

North Western River Basin Management Plan

# Record of Consultation and Participation

December 2009



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Northern Ireland  
**Environment**  
Agency

# Record of Consultation and Participation

## North Western International 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 Western District to ensure that the development of the 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 plan, the updated Record of Consultation and Participation sets out the consultation measures undertaken and identifies 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 Western International River Basin District and the key outcomes arising from the consultations to ensure that the River Basin Management Plan has been produced through consultation and engagement with interested parties.

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

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<b>Consultations</b>		
<p><b>Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland</b></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"> <li>The document was published on the Department of the Environment's website (<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk">www.doeni.gov.uk</a>) in March 2002.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This consultation was held during the period 29<sup>th</sup> March 2002 – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2002.</li> <li>A summary of the responses was published within the 2003 consultation paper, Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland – Proposals for Legislation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Managing Our Shared Waters</b></p> <p><b>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)</b></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"> <li>The document was published on the Environment and Heritage Service's website (now known as the Northern Ireland Environment Agency since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008) and on the Department of the Environment website (<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk">www.doeni.gov.uk</a>) in March 2003. The document can be accessed from (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/themes/riv_bsn_mngt_plng.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/themes/riv_bsn_mngt_plng.htm</a>).</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This consultation was held during the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2003 – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2003.</li> <li>A summary of the responses was published within the 2003 consultation paper, Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland – Proposals for Legislation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Northern Ireland – Proposals for Legislation</b></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"> <li>This document was published on the Department of the Environment website (<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk">www.doeni.gov.uk</a>) in September 2003.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This consultation was held during the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2003 – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2003.</li> <li>Transposing legislation was made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2003.</li> </ul>

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<p><b>Water Framework Directive Summary Report of the Characteristics and Impact Analysis Required by Article 5, Northern Ireland</b></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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The final document was published on the Environment and Heritage Service website (now NIEA) in March 2005.</li> <li>• The document can be found on the NIEA website at (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/characterisation.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/characterisation.htm</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Outputs also contributed to the setting of environmental objectives and provided a starting point for the design of the Programme of Measures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UKTAG Report: UK Environmental Standards and Conditions (Phase 1) SR1-2006</b></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"> <li>• This document was published on the UKTAG website (<a href="http://www.wfduk.org">www.wfduk.org</a>) in February 2006.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This consultation was held during the period 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006.</li> <li>• A summary of responses received and the final report were published on the UKTAG website (<a href="http://www.wfduk.org">www.wfduk.org</a>) in September 2006.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programme and Timetable for the Production of River Basin Management Plans</b></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"> <li>• The document was published on the Department of the Environment website (<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/wfd_work_programme_timetable-2.pdf">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/wfd_work_programme_timetable-2.pdf</a>) on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This statutory consultation was held during the period 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006 – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007.</li> </ul>

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<p><b>‘Water Matters – Have Your Say!’ North Western International River Basin District</b></p> <p>The document identified and summarised the significant water management issues in the North Western International 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"> <li>The document was published on the Northern Ireland Environment Agency website (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/significant_water_management_issues.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/significant_water_management_issues.htm</a>) and on the Department of the Environment website (<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk">www.doeni.gov.uk</a>) on 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2007 and was made available in hard copy, free of charge, from NIEA, Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn.</li> <li>Links to the electronic copy of the document were posted on the Northern Ireland Environment Link website (<a href="http://www.nienvironmentlink.org">www.nienvironmentlink.org</a>) and in the Ulster Farmers Union journal (<a href="http://www.ufuni.org">www.ufuni.org</a>).</li> <li>Copies were distributed widely (See Appendix I for further details).</li> <li>Copies were made available to all those attending the Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings.</li> <li>On request documents were also made available in the Irish language.</li> <li>Summary leaflets were produced and issued with all invitations to the “Water Matters – Have Your Say” meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This statutory consultation was held during the period 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 – 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2007.</li> <li>Hard copies of the reports were made available in hard copy, free of charge, from NIEA, Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Road, Lisburn.</li> <li>Three Catchment Stakeholder meetings were held within the North Western District to discuss significant water management issues identified in the Water Matters booklets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower Foyle (4<sup>th</sup> October 2007)</li> <li>Upper Foyle (17<sup>th</sup> October 2007)</li> <li>Erne and Melvin (24<sup>th</sup> October 2007)</li> </ul> Comments at these meetings were recorded and included in a digest of comments.</li> <li>A digest of comments and submissions received and responses to them was published on the Northern Ireland Environment Agency website in May 2008 (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/significant_water_management_issues.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/significant_water_management_issues.htm</a>).</li> </ul>

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<p><b>UKTAG Report: UK Environmental Standards and Conditions (Phase 2) SR1-2007</b></p> <p>Phase 2 consisted of 3 draft reports on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed UK Groundwater Classification Framework (comprising chemical and quantitative classification);</li> <li>• The proposed environmental standards for Specific Pollutants; and</li> <li>• The remaining proposed surface water environmental standards and conditions to support healthy communities of aquatic plants and animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The documents were published on the UKTAG website (<a href="http://www.wfduk.org">www.wfduk.org</a>) in June 2007.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This consultation was held during the period 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2007.</li> <li>• A summary of responses received and the final report were published on the UKTAG website (<a href="http://www.wfduk.org">www.wfduk.org</a>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures Scoping Report North Western International River Basin District</b></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"> <li>• This document was published online on the North Western International River Basin District website in August 2008. This can be accessed through the NIEA website (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/strategic_environmental_assessment-water.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/strategic_environmental_assessment-water.htm</a>)</li> <li>• The Scoping Report was distributed to the statutory bodies as defined in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) legislation in both jurisdictions (<b>NI</b>: Department of Environment – Northern Ireland Environment Agency. <b>ROI</b>: Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources) in October 2007.</li> <li>• 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 (<b>NI</b>: Interdepartmental Working Group, NI Stakeholder Forum, Northern Ireland Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside. <b>ROI</b>: River Basin District Project Coordinators, River Basin Advisory Councils, River Basin Management Groups, River Basin Steering Groups).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments from the consultation on the Scoping Report were noted and included in the final version of the Scoping Report.</li> <li>• Where relevant, responses from the consultation were incorporated in the SEA Environmental Report for the North Western District which can be found at <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/wfd">www.ni-environment.gov.uk/wfd</a>.</li> <li>• SEA statements published alongside the RBMPs in December 2009.</li> </ul>

Title	Means of Dissemination	Key Outcomes
<p><b>North Western: Draft River Basin Management Plans, and Strategic Environmental Assessment.</b></p> <p>River Basin Management Plans are required under the Water Framework Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC). River Basin Planning takes an integrated approach to the protection, improvement and sustainable use of the water environment from source to sea. A wide range of organisations have come together for the first time to produce a plan that looks at all aspects of water management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These documents were published online and in hard copy by the NIEA. They can be accessed through the NIEA website <a href="http://www.nienvironment.gov.uk/northwestern_draftrbmp_tier2.pdf">http://www.nienvironment.gov.uk/northwestern_draftrbmp_tier2.pdf</a></li> <li>• These draft Plans were out for consultation from 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 until 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009.</li> <li>• The Draft Management Plans were distributed to the members of each of the Catchment Stakeholder Groups in the North Western IRBD. Large numbers of the plans have been produced and widely distributed in the public domain, in order to involve everyone who is interested in, or may be affected by, the water environment and the way it is managed. They were also available at NIEA properties.</li> <li>• Adverts, advertising the consultation on Draft River Basin Management Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment were placed in Belfast Telegraph, Newsletter and Irish News on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008. With a further ad for Draft RBMP published 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008, (see appendix IV).</li> <li>• Consultation responses were returned to members of the River Basin Planning team via post or email.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation has helped the NIEA create a more effective and achievable River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>• By the extended deadline of 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009 a total of 96 consultation responses had been received. Of these, 72 substantive responses were received (including comments made at 9 Catchment Stakeholder Group meetings), with in excess of 900 comments being made in total for the 3 RBMP's . The responses submitted came from a wide range of different bodies including Environmental Non Government Organisations/Interest Groups, Angling Clubs, Water Industry, Government Departments / Agencies, District Councils, spring 2009 round of Catchment Stakeholder Group (CSG) meetings as well as members of the public.</li> <li>• Comments from the consultation on the Draft River Basin Plans have been noted and included in the final version of the River Basin Plans.</li> <li>• Overall NIEA were pleased with the number and detail of the responses received. In general the comments were very constructive.</li> <li>• All the comments received were recorded and reviewed. A summary document was produced which provides a summary of the responses received and indicates how the RBMPs have been amended, where appropriate, to address the comments received.</li> <li>• In addition to the summary document, five documents have been produced to present all the consultation comments and associated responses. These documents were all published to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency website: <a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/</a> at the end of October 2009.</li> </ul>

## 2.0 Stakeholder engagement

There has been considerable stakeholder engagement nationally and within each 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. Engagement with public authorities and stakeholders in the RoI portion of the North Western International River Basin District is presented in table 3.0.

**Table 2.0 Stakeholder engagement in Northern Ireland and in the North Western International River Basin District.**

Groups	Details of Events	Key Outcomes
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>		
<p><b>Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Meetings</b></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><b>Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Conference, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Raise awareness of the Water Framework Directive, with an introduction to characterisation, pressures and impacts analysis, economic analysis and North/South co-ordination.</li> </ul> <p><b>Workshop, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Workshop, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Feedback from the discussion groups fed into the development of Significant Water Management Issues reports for publication in June 2007.</li> <li>NIEA (EHS at the time) undertook to establish the remaining Catchment Stakeholder Groups in 2007.</li> </ul>

Groups	Details of Events	Key Outcomes
<p><b>Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum</b></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"> <li>• The Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum is led by the Planning and Environmental Policy Group, Department of the Environment.</li> <li>• The first meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005, and 13 meetings have been held to date, on a quarterly basis and more recently on a biannual basis, including a public event held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 (see above).</li> <li>• Main topics of discussion have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review of Public Administration;</li> <li>- Significant Water Management Issues;</li> <li>- Classification and environmental standards;</li> <li>- Catchment Stakeholder Groups;</li> <li>- Production of draft River Basin Management Plans;</li> <li>- Strategic Environmental Assessment; and</li> <li>- Objective setting and Programme of Measures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A list of organisations that are represented on the forum is available in Appendix II.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes are published on the Department of the Environment (<a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk">www.doeni.gov.uk</a>) and NIEA (<a href="http://www.niea.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_participation_stakeholder_forum.htm">http://www.niea.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_participation_stakeholder_forum.htm</a>) websites.</li> <li>• The information collected through the stakeholder forum will continue to inform the development of the River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Catchment Stakeholder Group Meetings – North Western International River Basin District</b></p> <p>Catchment Stakeholder Groups comprise of 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 management issues through implementation of the Water Framework Directive. The CSG meetings occur on a biannual basis and are open to the public. A wide range of relevant stakeholders, NGO's and government organisations were approached in each area to seek their attendance and input. Any interested parties can request to become part of this NIEA mailing list by contacting the Catchment Officer. Attendees often include anglers, farmer representatives, local conservation groups as well as government agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 3 Catchment Stakeholder Groups within the Northern Ireland portion of the North Western River Basin District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upper Foyle</li> <li>- Lower Foyle</li> <li>- Erne and Melvin</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A database of stakeholder contact information has been developed and maintained by NIEA in order to forward information and details of meetings and to encourage feed back to the relevant Catchment Officers on issues affecting local waters.</li> <li>• Meetings are further advertised, (see appendix V for list of publications). Dates of meetings are listed in appendix VI.</li> <li>• Initial meetings were held in October 2007 (see above) to discuss the 'Water Matters – Have Your Say!' document, and to record comments for incorporation in a Significant Water Management Issues digest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments directly contributed to the development of the River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>• More effectively addresses local water management issues by NIEA Catchment Officers.</li> <li>• A greater sense of local involvement in water management issues</li> <li>• Greater joined up thinking between government and stakeholders.</li> <li>• Provides an effective forum to allow people concerned with water issues to work together and build consensus.</li> <li>• Helps in the setting up of local groups and the</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Spring round of CSG meetings in 2008 were held in March/April and the Autumn round in October/November.</li> <li>• The Spring round of CSG meetings in 2009 (April/May) mainly focussed on consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plans, which were then open for public consultation. Group responses were recorded and some individual responses were forwarded at each meeting. Other local water management issues were also discussed.</li> <li>• The Autumn round of CSG meetings in 2009 (October/November) focused on discussions on the way forward for the River Basin Management Plans, the selection and implementation of Local Management Areas within the River Basin Districts. Local management issues relating to the stakeholder group were discussed and feedback was sought on the way forward for CSG meetings including the chair and future agendas.</li> </ul>	<p>establishment of PAIRS (Projects Aimed at Improving Aquatic Resources).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps in increasing awareness and understanding of the linkages between RBMP's and local water management issues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Projects Aiming to Improve Aquatic Resources</b></p> <p>This is an initiative to collate information on work being carried out by Non-Governmental Organisations and voluntary groups to improve the water environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This exercise started on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and is ongoing.</li> <li>• Non-Governmental Organisations and voluntary groups are asked to fill out project information forms available from (<a href="http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_partic/pairs.htm">http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk/water/wfd/public_partic/pairs.htm</a>) in order to help NIEA gather information on activities being carried out to enhance and protect the water environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIEA have developed a register of information on all projects received to date.</li> <li>• Relevant information received will be included in the river basin management plans as examples of work that is being carried out locally.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water Information Days</b></p> <p>A new initiative led by River Basin Planning to inform and educate the public in relation to the water environment and allow feedback from those attending</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six information Days were held across Northern Ireland in the spring of 2009.</li> <li>• All of the days are open to people from all part of Northern Ireland. The Days most relevant to the North East River Basin District were Loughs Agency, Londonderry on 8<sup>th</sup> April and Castle Archdale Country Park, Irvinestown on 29<sup>th</sup> April.</li> <li>• All members of the stakeholder forum were mailed or e-mailed giving them information about the dates, venues and other details on the information days.</li> <li>• Attendees were given the opportunity to report pollution and untoward activity in relation to water bodies; and to give details of projects happening in their area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved public knowledge and understanding of the water environment.</li> <li>• To give the public a wider understanding of the services provided by NIEA e.g. interactive mapping and support for projects.</li> <li>• NIEA have developed a register of information on all projects received to date. This list will increase with new project being enrolled at the information days.</li> <li>• Remedial action will also be taken to deal with negative activity in relation to water bodies.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They could also speak with NIEA staff about the then ongoing consultation into draft River Basin Management Plans and submit responses.</li> <li>• Fact sheets were available on local water management, notice boards gave details on how Northern Ireland waters are managed by NIEA and the classification of water bodies.</li> </ul>	
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**Table 3.0 Stakeholder engagement with the Republic of Ireland in the North Western International River Basin District.**

Groups	Details of Events	Key Outcomes
<b>Stakeholder engagement with the Republic of Ireland in the North Western International River Basin District</b>		
<p><b>North Western International River Basin District Advisory Council</b></p> <p>Under the European Communities (Water Policy) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 relevant local authorities were required to establish Advisory Councils to consider matters relating to the production of river basin management plans. An Advisory Council has been established in each RBD to provide a structured forum for promoting the involvement of interested parties. River Basin District Advisory Councils consist of elected local representatives (County Councillors and Borough and district Councillors) along with representatives of stakeholder interests such as farming, angling, non-governmental organisations and industry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings of this group are held quarterly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIEA are represented as a corresponding member of the Advisory Council.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Authorities Forum for the Neagh Bann and North Western International River Basin Districts</b></p> <p>The North Western and Neagh Bann Public Authorities Forum was established to facilitate information exchange, consultation, co-operation and liaison between the relevant public authorities as required by the Water Framework Directive and ensure liaison with the competent authorities in Northern Ireland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Public Authorities Forum first meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2006. Meetings are held quarterly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIEA are represented as a corresponding member of the Public Authorities Forum.</li> </ul>

### 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 River Basin Management Plans.

**Table 4.0 Public access to information**

Means of dissemination	Activities
<b>Public access to information</b>	
<b>NIEA Website</b>	<p>Water Framework Directive and River Basin Planning pages were set up on the NIEA website. The NIEA website includes information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The register of protected areas;</li> <li>• The characterisation process, the Article 5 Characterisation report and Article 5 Economic Analysis report;</li> <li>• Monitoring and classification including information on the Aquatic Monitoring Strategy 2006-2007 and WFD monitoring plans;</li> <li>• Environmental standards stakeholder review;</li> <li>• Significant Water Management Issues ('Water Matters – Have your say!') reports and the Significant Water Management Issues Digest of Comments; and</li> <li>• Public participation including information on the National Stakeholder Forum, Catchment Stakeholder Groups.</li> <li>• River Basin Management Plan and supporting documents.</li> <li>• Consultation documents on the River Basin Management Plans and the Strategic Environmental Assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>NIEA properties</b>	<p>Consultation documents and leaflets were made available from reception areas and information centres in NIEA properties.</p>
<b>Direct mail outs</b>	<p>'Water Matters – Have your say!' reports were mailed directly to stakeholders (See Appendix I for further details). Catchment Stakeholder Group members were mailed or e-mail invitations, agendas and other relevant information relating to Catchment Stakeholder Group Meetings.</p>
<b>Public notices</b>	<p>Notices of publication of the consultation documents 'Implementing the Water Framework Directive in NI', 'Managing Our Shared Waters' 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007. 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> <p>Adverts, advertising the consultation on Draft River Basin Management Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment were placed in Belfast Telegraph, Newsletter and Irish News on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2008. With a further ad for Draft RBMP published 30<sup>th</sup> December 2008, (see appendix IV).</p> <p>Catchment Stakeholder Group Meeting were advertised in Northern Ireland newspapers and in other publications, (for list see appendix V).</p>

Means of dissemination	Activities
<b>Use of public libraries</b>	'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.
<b>Publicity material</b>	<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>
<b>Public events</b>	<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"> <li>• 'Source to sea' theme at Balmoral Agricultural Show, May 2007</li> <li>• Water Framework Directive was promoted at World Oceans Day, August 2008</li> <li>• 'Good bugs bad bugs' theme at:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Belfast Spring Fair, April 2008</li> <li>- Balmoral Agricultural Show, May 2008</li> <li>- Belfast Children's Festival, May-June 2008</li> <li>- Hillsborough Garden Show, June 2008</li> <li>- Dibney Youth, Angling and Environment Fair, July 2008</li> <li>- Water Information Days March &amp; April 2009 (See page 10)</li> <li>- Belfast Spring Fair, Malone House &amp; Barnett Demense, April 2009</li> <li>- Banks of the Ballinderry Fair, Cookstown, May 2009</li> <li>- Lagan Clean Up Day, Shaws Bridge, Belfast, May 2009</li> <li>- Balmoral Agricultural Show, May 2009</li> <li>- NI Water Forum, Stormont Hotel, May 2009</li> <li>- International Biodiversity Day, Castle Archdale Country Park, Fermanagh, May 2009</li> <li>- Connswater Environmental Fair – Bug Hunt, June 2009</li> <li>- Hillsborough Garden Show, June 2009</li> <li>- NI Water's Go Green, Silent Valley, June 2009</li> <li>- Celebrate the Six Mile Water, Antrim, August 2009</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Other languages</b>	'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.

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

## APPENDIX III

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

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

## APPENDIX IV

### List of publications where notices were placed to advertise public consultations occurring in 2009

Document/Proposal	Publication	Date (2008)
<b>Draft River Basin Management Plan</b>	Belfast Telegraph	23 <sup>rd</sup> + 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec
	Irish News	23 <sup>rd</sup> + 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec
	Newsletter	23 <sup>rd</sup> + 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec
<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment</b>	Belfast Telegraph	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec
	Irish News	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec
	Newsletter	23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec

## APPENDIX V

### List of publications and locations where Catchment Stakeholder Meetings are advertised

- Farming Life – what’s on events column published CSG dates
- NIEL website and newsletter published CSG dates
- Community Ni website published CSG dates
- Rural Community Network published CSG dates
- The Autumn 2009 CSG meetings were advertised in the following local newspapers detailing the local meeting(s) happening in that area:
  - Ballymena Guardian
  - Ballymena Times
  - Ulster Star
  - Dromore Leader
  - Banbridge Leader
  - Ulster Herald
  - Tyrone Constitution
  - Ards Chronicle
  - Down Recorder
  - Newry Democrat
  - Newry Reporter
  - Roe Valley Sentinel
  - Coleraine Times
  - Chronicle Chronicle
  - Fermanagh Herald
  - Impartial Reporter
  - Ulster Gazette
  - Armagh Observer
- In addition these meetings are sometimes advertised in other publications and locations.

## APPENDIX VI

### Catchment Stakeholder Group Meetings in the North Western IRBD in 2008 and 2009

Catchment Group	Date	Venue
<b>Spring 2008</b>		
Erne & Melvin	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	Enniskillen Town Hall.
Lower Foyle	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	The Canteen, Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady.
Upper Foyle	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2008	The Grange, Omagh District Council, Omagh.
<b>Autumn 2008</b>		
Erne & Melvin	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2008	Castle Archdale Country Park, Irvinestown.
Lower Foyle	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2008	Roe Valley Hospital, Limavady.
Upper Foyle	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2008	The Grange, Omagh District Council, Mountjoy Road, Omagh.
<b>Spring 2009</b>		
Lower Foyle	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2009	Roe Valley County Park, Limavady
Upper Foyle	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	The Grange, Omagh District Council
Erne & Melvin	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Castle Archdale Country Park, Irvinestown.
<b>Autumn 2009</b>		
Upper Foyle	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2009	The Grange, Omagh District Council
Lower Foyle	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	Roe Valley County Park, Limavady
Erne & Melvin	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	Castle Archdale Country Park, Irvinestown