WISE WFD protected area spatial data set

Technical Report

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Summary

- 1. This report describes the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Protected Area spatial data set, which is part of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE).
- 2. The WISE WFD Protected Area spatial data set includes:
 - Drinking water protected areas.
 - Designated areas, such as Fish protected areas and Shellfish protected areas.
 - Nitrates vulnerable zones.
 - Urban wastewater sensitive areas.
 - Bathing water protected areas.
- 3. The data source varies according to the type of Protected Area:
 - a. The drinking water protected areas and designated areas were reported to the European Commission during the second River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) reporting process and updated during the third RBMP reporting. The 3rd RBMP reporting is not yet concluded for all countries reporting under WFD.
 - b. The nitrates vulnerable zones were reported to the European Commission under the Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC reporting process, for the reference period 2016-2019.
 - c. The urban wastewater sensitive areas were reported to the European Commission under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) reporting process, for the reference period 2018 and complemented with information reported in previous years (2020, 2022).
 - d. The bathing water protected areas are reported under the Bathing Water Directive (BWD) annual reporting process. The data set includes information reported up to the 2023 season.
- 4. The geometry of protected areas can be reported using polygons, polylines or points. The data set may also contain legacy records for which the geometry is not available.
- 5. The geometry of the spatial objects is published in WGS 84 (urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4326). The geometry of the objects was not edited or corrected. Topological and positional errors may exist. If more than one geometry type was reported for the same protected area, then polygons were preferred to polylines or points, and polylines were preferred to points. If more one geometry of the same type was reported for the same protected area, a geometry aggregate was created which may contain overlapping parts.
- 6. The size of spatial objects was calculated from the projected geometries in ETRS89-LAEA (urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::3035). For objects without proper geometry, the reported size is used if available.
- 7. The following access and use limitations are applicable to the WFD Protected Area data sets:
 - a. The information about drinking water protected areas is not published if the source file in the Central Data Repository (CDR) has been restricted by the Data Provider.
 - b. The use limitations and the access limitations and other constraints set by the Data Providers are described in the metadata files associated with each delivery in CDR.

Data content

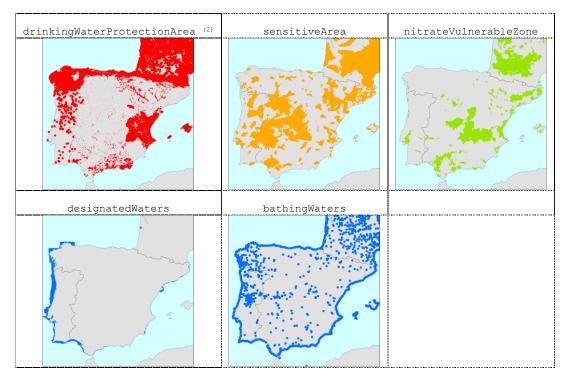
"According to Article 6 and Annex IV of the WFD, Member States shall ensure the establishment of a register or registers of all areas lying within each River Basin District which have been designated as requiring special protection under specific Community legislation for the protection of their surface water and groundwater, or for the conservation of habitats and species directly depending on water, including the protection of Natura 2000 sites and economically significant aquatic species (e.g. shellfish)." (1)

The WFD Protected Area data set contain information reported to the European Commission under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD), Nitrates Directive and Bathing Water Directive (BWD) reporting obligations (see Table 1).

The different types of protected areas can be distinguished using two attributes: **zoneType** and **specialisedZoneType** (see Table 2).

The public data set can be downloaded via the EEA Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).

Table 1. Illustrative images with extracts of the different WFD protected area types, based on version 2.0 of the dataset.



[&]quot;Clarification note in relation to the reporting of spatial data for Water Framework Directive (WFD) protected areas, in the context of the March 2016 reporting of the second River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)"

http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/WFD/WFD_521_2016/GISGuidance/Clarification%20note%20protected%20areas.pdf

See also the "Clarification note in relation to the reporting of spatial data for Water Framework Directive (WFD) protected areas, in the context of the March 2022 reporting of the third River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) 28 April 2022"

https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/WFD/WFD_780_2022/GISGuidance/PA_Clarification_Note.pdf

² Drinking water protected areas are excluded from the public data set if file access was restricted by the Data Providers.

Table 2. Reporting of WFD Protected Areas.

zoneType	specialisedZoneType	Reporting requirements under the WFD (1)
drinkingWaterProtectionArea	Not applicable.	Water bodies identified under WFD Article 7(1) are the only protected areas that are purely designated by WFD, i.e., there is no process to identify and designate these areas under other pieces of legislation, although obviously they are relevant for drinking water supply. The Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC refers in its Monitoring Annex II to supply zones: "A supply zone is a geographically defined area within which water intended for human consumption comes from one or more sources and water quality may be considered as being approximately uniform". Member States may exempt very small supplies <10m3/day or serving <50 persons. Drinking water supplies/supply zones under Directive 98/83/EC are defined for drinking water monitoring purposes referring to uniform quality, and are no geographical areas for which spatial data must be reported. Member States practice varies in the designation of Drinking Water protected areas. The following two broad approaches could be identified in the first RBMP (River Basin Management Plans), for which guidance is provided as regards reporting of spatial data: a) Some Member States follow WFD Article 7 and designate as protected areas the water bodies used for the abstraction of water intended for human consumption (and those intended for such future use). Therefore, there is no different spatial delineation of the protected areas: these are coincident with the WFD water bodies. Therefore, no reporting of spatial data under the WFD is expected in this case. b) Some Member States delineate the part of the water bodies which they consider are protected areas. The spatial extent of the protected areas can therefore be different, typically smaller than WFD water bodies. This is often the case in large groundwater bodies. In this case the Member State is required to report the spatial extent of the protected areas using the GML schema ProtectedArea. As described in the GIS guidance and quoted above, the attribute 'zoneType' should be 'drinkingWaterProtectionArea'.
designatedWaters	<u>freshwaterFishDesignatedWater</u>	The Freshwater Fish Directive (2006/44/EC) was repealed by the WFD in 2013. The WFD Reporting Guidance recalls that "according to the WFD, the level of protection should be maintained through the inclusion of the designated areas as Protected Areas under WFD". In addition, "it is considered that the WFD objective of good ecological status integrates fully the objectives of the Fish Directive". Some Member States maintain the transposing legislation in order to maintain the same level of protection, and still consider this an important element in the protection of water resources. Spatial delineation of the protected areas under the Freshwater Fish Directive may or may not coincide with the delineation of the WFD water bodies. It is therefore possible to report the spatial extent of these protected areas in the GML schema ProtectedArea. As described in the GIS guidance and quoted above, the attribute 'zoneType' should be 'designatedArea' and the attribute 'specialisedZoneType' should be reported as 'freshwaterFishDesignatedWater'. The reporting of this information is optional.
	<u>shellfishDesignatedWater</u>	The Shellfish Directive (2006/113/EC) was repealed by the WFD in 2013. As with the Freshwater Fish Directive, after the repeal, the WFD requires Member States to maintain the same level of protection. However, in the case of the Shellfish Directive, the WFD objective of good ecological status does not integrate fully the objectives of the Shellfish Directive. Indeed, "microbiological standards are essential for the quality of shellfish water", and these are not part of the definition of ecological status. Therefore, "it is requested to report if these standards have been set (or maintained from the shellfish water directive) and if they are met" (WFD Reporting Guidance 2016). Given that the Shellfish Directive is no longer in force and therefore there is no self-standing reporting mechanism to report the protected areas, it is required that the spatial extents of the protected areas are reported under the WFD using the GML schema ProtectedArea. As described in the GIS guidance and quoted above, the attribute 'zoneType' should be 'designatedArea' and the attribute 'specialisedZoneType' should be reported as 'shellfishDesignatedWater'.

zoneType	specialisedZoneType	Reporting requirements under the WFD (1)
<u>nitrateVulnerableZone</u>	Not applicable.	Reporting of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) is done under the Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC reporting process (http://rod.eionet.europa.eu/obligations/106). [] The definition of the reporting requirements for NVZs does not include a unique ID for each zone (http://dd.eionet.europa.eu/tables/7762). The attribute ZoneID is optional and the guidance does not provide a standardised syntax for the ID. [] If the Member State applies a 'whole territory' approach for the Nitrates Directive, it should not report protected areas under the WFD. In any case, no reporting of spatial data for NVZs is expected under the WFD.
<u>sensitive Area</u>	<u>catchmentOfSensitiveArea</u>	Reporting of spatial extent of sensitive areas is done through the regular reporting under the Urban Waste Water Directive 91/271/EEC (http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/UWWTD). [] Sensitive areas are identified through a unique ID (attribute rcaCode in table ReceivingAreasSAMain).
sensitiveArea	<u>less Sensitive Area</u>	Reporting of spatial extent of sensitive areas is done through the regular
<u>batningwaters</u>		(http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/UWWTD). [] Sensitive areas are
	transitional Sensitive Area	identified through a unique ID (attribute rcaCode in table ReceivingAreasSAMain).
	<u>lakeSensitiveArea</u>	The annual reporting under Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC (http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/BWD) requires the identification of
	riverSensitiveArea bathing waters by providing a point (longitude a	bathing waters by providing a point (longitude and latitude). As optional element, the WFD code and name of the surface water body and the River
	<u>coastalBathingWater</u>	Basin District information are provided for each bathing water site (see http://dd.eionet.europa.eu/tables/10086).
<u>bathingWaters</u>	transitionalBathingWater	The annual reporting under Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC
	<u>lakeBathingWater</u>	 (http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/BWD) requires the identification of bathing waters by providing a point (longitude and latitude). As optional
	<u>riverBathingWater</u>	element, the WFD code and name of the surface water body and the River Basin District information are provided for each bathing water site (see http://dd.eionet.europa.eu/tables/10086).

Data model

The data sets follow the WISE spatial data model described in the WISE GIS guidance, available at https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/WFD/WFD 780 2022/GISGuidance/WISE GIS Guidance.pdf

Table 3 lists the attributes that are present in the dataset, but not in the reported data. These attributes store information related to quality control and/or simplify the use of the data.

Table 3. Additional fields present in the shapefiles: cYear, country, lat, lon, statusCode, statusDate, statusRemarks and qcCheck.

Field name	Description
cYear	Integer field containing the value of the reference year when the information was last reported (e.g. 2021 for nitrates vulnerable zones, 2008 to 2020 for bathing waters, 2012 to 2018 for urban waste water sensitive areas, 2016 for drinking water protected areas and designated waters).
country	Two-letter ISO code of the country (ISO 3166 alpha-2), except for Greece and the United Kingdom, for which the abbreviations EL and UK are used.
lat	Latitude, in decimal degrees, of an arbitrary point located within the geometry of the object (if available)
lon	Longitude, in decimal degrees, of an arbitrary point located within the geometry of the object (if available)
statusCode	Status code of the thematic identifier in the WISE register (refer to <u>Status</u> for further information).
statusDate	Date of reference for the status code. If available, the reporting date is used. Otherwise, the date when the data was made available for publication is used.
statusRemarks	Operational information. Contains information about the reason the data is to be excluded from the public data sets (e.g. Natura2000 sites or RAMSAR sites or nitrates vulnerable zones that were reported under WFD2016) or about changes made by the Data Processor (e.g. for bathing water data or nitrates vulnerable zones) or about the source used for non-spatial attributes (e.g. for sensitive areas).
qcCheck	Operational information. Additional information about quality issues detected in the data or ancillary information for data processing purposes.

Data processing

Table 4. Structure and content of the data set depending on the data source.

geometry shape r r r r r r r inspireIdLocalId localId r i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	(2) (d (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d) (d)
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nameText r i r r	-
nameLanguage nameTxtLan r i r r	-
designationPeriodBegin r i r r	-
designationPeriodEnd desigEnd r i r/d r/	d
zoneType zoneType r d r/d r/	d
specialisedZoneType spZoneType r d r/d r/	d
relatedZoneIdentifier rZoneId i i r/	'd (7)
relatedZoneIdentifierScheme rZoneIdSch i i r/	d
legalBasisName r/d d d	1
legalBasisLink r/d d d	1
legalBasisLevel r/d d d	1
sizeValue d/r d d i	(8)
sizeUom sizeUoM d/r d d i	i (8)
link link r i r	
Additional attributes cYear d d d d	1
countryCode d d d	ı
confidentialityStatus d d d	d (9)
lat d d d	1
lon d d d	1
statusCode d d d	1
statusDate d d d	1
statusRemarks d d d d	1
qcCheck d d d	1

- $(1) \quad \text{No geometric or topological error correction was performed. Geometry aggregates were created if required.}$
- (2) In the absence of a reported value and for internal data management purposes, the *inspireldLocalId* value was set to the original national identifier of the spatial object.
- (3) In the absence of a reported value and for internal data management purposes, the *inspireldVersionId* value was set to 'yyyymmdd', based on the CDR delivery date, if available.
- (4) In the absence of a reported value and for internal data management purposes, the beginLifespanVersion value was set to 'yyyy-mm-dd', based on the CDR delivery date.
- (5) Where applicable, the information was consolidated using information reported in non-spatial data.
- (6) In the absence of a reported value and for internal data management purposes, the nameTextInternational was set to the nameText value.
- (7) For the BWD dataset, the relatedZone has set to the corresponding WFD surface water body, where it could be determined.
- (8) Where possible, the size (area/length) of the spatial objects was derived from the geometry.
- (9) The confidentiality status was set to 'N' (not for publication) in the following cases: drinking water protected areas reported in CDR files where public assess was restricted by the data provider.

Table 4 describes the structure and the source of the information included in the data set, according to the notation explained in Table 5. The first column of Table 4 contains the element name in the WISE GML files. The second column contains the field name in the *shapefile*: due to the limitations of the *shapefile* format, it has a maximum of 10 characters.

Table 5 describes the different data processing options in the production of the European reference data sets. See Table 4 for the information applicable to each attribute in the data set.

Table 5. Data processing and data source precedence (see also Table 4).

Notation	Description
r	The spatial data set contains the value reported by the Data Provider (if available).
d	The spatial data set contains a value derived from other data reported by the Data Provider. For example, the size was derived from the geometry.
i	Not applicable, i.e., the source spatial data set does not contain a given field value.
r/d	The value reported by the Data Provider (if available) takes precedence over derived values.
d/r	The derived value (if it can be calculated) takes precedence over the reported value.

Drinking water protected areas and designated areas

- The drinking water protected areas and designated areas were reported to the European Commission in the second River Basin Management Plans reporting (henceforth WFD2016). The EU Member States, except Finland and Slovakia, have reported protected areas under WFD2016. Iceland and Norway have reported other spatial data, but not protected areas.
- Updates to the WFD2016 were reported to the European Commission in the third River Basin Management Plans reporting (henceforth WFD2022). Only the latest CDR delivery per Data Provider, is included in the data set, for deliveries technically approved until 2023-06-20.
- The spatial data files were reported as GML files and were subject to automated quality control upon delivery, automated harvest, and version-control management.
- No geometric or topological error correction was performed. Basic automated editing of string values (uppercasing, trimming, removal of invalid characters or values) was performed.
- In accordance to the European Commission's Clarification on the reporting of spatial data for protected areas ⁽¹⁾, only objects with zoneType in ('drinkingWaterProtectionArea','designatedWaters') were included.
- The public dataset excludes protected areas marked for 'deletion' by the Data Provider (i.e. if they are no longer designated as protected areas).
- The publicly available dataset excludes drinking area protected areas, if the Data Provider restricted access to the file delivered in the CDR.

Nitrates vulnerable zones

- The nitrates vulnerable zones were reported to the European Commission under the Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC reporting process, for the reference period 2016-2019.
- The Nitrates2016 files were processed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and made available for inclusion in this dataset in 2021-06-17. The JRC maintains a web service with the nitrates vulnerable zones ⁽³⁾.
- According to the European Commission implementation report ⁽⁴⁾ "When establishing the nitrates vulnerable zones, the Member States may, instead of designating specific zones, opt to apply an action programme throughout the entire agricultural land. Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, the Region of Flanders and Northern Ireland have followed this approach."
- For the 11 EU Member States that apply Article 3(5) of the Nitrates Directive across their entire agricultural land, the dataset does not include spatial information. For the remaining 17 EU Member States, the dataset includes a single aggregated polygon per country.
- The data pertaining to Croatia, Greece and Portugal was reported in the reference period 2012-2015.
- No geometric or topological error correction was performed.
- For the purposes of inclusion in the dataset, each country polygon was given an identifier, formed by the concatenation of the country code with the suffix 'NVZ'.

Urban wastewater sensitive zones

- The urban wastewater sensitive areas were reported to the European Commission under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC reporting process, for the reference period 2020 (henceforth UWWTD2020). The data was complemented with spatial information reported in previous years (UWWTD2018, UWWTD2016, UWWTD2014, UWWTD2010) or under WFD2016. The UWWTD2020 information was reported by the EU Member States, Iceland, and Norway, between 2021-12-01 and 2022-06-30.
- The UWWTD2020 spatial data files were processed by the EEA and European Topic Centre Inland, Coastal and Marine waters (ETC/ICM) and made available for inclusion in this dataset in 2023-02-15. The ETC/ICM also prepared a web service with available information on implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. (5).
- The sensitive areas reported in the UWWTD data ⁽⁶⁾ were included in the dataset: some objects have statusCode = 'experimental' due to issues in the identifier syntax, or collision with other protected area codes some objects have statusCode = 'deprecated' based on the data ⁽⁷⁾.
- If the geometry of the object was missing in UWWTD2020, the UWWTD2018, UWWTD2016, the UWWTD2014, UWWTD2010 or WFD2016 deliveries were used. For some objects, there is no available geometry.
- If duplicates were detected in the dataset, the following criteria were applied: a) polygons were preferred to polylines; b) geometries with the same dimension were aggregated, without any further processing; c)

³ https://water.jrc.ec.europa.eu/arcgis/rest/services/Nitrates/NvzReporting2015/MapServer

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-nitrates/pdf/nitrates_directive_implementation_report.pdf

⁵ https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/rest/services/UWWTD/UWWT_WM_2019/MapServer

⁶ http://dd.eionet.europa.eu/datasets/latest/UWWTDArt15/tables/ReceivingAreasSAMain

⁷ http://dd.eionet.europa.eu/datasets/latest/UWWTDArt15/tables/ReceivingAreasSALSAPredecessor

catchments with the same code as sensitive areas were ignored (i.e. only the sensitive area was kept in the dataset).

- Information about the designation period was extracted from the ReceivingAreasSAMain table and ReceivingAreasSALSAPredecessor table.
- Dates that could not be converted to the ISO date format (yyyy-mm-dd) were set to '9999-12-31'.
- The UWWTD2020 information was reported by the EU-27 Member States and Norway, between 2021-12-01 and 2022-06-30.
- The UWWTD2016 information was reported by the EU-28 Member States and Iceland, between 2018 06 20 and 2019-05-20. There is no delivery available for Norway and Switzerland. The same criteria used for the UWWTD2018 processing was applied to the UWWTD2016 spatial and tabular data.
- The UWWTD2014 information was reported by the EU-28 Member States, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland between 2016-06-29 and 2017-07-07. The same criteria used for the UWWTD2018 processing was applied to the UWWTD2014 spatial and tabular data.
- The UWWTD2012 information was reported published in 2015-02-19. The spatial data for UWWTD2012 was not published: the UWWTD2010 data was used instead. The same criteria used for the UWWTD2018 processing was applied. All objects were marked with statusCode = 'deprecated' because they have not been reported since 2012. (8)

Bathing water protected areas

- The bathing water protected areas are reported to the European Commission under the annual Bathing Water Directive reporting process. The data set includes information reported up to the 2023 season.
- The BWD data files were processed by the ETC ICM and made available for inclusion in this dataset as of 2024-02-15. The ETC ICM also prepared a web service with most recent available information on Bathing Water location and their water quality ⁽⁹⁾.
- The BWD data includes bathing water protected areas in the EU-28 Member States. It also includes information on the location of bathing waters in Switzerland, Albania and Montenegro.

As requested in Article 5(1) of the UWWTD, EU Member States have to identify sensitive areas according to the criteria laid down in Annex II of the UWWTD and to review this identification at least every four years according to Article 5(6).

See https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-

 $[\]underline{urbanwaste/implementation/pdf/9th\%20Technical\%20assessment\%20of\%20information\%20on\%20the\%20implementation\%20of\%20Council\%20Directive\%2091-271-EEC.pdf$

https://water.discomap.eea.europa.eu/arcgis/rest/services/BathingWater/BathingWater Dyna WM/MapServer

Data policy

Per agreement between the European Commission and the Data Providers, after consultation with the EU Water Directors on 2017-04-11 ⁽¹⁰⁾, and as communicated to the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) Working Group Data and Information Sharing (WG DIS) on 2017-06-07, the following constraints are applicable:

- The information about drinking water monitoring sites (DWD or DRI) will not be made publicly available due to safety and security concerns. The same applies to any monitoring site identified by Data Providers as "not for publication".
- By extension, the drinking water protected areas reported in CDR files where public assess was restricted by the Data Providers is not made publicly available.

The 2017-06-07 agreement supplements the "WISE Reporting Arrangements" dated 2007-03-01, which define the conditions applicable to the European Commission (EC) and the European Environmental Agency (EEA).

EEA standard re-use policy: unless otherwise indicated, re-use of content on the EEA website for commercial or non-commercial purposes is permitted free of charge, provided that the source is acknowledged (http://www.eea.europa.eu/legal/copyright). Copyright holder: European Environment Agency (EEA).

Please refer to the legal notice (http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/legalnotice) for information on access and re-use of CDR data sets. For the CDR data sets reported under WFD2016 and WFD2022 a summary of the metadata is described in Table 6.

Table 6. Fields present in CDR_metadata.txt file.

Field name	Description
cYear	Integer field containing the value 2016 in the data sets pertaining to WFD2016, and the value 2022 in the data sets pertaining to WFD2022.
countryCode	Two-letter ISO code of the country (ISO 3166 alpha-2), except for Greece and the United Kingdom, for which the abbreviations EL and UK are used.
dataset	Applicable WISE WFD reference spatial data set.
reportingDate	Date when the envelope containing the spatial data file was delivered in CDR.
envURL	URL of the envelope containing the spatial data file.
metadataURL	URL of the spatial metadata file.
fileURL	URL of the spatial data file.
isRestricted	Public access to the file (0) or restricted access to the file (1)
title	CDR data set title or data set title in the spatial metadata file, if reported.
abstract	Abstract in the spatial metadata file, if reported.
useLimitation	Use limitation(s) in the spatial metadata file, if reported.
accessConstraints	Access constraints(s) in the spatial metadata file, if reported.
otherConstraints	Other constraints(s) in the spatial metadata data file, if reported.

¹⁰ https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/420decec-d487-4d7b-84d3-b9eb8af281f6/Note_publication%20of%20data%20reported%20in%20WISE_final.docx

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- WFD Reporting Guidance 2022 Final draft 6.2. 2023-06-01.
 https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/WFD/WFD 715 2022/Guidance%20documents/WFD%20Descriptive%20Reporting%20Guidance.pdf
- Clarification note in relation to the reporting of spatial data for Water Framework Directive (WFD) protected areas, in the context of the March 2016 reporting of the second River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)
 http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/WFD/WFD 521 2016/GISGuidance/Clarification%20note%20prot ected%20areas.pdf
- Clarification note in relation to the reporting of spatial data for Water Framework Directive (WFD) protected areas, in the context of the March 2022 reporting of the third River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) 28 April 2022
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