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#SHOWTHELOVE2025

UK LAWS PROTECTING OUR RIVERS— THE LIFEBLOOD OF OUR ECOSYSTEMS





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THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (WFD) (2000)

What is it?

An EU law (still influencing UK policy) aiming to improve water quality and protect river ecosystems.

- Requires rivers to reach “good ecological status”
- Regulates water pollution & abstraction
- Encourages habitat restoration & sustainable water use





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THE ENVIRONMENT ACT (2021)

**The UK's most recent
environmental law!**

- Introduces legal targets for reducing water pollution
- Tackles sewage discharges into rivers
- Strengthens monitoring of water companies & river health

Did you know? Water companies dumped sewage into UK rivers more than 300,000 times in 2022!





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THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT (1981)

**Protecting river
wildlife.**

Makes it illegal to
pollute or damage
habitats of protected
species like:

- Otters
- Atlantic salmon
- Kingfishers

Helps preserve
wetlands & riverbanks,
vital for biodiversity





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THE FISHERIES ACT (2020)

Sustainable fishing & river conservation

- Requires sustainable fishery management in UK waters
- Regulates river fishing to prevent overfishing
- Protects spawning grounds & fish migration routes





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THE AGRICULTURAL TRANSITION PLAN (2021- 2027)

Farming & river health

- Aims to reduce farm pollution in rivers (fertilizers, pesticides)
- Supports sustainable farming practices to protect water quality
- Encourages rewilding & river restoration projects

Did you know? Farming runoff is a major cause of river pollution in the UK!





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**Rivers are
crucial for
biodiversity,
drinking water,
and climate
resilience.
Protecting
them is
essential!**

