

Coordination between Water Framework Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive for the climate change adaptation at the national and regional level

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Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- Establishes a framework to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment
- Aim is to protect, preserve, prevent deterioration or, where practical, restore Europe's oceans and seas where they have been adversely affected and to prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment
- Achieve the aim by applying an ecosystem based approach to management of human activities whilst ensuring sustainable use of marine goods and services.
- Addresses all aspects of biodiversity within the marine waters of EU Member States (excluding WFD transitional waters) and takes a regional approach to delivery of the Directive.

Water Framework Directive (1)

- Main objective is to achieve good water status/good chemical status/maximum ecological potential for all waters (surface, underground, coastal, transitional)
- Brings together in a common framework a diversity of previous directives dealing with water issues (Shellfish Waters, Bathing Waters Nitrates,Dangerous Substances, Urban Urban Waste Water Treatment)
- Requires water management at the River Basin level. In the understanding of WFD river discharging the water into the sea/ocean

Water Framework Directive (2)

- There are strong links between the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the MSFD.
- Comparable objectives, with MSFD focused on the achievement of GES in marine waters, and WFD aiming to achieve Good Ecological and Good Chemical Status in all waters including transitional and coastal
- Overlap between the waters covered by the WFD and the MSFD
- Successful implementation of the WFD will essential contribute to good environmental status in the marine waters
- MSFD will define level of ambition for the WFD

Water Framework Directive and Climate Change

- The Water Framework Directive consolidates and updates existing water legislation across the EU.
- Directive doesn't explicitly address climate change,
- Guidance document, River Basin Management in a Changing Climate, illustrates ways in which preparations can be made for climate change
- The second and third River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) cycles included and will include a 'climate check'.

Guidance on Integrating adaptation within key steps of River Basin Management Planning

- Assessing direct and indirect climate pressures
- Detecting climate change signals
- Monitoring change at reference sites
- Setting objectives
- Forecasting the economics of water supply and demand
- Checking the effectiveness of measures
- Favoring robust adaptation measures
- Maximize cross-sectoral benefits and minimize negative effects across sectors.
- Apply WFD Article 4.7
- Flood risk management
- Drought management and water scarcity

Overview of guiding principles for climate changes

- Climate projections and scenarios should be used for improving river basin management planning
- Take best available scientific information into account
- Use ongoing research and adaptation activities to increase knowledge at river basin scale
- Use the WFD consultation process to bring in sector-specific knowledge and data from key stakeholders
- Ensure communication and coordination on climate change adaptation issues between different levels of management within a RBD
- Assess, over a range of timescales, direct influences of climate change and indirect influences where pressures are created due to human activities adapting to climate change
- Include reference sites in long term monitoring programs to understand the extent and causes of natural variability and impact of climate change
- Consider climate change when taking account of long term forecasts of supply and demand and favor options that are robust to the uncertainty in climate projections
- Include climate change scenarios in ongoing initiatives and in the planning processes.

Influence of climate change on marine and inland waters

- Climate change will affect the implementation of the WFD and MSFD and reaching their objectives
- Implementation of climate change adaptation measures within the inland waters will have an impact on the marine waters
- The climate change effects on the marine waters (seas and oceans) will influence the impact of climate change on the inland waters
- Tackling the climate changes in marine waters, including implementing adaptation measures, will be much more difficult than in the inland waters

Integrating adaptation into spatial planning and the built environment decision making.

- Planning and development legislation including provisions for climate change adaptation
- Developing Guidelines and tools on how to integrate adaptation and broader climate change considerations into the statutory planning system and the built environment
- Encourage local-level planning
- Developing pilot climate information system
- Include climate change adaptation into materials, design, guidelines for new developments

Integrating adaptation into education and skills decision-making

- Assess climate change impacts when deciding on new education infrastructure
- Curriculum development at all educational levels to include climate change adaptation
- Include climate change adaptation information and activities in “Green Schools” programme
- Develop training courses for professionals (e.g. planners) on climate change impacts and planning for adaptation

Integrating adaptation into flooding decision-making

- Ensure a closer coordination of Floods and Water Framework Directives in the preparation of RBMPs and address climate change adaptation
- Promote flood-risk guidelines to enhance adaptive capacity
- Review and update flood forecasting and flood warning systems taking into account climate change adaptation
- Development of support tools for flood risk assessment of assets in the context climate change
- Include climate change experience into the future review of the Floods Directive

Integrating adaptation into research and development decision-making

- Reflection of climate change adaptation research needs under the Framework Programs for Research
- Engage with those with responsibility for funding and implementing research to enhance awareness of the need for adaptation related research
- Consider ongoing and future research on the impacts and consequences of climate change at the sectoral level and the development of tools and guidelines to increase resilience

Integrating adaptation into risk management decision-making

- Investigate synergies that may exist between the emergency planning function of the risk management and adaptation planning
- Assess the impacts of climate change on national emergency system and prepare appropriate coping strategies
- Explore role of emergency forces in operating in extreme weather and responding to emergencies/extreme weather events (e.g. include role of emergency forces in local and regional emergency plans)

Integrating adaptation into coastal and marine decision-making

- IMP, Marine Strategy Framework Directive are opportunities for climate change adaptation
- Development of the Interdepartmental Marine Coordination Group possible synergy role
- Development of expert systems and climate change adaptation tools for marine-spatial planning
- Maximize use of research such as national sea bed survey and develop a Marine Digital Atlas

Coordination at the regional level

- Use the existing administrative structures to promote coordination for climate change adaptation particularly Regional Seas Conventions and River Basin Conventions
- Establish Ad Hoc Groups between marine and river conventions in order to develop coordinated measures related to climate change
- Promote joint research studies to improve the knowledge on the interaction between rivers and seas and the effects of climate change adaptation measures

