



WFD Background

- ▶ Since 2000 the water framework directive (WFD) has been in place as the main European legislation to protect our water resources.
- ▶ **Two Main Principles**
  - ▶ achieving at least the 'good status' of all water bodies,
  - ▶ assessing water bodies in relation to human activities in the river basin
- ▶ WFD follows an integrated approach to water resource management.

Natural Water Cycle

"Water abstracted from rivers and underground reserves returns to the natural environment, finding its way to the sea, and from there it evaporates and falls onto the land again as rain. Human activity is an important element in the water cycle."

European Environment State and Outlook 2005

What's New About the WFD?

- ▶ Previous European water legislation set objectives
  - ▶ to protect particular uses of the water environment from the effects of pollution
  - ▶ to protect the water environment itself from especially dangerous chemical substances.

Water Framework Directive (WFD)

**DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 23 October 2000
establishing a framework for Community
action in the field of water policy**

**the
"Water Framework Directive"**

Key Changes

- ▶ Two Key Changes to management of the water environment
  - ▶ introduces new, broader ecological objectives designed to protect and restore the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems.
  - ▶ introduction of a river basin management planning system.

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Overall Objectives of the WFD

Main Objectives are to

- ▶ prevent further deterioration and protect / enhance water quality and quantity
- ▶ promote sustainable water use based upon long-term protection of water resources;
- ▶ provide enhanced protection of the aquatic environment through specific measures aimed at eliminating and/or mitigating the impacts of pollutants;
- ▶ prescribe water quality standards and emission limit values
- ▶ protect habitats and species directly dependent on water

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Important Terminology

Status classification for groundwater

GOOD

BAD

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Classification - Ecological Status



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Produced by Peter Pollard SEPA



Are we alone in this ?

- ▶ Europe Wide Initiative
  - ▶ all member States
- ▶ Common Implementation Strategy
- ▶ Common Time Schedule for Implementation

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Important Terminology

Ecological status classification for surface water

HIGH

GOOD

MODERATE

POOR

BAD

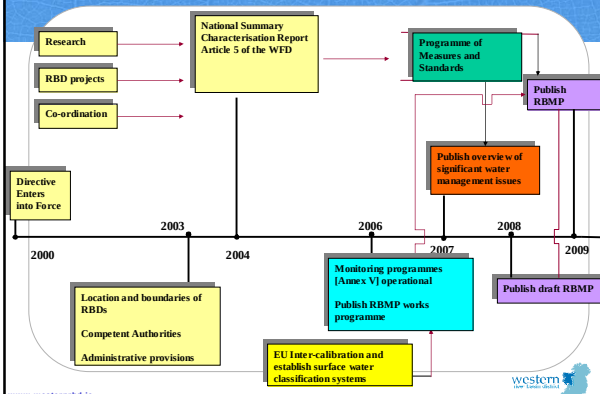
"High ecological status" means "Quality elements show little or no effects of human activity compared to undisturbed conditions".

"Good ecological status" means "Quality elements show only slight changes caused by human activity compared to undisturbed conditions".

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WFD Timetable in Ireland



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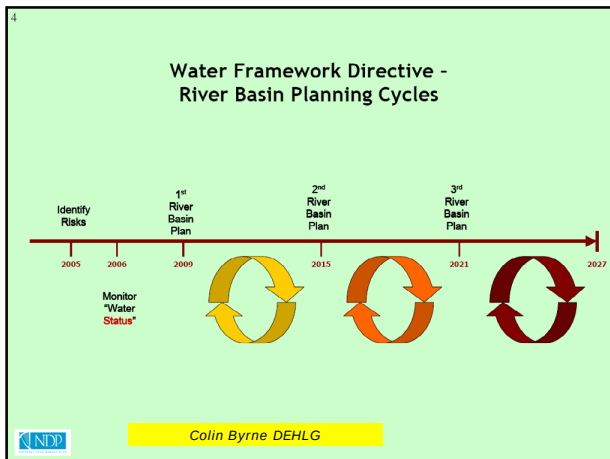
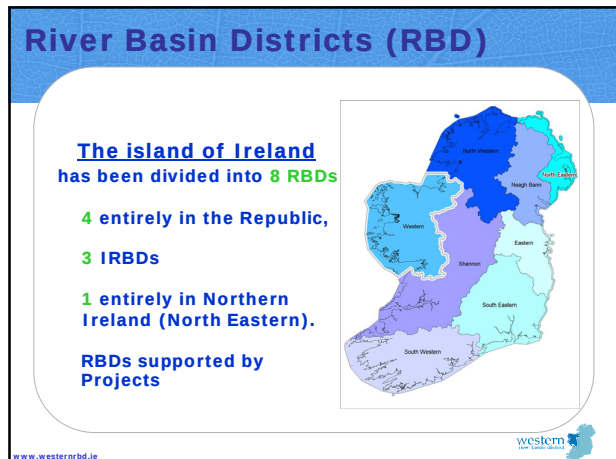
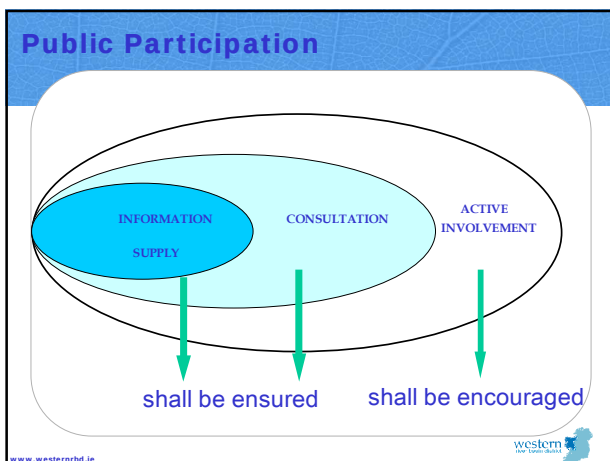
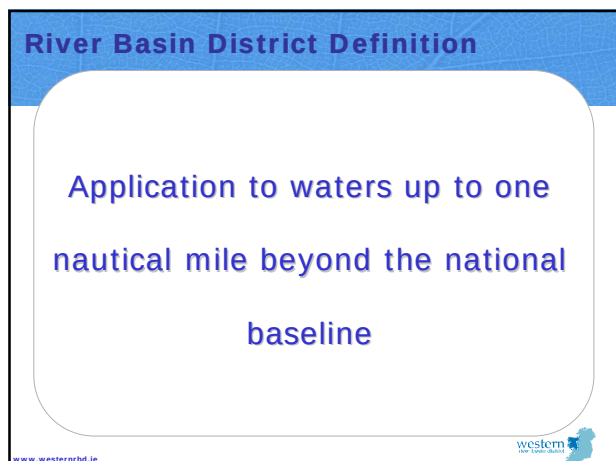
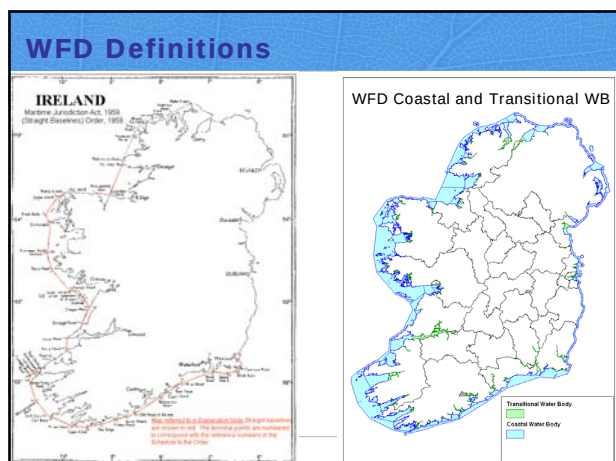
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River Basin District (RBD) & New Organisational Elements cont.

- ▶ **The Competent Authorities** specified in Article 3 of the Directive & Article 6 of the Regulations are
  - » a) relevant Local Authorities acting jointly and
  - » b) the Environmental Protection Agency with specified statutory assigned functions.



Role of Local Authorities

- ▶ Overall management of WFD implementation
- ▶ Adoption of the River Basin Management Plan RBMP
- ▶ Monitoring Programme
  - » a dynamic Programme requiring routine updating through an agreed format
- ▶ Coordination of data management and utilisation through relational databases and GIS systems
- ▶ Coordination, implementation and tracking of the Programme Measures

River Basin District Advisory Council (RBDAC)

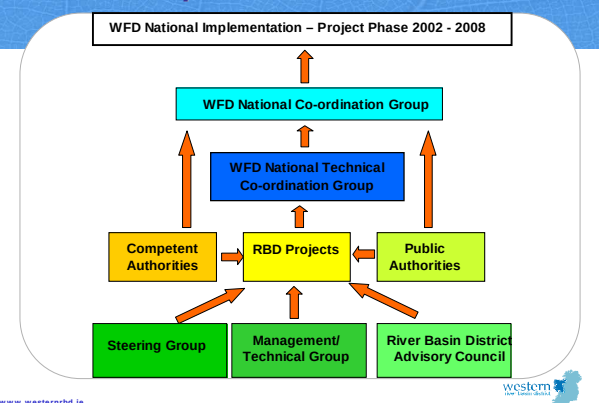


- ▶ **The River Basin District Advisory Council is a statutory forum** for elected representatives & other stakeholders to advise & make recommendations in relation to the River Basin Management Plan.

Role of Local Authorities

- ▶ Coordinated approach to integration of the RBMP objectives and measures into County and City Development Plans
- ▶ Coordinated approach to continued public awareness
- ▶ Updating the characterisation, risk assessment and preparation of the 2nd and subsequent River Basin Management Plans

Present Implementation Structure

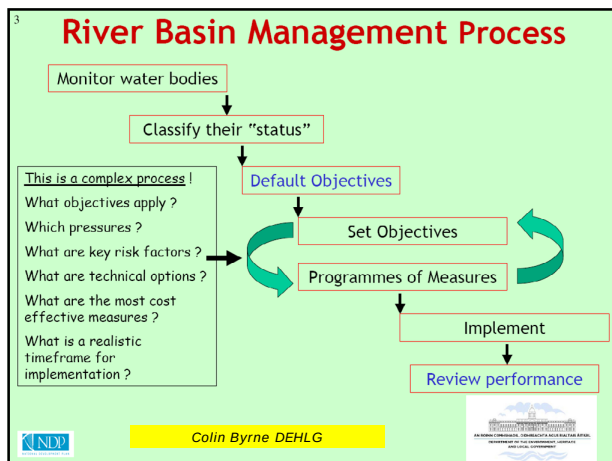
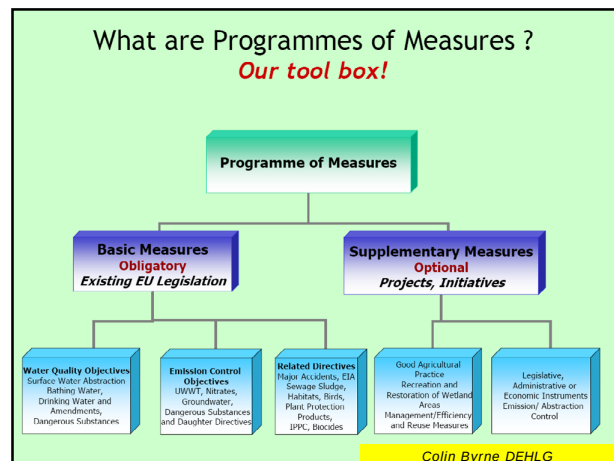
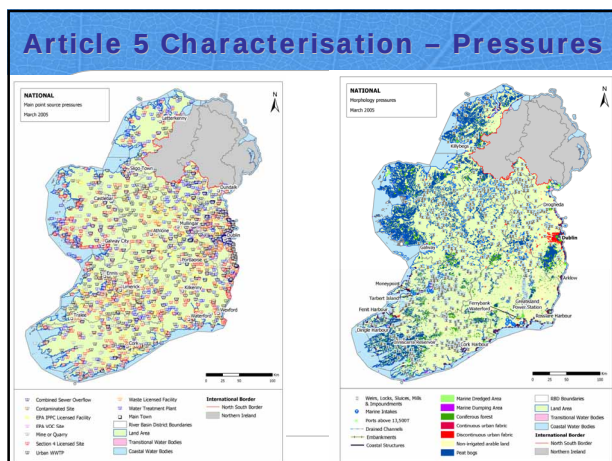


Role of Local Authorities

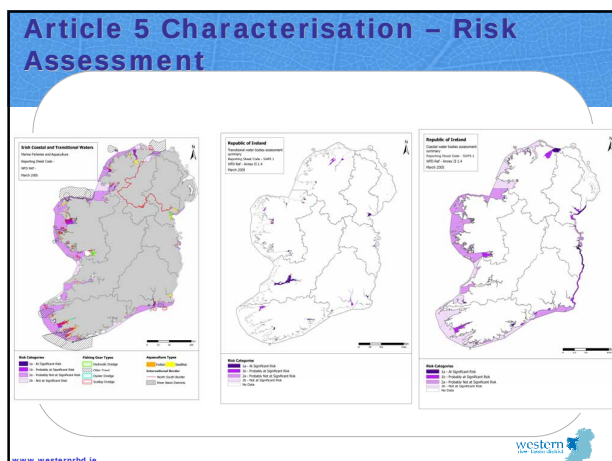
- ▶ Maintaining technical and strategic links with Stakeholder Groups, National Institutions and other RBDs
- ▶ Development of coordinated financing of the continued implementation of the Directive in their RBD area

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- ### PoMS studies - why ?
- Post Art. 5
- Main pressures identified
  - Risks identified (varying confidence)
  - Need to confirm impact where not known (e.g. morphology)
  - Understand risk factors (e.g. septic tanks - soil/hydrogeological conditions) - What are the SWMIs?
- Studies will suggest appropriate technical options for measures - **POMS studies end here !**
- Next step: combine technical options and economics - then choose appropriate POMS !
- Colin Byrne DEHLG



Programmes Of Measures and Standards (POMS)	Leading RBD Project studies
Mobile organics - risk to groundwaters	E-RBD
Urban pressures	E-RBD
Abstraction pressures	E-RBD
Ecological pressures	E-RBD
Seismicity	E-RBD
Water quality	E-RBD
Industrial	E-RBD
Damages	E-RBD
Marine	E-RBD
High Status Sites	E-RBD
Forest and Water	E-RBD
On-site wastewater treatment systems	W-RBD
High Status Sites	W-RBD

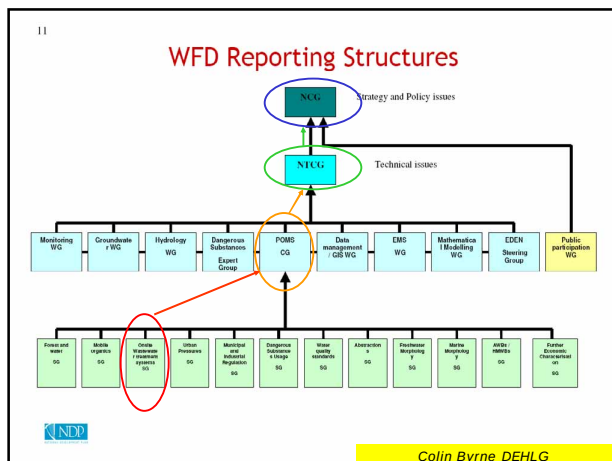
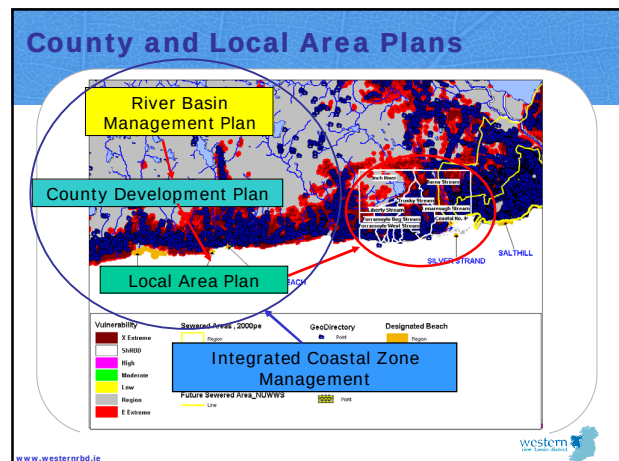
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General Approach to Measures Studies

- Establish a Steering/Working Group of the key stakeholders to assist in the development of the approach.
- WRBD Project acts as a coordinating authority for this Group.
- Group established to agree:
  - Stakeholders
  - Issues and approach
  - Outputs
  - Inputs and resources
  - Timescale.

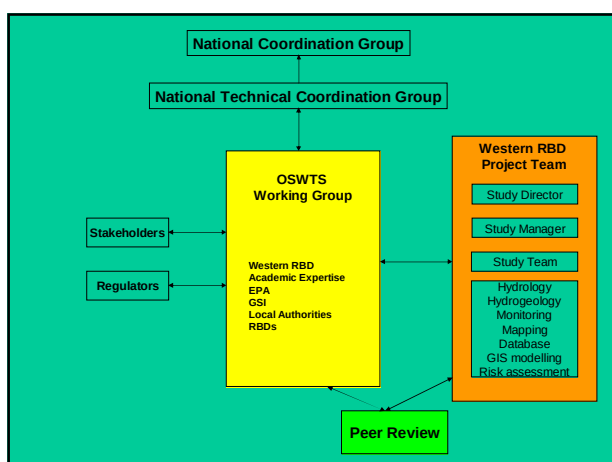
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WFD

Whereas... (17)

"An effective and coherent water policy must take account of the vulnerability of aquatic ecosystems located near the coast and estuaries or in gulfs or relatively closed seas, as their equilibrium is strongly influenced by the quality of inland waters flowing into them. Protection of water status within river basins will provide economic benefits by contributing towards the protection of fish populations, including coastal fish populations "

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WFD Definitions

Article 2 (6)

"Transitional waters. are bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their proximity to coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flow."

Article 2 (7)

"Coastal water. means surface water on the landward side of a line, every point of which is at a distance of one nautical mile on the seaward side from the nearest point of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured, extending where appropriate up to the outer limit of transitional waters"

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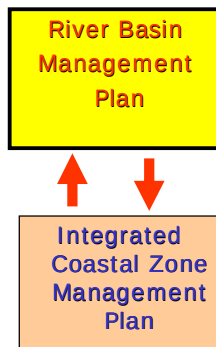
WFD and Coastal Zone Management

- ▶ Water Framework Directive viewed as one of the most significant EU policies or Directives in facilitating ICZM
- ▶ WFD is based on the river basin as the natural unit for management, and will require the development of River Basin Management Plan (RBMP).
- ▶ The WFD is viewed by the Commission as part of the mechanism within which to adopt ICZM.
- ▶ Application to waters up to one nautical mile beyond the national baseline goes some way to minimising the current sectoral approach to water quality management in Ireland
- ▶ The WFD is regarded as the most important legal stimulus at EU level for integrated planning, both coastal and inland.



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WFD and Coastal Zone Management



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Thank You



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