

# Too much water, too little water ..... what to do?

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#### Too much water ..... too little water











### **Overarching aims and objectives**

- Water for people, the environment, agriculture and business
- Focus on outcomes not processes
- Optimise investments to improve the health of water bodies, habitats and wildlife
- Create a better place for people and wildlife
- Understand the cost benefit and effectiveness of various policy and operational interventions at a catchment level and willingness to pay
  - what interventions, where, deliver most benefit
  - how best to invest public money for public good







### **Rediscovering the catchment approach**





#### o LEAPs

- o Governance and agreed aims
  - o coordinated
  - o cooperative
  - o pooled resources
- Integrated approach
  - o too many take a partial view
- Operating at the most effective level locally and nationally to address a particular issue



### Protecting and improving natural capital over a generation – a stylised interpretation

**Natural Capital Committee third report** 





## Chemistry – an indicator of exposure and change





## Biology – an indicator of health







### Remembering the context: General Quality Assessment status of rivers in England





# Water quality: percentage of rivers in England at good ecological status / potential using old and new Water Framework Directive classifications





### Understanding catchment pressures engagement and communication challenges

- o Scientific uncertainty
- Competing cultural values
- Long term entrenched positions
- Often a disconnect between the beneficiary and the affected community
- Engagement and participation
- Quantity trumps clarity
- o What's in a word
  - sustainability, natural capital, ecosystems services, phenology, petrichor





### **Understanding catchment pressures**









Sewage treatment works discharge











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% of Average > 170 150 to 170 130 to 150 110 to 150 90 to 110 70 to 90 50 to 70 30 to 50 < 30







*We've had a month's worth of abuse in less than 24 hours'* 



### Thames Estuary: a managed adaptive approach







#### What sort of water is needed?











