

LAGAN Local Management Area

UPDATE November 2011



LMA Action	Progress Update
Highlight external funding opportunities for water management projects to local partners.	Water Environment Community Awards promoted through CSG meeting, NIEA website and mailing list.
Organise two Catchment Stakeholder Group (CSG) meetings per year to provide an open forum for discussion on water issues and encourage involvement in developing and implementing the Local Management Area Plan.	<p>CSG Meetings held</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25th November 2010 - 25th May 2011 - 17th November 2011 <p>Presentations and notes of meetings can be found at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/catchment_stakeholder_groups/belfast_lough_and_lagan.htm</p>
Promote and encourage local projects through WATER Environment Community awards.	<p>Environment Minister Alex Attwood presented nine community groups £1,000 each for their environmental improvement projects on 26th May 2011. The winner in the Belfast Lough & Lagan area was the Cairde Páirc na bhFál (Friends of Falls Park) for their 'Uiscí Reatha' (Running Waters) project.</p> <p>2012 Water Environment Community Award announced 16th November 2011 – closing date 31 January 2012. For entry packs contact waterinfo@doeni.gov.uk</p>
Promote the NIEA Water Pollution Hotline through increased advertising, promotion and waterside signage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official launch of new signage initiative by NIEA Chief Executive, Enler Anglers and Castlereagh Borough Council Countryside Access Officer – Monday 18th April. • 6 signs erected in LMA - locations suggested by Water Quality Inspectors, District Councils, Local Anglers. • '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. These have been distributed at a number of events and shows. • Hotline number is promoted frequently on NIEA facebook page and Twitter website. •
Raise awareness of catchment management issues by release of relevant press articles and web publication of Lagan LMA e-zine. Support local community events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three editions of the Lagan e-zine have been published on the NIEA website and circulated to the Belfast Lough & Lagan CSG electronic mailing list. E-zines can be viewed at http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/public_partic_3/lma_e-newsletters.htm • NIEA staff attended Blamoral Show and demonstrated the use of the River Basin Planning Webmapper. • NIEA provided and supported a stand at the Loughs Agency Angling Fair, Newtownstewart, Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd May 2011 • NIEA provided and supported a stand at the Antrim & Newtownabbey Councils' sponsored South Antrim Fishing Festival at Mossley Mill, Saturday 21st & 28th May 2011. • Attended River Bush Salmon Station Open Day on 6th July 2011. • NIEA provided and supported a stand at the Newtownabbey Shoreline Festival at Loughshore Park, Newtownabbey, Sunday 28th August. • WMU & Marine Conservation Society Beach Watch Beach clean at Hazelbank Beach, Newtownabbey
Encourage riparian zone management with an aim to improve biodiversity and minimise sedimentation through practical management measures on farms	Under the Nitrates Action Programme all farms must carry out crop and soil management to minimise soil erosion and nutrient run-off. This is verified during cross-compliance visits.

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DARD Countryside Management(CMB) and NIEA to develop leaflets and articles to promote effective farm nutrient and waste management	'Water quality plans in action' article published in Farming Life in October 2010 Posters produced and distributed by DARD.
Collate existing information on location of aquatic (including river bank) invasive alien species	During river walks undertaken by NIEA, any sightings of invasive alien species are collated and reported to Invasive Species Ireland http://invasivespeciesireland.com .
Promote the control of invasive alien species on farmland	Control is promoted through the DARD Northern Ireland Countryside Management Scheme (NICMS). Funding is available to progress around 1000 applications for admission to the scheme in January 2012, with a further 1300 joining in January 2013.
Raise awareness and promote the benefits of effective farm nutrient and waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Landowner Awareness - Improving water quality in your local area' leaflet developed jointly with Loughs Agency, UFU, DARD to raise awareness amongst landowners. The issues included in this were initially raised through implementation meetings e.g. gravel removal, river litter & plastic litter • All applicants to DARD agri-environment schemes receive farm waste management advice as part of their application to the scheme. DAED has produced a 'Code of Good Agricultural Practise' which contains practical management advice on how farm wastes can be collected, stored and spread with minimal risk to the environment. DARD has also developed an agri-environment training course for farmers dealing with farm wastes and nutrient management planning. • CAFRE student WFD awareness raising talk given in April 2011 • '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. These have been distributed at a number of events and shows. • LMA Cross Compliance Inspections and referrals carried out by NIEA Agricultural Regulations Team
Investigate the sedimentation problems in the Lagan LMA, determine potential sources and take action to promote better sediment management	<p>To date river walks have been carried out in the following water bodies: River Lagan(3096), River Lagan (3048), River Lagan Tributary (3098), River Lagan (3046), River Lagan (3101), River Lagan (3105) and Connswater (3087).</p> <p>Bank erosion, animal poaching and alien species have been identified as three of the main issues affecting sediment management in the LMA. These issues are being addressed using follow up visits from Agricultural Regulations and Regional Operations teams. Alien species are collated and reported to Invasive Species Ireland(http://invasivespeciesireland.com). Further river walks are planned to obtain more information as required.</p> <p>Consider site restoration and protection methods to reduce sedimentation and improve habitat. Review River's Agency maintenance program</p>

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<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Householder Awareness - Improving water quality in your local area'</i> leaflet has been developed jointly with Loughs Agency and NIW. Leaflet aims to raise awareness amongst householders on household issues e.g. septic tank maintenance & pesticide use. Leaflets distributed at events attended within the LMA and to local groups. • NIEA provided and supported a stand at the Antrim & Newtownabbey Councils' sponsored South Antrim Fishing Festival Saturday 21st & 28th May 2011. Stand included information on River Basin Management Plans, LMA Action Plans and a demonstration of 'good bugs/bad bugs'. • NIEA provided and supported a stand at the Newtownabbey Shoreline Festival at Loughshore Park, Newtownabbey, Sunday 28th August. Stand included information on River Basin Management Plans, LMA Action Plans and a demonstration of 'good bugs/bad bugs'. • WMU & Marine Conservation Society Beach Watch Beach clean at Hazelbank Beach, Newtownabbey, 17th September 2011. • Demonstration of kick sampling by NIEA Freshwater Team to representatives from Belfast Hills partnership & Dunmurry Association, 29th September 2011.
<p>Create inventory of physical structures in the river channel and bank structures within the Lagan LMA</p>	<p>Staff from NIEA Water Management Unit have been liaising with the Ulster Angling Federation on a pilot study for the River Bush catchment. The Ulster Angling Federation have volunteered to ask relevant angling clubs to assess obstacles to fish movement, using the form agreed between the Federation and NIEA.</p> <p>Information has been received from Iveagh Angling Club on the Lagan weirs Some trialing of the UK Fish Passability tool to identify selected obstacles which are causing a barrier to fish migration has already taken place at some sites on the Lagan.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>To date river walks have been carried out in the following water bodies: River Lagan(3096), River Lagan (3048), River Lagan Tributary (3098), River Lagan (3046), River Lagan (3101), River Lagan (3105) and Connswater (3087).</p> <p>The main issues identified include bank erosion, poaching by livestock, agricultural discharges, polluting discharges from septic tanks and alien species. These issues are being addressed using follow up visits from NIEA Agricultural Regulations and Regional Operations teams. Alien species are collated and reported to Invasive Species Ireland (http://invasivespeciesireland.com). Further river walks are planned to obtain more information as required.</p> <p>As a result of river walks to date; 3 farms visited – polluting discharge Polluting discharge from 3 septic tanks Yard run-off and storage of silage bales too close to waterway</p> <p>LMA Cross Compliance inspections carried out by WMU Agricultural Regulations Team In 2010, out of 42 pre-planned visits, 10 businesses were breached and 4 businesses had at least 1 high breach. 98 referral visits resulted in breaches.</p>

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<p>Assess sources of organic pollution including agriculture, NIW intermittent discharges, WWTW, sewage pumping stations and septic tanks (domestic and private).</p>	<p>WMU water quality planners completed a comprehensive desktop study and risk analysis. Data analysis included historical monitoring data (biology/chemistry), occurrence of pollution incidents, land use, run-off risk, soil type and soil cohesion. Areas for additional LMA monitoring were identified. 61 additional monitoring sites were sampled and analysed. The results of this additional monitoring helped to identify river walks.</p> <p>To date river walks have been carried out in the following water bodies: River Lagan(3096), River Lagan (3048), River Lagan Tributary (3098), River Lagan (3046), River Lagan (3101), River Lagan (3105) and Connswater (3087).</p> <p>The main issues identified include bank erosion, poaching by livestock, agricultural discharges, polluting discharges from septic tanks and alien species. These issues are being addressed using follow up visits from Agricultural Regulations and Regional Operations teams. Alien species are collated and reported to Invasive Species Ireland (http://invasivespeciesireland.com). Further river walks are planned to obtain more information as required.</p> <p>As a result of river walks to date; 3 farms visited – polluting discharge Polluting discharge from 3 septic tanks Yard run-off and storage of silage bales too close to waterway</p> <p>LMA Cross Compliance inspections carried out by WMU Agricultural Regulations Team In 2010, out of 42 pre-planned visits, 10 businesses were breached and 4 businesses had at least 1 high breach. 98 referral visits resulted in breaches.</p>
<p>Visual inspection of WWTWs <250PE to inform future upgrades</p>	<p>6 inspections have been carried out at: Drumlough, Legacurry, Craiganasasonagh, Waringsford, McCandless Terrace, Mossvale Terraces and Bresagh WWTWs. Craiganasasonagh – Tipping Tray clogged. NIW staff present during inspection cleaned trays and informed NIEA staff that sludge tanker would be out to clean filter beds.</p>
<p>Compliance assessment of WWTWs >250PE to inform future upgrades</p>	<p>Ravernet, Kinallen and Dromara WWTWs were compliant with their Water Order consents in 2010.</p>
<p>Targeted education, advice and regulatory action to prevent pollution and protect the water environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing input to the Connswater Community Greenway Project. • 2 Farms visited by Regional Operations to highlight importance of storage of silage bales close to a waterway. • Farms visited regarding run-off from yard entering waterway. • Car dealership visited in South Belfast re: oil storage regulations. • All planning applications consulted on are made aware of the relevant pollution prevention guidelines.
<p>Investigate impact of forestry operations in waterbodies. Ascertain felling programme in the catchment and engage with forestry technical field</p>	<p>Met with Forestry personnel to highlight importance of water quality. Forestry Service follow industry guidelines re:water quality.</p>

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staff/ private landowners to ensure measures are in place to mitigate risks from felling.	
Investigate downstream impacts of discharges from industrial premises where problem has been identified to establish potential sources of pollution.	Four failing industrial consents from 1 st April 2011. Three were issued with a warning letter and the fourth an advisory letter.
Target Pollution Prevention advice to Industrial premises and investigate any unconsented industrial discharge. Where required ensure Water Order consent is obtained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car dealership visited in South Belfast re: oil storage regulations. • All planning applications consulted on are made aware of the relevant pollution prevention guidelines.
Promote pollution prevention campaigns such as the 'Bag It & Bin It' campaign	<p>Promote awareness at fairs and shows.</p> <p>Encourage support through publishing '<i>Householder Awareness - Improving water quality in your local area</i>' leaflet.</p>
Investigate Dissolved Oxygen suppressions	WMU water quality planners completed a comprehensive desktop study of data. This data analysis helped target further investigation and riverwalks.
Investigate ammonia levels	WMU water quality planners completed a comprehensive desktop study of data. This data analysis helped target further investigation and riverwalks.
Raise awareness of the impact of misconconnections where they are identified to be causing a deterioration in water quality.	Publication and distribution of ' <i>Householder Awareness - Improving water quality in your local area</i> ' leaflet. Leaflets made available to local councils, community groups and distributed events & fairs attended.
Carry out River Hydro morphology Assessment Technique (RHAT) survey to ground truth heavily modified designation.	<p>Assessments carried out in the following waterbodies;</p> <p>Blackstaff (3003) – 2 sites in October 2010</p> <p>Blackstaff (3002) – Desktop survey only</p> <p>River Lagan Tributary (3104) – 3 sites in 2010</p> <p>River Lagan (3108) – 6 sites in 2010</p> <p>Clowney Water (3119) – 3 sites in November 2010</p>
Complete the phosphorus nutrient budget work for Northern Ireland	A project is ongoing to identify nitrate, ammonium and phosphorous loadings in all the major river catchments in Northern Ireland. This includes quantification of 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.
Managed removal of alien plants and trees along river corridor to reduce shading and promote a more natural macrophyte assemblage	This is ongoing - Belfast City Council continues to manage alien species along the Connswater Community Greenway route.
Carry out full RHAT assessments on water body, pre and post-restoration to assess success of Connswater Community Greenway(CCG) project in terms of hydromorphology	Connswater (3087) – 4 sites in October 2010 Assessment carried out on upper reaches in April 2011.
Deploy passive samplers as part of investigative monitoring programme	<p>Spot checks carried out at three sites and passive samplers deployed on Lagan River at Banogue and Newforge Lane.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the issue of pesticide use and disposal. www.dardni.gov.uk/ruralni/cogap</p>

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Continue monitoring to confirm evidence of trophic status.	Chapter 6 of the 'State of the Seas' report was published in January 2011 and contains the latest information on the trophic status of coastal waters around Northern Ireland. Trophic status is assessed by measuring the elements linked to enrichment by nutrients accompanied by an undesirable disturbance to plant or animal life. The report can be accessed at: http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/state_of_the_seas_ni_report.htm .
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.
Further investigation of water balance to the groundwater body, taking into account abstraction volumes and review of recharge information.	Review of recharge: There was an MSc project in 2010 at Queens and some of the work has just been finished off by the GSNI hydrogeologists working on behalf of NIEA. For accurate abstraction volumes we depend on the NIEA Abstraction and Impoundment Licensing Team, but it is difficult to obtain up-to-date number – hence any investigation into water balance is restricted.
Review of groundwater abstraction and planning applications where necessary.	The NIEA Groundwater Team is a regular consultee on groundwater abstractions and planning applications for all of Northern Ireland. However, our statistics are not broken down by groundwater bodies.

Abbreviations (Term Explanation)
AFBI - Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
CCG - Connswater Community Greenway
CAFRE – College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise
DARD - Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DOE - Department of the Environment
EP Ecological Potential – the status of a heavily modified water body measured against the maximum ecological quality it could achieve given the constraints imposed upon it by those heavily modified characteristics necessary for its use. There are 4 classes for the status of heavily modified water bodies : good ecological potential or better (GEP), moderate ecological potential (MEP), poor ecological potential (PEP) and bad ecological potential(BEP)
GSNI - Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
NIEA - orthern Ireland Environment Agency
PE – Population Equivalent
RHAT – River Hydro morphology Assessment Technique
WWTW - Waste Water Treatment Works

- Further details of the actions above can be obtained by contacting Jo Campbell, Catchment Management Officer, Belfast Lough & Lagan by emailing Jo.Campbell@doeni.gov.uk or by telephoning 028 9262 3006
- If you, as an individual or organisation, are running a project or carrying out work that will assist in protecting or restoring the water environment please let us know using the above contact details.
- If you become aware of a water pollution incident you can call the Water Pollution Hotline (0800 80 70 60) in confidence, and provide the location and a description of the nature of the pollution incident.

The Lagan Local Management Area (LMA) Action plan published to NIEA website
http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/lagan_lma_actionplan.pdf