

## Danish Experiences with the WFD

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## The lizard that lost its tale



## The Danish WFD Law

- ☺ Objective of "good ecological status" by 2015
- ☺ All deadlines repeated
- ☺ Counties are competent authorities, but...
- ☺ Combines implementation of WFD and Natura 2000
  
- ☹ No clear obligation to prevent deterioration
- ☹ No provision for active involvement of the public
- ☹ Fees for handing out background documents

## Odense Pilot River Basin

Conclusions of provisional Article 5 analysis:

“By far the majority of the surface water and much of the groundwater will fail to meet the WFD’s objective of achieving at least good status by 2015”

“Odense Fjord will not achieve good ecological status due to nitrogen and phosphorus loading, primarily from agricultural sources”



## Agreement with Farmers

“Agreement on the WFD - article 5 analysis, environmental objectives and consequences” signed by Environment Minister, Danish Regions and Danish Agriculture:

- The parties agree to establish an exclusive Working Group with the aim of discussing essential questions related to reference conditions, environmental objectives, economic impact assessments etc.
- The parties agree that “the final adoption of environmental objectives in the water districts requires that measures and economic framework conditions are known”



## Draft Regulation on Article 5 Analysis

- ☉ Characterisation of surface waters and groundwater
- ☉ Identification of water bodies
- ☉ Identification of pressures
- ☉ Register of protected areas (not required by art. 5)
  
- ⊗ Establishment of baseline scenarios
- ⊗ Review of the impact of human activities
- ⊗ Risk Assessment
- ⊗ Economic analysis



## EU Water Directors

Rome, November 2003:

- Denmark seriously questions the environmental objectives of the WFD
- Commission invited to prepare discussion paper

Dublin, June 2004:

- Discussion and agreement on “the principles and communication of the results of the first analysis under the WFD”



## Conclusions

Experiences are not good

- Transposition of the WFD is incomplete
- The Danish government - and Danish Agriculture - got scared of the results of Odense PRB
- Since then Denmark has worked to undermine the environmental objectives of the WFD
- The Danish Regulation on Article 5 is incomplete - the lizard has lost its tale

