

North Eastern Draft River Basin Management Plan

Record of Consultation and Participation

December 2008

Record of Consultation and Participation

North Eastern River Basin District

As a requirement of Article 14 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), it is necessary to encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of the WFD, in particular in relation to the production, review and updating of River Basin Management Plans. This background document summarises the steps taken nationally and within the North Eastern District to ensure that the development of the draft River Basin Management Plan has been produced through consultation and engagement with interested parties. The steps are summarised in three sections on:

- Consultation;
- Stakeholder Engagement; and
- Public access to information.

As part of the final plan, the updated Record of Consultation and Participation will set out the consultation measures undertaken for this draft River Basin Management Plan and identify the changes that have been made to the plan as a result of the public consultation process.

1.0 Consultations

Table 1.0 outlines the consultations on Water Framework Directive that have been undertaken nationally and in the North Eastern River Basin District and the key outcomes arising from the consultations to ensure that the draft River Basin Management Plan has been produced through consultation and engagement with interested parties.

Table 1.0 Consultations undertaken nationally and in the North Eastern River Basin District

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
Consultations		
<p>Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland</p> <p>This consultation paper outlined the Directive's provisions and invited views on the key issues as they affected Northern Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was published on the Department of the Environment's website (www.doeni.gov.uk) in March 2002. The document was circulated as per the Department's consultation list, and was made available in hard-copy, free of charge, from the Department of the Environment, River House, Belfast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This consultation was held during the period 29th March 2002 – 28th June 2002. A summary of the responses was published within the 2003 consultation paper, Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland – Proposals for Legislation.
<p>Managing Our Shared Waters</p> <p>A Joint North/South Consultation Paper on International River Basin Districts and Administrative Arrangements for Implementation of the EC Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</p> <p>This consultation paper outlined the arrangements being proposed in relation to International River Basin Districts shared with the Republic of Ireland, and sought interested parties views on these proposals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document was published on the Environment and Heritage Service's website (now the Northern Ireland Environment Agency from the 1st July 2008) and on the Department of the Environment website (www.doeni.gov.uk) in March 2003. The document can be accessed from (http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/themes/riv_bsn_mngt_plng.htm). The document was circulated as per the Department's consultation list, and was made available in hard-copy, free of charge, from the Department of the Environment River House, Belfast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This consultation was held during the period 1st March 2003 – 30th May 2003. A summary of the responses was published within the 2003 consultation paper, Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland – Proposals for Legislation.
<p>Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland – Proposals for Legislation</p> <p>This consultation paper provided a summary and analysis of the responses to the previous 2 consultations and proposed legislation for the transposition of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document was published on the Department of the Environment website (www.doeni.gov.uk) in September 2003. The document was circulated as per the Department's consultation list, and was made available in hard-copy, free of charge, from the Department of the Environment, River House, Belfast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This consultation was held during the period 1st September 2003 – 24th November 2003. Transposing legislation was made on the 22nd December 2003.

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<p>Water Framework Directive Summary Report of the Characteristics and Impact Analysis Required by Article 5, Northern Ireland</p> <p>This report outlined the environmental characterisation of surface waters and groundwaters, and included identification and description according to specific type. It provided a detailed picture of the present and future state of water bodies and the plants and animals they support. It also included an identification of pressures and impacts on the water environment, and an economic analysis of water use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stakeholder review of the draft Article 5 Characterisation Report was completed during October 2004. Key stakeholders were contacted to review the draft outputs from the pressure and impact assessments. • The final document was published on the Environment and Heritage Service website (now NIEA) in March 2005. • The document can be found on the NIEA website at (http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/characterisation.htm) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main purpose of the Summary Characterisation Report was to identify water bodies that are perceived to be "at risk" or "not at risk" of achieving good status. • The initial characterisation report informed the targeting of monitoring towards water bodies that are at the greatest risk of failing to meet their stated objectives. • Outputs also contributed to the setting of environmental objectives and provided a starting point for the design of the Programme of Measures.
<p>UKTAG Report: UK Environmental Standards and Conditions (Phase 1) SR1-2006</p> <p>This draft report detailed the environmental standards and conditions for water quality for rivers, lakes and transitional and coastal waters; water flow for rivers, water levels for rivers and lakes; and systems for assessing the physical structure and condition of the beds and banks of rivers (i.e. morphology).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document was published on the UKTAG website (www.wfduk.org) in February 2006. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This consultation was held during the period 2nd February 2006 – 25th April 2006. • A summary of responses received and the final report were published on the UKTAG website (www.wfduk.org) in September 2006.
<p>Programme and Timetable for the Production of River Basin Management Plans</p> <p>This document outlined the proposed work programme, key deliverables and deadlines towards production of River Basin Management Plans, and a statement of the consultation measures to be taken in relation to stakeholders and members of the public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document was published on the Department of the Environment website (http://www.doeni.gov.uk/wfd_work_programme_timetable-2.pdf) on 15th December 2006. • The document was circulated as per the Department's consultation list, and was made available in hard-copy, free of charge, from Department of the Environment, River House, Belfast. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statutory consultation was held during the period 15th December 2006 – 15th June 2007.

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<p>‘Water Matters – Have Your Say!’ North Eastern River Basin District</p> <p>The document identified and summarised the significant water management issues in the North Eastern River Basin District. An outline of the current and proposed measures for dealing with the recorded issues was also included.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document was published on the Northern Ireland Environment Agency website (http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/significant_water_management_issues.htm) and on the Department of the Environment website (www.doeni.gov.uk) on 22nd of June 2007 and was made available in hard copy, free of charge, from NIEA, Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn. • Links to the electronic copy of the document were posted on the Northern Ireland Environment Link website (www.nienvironmentlink.org) and in the Ulster Farmers Union journal (www.ufuni.org). • Copies were distributed widely (See Appendix I for further details). • Copies were made available to all those attending the Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings. • On request documents were also made available in the Irish language. • Summary leaflets were produced and issued with all invitations to the “Water Matters – Have Your Say” meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statutory consultation was held during the period 22nd June 2007 – 22nd December 2007. • Hard copies of the reports were made available in hard copy, free of charge, from NIEA, Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn. • Three Catchment Stakeholder meetings were held within the North Eastern District to discuss significant water management issues identified in the Water Matters booklets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belfast Lough and Lagan (26th September 2007) - Bush and Glens (14th November 2007) - Strangford and Lecale (28th November 2007) <p>Comments at these meetings were recorded and included in a digest of comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A digest of comments and submissions received and responses to them was published on the Northern Ireland Environment Agency website in May 2008 (http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/significant_water_management_issues.htm).

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<p>UKTAG Report: UK Environmental Standards and Conditions (Phase 2) SR1-2007</p> <p>Phase 2 consisted of 3 draft reports on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed UK Groundwater Classification Framework (comprising chemical and quantitative classification); • the proposed environmental standards for Specific Pollutants; and • the remaining proposed surface water environmental standards and conditions to support healthy communities of aquatic plants and animals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document was published on the UKTAG website (www.wfduk.org) in June 2007. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This consultation was held during the period 25th June 2007 – 8th August 2007. • A summary of responses received and the final report were published on the UKTAG website (www.wfduk.org).
<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures Scoping Report North Eastern River Basin District</p> <p>River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures are required to be assessed under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) to identify the wider effects of the River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures on the environment. The document establishes the scope of works involved and level of detail to be considered for the Environmental Assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This document was published online on the North Eastern River Basin District website in August 2008. This can be accessed through the NIEA website (http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/strategic_environmental_assessment-water.htm) • The Scoping Report was distributed to the statutory body for the North Eastern RBD, the Department of the Environment – Northern Ireland Environment Agency in October 2007. • It was also considered best practice to include a number of relevant non-statutory consultees in the scoping process to encourage their feedback on the proposed scope of works (NI Interdepartmental Working Group, NI Stakeholder Forum, NI Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments from the consultation on the Scoping Report were noted and included in the final version of the Scoping Report. • Suitable responses from the consultation were incorporated in the SEA Environmental Report for the North Eastern District which can be found at www.ni-environment.gov.uk/wfd.

2.0 Stakeholder engagement

There has been considerable stakeholder engagement nationally and within the river basin district. A series of public consultation evenings were held in 2007 to discuss the significant water management issues outlined in the 'Water Matters – Have Your Say!' report. National and local stakeholder engagement is presented in table 2.0 below.

Table 2.0 Stakeholder engagement in Northern Ireland and in the North Eastern River Basin District.

Groups	Details of Events	Key Outcomes
Stakeholder Engagement		
<p>Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Meetings</p> <p>Stakeholder meetings were organised in 2004, 2005 and 2006 to raise awareness of the Water Framework Directive, outline participation requirements of the Directive and determine the level of stakeholder participation required.</p>	<p>Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Conference, 4th October 2004</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Raise awareness of the Water Framework Directive, with an introduction to characterisation, pressures and impacts analysis, economic analysis and North/South co-ordination. <p>Workshop, 14th April 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Outline the participation requirements in the Directive and determine what level of participation each stakeholder feels is required. Establish and agree a remit for a Northern Ireland wide Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum. <p>Workshop, 2nd October 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective: Update stakeholders on ongoing Water Framework Directive implementation activities, discuss stakeholder participation through local-level groups, and explore local-level significant water management issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations were made on characterisation, pressures and impacts analysis, economic analysis and North / South co-ordination. Question and answer sessions enabled stakeholder comments / perspectives to be recorded. Terms of reference for a Northern Ireland Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum were established and the NI WFD Stakeholder Forum was established in June 2005. Presentations and break-out sessions focused on discussing the Lower Foyle as a model for catchment stakeholder groups, and significant water management issues at a local level. Feedback from the discussion groups fed into the development of Significant Water Management Issues reports for publication in June 2007. NIEA (EHS at the time) undertook to establish the remaining Catchment Stakeholder Groups in 2007.

Groups	Details of Events	Key Outcomes
<p>Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum</p> <p>Membership of the Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum covers a wide range of interests, including the environment, industry, agriculture and conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum is led by the Planning and Environmental Policy Group, Department of the Environment. The first meeting was held on 30th June 2005, and 13 meetings have been held to date, on a quarterly basis, including a public event held on the 2nd October 2006 (see above). Main topics of discussion have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Public Administration; - Significant Water Management Issues; - Classification and environmental standards; - Catchment Stakeholder Groups; - Production of draft River Basin Management Plans; - Strategic Environmental Assessment; and - Objective setting and Programme of Measures. A list of organisations that are represented on the forum is available in Appendix II. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes are published on the Department of the Environment (www.doeni.gov.uk) and NIEA (http://www.niea.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_participation_stakeholder_forum.htm) websites. The information collected through the stakeholder forum will continue to inform the development of the River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures.
<p>Catchment Stakeholder Group Meetings – North Eastern River Basin District</p> <p>Catchment Stakeholder Groups comprise representatives of major local and regional stakeholder sectors/groups, and relevant Government agencies, brought together to support and encourage a joint approach to identifying and solving catchment scale water quality management issues which supports implementation of the Water Framework Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 3 Catchment Stakeholder Groups within the North Eastern River Basin District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bush and Glens - Belfast Lough and Lagan - Strangford Lough and Lecale Initial meetings were held during October and November 2007 (see section above) to discuss the 'Water Matters – Have Your Say!' document, and to record comments for incorporation in a Significant Water Management Issues digest. Follow up meetings were held during March and April and October and November 2008 to discuss local water management issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments directly contributed to the development of draft River Basin Management Plans. Many of the issues raised are being taken forward through the Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings or by NIEA Catchment Officers.
<p>Projects Aiming to Improve Aquatic Resources</p> <p>This is an initiative to collate information on work being carried out by Non-Governmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This exercise started on the 12th March 2008 and is ongoing. Non-Governmental Organisations and voluntary groups are asked to fill out project information forms available from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIEA have developed a register of information on all projects received to date. Relevant information received will be included in

Organisations and voluntary groups to improve the water environment.	http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_partic/pairs.htm in order to help NIEA gather information on activities being carried out to enhance and protect the water environment.	the draft river basin management plans as examples of work that is being carried out locally.
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3.0 Public Access to information

It is necessary to ensure that stakeholders and the public have access to information they need to understand and comment on the development of the River Basin Management Plan. Significant efforts have been made to make information on the Water Framework Directive and the river basin planning process easily accessible to the public. The following table outlines the methods of dissemination that have been used to facilitate understanding of the Water Framework Directive and encourage participation in the development of draft River Basin Management Plans.

Table 4.0 Public access to information

Means of dissemination	Activities
Public access to information	
NIEA Website	Water Framework Directive and River Basin Planning pages were set up on the NIEA website. The NIEA website includes information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The register of protected areas; • The characterisation process, the Article 5 Characterisation report and Article 5 Economic Analysis report; • Monitoring and classification including information on the Aquatic Monitoring Strategy 2006-2007 and WFD monitoring plans; • Environmental standards stakeholder review; • Significant Water Management Issues ('Water Matters – Have your say!') reports and the Significant Water Management Issues Digest of Comments; and • Public participation including information on the National Stakeholder Forum, Catchment Stakeholder Groups.
NIEA properties	Consultation documents and leaflets were made available from reception areas and information centres in NIEA properties.
Use of public libraries	'Water Matters – Have your say!' reports were made available at Northern Ireland Civil Service Departmental libraries, copies were also provided to all public libraries in Northern Ireland and for legal deposit to the British Library.
Direct mail outs	'Water Matters – Have your say!' reports were mailed directly to stakeholders (See Appendix I for further details).

Means of dissemination	Activities
Public notices	<p>Notices of publication of the consultation documents ‘Implementing the Water Framework Directive in NI’ and ‘Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland – Proposals for Legislation’ were placed in the Irish News, Newsletter and Belfast Telegraph in line with their various publication dates.</p> <p>Notice of the publication of the ‘Programme and Timetable for the Production of River Basin Management Plans’ consultation document was placed in the Irish News, Newsletter, Belfast Telegraph in line with the publication date of the 15th December 2006.</p> <p>Notices of publication of ‘Water Matters – Have your say!’ reports were placed in the Irish News, Newsletter, Belfast Telegraph and the Belfast Gazette in line with the publication date of the 22nd June 2007.</p> <p>Notices of public evenings to discuss ‘Water Matters – Have your say!’ reports were placed in local newspapers the week before the meeting date (see Appendix III for more details).</p>
Publicity material	<p>A number of water management factsheets have been produced by NIEA, two specifically relevant are the River Basin Planning and the Water Framework Directive factsheets, others related to water management include Bathing Water Quality in Northern Ireland; the Hydrological cycle; Chemical monitoring; and Biological monitoring. These factsheets are made available at all NIEA public events and are available on request from the NIEA Education Officer.</p> <p>‘Water Matters – Have your say!’ leaflets summarising significant water management issues were produced and made available at all public events, Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings and at the National Stakeholder Forum.</p>
Public events	<p>As well as public consultation evenings held on ‘Water Matters – Have your say!’ reports from September to the end of November 2007 a number of other public events have been held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Source to sea’ theme at Balmoral Agricultural Show, May 2007 • Water Framework Directive was promoted at World Oceans Day, August 2008 • ‘Good bugs bad bugs’ theme at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hillsborough Garden Show, June 2008 - Balmoral Agricultural Show, May 2008 - Belfast Spring Fair, April 2008 - Belfast Children’s Festival, May-June 2008 - Dibney Youth, Angling and Environment Fair, July 2008
Other languages	<p>‘Water Matters – Have your say!’ reports were translated into Irish and hard copies were made available on request from NIEA, Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn.</p>

APPENDIX I

Distribution of 'Water Matters – Have your say!' reports

- Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly
- Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for the Environment
- All Northern Ireland Environment Agency properties open to the public
- Other Government Department properties
- Statutory stakeholders
- Members of the Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum
- Key contacts in the environmental Non Governmental Organisations sector
- Ulster Farmers Union (for distribution to members)
- Northern Ireland angling associations and clubs (for distribution to members)
- All public libraries in Northern Ireland
- Members of the public held on Northern Ireland Environment Agency circulation lists
- Contacts provided by the Water Framework Directive Interdepartmental Working Group

APPENDIX II

Members of the Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum

Active Members:

AES Kilroot Power Station
Aquaculture Initiative
Arena Network
Consumer Council
CNCC
DARD
DCAL (Fisheries)
DoE
DRD (Water Reform)
NIEA
Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
Harperstown Power Ltd
Larne Harbour Ltd
NI Agricultural Producers Association
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry
NI Fish Producers Organisation Ltd
NI Food and Drink Association
NILGA
NI Sports Council
NI Tourist Board
Quarry Products Association
RSPB – Freshwater Taskforce
Ulster Angling Federation

Corresponding Members:

Agricultural Industries Confederation
Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation
Bann System Ltd.
Belfast Harbour Commissioners
British Association of Shooting Conservation
Coleraine Harbour Commissioners
Confederation of British Industry
Cookeeragh ESB
Countryside Access and Activities Network
Dairy UK (NI)
Donaghadee Harbour Commissioners
Friends of Larne Lough
Green Peace
Herdman's Ltd.
Inland Waterways Association
Invest NI
Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association
Livestock and Meat Commission
Londonderry Port and Harbour Commissioners
Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory Committee
Loughs Agency
Mushroom Industry Association of NI
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry
NI Grain Trade Association
NI Poultry Federation
NI Reed Bed Company
NIE
NI Housing Executive
NI Oil Federation
OFREG
Premier Power
QUESTOR
Rare Breeds Survival Trust
Royal Yachting Association
Strangford Lough Management Advisory Committee
Sustainable NI
Ulster Coarse Fishing Federation
Ulster Society for the Preservation of the Countryside
United Dairy Farmers
Upperlands Community Hydro
Warrenpoint Harbour Authority
Waterways Ireland
Woodland Trust

APPENIX III

List of publications where notices were placed to advertise public evening meetings to discuss 'Water Matters – Have your say!' reports

Catchment Stakeholder Group Meeting	Publication	Date (2007)
Belfast Lough and Lagan	Belfast Telegraph	20 th Sept
	Irish News	20 th Sept
	Newsletter	20 th Sept
	East Antrim Times	20 th Sept
	Farming Life	22 nd Sept
Lower Foyle	Derry Journal	25 th Sept
	Londonderry Sentinel	26 th Sept
	Derry News	27 th Sept
	Northern Constitution	27 th Sept
Lower Neagh Bann	Ballymena and Antrim Times	2-3 rd Oct
	Coleraine and Ballymoney Times	3 rd Oct
	Ballymena Guardian	3 rd Oct
	Coleraine Chronicle	4 th Oct
Upper Foyle	Tyrone Times and Mid Ulster Mail	9, 11 th Oct
	Strabane Chronicle	11 th Oct
	Tyrone Constitution	11 th Oct
	Tyrone Democrat	11 th Oct
	Ulster Herald	11 th Oct
	Belfast Telegraph	11 th Oct
	Irish News	11 th Oct
	Newsletter	11 th Oct
Erne and Melvin	Fermanagh Herald	17 th Oct
	Impartial Reporter	18 th Oct
	Fermanagh News	19 th Oct
Upper Neagh Bann	Armagh Down Observer	1 st Nov
	Banbridge Chronicle	31 st Oct
	Dungannon Observer	2 nd Nov
	Portadown Times	2 nd Nov
	Ulster Gazette	1 st Nov
Bush and Glens	Ballymoney Times	7 th Nov
	Coleraine & Larne Times	7, 8 th Nov
	Coleraine Chronicle	8 th Nov
	Larne Gazette	6 th Nov
Carlingford and Mournes	Down Recorder	14 th Nov
	Mourne Observer	14 th Nov
	Newry Reporter	15 th Nov
Strangford and Lecale	Down Recorder	21 st Nov
	Newtownards Chronicle	22 nd Nov
	Spectator	22 nd Nov