

# UPPER FOYLE CATCHMENT

## Regional Update

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**Last meeting was held on  
14<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

# NIEA Water Pollution Statistics Upper Foyle

15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010

- 99 Reported Pollution Incidents
  - 73 Confirmed Incidents
  - 26 Unconfirmed Incidents

# 72 Confirmed Incidents

## ■ 1 High Severity

- Ongoing issue at Derg WTW

## ■ 9 Medium Severity

- 6 Statutory Sample
- 1 Breach under Cross Compliance
- 1 Warning Letter
- 1 Referred to Pollution Prevention Team

## ■ 63 Low Severity

# Incident Source

- 32 Agricultural
- 26 Sewage
  - 13 NIW
  - 11 Domestic
  - 2 Industrial
- 9 Quarry/Sand and Gravel
- 4 Oil
- 2 Other

# How Incidents Reported

- Field Staff Discovered 47%
- Reported by Public 35% (only 13% by Hotline)
- NIEA Headquarters 7%
- Loughs Agency 5%
- Environmental Health 4%
- NI Fire Rescue 1%
- NIW 1%

# 24 Hour Water Pollution Hotline

0800807060

# 26 Non Confirmed Incidents

## ■ Examples

- Delay in reporting incident and discharge stopped
- Smell
- Discharges not entering waterway
- Slurry spreading

# Pollution Incidents in Owenkillew Catchment

- Between 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2010
- 4 Confirmed Pollution Incidents
- 1 Medium Severity
- 3 Low Severity
- All Agricultural Source

- 5 Breaches Under Cross Compliance
- A number of pollution files forwarded to PPS and in the court system

# Recent Successful Prosecutions

- **McAnenly Quarries, Drumnakilly**
  - December 2009 Pleaded Guilty 4 counts of pollution
  - Fines totalling over £23,000
  - Appealed rejected March 2010
  
- **Gordon Forbes, Sion Mills**
  - After 8 days of contest changed plea to guilty
  - Fined £1000 on 2 counts of pollution

# Surface Water Monitoring -Chemical

- Team of trained locally based Water Quality Samplers
- c. 70 sites per month in Upper Foyle Area
- Hand held dissolved oxygen meters
- DO <6 mg/l begin investigation

# Surface Water Monitoring - Biological

- Carried out by trained biologists
- If biotic score decreases by 25% investigation started by field staff



# Monitoring – Industrial

- c. 60 Industrial consented premises that are sampled annually in Upper Foyle
- 195 samples collected since October 2009
- 276 samples due to be collected in 2010
- Low volume inspections

# Industrial Consent - Non Compliance

- Trigger system to initiate enforcement action
  - Premises sampled 12 times per year
    - 3 fails or 1 gross fail (>5 times consent limit)
  - Premises sampled 4 times per year
    - 2 failures or 1 gross fail
  - Statutory Sample collected
  - Warning Letter, Notice, or Prosecution File Prepared
  - 5 Statutory Samples Collected
  - 2 Pending

# WWTW Inspections

- Works >250 population equivalent
  - 10 works inspected 3 times a year
  
- Works <250 population equivalent
  - 10 works inspected a year

# Domestic Water Order Consents

- Single domestic dwelling
- 144 applications received since October 2009
- 113 applications in same period last year

