



The DEFRA/CRP WFD Benefit Values and their Uses in Policy, RBMPs, and Periodic Reviews

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WFD Benefits Stated Preference Study 2007₁: Context



- Estimates of benefits of widespread WFD improvements needed for:
 - National impact assessment – to inform target scope of WFD implementation in England & Wales
 - River basin management plans - disproportionate cost assessment of improvement schemes
- Stated Preference (SP) study commissioned by DEFRA/CRP
- Simultaneously – many water companies made SP or other benefits assessments for PR09 schemes and programmes

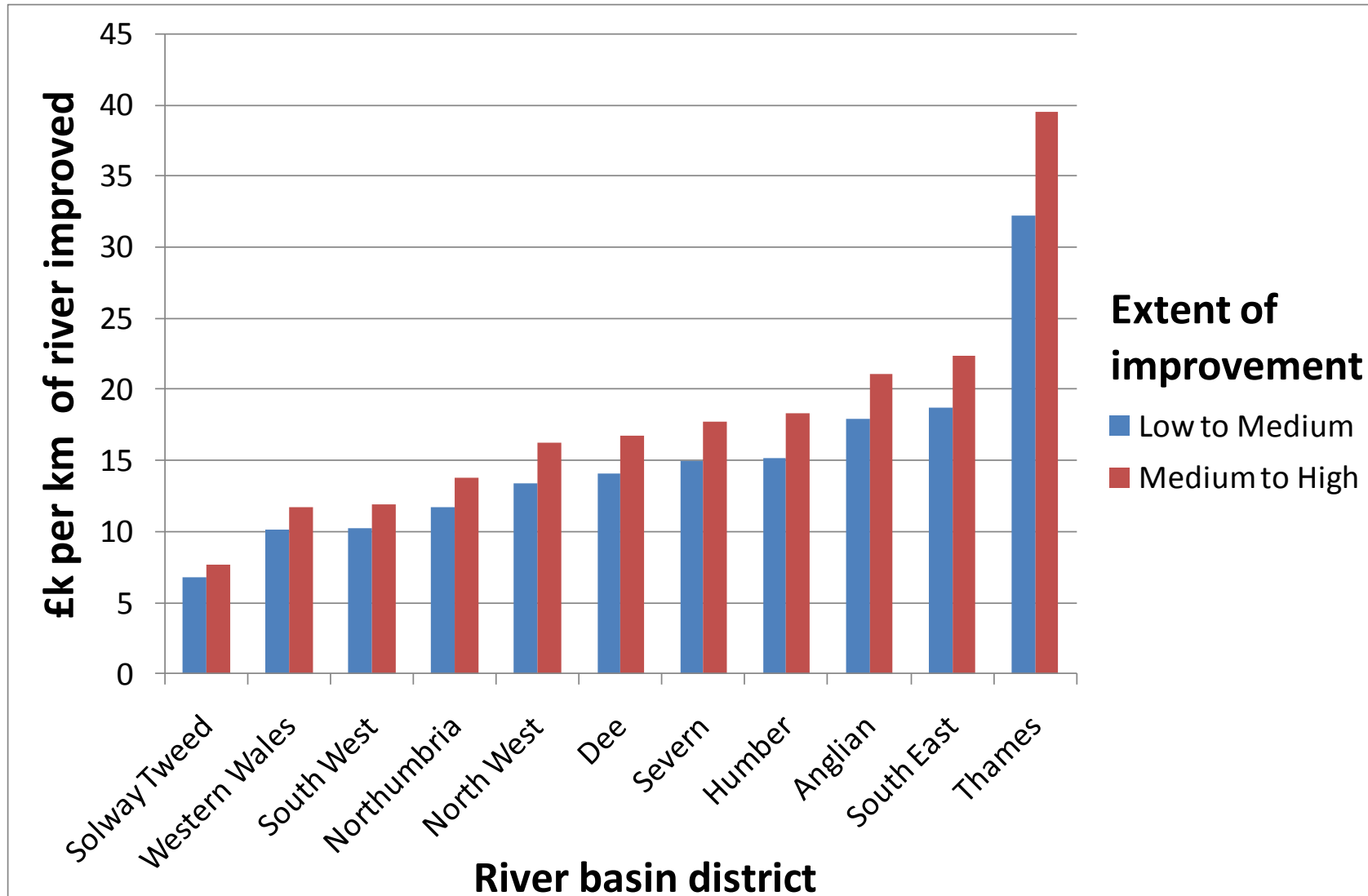
1. http://www.wfdcrp.co.uk/pdf\CRPSG_4bcd_Final.pdf

Overview of the Study



- SP survey of 1500 households in England & Wales
- Survey design followed best practice guidelines, e.g.
 - Careful presentation of policy context and nature of improvements
 - Conservative approach
 - Incorporation of validity tests
 - Deliberative research groups, further focus groups and two pilots
- Benefits of WFD improvements obtained as a function of:
 - Size of water bodies improved
 - Scope of ecological improvements
 - Population densities around water bodies improved

Average WFD Benefits per km River Improved by River Basin District



Application of Results (1)

- National Policy



- How were results used?
 - In Overall Impact Assessment for the WFD1 to justify a “phased approach” to WFD implementation nationally.
 - Guidance to EA to prepare river basin plans accordingly.

- Issues arising
 - Choice of discount rate
 - Wide range between upper and lower values

- Conclusions / observations
 - Results proved useful to frame the future WFD work of the EA

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/wfd/documents/RIA-river-basin-v2.pdf>

Application of Results (2)

- River Basin Management Plans



- How were results used?
 - In RBMP impact assessments to justify plans at programme level
- Issues arising
 - Lack of detailed local information
 - Lack of values for improvements in-between levels
 - Lack of an “information value”
- Conclusions / observations
 - Results proved useful as a cross-check at programme level
 - For 2009 plans, results could have been used for more detailed disproportionate cost assessment
 - For 2015 plans, a further study addressing some omitted aspects would be useful

Application of Results (3)

- PR09



- How were results used?
 - Some companies estimated WFD scheme benefits themselves
 - Some companies drew on the Defra/CRP benefits estimates to fill CBA gaps for WFD schemes or other effects

- Issues arising
 - Multiple estimate sources led to some confusion/conflict: constructive?
 - Calls for help on where & how the CRP benefit estimates could be used

- Conclusions / observations
 - Clearer guidance on benefits would have helped at PR09
 - For PR14, a detailed mapping from any national benefit estimates to business plan CBA inputs would be useful

Reflections and Suggestions



- The Defra/CRP WFD benefits estimation shows that national SP studies can obtain values that are potentially useful for
 - Framing policy
 - Cross-checking assessments at programme level
 - Providing DEFAULT benefits estimates of scheme-effects, if a general mapping from scheme-effects to valued-attributes is established
- Looking ahead, we have a few practical suggestions
 - For 2015 RBMPs, a small re-survey could update the CRP benefit values
 - A re-survey re-focussed with more local detail should provide a richer benefits database
 - An SP survey focussed on river flow benefits would be particularly useful as a basis for default shadow prices for abstractions, and for CAMS processes
 - For PR14, having clear mappings from scheme-effects to valued-attributes, and clear guidance for assessment practitioners, will improve assessments.



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