



The Aquatic Environment – Voluntary measures, an *environmental* *guarantee* and a *second opinion*

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The nitrogen effort is based on farmers' voluntary contributions and an environmental guarantee is introduced with respect to the collective measures. Furthermore, the basis for determining the necessary level of nitrogen effort is to be evaluated.

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- The agreement on a green transition of the agricultural sector includes measures that will reduce the nitrogen discharge to coastal waters by approx. 10,800 tonnes in 2027. The nitrogen effort is based on voluntary contributions from farmers.
- For technical purposes, funding is allocated to allow a potential reduction in nitrogen emissions to coastal water bodies by 6,500 tonnes through targeted regulatory measures and 1,500 tonnes through the voluntary collective nitrogen measures.
- An environmental guarantee is introduced. Every second year, a stocktaking of the ongoing rollout of the collective measures will be carried out. The guarantee implies that if the presupposed reduction level from the voluntary collective nitrogen measures cannot be achieved, regulatory measures will be implemented with financial compensation of the farmers. The implementation of the environmental guarantee will be discussed between the parties of the agreement based on a briefing from the government. If the collective nitrogen measures deliver a larger or smaller reduction than what was presupposed, regulatory measures may be adjusted in response. The parties of the agreement will discuss additional funding if it is necessary to adjust the nitrogen efforts.
- Before the agreement will be revisited in 2023 or 2024 an evaluation (a *second opinion*) will be carried out to examine the basis for determining the necessary level of reduction of nitrogen discharge to coastal waters.
- 249 million DKK (approx. 33 million euro) will be allocated to initiate the development of a new regulatory model, etc.
- The parties behind the agreement will revisit the agreement in 2023 or 2024 to ensure that the nitrogen efforts are in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
- The nitrogen efforts also have beneficial effects on climate gas emissions. It is estimated that the efforts will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 0.31 million tonnes of CO₂e in 2025 and 0.64 million tonnes of CO₂e in 2030.



Photo Credit: Danish Environmental Protection Agency