ECOSTAT nutrient meeting
(18.-19.11.2015)

Session 2 – Working groups 2a and 2b

Analysis of pressure-response relationships

Main findings

- Different boundary values within common types – outliers
- Different approaches used – the reason behind these differences

Approaches

- How to set ecologically relevant boundaries
- How to check whether the boundaries are ecologically relevant
- Solving the issues:
  - Different boundaries and outliers
  - Different approaches which give different results

Approaches

- Scientifically sound – deal with variability and uncertainty
- Should be applied by Member States
- Result – transparent and understandable for non-technical audience

Harmonisation ?

- This does not mean “one single value for all” ?
- Harmonisation = Approaches to set and check boundaries
- Methods should be agreed and applicable (via ‘best practice’ manual)
- Formal deliverable: report on ‘harmonization’

Approaches

- Scientifically sound – deal with variability and uncertainty
- Should be applied by Member States
- Result – transparent and understandable for non-technical audience

How to go forward ?

Task group:

- Scientific team
- MS participation

- MS dealing with checking / setting boundaries
- Take part with their datasets and contribute to development of approaches

Part 1: Relating to pressure-response relationships in general and approaches used by MS

- What kind of pressure-response relationships were used?
- What are the main obstacles for not using pressure-response relationships ?
- What are the main difficulties to using pressure-response relationships ?
- If pressure-response relationships were used, how can the results be interpreted?
- How to deal with uncertainty, particularly for rivers?

Part 2: Relating specifically to the findings of the report on pressure-response relationships

- What is the opinion of the participants on the approaches proposed in the report?
- Can these approaches be used to set nutrient boundaries to “good” biological boundaries?
- Can these approaches be used to check the correspondence of the MS boundaries to “good” biological boundaries?
- Should this work be transferred to coastal, transitional and marine waters and if yes, how?

Part 3: the way forward …

- To establish working group on harmonization ? (developing / testing approaches)
- What additional information do you need from the Steering Group in order to help you develop (and validate) nutrient standards?
- Should we consider the option of setting standard across countries?
- Are you prepared to contribute to and participate in these exercises?