

Progress on monitoring in Iceland

The pressure situation in Iceland

Only one surface waterbody was evaluated as being in danger of not fulfilling the environmental objectives of the Water framework directive (Tjörnin, urban pressures)

A few water bodies still need further scrutinization

Work on the monitoring programme

Work on the programme stopped in 2014 - 2017 owing to lack of funds

The work has started again and the implementation of the WFD is now sufficiently funded.

It was considered important to catch up lost time save time and start some monitoring right away.

New working strategy

Therefore a new strategy is put into use aiming at beginning monitoring without much delay. Both by establishing a monitoring programme for individual water bodies and by beginning monitoring without a formal monitoring programme present

The partial monitoring programmes and the monitoring without a monitoring programme will as soon as possible be combined in to one monitoring programme for the country as a whole

Monitoring programmes for individual water bodies

A monitoring programme for Lake Mývatn has been issued and taken effect

An identical programme for Lake Þingvallavatn has already taken effect

In both lakes biological and conventional physico-chemical monitoring was already carried out although not in strict accordance with WFD

Monitoring of the new substances

There is no known discharge of or significant pressures from new priority substances in Iceland and only a relatively few of the them have been identified in or around the country (no. 34, 42, 43 and 44)

Monitoring of priority substances

Supplementary monitoring of the new substances has begun in accordance to a separate monitoring programme (15 water bodies).

The monitoring of the older substances is carried out simultaneously, presently without a formal monitoring programme.

The intention is to combine all monitoring of priority substances into the regular monitoring programme for the whole country

The regular monitoring programme

However at this point the regular monitoring programme is not quite ready

The aim is to have it ready and signed before 2021