

THE TAW/TORRIDGE ESTUARY CATCHMENT



The Taw/Torridge estuary catchment



Crow Point from the air - showing the importance of the sand banks

HOW YOU CAN HELP



The Taw/Torridge Estuary Catchment Consultation Report is now available to the public.

The NRA is keen to receive your views by 30 September 1993 on the issues identified and proposals made. There may also be other matters you wish to raise.

The report is being distributed to a wide range of bodies including local authorities, statutory organisations, voluntary groups, landowners and other interested parties.

In addition copies will be lodged for study at NRA offices in Exeter, Bodmin and Alverdiscott Road, Bideford and in libraries at Barnstaple and Bideford.

To comment on the Report or to obtain a copy please contact:

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Photos - Above: *Barnstaple on the River Taw*
Front Cover: *Bideford New Bridge*

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TAW/TORRIDGE ESTUARY CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

PUBLIC CONSULTATION



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



038027



NRA

National Rivers Authority
South Western Region

SAFEGUARDING AND IMPROVING THE TAW/TORRIDGE ESTUARY



The NRA in action . . . Fisheries Patrol on the River Torridge at Bideford

The National Rivers Authority is seeking the support of organisations and individuals in the important task of safeguarding and improving the Taw/Torridge Estuary Catchment in Devon. This leaflet explains the background and sets out how you can help.

THE NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY

The NRA is the environmental agency responsible in England and Wales for the protection and improvement of the water environment. This includes rivers, streams, lakes, underground water, estuaries and coastal waters. To exercise its responsibilities, the NRA as 'Guardian of the Water Environment' is involved in a variety of activities. These include:

WATER RESOURCES planning and management to safeguard water supplies including monitoring and licensing of abstractions.

POLLUTION CONTROL to maintain and improve environmental quality; issuing and monitoring of discharge consents.

FLOOD DEFENCE to protect people and property from flooding.

FISHERIES maintenance, improvement and development, including licensing and enforcement.

CONSERVATION of the water environment, protecting its value as a wildlife habitat and an amenity.

RECREATION - promoting recreational activities in and around water.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

To achieve an overall improvement in an estuary catchment (i.e. the estuary and adjacent area), all of the NRA activities need to be brought together and integrated with the responsibilities, needs and requirements of others. Catchment Management Plans provide a means for setting priorities, solving problems and enhancing the water environment in a co-ordinated way.

The production of Catchment Management Plans within the NRA comes in two stages: a Consultation Report followed by a Final Plan.

The Consultation Report consists of a number of sections including an assessment of the current state of the catchment, the uses that are made of it, and discussion of the objectives and options for its improvement.

Many of the initiatives highlighted will rely on the co-operation and commitment of many people. Local knowledge is invaluable. Hence the importance of the first consultation stage.

The Final Plan will be produced following the consultation and will, of course, have regard to the comments received.



Recreational use of the estuary



Seine netting on the estuary



Velator Marshes

THE TAW/TORRIDGE ESTUARY CATCHMENT

The Taw/Torridge Estuary Catchment Management Plan is one of three Plans being produced by the NRA for the Taw/Torridge system. The Taw/Torridge Catchment covers an area more than 2000km² and has been divided into three for the purposes of the catchment management process. The River Torridge Catchment Consultation Report was published in May 1993 and covers the River Torridge above the tidal limit and freshwater rivers feeding the Torridge Estuary. The Taw/Torridge Estuary Catchment Consultation Report covers the estuary below the tidal limit and the adjoining coastline. The River Taw Catchment Consultation Report, to be published later this year, will cover the River Taw above the tidal limit and the freshwater inputs to the Taw Estuary.

Dividing up the catchment in this way has enabled the estuary Consultation Report to be published alongside the Local Authorities' Taw/Torridge Estuary Management Plan. Together these provide complementary strategies for the future management of this important estuary system.

The estuary Consultation Report looks at a number of key aspects including ecology, conservation, fisheries, amenity and recreation, water sports, waste disposal, land use, emergency services, shipping industry, flood defence, water resources and water quality.



Appledore Shipyard