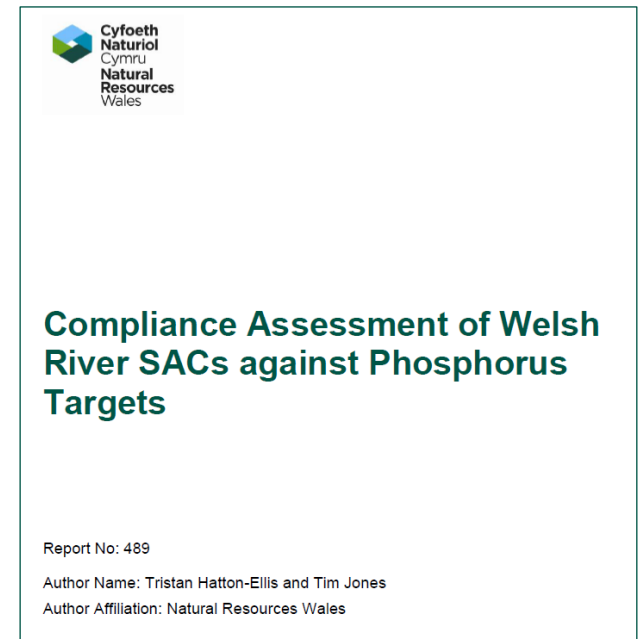

SAC Rivers Project



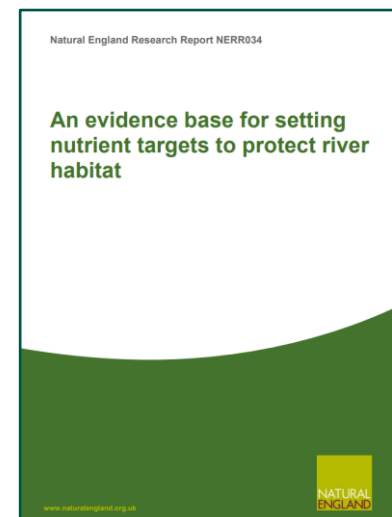
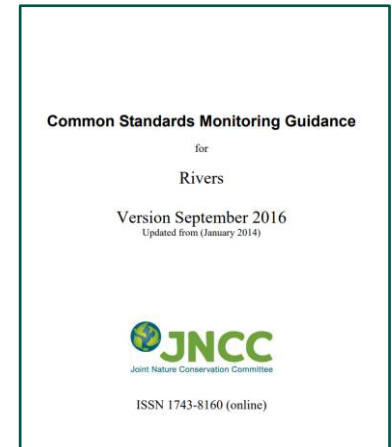
Background

- January 2021 NRW published compliance assessment for phosphorus in river SACs
- Assessment against revised water quality standards - targets 50-80% tighter than previous
- Over 60% of SAC water bodies failing
- Teifi – 8 water bodies passed, 8 failed, 3 not assessed
- Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgment on ‘Dutch Nitrogen’ cases affects assessment of plans/projects under Habitats Regulations
- New development leading to additional nutrient loading ‘necessarily limited’ where conservation status of SAC is unfavourable due to nutrients

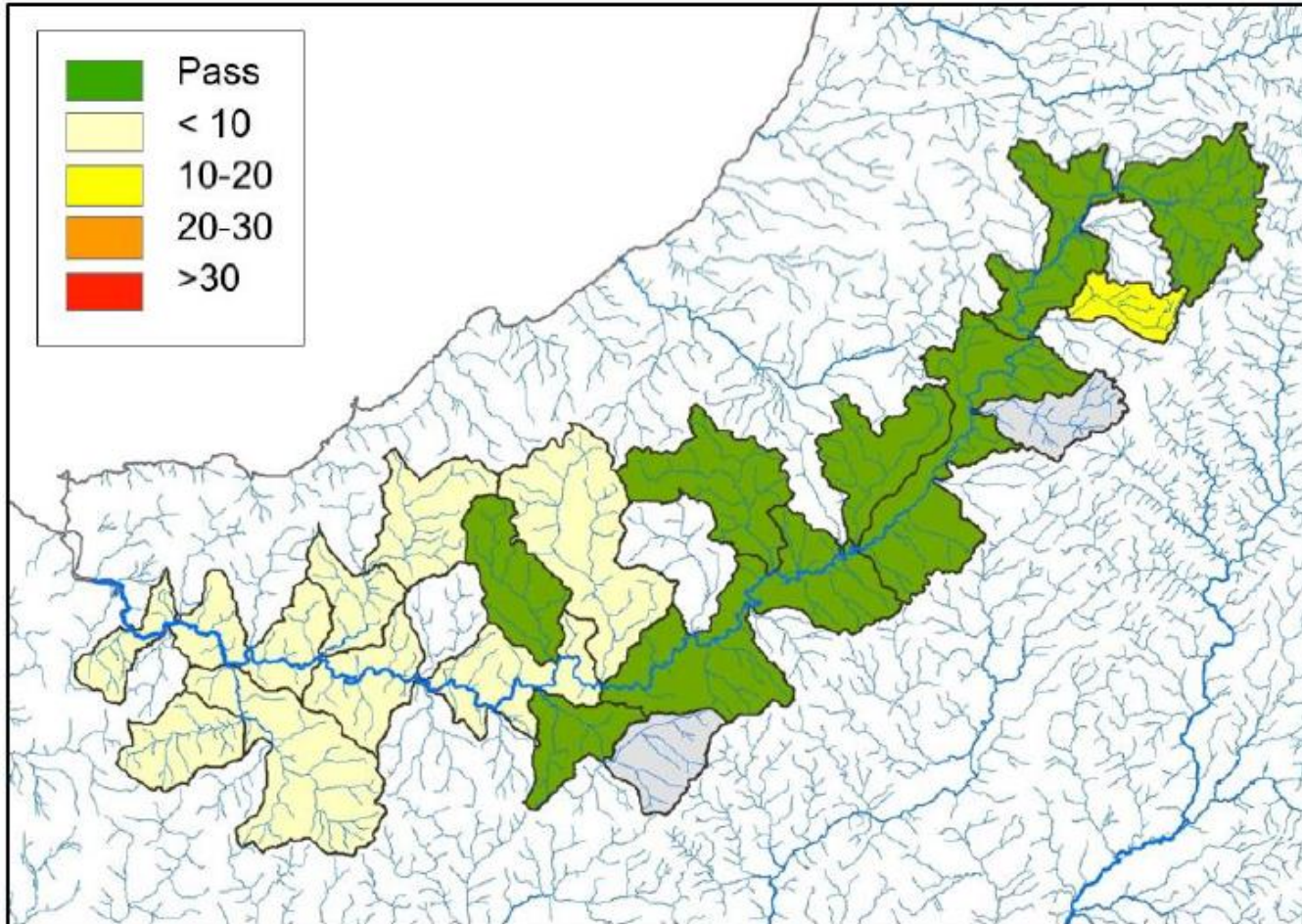


Standards

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC): umbrella body for UK Conservation Agencies
- Co-ordinates and publishes agreed guidance, including on SAC monitoring and target setting
- Rivers guidance updated in 2014, 2015 & 2016
- Nutrients standards reviewed in the light of Natural England Evidence Review
- Water Framework Directive phosphorus standards changed around the same time
- Targets tighter and more explicit
- Updated Core Management Plans in Oct 22 to reflect new targets



Teifi



Implications

- Significant consequences for development planning
- Planning Authorities need to have regard to new evidence in planning decisions and need to be satisfied through HRA that new development proposals will not result in damage to the riverine SAC
- Developments with the potential to lead to an increase in phosphorus with a pathway for it to enter a river SAC need to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment to determine whether will affect the integrity of the SAC

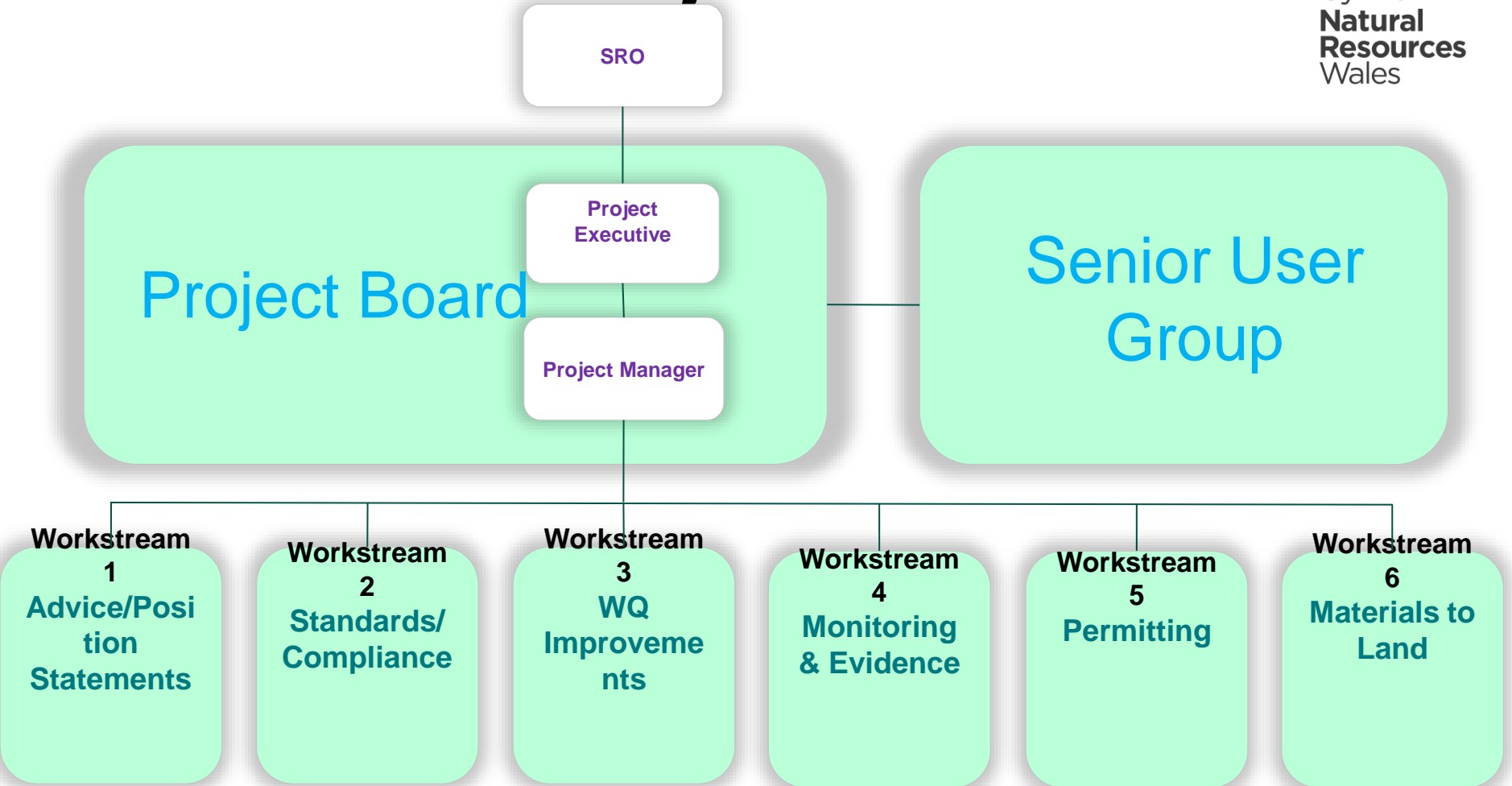


NRW response

- NRW issued letters to Planning Authorities in January 2021
- Published Position Statement on Planning and Regulatory Position
- Published maps from compliance report
- 'Advice to planning authorities for planning applications affecting phosphorus sensitive river Special Areas of Conservation'
- SAC Rivers Project set up until March 2024



SAC Rivers Project Structure



External Groups



- Welsh Government Oversight Group - representatives from NRW, water companies, Ofwat, Developers, Planning etc.
- Planning Sub-Group – representatives from NRW, Local Authority Planners, Planning Inspectorate, Welsh Government, Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water (DCWW)
- SAC River Agricultural Technical Group
- Nutrient Management Boards

SAC Rivers Action Plan

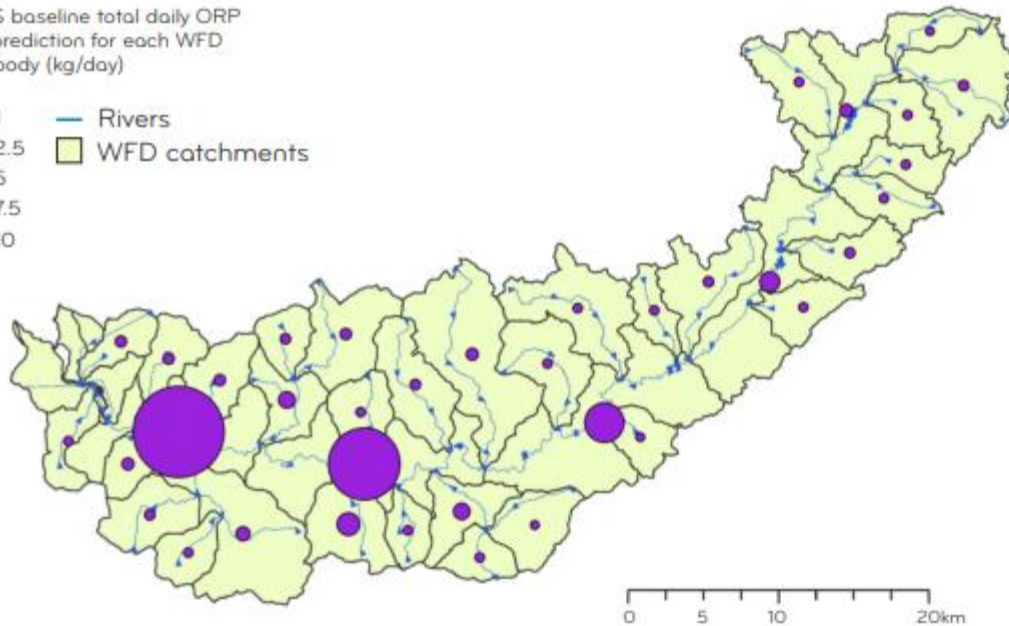


- First Minister P summit at Royal Welsh Show July 22
 - Actions – NMBs, short term, nutrient trading, nature based solutions, menu of mitigation measures etc
- Follow up summit 9th Feb 23
 - Action Plan to be agreed

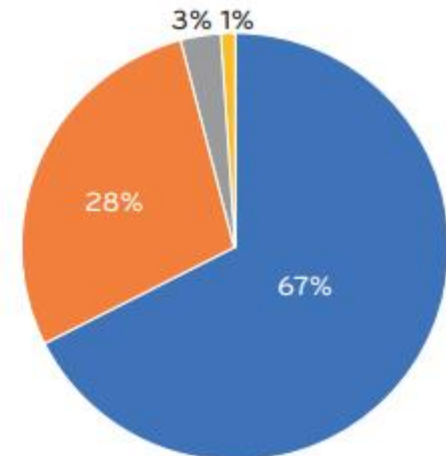
Draft Teifi SAGIS

- Source Apportionment modelling
- NRW independent QA

SAGIS baseline total daily ORP
load prediction for each WFD
waterbody (kg/day)



Teifi Total Load (kg/day)



● %STW ● %Rural Land Use
● %Storm Overflows ● Other

NRW actions

- 4 Rivers for LIFE – large scale restoration
- Planning advice
- Permitting
 - Interim permitting position
 - Review of Permits (20m³/day or more)
- Nutrient Management Boards
- First Minister Summit Action Plan

