



*Note of comments on the Water and Marine theme of the Red Tape Challenge, posted on Red Tape Challenge website on 12 April 2012.*

I am commenting on behalf of the UK Environmental Law Association. Our aims and activities are explained on our website, [www.ukela.org](http://www.ukela.org)

Environmental laws should protect the environment and human health from harm. Laws that do so successfully should not be scrapped. In many instances such laws implement EU law, so are necessary to avoid breaching our European obligations and consequent costly infraction proceedings.

Regulation that is failing to deliver these beneficial outcomes should be reviewed and reformed to ensure better, more effective protection of the environment; not scrapped completely.

UKELA recognises the benefits in reviewing the law to ensure it is efficient and effective at delivering good environmental outcomes. We also recognise that there are some areas of environmental legislation that are not well integrated and lack coherence. UKELA currently has a project researching this in some depth. The research has examined four areas of law, including legislation regulating water quality and water resources. The detailed Interim Report is available here: <http://www.ukela.org/rte.asp?id=43> The final report is due to be published on May 23, together with reports of consultations with UKELA's members and business users of environmental legislation.

UKELA recommends these reports to Defra personnel responsible for water legislation. They identify a number of specific instances of problems with water legislation, as well as more general coherence and integration problems. The final report will make some general recommendations. The Convenors of the Water Working Party are happy to meet with Defra to discuss this important piece of work. More detailed work will need to be done to develop solutions to each particular problem, which should be consulted on a case-by-case basis to ensure that proper account is taken of all the evidence, experience and expertise.

UK Environmental Law Association: making the law work for a better environment

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