



LATVIJAS
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Criteria for identifying and designating HMWB

Sigita Šulca

Latvian Environmental, Geology
and Metrology agency
River Basin administration departament

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1 step

The data and information from different Latvian institutions lead to identification of sites, where significant alterations are present: weirs, dams, altered riverbeds and riverbanks, flood protection constructions etc.

Where information was available, their impact on flow dynamics, migration of water species, sediment transport, river profile (depth and width), stream velocity, structure of riverbanks was evaluated. On the basis of monitoring data and expert opinion, status of ecosystems was evaluated.



II and III steps

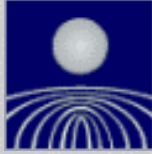
- The following information was used during this step: data about the 3 large hydropower plants, scientific research of the impacts of sea ports on coastal erosion and coastal ecosystems.

Final answer to this question is based on expert opinion.

- Characteristics of natural and modified water bodies were compared, taking into account river continuity, natural river bed, natural water regime (rate of flow, changes of water level, regime of ice coverage etc.).

Evaluation is based on data provided by NGOs, regional environmental boards, scientific institutions, as well as expert opinion.

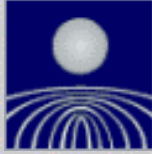
If answer to all above mentioned questions was positive, water body has provisionally been identified as heavily modified. Currently 14 water bodies fall under this category in Latvia



Further activities

Detailed analysis of 2 heavily modified water bodies (reservoir of Kegums hydroelectric power plant and Ventspils port) lead to conclusion that the significance of hydromorphological alterations shall be classified. The following criteria are proposed for further classification:

- Type of hydromorphological alterations;
- Area impacted;
- Nature of modified water body (stable, in transition, stabilisation is impossible);
- Availability of monitoring data;
- Loads that impact this water body;
- Economic significance.



Further activities

Also other criteria may be considered to develop a classification system that suits Latvian conditions. The classification system will enhance analysis of potential heavily modified water bodies and will provide for unified, systematic approach.

To elaborate classification system and to carry out detailed analysis of heavily modified water bodies, it is planned to establish an expert group, which will involve representatives from environmental, economy, transport, energy and other sectors as well as NGOs.



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Thank you for attention

sigita.sulca@vgd.gov.lv