



## 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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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The relevance of water in human development and sustaining life, fuels general and scholarly interest in the world's water resources. A better understanding of all aspects of water and its relation to food supply, energy production, human health, and the functioning of ecosystems is key in managing this precious resource in a sustainable, efficient and equitable manner. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

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