

Integrating Cumulative Effects in Water and Spatial Planning

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Outline

1. CEA context in UK
2. The EU Water Framework Directive
3. River Basin Management Plans
4. Linking CEA of the water environment and spatial planning



UK Guidance and Practice

- *A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive*
CEA in *Appendix 8* – covering assessing secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects.
- Tick box approach in a general environmental effects matrix:
 - Landscape
 - Health
- Boundary issues – plan rather than environmental effect



Cumulative effects on water in spatial planning

- Lack of integrated water policy
 - driven by national flood policies.
- Timing of water and spatial plans not aligned.
- Water cumulative effects rarely considered.
- Development in water stressed areas led to site specific water policies / design guidance.



The EU Water Framework Directive

- European Directive 2000/60/EC
 - protect all waters (rivers, lakes, coastal waters, and groundwaters)
- It will achieve this via:
 - Environmental objectives (Article 4);
 - Introducing river basin planning and River Basin Management Plans;
 - Controlling pollution from all sectors;
 - Participation of all stakeholders.

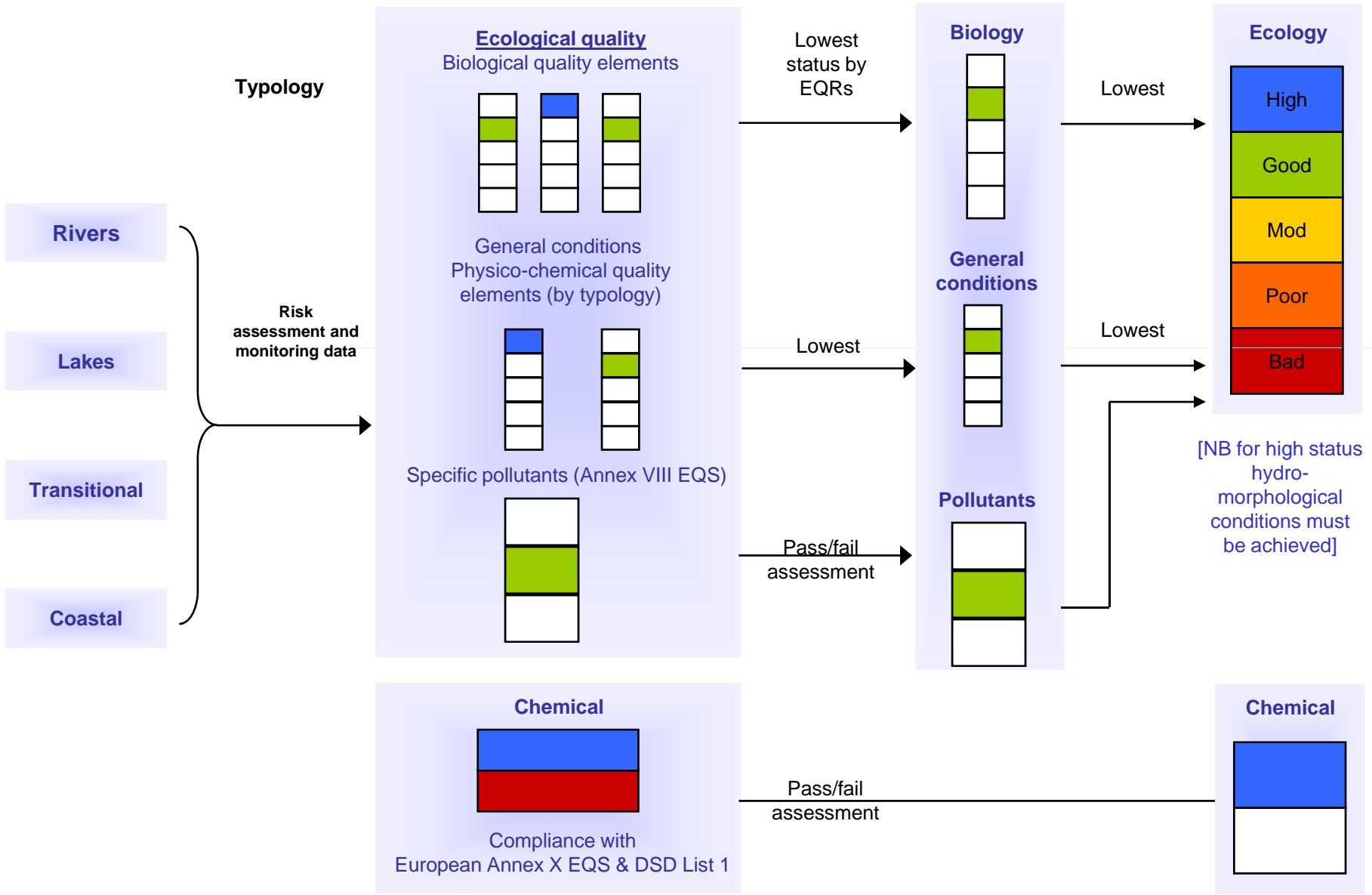


River basin planning is CEA

The river basin planning process:

1. Identifies both the broad significant water management issues in the area and waterbody specific problems.
2. Determines the cause of problems, many of which are the result of complex / cumulative interactions.
3. Defines current status allowing objectives for improvements to be established in each waterbody.



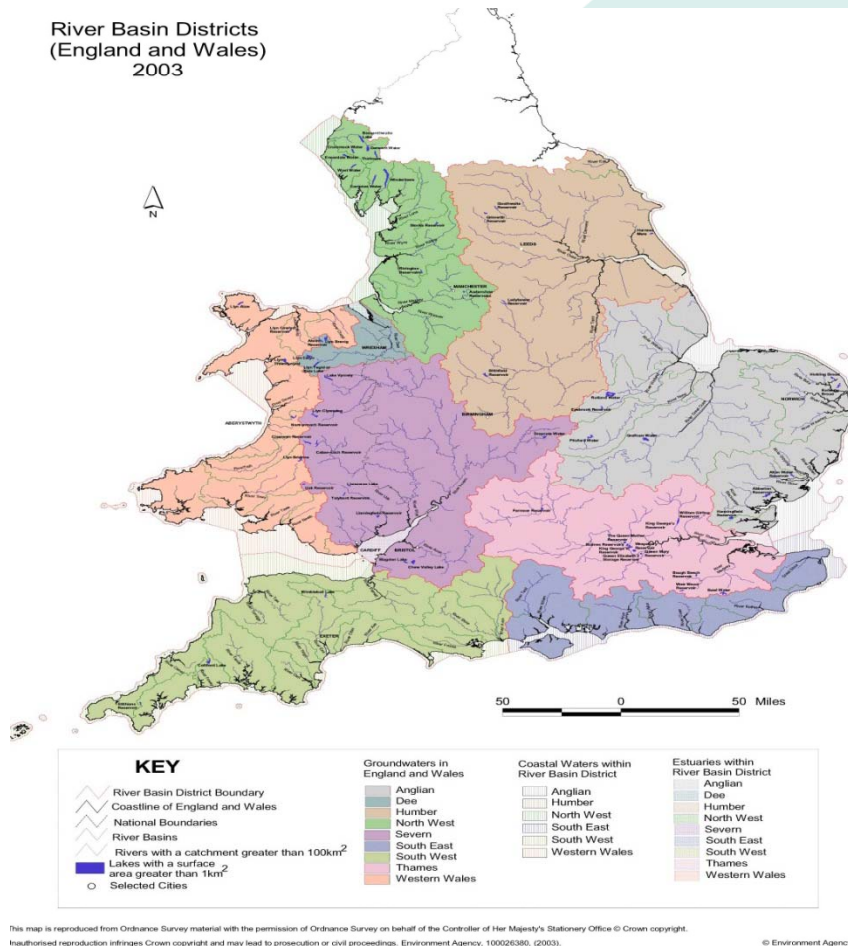


How can River basin Planning assist wider CEA practice?

1. Improve baseline information for CEA of plans and projects.

2. Establishing environmental limits.

3. Identifies cause of complex cumulative effects to water and improvement actions.



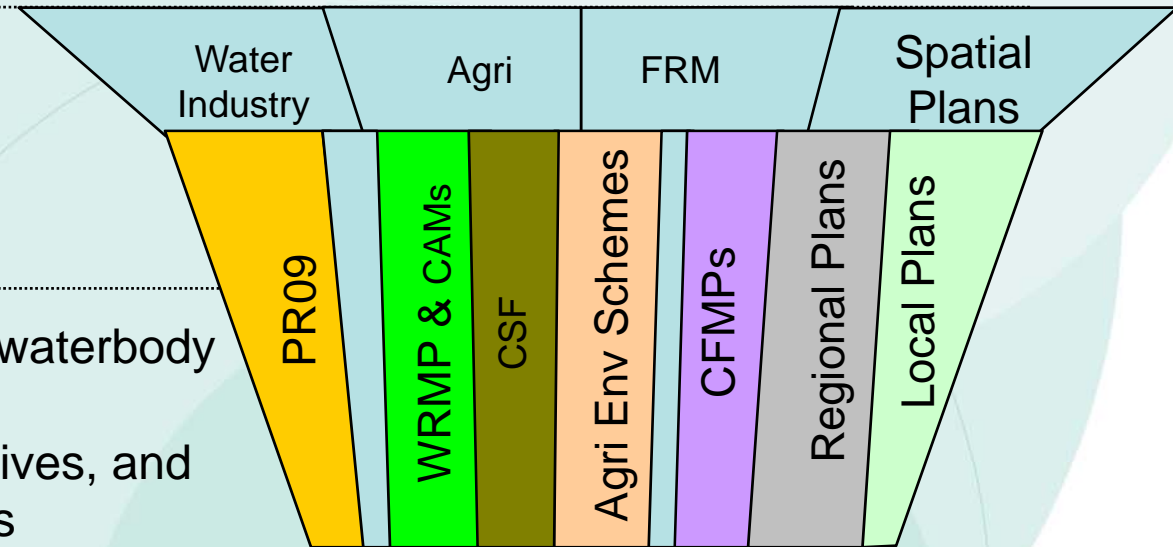
River Basin Management Plans

Actions in the PoM will require partnership working to achieve environmental improvements

1. Initial River Basin Planning



2. Initial national appraisal of problems in water environment and potential actions



3. River Basin specific waterbody appraisal of problems, establishment of objectives, and identify required actions

Pressures on Water Environment



Rivers

Lakes

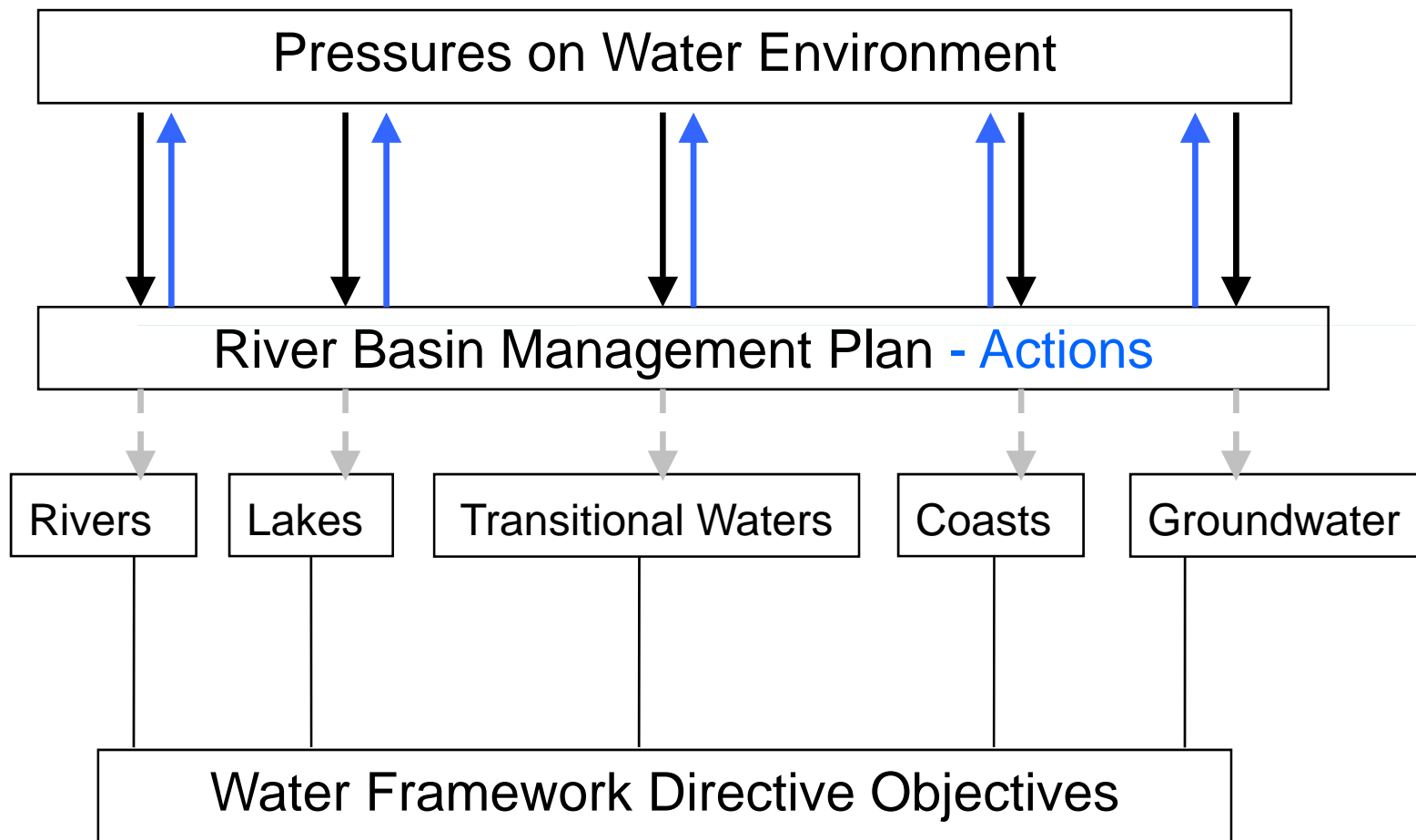
Transitional Waters

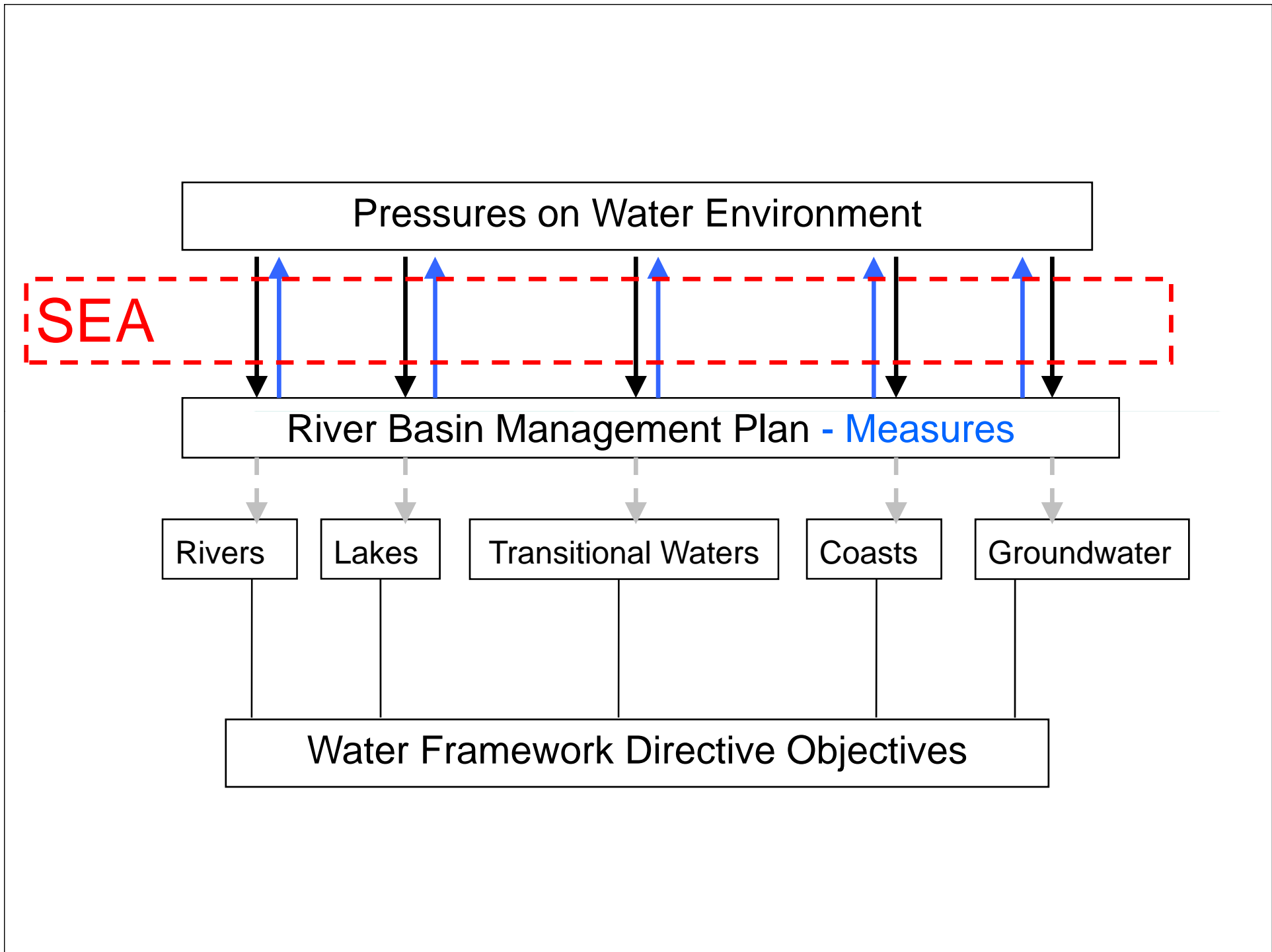
Coasts

Groundwater



Water Framework Directive Objectives





CEA within the SEA (1)

Intra-RBMP Cumulative Effects (within the plan)

- The environmental consequences of the interaction between actions set out in the PoM.
- Scenarios:
 - A. Future state of environment without RBMP (current actions and inevitable future actions),
 - B. Proposed new actions that will go ahead if plan approved
 - C. Further actions that may go ahead if certainty increased



CEA within the SEA (2)

Inter-Plan Cumulative Effect

- The environmental consequences of interactions between the RBMP and other regional plans.
- Four relevant plans selected:
 - Regional Spatial Strategy
 - Regional Economic Strategy
 - Water Company Resource Management Plans
 - Catchment Flood Management Plans
- Opportunity for consultants to select an additional regionally specific plan type for assessment.



Linking the water environment to spatial planning (1)



Discussions and partnership working between different sectors to promote multiple actions to resolve cumulative environmental problems in waterbodies.

Linking the water environment to spatial planning ⁽²⁾

- The Plan & SEA help plan-makers and EA professionals identify cumulative environmental effects (i.e. beyond the plan boundary).
- **But** – delay to realisation as regional and local plans are already well developed.
- Guidance and training will also be needed to change the mindset of planners.



Summary

RBMP improve basis for CEA via:

- Improved baseline for water environment,
- Establishing environmental limits,
- Identifying causes of cumulative environmental effects.

But the plan can have its own cumulative effects
Identified and managed by CEA within its SEA.



Any Questions?

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