



The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators

You are cordially invited to join the Water Conservators' September Webinar

Water Framework Directive Economics 25 Years On: From Promise To Practice – The Case For Reform

Tuesday 23rd September 2025 6.00pm to 7.15pm

Presented by Dr Jonathan Fisher
Jonathan Fisher Environmental Economics



About this Webinar

This webinar will present a review of the economic provisions of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) by an informal group of independent European water economists, who in 2000 worked together to develop the Wateco Guidance for the economic analysis for the WFD. It documents their 25 years practical experience with WFD implementation.

Jonathan will first provide the historical context to the WFD from water policies in the 1980s. He will then set out the economic provisions of the WFD, which was the first EU Directive to incorporate economic analysis and instruments. This will be followed by a SWOT analysis of the implementation of the WFD's economic provision that provides the basis for recommending specific refinements of the WFD, which can hopefully support water policy reforms. For the EU this could inform the EC Water Resilience Strategy and for England and Wales can support the findings and recommendations of the Cunliffe Independent Water Commission.

Learn more about the Water Conservators at <https://www.waterconservators.org/>



About the Speaker

Jonathan is an environmental economist with 50 years' experience of delivering economic analyses of most environmental issues. He was the Department of Environment's economic adviser on climate change for the UK's first climate change action plan and the establishment of the IPCC. He worked at the OECD's Environment Directorate and also at HM Treasury. For the last 25 years he has focused on water. He participated in the Group of European water economists who prepared the Wateco Guidance for implementation of the WFD. He was the Environment Agency's economics manager responsible for water and flood risk management.



Since retiring from the EA in 2014, he has worked as a freelance environmental economics consultant on water studies in Armenia and Turkey and Romania's flood risk management plan and now the economic impacts of sea level rise and storm surge in St Lucia. He has recently responded to recent consultations on water – including the call for evidence by the Cunliffe Commission on water and Defra's consultations on flood risk management funding and land use allocation. Jonathan has a BSc in economics and accountancy from Bristol University and a PhD in environmental economics from Leicester University.

Register For This Webinar

To attend this webinar, you will first need to register via the link below to Eventbrite. Attendance is free, there is no charge to attend. You will then receive a return email from Eventbrite with the details to join the webinar via zoom. You need to keep those details to join the webinar. Any problems contact rob.casey1@hotmail.com at least 24 hours before the start of the webinar.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1652891355539?aff=odtdtcreator>