



A problem structuring approach to transdisciplinarity

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Transdisciplinary research is seen as a solution to ensuring research is used in policy practice. This paper explores how a lens of policy problem structuring (Hoppe 2010) offers an opportunity to productively combine insights from policy science and environmental science on research use to explain how processes of political and scientific problem solving co-constitute choices made for concrete actions in policy implementation. Policy scientists have diagnosed such so-called implementation deficits in environmental governance as due to insufficient attention to the complexity of local institutional and political contexts (e.g. Liefferink et al. 2011, Jordan & Huitema 2014), while environmental scientists point at the structural complexity and unpredictability of environmental systems as a major source of implementation problems (e.g. Voulvoulis et al. 2017). While each of these research domains has therefore made their own analysis of implementation deficits, they rarely inform each other. The WFD will be used to illustrate the usefulness of a problem structuring lens.