



Hydromorphology and the Floods Directive

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We are trained to...

- *...propose "concrete" measures;*
- *..."engineer" solutions;*
- *...be "solid" professionals and*
- *..."structure" deals.*

Conclusions

- We have **exhausted the subject** of links between the FD and other environmental Directives;
- It's clear: Flood protection is an **important responsibility**, that is why it takes absolute priority over any and all other considerations;
- Art. 4(7) of the WFD is a **complex subject**;
- "Hydromorphology" is **not mentioned** in the Floods Directive, therefore it is irrelevant to flood risk management;
- "Nature Based Solutions" is a **non-mature concept**.

Links between the FD and other environmental Directives

- *Links between the Floods Directive and Water Framework Directive - Resource Document, 2014;*
- *WFD_FD_MSFD_Birds & Habitats Directives, a starter's guide, 2016;*
- *Several EEA reports, e.g. "Flood risks and environmental vulnerability — Exploring the synergies between floodplain restoration, water policies and thematic policies", 2017;*
- *Document focusing on the FD and the Nature Directives, under preparation.*

Flood protection is the only priority

- *Coastal and inland floods killed more than 2 000 people and affected 8.7 million in Europe between 1991-2015**
- *The Lisbon Treaty's (functioning of the EU) Article 191:*
 1. *Union policy on the environment shall contribute to pursuit of the following objectives:*
 - **preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment,**
 - **protecting human health,**
 - *prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources,*
 - *promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, and in particular combating climate change.*
 2. *Union policy on the environment shall aim at **a high level of protection** taking into account the diversity of situations in the various regions of the Union. **It shall be based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventive action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source** and that the polluter should pay.*

Art. 4(7) of the WFD

- *Guidance document No 20, Exemptions to the environmental objectives, 2009;*
- *JASPERS workshop on the implementation of the WFD in new projects, 2015;*
- *JASPERS workshop on streamlining environmental assessments and permits during project development, 2016;*
- *Guidance document No 36 - Article 4(7) exemptions to the environmental objectives, 2017;*
- *Report on common understanding of using mitigation measures for reaching Good Ecological Potential for heavily modified water bodies - Part 2: Impacted by flood protection structures, 2018*

“Hydromorphology” in the Floods Directive

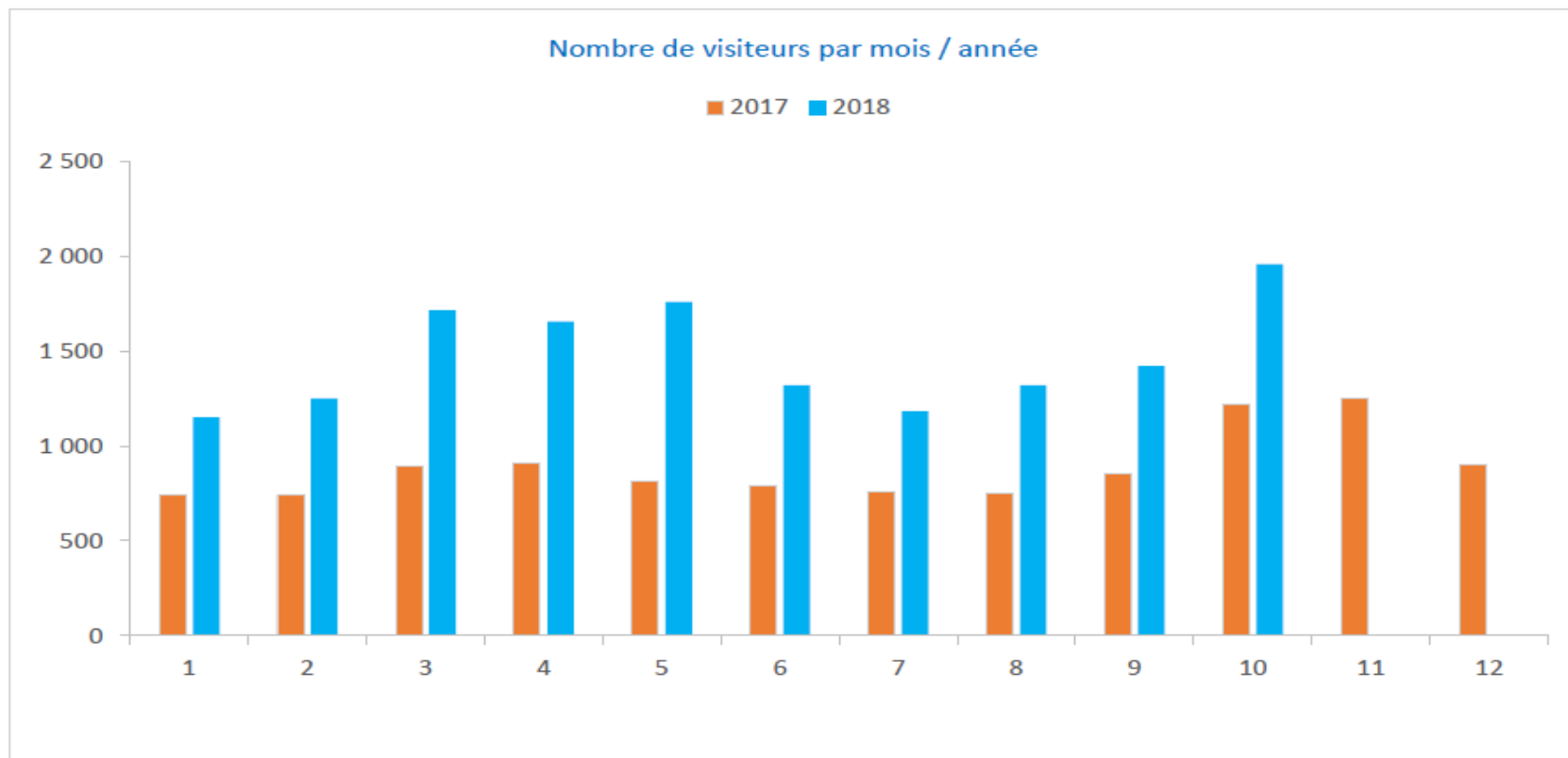
- *Preamble 17: FRMPs and RBMPs should use the mutual potential for synergies and benefits having regard to the environmental objectives of the WFD.*
- *Preamble 19: The WFD provides for a clear and transparent process for addressing uses and impacts, including possible exemptions from the objectives of ‘good status’ or of ‘non-deterioration’.*
- *Article 9 of the FD: Achieve common synergies and benefits having regard to the environmental objectives laid down in Article 4 of the WFD.*

Nature Based Solutions

- *All Member States assessed included the notion of nature based solutions or a subset of these, NWRM, in some or all of their FRMPs.*
- *NWRM make up about 90% of Luxembourg's 813 individual measures.*
- *In Austria NWRMs are ongoing or planned in 96 APSFRs; in 32 APSFRS, NWRMs are already completed; and in over 200 APSFRs, NWRMs are foreseen in the second implementation cycle.*
- *Slovakia reported a total of 520 natural flood management related measures, about 37% of all measures.*
- *Hungary foresees 6 out of 46 measures to be natural flood management related measures.*



NWRMs platform (www.nwrm.eu)



Final conclusions

- *Links between the FD and other environmental Directives: Work in progress;*
- *Flood protection is an important responsibility, there are more than one ways to discharge it;*
- *Art. 4(7) of the WFD is a subject that will remain on the agenda: Substantial work was done already to provide guidance;*
- *"Hydromorphology" is part of the Floods Directive, as it is relevant to good water management (hence also to FRM);*
- *"Nature Based Solutions" are (becoming) mainstream for FRM.*

Thank you!