



Humber Management Scheme

Fact sheet: River and sea lamprey



Industry and nature in harmony in one of Europe's great estuaries

Introduction

Lamprey are a member of the jawless fishes *Petromyzonidae*. Lamprey are one of the most primitive of all living vertebrate animals having a distinct mouth with no lower jaw, instead it is surrounded by a round sucker-like disc within which the adults have strong, rasping teeth.

The river and sea lamprey are anadromous species which spawns in freshwater but complete part of their lifestyle in estuaries or at sea. Estuaries are considered important migratory routes with near-shore coastal margins being important migratory and feeding grounds

Adult sea lamprey are the largest of the lamprey species and may measure up to 120cm in length. River lamprey reach a maximum length of 45cm.

River and sea lamprey are classed as two separate features in the citation.

Current status and location in the Humber EMS

Sea and river lamprey are designated as part of the Humber Estuary SAC.

Sea and river lamprey are Annex 1 (Habitats Directive) features and the assessment on conservation status is not recorded at site level. Therefore, at this stage a conservation status cannot be provided.

Targets

The overall **objective** for SAC features is:

Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Condition Status of each of the qualifying features.¹

The targets for saltmarsh have been taken from the favourable conservation tables in the Humber Estuary Regulation 33 advice². The targets will be updated once the Conservation Advice for the Humber Estuary has been updated.

Attribute	Target
Water quality	No significant variation in temperature, salinity, turbidity and pH, and no reduction in dissolved oxygen, from an established baseline
Habitat structure	Maintain the characteristic physical form and flow dynamics of the estuary
Access	No artificial barriers significantly impairing adults from reaching existing historical spawning grounds, or juveniles from moving downstream
Population structure	Maintain age/class size structure

¹ http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/UK0030170-Humber-Estuary-SAC_tcm6-31768.pdf

² <http://humburnature.co.uk/admin/resources/english-natures-reg-33-advice.pdf>

Threats, management and gaps in management

Threat/impact	Management	Gaps in management	Action
Water quality: dissolved oxygen sag in the upper estuary	There are actions linked to the Water Framework Directive to research this issue and put management in place if required. Natural England is also undertaking work alongside the EA to fill evidence gaps with regards to the impact of the Dissolved Oxygen sag on migrating sea lamprey. Population studies are currently underway (until 2016).	Further research is required. Natural England has secured funding to assess the migratory period of sea lamprey and record population numbers in 2015.	16 & 17
Population structure: By-catch	IFCAs are currently undertaking a review to understand and manage fishing impacts on the Humber EMS. For more details see Appendix x.		
Access: Lack of suitable spawning areas and threats to those that exist	Fish passes, when installed, provide access to spawning areas. Implemented under the WFD, work is being prioritised to areas where most gains will be made.		
Access: Barriers to fish passage	Work by the Environment Agency is underway assessing fish passes and making		

	improvements where necessary		
Access: Entrainment e.g. at power stations	Covered by Habitats Regulations Assessment. Work by the Environment Agency underway to assess and make improvements to existing fish passes where necessary.		
Water quality: Oil pollution (spill)	Humber Clean oil response plan is in place and the Strategic Environment Group is reviewing the plan. The Water Framework Directive has identified and delivering a number of actions relating to the improvement of water quality.		
Population structure: Non-native species		Understanding of non-natives present and impact - cross cutting action plan.	12
Population structure: Capital and maintenance dredging	ABP has produced the Maintenance Dredging Baseline Document which is reviewed every 3 years and approved and given licence by the Marine Management Organisation. This process is subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment.		



About the Humber Nature Partnership

The Humber Nature Partnership aims to deliver the sustainable management of the Humber Estuary and its surroundings, providing an environment in which new and existing businesses can grow alongside the enhancement of the estuary's wildlife riches.

Our work includes:

- Delivering the Humber Management Scheme
- Providing ecological services
- Supporting economic growth
- Engagement and communication
- Ensuring high quality evidence and data exists



We have delivered projects with industry such as wetland habitat creation and woodland management work. We have also delivered range of research and data gathering projects such as ornithological surveys in the South Humber Gateway area to extensive work to understand the impact of recreation on Humber protected birds. We also deliver a range of education and awareness raising projects such as producing codes of conducts and signage. We aim to work in partnership on the delivery of projects and are always open to hearing new project ideas.

We offer the following skills and expertise:

- Partnership working
- Expertise in ecology and planning
- On site wildlife management
- Managing contracts
- Awareness raising and engagement
- Event organising
- Negotiation and conflict resolution

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