

Understanding the Water Framework Directive



Dr Jim Bowman
Programme Manager

Water Framework Directive Details

- Water Framework Directive
- WFD
- 2000/60/EC
- Came into force 22 December 2000

What is the Water Framework Directive ? (Article 1)

It is a **Framework** for the protection of the chemistry, biology and natural form of:

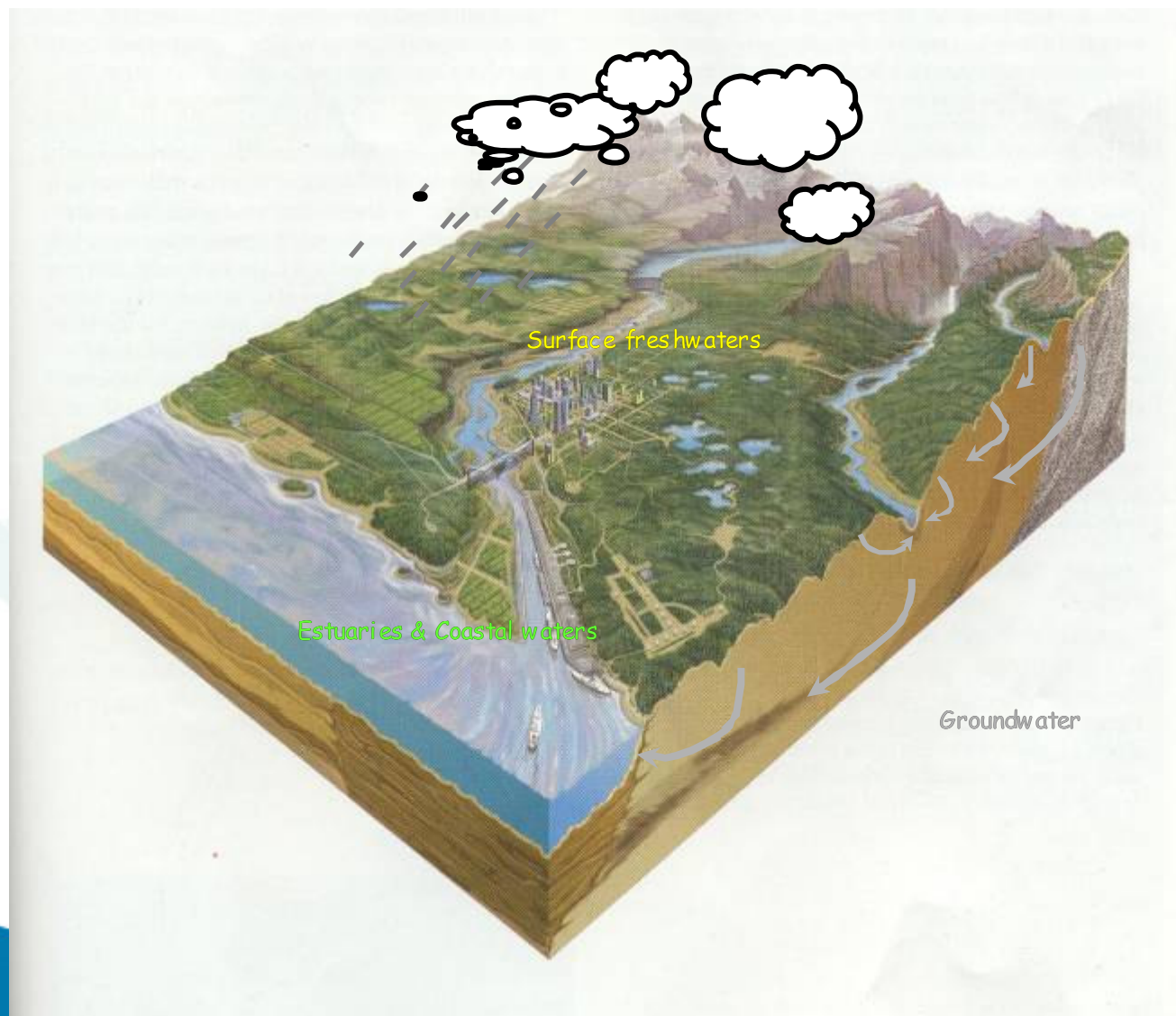
- a) Inland surface waters (Rivers, Lakes, Canals
AWBs and HMWBs)
- b) Transitional waters (Estuaries & Coastal lagoons)
- c) Coastal waters
- d) Water Dependent Ecosystems

and the chemistry and volume of

- e) Groundwater

Application

- *Applies to all surface and groundwaters and dependent waterbodies.*



Is it important?

The most significant piece of legislation to date
or that we are likely to see in our lifetime dealing
with water quality and quantity.

Structure of the Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive can be simplified as follows:

- Objectives
- Strategy for achieving the objectives

Objective of the Directive

- **Prevent** deterioration of and to **protect** “high status” where it exists.
- **Restore** the status of bodies of water with the aim of achieving good surface water status and good groundwater status by 2015*.
- **No deterioration** in existing biological/ecological, physico-chemical and hydromorphological status.

*There are provisions for derogations and deferred objectives

The Remaining Articles and Annexes

- Detail the broad strategy to deliver the objectives of the Directive

Implementation Strategy

- Administrative Strategy
- Technical Strategy

Strategic administrative approach

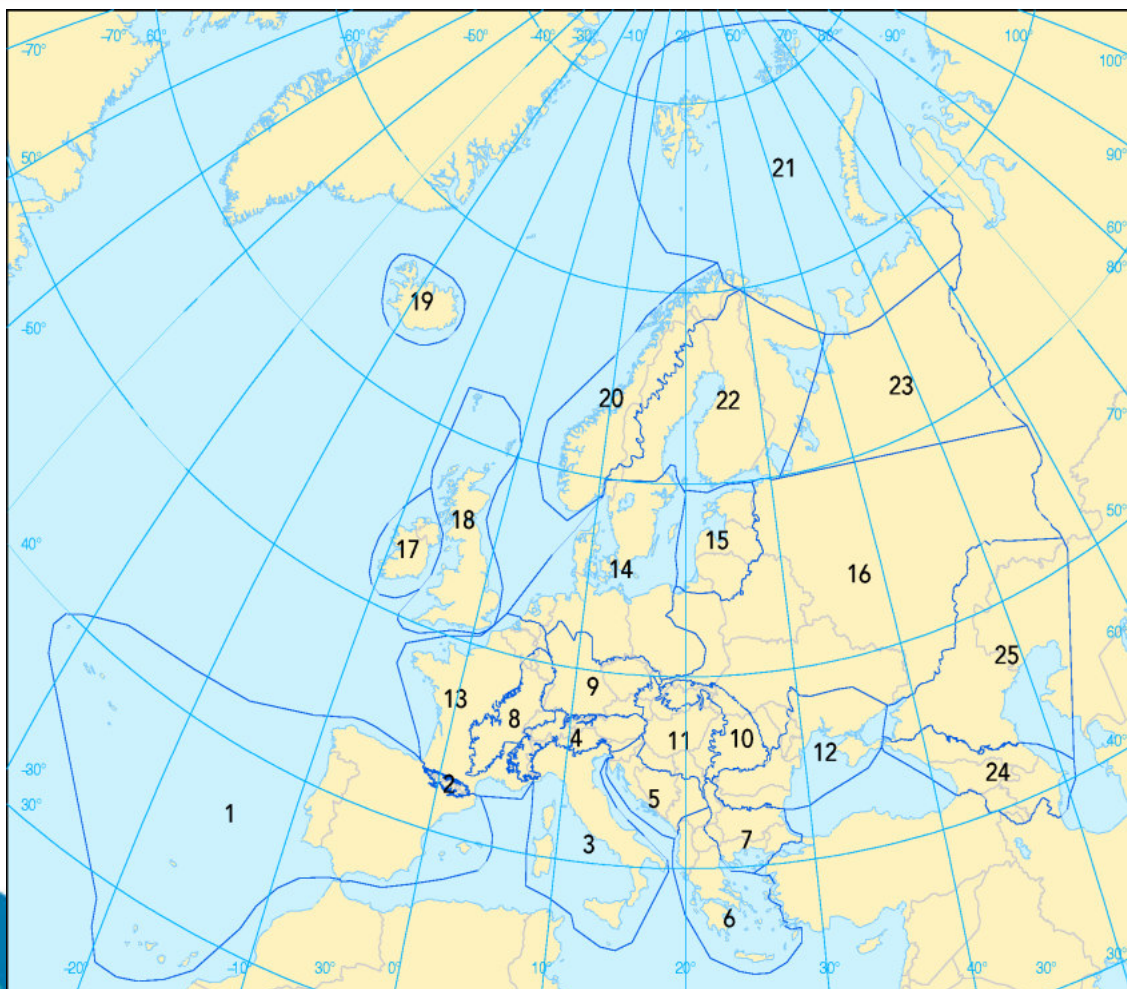
At EU level in Directive

- Division of Europe into Ecoregions **Done**

National Responsibility

- Identify River Basin Districts – National & International
 - Nominate Competent Authorities
 - Transposition of Directive in National Regulation
 - Report to EU Commission **Ongoing**
 - Resource the implementation activities and achievement of the objectives
- Done**

Ecoregions



Ecoregions for rivers and lakes

1. Ibero-Macaronesian region
2. Pyrenees
3. Italy, Corsica and Malta
4. Alps
5. Dinaric western Balkan
6. Hellenic western Balkan
7. Eastern Balkan
8. Western highlands
9. Central highlands
10. The Carpathians
11. Hungarian lowlands
12. Pontic province
13. Western plains
14. Central plains
15. Baltic province
16. Eastern plains
17. Ireland and Northern Ireland
18. Great Britain
19. Iceland
20. Borealic uplands
21. Tundra
22. Fenno-scandian shield
23. Taiga
24. The Caucasus
25. Caspian depression

River Basin Districts (RBD)



- **RBD** comprises of the river catchments lying within specified Hydrometric Areas and lakes, estuaries & coastal waters and groundwaters associated with all these areas.
- An International River Basin District (IRBD) is the combined RBD areas in the State & in Northern Ireland.
- **The island of Ireland** has been divided into 8 RBDs
 - 4 entirely in the Republic,
 - 3 IRBDs, and
 - 1 entirely in Northern Ireland.
- e.g. **The SERBD** comprises HAs 11-17
 - Slaney, Barrow, Nore and Suir.
 - It involves 13 relevant LAs.

Incorporates existing legislation

- The Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC);
- The Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) ;
- The Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by Directive (98/83/EC);
- The Major Accidents (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC);
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC);
- The Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC);
- The Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC);
- The Plant Protection Products Directive (91/414/EEC);
- The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC);
- The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) ;
- The Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (96/61/EC).

Implementation Strategy

- Administrative Strategy
- **Technical Strategy**

Series of sequentially linked Technical Actions

| | |
|--|--|
| ● Mapping of River Basin Districts in GIS Format | Completed |
| ● Characterisation of waterbodies- | Completed |
| ● Mapping of waterbodies | |
| ● Listing of pressures | |
| ● Detailed risks that may cause failure to meet objectives by 2015 | |
| ● Economic analysis of water use | |
| ● Monitoring programme | Completed |
| ● Implement monitoring programme | Commenced |
| ● Establish chemical standards | In progress-Public consultation Phase |
| ● SWMI – “ <i>Water Issues</i> ” | |
| ● Programme of Measures | In progress |
| ● Management Plans | To be ready June 2008 (LAs) |
| ● Implementing Plans | To Commence in 2009 to 2015 |

Parallel Research and Investigation supporting strategy

- Developing typology for surface waters
- Identifying Reference Conditions for each type
- Developing ecological classification systems
- Intercalibration - Setting boundaries

- EU Common Implementation Strategy Groups developing a technical understanding and offering guidance

Involving the Public

EU Commission putting great emphasis on:

- Public participation
- Public consultation
- Transparency

“Water Matters”

- Brings together of the existing data in each RBD on waters
- Identifies the issues and pressures
- Lists the actions proposed to deal with the issues
- Asks the public “What do you think” ?
- Please tell us

RBD Advisory Councils

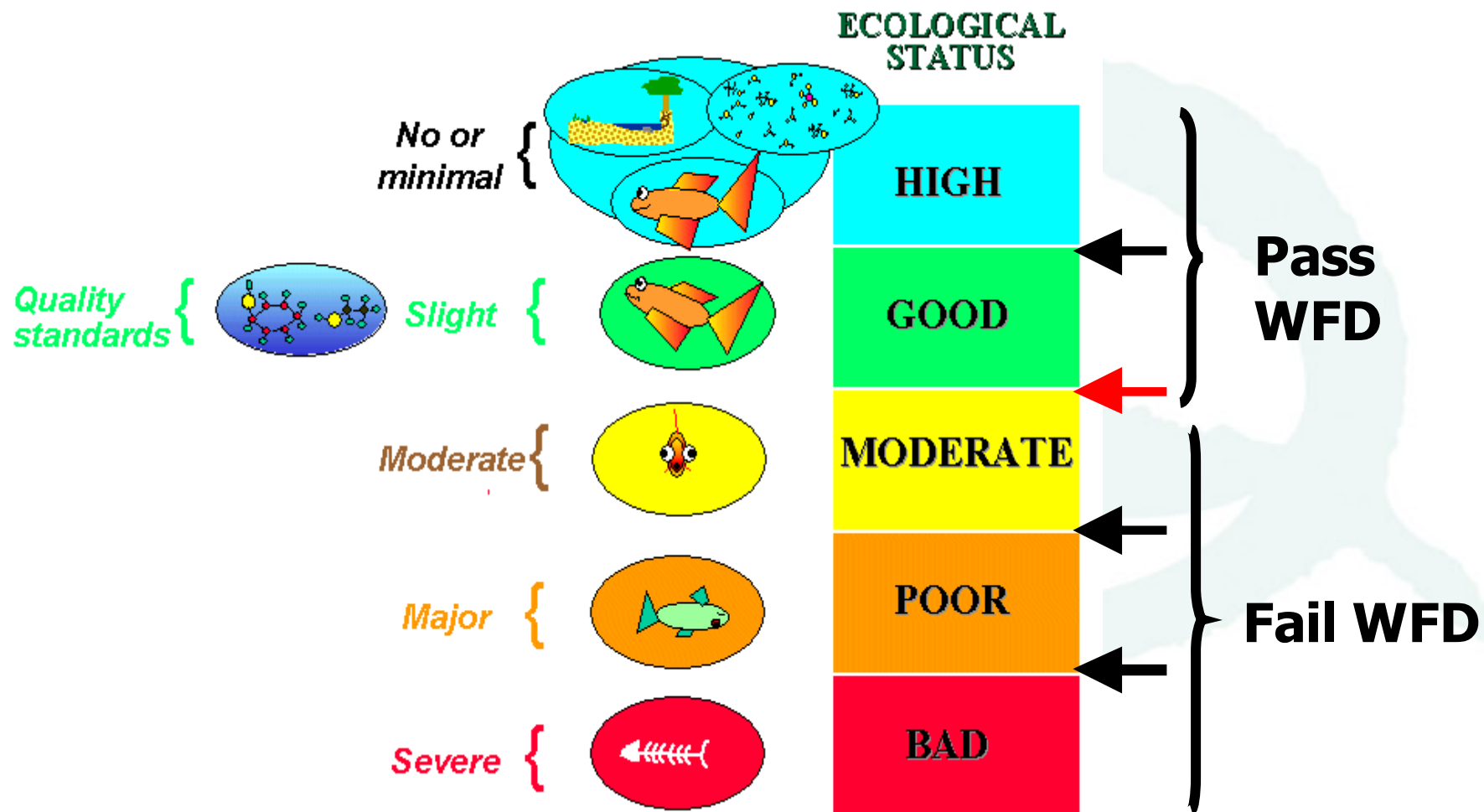
Your Function

- To encourage and facilitate Public participation in the making of the River Basin Management plans.
- To advise and make recommendations on these plans to the relevant public authorities.
- To answer the questions asked in “*Water Matters*”

What is different about the Water Framework Directive?

- Some EU Directives in the past have required the achievement of chemical standards in surface waters that were calculated to ensure that a healthy fauna and flora was sustained in our surface waters.
- The Water Framework Directive has now put the emphasis on clearly demonstrating the presence of a healthy fauna and flora in these waters

Ecological Status for Surface Waters



Strictly Enforced

- The strategy that will implement the Directive has milestones and dates for achieving them.
- If we fail the EU Commission will immediately initiate legal action against the Member State. Actions have already commenced against some states.

Position to date

- Administrative strategy largely in place
- Technical strategy being continuously developed.
- We are one of the few MS to meet all our commitments to date
- We have been ranked No. 1 in Europe

Future Actions

Making the **River Basin Management Plans**

Purpose: to meet objectives of WFD

Who will do it: Local Authorities and Public Authorities

Draft plans to be ready by 2008

Final plan to be ready in 2009

Implement in period 2009 - 2015

Overview of plan

Classify Water Bodies

Set Objectives

Investigate failures to meet objectives

Set out measures to meet the objectives (existing legislation)

Implement measures

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on RBD Management Plans and Programmes will be carried out in parallel with the drafting of RBMPs.

Purpose: to assess the RBMP's broader environmental effects – i.e. their impact on other aspects of the environment such as air.

SEA scoping is currently being undertaken to address the wider environmental issues and the RBDs will be consulted during the scoping exercise in October.

Today



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To this by 2015

- Thanks for your attention



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