

Examples of typical environmental protection objectives relevant to water

Source	Environmental protection objective
European	
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<p>Overarching objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent deterioration in the status of surface water bodies; • Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of surface water with the aim of achieving good surface water status by 2015; • Prevent deterioration of the status of groundwater bodies; • Protect, enhance and restore all bodies of groundwater with the aim of achieving good groundwater status by 2015; • Prevent or limit the input of pollutants to groundwater and reverse any significant and sustained upward trend in the concentration of pollutants in groundwater; • Comply with European wide measures against priority hazardous substances; and • Achieve compliance with any relevant standards and objectives for protected areas.
Urban Waste Water Directive (91/271/EEC)	To protect the environment from the adverse effects of sewage discharges.
Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources; and • To prevent further such pollution.
UK	
Draft Marine Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide for the designation of marine conservation zones which take account of environmental, social and economic criteria; and • To provide measures to prevent activities from damaging sites once designated.
National	
Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To achieve good status of water bodies; • To prevent deterioration in status of water bodies; • To provide a sufficient supply of good quality surface water and groundwater as needed for sustainable, balanced and equitable water use; • To significantly reduce pollution of groundwater; • To protect territorial and other marine waters; and • To achieve the objectives of international agreements.
Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006	To regulate the storage of oil to avoid damage to the environment from oil leaks.
The Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998	To ensure that disposal (and tipping for the purpose of disposal) of List I and II substances to land be subject to a formal system of authorisation.

Notes:

This table provides a framework to illustrate how this guidance could be used.