

A Concept for the Production of Draft RBMPs

Discussion Paper

20 November 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A four tiered model for constructing the draft River Basin Plans has been developed by NS SHARE in association with EHS WMU and is being refined in cooperation with other UK and Ireland agencies through UKTAG. The tiered concept allows for an overarching “roof document” to deliver single RBD plans in our IRBDs while basin-specific River Basin Plan material will be in tier 2, supported by web based IT and background documents in tiers 3 and 4.
- 1.2 This document captures and summarises the key elements of the concept and delivers a proposed action plan and timetable for the completion of the process.

2. BACKGROUND DOCUMENT – TIER 1

- 2.1 This “high level” document builds on the co-operation elements set out in the 2003 document “Managing Our Shared Waters”. It will detail the progress made thus far on: administrative arrangements; regulations; characterisation; monitoring; classification systems; public participation etc. North- South progress will be highlighted.
- 2.2 The NS WFD Co-ordination Group Representatives will be responsible for driving the technical document sign-off. Details of joint Ministerial sign-off will be provided by PEPG.
- 2.3 The Tier 1 document will be approximately 15 pages long and will be professionally edited to ensure that it is easily read. It may not require public consultation but rather public comment. The document will be presented to the IWG for sign off on 12 December 2007.

3. DRAFT RIVER BASIN PLAN DOCUMENT – TIER 2

- 3.1 The Draft River Basin Plans will follow a template which is founded in the SWMI reports and is broadly similar to the template to be used across GB. Although it in effect picks up where the SWMI finished the document will contain enough information for a new reader to become engaged in the process.
- 3.2 A draft Contents page for the Tier 2 document is attached as Annex 1. Much of the supporting information will be contained in the WISE and 2010 reporting sheets and will available electronically. The Draft plan will satisfy the demands of these reporting systems.
- 3.3 The main focus of the draft plan will be on objective setting and the programme of measures which will be devised to combat each of the basin district’s significant

water management issues; how these measures have been prioritised and, where appropriate, where and how exemptions have been granted. A proposed objective setting methodology is attached as Annex 2

- 3.4 The Draft Plans will attempt to address any weaknesses and gaps which are identified in the current SWMI public comment process.
- 3.5 Stakeholders will be consulted about how to best deliver the draft plans messages.
- 3.6 The published Plans will be supported by an electronic web tool that allows the public to visualise a water body and see which measures apply, what its status and objectives are, etc.
- 3.7 The generic template will be presented to the IWG for sign off on 12 December and also taken through NS WFD Coordination Group. The template will subsequently be populated with information from the individual River Basin District within the specified timescales as identified in Annex 3.

4. DATA BASE AND WEBTOOLS – TIER 3

- 4.1 A high level information flow-chart will be developed and this in turn will allow the creation of a web-based tool which will allow the public access to specific information about their local water bodies.
- 4.2 On going work is needed to ensure compatibility between tools being developed within NS SHARE and the different web based and information systems available within EHS, EPA and the ROI competent authorities.

5. APPENDICES – TIER 4

- 5.1 The River Basin Plan template sets out a proposed contents list for descriptive text for the DRBMPs. However this must be supported by the results of previous scientific and technical work along with data which has previously been reported to Europe. This will include for example; Maps of water bodies, pressures and impacts descriptions, register of protected areas etc. These will be available as appendices. A list of suggested appendices is contained within Annex 2.

Annex 1 – Draft River Basin Plan Template

DRAFT CONTENTS PAGE

WATER MATTERS (Final Plan Title = WATER MATTERS – “Our Plan!”)

- Invitation to comment
- Your views

Background: the WFD story so far

- A New Approach to Managing Our Waters
- Why water matters
- Water goals & *setting the environmental standards for our waters*
- Human activity and impacts on water
- Common water problems
- The IRBD/RBD district and its waters
- Our special areas
- The causes of our local water problems
- Using local expertise – *describing public participation and the SWMI booklet inputs*
- Positive Steps

Planning our actions

- Water status
- Setting objectives
- Basic measures & supplementary measures
- Integrating plans and programmes (more detailed plans)
- Economic analysis
- Exemptions
- Emerging and changing issues
- Action themes

Topics – focus on measures/existing plan links/prioritising/ measures and exemptions stats

- Wastewater and industrial discharges
- Landfills, quarries, mines and contaminated lands
- Agriculture
- Wastewater from Unsewered Properties
- Forestry
- Usage and discharge of dangerous substances
- Physical modifications
- Abstractions
- Local issues inc. Invasive alien species

Summary of the POM

Summary of exemptions

What happens next?

- Affecting people
- Before the final plan is published
- Assessing strategic environmental impacts
- Assessing regulatory impacts
- Implementing the management plans
- Updating the plans

Getting involved

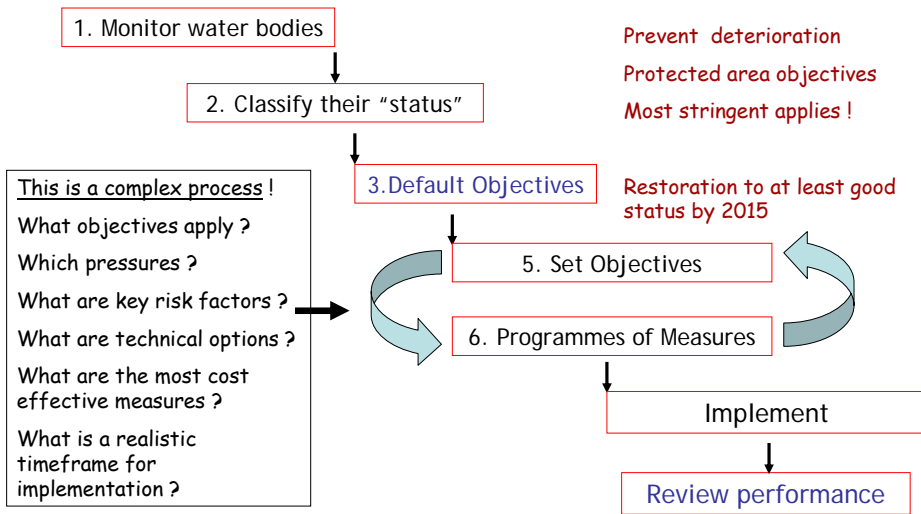
List of authorities & contacts

Annex 2 -Objective Setting Methodology for the Water Framework Directive

Fundamental Rules

1. The Default Objective for **ALL** waters is Good Ecological Status (good status for groundwaters). Some different objective may be justified through the provisions of Article 4.
2. The methodology will be applied to prioritise to delivery of “no deterioration”, biodiversity and agreed objectives
3. Justified variations to this objective could be:
 - No deterioration ;
 - Good Ecological Potential; ,
 - Less stringent environmental objectives; or
 - Extension of deadlines or the water related objectives of a Register of Protected Areas site.
4. Water Bodies, identified through the Article 5 Report, are being monitored through the Surveillance and Operational Monitoring Programme and status reported locally and through the WISE system.
5. As appropriate, Water Bodies and other waters will also be subject to Operational and Investigative monitoring.
6. **All** Waters may also be routinely monitored as justified locally. While all monitoring will be reported locally, non-water body monitoring will not be reported to the Commission.
7. All of this will be documented and published through the Draft River Basin Management Plans.

The Objective Setting Process - leading to Measure Identification and Implementation



The Basic Methodology for setting the WFD Objective for **any** water* is as follows:

For Water Bodies:	
1	Monitor Programmes
1a	Water Body ID
1b	Surveillance Monitoring Site ID
1c	Typology
1d	Classification
2	Current Status as per current info for all available Quality Elements
2a	Risk Assessment
3	Default Objectives (GES for all Quality Elements)
3a	Modified Objectives, related to Register of Protected Areas status, etc
3b	Expected Classification, 2007, for all metrics & quality elements for all waters
3c	What Quality elements & metrics unlikely to achieve GES

	by 2015
3e	What is the likely classification for the “at risk” quality element in 2015, under current measures?
4	Provisional Objectives set
4a	Are measures proposed or in place to mitigate against the pressure causing the likely failure?
4a	Could further measures overcome the pressure and allow achievement of GES
4b	Cost of measures
4c	Timescale for measures to achieve GES
4d	Disproportionate cost test result
4e	Select acceptable measures
5	Proposed objectives for 2015, including less stringent objectives, if justified
6	Programmes of measures
7	Review going into 2nd cycle
8	Proposed objectives for 2021 &2027

* *There will be slight modifications to this methodology for coastal inter-basins and small cross-border water bodies but the process is essentially the same.*

Questions

1. Can we all support the fundamental Rules and the Methodology?
2. Do we have all of the necessary information?
3. Can expert judgement fill any gaps? Do we need to have an NI expert panel?
4. Can our IT systems record and present the information?
5. Are there larger catchment or RBD level objectives that should be superimposed over the water body level objectives?
6. Are there any known conflicts with objectives in other plans or within IRBDs?

The Way Forward?

Having agreed what needs to be done we must agree “who” and “how”.

Annex 3

“Draft RBMP” Publication Summary Timetable – Nov 2007

Date	Key Target	Key Output	Essential Participation
Nov 07	“Concept” Template agreed by UK & IRL Agencies		
	Working Template for RBMPs agreed		WFD IB
Dec 07	Objective Setting Process in NI agreed,		IWG
	RPA Site Objectives clarified	Clarify Nature 2000 site water related objectives	EHS, NH
	Draft Catalogue of current measures assembled		POM SG
Jan 08		Default Objectives for all waters recorded	EHS UK TAG N/S harmonisation
	Predicted 2007 Status available for all quality elements		EHS
	Predicted environmental achievement of Basic Measures,		POM SG
		Finalise Catalogue of Measures	POM SG
Feb 08	Clarify metrics likely to be less than GES by 2015,		EHS
	Identify pressures causing less than GES		EHS POM SG
Mar 08		Template for RBMPs formally agreed	IWG NS WFD CG UK TAG
		Provisional Objectives for all quality elements Agreed	IWG
	Predicted 2015 achievement of Objectives with current measures		EHS POM SG
	Consideration of other measures		IWG POM SG

Date	Key Target	Key Output	Essential Participation
	Consideration of alternative objectives		IWG POM SG
Apr 08	Predicted 2015 achievement of Objectives against Modified measures and objectives		EHS IWG
May 08		Advanced draft to inter-departmental sign off and to Minister for the Environment	IWG WFD IB
	Summaries of Current Status (2007) available		EHS
		"Proposed" Objectives for all waters agreed	IWG, N/S harmonisation
		Drafting of Detailed Programme of Measures to 2015 complete,	POM SG
		Summary POM to 2027 agreed	POM SG IWG
Jun 08	2007 Status Reports		EHS
	Clarification of Supplementary Measures		IWG
	Clarification of Objectives for 2021 & 2027		IWG
		Templates fully populated and presented to Environment Committee	EHS IWG NS WFD CG
Jul 08			
Aug 08		Draft reports to all NI Ministers	
Sep 08		Draft reports to FM & dFM and to NI Executive	
Oct 08			
Nov 08		Final reports to printing	
Dec 08		Draft RBMPs Published for 6 months consultation	

Annex 4 – Suggested Appendices for DRBMPs

Characterisation description (revisit Article 5 Chapter2)

- Map of water bodies, ecoregions and reference conditions

Pressures and impacts description (revisit Article 5 Chapter 3)

- Risk assessment results

Register of protected areas (revisit Article 5 Chapter 2)

- Register

Water Quality analysis & map monitoring networks

- Monitoring networks and status results – including uncertainty

Identify environmental objective

- Default and exemptions (HMWB & AWB)

Summary of economic analysis

- Cost of measures

Register of more detailed plans and programmes

Summary programme of measures