

Oifigí Cathartha,
Dún Garbhán,
Co. Phort Láirge.

Civic Offices,
Dungarvan,
Co. Waterford.

Date: Oct 17 2017

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION

We wish to give you information and provide you with the opportunity to make comment on the Draft River Basin Management Plan (RMBP) as it concerns Waterford.

What is the River Basin Management Plan?

The aim of the RBM Plan is to bring improvements to water quality in rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waterbodies, as required under EU and national legislation. The next RBMP will run from 2018 to 2021.

Following extensive public consultation and technical input during 2017, the draft RBM Plan is at an advanced stage and this is the final consultation stage before finalisation of the plan in December.

What is the Waterford situation?

There are 39 waterbodies in Waterford (out of a total of 126) that currently do not meet required standards and that need better management. Following an assessment process, eight 'Areas for Priority Action' were identified in Waterford. These areas are listed on the table below.

What does the prioritisation mean for people living within the catchments?

This is a new approach – a collaboration between public bodies, private sector and Irish citizens to improve and protect our waters for all.

1. In partnership with local communities there will be focused surveys by Local Authorities and public agencies to improve water quality.
2. Where necessary further investigations to understand the problems and identify solutions may be required.
3. Collaboration, knowledge transfer and support will be key.
4. Focused measures where available and appropriate through range of schemes including GLAS, Forestry initiatives, and Locally led schemes.
5. Increased community engagement and support (Local Authorities Water Communities Office LAWCO)

For catchments not on the priority list – the basic measures already in place still apply (e.g., Discharge licensing, Good Agricultural Practice Regulations etc).

What we would like you to do

Please consider the proposed action areas and if you believe that a waterbody you are familiar with should be added to the list of areas for action, please let us know by filling out a feedback form on page 4. The information you provide will be “stress tested” against the selection criteria following scientific best practice and if it meets these criteria it will be considered for inclusion in the Areas for Action agreed list. The deadline for submissions is Oct 31st.

Where can you get more information?

You are most welcome to attend the information stands at the customer service desks at:

Civic Offices, Davitt’s Quay, Dungarvan, on Friday Oct 20th 1-3pm

Baileys New Street, Waterford City, on Monday Oct 23rd 1-3pm.

The website www.catchments.ie also provides full information on the plan and the underlying European and national legislation.

WATERFORD RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR ACTION

Recommended Areas for Action	Reason for selection
Glenaboy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test case for diffuse urban issues. • Building on existing work by IFI. • Headwater tributary to the main channel of the Bridge (Blackwater) • One deteriorated water body.
Licky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failing to meet protected area objectives for Freshwater Pearl Mussel (19 of 27 catchments of S.I. 296 2009). • Building on existing work by Inland Fisheries Ireland. • Heritage: St Declan's trail crosses the river Licky. • One deteriorated water body.
Clodiagh (Portlaw)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headwaters of the Clodiagh (Portlaw). • The only water body in the subcatchment that is less than Good status. • Not meeting protected area objective for Freshwater Pearl Mussel habitat (19 of 27 catchments of S.I. 296 2009). • Potential pilot project in an area with a high number of derogation farms.
Johns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer term challenge. • Discharges into the Middle Suir Estuary which is a Nutrient Sensitive Area that is not meeting its protected area objective. • Upstream of estuary where locals have reported mussel die off. • Building on planned Drainage Area Plan for Waterford city. • Building on upcoming biodiversity audit that Waterford County Council are funding. • Active community group with an interest in invasive species.
Tay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharges into popular bathing area (Stradbally) • Discharges into an important sea bass fishery • One deteriorated High Ecological Status objective water body. • One potential 'quick win'.
Colligan-Bricky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One deteriorated water body that is discharging into Colligan estuary (moderate status). • One Poor status water body that is discharging into Bricky estuary, an estuary where macroalgae is increasing. • Opportunity to build on existing knowledge of Inland Fisheries Ireland and Irish Water regarding two unlicensed discharges from pumping stations at Moate and Ballynagaul in Killongford_010 into Dungarvan Harbour shellfish area. • Important fisheries (sea trout, sea bass, oyster industry). • Important for birds (SPA). • Active CLAMs (coordinated local aquaculture management) group in Newry. • Important habitat for natural oyster beds.
Dunhill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on work completed by Waterford County Council. • Discharges into green coast bathing area. • Potential to coordinate with recent work: Integrated Constructed Wetland development, community work to naturalise stream and biodiversity study completed by Irish Water. • One deteriorated water body.
Waterford Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterford Harbour Shellfish area has recently downgraded. Locals have commented on die off of the local mussel population. • Building on planned Irish Water works at Duncannon, Arthurstown, Ballyhack). • Building on completed and ongoing work by Wexford County Council. • Discharges into designated bathing area (Duncannon). • Important habitats, including the second largest Honeycomb coral habitat in Europe and wild shellfish fisheries.

- FEEDBACK FORM

First Name		Surname	
Email		Telephone	
Address		Sector/Group/Affiliation	

These recommended Areas for Action under the River Basin Management Plan 2018- 2021 have been selected through an assessment process following scientific best practice by the Environmental Protection Agency, Local Authorities and a wide range of public bodies.

Additional resources to target these areas for action will support the ongoing activities of Local Authorities, public bodies and communities working on a catchment scale for the protection and improvement of our natural waters.

If you believe a waterbody that you are familiar with should be added to the list of areas for action, please let us know by completing the form below.

1. Waterbody name _____
2. Location and County _____
3. Reason(s) why you believe the waterbody should be considered for inclusion in the list of Areas for Action.

Please return completed forms directly to your Community Water Officer:

Ms Ann Phelan, Local Authority Waters and Communities Office, Civic Office, Emmet Street, Clonmel, Co Tipperary. aphelan@lawco.ie For further assistance call 0761 06 5262.

Deadline for receipt of feedback forms is October 31st.