

SUMMARY
ANNUAL REPORT
&
ACCOUNTS



1991/92

*Guardians of the
Water Environment*

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NRA

National Rivers Authority

**Guardians of
the Water Environment**

Annual Report & Accounts Summary 1991/92

"We are pleased to be able to report that over the past year considerable progress has been made in all areas of our work to protect and improve the water environment. We achieved most of the targets in our 1991/92 Corporate Plan and have continued to develop the policies and plans which will bring about progressive improvements.

Our sincere thanks go to all staff for the tremendous efforts that they have made and for the enthusiasm and commitment which they have demonstrated as *Guardians of the Water Environment*."

Lord Crickhowell, Chairman

Mr Ed Gallagher, Chief Executive

THE NRA

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) was established by the Water Act 1989. It has statutory duties and powers for water resources, pollution control, flood defence, fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation throughout England and Wales. Its water quality and fisheries responsibilities extend into coastal waters. The NRA is also the Competent Authority for a number of European Community Environmental Directives.

Over the last three years the NRA has established itself as the strongest Environmental Protection Agency in Europe and a very effective 'Guardian of the Water Environment'.

In 1991/92 the Authority spent £445 million and employed 7,849 staff.

Approximately 71% of the Authority's income came from charging schemes and 29% from Government grants.

The Authority has a Head Office based in London and Bristol and operates through ten Regions in England and Wales.

MISSION STATEMENT

"The National Rivers Authority will protect and improve the water environment. This will be achieved through effective management of water resources and by substantial reductions in pollution. The Authority aims to provide effective defences for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea. In discharging its duties it will operate openly and balance the interests of all who benefit from and use rivers, groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters. The Authority will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards its employees."

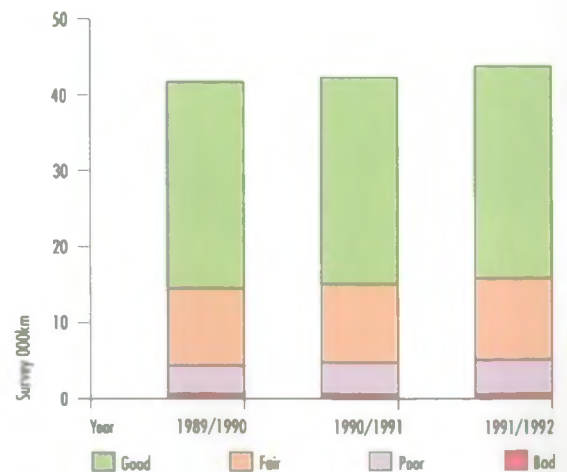


THE NRA'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 1991/92

WATER QUALITY

- Dealt with over 29,000 reported pollution incidents, took over 445,000 water samples and carried out 5,500,000 analyses.
- Secured over 500 prosecutions against polluters with fines totalling over £1 million.
- Implemented a charging scheme so discharge consent holders pay towards the cost of protecting the water environment. This recovered over £22 million during the 1991/92 financial year.
- Published the results of major studies into Pollution Incidents, River, Canal and Estuarial Water Quality, Coastal Bathing Water Quality and the Influence of Agriculture on the quality of natural waters.
- Invited public comment on proposals for Statutory Water Quality Objectives under which all controlled waters will be classified and legally binding standards set according to current and planned uses of the controlled waters.

River and Canal Water Quality Survey Results



WATER RESOURCES

- Tackled a third successive drought year and managed water resources to balance the needs of abstractors and the environment.
- Put in place practical solutions to mitigate the effects of drought and low river flows.
- Carried out almost 12,000 licence inspections and undertook 20 prosecutions for abstraction offences.
- Published key consultation papers on a Water Resources Development Strategy and the Policies and Practices necessary to protect Groundwaters.
- Undertook public consultation on the introduction of a new water abstraction charging scheme.



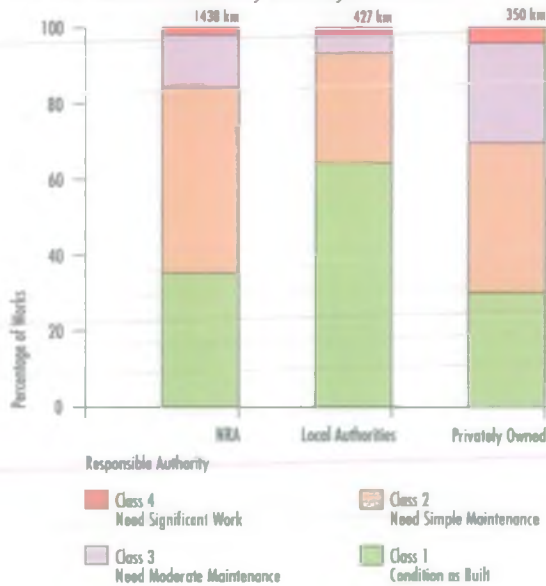
River Derwent - Low Flows

FLOOD DEFENCE

- Issued 355 flood warnings to the police and dealt with serious flooding incidents in Yorkshire, Northumbria and the North West.
- Completed three phases of the NRA's Survey of Sea Defences around England and Wales. This showed that 97% of all defence elements were in reasonably good condition with only 3% requiring significant works.
- Constructed 239km of new defences and increased capital expenditure programmes by £15.4 million - a 15% increase over the previous year - to improve flood defences generally.

Sea Defence Survey 1991

The General Condition of Sea Defence Works



FISHERIES

- Surveyed over 10,000 km of fisheries.
- Reared almost 6.5 million fish and stocked-out approximately 5.8 million fish to maintain, improve and develop fisheries.
- Built over 60 fishery improvement structures and fish passes.
- Introduced a new national fishing rod licensing and charging scheme.

RECREATION

- Produced and promoted a Canoe Code providing guidance on responsible river use.
- Carried out over 100 projects in collaboration with other national and regional bodies including local authorities, private sector organisations and clubs.



Canoe Code

CONSERVATION

- Surveyed over 8,000km of aquatic wildlife habitats and incorporated conservation works into approximately 500 capital works schemes.
- Participated in a wide variety of collaborative conservation projects with local authorities, wildlife trusts and other environmental organisations.



Redshank

NAVIGATION

- Carried out over 800,000 craft licence checks and achieved over 99% compliance.
- Provided new or improved facilities at over 50 sites.
- Produced a consultation document on the future management of navigation in Rye Harbour.



Navigation on the Medway

GENERAL

- Promoted the NRA's views on the Government's proposals for an Environment Agency and advocated our belief that the protection and enhancement of the water environment is best served by an integrated approach to water management.
- Produced 10 Catchment Management Plans and invited public consultation on these and other policy proposals.
- Completed 78 R&D projects to support and improve our operational performance.
- Strengthened internal financial controls and created an Audit Committee to oversee the Authority's expenditure.

The new National Rod Licence





Financial Summary 1991-92

Analysis of Receipts and Payments

RECEIPTS: WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

| | Operational Receipts* £m | Grants £m | Total Receipts £m | Percentage of Total Receipts |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Water Quality | 28.2 | 49.3 | 77.5 | 17.7 |
| Water Resources | 70.3 | 0.0 | 70.3 | 16.1 |
| Flood Defence | 197.4 | 34.7 | 232.1 | 53.0 |
| Fisheries | 9.1 | 12.3 | 21.4 | 4.9 |
| Recreation & Conservation | 0.5 | 3.7 | 4.2 | 1.0 |
| Navigation | 3.1 | 6.0 | 9.1 | 2.1 |
| Capital Restructuring | 0.7 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 1.1 |
| Unfunded Pensions | 0.0 | 11.2 | 11.2 | 2.6 |
| Exceptional Items | 0.0 | 7.4 | 7.4 | 1.7 |
| Total | 309.3 | 128.5 | 437.8 | 100.0 |

*Operational receipts represent cash generated from business activities and raised through charging schemes, licence fees, precepts, levies and interest receivable.

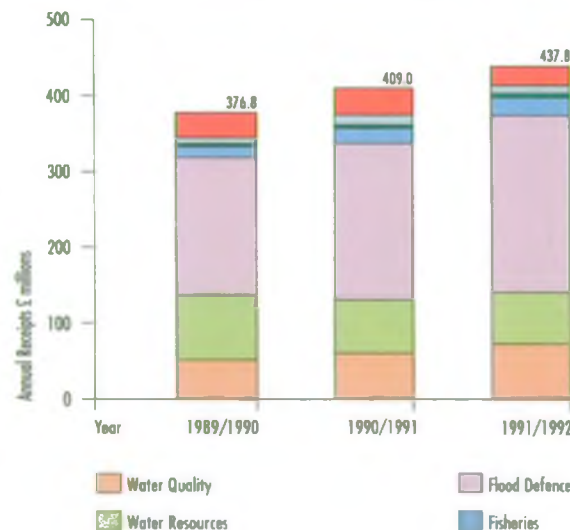
PAYMENTS: WHERE THE MONEY WAS SPENT

| | Total Payments £m | Percentage of Total Payments |
|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Water Quality | 76.4 | 17.2 |
| Water Resources | 77.2 | 17.3 |
| Flood Defence | 230.9 | 51.9 |
| Fisheries | 22.1 | 5.0 |
| Recreation & Conservation | 5.0 | 1.1 |
| Navigation | 9.2 | 2.1 |
| Capital Restructuring | 5.5 | 1.2 |
| Unfunded Pensions | 11.2 | 2.5 |
| Exceptional Items | 7.5 | 1.7 |
| Total | 445.0 | 100.0 |

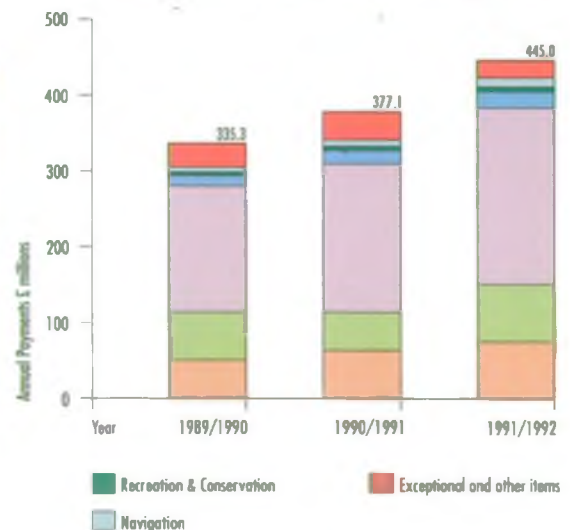
Financial Trends 1989-92

Analysis of Receipts and Payments

ANNUAL RECEIPTS £M 89/90 - 91/92



ANNUAL PAYMENTS £M 89/90 - 91/92



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Further copies of this leaflet (issued free of charge) and copies of the main document (£10 net) are available from:

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Please make cheques payable to 'National Rivers Authority'.