



OUR FRESHWATER

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13 October 2018



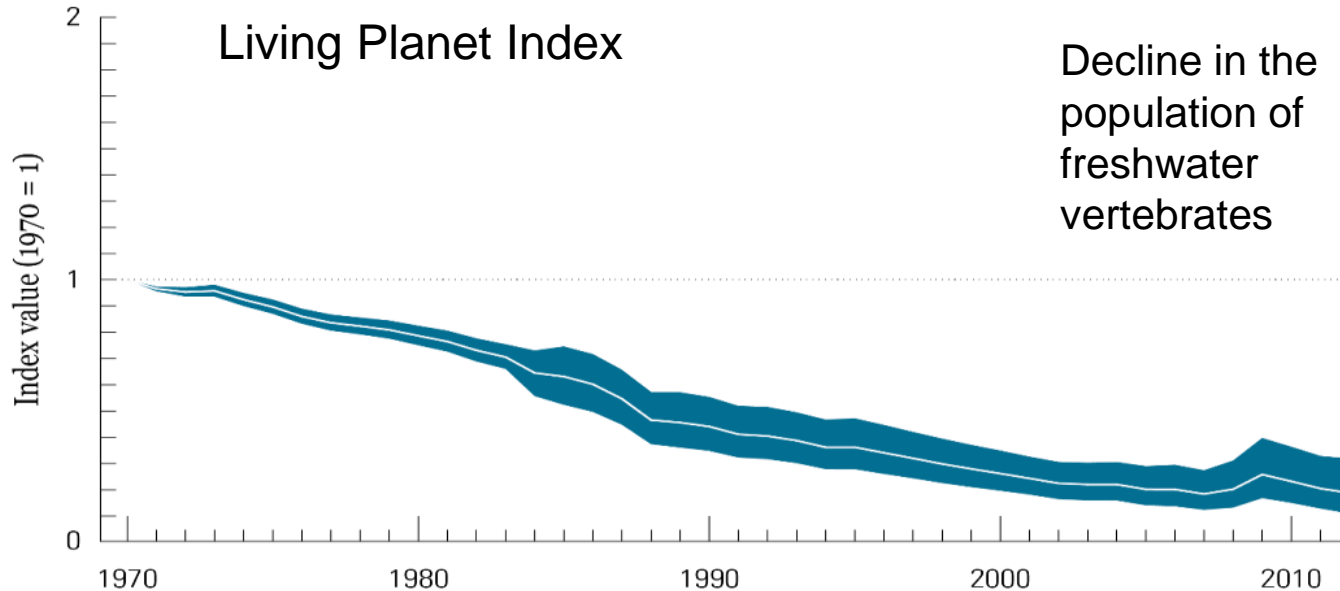
The health of our Planet and water sources





Global status

90 % of the wetlands disappeared



Collapsing fisheries and disappearing deltas







European waters

35% of wetlands gone in the past half of century

Only 40% of our freshwater is in good health

The Danube lost
nearly 70% of its
floodplain





Solutions?





Strong legislation

- Water Framework Directive
- Since 2000
- Goal: to improve the status of
our waters by 2027

No enforcement and weak
implementation!

Review started in 2018





Water Framework Directive

Imperial College
London

Revolutionary prestige and great expectations

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE: A Revolution in Europe

...the most substantial piece of EC water legislation to date...

...an ambitious and innovative approach to water management...

...the first European Directive that focused on environmental sustainability ...

...a shift from these fragmented policies to a holistic approach integrating all parts of the wider environmental system...

...a revolutionary approach in the field of water resources management...

...fundamental restructuring of the competencies in water management and environmental protection...

...a new era for European water management, focusing on understanding and integrating all aspects of the water environment to be effective and sustainable...

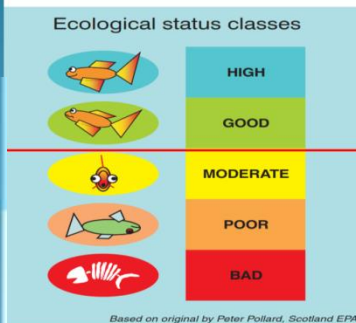
Potential template and pilot for future environmental regulations...

Taking over 10 years to develop, the new EU Water Framework Directive is the most significant legal instrument in the water field to emerge from Brussels for some time and will have a profound effect on how water is managed in Europe over the next 25 years.

What can **Member states** do to improve EU waters?



Source: EC, DG Environment



Source: EEA

Meeting WFD objectives

Not meeting WFD objectives

WFD basics

Scope: Protecting **all** water bodies, including transitional waters and coastal waters; Covering all impacts on waters.

Objectives:

Protect and enhance fresh surface and ground waters, as well as coastal waters;

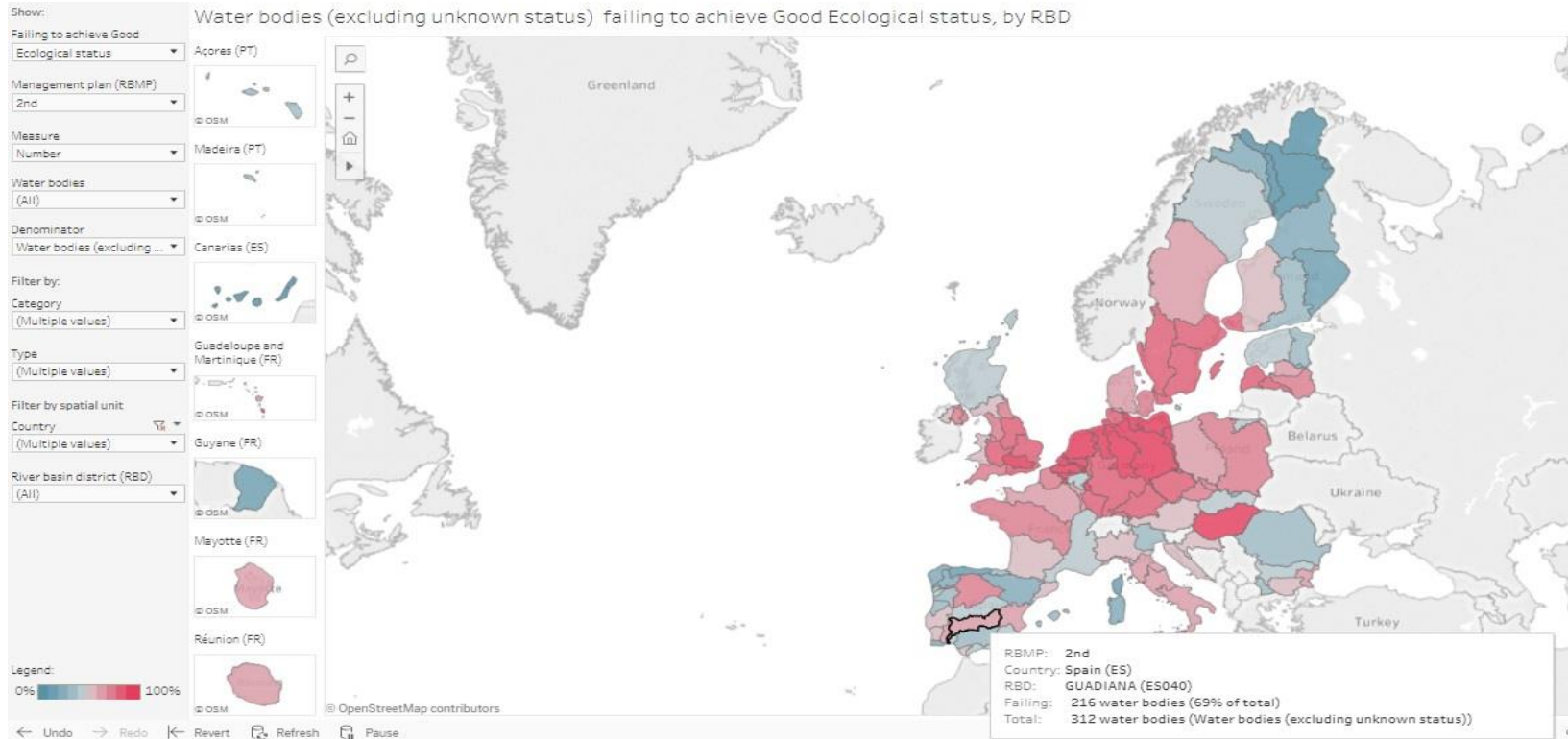
No deterioration; Achievement of good ecological and chemical status by December 2015 (2021, 2027); Special protection for drinking water resources.

Tools: RBMPs and PoM; 6 yearly cycle (2015, 2021, 2027); Existing legislation (basic measures): nitrates, urban waste water, IED; Economic instruments; Public participation; Transboundary cooperation; Polluter pays principle and economic incentives

What can member states do to improve EU waters?



Surface water bodies failing to achieve good status





WFD fitness check consultation approach

- **Public consultation** for WFD fitness check **started in September 2018**;
- Public consultation consists of two parts - a general one 'aimed at citizens with an ordinary level of knowledge', and a specialist one aimed at 'respondents with particular expertise or interest';
- **Targeted consultation** (e.g. stakeholder consultation) throughout the process will be composed of **workshops** (*related to main pressures*) and to the main management issues, **conferences**, **interviews** and **surveys**.
- **There are two options at the end of the fitness check:**
 - the WFD fits for purpose and recommendations are developed for the better implementation;
 - WFD is opened for revision;
- The decision will be made by the next EU Parliament, 2020 at the earliest;



Objectives of environmental NGOs in WFD review

The **overall objective** is to **revive the ambition of the WFD**, upholding the true spirit of the EU water law that would enable a great majority of rivers, lakes and wetlands in Europe to stay or become healthy (good status objective reached).

Key messages of NGO coalition:

- More effort is needed from Member States on sustainable management of water and protection of water ecosystems in Europe;
- Member States to improve implementation of the WFD framework;
- EU Commission and Member States to improve policy integration (water mgm and relevant sectoral policies);
- WFD is one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation ever to pass;
- Where and when properly implemented WFD has delivered benefits for nature, economy and society. Good cases exist!
- More investments in sustainable water management would provide additional benefits to society.

A photograph of a wetland at sunset. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange glow on the horizon. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several swans and herons are visible against the bright horizon. Their reflections are clearly visible in the calm water. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

We can Protect our water sources together!

#ProtectWater

<https://youtu.be/nCRjqwhsN8M>



Thank you



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