

Policy Reference EPU/03/2020

Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture
Rheynn Chymmltaght, Bee as Eiriny's



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Water Pollution (Standards and Objectives) Scheme 2020

Implementing Coastal Water EQS Policy

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Policy Owner: Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to introduce measures to assist the regulation of The Water Pollution Act 1993 Part 1 further to enactment of the Water Pollution (Objectives & Standards) Scheme 2020 (the 'Scheme').

Whilst standards are outlined in the Scheme this Policy sets out more detailed requirements for the following aspects:

- Monitoring
- Discharge licensing
- Reporting
- Non-Compliance/Investigations

For coastal waters the Department's objective is to 'Pass' the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) specified in Schedule 3 Part 1 of the Scheme. For discharges where the EQS cannot be achieved the Department will take into account the economic and environmental pressures with achieving the standard.

2. Monitoring

Coastal waters have routinely been monitored for a range of parameters (e.g. salinity, nutrients and phytoplankton). Specified monitoring locations or target points are already established and nutrient concentrations are analysed to determine algal or phytoplankton blooms. This is undertaken by the Government Laboratory's Marine Monitoring Officer, who also from time to time has undertaken additional assessment of biota and sediments for contaminants such as heavy metals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). It is anticipated that any additional monitoring or other sampling necessary to support this policy would be undertaken by the Marine Monitoring Officer.

The EPU will monitor all discharges licensed under The Water Pollution Act 1993 Part 1 into Coastal Waters to check compliance with license conditions and the standards outlined in the Scheme.

Additional chemical substances will be monitored if there is considered to be a risk based upon a screening assessment. The following steps will be taken to assess the risk;

- Modelling will be used to indicate the likelihood of coastal EQS exceedances and associated water quality. Further monitoring of coastal waters by DEFA will be conducted if necessary.
- Coastal EQS are to be assessed taking into account the mixing zone;
- The mixing zone for coastal waters is calculated empirically for each discharge location. The size of the mixing zone and the amount of dilution is to be calculated using simple mathematical models in line with the UK methodology.
- Substances which are determined to be above the coastal waters EQS within the mixing zone will be considered to be 'Contaminants of Concern'. A license condition may be placed on these substances to ensure the EQS is not exceeded outside the mixing zone.

3. Discharge Licensing

Discharges of trade effluent and sewage into controlled waters are licensed by EPU. These discharges may influence the marine quality due to the potential increase in nutrient concentrations. Any discharge licence EQS will take into account the mixing zone when determining compliance with the standards.

Discharge licences will be applied to all coastal discharges within the Isle of Man to provide:

- Numeric limits, developed based upon discharges meeting the EQS after mixing. Use of the mixing zone for discharges takes into account dilution and assist with managing the impact of discharges in line with the UK process.

Discharge licenses will be reviewed when;

- there is a significant change in the discharge

- an exceedance in the EQS or license conditions is identified
- To comply with Treaties and international law, which extend to the Isle of Man
- To prevent serious harm to the environment

Reporting

An annual report will be produced by DEFA on the Coastal Water compliance and any monitoring undertaken by the Marine Monitoring Officer. This report will be published on a Government webpage.

4. Non-Compliance/Investigations

Coastal water discharges that cause an exceedance in the EQS or cause concern of serious harm to the environment will be investigated by DEFA to determine a plan of action to improve the water quality. Feasibility of such plans will be assessed for its relevance both technically and economically for decision on go/no-go implementation.

In the event of serious harm to controlled waters such as fish kill enforcement action will be considered in accordance with the Department’s Enforcement Policy.

- All discharges of trade effluent or sewage will be licenced to discharge and provided the effluent falls within specific limits for polluting substances the operator will be deemed to have met the conditions.
- Discharge licences will be kept within tolerable limits in order for coastal water EQS to be met.

5. Version History

Version No.	Date Issued	Description
1	07/10/2020	Original policy document
2	13/01/2023	Reviewed policy, no changes.

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