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The WFD 20 Years After—Ecological Status Assessment and Restoration of Aquatic Ecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editor

Twenty years has passed since the WFD was adopted by the European Parliament. Putting ecosystem integrity at the base of management decisions, the way EU Member States have implemented water management has improved dramatically. An enormous number of new ecological assessment methods has been developed, greatly improving the monitoring and assessment of waterbody ecological status, and thousands of European waterbodies have been classified regarding their status, thereby providing a better basis for their restoration. However, the WFD's primary objective, i.e., achievement of good status of Europe's waters, has not yet been accomplished; the results from the second RBMPs show that European aquatic ecosystems remain under pressure from multiple stressors, which affect their functioning, contribute to biodiversity loss, and threaten the long-term delivery of ecosystem services. This Special Issue seeks to summarize and highlight the need for an improvement of the WFD implementation process, particularly focusing on the current practices and future requirements regarding aquatic ecosystems' monitoring, assessment, management, and restoration.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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