SUMMARY

Barszczyńska M., Kubacka D. The Water Framework Directive: Significant anthropogenic impacts on river waters of Poland.

Chrońmy Przyrodę Ojczystą (64), 5: 28-42, 2008.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) introduces the concept of 'surface water body', meaning a separate and significant element of surface waters, such as: lake, reservoir, stream, river or canal; portion of a stream, river or canal; transitional waters or stretch of coastal waters. The main objective of the WFD is for Member States to achieve 'good ecological and chemical status' of all surface and ground 'water bodies' by 2015. Implementation of the WFD requires, thus, in the beginning stage, establishment of the current aquatic environment status. This task was realized by order of the Minister of the Environment by a consortium comprised of: the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, the State Geological Institute and the Institute of Environmental Protection.

In the article, we present the results of this work, identifying essential anthropogenic factors influencing surface waters in the socalled aggregated surface water bodies (SCWP), grouping individual surface water bodies. One element of the work was collection of information encompassing various aspects of water management. Also presented are sources of information concerning all categories of surface waters, as well as methods of obtaining and standardizing data of varying provenance. The identification of significant anthropogenic impacts is discussed, including: the manner of development of the area and usage of waters, aspects of the physico-chemical, biological and quantitative status, as well as morphological changes in surface waters. Results are shown for assessment of aggregated water bodies for 2005, as well as prospects for achievement of good water status by 2015. In collecting, integrating, analyzing and visualizing data, use of GIS technology was essential. The result of the work described is the categorization of 263 aggregated water bodies as not at risk, 802 as at risk – 405 of which are at risk only in a hydromorphological sense.