

WFD Measures, Impacts and River Basin Management Plans

The **Water Framework Directive** (WFD) is one of the most complex and far reaching pieces of legislation ever to emerge from the EU, and has important and potentially serious implications for recreational boating.

It applies to all water bodies (rivers, lakes, docks, canals, estuaries and coasts) and its objectives are to:

- Reduce pollution, prevent deterioration and improve the health of aquatic ecosystems;
- Promote the sustainable use of water;
- Help reduce the effects of floods and droughts.

Measures must be taken to achieve the plans for improving the ecological status of all waters by 2015 and then to review them every 6 years.

The measures to be taken to meet the WFD objectives and the ecological standards required could include controls/constraints on certain activities to limit the use of a water body, which could have serious implications for recreational boating.

Activities such as maintenance dredging and disposal, bank protection, weed control, vessel movement, discharges (licensed point source) or diffuse pollution (boat emissions and anti-fouling paints) could all be constrained or banned.

New developments could similarly be affected by constraints on impounding waters (locks, docks, marinas, etc), dredging and disposal, land drain-off, etc.

River Basins are to be considered and managed as a whole, and will extend from source into the estuary and 1 nautical mile off the coast (irrespective of administrative boundaries).

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) were to be produced by December 2009 and the whole process, including consultation, is being driven by the Environment Agency. The initial consultation was to be with representative stakeholders in Liaison Groups. Regrettably for the Anglian River Basin District we were not successful in being included, however after some persuasion a Recreation Sub Group was formed and were included and consulted regularly.

Consultation

We responded to the first consultation both centrally from Hamble and regionally for the Anglian River Basin District. The main RYA response included a general assessment of the measures being proposed, and their probable impact on recreational boating. We also commented that errors of fact had been discovered in some areas and provided details.

For the first period 2009 to 2015 the measures are those that impact most on the Water Companies and Agriculture, with impacts on us more likely in the second and third phases to 2021 and 2027.

We have become increasingly confident of achieving agreement that 'measures' will be satisfied by boaters following our **Environmental Code of Practice** and other **Green Blue** advice and information.

>>[more update](#)

