

Appendix 14.1: Legislation

Table 14.1.1: Relevant European Legislation

Legislation	Objective
European Union (EU)	
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	The primary objective of the WFD is to maintain the “high status” of water bodies where it exists, prevent deterioration in existing status of waters and to achieve at least “good status” in relation to all waters by 2015 (unless there are certain exceptional conditions).
Dangerous Substances Directive (76/464/EEC) *	Regulating potential aquatic pollution by thousands of chemicals already produced in Europe at the time. The Directive covers discharges to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inland coastal waters and groundwater.
Priority Substances Directive (2008/105/EC)	A daughter directive to the Water Framework Directive (on which see above), the Priority Substances Directive sets out Environmental Quality Standards for priority substances and other pollutants. This daughter directive aims to achieve good chemical status of surface waters.
Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)*	This Directive seeks to protect bivalve and gastropod molluscs, including oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams.
Bathing Water Directive (76/1160/EEC)	The Bathing Water Directive (BWD) monitors and assesses 494 bathing waters in England and Wales. These waters are designated to protect bathers from health risks and to protect the waters from sewage pollution. Monitoring is undertaken by the Environment Agency during the bathing season, mid-May to mid-September, for sewage pollution indicators such as coliforms.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	To promote the maintenance of biodiversity in Europe.
Freshwater Fish Directive (2006/44/EC)*	<p>The objective for freshwater fish waters designated under the Freshwater Fish Directive is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect or improve the quality of running or standing freshwaters to enable them to support fish belonging to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Indigenous species offering a natural diversity; or ○ Species the presence of which is judged desirable for water management purposes by the competent authorities of the Member States. <p>This objective will be achieved by meeting the imperative standards and endeavoring to respect the guideline standards of the Freshwater Fish Directive.</p>

* These European Directives will be replaced by the WFD once it is fully implemented.