European Commission

Connectivity in the Water Framework Directive

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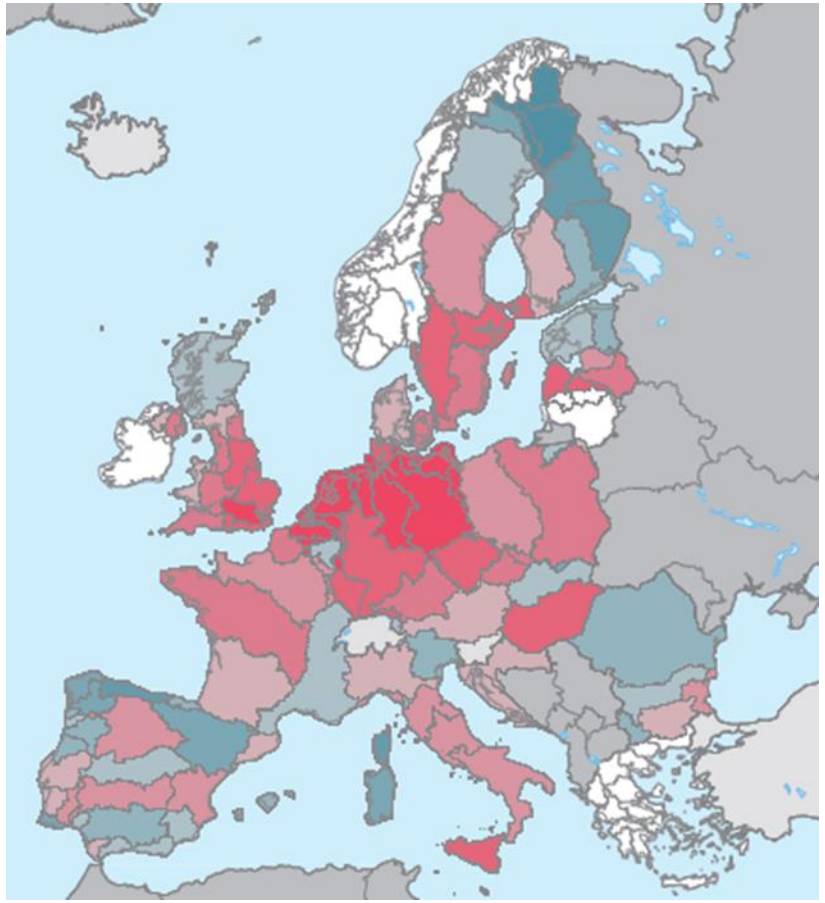
Rivers…what do we have in Europe?

	Member State	Number of water bodies	Total Length/Area	Average Length/Area
Goundwater	25	13 411	43 million km^2	323 km^2
Rivers	25	89 234	**1.2 million km**	13.1 km
Lakes	23	18 165	81 800 km^2	4.5 km^2
Transitional waters	14	782	14 600 km^2	19 km^2
Coastal waters	20	2 835	290 000	102 km^2
Territorial waters	7	46	214 000 km^2	13 400 km^2

State of water & pressures



Main significant pressures on surface water:

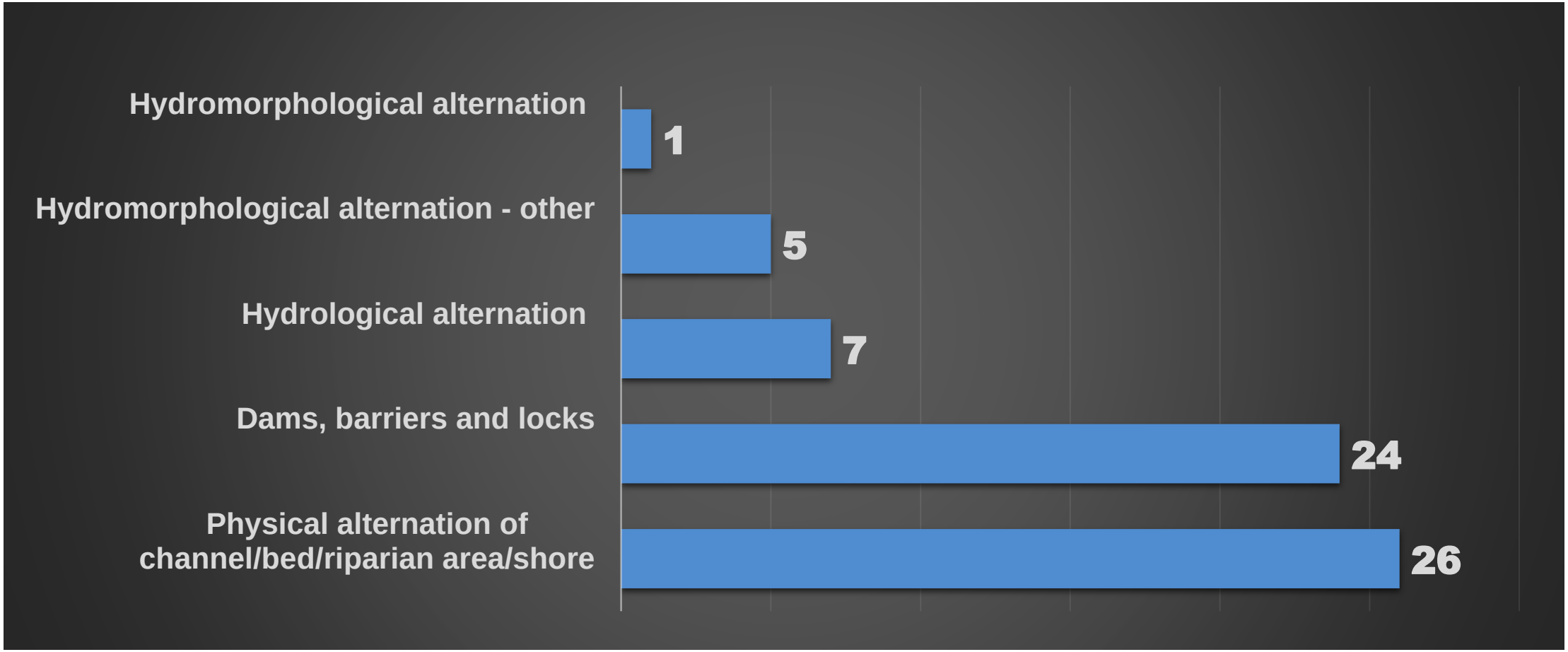
a) hydromorphological pressures (40%)

b) diffuse sources (38%):

- **agriculture, and atmospheric deposition (38%)**
- **mercury, followed by point sources (18%)**
- **water abstraction (7%)**

Role of obstacles

Hydromorphological pressures 2nd RBMPs



WFD and hydromorphology

✓**No further deterioration**

new obstacles only under strict conditions

✓**Achieve good status: 2027 deadline**

WFD and hydromorphology

MEASURES INCLUDE

Removing obstacles, installing fish passages

Reconnecting backwaters and wetlands

Natural water retention measures

WFD and hydromorphology

MEASURES INCLUDE

Managing sediment flow

Restoring natural water flow regimes

Restoring / protecting species populations

WFD and hydromorphology

The WFD requires action in those cases where the hydromorphological pressures affect ecological status and prevent the WFD's objectives from being achieved.

Restore 25,000 free flowing rivers

WHAT'S NEXT

- ❑Building on experience both in Europe and elsewhere
- ❑Definitions very important – need a metric?
- ❑Mapping and prioritisation

  - Complete' mapping?
  - Priorities
    - obsolete obstacles
    - natural value
    - net effect

Restore 25,000 free flowing rivers

WHAT'S NEXT

EU support will continue and should be developed further:

- **science**
- **best practice**
- **finance**
- **benefits**

LIFE 2014-2017: 101 barriers, 3016 km of river

Summary

Hymo – including dams – very significant pressure and Wkey to WFD success

Science, experience, funding is mostly in place and already delivering – but more uptake is possible?

How can the EU improve; where can we support better?

THANK YOU

LET IT FLOW

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