

# **Policy Developments and Diffuse Pollution in Scotland**

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# Catchment Management in Scotland

- A lot of history;
- Several on-going catchment management projects;
- Many different models and motivations;
- Success more likely when funded and there are full-time catchment officers;
- Stakeholder involvement is key;
- Need clear aims and objectives;
- All good preparation for River Basin Management Planning.

# Diffuse Water Pollution

- Diffuse Pollution a significant pressure;
- Agriculture and forestry of particular importance in Scotland;
- Further characterisation required;
- Significant Water Management Issues Report – Summer 2007;
- Draft River Basin Management Plan – 2008;
- First RBMP due in 2009.

## Some priorities for 2006

- Set up Area Advisory Groups for River Basin Management Planning;
- Identify ‘priority catchments’;
- Development of ‘national’ and ‘targeted’ General Binding Rules (GBRs);
- Agree delivery (and conditions to be placed on) of farm support from 2007;
- Expansion of monitoring network.

# Delivery of Farm Support

- ‘Packaging’ for all farm support in Scotland will be via Land Management Contracts (LMCs);
- To have **3 tiers**;
  - tier 1 – Single Farm Payment;
  - tier 2 – widely accessible agri-environment measures (LMC Menu Scheme 2005);
  - tier 3 – top-up payments (2007);
- Economic, social and environmental measures;
- Fully operational by 2007.

# Future possibilities

- Money for tier 2 and tier 3 measures will rise through *'modulation'*;
- Opportunity to target funding and encourage farmer collaboration;
- LMC could represent a form of registration of a measure.

# CAP reform and Rural Development Regulation (RDR)

## Single Farm Payment

- CAP reform cross-compliance includes measures to protect soil (via GAEC); and,
- 3 Statutory Management Requirements including the EC Groundwater, Nitrates and Sludge Directives only.

## Agri-Environment Support

- Conditional on 'good farming practice' (GFP) being met which includes the Control of Pollution Act 1974\*, Groundwater Regulations 1998\* and Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (SSAFO)\*\*.

\* - *Part of The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) Scotland Regulations 2005 with effect from April 2006.*

\*\* - *To be amended to Silage and Slurry Regulations in 2006*

# How good are farmers at complying with the SSAFO Regulations?

## Agricultural Regulatory Team work:

- **Number of farm audits**                      **2171**
- **% farms non-compliant**                      **68%**
- **% farms causing pollution\***                      **52%**

*(\* - mostly minor)*

# Best Management Practices - where should they go?

- Everywhere? - **No**;
- Targeted catchments? - **Yes**;
- Demonstration/research farms (LEAF, SAC etc) - **Yes**;

