

# RIVER LOOE

# CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN



**NRA**

*National Rivers Authority  
South West Region*

C O N T E N T S

MAP OF NRA SW REGION SHOWING TARGET CATCHMENT

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



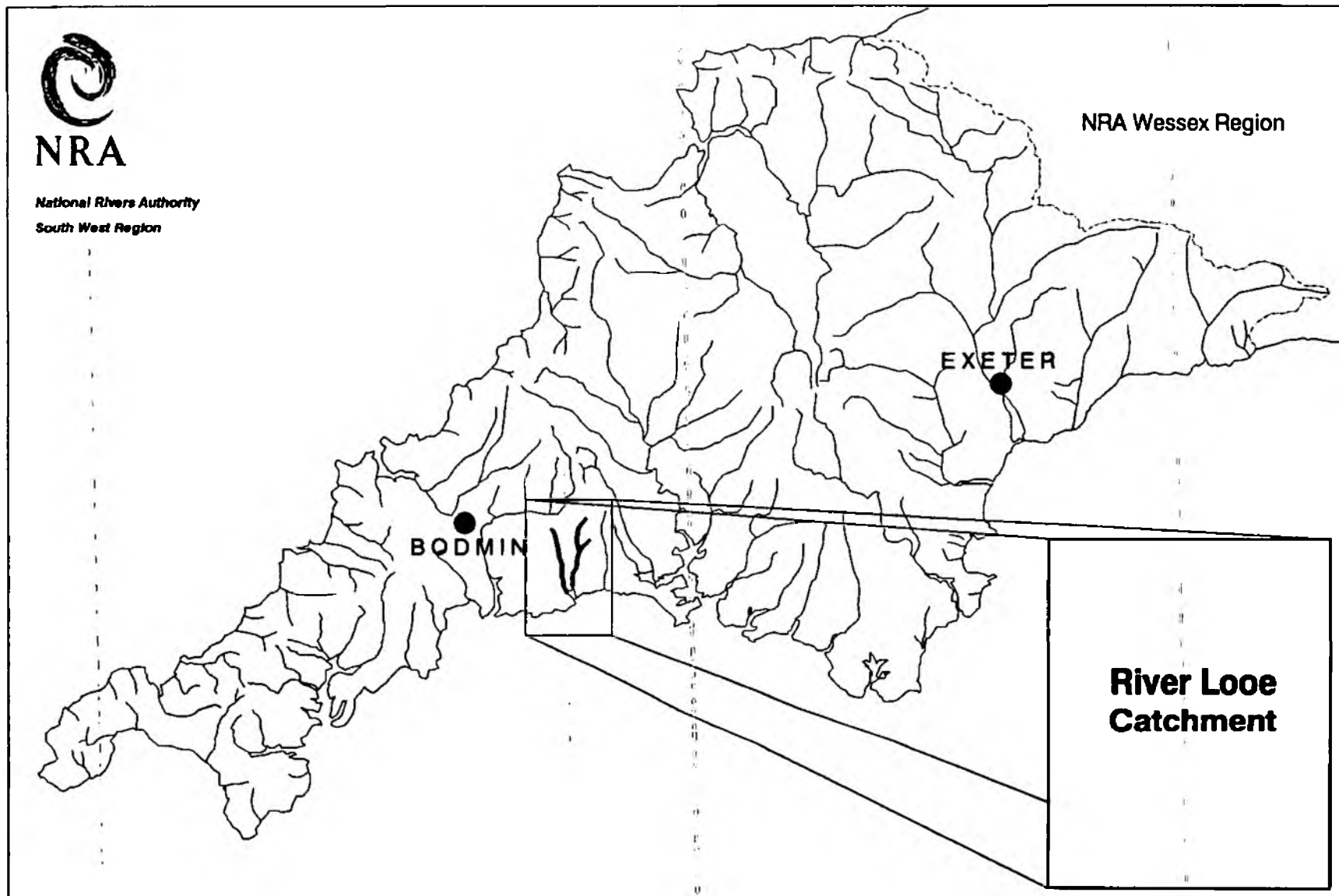
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**National Rivers Authority  
South West Region**



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**River Looe Catchment**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

CATCHMENT ACTION PLANS are designed to be a simple, practical means of directing resources to achieve environmental improvements on a priority basis, between and within catchments. They set out the essential routine tasks, and a five year programme of specific actions for each catchment to meet regional and national targets. Changes may occur where unplanned work such as an extreme drought requires priority.

The NRA has inherited a legacy of environmental challenges arising from the use and abuse of our natural resources. Although significant progress has already been made it will be many years before all the work needed can be assessed, funded and carried out.

To achieve the environmental objectives will require not just the clear, vigorous direction of the NRA towards priority work but the help and support of the whole community.

The NRA has consulted with the Regional Advisory Board and Advisory Committees and the local interests about the draft action plans and the format is the outcome of those discussions.

Progress to achieve the Action Plan objectives will normally be reviewed on an annual basis but more frequently where severe problems have been identified.

## 2. ROUTINE SERVICES

Despite the fact that the NRA is largely a reactive, regulatory body it is possible to plan for much of the environmental protection work even the fact that unpredictable events will occur!

Much of the routine workload such as monitoring, enforcement of statutes and dealing with pollution and flooding incidents needs to have clear priority to ensure that it is dealt with to satisfactory standards throughout the region.

This essential work is carried out according to need in all catchments.

The NRA SW handles over 3000 pollution incidents a year, the majority of which are reported by members of the public. Many are attended within minutes and most within a few hours. In some cases major operations are undertaken to control the pollution and minimise impact on the environment.

Several thousand routine inspections of industrial premises, farms, weirs, fish passes and treatment works are also undertaken. In many cases improvements are required to minimise the risk of pollution or to ensure protection of fish and conservation of the water environment.

As part of the overall environmental protection exercise many flood defence schemes and thousands of planning applications are screened; hundreds of farm pollution grant proposals and effluent discharge applications are processed each year. Many new or varied abstraction licences and drilling consents are also processed to protect surface and underground waters.

Each year about 67,000 samples of rivers, lakes, ground and tidal waters and effluents are taken. Around 1.25 million chemical tests are made on these samples to ensure water quality standards are met and to identify where enforcement action is needed.

In addition detailed studies of samples of invertebrates, fish, algae and plants are undertaken to provide information on the status of the aquatic communities and to test the accuracy of the conclusions of chemical monitoring.

The key abstractions, discharges and monitoring sites for this catchment are marked on map(s) in Appendix 1.

Routine regulatory action is taken to ensure the conditions of thousands of discharges, abstractions and other legal requirements are enforced and illegal fishing is curtailed.

The NRA SW also handles many hundreds of letters and enquiries for information from the Water Act Register and provides press releases, reports and other information to a wide range of interests in the community.

3. **CHALLENGES AND ACTION**

The West and East Looe rivers share a joint estuary at Looe. The East Looe runs due south through Liskeard and the smaller West Looe through a wooded valley and Herodsford into Looe Bay.

The catchment supports a developing rod salmon, sea trout and brown trout fishery and has suffered from the effects of sewage and industrial discharges which have been exacerbated by the recent low flows during drought conditions.

The aims of the plan are to achieve water quality objectives and enforce pollution control, fisheries and water resources legislation.

Functional officers have identified the main challenges to the achievement of environmental objectives. Where solutions are clear they have been programmed. In other cases investigations are needed to determine the way forward.

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>TIMETABLE</u>				
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
<u>FISHERIES</u>					
Enforce and monitor fixed net legislation.					
Enforce and monitor netting ban for sea fish in estuary.					
Survey all weirs and fish passes. Plan and implement fish pass installation/improvements.					
Survey for trash dams/plan clearance.					
Plan and implement spawning gravel rehabilitation.					
Carry out juvenile fish population survey.					Date to be determined.
Carry out annual redd count.					
Survey fish counter site.					

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

POLLUTION CONTROL

Carry out review of water quality.

Followed by identification of causes of non-compliance with water quality objectives and take remedial action.

Investigate impact of china clay discharges with a view to reviewing consents as necessary.

Assess impact of Connon Bridge landfill site on receiving water quality and take appropriate action.

Pre and post scheme appraisal of SWWS capital improvement schemes.

Prepare catchment description.

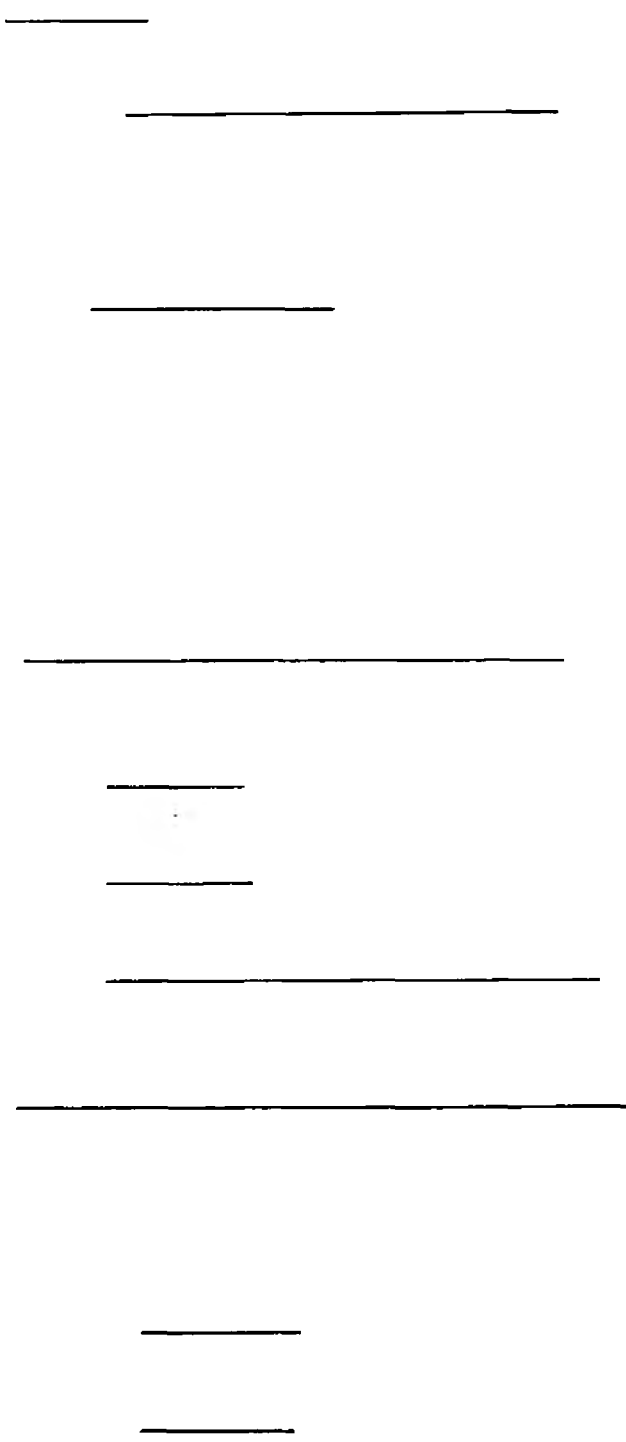
Appraise SWWS sewerage improvements at East Looe.

Assess impact of historic mining on water quality and remedy if possible.

Determine deemed discharge consents.

Baseline survey of ground-water quality to determine:

- a) suitability for potable use.
- b) compliance with relevant EC directives.



ACTION

TIMETABLE

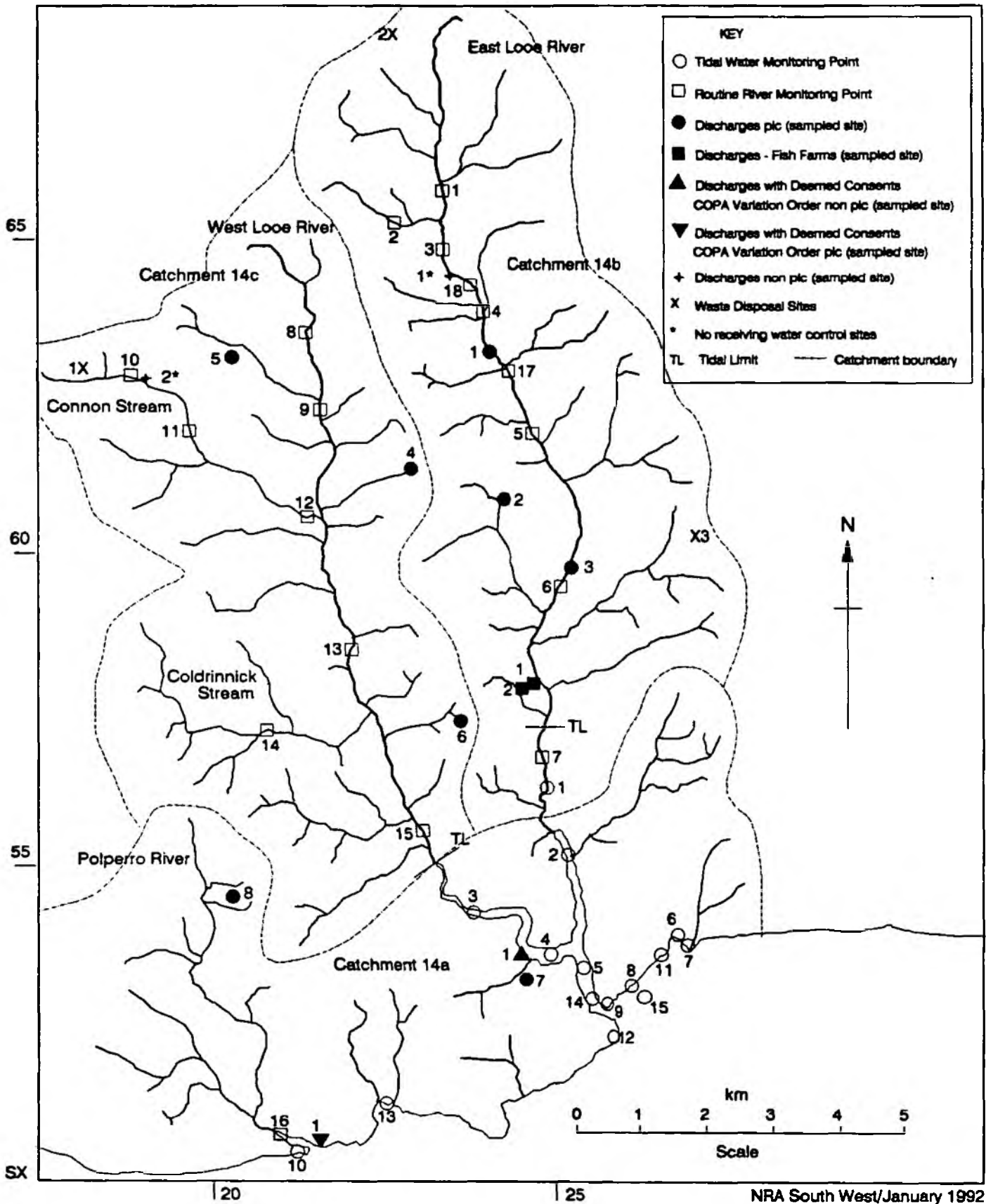
1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

WATER RESOURCES

Review low flow problem sites, formulate and promote alleviation schemes for priority sites.



# Looe Catchment 14A, 14B & 14C



LOOE CATCHMENT 14A, 14B & 14C

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
<b>DISCHARGES NON PLC</b>				
1*	P14B/P/1	SX23406440	Moorswater	China Clay works
2*	P14C/P/6	SX18986244	Connon Bridge	Landfill Tip
<b>DISCHARGES PLC</b>				
1	WSTW4658FE	SX24106300	Liskeard	Sewage treatment works
2	WSTW4758FE	SX24106070	St Keyne	Sewage treatment works
3	WSTW4800FE	SX25105981	Trewidland	Sewage treatment works
4	WSTW4564FE	SX23055820	Duloe	Sewage treatment works
5	WSTW4798FE	SX20306330	Trevelmond	Sewage treatment works
6	WSTW4792FE	SX23525734	Tredinnick	Sewage treatment works
7	WSTW4660FE	SX24405360	Looe	Sewage treatment works
				Site for current and proposed dangerous substances
8	WSTW4712FE	SX20205490	Pelynt	Sewage treatment works

**FISH FARMS**

1	P14B/P/2	SX24905830	Riverview Fish Farm
2	P14B/P/3	SX24475816	Seasons Fish Farm

**DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER NON PLC**

1	P14A/P/34	SX24605390	Frank Curtis & Pape
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**DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER PLC**

1	OUT5060	SX21285082	Polperro	Outfall
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**WASTE DISPOSAL SITES**

1	080ANEAL	SX188625	Connon Bridge, Liskeard
2	080ARMAL	SX218678	Redgate, Doublebois
3	080ARNAL	SX266614	Lean Quarry, Horning Tops

**TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - ESTUARY QUALITY**

1	E14A3	SX24955655	Upper estuary	Routine monitoring site
2	E14A2	SX25155520	St Martin	Routine monitoring site
3	E14A5	SX23705450	Upper estuary	Routine monitoring site
4	E14A4	SX24755390	By Trenant Wood	Routine monitoring site
5	E14A1	SX25405367	Looe combined	Routine monitoring site

**TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BATHING WATERS**

6	ECB0460	SX268541	Millendreath Beach	EC identified bathing water
7	ECBR0460	SX26825412	Stream A	Watercourse to beach
8	ECB0470	SX257532	East Looe Beach	EC identified bathing water
9	ECBR0470	SX256530	East Looe - R Looe	Associated watercourse
10	BO475	SX21025075	Polperro Beach	Non-identified bathing water
11		SX26355370	Plaidy Beach, Looe	Non-identified bathing water
12		SX25655265	Hannafore Beach	Non-identified bathing water
13		SX22365157	Talland Bay	Non-identified bathing water

**TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BIOTA SAMPLING**

14	SF024	SX257530	Looe Estuary - Pier
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**TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - WATER CONTACT SPORTS**

15			East Looe
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LOOE CATCHMENT 14A, 14B & 14C (cont)

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING				
1	R14B005	SX23286573	Venton Veor Bridge	Chemical/biological site
2	R14B007	SX225651	Tuelmenna Bridge	Chemical/biological site
3	R14B001	SX23236456	Looemills	Chemical/biological site
4	R14B002	SX23886359	Lamellion Mill	Chemical/biological site Dangerous substances control site
5	R14B003	SX24556200	Trussel bridge	Chemical/biological site
6	R14B006	SX25005950	Landlooe Bridge	Chemical/biological site
7	R14B004	SX24835715	Railway Halt	Chemical/biological site
8	R14C010	SX21286346	Bosent Bridge	Chemical/biological site
9	R14C001	SX21586213	Scawn Mill Bridge	Chemical/biological site
10	R14C005	SX188625	Below tip site	Chemical/biological site
11	R14C006	SX19626178	Trevillis Wood	Chemical/biological site
12	R14C008	SX21406042	Herodsfoot Bridge	Chemical/biological site
13	R14C002	SX21935858	Churchbridge	Chemical/biological site
14	R14C011	SX20585713	Tregarrick Mill Br	Chemical/biological site
15	R14C003	SX23025556	Sowden's Bridge	Chemical/biological site Freshwater Fish Directive
16	R14A001	SX20885097	Polperro	Chemical/biological site
17	R14B008	SX242628	D/S Liskeard STW	Chemical site Freshwater Fish Directive
18	R14B011	SX23456435	D/s Moorswater	Dangerous substances site Chemical site Dangerous substances site

## NRA DUTIES AND POWERS

The Authority has statutory duties and powers in relation to water resources, pollution control, flood defence, fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation along with various other functions given under the 1989 Water Act.

Whilst most of the Authority's duties and powers are exercised in respect of inland waters in England and Wales, it also has substantial responsibilities for the marine environment around the coast of England and Wales. For pollution control and fisheries purposes it has duties and powers out to distances of three nautical miles and six nautical miles respectively, the six miles being for salmonid protection. For flood defence it is responsible for a large number of sea defences (but not coastal protection which falls within the remit of local authorities).

As well as new duties, the NRA has also inherited other duties and powers under earlier legislation such as the 1963 Water Resources Act, 1975 Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, and 1976 Land Drainage Act.

The Authority also has responsibility for implementing a number of Statutory Instruments, Orders, Notices and Directives relating to the 1989 Water Act. Various European Community Directives on the protection of the aquatic environment eg. Bathing Water Quality, Surface Water Quality, and Freshwater Fishlife also strongly influence its work.

## NRA 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 defence 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, ground waters, estuaries and coastal waters. The Authority will be businesslike, efficient and caring towards its employees.

## NRA AIMS

To achieve a continuing improvement in the quality of rivers, estuaries and coastal waters, through the control of water pollution.

To assess, manage, plan and conserve water resources and to maintain and improve the quality of water for all those who use it.

To provide effective defence for people and property against flooding from rivers and the sea.

To provide adequate arrangements for flood forecasting and warning.

To maintain, improve and develop fisheries.

To develop the amenity and recreation potential of waters and lands under NRA control.

To conserve and enhance wildlife, landscape and archaeological features associated with waters under NRA control.

To ensure that dischargers pay the costs of the consequences of their discharges, and as far as possible, to recover the costs of water environment improvements from those who benefit.

To improve public understanding of the water environment and the NRA's work.

#### REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The overall priority is to continue the improvements which were started in the last year in the following key areas.

##### WATER RESOURCES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Improve response to licence applications.
- Establish Water Resources planning forum.
- Progress schemes to ameliorate low flows.
- Implement groundwater protection policy.

##### POLLUTION CONTROL

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Introduce charging for discharges scheme.
- Implement new consenting policy; begin review of deemed consents.
- Complete 1990/91 survey and consult on water quality objectives.
- Carry out EC Directive requirements.
- Introduce new monitoring programmes for effluents and controlled waters.
- Establish a regional laboratory service.

##### FISHERIES

- Develop regional strategy document.
- Review licence and other charging schemes.
- Harmonise stock assessment techniques.
- Extend programme of restoration and rehabilitation of fish stocks.
- Increase action to control illegal fishing.
- Submit new fishery byelaws to MAFF for confirmation.

#### RECREATION

- Continue implementations of Water Act Code of Practice.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Improve cost recovery from the recreation service.

#### CONSERVATION

- Establish database for regulatory purposes.
- Produce strategy for regional sites.
- Promote conservation schemes.