

Overview of Water Framework Directive

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Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

- Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (23 Oct. 2000)
- Agreed September 2000
- Expected to be formally adopted shortly and enter into force on publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities

Applies to:

- Quality and Quantity
- Inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwaters

Principal Objective:

- *Protect and Improve Aquatic Ecosystems*
- *Promote Sustainable Water Use*
- *Alleviate impacts of floods and droughts*

and Contribute to:

- *Sufficient supply of good quality water*
- *Protect territorial and marine waters*
- *Comply with relevant international agreements and progressively reduce emissions of hazardous substances*

Main Provisions of the Directive

- *River Basin Management/ RBDs*
- *Environmental Objectives*
- *Assess characteristics of river basins and human impacts*
- *Monitor status of surface and groundwaters*

Main Provisions of the Directive (contd.)

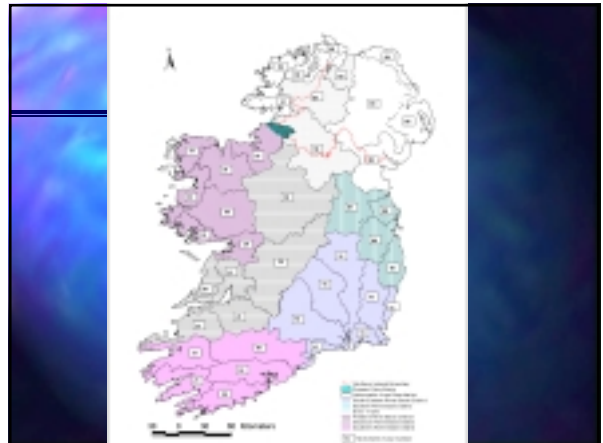
- *Establish Programme of Measures*
- *River Basin Management Plans*
- *Public Consultation*

Challenges

- *Extremely demanding timetable*
- *Complexity of Directive*
- *Resource limitations (human and financial)*
- *Technical and scientific base not adequately developed*
- *High level of co-ordination required between many government departments and state agencies*

Article 3. River Basin Districts

- *M.S. identify river basins and assign to RBD*
- *RBD to include associated groundwaters and coastal waters*
- *M.S. identify Competent Authorities for RBDs*



Article 4. Environmental Objectives

M.S. shall aim to achieve the objective of:

- *Good Surface Water Status*
- *ie. both ecological and chemical status are good*

Article 4. Env. Objectives (Contd.)

- *Achieve Good Groundwater Status*
- *Comply with any standards and objectives for Protected areas*

Provision for extensions and less stringent objectives

Good Surface Water Status =

Good Ecological+Chemical

Ecological ~ Biological

Biological ~ Hydrological and Chemical

Article 5. Characteristics of RBDs

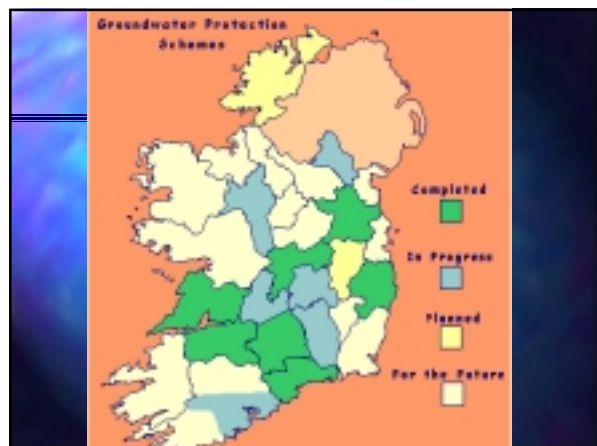
- *Analysis of Characteristics*
- *Review of Impacts*
- *Economic Analysis*
- *To be completed by 2004*

Surface Water Characterisation

- Ecological status determined on the basis of biological, hydromorphological and physicochemical elements
- Type-specific reference conditions for each of above elements to be established for each surface water body type, representing values consistent with 'high ecological status'
- Reference conditions serve as 'yardstick' against which water status is determined

Groundwater Characterisation

- To include: - location and boundaries of groundwater bodies; pressures (diffuse and point source pollution, abstractions); general character of overlying strata;
- Further characterisation required for groundwater bodies 'at risk': - geological and hydrogeological characteristics, superficial deposits and soils, associated surface water systems, water exchange with surface waters, long-term annual rate of recharge, chemical composition



Art 6 Protected Areas

Establish register of:

- Abstraction of drinking water
- FWF and shellfish areas
- Bathing areas
- Sensitive areas (UWW and NO3)
- Habitats and species, Natura 2000 etc.

Article 7 Abstraction of Drinking Water

- Identify > 10m³ / day
- Monitor > 100m³ / day
- Comply with objectives / standards etc.

Article 8 Monitoring/ Annex V

M.S. shall provide an overview of water status by monitoring:

- for surface waters - rate of flow, ecological and chemical status
- for groundwaters -chemical and quantitative status

Article 9 Recovery of Costs

- Take account of the Principle of Recovery of Costs
- In accordance with the Polluter Pays Principle
- Have regard to Social / Environmental / Economic effects etc.

Article 10 Combined Approach

Apply:

- BAT or
- Relevant ELVs, or
- BEP
as set out in:
NO₃, UWW, IPPC, art. 16 and other Directives

Article 11 Programme of Measures

For each RBD:

1. Basic Measures:-

EC legislation for the protection of water:

- Nitrates
 - Drinking Water
 - IPPC
 - Sewage sludge
 - Birds and habitats
- Bathing Water*
UWWT
Dangerous substance
EIA
Seveso and PPP

Article 11 Programme of Measures(Contd.)

- Measures to implement Art.9 (Costs) and Art.7 (Abstraction)
- Prior authorisation and control of abstraction / impoundment
- Control of point and diffuse discharges
- prohibit direct discharges to g-waters etc. etc.

Article 13 River Basin Management Plans

Description:

A general description of the characteristics of the RBD

Article 13 RBMPs (Contd.)

Summary of Pressures and Impacts:

- *Point sources*
- *Diffuse sources and land use*
- *Pressures on Quantitative Status*
- *Other Impacts*

Article 13 RBMPs (Contd.)

Map:

- *Protected Areas*
- *Monitoring Network*
- *Status of:*
 - *Surface Waters*
 - *Groundwaters*
 - *Protected Areas*

Article 13 RBMPs (Contd.)

List:

Competent Authorities and Environmental Objectives

Economic Analysis

Summary of:

Programme of Measures and Public Consultation

Etc. Etc

Article 14 Public Information and Consultation

- *Encourage active involvement of all interested parties*
- *Publish work programme 3 years before plan period*
- *Publish overview of main issues 2 years before plan*
- *Publish draft RBMP for comment at least one year before plan period*
- *Allow 6 months for comments*

Article 16 Strategies against Pollution (Priority Substances)

tion shall submit Proposals for:

- *Priority list of substances*
- *Control of sources, Point and Diffuse, by product control/ ELVs*
- *EQSs for surface waters, sediment / biota*

In absence of agreement, M.S. shall establish measures and standards

Timetable summary

YEAR

- 0 adoption / enter into force
- 3 transpose / identify RBDs
- 4 RBD analysis
- 6 monitoring programmes
- 9 publish RBMP
- 12 programme of measures and "combined approach" operational
- 15 achieve art. 4 objectives

DELG Supported Initiatives

- Support for local authorities in the establishment of RBD projects as a step towards implementation of the WFD (Guidelines for the Establishment of RBMS, DELG July 2000)
- EPA study of organisational/resource needs
- EPA pilot studies to establish monitoring methodologies for the ecological assessment of Irish rivers and lakes (ERTDI Research Programme 2000-2006)

RBD Projects -Opportunities

- Promote water management (by local authorities) on the basis of RBDs
- Strengthen tools available to local authorities in the area of water monitoring and management
- Improved data handling, management and reporting
- Potential for improved efficiencies in the delivery of environmental management services by local authorities
- Address significant 'information gaps' (e.g., groundwater)
- Address water management in a co-ordinated and systematic manner
- Potential for improved inter-agency and cross sectoral co-operation in the delivery of water quality objectives

National Co-ordination

- Need to clarify technical requirements for the 'characterisation' of all waters
- Co-ordination of Government Departments and State agencies (DELG, LAs, DMNR/CFB, EPA, Dúchas, OPW, GSI, Marine Institute, etc.) for development of methodologies and implementation of same
- Establish agreed 'work plans' for delivery of products within WFD timeframe
- Ensure that RBMPs reflect national policy and national programmes of measures