



Addressing agriculture's impact on water in the Baltic Sea region

— lessons from 1st RBMPs & expectations for 2nd RBMPs

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Overview

- *Baltic Sea region*
- *Water framework directive*
- *WFD links with the Nitrates Directive (basic measures)*
- *Progress on the WFD so far*
- *Priority action in Baltic Sea region*
- *Tools - Basic measures, supplementary measures*



Baltic Sea region

- *High rainfall*
- *High density of livestock production*
- *High human population*
- *shipping*
- *Shallow sea with limited mixing*

Major concerns for ecosystem health

- *Eutrophication*
- *Hazardous chemicals*
- *Loss of biodiversity*



Water Framework Directive

- *WFD, adopted 2000*
- *Some of the main innovations*
 - *Achieve "good status" in all water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries, coasts, groundwater, wetlands) by 2015 (later subject to exemptions)*
 - *Good status = good ecology, quantity and chemistry*
 - *manage water and land in whole river basins*
 - *Produce river basin management plan (RBMP) on 6 year cycles*
 - *Starting point for RBMP – analysis of pressures and impacts from human activity (including agriculture)*
 - *Devise and implement programmes of measures to move to good status (basic measures + supplementary measures)*





WFD – builds on previous directives and brings in new requirements

- Programmes of measures must include **basic measures**
 - Measures to deliver the Urban wastewater treatment directive
 - Measures to deliver the Nitrates Directive (50 mg/l and absence of eutrophication)

AND

- Programmes of measures must include **additional basic measures**
 - Defined in Article 11.3.b-I of the WFD
 - Including controls on abstraction, measures to protect drinking water and reduce need for treatment, controls on diffuse sources of pollution, controls on hydromorphological changes



Article 11.3. h

- for **diffuse sources** liable to cause pollution, **measures to prevent or control the input of pollutants**. Controls may take the form of general binding rules
(e.g. where phosphate, pesticides, sediment, organic pollution from agriculture are identified as a pressure affecting the achievement of overall good status, controls must be established)
- For most MS this means **adding regulatory measures beyond those in nitrates action programmes** to address excess nutrients
- In addition to securing better compliance with existing ND provisions

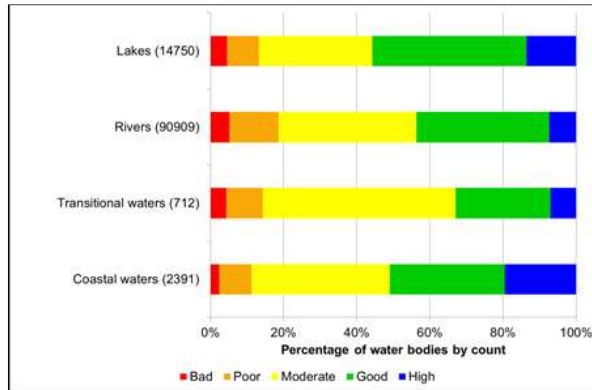




Status of EU waters (2009)

2 biggest pressures

- Diffuse sources causing **nutrient enrichment** in most of the Member States having the worst ecological status
- **Hydromorphological** pressures causing altered habitats/ flows



RBMPs expected to deliver 10 % overall improvement in status by 2015



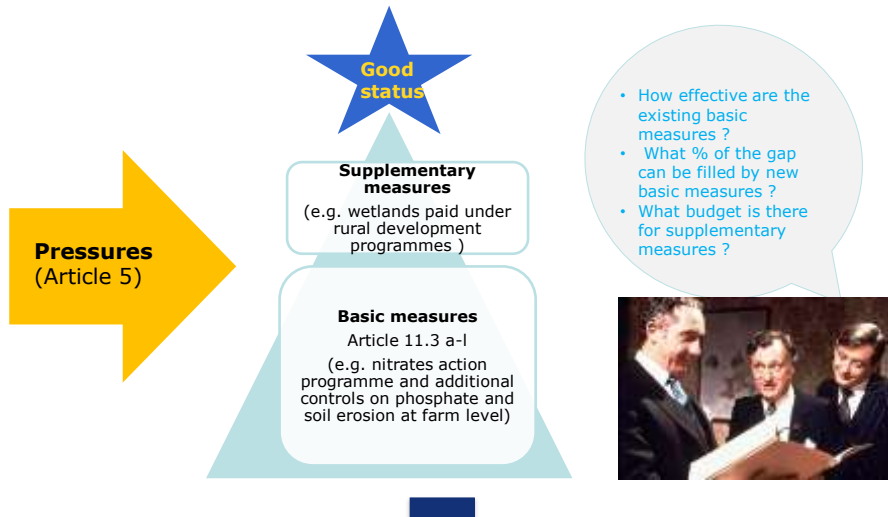
Progress in first cycle RBMPs

- *Lack of basic measures, beyond the ND in the first RBMPs for a number of Member States*
- *Misconception the WFD means business as usual ?*
- **MS Action** : *identify and redress any gaps in basic measures (11.3 b-l) for inclusion in the second cycle.*
- *Article 11.3 (a-l) is prescriptive.....BUT precise type of measure is down to the MS depending on the pressures in a river basin district.*
- *gap in basic measures = low level of water bodies at good status by 2015 and extensive use of exemptions.*
- **Priority to be addressed for WFD 2nd cyclenecessary also for compliance with wider environmental aquis, air quality, MSFD, biodiversity**
- *WFD basic measures to be added to **cross-compliance** in lifetime of current CAP (make sure they are in place*





POMS to achieve Good Status



Nutrient Measures

Basic measures

- Measures to reduce nutrient surplus/ leaching at source
- To deliver at least 50 mg/l in GW, but also secure absence of eutrophication
- Implementing polluter pays principle
- E.g. sufficient manure storage, balanced fertilisation, catch crops, enviro friendly drainage

Supplementary measures

- Rural development programmes offer significant opportunities
- Should go beyond basic measures
- paid land use change – arable reversion to grass, afforestation, large buffers, restoration of wetlands - targeted to where most needed to reach WFD objectives



Conclusions

- *Excellent tools have been developed through e.g HELCOM participation*
- *Best practises have been shared between farming organisations*
- *Progress has been made on nutrient reductions*

Priority: to secure environmental outcomes in 2nd RBMPs

- *Clearly presented gap analysis (for farmers and other stakeholders)*
- *agricultural POMs at scale necessary to deliver good status*
- *Clarity on where and how the measure is to be implemented and ways of tracking uptake*