

**Mourne Carlingford Catchment Stakeholder Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Area 6 Notes.**

**Pollution incidents**

**Since the last meeting we have investigated 62 pollution incidents within Area 6. We had one high severity incident, six medium severity incidents and 55 low severity.**

**These can be broken into source as follows:-**

<b>Domestic</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Industrial</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>NIWL</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>NPF</b>	<b>20</b>

**We have collected 4 tripartite statutory samples with view to prosecution, drafted 1 warning letter to headquarters for issue, collated evidence for cost recovery for 1 incident and breached 6 farmers under The Nitrates Action Programme Regulations (NI) 2006. These breaches were for pollution to a waterway from a pollutant containing nitrates, generally slurry, manure run-off or silage effluent or for spreading slurry too close to a waterway. The evidence is sent to our Agricultural Regulations Team, who check the details and send the form off to**

**DARD. If DARD are satisfied that a breach has occurred, the farmer in question will have a percentage withheld from his next single farm payment.**

### **Court Cases**

**We had a case in Newry Court on 20<sup>th</sup> September against NIWL concerning a discharge of sewage into the Berry Stream in Kilkeel. NIWL were convicted and fined £500 plus costs.**

**On 18<sup>th</sup> October we had three cases heard in Newry court as follows:-**

**DoE vs. NIWL for sewage pollution into the Berry Stream at Kitty's Road Kilkeel. NIWL pleaded guilty to two charges and were fined £350 for both charges. Total fine £700 plus costs.**

**DoE vs. Agnew Partnership a farming business from Annalong, for slurry pollution. Agnew partnership pleaded guilty and were fined £350 plus costs.**

**DoE vs. Blockbusters Environmental Services Ltd., for oil pollution into Newry Canal. The company pleaded guilty and were given a conditional discharge for 12 months plus costs.**

**There are several cases at various stages of completion, some with our Area 6 staff collating evidence, some which have been passed to our**

**headquarters staff for checking and some with the Public Prosecution Service.**

### **Pollution Prevention**

**The survey of Carnbane industrial Estate has been completed by our Pollution Prevention Team. We used to get numerous reports of oil discharging into the Newry River from the storm system at this estate but since the survey began we have had only one oil pollution incident. No reports of pollution from Carnbane Industrial Estate have been received since our last meeting.**

### **Newcastle Sewerage System**

**Work has recently started on the sewage retention tank in Castle Park in the vicinity of the bowling greens.**

### **Notable Incidents.**

**We had a major fish kill on the Forkhill River on 13<sup>th</sup> August. DCAL reported a kill of salmonids totalling 2671, including 920 Brown trout, 1,750 juvenile salmon and 1 sea trout. The incident was investigated thoroughly by both the local field staff and Biologists from WMU headquarters in Lisburn. Whatever the pollutant was appears to have been released over a short period of time resulting in a plug moving downstream. Dead and living and rising trout were observed at several locations on the river during the**

**investigation, indicating that the pollutant had moved through.**

**The invertebrate life was inspected in the area where trout were found dead at the most upstream point in the river. There was no discernible impact observed on the invertebrates in this area.**

**It is unusual to find dead trout in a river and find no impact on the invertebrate life. As the pollution moved downstream in a plug, was past the point of investigation when we arrived, leaving no sign of pollution, we were not able to find what it was or the source of the discharge.**