

# South Down Local Management Area Action Plan Implementation Update October 2011

The South Down Local Management Area (LMA) Action plan published to NIEA website

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/north\\_eastern\\_rbp/ne-actionplans.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/north_eastern_rbp/ne-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 Carlingford & Mourne 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 South Down LMA Action Plan, please contact your Catchment Management Officer**  
[Greg.McCleary@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:Greg.McCleary@doeni.gov.uk)

LMA Action	Waterbodies included	Associated actions	Progress Update	Further actions planned
Conduct LMA investigative surveys to assess benthic invertebrates	Applies to all	Additional LMA investigative monitoring	Water Management Unit (WMU) freshwater team sampled <b>75</b> additional sites as part of an investigative programme for the South Down LMA. Investigations involved site assessments, kick sampling and invertebrate identification both in field and in lab. The sampling was completed throughout February 2011 on the Burren River, Moneycarragh River, Carrigs River, Killough River and Ardilea Burn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where evidence of suppressed inverts evident, an upstream river walk survey carried out to investigate potential water quality pressures.</li> </ul>
Maintain current regulatory controls, monitoring existing measures in order to maintain the good status of this waterbody	Applies to all	Reported pollution incident investigations	Proactive inspections completed during river walks.	
<p>Raise awareness of the issue of pesticide use and disposal</p> <p>Promote best practice in the use of pesticides on farms</p>	Applies to all	Pesticide Workshop	<p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), Ulster Farmers Union (UFU), Northern Ireland Water (NIW) and College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) coordinated a workshop on raising awareness on pesticides at Loughry College on 15th March 2011.</p> <p>Various groups attended (UFU members, NIW scientific staff, Freshwater Task Force, DARD policy, LMA example farmer, DARD Forest Service (FS), Donegal CC, AFBI, Voluntary Initiative(VI) members) to hear presentations from NIEA, UFU, NIW, CAFRE and Professor Bob Breach (VI).</p> <p>Information on the sensitivity of the aquatic environment to pesticides was presented. Speakers emphasised the importance of establishing methods and good practice to reduce exposure of water bodies to contamination by pesticides.</p> <p>A workshop session gave delegates the opportunity to discuss the issues and ways of further improving best practice in the use of pesticides by all sectors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working group set up including NIW, DARD (FS, Rivers Agency, Countryside Management Branch(CMB)) UFU, NIEA, DRD Roads Service,</li> <li>Identify focus catchments (rural &amp; urbanised) &amp; target awareness raising – VI leaflets to distributors and infrequent users</li> <li>Webpage published to raise public awareness and provide guidance <a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/pesticide_awareness.htm">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/pesticide_awareness.htm</a></li> </ul>
Raise awareness and promote the benefits of effective farm nutrient and waste management	Applies to all	Production of 'Improving water quality' leaflet for landowners	<p>'Landowner Awareness - Improving water quality in your local area' leaflet developed jointly with Loughs Agency, UFU, DARD to raise awareness amongst landowners.</p> <p>The issues included were initially raised through the implementation meetings e.g. gravel removal, river litter &amp; plastic litter</p> <p>CAFRE student WFD awareness raising talk given in April 2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflet distribution in LMA</li> </ul>
Promote the NIEA Water Pollution Hotline through	Applies to all	Production of Pollution	Official launch of initiative by NIEA Chief Executive and Enler Anglers – Monday 18th April.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs to be erected in response to request locations on</li> </ul>

LMA Action	Waterbodies included	Associated actions	Progress Update	Further actions planned
increased advertising, promotion and waterside signage.		Hotline signs	5 signs erected to date in LMA - locations suggested by Shimna Angling Club, Dundrum Angling Club, and DCAL Inland Fisheries on Moneycarragh, Shimna and Burren Rivers.	
		Production of 'NIEA & Water Pollution' postcard on Improving Water Quality	'NIEA & Water Pollution - Improving water quality' postcards produced to raise awareness on what NIEA regional operation team do and who to contact should a pollution incident be found.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Postcard distribution in LMA</li> </ul>
DARD Countryside Management and NIEA to develop leaflets and articles to promote effective farm nutrient and waste management	Applies to all	Article published	DARD CMB 'Water quality plans in action' article published in Farming Life in October 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up articles to be agreed</li> </ul>
Work with and support local Stakeholders in raising awareness of environmental issues and projects. Seek to identify solutions to water management problems and develop and promote the LMA Action Plan.	Applies to all	Implementation meetings	A series of Implementation meetings were held with stakeholders in South Down LMA to identify water management problems and develop and promote the Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders to provide ongoing input on new actions to update the South Down LMA Action Plan</li> </ul>
		Production of 'Improving water quality' leaflet for householders	'Householder Awareness - Improving water quality in your local area' leaflet has been developed jointly with Loughs Agency and NIW. Leaflet aim to raise awareness amongst householders on household issues e.g. septic tank maintenance & pesticide use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaflet distribution in LMA</li> </ul>
Raise awareness of catchment management issues by release of relevant press articles and web publication of Owenkillew LMA e-zine. Support local community events.	Applies to all	South Down e-zine	2 editions of the South Down e-zine have been published on the NIEA website and circulated to the Carlingford & Mourne CSG electronic mailing list.  <a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/lma_e-newsletters.htm">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/lma_e-newsletters.htm</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support e-zine</li> <li>Support and promote other local community events in the LMA</li> </ul>
Promote and encourage local projects through WATER Environment Community awards.	Applies to all	2010 Award	The 2010 winner for the Carlingford & Mourne CSG, Lecale Conservation Society announced on 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2011. Project to install a tern raft on Strand Lough, Killough and offer educational resources to local community and schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain contact with association and progress with the project</li> </ul>
Organise two Catchment Stakeholder Group (CSG) meetings per year to provide an open forum for discussion on water issues and encourage involvement in	Applies to all	CSG meetings	Carlingford & Mourne CSG met on 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2011 and the next meeting will be on 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2011.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide minutes and presentation to update webpage <a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water_home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/carlingford_and_mourne.htm">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water_home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/carlingford_and_mourne.htm</a></li> </ul>

LMA Action	Waterbodies included	Associated actions	Progress Update	Further actions planned
developing and implementing the Local Management Area Plan.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up actions from Spring 2011 meeting</li> <li>Issue invitations for Autumn 2011 meeting</li> <li>Promotion of meetings in local publications</li> </ul>
Support pollution prevention campaigns such as 'Reduce Reuse Recycle', 'Bag It & Bin It', 'Stop and Think (Not Down the Sink)' campaign	Applies to all		<p>Promote campaigns and awareness at fairs and shows.</p> <p>Encourage support through publishing '<i>Householder Awareness - Improving water quality in your local area</i>'</p>	
Highlight external funding opportunities for water management projects to local partners.	Applies to all		Consider routes and sources of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify potential candidate projects</li> </ul>
<p>Encourage riparian zone management with an aim to improve biodiversity and minimise sedimentation through practical management measures on farms</p> <p>Promote the control of invasive alien species on farmland</p>	Applies to all	<p>NICMS Agri-environment scheme habitat enhancement options</p> <p>Good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC)</p>	DARD CMB - New tranche of applications being considered by DARD	
<p>Review the relevance of nutrient budget in the context of this LMA.</p> <p>Complete the phosphorus nutrient budget work for Northern Ireland</p>	Applies to all	Nutrient Budget Analysis project	The project remains ongoing and NIEA are in discussion with AFBI to enable the outstanding analysis/report for all catchments in NI to be finalised in 2011-2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish nutrient loading baseline</li> </ul>
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			To date <b>6</b> targeted river walks performed in South Down LMA in the; Killough River Burren River Moneycarragh River Carrigs River Rathmullan Burn Ardilea Burn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out further appropriate river walks based on monitoring data, pollution reports and stakeholder notification.</li> <li>Follow up on findings with DCAL Fisheries and NIEA Regulatory Teams.</li> </ul>
Conduct a water resource	Applies to all		Water Resource Assessment completed in Jan 2011 for all river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued monitoring of river</li> </ul>

LMA Action	Waterbodies included	Associated actions	Progress Update	Further actions planned
assessment to inform a review of abstraction licenses.	river water bodies		water bodies within South Down LMA to ascertain water availability and water resource status.	flows and review of monitoring returns from licensed abstractors
Review River's Agency maintenance program.	Applies to all		Maintenance program reviewed to ascertain potential impacts on water body morphological conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review annually</li> </ul>
Investigate agricultural practices in the catchment through river walks and analysis of agricultural pollution incidents and cross compliance data and carry out site visits where necessary.			River walks identified a potential pollution source from agricultural premises. Follow-up investigation addressed ongoing pollution. Cross-compliance visit prioritised for site and breach recorded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of herbicides in 2 catchments identified as at risk from cereal growing and intensive pastureland in 2012.</li> </ul>
Develop profiles of the designated bathing waters within the LMA	3 bathing waters in LMA		Bathing Water Profiles for Newcastle, Murlough and Tyrella published in March 2011.  <a href="http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/quality/bathingqualityni/bathing_water_profiles.htm">http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/quality/bathingqualityni/bathing_water_profiles.htm</a>	
Areas around Dundrum to be surveyed for <i>Spartina angelica</i> and sprayed if required.	Dundrum Bay Inner		Dundrum Bay surveyed for <i>Spartina angelica</i> in 2011 and where identified sprayed by NIEA and National Trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dundrum Bay to be re-sprayed in 2012</li> </ul>
Visual inspection of WWTWs <250 PE to inform future upgrades	Applies to 3 river water bodies		Visual inspections of small WWTW performed for Maghera, Glasdrumman and Drumaroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further inspections prioritised for 2011/2012</li> </ul>
Carry out Rapid Hydromorphology Assessment Technique (RHAT) survey to ground truth heavily modified water body designation.	Shimna		Hydromorphological assessments carried out on Shimna River upstream and downstream of Fofanny Reservoir on 19 April 2011.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surveys of 2 further water bodies planned for Nov 2011.</li> </ul>

#### Abbreviations (Term Explanation)

AFBI \_Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

ASSI \_Area of Special Scientific Interest

DARD \_Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

DOE \_ Department of the Environment

INTERREG IVA\_ The INTERREG IVA Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland is a European Union supported Structural Funds Programme which seeks to address the economic and social problems which result from the existence of borders. It supports strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region.

NIEA \_ Northern Ireland Environment Agency

WWTW \_ Waste Water Treatment Works

NICMS \_ Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme

DRAFT