

## Response to questions received from the North Devon Biosphere:

### 1. In your opinion, how bad is the issue of water pollution in the rivers and on the beaches of North Devon and what are the causes?

It is bad. Various and depends on the river. River umber bacteriological loading is split 30% human, 30% ruminant, 30% urban runoff.

Microbial source sampling in the estuary indicates 80% ruminant.

Significant water management issue	Changes to the natural flow and level of water	Invasive non-native species	Physical modifications	Pollution from abandoned mines	Pollution from rural areas	Pollution from towns, cities and transport	Pollution from waste water
Agriculture and rural land management	2	0	2	0	153	0	0
Domestic general public	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Industry	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
Local & central government	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mining and quarrying	0	0	0	4	0	1	0
Navigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No sector responsible	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sector under investigation	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Urban and transport	0	0	2	0	0	7	0
Waste treatment and disposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Industry	0	0	1	0	0	0	92
Total	2	1	9	4	153	16	94

### 2. The public receives a variety of different information on the water quality in their rivers and on their coast. Sometimes this information conflicts. Who is responsible for this confusion? And how should the public be informed?

A trusted source is needed and one that is also responsive. The conflict comes from some alerts lasting too long, and others that may be late and not instantaneous.

### 3. In order for planning authorities to properly determine planning applications, should water companies provide up to date appropriate information on the capacity of sewage disposal for the proposed development?

Yes. The AMP process should ensure that upgrades keep pace with development and the local plan, but there is a risk they fall out of step.

**4. Individual organisations and groups currently undertake their own testing. How can we compare those results and use that data in the most effective way?**

We are proposing in the Catchment Management group under the Biosphere reserve to have a combined real time water quality monitoring system that uses data sources of all types.

**5. When will this situation be resolved and how? And what are the main impediments?**

It is going to take time. We had estimated that to clean the catchment with agricultural issues alone would need £95 million investment.