

Belfast Lough & Lagan Catchment Stakeholder Group

Welcome

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EHS



An Agency within the Department of the
Environment
www.doeni.gov.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Water Pollution Hotline – 0800 80 70 60



**Environment &
Heritage Service**
www.ehsni.gov.uk

Public Participation - Catchment Stakeholder Groups

Aim - The Catchment Group will provide a forum for local knowledge and expertise in order to address and resolve regional water quality issues.



Terms of Reference

The Catchment Group will:

- Provide a source of help, support and advice for local/regional stakeholder engagement.
- Provide support and advice on resolving water quality issues.
- Provide knowledge on the Belfast Lough and Lagan Catchment to ensure issues of local significance are identified.

Group Operation

1. EHS will service the Catchment Group, including recording and communicating all decisions.
2. The Catchment Group will provide support and advice on appropriate areas of interest/concern.
3. EHS will draw upon members of the Catchment Group outside normal meetings, as appropriate, to assist with technical and detailed work.
4. Membership and the terms of reference will be reviewed on an annual basis.



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5. EHS will use its website to publish Catchment Group meeting details and other communications.
6. **Members will be expected, if necessary, to share a role in resolving conflict.**
7. Local representatives will be responsible for feeding back to national colleagues.
8. Members are expected to have a basic understanding of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in order to contribute.
9. The Catchment Group will meet approximately 2 times per year.

From Source to Sea.....

...the role of EHS in delivering integrated river basin management

Lowland River

What's Our Role?

- Pollution control
- Licensing of industrial discharges
 - Discharge consents / industrial pollution prevention & control permits
 - Currently c.4,000 Water (NI) Order consents (c.1,900 “active”)
 - Industrial consent compliance has improved:
 - 49% in 2000 to 66% in 2005
- Other issues
 - Chemical / Biological Monitoring
 - Regulation of Northern Ireland Water wastewater discharges
 - Abstraction licensing

Urban Areas

What's Our Role?

- Pollution response (24/7)
- Pollution Prevention visits / targeted campaigns
 - e.g. Belfast Harbour Estate
- Monitoring – rivers, estuaries, effluents
 - Water Chemistry lab processes c.10,000 samples p.a.
 - c. 100,000 individual results e.g. BOD, SS, nutrients, trace organics (pesticides, VOC's, PAH's etc.), trace metals
- Discharge consents / industrial pollution control permits
- Consenting of Northern Ireland Water discharges
- Promoting Sustainable drainage (SuDS)
 - NI SuDS Working Party

Transitional Waters / Estuaries

What's Our Role?

- Control of impacts of marine construction / dredging disposal
 - Food & Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) licences
 - Usually c. 30 p.a.
 - Mostly harbour works, dredge disposal
 - Increasingly high profile
 - Off-shore wind farms (North Coast)
 - Current turbine (Strangford)
- Other issues
 - Pollution response (24/7)
 - Chemical & Biological Monitoring (inc. fish)
 - Discharge consents / industrial pollution control permits
 - Regulation of wastewater discharges

Coastal Waters - 1

What's Our Role?

- Bathing water monitoring
 - 23 identified sites
 - 20 samples per bathing season
- Control of wastewater discharges
- Discharge consents
- Contingency planning (e.g. major oil spills)
 - Involved in major EU project (EROCIPS)

EHS...one of our many roles

‘to co-ordinate the

Department’s response

to reported incidents of

water pollution and

promote pollution

prevention initiatives to

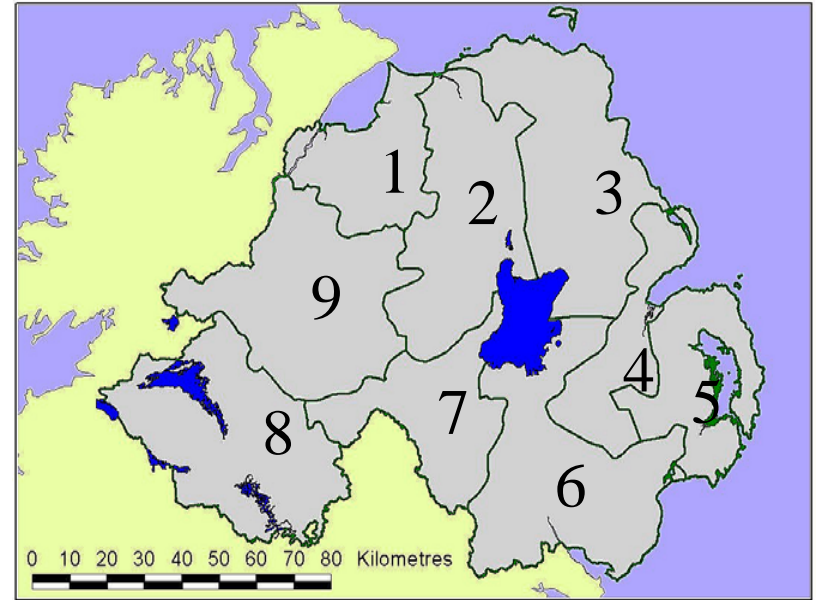
reduce the number of

incidents’

Resources for Pollution Investigation

EHS

- 16 Headquarters staff
- 51 Regional staff (14 increase from last year)



- Development of protocols to work more effectively with Loughs Agency and DCAL Fisheries
- Numerous River bailiffs

What are we trying to achieve?

- To protect and improve water quality in ALL waters
- To ensure no deterioration in present quality
- To deliver wiser, sustainable use of water resources
- To create better habitats for wildlife

Keep on having your say.....

- **Angling Club meetings – keen to attend**
- **Catchment Stakeholder Groups – New Catchment Officer**
- **Face to Face EHS Regional Staff**
- **Pollution Hotline**