle update completed in 2018 showed a stagnation of the number of water bodies that are at 'good or better' status and then has been confirmed in the classification for the draft plan. Whilst there have been some improvements in waterbody status, these have been negated by the number of waterbodies which have deteriorated.

As a precursor to this update of the draft RBMP, NIEA undertook a consultation on Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) for Northern Ireland in December 2019 and we would like to thank all who responded for their detailed and constructive feedback. The feedback we received has helped to influence the draft RBMP. In the first two cycles, an individual River Basin Management Plan was published for each River Basin District, however for the 3rd cycle a single River Basin Management Plan covering all three River Basin Districts will be published.

The first Plans in 2009 were designed to be rolling plans that evolve over time. The second cycle plans are modifications and changes made to the first set developed in 2009. The third cycle plan is a modification to the second cycle plans. The draft updated Plan outlines changes that have taken place during the second cycle and what is proposed for the third cycle.

A strategic environmental assessment under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive was conducted for the first set of plans in 2009. This identified and assessed the wider environmental impacts of the plans and programmes. For the second cycle, it was concluded that the draft 2014 River Basin Management Plans did not require a strategic environmental assessment because the draft plans constituted minor modifications to existing plans and the modifications were not likely to have significant environmental effects.

An updated draft River Basin Management Plan has now been published and it outlines the proposed changes and the modifications to measures for the third river basin planning cycle 2021-2027.

Plan Name

Draft River Basin Management Plan for the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern River Basin Districts (2021 -2027)

Screening Information and SEA Determination

An SEA screening process has been undertaken and focuses solely on the modifications contained in the Programme of Measures for draft Plan, named above. The screening process was conducted in accordance with The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

Regulation 6 (b) states that an environmental assessment need not be carried out for a minor modification to a plan or programme..... unless it has been determined under regulation 9 (1) that the plan, programme or modification, as the case may be, is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Regulation 9 addresses the requirements for determining whether a particular plan, programme or modification is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Regulation 9 (2) states that the responsible authority shall apply the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to the plan, programme or modification under consideration, and shall prepare a report on whether the authority considers that the plan or programme, or as the case may be, the modification, is likely to have significant environmental effects.

Schedule 1 sets out the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment based on the characteristics of the plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources; the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy; the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development; environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

Where significant effects on the environment have been identified, the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected must also be assessed, having regard, in particular, to the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects; the cumulative nature of the effects; the transboundary nature of the effects;

the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents); the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected); the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Table 1 sets out the assessment of the plan based on the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment based on the characteristics of the plans, as set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations. As the results of the assessment, as set out in Table 1, indicated that the modifications set out in the draft plan would not have significant environmental effects, no further assessment of the characteristics of particular effects is required under Schedule 1 (2), of the Regulations, as no effects, suitable for assessment under Strategic Environmental Assessment, have been identified in Table 2.

The plan has been subject to a 'test of likely significance' as part of the screening procedure under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. From the consideration of all the potential effects it has been objectively concluded that the plan is not likely to give rise to any significant effects on Natura 2000/Ramsar sites and no further assessment under Article 6 is required. A separate report on this issue has been completed.

Conclusion of screening process – Statement of Determination

Based on this screening report and the accompanying tables in Annex 1 and 2, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural affairs considers that the draft 2021 River Basin Management Plan does not require a strategic environmental assessment because the draft plan constitutes minor modifications to existing plans and the modifications are not likely to have significant environmental effects.

Table 1

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment	Any interaction of minor modifications with determining criterion? (Yes/No)	Likely to have significant environmental effects? (Yes/No/Not applicable)	Summary of significant environmental effects (Supporting / explanatory information)
Characteristics of the proposed modifications contained within the draft 2021-27 River Basin Management Plan.			
(a)The degree to which the minor modifications sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	No	Not Applicable	<p>Modifications to measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will not set a framework for projects or activities in so far as the outcome of such reviews is not yet known and a potential outcome from such reviews is that no change, or minor changes, in existing legislation would be required. Significant changes would be subject to a focused environmental assessment process once detailed changes or options were produced. At the SEA level the details of such changes, if any, is, as previously stated, not yet known in relation to their locations, nature, size or impact upon operating conditions or the potential resultant impact upon the allocation of resources. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>While a number of the modifications in the plans refer to other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes the minor modifications contained within the draft 2021-27 River Basin Management Plan could not be considered to be a significant influence upon those plans, or any plans that may be derived from them in the future, over and above the statutory requirement for those plans etc to comply with EC legislation and in particular the Water Framework Directive. In addition, while a number of the measures identify funding options and opportunities for the implementation of the overarching measures, the measures and their modifications themselves do not result in the allocation of financial resources. Therefore in summary it can be determined that the modifications in the draft 2021-27 River Basin Management Plan do not set a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

<p>(b)The degree to which the modifications influence other plans, including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 Strategic Environmental Assessment they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due course.</p> <p>While a number of the modifications in the plans refer to other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes the minor modifications contained within the draft 2021-27 River Basin Management Plan modifications could not be considered to be a significant influence upon those plans, or any plans that may be derived from them in the future, over and above the statutory requirement for those plans etc to comply with EC legislation and in particular the Water Framework Directive and the 2009 River Basin Management Plans which were the subject of a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>
<p>(c)The relevance of the modifications for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Modifications to measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such modifications generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>A number of the modifications will assist greatly with the integration of environmental considerations in organisations and groups providing a focus on catchment based river basin planning in the activities and actions of organisations such as local Councils, community groups etc.</p> <p>Modifications to measures related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These modifications are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such would not be considered to have the potential to have significant environmental effects.</p> <p>The modifications to measures proposed as part of the draft 2021-27 River Basin Management Plans will make valuable contributions to the integration of environmental considerations and sustainable</p>

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

			development within the context of the measures assessed in the 2009 SEA Environmental Report. While the 2009 & 2015 measures and the draft 2021-27 modifications in combination will potentially have a significant environmental effect, the modifications taken in isolation would not be regarded as having the potential to have a significant environmental effect.
(d) Environmental problems relevant to the modifications.	Yes	No	The aim of the modifications to measures contained within the draft 2021-27 River Basin Management Plan is to enhance a number of measures already in place as part of the 2009 & 2015 River Basin Management Plans. The key themes of the modifications contained within the 2021-27 River Basin Management Plans relate to partnership working, education and awareness, the review of legislative powers, evidence gathering, monitoring, research and modifications which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes. The aim of the measures and their modifications is to have a positive impact upon the environment, specifically the water environment. The modifications taken in isolation will have a minor positive impact or a neutral impact upon the environment. A full assessment of each modification is carried out in Table 2.
(e) The relevance of the modifications for the implementation of EC legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste management or water protection)	Yes	No	As the draft 2021-27 River Basin Management Plan modify the measures contained within the 2009 & 2015 River Basin Management Plans which are statutory documents produced as a requirement of the Water Framework Directive, the minor modifications are directly relevant to the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment, specifically related to water protection. However the detailed assessment of each of the modifications, see Table 2, identified that the modifications would not have a significant environmental effect taken in isolation. However the overall measures and their modifications would be expected to have a significant effect upon water quality and that these effects, where appropriate, were the subject of strategic environmental assessment in 2009 as part of the production of the 2009 River Basin Management Plans.

Table 2

What is the modification?		Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Assessment
Key Targeted Measure (KTM)	Measure	
Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture.	The Nitrates Action Programme and the Phosphorous Regulations have been revised and combined into the Nutrient Action Programme (NAP) 2019-2022. The Nutrient Action Programme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 came into operation on 15 October 2019. The revised NAP has new measures to promote more efficient nutrient management and best practice.	Modifications to measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Advisory services for agriculture	The Knowledge Advisory Service (KAS) was set up in April 2018 as a new single advisory service aimed at supporting Northern Ireland's farm and food businesses, where economic and environmental performance is inextricably linked.	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture.	Support programme to roll out soil testing and Lidar surveys and continued advice and education packages on the importance of soil nutrient management and soil fertility.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture.	Support the reduction in use of chemical fertilizer and encourage behaviour change based on evidence from further soil analysis.	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture.	Work with the industry to reduce the Phosphorus and nutrient content in animal feed and support and advice on increase grass yields on livestock farms so that concentrated feed volumes can be reduced	Modifications to measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture.	Support the development of innovative technologies for manure/slurry processing.	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

		assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture.	Continued delivery and implementation of the Environmental Farming scheme (EFS) measures to protect waterbodies, including riparian buffer zones and riverbank fencing. Monitor and evaluate of the effectiveness of these measures	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture.	Prioritise 3 catchments (one per RBD) and using spatial technology, identify areas of livestock poaching and focus advice and EFS measures to resolve	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Measures to reduce sediment from soil erosion and surface run-off.	Encourage the use of the Small woodland grant scheme to encourage riparian planting	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Advisory services for agriculture	Development of joined catchment actions to be taken forward within Priority waterbodies during the 3rd cycle River Basin Management Plans	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Reduce pesticides pollution from agriculture	Use the Water Catchment Partnership approach to proactively work together to promote and raise awareness of best practice when using pesticides on the farm	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty.	Consider outputs of Integrated Ecosystem Modelling (IEM) to achieve the most sustainable (financial, natural, social, human, manufactured and intellectual capital) outcomes. Ensure sustainable solutions to reduce nutrient inputs into bathing waters and shellfish water, in line with integrated catchment management practices to address River Basin Management pressures acting upon the water environment.	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Construction or upgrades of wastewater treatment plants.	PC21 - NIW is currently developing its business plan for the next price control period PC21 (2021-2027). The investment needs have been calculated to be approximately £3 billion by NIW. The funding requirements relate to a legacy of underfunding, ageing assets, population growth and the need to respond to the pressures arising as a result of climate change. However, before funding is made available, these investment	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

	needs have to be determined and agreed by the Utility Regulator.	2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Reduce nutrient pollution from sewage.	An Integrated Ecosystem Model has been developed to model the complete catchment considering all inputs both point and diffuse sources within the freshwater and marine environment. The Model outputs will identify where investment is needed to make the most benefit to water quality and delivery of the WFD Good Status. Strong evidence and source apportionment modelling is required to assist decision makers and policy makers in how best to tackle the issues in both fresh water and the marine environment. Trial projects are underway with Dundrum, Living with Water in Belfast (LWWP), Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy (SWELL) and the NIW Shellfish & Bathing Waters Remediation Project (SABRE) all applying the Integrated Ecosystem model principles. The outcome of the models will inform consenting decisions and investment prioritisation.	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Natural water retention measures	An Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management in Greater Belfast'. As the drainage problems are complex and no one organisation can tackle them alone, this Plan takes an integrated approach to address the inter-related issues, whilst at the same time, providing multiple benefits to the community. It focuses on developing integrated drainage solutions while adopting, where possible, sustainable 'soft' drainage and wastewater solutions, that both help the environment and cut operating and maintenance costs. . Whilst this plan is focussed in Belfast in will provide a blue print for the rest of Northern Ireland.	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Construction or upgrades of wastewater treatment plants.	Following successful applications for funding under INTERREG VA, NI Water and Irish Water led on a project entitled SWELL (Shared Waters Enhancement and Loughs Legacy), alongside AFBI and the Loughs Agency. The aim of SWELL is to improve water quality within the shared waters of Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle, and it received ~€35m including match funding. Recently, despite work being delayed by CoVid-19, upgrades at Newpoint, Warrenpoint and Donemana WWTW are approximately 80% completed with construction work at Strabane completed.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Reduce nutrient pollution from sewage & industry	DAERA have instigated a Water Reform which will reform how point source discharges are regulated to achieve better environmental outcomes. It includes a full review of consenting decision making processes and procedures to move towards a catchment based approach and a review of the compliance assessment methodologies for both Industrial/ Private Sewage Point source Discharges and Water Utility Discharges. It also includes a full Review of NI Water Discharge consents using an evidence	Modifications to measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

	and catchment based approach and reform of NI Water Compliance Assessment and Data Assessment incorporating an unannounced sampling regime including Flow and Priority Substances	the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Reduce nutrient pollution from sewage	Carry out a pilot study on the impact of hotspot areas of both domestic discharges and private Wastewater Treatment systems to gather evidence to inform the development of a strategy to deliver Sustainable Sewage Management for NI.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Reduce nutrient pollution from sewage. Natural water retention measures	Continue to work through the Stormwater Management group (SWMG) to ensure that all new developments incorporate sustainable solutions e.g. soft SuDs to control Stormwater run-off	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Reduce nutrient pollution	Continue to work together to address the issue of misconnections. DFI to carry through legislation that would require home owners with misconnections to get them resolved.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Reduce nutrient pollution from sewage	Continue to work together to deliver Sustainable Wastewater Treatment Technologies - NIEA has been working with NIW on the development of these technologies to ensure the treatment meets the WFD requirements. NIW has recently completed an investment at Maghaberry WWTW for additional population using biological filters as the primary process.	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc. not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Reduce nutrient pollution	Continue support & implementation of the ConnectRight campaign, a partnership of water companies and environment agencies in the UK who are working to reduce water pollution from drains and sewers.	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Construction or upgrades of wastewater treatment plants.	PEACE PLUS programme - NIW has been working with Irish Water, DfI, DHLGH and DAERA on preparing joint position papers to access additional funding under the new PEACE PLUS programme. Joint position papers have been developed for projects including: (1) SWELL2 (focusing on Loughs Erne, Melvin and Donegal Bay)	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

Measures for the phasing-out of emissions, discharges and losses of Priority Hazardous Substances or for the reduction of emissions, discharges and losses of Priority Substances	Establish a Northern Ireland Regulators Forum for Pesticides & Chemicals to review existing legislation and implementation/ enforcement. The Group should include local Councils/Recreational ground managers and other non-agriculture sectors	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Measures for the phasing-out of emissions, discharges and losses of Priority Hazardous Substances or for the reduction of emissions, discharges and losses of Priority Substances	Establish an Interdepartmental group which reports on priority substances, monitoring outcomes in NI's aquatic environment to raise awareness of potential environmental impacts and promote initiatives for control and management of chemicals.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Investigate existing & new activities regarding the use of pesticides & chemicals detected in waterways to better understand and address the source e.g. Cypermethrin:	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Consider the need for the provision of a Disposal Scheme in Northern Ireland for no longer authorised pesticides, similar to the schemes that have occurred in Donegal & Wales	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Carry out a Public Sector Estate pilot of pesticide reduction or elimination (with the exception of use for non-native invasive species eradication)	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Continue Management Group between Northern Ireland Water (NIW), NIEA and the NI Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) to share information on monitoring, pollution incidents, catchment initiatives and emerging pollutants.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Continue monitoring pharmaceutical contaminants in the aquatic environment including antibiotics, as an extension of the EU Watch List, WFD Regulations.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

		suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	NIEA will continue the development of methods of analysis for Targeted Screening covering high use Agrochemicals not on WFD monitoring list.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	NIEA will continue the use of automatic sampling techniques to further investigate issues identified.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Carry out research and further investigation into the source of the chemicals causing poor groundwater chemical status.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Continue Water Catchment Partnership, consisting of representatives from NIEA, Ulster Farmers Union (UFU), Northern Ireland Water (NIW), DAERA and the Voluntary Initiative to help address significant water quality issues caused by pesticides in Northern Ireland.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Continue Source to Tap Programme to protect and improve rivers and lakes in the Erne and Derg cross border catchments.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	Investigate ways to ensure the valuable educational initiatives and incentives from the Source to Tap project can be used as a blueprint for other Drinking Water Catchments	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	PEACE PLUS programme - NI Water has been working with Irish Water, DfI, DHLGH and DAERA on preparing joint position papers to access additional funding under the new PEACE PLUS programme.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc).	DAERA have instigated a Water Reform which includes a review of the current Drinking Water Inspectorate enforcement policies & procedures, a review of their Compliance Assessment Model and a review of the Risk Assessment Action Plans for NIW & Private Water Supplies (PWS).	Modifications to measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

		practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc.).	Continue to work together on projects to protect drinking water catchments e.g. Sustainable Catchment Action Management Plans (SCAMP)	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc.).	Glenedra River Riparian Tree Planting Project - A joint project between NI Water, The Woodland Trust and The Loughs Agency to plant 5,742 native broadleaf trees along the banks of the Glenedra River, Co Londonderry. This will reduce bankside erosion improving water quality and have a positive impact on habitats and aquatic species.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc.).	Continue Mournes Mountains Wildfire Project	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Drinking water protection measures (e.g. establishment of safeguard zones, buffer zones etc.).	Improving Forestry Activities - NIW have been working with key stakeholders to improve practices when planting and felling trees in order to reduce the impacts on water quality.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty	Continue to support research into the distribution, abundance and impacts of plastic pollution in Northern Ireland's freshwater ecosystems.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty	Continue monitoring antibiotic concentrations and undertake AMR testing in NI's aquatic environment as part of the NI AMR Action Plan to provide a better understanding of the potential risks to the environment and both human and animal health.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Protection of fisheries and allow fish migration	As part of the Water Reform carry out a review of the compliance assessment methodologies for abstraction to include site inspection programme findings and Inland Fishery observations.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

		<p>biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p>
Improvements in flow regime and/or establishment of ecological flows	NIEA to continue to work collaboratively with Inland Fisheries on the regulation of abstractions ensuring sustainable abstraction and protection of fish passage and habitats.	<p>Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p>
Protection of fisheries and allow fish migration	Continue to tackle the Deemed Authorisations and license activities appropriately securing sustainable water abstraction, protection of fish passage and fish habitat.	<p>Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p>
Protection of fisheries and allow fish migration	Finalise the Fish Farm Policy to facilitate the licensing of the Deemed Fish Farms supporting the growth of sustainable Aquaculture Industry alongside protecting water resource, fish passage and fish habitat.	<p>Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p>
Improvements in flow regime and/or establishment of ecological flows	Ensure the sustainable regulation of NIW abstraction including linkage with groundwater on increased use as a resource for industry and NI Water.	<p>Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required</p>

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

		<p>changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p>
Protection of Groundwater	<p>Carry out a review of groundwater abstractions and their compliance monitoring data (especially conductivity) in the Coleraine-Kilrea groundwater body and work with stakeholder to identify possible suitable mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.</p>
Improving longitudinal continuity (e.g. establishing fish passes, demolishing old dams)	<p>Assessment and prioritisation for easement of barriers to fish migration.</p>	<p>Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.</p>
Protection of fisheries	<p>Implementation of NASCO habitat improvement projects utilising a variety of targeting methods including, habitat assessments, fisheries data sets, WFD fish monitoring results and recommendations etc. a broad suite of improvement tools to be utilised.</p>	<p>Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.</p>
Protection of fisheries	<p>Robust enforcement of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966.</p>	<p>Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.</p>
Protection of fisheries	<p>Ongoing participation in the statutory planning process.</p>	<p>Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental</p>

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

		Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Protection of fisheries	Ongoing consultation and engagement with cross border partners on transboundary issues.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Protection of fisheries	Implementation of conservation and protection initiatives outlined within Eel management plans, NASCO Implementation plans and DAERA Inland Fisheries, Fishery Management Plans.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty	Utilisation of research to develop and implement applied projects to conserve, protect and improve fish populations and habitats.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Measures to prevent or control the input of pollution from forestry	<u>Continue to implement the UK Forestry Standard 4th edition (2017) 'on Managing Forest Operations to Protect the Water Environment'.</u>	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Measures to reduce sediment from soil erosion and surface run-off	Promote the Small Woodland Grant scheme for native woodland creation in riparian zones	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

Measures to reduce sediment from soil erosion and surface run-off	Seek synergies with the operation of Forests for Our Future with water quality improvements and water retention measures	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Measures to prevent pollution from waste & contaminated land	DAERA to prepare an outline Business Case to assess the resources required to inform any future decision on the implementation of a contaminated land regulatory regime for Northern Ireland.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Measures to prevent pollution from waste & contaminated land	Carry out an assessment of the environmental impacts of high risk legacy waste sites on the water environment	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Remediation of contaminated sites (historical pollution including sediments, groundwater, soil)	Implement the remediation strategy for the Mobuoy Road Waste Site	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases	Continued implementation of the Enforcement of the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019. It is an offence to keep; permit to grow, cultivate or reproduce; transport (to, from or within Northern Ireland); place on the market; use or exchange any species that is included on the 'List of Union Concern'.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Measures to prevent or	Continue to raise awareness and when necessary, enforcement procedures on land	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases	owners to prevent the spread and eventually remove from their land those species classified as Widely Spread Species (WSS), which include riparian species such as Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed and aquatics such as parrots feather, under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.	overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases	Continue to work with other DAERA departments, to prevent the introduction of INNS into Northern Ireland. Developed wide range of DAERA NIEA ID guides, deployed to border staff – Border Force, Portal Inspectors and Plant Health Inspectorate (FS), etc. Liaise with Wildlife Crime Northern Ireland (PAWNI) to ensure certain species are not being traded, e.g. slider terrapins.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases	Ensure funding streams e.g. the Environment Fund and Environmental Farming schemes (EFS) incorporate options for the removal of invasive species to help landowners fulfil their responsibilities under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019.	Modifications to measures which relate to the implementation of actions detailed in other Strategy documents, action plans, schemes or programmes are assumed to have been environmentally assessed, where appropriate, under the processes and procedures which resulted in their creation. For those strategies, plans etc not yet created, it is not possible to have them assessed as the details are not yet known. However as recommended in the 2009 SEA they should be subject to the requisite assessment in due process.
Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases	Continue to raise public and other stakeholder awareness of INNS and provide advice including guidance on control methods and identification information. E.g. awareness raising campaigns such as. 'Clean, Check, Dry' & 'Be Plant Wise'.	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases	Continue to maintain, update, develop and promote the 'Invasive Species Ireland' website, which provides resources on INNS, including identification guides and management methods.	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of invasive alien species and introduced diseases	Development and implementation of pathway action plans, e.g. Angling PAP. Further PAPs are under currently under development, e.g. Recreational boating and Horticulture.	Measures related to the review of statutory regulatory powers, licensing and the introduction of controls will result in overall positive impacts to the environment. However specific measures may result in impacts on the industries affected and may have potential negative impacts on economic development. Indirect negative impacts are also possible for other environmental receptors dependent upon the required changes e.g. new infrastructure which would impact upon biodiversity and soils or changes to existing practices that could impact upon air quality or climate from transport or alternate treatment and disposal. At the SEA level the details of such changes is not yet known or the locations that they may be utilised. Therefore it is only possible to assess such measures generally in relation to the Strategic Environmental

Draft Screening report on the determination of an SEA

		Objectives. This level of assessment was carried out as part of the 2009 SEA Environmental Report.
Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty	Continue to steer and support environmental research through AFBI	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty	Investigate setting up small bursary scheme to support MSc students during their research project with additional costs to address Northern Ireland Environment Agency research needs	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA. Where an implementation stage is included in the measure the absence of specific details on the actions required will necessitate project level environmental assessment commensurate with the scale, location and intent of the planned project.
Education and awareness	Consider the viability of an education Officer for DAERA.	Modifications related to education and awareness measures were identified in the original SEA as being intangible in nature and not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Protected Areas	Develop site specific Conservation Management Plans for Freshwater and Marine protected areas which will determine the pressures and threats affecting the wellbeing of the important habitats and species of these sites and identify all the management actions required to address these issues.	Modifications related to evidence gathering, monitoring, research and identification of source pressures measures continue to build understanding of the baseline environment begun during the Article 5 characterisation process. These measures are concerned with information gathering rather than the taking of any concrete actions and as such are not suitable for environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action were not deemed appropriate for SEA.
Education and awareness	Continue to support the Riverfly Monitoring Initiative which allows ownership of the water ways to local residents through monitoring their own water quality.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Education and awareness	Continue Environment Challenge Fund for community led, targeted water improvement projects.	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.
Education and awareness	Continue to promote and support the establishment of Rivers Trusts	Modifications to measures which require partnership working are intangible in nature and not suitable for strategic environmental assessment. Therefore such measures and action are not deemed appropriate for SEA but the outcomes of such working arrangements may require project level assessments commensurate with their scale, location and intent.



For further information:

Integrated Catchment Planning Team
NIEA Water Management Unit
17 Antrim Road, Tonagh, Lisburn Co. Antrim
BT28 3AL

Tel: 028 9263 3481

Email: catchmentplanning@daera-ni.gov.uk

www.daera-ni.gov.uk