

Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Spain and its River Basin Districts



Alexandra Campbell-Ferrari, Esq.
2014-2015 Fulbright Scholar

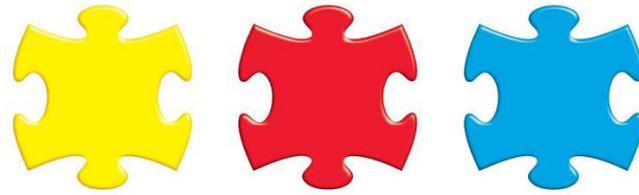
“The purpose of this Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater which...promotes **sustainable** water use based on a long-term protection of available water resources...and thereby contributes to the provision of the sufficient supply of good quality surface water and groundwater as needed for **sustainable**, balanced and equitable water use...”



What *promotes* sustainable water use?



Governance
Science
Money
Behavior



Principles of Sustainable Water Management

1. Adoption of **measures** and **objectives** that adequately protect the waters and associated ecosystem, based on accurate scientific **data** and analysis
2. An effective and transparent **administrative** structure
3. An **economic-financing** regime that promotes the efficient, rational and equitable use of waters
4. Sufficient **monitoring** of quality and quantity measures, with associated accountability measures
5. Active and encouraged **public** participation
6. Consideration of water within the context of the environment; the **interplay** between water, land, species and air.

The Administration of Water Management

def.

Who does **what**, and from **where** does who derive the authority to do what

Autonomous Communities River Basin Districts (RBDs)



Spain's Competent Authorities

Basic Principles:

- State is responsible for managing the Public Water Domain (defined in the Ley de Aguas)
- Intercommunity River Basins: water flows through more than one Autonomous Community; Spanish Const. art. 149
- Intracommunity River Basins: waters forming the river basin are integrally located within one Autonomous Community, Spanish Const. art. 148

Peculiarity

Under the WFD, RBDs are responsible for managing continental, transitional and coastal waters.

Those responsibilities match up within the Intercommunity RBDs, but not the Intracommunity RBDs.

For example, the RBD for Galicia-Costa has the responsibility for managing transitional and coastal waters, but not the authority.

Questions raised, Resolutions

- Where else are there these mismatches?
- How are they dealt with? Are those resolutions effective?

Economic-Financing Regime

def.

How money factors in to **decision-making**

How money is used to **incentivize** better practices, certain behaviors

WFD article re: money

Economic analysis of water use (Art. 5, Annex III)

Recuperation of costs associated with water services (Art. 9)

Recuperation of environmental and resource costs (Art. 9)

Application of polluter-pays principle (Art. 9)

Exemptions from achieving the environmental objectives (Art. 4.4-4.5)

The ability to incentivize better behavior and recuperate costs

- In most cases, municipalities are responsible for the capture, supply, and collection and treatment of wastewater.
- Essentially this means each municipality has a different method for calculating the fee for providing water supply and sanitation, and setting different rates



8118 municipalities

Continued...

Some municipalities:

- Have a fixed rate for all users
- Have a variable rate which depends on consumption
- Have a fixed rate and variable rate which depends on consumption and the # of ppl/home
- Some have a minimum use before any rate charged

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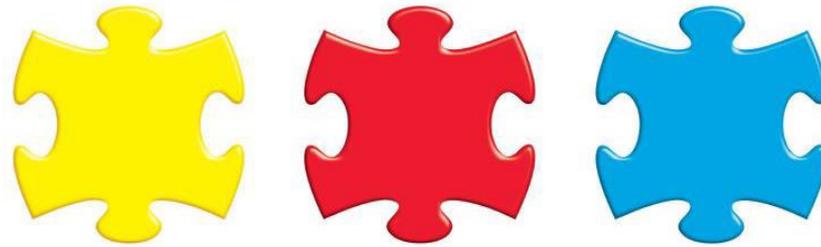
An example in the Tajo:

- A permit for $X \text{ m}^3$ is granted to the Community of Farmers in a specific region
- No monitoring requirements in place per farm
- No way to determine # of m^3 used per farm
- Consequently, no way to incentivize reduced use

Continued...

An example in the Mino-Sil:

- Currently only recover direct costs
- Difficult to value, and therefore recover, environmental costs



Next steps:

- Quantifying and analyzing the differences in rates between municipalities
- Identifying creative methods to incentivize reduced use and ways to recuperate costs
- How to reduce costs on the front end (e.g. GI)
- Clarify how to value and therefore be able to recover environmental and resource costs
- Critically examine the administrative structure