

Environmental Quality Standards derivation in the context of the European Water Framework Directive

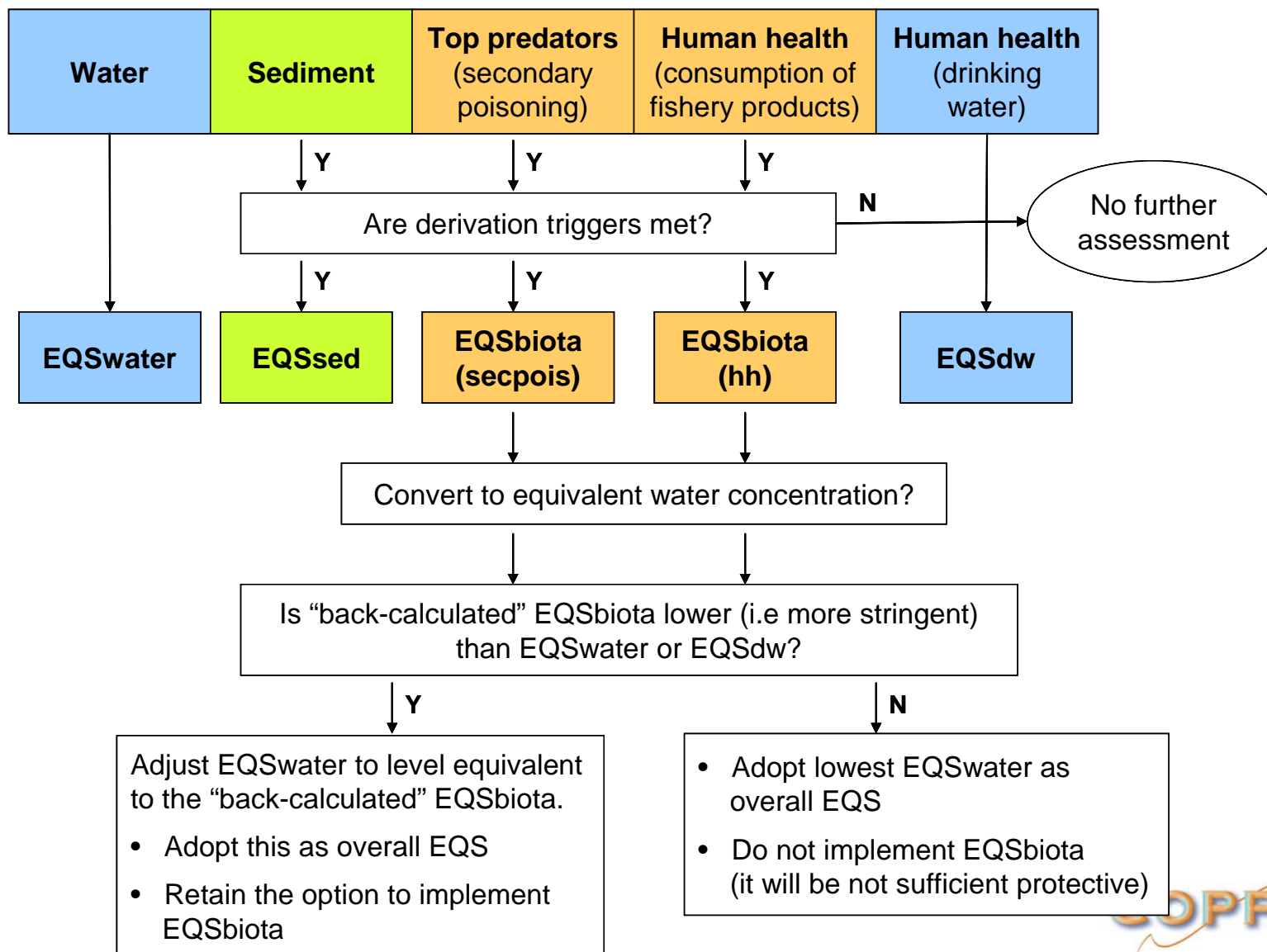
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Katrien Delbeke
ECI

Mandate, status

- **An expert group co-ordinated by the Joint Research Centre is currently finalizing a technical guidance document for practitioners focusing on the steps needed to derive workable and realistic EQS.**
- **The expert group focuses on the steps required for deriving EQS for water, sediment, biota and metals.**
 - **For metals, the focus is on the integration of the science developed in the RAs (how to deal with metal bioavailability and metal background levels) into the WFD**
- **The guidance will be finalized within a few months**

Scope of the guidance



Triggers setting EQS for water and biota

A case-by-case evaluation of the possibility of dietary toxicity is required:

- Information on metal mode of action and homeostatic (internal regulation) controls
- Information on essentiality
- Information on biomagnification (BMF).
- Information on major toxicities i.e. whether main risks are through direct toxicity to pelagic organisms or secondary poisoning.

If the balance of evidence points to a risk of secondary poisoning then an assessment for a need of EQS-biota is required.