



Water Framework Directive

A bite-sized approach

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1



Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

- What & Why?
- Rationalise & Update existing legislation
 - Controls & standards
 - Protected Areas
- New aspects
 - New Daughter Directives
 - Other new elements
- How & When?

2



What & Why?

- “A framework for Community action in the field of water policy”
- Most significant or ambitious piece of water environmental legislation
- Wide range of existing EU legislation covering many different aspects of water management (references >30 other Directives)
- Aims:
 - to resolve patchy & inconsistent coverage with single holistic approach
 - to make simpler for everyone
 - give greater protection for the water environment

3



Rationalise & update current water legislation

- Replaced by end of 2007:
 - Surface Water Abstractions Directive 75/440/EEC
 - Exchange of information on Surface Water Decision 77/795/EEC
 - Surface Water Abstraction Measurement/Analysis Directive 79/869/EEC
- Replaced by end 2013:
 - Freshwater Fish Directive 78/659/EEC
 - Shellfish Waters Directive 79/923/EEC
 - Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC
 - Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EEC
- Explicit requirement to maintain same level of protection which existed under earlier Directives

4



Existing Directives – controls & standards

The combined approach for point & diffuse pollution (Article 10)

- Emission controls based on BAT
- Emission limit values & EQSs
 - IPPC 96/61/EEC
 - UWWTD 91/271/EEC
 - Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC
 - Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EEC
 - Plant Protection Products Directive 91/414/EEC
 - Biocides Directive 98/8/EC
 - Metals Directives (Hg, Cd) 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC
 - Other relevant legislation
- For diffuse pollution – controls including Best Available Practice

5



Existing Directives – Protected Areas

Article 6 & Annex IV

- Based on use or need to conserve important habitats and species
 - Drinking Waters (SWAD)
 - Economically important aquatic species (FwFD & Shellfish)
 - Recreational waters (Bathing Waters Directive 76/160/EEC & 2006/7/EC)
 - Nutrient sensitive areas (Nitrates Directive, UWWTD SAs)
 - Water dependent conservation sites (Habitats 92/43/EEC & Birds Directives 79/409/EEC)

6



New Daughter Directives - Groundwater

- Article 17 – Strategies to prevent & control pollution of Groundwater (2006/118/EC)
 - WFD requirements for Groundwater same as surface water
 - Prevent or limit input of pollutants to groundwater
 - No deterioration
 - Good Chemical Status by 2015
 - no intrusion
 - meet EQSs
 - no negative impact on surface water bodies or terrestrial ecosystems due to poor groundwater status

7



New Daughter Directives – Priority substances (EQSs) - tbc

- Article 16 – Strategies against pollution of water
 - Specific measures against pollution by pollutants presenting a significant risk
 - Measures aimed at progressive reduction (33 Priority Substances)
 - Cessation/phasing out of Priority Hazardous Substances (Article 20) within 20 years
 - Annex VIII – indicative list of main pollutants/Annex XI – Emission limit values & EQSs
- Risk based prioritisation
- 4 yearly review of list
- EU proposals July 06, discussions ongoing to 2008 tbc

8



Other new aspects

- No deterioration
- New standards
 - Based on science
 - Good Ecological Status
 - Good Ecological Potential (HMWB & AWB)
- Objective setting & derogations – tbc in RBMP1
 - less stringent objectives
 - technical feasibility
 - disproportionate costs (PPP)
 - affordability & phasing
- Economic Analysis
 - All solutions to be Cost Effective
 - Cost Benefit Analysis – not Protected Areas, ie. does not overrule existing legislation

9



How & When?

- “...we want **sectors** to **identify the risks** that they bring to the water environment, and have a **strategy to address them...**”
- “... estimate that **80%** of ... **total expenditure** will be on **Protected Areas** in the first round of plans. Based on our best judgement we think the proportion for England and Wales could be just as high if not higher ..(.. based on our best guess on political will and affordability) ...”

[EA Board paper 21 March 2007]

10



How & When?

- Early EA goals for 1st cycle (by 2015)
- Gives ownership of problem & solution to sectors
- Objective setting & derogations allow for phasing of measures
- “Little scope for further measures to achieve Good Status”
- Use RBMP1 to:
 - deliver better defined measures (eg. Protected Areas)
 - address shortfalls in implementation of ND, UWWTD, Shellfish
 - no deterioration
 - gather evidence to improve understanding of other elements to be delivered in the 2nd & 3rd cycles
- Opportunity for standards to be reviewed with experience/data

11



Summary

- Many interacting Directives – very daunting
- Very few individuals have expertise across whole Directive
- Much still to be decided - uncertainty
- If separate into:
 - must do/better defined
 - uncertain/need more information
- Implementation may be a little less daunting

12