

SUMMARY

Walczykiewicz T., Rataj C. The Water Framework Directive: Geological Aspects of Determining River Water Types.

Chrońmy Przyrodę Ojczyzną (64), 5: 7–27, 2008.

A key Directive of the European Union concerning water protection and specifying water policy is a Directive of the European Parliament and Council of 23 October 2000, known as the Water Framework Directive (WFD – 2000/60/EC). The chief objective of the Water Framework Directive is to achieve good water status by 2015. To achieve this objective, it is necessary to observe the work timetable indicated in the Directive, as well as the methodological guidance contained in the handbooks. The initial task was to determine surface water types from four categories – rivers, lakes, transitional waters, coastal waters. Each of the categories has its own typological system. For the ‘river’ category, types were determined according to the abiotic system A, assuming the necessity of identifying separate water bodies (WB), as well as entering such information about them as: unique code and name, parent river basin code, ecoregion code, water body type, assessment of whether the water body is artificial or heavily modified, assessment of the extent of risk to the achievement of the main objective of the WFD – namely, good water status by 2015.

Obligatory parameters in determining water body types were: size of catchment area, absolute altitude (above sea level), geological category. To determine the water body type, a selected fragment of the water body was analyzed on a numerical map of the hydrographic division of Poland (MPHP), as well as on traditional maps: geological and topographic. Also used were numeric description tables and water body type reference condition tables specially prepared for this purpose. For artificial water bodies, no type determination was made.

In the entire territory of Poland, 26 river types were identified, and within them, 4508 water bodies. Work has begun on establishment of reference conditions for all water body types. This work is to be continued, which could contribute to a reduction in the number of water body types, which in consequence will lead to verification of the number of water body (WB), which will increase efficiency in monitoring of the quantitative and qualitative status of water bodies in Poland.