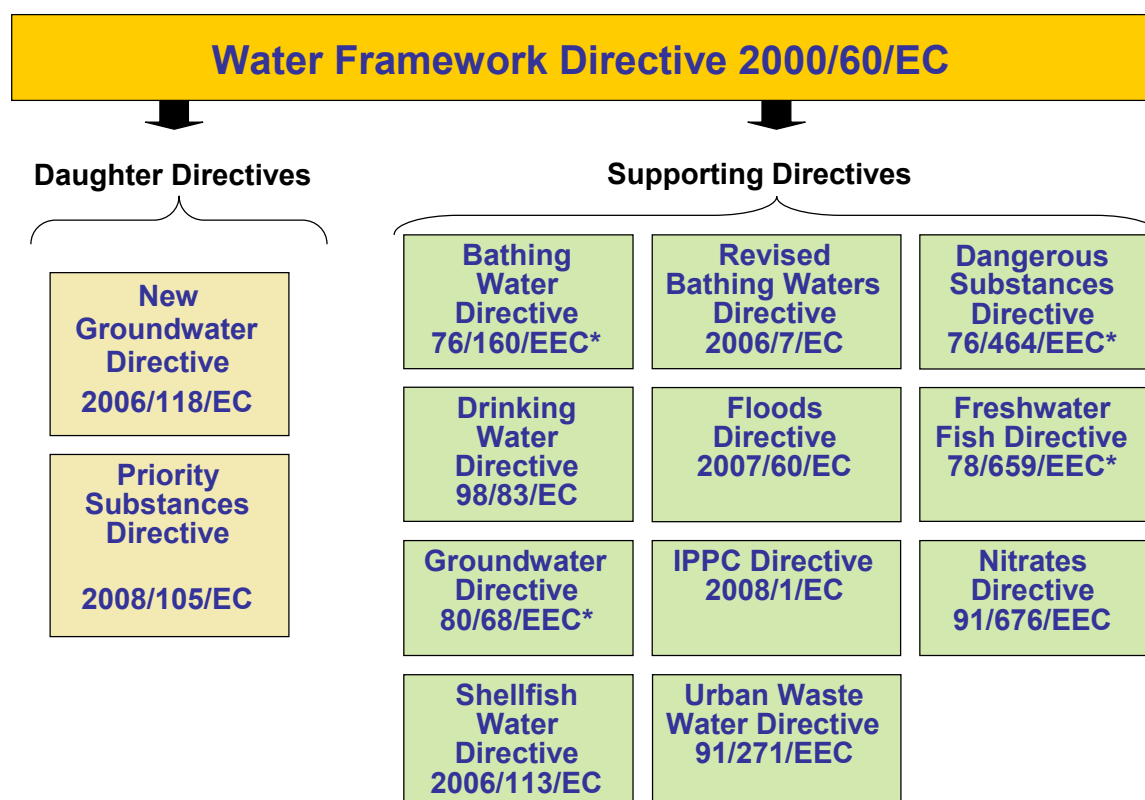


Summary of main current legislation – WATER

The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is the most important piece of European water legislation to emerge in decades. It provides the framework to plan and deliver a better water environment across Europe, by setting ecological and water quality objectives to be met through activities contributed by a number of actions. The directive (also referred to as WFD) requires each European Member State to transpose its requirements into domestic legislation and to ensure compliance with its aims by 2015. The transposition of the Directive into Scottish legislation was via the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 and, in Northern Ireland this was via The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.

In addition to the Water Framework Directive, there are many pieces of legislation that protect the water environment both directly and indirectly. A summary of this legislation is provided in below.



Note: * Directive will be repealed in 2013