

RIVER ERME

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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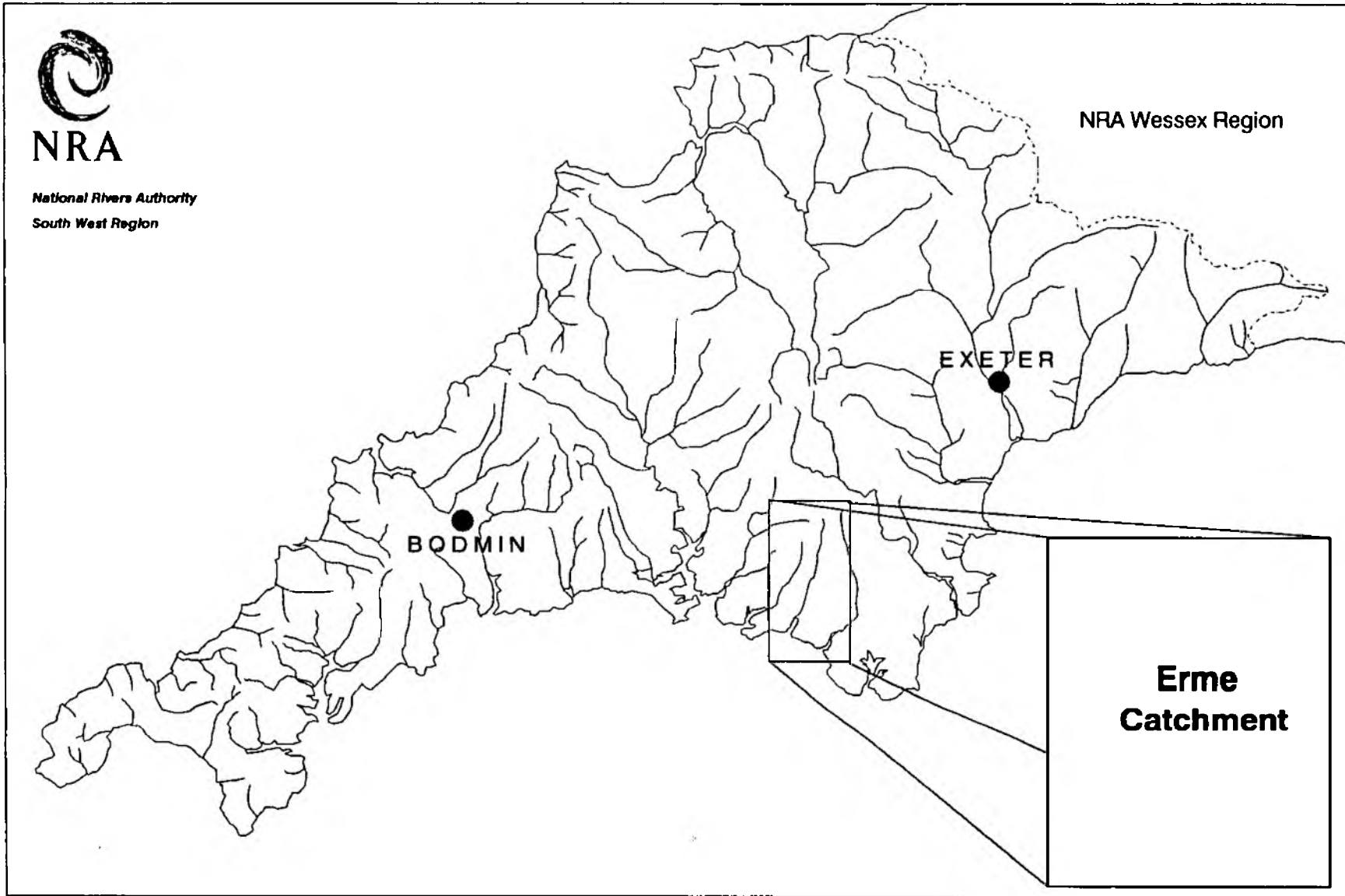


National Rivers Authority South West Region



NRA

*National Rivers Authority
South West Region*



NRA Wessex Region

EXETER

BODMIN

**Erme
Catchment**

Erme 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.

RIVER ERME CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN

3. CHALLENGES AND PROPOSED ACTIONS

The Erme is a small river which receives significant effluent discharges from the growing town of Ivybridge and a local paper mill. Several significant fish kills caused by pollution have occurred in recent years seriously damaging the fishery. Several detailed surveys have been undertaken and improvements are underway.

Functional officers have identified the main challenges to the achievement of environmental objectives. Where solutions are clear they have been programmed. In other cases further 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.					
Monitor estuarial netting for sea fish. Liaise with owner of Sole and Several Fishery - Fleet Estate and DSFC.					
Survey all weirs/fish passes. Plan and implement fish pass installation/improvements.					
Improvements identified at Keaton Weir, Stowford Weir, Harford Bridge Weir and Harford Intake Weir.					
Survey for trash dams and clear.					
Plan and implement spawning gravel rehabilitation/improvements.					
Inspect fish farms and seek improvements where necessary					
Press for reductions in headwater abstraction at Harford Intake.					

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

Encourage a reduction in abstraction at other leats/intakes.

Regular full juvenile surveys commencing in 1991.

_____ Programme to be determined

Survey possible fish counter site.

Annual redd count.

Determine impact of rainbow trout on fishery.

POLLUTION CONTROL

Carry out review of causes of water quality deterioration and take appropriate action.

_____ - - - - -

Complete assessment of impact of Ivybridge STW.

Assess impact of Wiggins Teape Paper Mill and take action to minimise.

Task force inspection programme to ensure remedial action.

Assess impact of 1990 drought on two sites.

Assess impact of acidic run-off on water quality in headwaters of the catchment.

Develop catchment quality model using QUASAR.

Prepare catchment description

ACTION

TIMETABLE

1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

Baseline water quality survey of groundwater to establish :

- a) suitability for potable use;
- b) extent of contamination by substances controlled by EC Directives.

WATER RESOURCES

Review prescribed flow arrangements for public water source in headwaters

Review water resource strategy in the catchment.



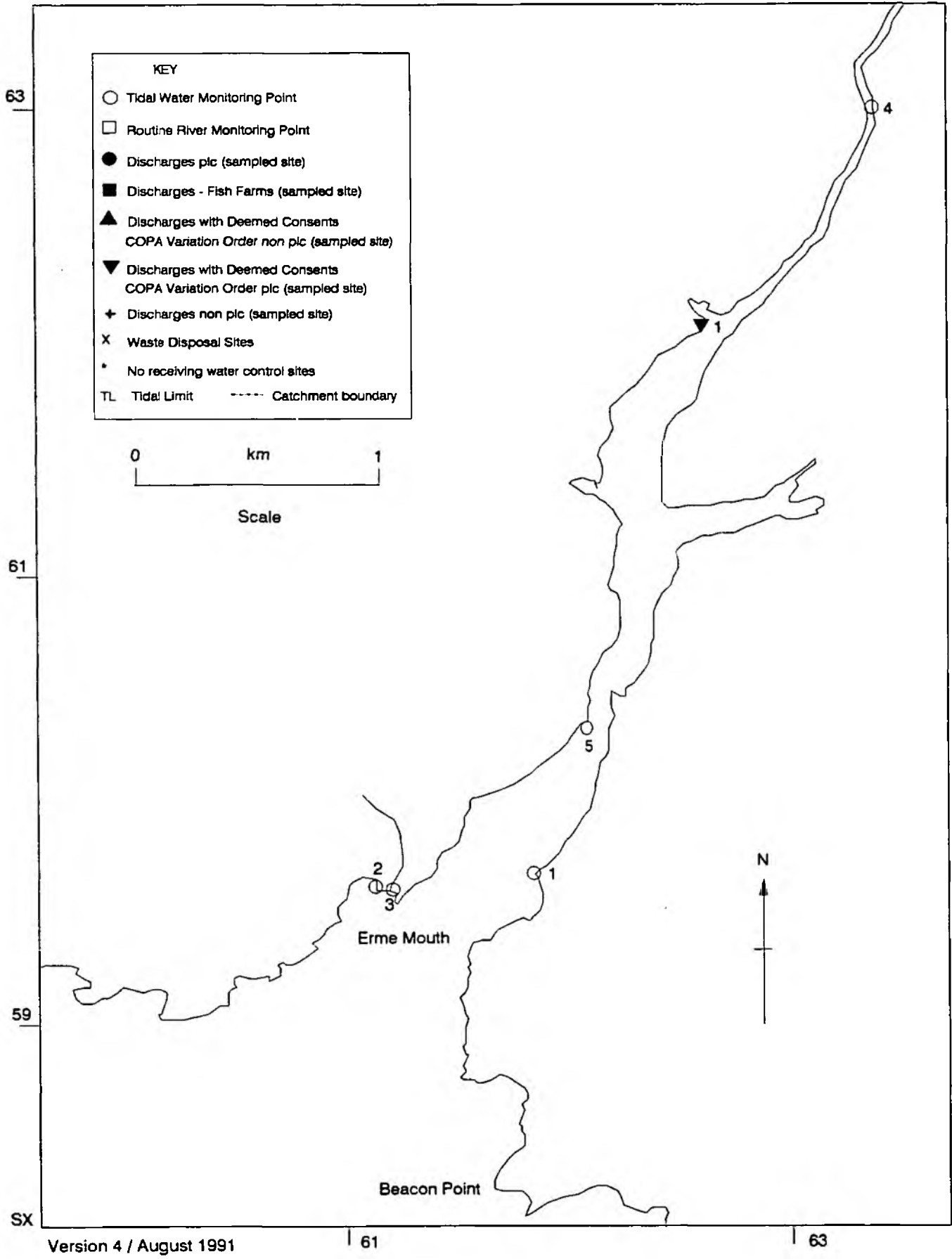
APPENDIX 1

CATCHMENT MAPS

KEY

- Tidal Water Monitoring Point
- Routine River Monitoring Point
- Discharges plc (sampled site)
- Discharges - Fish Farms (sampled site)
- ▲ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order non plc (sampled site)
- ▼ Discharges with Deemed Consents - COPA Variation Order plc (sampled site)
- + Discharges non plc (sampled site)
- X Waste Disposal Sites
- TL Tidal Limit
- * No receiving water control sites

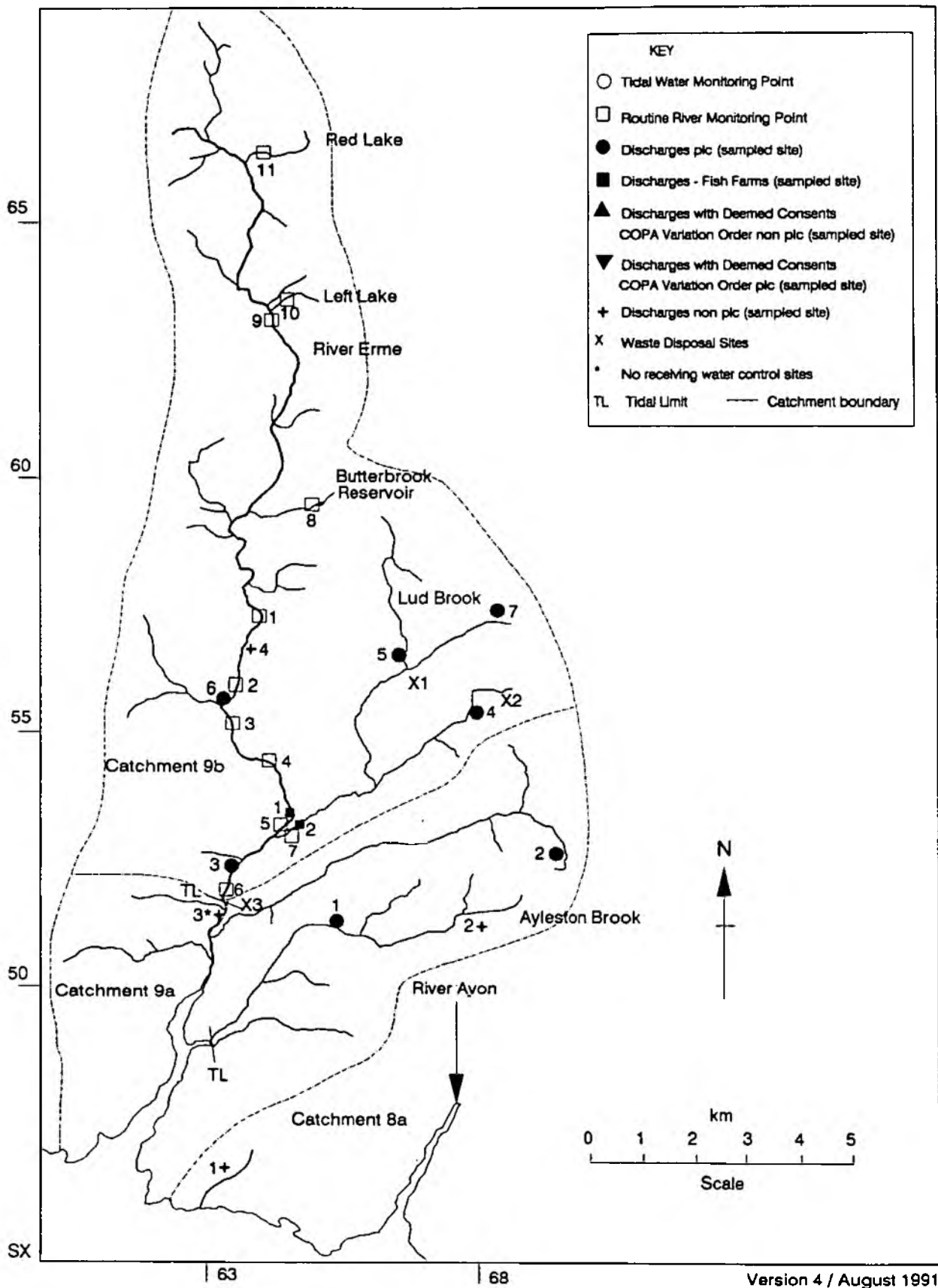
Erme Estuary 9A



ERME ESTUARY 9A

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
DISCHARGES WITH DEEMED CONSENTS - COPA VARIATION ORDER PLC				
1	WSTW4614FE	SX62464979	Holbeton	Sewage treatment works
TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - BATHING WATERS				
1	B0385	SX61744730	Wonwell Beach	Non-identified bathing water
2	ECB0390	SX61054734	Mothecombe Beach	EC identified bathing water
3	ECBR0390	SX61054737	Stream A	Watercourse to beach
TIDAL WATER QUALITY MONITORING POINT - ESTUARY QUALITY				
4	E09A1	SX63005075	Upper Estuary	Routine monitoring site
5	E09A2	SX61984818	Off Pamflete House	Routine monitoring site

Erme Catchment 9A & 9B



ERME CATCHMENT 9A & 9B

NO	REFERENCE	NGR	LOCATION	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
DISCHARGES NON PLC				
1	P09B/P/4	SX63304700	Scobbiscombe Farm	STW domestic
2	PO9A/P/6	SX68305170	Modbury(Southleigh)	Caravan site STW
3*	PO9A/P/5	SX62955140	Flete House	Sewage treatment works
4	PO9B/P/5	SX63405660	Wiggins Teape Ltd	Paper works STW
DISCHARGES PLC				
1	WSTW6238FE	SX63335139	Modbury	Sewage treatment works
2	WSTW6033FE	SX69685280	Brownston	Sewage treatment works
3	WSTW4578FE	SX63705310	Ermington	Sewage treatment works
4	WSTW6326FE	SX67505540	Ugborough	Sewage treatment works
5	WSTW6024FE	SX66505660	Bittaford	Sewage treatment works
6	WSTW4622FE	SX63135556	Ivybridge	Sewage treatment works
7	WSTW6297FE	SX68305780	Wrangaton	Sewage treatment works
FISH FARMS				
1	PO9B/P/2	SX64255323	Mill Leat Trout Farm,	Ermington
2	PO9B/P/3	SX64155311	Ludbrook Tout Farm,	Meafot, Ermington
WASTE DISPOSAL SITES				
1	11CJ	SX664557	Wood Farm,	Ugborough
2	11DP	SX682557	Ware Farm,	Ugborough
3	11FX	SX635517	Goutsford,	Modbury
ROUTINE RIVER MONITORING				
1	RO9B001	SX63865718	Stowford Weir	Chemical/biological site Dangerous Substances Directive Drought monitoring site
2	RO9B012	SX63315576	A38 Bridge	Chemical/biological site Dangerous substances control site
3	RO9B002	SX63355520	Cleeve	Chemical/biological site Freshwater Fish Directive Dangerous substances site
4	RO9B010	SX64055448	Lower Keaton	Chemical/biological site Drought monitoring site
5	RO9B011	SX641531	Fawns Bridge	Chemical/biological site
6	RO9B003	SX63215188	Sequers Bridge	Chemical/biological site Freshwater Fish Directive Dangerous substances site Harmonised monitoring site Drought monitoring site
7	RO9B017	SX64045308	Fawns Bridge	Chemical/biological site
8	RO9B024	SX646593	Butterbrook Res	EC Surface water abstraction directive monitoring site
9	RO9B025	SX646593 SX64036317	Butterbrook Res River Erme	Algological site EC Surface water abstraction directive monitoring site
10		SX64026330	Left Lake	Biological site
11		SX63586612	Red Lake	Biological 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.