

Lough Neagh Local Management Area Action Plan Implementation Update October 2011

The Lough Neagh Local Management Area (LMA) Action plan published to NIEA website

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/neagh_bann_rbp/nb-actionplans.htm

- These LMA action plans are working documents which will evolve as new projects are committed to over time during the River Basin Planning cycle
- This summary provides an update on operational actions in the LMA. Many actions are based on implementation meetings with Lower Neagh Bann Catchment Stakeholder Group members in 2011.
- **If you, as an individual or organisation, know of or can suggest additional projects in this Local Management Area, to supplement and update the current Lough Neagh LMA Action Plan, please contact your Catchment Management Officer Gerry.wilson@doeni.gov.uk**

LMA Action	Progress Update
Organise two CSG meetings per year to provide an open forum for discussion on water issues and encourage involvement in developing and implementing the Lough Neagh Management Area Plan	Spring Meeting held 25 May 2011, Autumn meeting held 16 November 2011. Presentations and Note of meetings can be found on http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/lower_neagh_bann.htm
Promote and encourage local projects through WATER Environment Community awards	Awards promoted through CSG meeting, NIEA website and e-mail. The Lower Neagh Bann winners were Clady Angling Club who proposed a Salmon in the Classroom project involving local schools. The Environment Minister Alex Attwood presented the Club with their award on 26 th May 2011. Applications for the 2012 WATER Environment Community awards will open on or around 16 November 2011.
Highlight external funding opportunities for water management projects to local partners	Water Environment Community Awards promoted through CSG meeting, NIEA website and e-mail. An award scheme run by Coca Cola was also promoted.
Promote NIEA Water Pollution Hotline through advertising, promotion and signage	Official launch of new signage took place on 18 th April by NIEA Chief Executive John McMillan. In attendance was Ian Kittle from Inler Anglers and Tracey Connelly the Countryside Access Officer at Castlereagh Borough Council. Signs erected at Lough side at Antrim Forum and Cranfield Church. Other sites include Crumlin Glen, the Y bridge Glenavy, Moira Road at Nutts Corner. NIEA pollution hotline number to be added to DCAL notice boards - to be rolled out with signage replacements Hotline number is promoted frequently on NIEA facebook page and NIEA Twitter website.
Develop leaflets and articles to promote effective farm nutrient and waste management	'Water Quality Plans in Action' article published in Farming Life October 2010. "Landowner Awareness – Improving Water Quality in your local area" leaflet developed in conjunction with DARD, UFU and Loughs Agency.

Collate existing information on location of aquatic (including river bank) invasive alien species	During the course of river walks and RHAT surveys undertaken by NIEA any sightings or suspected sightings of invasive alien species are collated and reported to Invasive Species Ireland.
Raise awareness of catchment management issues by release of relevant press articles and web publication of Lough Neagh LMA e-zine. Support local community events.	2 issues of the Lough Neagh LMA E-zine mailed to Lower Neagh Bann CSG contacts. Attendance at 2011 Balmoral Show demonstrating the use of the River Basin Planning Web-mapper. NIEA staff took part in the 'South Antrim Fishing Festival' event which was organised by the Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils. Staff from NIEA provided examples of 'good bugs' and 'bad bugs' to allow children to assess the water quality of their river. Also took the opportunity to highlight River Basin Management Plans
Promote the control of invasive alien species on farmland	NIEA Natural heritage have liaised with a range of individuals and groups and provided training and advice in relation to invasive species control
Raise awareness and promote the benefits of effective farm nutrient and waste management	All applicants to DARD agri-environment schemes receive a farm waste management advisory visit as part of their application to the scheme. DARD have produced a Code of Good Agricultural Practice which contains practical management advice on how farm wastes such as silage effluent, slurry and manure can be collected, stored and spread with minimum risk to the environment. DARD have developed an agri-environment training course for farmers dealing with farm wastes and nutrient management planning. Water Framework Directive awareness talk given to CAFRE students in April 2011
Encourage riparian zone management with an aim to improve biodiversity and minimise sedimentation through practical management measures on farms	A measure within the Nitrates Action Programme is that all farms must carry out crop and soil management to minimise soil erosion and nutrient runoff. This is verified during cross-compliance visits.
Complete the phosphorus nutrient budget work for Northern Ireland	A project is ongoing to identify nitrate, ammonium and phosphorus loadings in all the major river catchments in Northern Ireland. This includes the quantification of

	<p>polluting inputs from point and diffuse sources. Estimates of the contribution from agriculture and wastewater treatment works to the overall N and P loadings in each catchment will be provided. The project is due to complete early 2012.</p>
<p>Create an inventory of physical structures within the river channel and bank structures</p>	<p>A pilot will be carried out by The Ulster Anglers Federation in the Six Mile Water, Bush and Derg. This will be reviewed and a decision will be taken as to whether or not this should be rolled out in other areas.</p>
<p>Investigate the feasibility for in-channel fishery habitat enhancement in Crumlin, Dunore and Dundesert Rivers</p>	<p>Discussions held with DCAL but it is felt that these would not be appropriate at present. Unlikely to progress due to budgetary constraints.</p>
<p>Investigate Dissolved Oxygen suppressions</p>	<p>Stoneyford River -. River walk carried out by Regional Ops staff and farm found to be causing pollution. Action has been taken and further investigation is now needed to show if this was the cause of the Dissolved Oxygen suppression.</p>
<p>Carry out a river walk to determine and address sources of organic pollution affecting benthic invertebrates and resulting in low biotic scores and/or observed sewage fungus</p>	<p>Crumlin River- There are known problems with the sewage infrastructure in the lower part of the town resulting in occasional discharges in the Cidercourt area. Largy Road has a farm premises making discharges as well as antiquated NIW Septic Tanks. Other occasional sewage discharges from Industrial units near Nutts Corner and Dundrod WWTW.</p> <p>Ballinderry River – Discharges from a vegetable preparation plant and also a history of pollution from a number of farms in this catchment.</p> <p>Dundesert River – farm pollution at Boltnaconnell Road.</p> <p>Glenavy River – Some historical problems with a Pig farm upstream of the village and occasional sewage problems at Pigeontown Road and Leap Bridge.</p> <p>Aghalee Burn – occasional problems at Aghalee WWTW.</p>

	<p>Doon Burn – River walk carried out with Regional Operations staff but no evidence of polluting discharges were found.</p> <p>Kells Point Neagh – River walk carried out with Regional Operations staff but no evidence of polluting discharges were found.</p>
Compliance assessment of WWTW's >250 PE to inform future upgrades	<p>Compliance data for 2010 is as follows</p> <p>Aghagallon – Pass</p> <p>Ballyronan – Fail</p> <p>Bullays Hill – This has been converted into a sewage pumping station. Now pumps to Ballynacor.</p> <p>Cargin – Pass</p> <p>Cluntorichardson – Pass</p> <p>Derrymore – Pass</p> <p>Derrytrasna – Fail. This works has been upgraded, completed June 2011.</p> <p>Maghery – Pass</p>
Targeted education, advice and regulatory action to prevent pollution and protect the water environment	<p>“Householder Awareness – Improving Water Quality in your local area” leaflet has been developed with NIW. The leaflet aims to raise awareness amongst householders on issues such as septic tanks and pesticide use.</p>
Develop targeted ecological modelling tools for lake management.	<p>The 2nd Quarter Progress report has been received from the project group. A detailed work plan is being drawn up to be discussed with NIEA and the Environmental Protection Agency in the Republic of Ireland. The outcome of this project will be used to inform management actions for the Lough.</p>
Carryout Rapid Hydro morphology Assessment Technique (RHAT) survey to ground truth heavily modified designation	<p>Aghalee Burn - survey carried out - conclusion is 'Poor Ecological Potential'</p> <p>Further investigation into reasons for poor status is required.</p>

Conduct a water resource assessment to inform a review of abstraction licenses for the Lough Neagh LMA	The water resource assessment has been completed for Lough Neagh LMA. The Agency will continue to monitor flows within the catchment through a combination of the river flow gauging network, spot gauging and modelling. Existing licence holders will also be required to make monitoring returns on their abstracted volumes.
Carry out a Lough Neagh baseline fish survey starting in summer 2011.	This is being carried out by AFBI and work began in the summer 2011.
Observation of nitrate trends and liaison with research partners for further investigation into recovery time	Nitrates are part of the surveillance and operational monitoring carried out by NIEA. As NIEA does not fund any research directly it can only encourage research institutions in certain topics. To date this topic has not been adopted and progressed

If you are running a project or carrying out work that will assist in protecting the water environment or restoring natural waters let us know by contacting Gerry Wilson, Catchment Management Officer for Lower Neagh Bann by e-mailing gerry.wilson@doeni.gov.uk or by telephone 9262 3219

If you become aware of a water pollution incident **you** can call the Water Pollution Freephone Hotline in confidence with the location of the pollution incident and the nature of the pollution

