Planning Ireland’s Water Future

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Overview

• Strategic context
• The approach and objectives
• Governance and engagement
• Road map to plan finalisation
• Building an enduring framework for water quality improvement.
The challenge

Ecological status across the EU (2012)
Challenge/Opportunity?

Water Framework Directive – the Cycle

Gathering data to evaluate outcomes

Defining the Problem

Setting targets & programmes to deliver improvements

Monitoring

Characterisation

River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures
High level objectives

- Ensure full compliance with relevant EU legislation
- Prevent deterioration
- Meet the objectives for designated protected areas
- Protect high status waters
- Implement targeted actions and pilot schemes in focus sub-catchments.
Plan components

National measures on regulation eg. New Nitrates Action plan, abstraction control, Planning guidance

Prioritised areas for targeted measures co-ordinated through LA regional structures.

National funding initiatives – IW waste water funding (€1.7 billion), rural water development, support for EPA science, LAWCO, etc.

Building from Cycle 1
In five years time....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRAFT - River Basin Management Plan</th>
<th>projects in 105 urban areas to achieve compliance with Urban Waste Water Directive</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment in urban waste water</td>
<td>6 non-compliant bathing waters &amp; 16 non-compliant discharges to nutrient sensitive areas will meet their requirements</td>
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<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>353 public drinking water source risk assessments will have taken place</td>
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<td>Water Quality</td>
<td>150 water bodies to show improvement in status by 2021, as well as actions on a priority basis to prevent deterioration</td>
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<td>National Dairy sustainability Forum</td>
<td>Industry led initiative to manage current pressures and support growth in the sector</td>
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<td>Measures in place to improve the physical condition of the water environment</td>
<td>- Substantially improved assessment methods and knowledge of physical condition</td>
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<td>- National inventory of barriers to fish migration</td>
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<td>- Enhance fish connectivity in the Shannon</td>
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<td>Abstraction control</td>
<td>Regime put in place in compliance with Water Framework Directive and to support water resource management</td>
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<td>Co-ordination between implementing bodies to deliver targeted supporting measures</td>
<td>- Dedicated LA staffing resource to support on the ground research and implementation of measures</td>
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<td>- Guidance to better integrate land use planning and water management</td>
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<td>Public engagement</td>
<td>National Water Forum; Local authority Water community Office to drive bottom up public engagement</td>
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Based on Draft River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, DHPCLG, 2017
Implementation Structures

Water Policy Advisory Committee

National Technical Implementation Group

National Co-ordination & Management Committee

Implementing Bodies

Stakeholders

Local Authority Structures

- Border Regional Committee
- Midlands & Eastern Regional Committee
- South East Regional Committee
- South West Regional Committee
- Western Regional Committee

Local Authority Water & Communities Office (LAWCO)
Public engagement

Public Water Forum

National Rural Water Services Committee

Consultation on River Basin Management Plans

National Water Forum
Road Map to finalising plan

Current phase

- Public Consultation (August 2017)
- LAWCO public engagement
- Regional characterisation workshops

Autumn 2017

- LAWCO & EPA produce report on supporting measure for regional consultation
- LAWCO to host regional workshops to co-ordinate public consultation on regional prioritisation.
- National Water forum to be briefed on outcome (October 2017)
- LA regional committees to agree priorities

Winter 2017/18

- Department to finalise plan based on
  - WPAC consideration
  - Regional input
  - Public consultation
  - National Water Forum engagement.
  - SEA & AA
Framework for improving water quality

Funding

Building Capacity
‘Water is one of those resources, one of those issues, that can only be managed for the long-term. But it is a mistake to imagine that small things don’t matter or that big water issues aren’t manageable.’ (C. Fishman)