

# River Basin Planning

## The Water Framework Directive in the South West

Welcome to the second Water Framework Directive Newsletter of 2009. This one focuses on progress with the consultation on the draft South West River Basin Management Plan, which started last December. There are six weeks to go with the consultation, so you still have a chance to make your views count!

### The Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive is there to help us work together to improve the environment. It provides real opportunities to help us balance different peoples needs and encourages us all to work in partnership to achieve an environment which everyone can take pride in and can enjoy to the full.

The environment is really important to the economy and the great quality of life we enjoy in the South West, so we should all be interested.

Now more than ever before, we must manage the environment in a sustainable way. This means using solutions with a small carbon footprint, and making sure that everyone who can contribute plays their part, and dealing with problems at source wherever possible.



The draft River Basin Plan outlines proposals for what we can achieve between now and 2015. We think it's important to look to the longer term

too, as we don't think we'll be able to deliver everything we want to by 2015. This means a lot of work will need to continue into the future.

What do you think?

### The Consultation – just 6 weeks left!

We are now more than 4 months into the 6 month public consultation period.

We've been out and about, talking to people about the draft plan and what it is trying to achieve. Despite the awful weather we experienced this winter, over a hundred of you were able to attend at least one of the series of workshops that were highlighted in the last newsletter.

We've also been busy meeting organisations and sector representatives from the Ports Industry, Rivers Associations, Local Authorities and others to seek their views.

We've had nearly a hundred responses across England and Wales so far, and over twenty of these have been about the South West River Basin Plan. It's great that we're getting more than our fair share of views, but we want to know what YOU think!

The consultation focus on three key areas. We want to know:

- if you agree with what the plan sets out to achieve
- if you agree that the right actions have been identified and
- if you can help to make these actions happen

Obviously, we also want to hear anything else you have to say about the plan.

To access the consultation on the draft river basin plan and let us have your views, visit our website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd).

If you can't access the consultation this way, you can also find a copy of the draft plan at your local library, along with response forms and pre-paid envelopes. Get in touch if you need any assistance.

### The 'Our Rivers' campaign

You may have seen recent press coverage about 'Our Rivers', a joint campaign of WWF, RSPB, the Angling Trust and the Association of Rivers Trusts, who are all concerned about the low level of ambition in draft River Basin Plans across the country.

The campaign aims to improve the water environment by getting groups and members of the public to help decide the fate of rivers. It provides you with an alternative way of feeding in

what you know about your rivers to our consultation.

The campaign website is an important part of the campaign, a place you are able to stand up for your river by flagging up the problems it faces, access an alternative way of responding to our consultation and also find the tools the campaign think you'll need to kick start targeted local campaigns.

You can access the website at [www.ourrivers.org.uk](http://www.ourrivers.org.uk)



### Get in touch:

If you have any queries relating to the WFD, or need assistance with accessing the consultation, please get in touch with us:

- by email at [southwestrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:southwestrbd@environment-agency.gov.uk),
- by telephone on 08708 506 506, or
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