Recent in the intercalibration and in the Northern GIG

Third Nordic WFD Workshop, Sigtuna
*Harmonisation and realisation of the WFD in the Nordic countries with emphasize on lakes /rivers*
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Ansa Pilke, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
Contents

- Background
- Main objectives
- Second phase
- Progress in the N GIG
Background

- Preparations in the EU for the IC started 2001 in the old WG Intercalibration; 2 guidance documents 2003 - 2004
- Almost immediately Nordic cooperation started – firstly common Nordic water body types 2002 - 2004
- The WFD CIS work included e.g. RefCond group and guidance
- Active phase of first IC 2004 – 2006, extension to 2007
- Prepared by WG A Ecostat since 2004
- Northern GIG, Fennoscandian countries and partly UK and IE
Main objectives of the WFD intercalibration of ecological status

- To compare and harmonise national classification methods of biological quality elements, requirement of the WFD (Annex V)
- To study how reference conditions are defined
- To study how national classification methods are in compliance with the WFD normative definitions
- To set harmonised / intercalibrated criteria for high and good ecological quality
Main objectives of the WFD intercalibration of ecological status 2

Furthermore

- This time also an optional bench-mark for the comparison of classification methods in the EC guidance: it could be H/G or even G/M boundary in case of lack of reference sites - e.g. coastal waters?

- This time coverage of a whole QE is emphasised – e.g. for phytoplankton also composition and blooms – or if a part of a QE, justification for it, e.g. QE aquatic flora

- Comparability of results also emphasised
NMD project report: Development and evaluation of common Nordic freshwater types 2002–2004

Guidance document n.° 10

River and lakes – Typology, reference conditions and classification systems
Geographical IC groups (GIGs) - inland waters
Common Implementation Strategy - Working Group A ECOSTAT

Template for the development of a boundary setting protocol for the purposes of the intercalibration exercise

- Biological metric
  - Descriptor of impact(s) on relevant supporting elements
  - Discontinuities
  - Proceed to Step 5

- Biological metric
  - Descriptor of impact(s) on relevant supporting elements
  - No discontinuities
  - Proceed to Step 6
Second phase of the IC

Guidance of the intercalibration revised by Spring 2010, one annex on comparability still in preparation in Autumn 2010

Timetable, central targets:

- Results of the technical phase, comparison and possible harmonisation of national classification methods should be ready in Feb / March 2011, and included in a GIG QE group final report by May 2011
- After the technical GIGs phase, the WFD committee phase and formal results in a Commission Decision end 2011
Recent in the Northern GIG

Background, old results for inland waters from IC I 2006 - 2007

- Lake phytoplankton – chlorophyll
- Lake macrophytes (except FI in work only, not in results)
- Rivers – macroinvertebrates, general/organic/eutrophication pressure
- Rivers – phytobenthos (diatoms) (except NO)
Recent in the Northern GIG 2

Ongoing work

- Lake phytoplankton – continued, especially phytoplankton composition and blooms
- Lake macrophytes – continued; adding more abundance metrics, e.g. maximum colonisation depth; including the FI national method; HyMo pressure?
- Macroinvertebrates – lake littoral and also rivers / acidification pressure continued; exercises with eutrophication - profundal FI, SE; other countries littoral
- Lake fish – a pilot 2009, continued to further IC

River fish – not in the N GIG, but part of a pan-EU exercise
Recent in the Northern GIG 3

Other QEs - either a cross-GIGs or CB GIG activity has been followed, by N GIG countries or the element or checking old results is still under consideration, no group in the N GIG

- Rivers – macroinvertebrates, general/organic/eutrophication (old results)
- Rivers – phytobenthos (diatoms) (old results)
- Rivers - macrophytes (no earlier intercalibration, CB GIG activity
- Lake phytobenthos (x-GIGs pilot)
- Separate activity of large rivers - x-GIGs
Reference conditions – pressures, land use
Chlorophyll compared to other areas – reference values

Reference values - Common IC types - chlorophyll a (μg/l)

Mdf. Sandra Poikane 2006
Chlorophyll compared to other areas – boundaries

Reference values, H/G and G/M boundaries - Common IC types - chlorophyll a (μg/l)

Mdf. Sandra Poikane 2006
Types, natural conditions, relief ...
...size, ...
Thank you