

Nordic WFD meeting

Day 1 - 25th of September 2024

Take-home messages

Quotes of the day

“It’s a marathon, not a sprint”

“A decade of policy”

“It’s a marathon, and sometimes also a sprint”

“Sharing successes and learning from good examples is good.
Sharing failures is equally important to prevent others from
doing unnecessary mistakes”

Towards an EU Water Resilience Strategy



Luca Perez, Deputy Head of Unit

European Commission – Directorate General for the Environment

Unit C.1 - Sustainable Freshwater Management Unit

Emerging insights and challenges

- Water as a cross cutting issue
 - Policy discussions
 - Importance of capacity building of the general public
 - Tools for other commission DG (EU) - Balance water protection against other needs driven by the green transition and the EU critical raw materials act
- The geopolitical situation sets preparedness issues on the agenda, including handling of drinking water and wastewater
- Climate changes:
 - Severe flooding – catastrophic consequences for both people and water quality
 - Droughts
- Emerging chemicals of concern such as PFAS in both surface and groundwater

Biodiversity strategi and WFD

- Biodiversity strategi goal 2030 includes WFD objectives to be met by 2027
- Habitat directive and WFD: 32 habitates are dependant on water
- The WFD and NRL are interconnected
 - Reporting: Avoid duplication and contradiction
- Exemptions and 2027
 - Focus on maximum mitigation and non-deterioration
 - Article 4(7): New sustainable development projects – increased relevance

What are we bringing with us to day 2?

Th

Program committee

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- Turo Hjerppe, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Finland
- Sari Vaisanen, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), Finland
- Vincent Westberg, Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Env., Finland
- Anders Iversen, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway
- Helga Gunnarsdottir, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway
- Hege Sangolt, Norwegian Environment Agency
- Kirsten Vielwerth, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Denmark
- Marianne Jensdóttir Fjeld, , Environmental Agency Iceland
- Aðalbjörg Birna Guttormsdóttir, , Environmental Agency Iceland
- Jenny McCarthy, Geological Survey of Sweden
- Niklas Holmgren, The Water Authority of the South Baltic Sea Water District, Sweden
- Anneli Harlén, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Sweden
- Jonas Svensson, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Sweden

Tomorrow: Gather here at 9:00

- Participants have got instructions from Jonas.

Member state highlights

- National efforts to increase measures
 - Finland: Ahti, increased effort regarding marine and freshwater POM
 - Denmark: Agreement on green transition in the agricultural section
 - Sweden: Several large Life and Life IP-project implementing measures
 - Norway: Handbook of what works!
 - Iceland: Progress in knowledge on status
- The importance of organization and funding
 - Lack of funding for measures –
 - Having and utilizing data – monitoring, information gathering, sharing and reporting
 - Participation on all levels
 - Sweden: Strengthening the national level from 2025
 - Denmark: Water councils suggesting local measures
 - Norway: Catchment coordinators
 - Finland and Denmark – revising the organization to strengthen water management
- Simplify the processes
 - Permits etc

Hymo

- Norwegian up-scaling of river restoration
 - MCA-analysis of the catchment for prioritization of what areas to restore
 - Disadvantage of being non-EU-country: Life funding
 - Upcoming white paper
- Swedish guidance on HMWB, EP and exemptions
 - Legal definition of EP important
- Finnish POM regarding hymo
 - Main impact of dams and weirs is loss of river connectivity, 80-90 % extinction of Atlantic Salmon.
 - Assessment of rivers with potential to reintroduce or strengthen salmon
 - "A decade of policy steps" – thing takes time
 - Once restoration starts, salmon and trout come back

Eutrofication

- Oslofjord – action!
 - Main challenges
 - Coastal Environment. Avoid specific environment, and maintain the building ban.
 - Fisheries management
 - Ongoing efforts on
 - Agriculture
 - Wastewater
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserves
 - 7 biospheres and 1 candidate, 2 preparatory and 5-6 interested
 - Dialogue, instead of legal basis, stakeholder approach.
 - Neutral arena
 - Examples: Supported by Nature – increased awareness on NBS via Learning Sites.
 - Local solutions to global challenges. Good for nature, good for people
 - The importance of monitoring to assess the efforts for evaluation ...

- Archipelago sea
 - Increase interest of water measures in agriculture.
 - Changes in thinking and doing takes time
 - We need to find the way
 - Rumors and misinformation must be cutoff
 - Increase cooperation

Environmentally hazardous substances

- Monitoring of PFAS in groundwater
 - Ambient levels of PFAS in SE soil and groundwater
 - TFA almost everywhere (90 %)
 - S-N-differences (less TFA in the north)
 - Older water – less TFA
 - Diffuse PFAS
 - Selective adsorption
 - Different sources and modes of transport – different signatures

National Action Plan against PFAS

