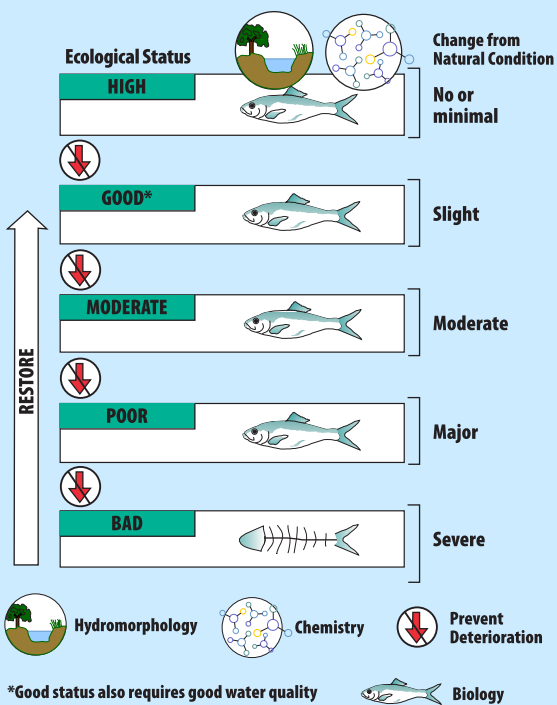


The Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive was introduced to bring about a significant improvement in the quality of all inland and coastal bodies of water by the year 2015.

What is the Water Framework Directive?

Recently policy makers across Europe have joined forces to develop a plan for managing water in all countries, in response to potential long-term threats. This plan, known as the Water Framework Directive and was established by the European Union in 2000. The directive became law in Scotland in 2003 when The Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act was passed.



What will the Water Framework Directive achieve?

The Water Framework Directive was introduced to bring about a significant improvement in the quality of all inland and coastal bodies of water by the year 2015. Some key elements of the Directive are:

- To use ecological targets, not chemical ones: in the past, scientists monitored water quality by studying its chemistry. Today, they are just as concerned with the ecology and flow patterns of the water as with the chemistry.

Left: The process of restoration: The Water Framework Directive will use the conditions of plants and animals as an indicator of water quality.

- To focus on diffuse pollution: this is a key priority for all waters. Tackling diffuse pollution will involve managing the land itself and not just the source of the pollution, and can only really be overcome through an increased understanding from all those involved.
- To engage all interested parties in a discussion on the future management of one of our most important natural resources.

