



UKTAG Classification Scheme for Surface Waters

The UKTAG Classification Scheme for Surface Waters was published by UKTAG in December 2007 and can be found [here](#)

This is the second of a series of reports to the UK administrations setting out UKTAG's recommendations and proposals on how waters should be classified for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive.

Report Scope - This Classification Scheme for Surface Waters covers the general approach for classification of the status of transitional water bodies, coastal water bodies, river water bodies and lake water bodies, including proposals for how classification results for these water bodies should be reported in the UK. It also sets out UKTAG's recommendations on how the information provided through classification should be used in the river basin management planning process.

The first classifications must be published in the 'river basin management plans' at the end of 2009. Classification of all surface water bodies in time to publish maps of their status in these first plans is a considerable challenge. The report makes recommendations on how to ensure that, despite this challenge, the first classification results reflect the best current understanding of the status of the water environment - an understanding which is expected to improve over time as monitoring data, and the scientific techniques used to interpret them, expand and improve.

The UK Administrations and the environment agencies will now consider how the recommendations and proposals contained in the Surface Water Classification Report may be implemented

Previous Report - covering the classification of groundwater bodies has already been published and revised after stakeholder review and can be found [here](#)

Further reports in the series will make recommendations on the classification of surface water bodies designated under the Directive as artificial or heavily modified and on the classification of protected areas. These reports will be published on the UK website in early 2008.



Flood Risk Management Conference 2008

SNIFFER's annual Flood Risk Management Conference is to be held on Tuesday 26 and Wednesday 27 February at the Learning Business and Conference Centre in Dunfermline.

Purpose

- To promote and disseminate new flood risk management research of relevance to Scottish stakeholders and practitioners.
- To provide an opportunity to comment on the new Flooding (Scotland) Bill.

Objectives

- Raise awareness of new policy developments and provide an update on progress since last year's conference;
- Disseminate and promote new FRM research findings, tools, techniques and methodologies;
- Identify research needs for the delivery of the EU Floods Directive in Scotland; and
- Consult with stakeholders on the Flooding (Scotland) Bill.

Delegates will also be visiting the Glendey Flood Management Demonstration Site in Glendevon.

Response to the conference has been overwhelming, and so we are unfortunately not taking any more registrations. However, more information about the day can be found at <http://www.sniffer.org.uk/rise/events.asp>

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Recent Project Summaries

- [Assessment of Environmental Legislative and Associated Guidance Requirements for the Protection of Human Health, \(UKCC02\)](#)
- [Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership: Vision \(SCCIP\)](#)
- [Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership Research Project \(SCCIP\)](#)
- [The Radioactive Substances Act 1993 and Qualified Experts \(UKRSR10\)](#)

Useful links

- [Research Information Service for Flood Risk Management \(RISE\)](#)
- [Water Framework Directive UK TAG](#)
- [WFD Visual](#)
- [WFD Research Database](#)
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UK Climate Change Impacts Partnership - UKCIP08 Familiarisation Workshop



A workshop was held on Jan 22 2008 to show stakeholders how UKCIP08 works and to give them a greater understanding of the products that will be available within the UKCIP08 package. It was attended by 30 stakeholders from a range of organisations in Scotland including The Forestry Commission, SEPA, SNH, Scottish Water, Historic Scotland, RSPB, local authorities and Universities.

It was the first of a series of events being run by UKCIP around the country in advance of the launch of UKCIP09, now scheduled for November 2008.

UKCIP08 is the next package of climate change information for the UK being funded by DEFRA. Work is already well-underway at the Met Office Hadley Centre on the 21st Century Climate Scenarios (2008) i.e. "UKCIP08. For more information please see the dedicated website [here](#).

The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) provides scenarios that show how our climate might change and co-ordinates research on dealing with our future climate – more information can be found at <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/>

IWRM-Net - Water and environmental Era-net futures

IWRM-Net recently invited the water related (CRUE, SPLASH, SNOWMAN) and the wider environmental era-nets (CIRCLE, SKEP, BIODIVERSA) to an informal meeting in Brussels to discuss collaboration and possible common futures. Representatives from the Commission (DG –Environment and DG – Research attended the latter parts of the meeting and discussions were very positive.

Initial discussions centred on a common 'watery' future, yet it soon became clear that issues such as creating joint calls and sharing of information on projects or programmes are common to many Era-nets. The delegates explored these processes with a view to collaborating in the future reducing duplication of effort perhaps in an umbrella ERANET with common administrative procedures and

theme based work packages. One particular area in which a shared future is seen as possible and valuable is in the linking of databases and the group considered this in light of the growth of ERAWATCH. Other areas included the establishment of expertise in programme 'mapping' and developing a science policy interface. With so many issues on the table it seems the time is right for a concerted effort.

The meeting has produced minutes of the issues considered which will be made public soon. SNIFFER led the discussion on the possible science policy interface working closely with DG Environment and options will be published in the near future, along with a number of scoping studies that can be taken to Era-net member organisations for further development.

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY –EUROPEAN RESEARCH FRAMEWORK – A CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE

The URBAN-NET project, coordinated by SNIFFER, is conducting a Europe-wide consultation with stakeholders who have an interest in urban sustainability issues. The aim of this consultation is to secure the UK's input to a European strategic research framework for urban sustainability research. As part of gaining Scottish and UK perspectives and input to this process, SNIFFER is conducting a UK-wide consultation by questionnaire and co-facilitating a work shop with the Scottish Government - the Scottish project partner. The consultation period ends on 1st March.

The workshop: '*Identifying priorities for urban sustainability research in Scotland*' is being held in Edinburgh on **Tuesday 19th February 2008**. It is being officially hosted by the Scottish Government. Members of the research, policy, practitioner and private communities with a keen interest in urban issues are invited to attend. If you are interested to attend this workshop or to contribute to Scotland's input to this process please contact Sandra.Marks@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

If you are interested to contribute to the wider UK consultation or find out more about the project please contact paul@sniffer.org.uk.

A document produced by the project that forms the basis for this consultation is available that introduces the scope of urban sustainability under 15 research themes "*Future Research Areas in the Field of Urban Sustainability*". Briefly, the 15 themes are:

1. Integrated urban management through multi-sector/actor governance
2. Demographic change - opportunities and consequences for cities
3. Competitive urban futures and adaptation to globalisation
4. Shrinking cities
5. Social stability and deprived neighbourhoods
6. Migration and diversity as a challenge and an opportunity
7. Health, quality of life and public spaces

8. Proximity, access, transport and mobility
9. Urban sprawl or compact city – integrated re-use of land
10. Environmental management and social behaviour
11. Housing and urban design in highly differentiated cities
12. Climate change and risk management
13. Energy efficiency and infrastructure management
14. Developing commercial locations and centralised supply areas
15. Heritage, identity, culture, tourism and branding

A major aim of the URBAN-NET project is to increase cooperation and coordination in the field of urban research at the European scale. It is one of the European Research Area family of projects of the 6th Research Framework financed by the European Commission. URBAN-NET is a network of 15 research funding or facilitating organisations in 12 European countries and UN-Habitat. URBAN-NET aims to enhance trans-national research activities through addressing and identifying shared requirements for research and the opening of joint research programmes. Further information is available at www.urban-net.org.

Established in 1994, SNIFFER is a private company and registered charity dedicated to increasing knowledge to protect the environment and improve quality of life. SNIFFER's corporate objectives are:

- the protection, conservation and amelioration of the environment for public benefit, including improved wellbeing and quality of life;
- the facilitation of the active engagement of relevant sectors of society, including government and industry, in the consideration of the environment and sustainable development; and the identification of knowledge gaps, the promotion of research and the dissemination and exchange of knowledge from such research and activities undertaken and advancement of education.



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