

# Let's Talk About Our Coastal Communities!



**waters** & **communities**  
Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities

# The Waters and Communities Office: Our Role

- To **work with Local Authorities** in coordinating water quality activities across the regions
- To **encourage public bodies**, sectoral interests, NGO's and local **communities**, to share knowledge and **work together** to **protect** and manage our **natural waters**



# Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000

## Opening line

*“Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such.”*

## Article 14

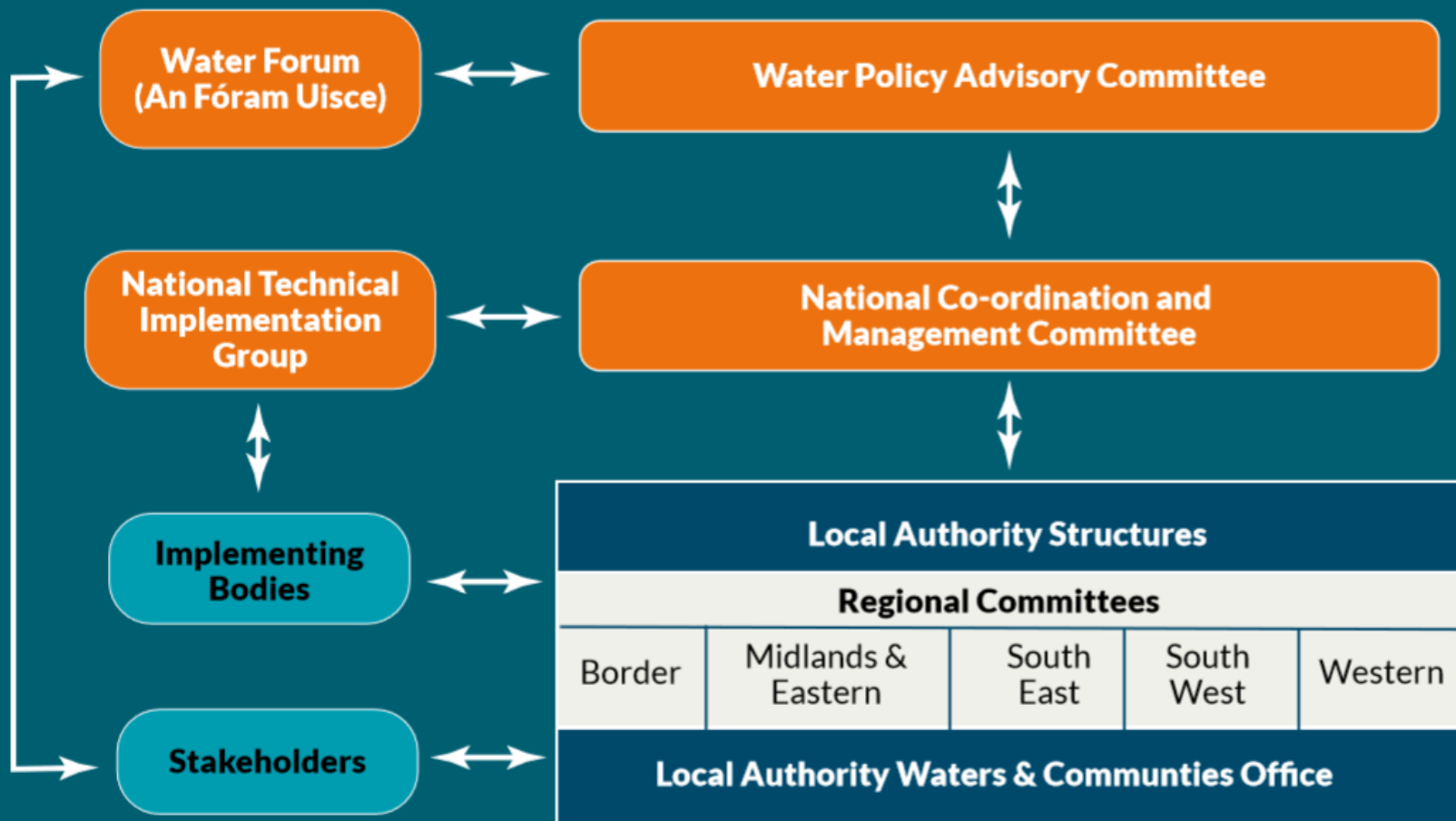
*“Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive”*



# Learnings from 1<sup>st</sup> Cycle 2009 -2015

- Need for better evidence base (EPA characterisation work)
- First cycle too ambitious
- ... “fragmented institutional structures”
- ... “no single body having ultimate responsibility”
  - Single RBD with national plan the responsibility of Minister
  - New governance & implementation structures right
  - Local Authorities central to this
- Need for improved communication & public engagement
  - Consultation central to development of draft Plan
  - Specific resource developed through setting up the Local Authority Water and Community Office (LAWCO).

# Governance structure



# Irish State Agencies involved in Water Management....



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,  
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of Housing, Planning,  
Community and Local Government



**epa**  
Environmental Protection Agency  
An Gníomhaireacht um Gaibheathas Comharsaí



**OPW**

The Office of Public Works  
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí



**Wicklow County Council**  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN



Department of  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Food**  
An Roinn  
Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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**Marine Institute**  
Foras na Mara



**Waterways Ireland**  
Uiscebhealaí Éireann Watterweys Airlann



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland



Commission for Energy Regulation  
An Coimisiún um Rialáil Éilicte



**National Parks & Wildlife Service**

# Our Team

## Jointly managed

by Kilkenny & Tipperary  
County Council

## 12 No. Community Waters Officers

- Dispersed across the Country



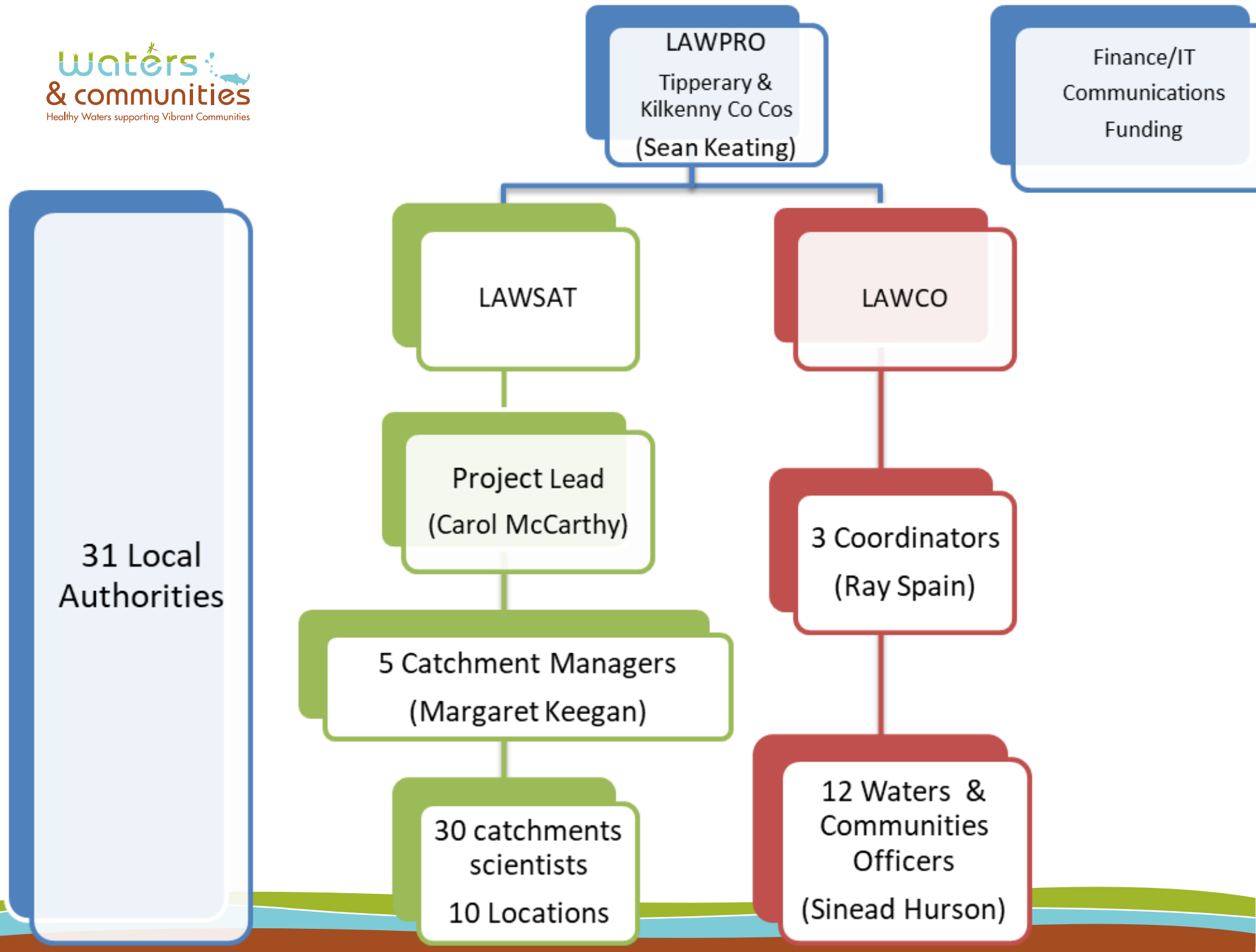
**LAWSAT**  
Additional Technical  
staff – boots on the  
ground.

## 3 Specialist Staff

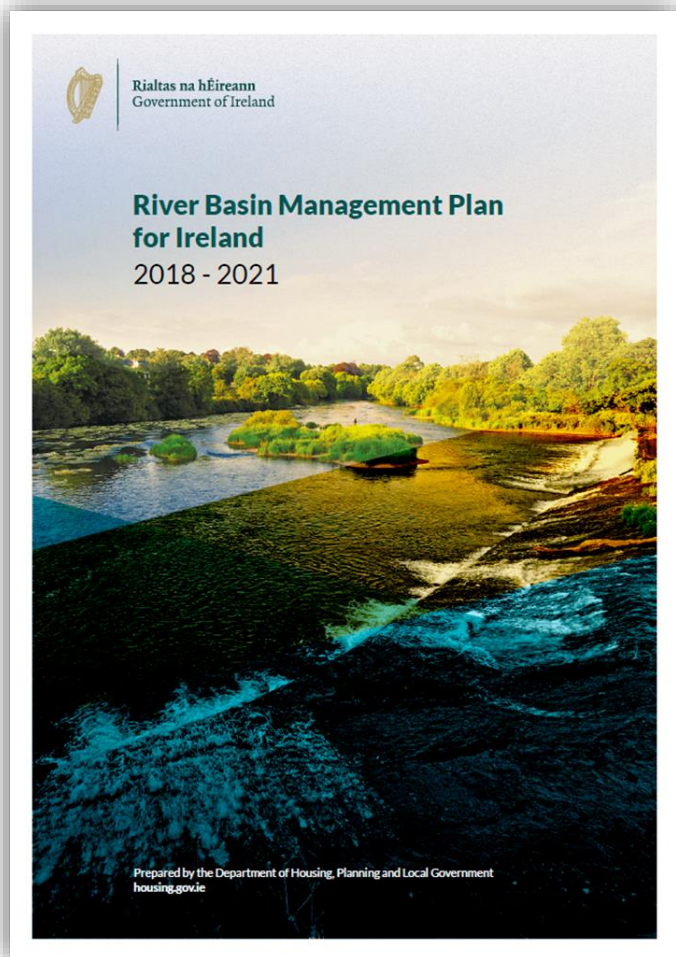
- Funding Lead
- Communications Lead
- Research and Technology Lead

## 3 Regional Coordinators

- Border Region
- Mid Region
- South Region



# River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021



- Public consultation Mar. – Aug. 2017
- 120 Local meetings held throughout the country
- Final plan published April 2018:

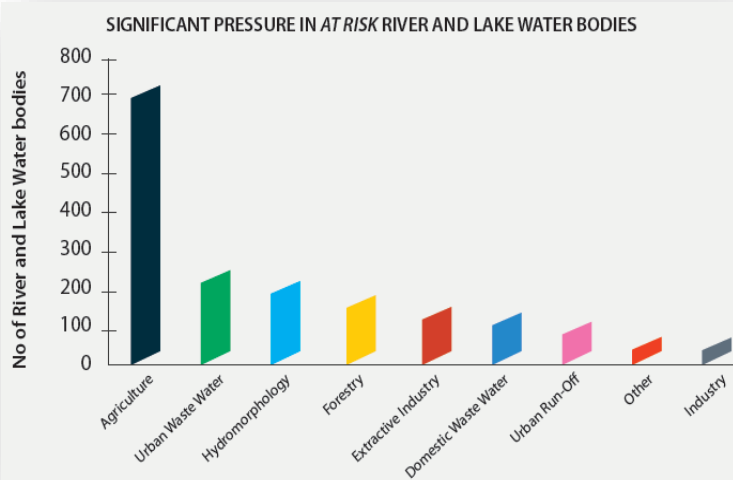


**Protect Our Waters**

**Improve Our Waters**

**Manage Our Waters**

# Areas for Action – Recommended Priority Waterbodies



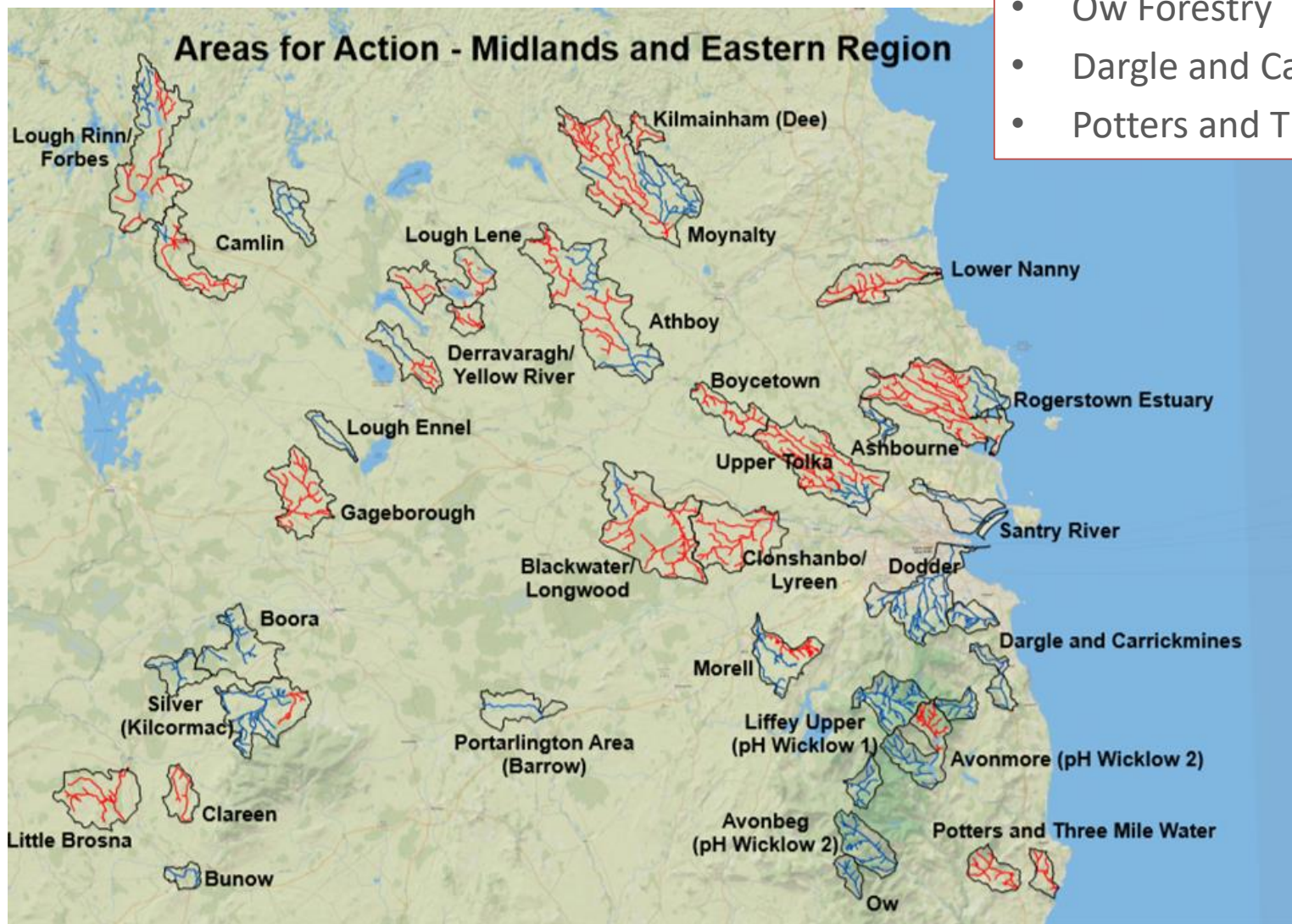
The EPA, local authorities and public authorities have engaged in **Catchment Assessment Workshops**.

Recommended Priority Waterbodies for Action' were identified following the assessment of all available **scientific and technical data** from the relevant agencies and also **using local knowledge**.



- pH (Wicklow) 1
- pH (Wicklow) 2
- Ow Forestry
- Dargle and Carrickmines
- Potters and Three Mile Water

## Areas for Action - Midlands and Eastern Region



# What kind of projects can communities get involved in?

## General Amenity

- River clean
- River walk
- Amenity area/ picnic area
- Bird watching
- Canoe/kayaking



## Public awareness

- Leaflet of local information
- Pride of place/Tidy towns project
- Schools
- Citizen science
- Targeted surveys
- Biodiversity walks

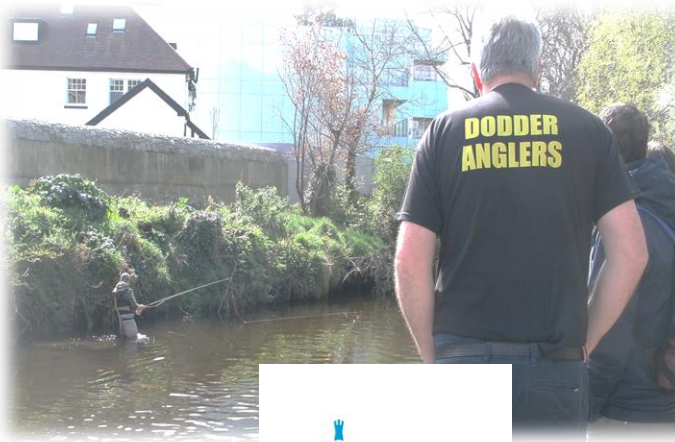
## Restoration/conservation

- Planting of trees
- River restoration works
- Fish passage
- Invasive species control
- Silt trapping

# Working together on the River Dodder



*"It was great to see the agencies and LA's all together in one room and to be able to speak with them in an informal setting. We need more of this..". Community group member*



# Heritage Week Events 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August



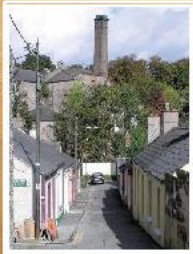
Looped Guided Bird and Photography Walk along the Dodder  
Tallaght, South Dublin.

# The Camac River Tells a Story

Join us on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 10am -1pm  
at **Richmond Barracks, Dublin 8**

Celebrate the natural and built heritage of the Camac River through storytelling, images, song and poetry. Join special guest speakers, explore the exhibition and learn about this unique watercourse.

**Everyone is welcome.**



Admission is free. Booking essential.

For booking, e-mail:

[CamacHeritage@dublincity.ie](mailto:CamacHeritage@dublincity.ie) or [shurson@lawco.ie](mailto:shurson@lawco.ie)

For more information see:

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/whats-on/event/the-camac-river-tells-a-story>

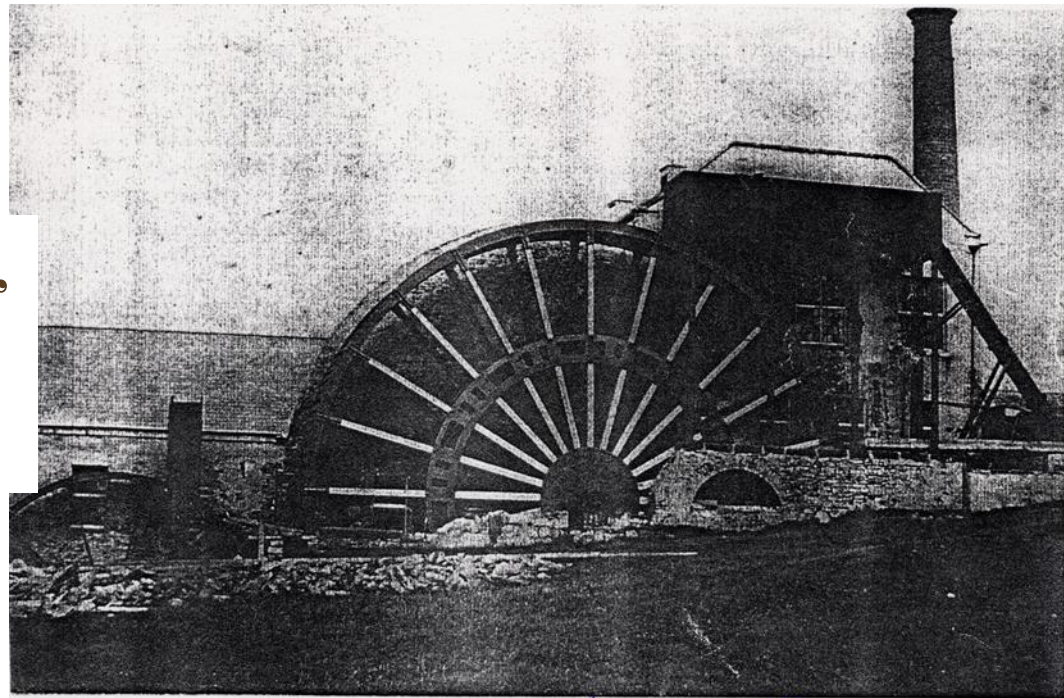
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Dublin City Council



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Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities



*Mill Wheel at Swift Brook Paper Mills, Saggart - 1896*



Killeen Paper Mills (OSI ~1840)

- 1000 volunteers
- 35 locations-  
rivers, canals &  
coastlines
- Approx. 10t on  
waste removed

# All Waters, One Day, One Big Clean-up!



Do you live near a stream, canal, lake, pond, river or the sea within County Dublin?

Get involved in

## Dublin Waters Action Day

as part of National Spring Clean by simply organising a clean-up around your local waterway on

**Saturday April 21st 2018, 11am**

We hope that groups along rivers and canals throughout Dublin will join together for one day to make a concerted effort to clean their local water environment.

**By all working together we can achieve more!**

#keepdublinclean



Dublinwatersday

If you would like to get involved or have any questions please contact  
Kevin 087 2928704 or [dublinwatersday@gmail.com](mailto:dublinwatersday@gmail.com)  
For further information please see [www.dublinwatersday.com](http://www.dublinwatersday.com)



## Misconnected household drains are polluting our local streams, rivers and beaches!



Prevent pollution of our water environment – check your property

The Council are working hard to identify the 1000's of homes in the County whose sewage goes directly into local waters untreated and we need **your** help to stop this pollution from happening.

'What can I do?'

- Have a look at the pipes on the back of your house. Are there any pipes connecting into the downpipe from your roof or gutters? The most common example of a misconnection is where a shower or sink is connected to the downpipe. See photos below.



- Another common misconnection is when an extension is built with a utility and/or a bathroom and the foul waste pipe is connected to the surface water outlet instead of the foul sewer.
- If you think you have a misconnection, please contact the Water Pollution Control section of the Council for advice.

## Information & Awareness Campaigns

1

## Car Washing

On vegetated lawns or at licensed car washing facilities



2

## Proper Disposal

© emerald coast utilities authorities



Of fats, oils, grease and hazardous wastes

3

## Grass Cuttings

Dispose of properly, don't dump near watercourse



8

Use Water Butts to conserve water



what YOU can do to protect your local waters

4

Plant Native Species



© Coillte woodland restoration in Ireland

7

## Storm Drains

Think before you pour

THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN



© www.plumbingandsewer.com

6

Think before you flush

Follow The Think before you Flush campaign

© www.thinkbeforeyouflush.org

5

Promote Green Infrastructure

© mechanisatborough.org



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Dublin City Council

Waters & communities  
Healthy Waters supporting Vibrant Communities



# Help your community shine!



In English

As Gaeilge

**Home**

**Welcome Message**

**The History**

**The Spirit**

**The Competition**

**The Sponsors**

**Publications**

**Links**

**News**

**How to Volunteer**

## waters & communities

# AWARD



## Waters and Communities Tidy Towns Award



## Types of projects considered will include:

- **Capital projects** such as restoration, habitat conservation, natural flood mitigation measures etc
- Projects that promote **public awareness/education and events** such as biodiversity days, nature events, targeted surveys, training workshops, , citizen science (including purchase of specialist equipment and hosting of workshops), Leaflet/booklets of local information, conservation plans etc.
- **General amenity projects with a water focus** such as beach cleans, improving amenity areas, bird watching facilities, etc.

Grants awarded will range from up to €5,000; up to €10,000 and up to €25,000.

The screenshot shows the homepage of [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie). The header includes the logo and a navigation menu with links: Home, News, Stories, Learn, Maps, Data, Resources, and Contact. The main heading reads 'Welcome to Catchments.ie - Water from source to sea.' Below this, a paragraph states: 'Water is a precious resource and is essential for all life on earth. Looking after our rivers, lakes and coastal waters so they can meet our current and future needs, and also continue to support the ecosystems that depend on them, is vital for Ireland's future. Doing this at community level is the best way to get people actively involved.' A 'Find out more' button is present. A 'Get involved' section follows, with the subtext 'Make your local catchment work for you'. It contains a sign-up form with fields for First name, Surname, Email, and County. There is a checkbox for 'I agree to your terms of use and privacy policy' and a reCAPTCHA 'I'm not a robot' checkbox. A 'Sign me up' button is at the bottom of the form. A footer note states: 'This site has been developed, and is hosted and maintained, by the Environmental Protection Agency.' The EPA Catchments logo is also visible.



Catchments Newsletter which tells stories about what has worked for communities around Ireland, other occasional updates about water, and events in your local area.

# Opportunity to Work with The Waters and Communities Office....

The Waters and Communities Office will **support local communities** to manage our local waterbodies by....



# Thank you....



**Sinead Hurson | Community Water Officer**

☎ 085 8083725 | [shurson@lawco.ie](mailto:shurson@lawco.ie)

**Covering the Local Authority Areas of  
Dublin and Wicklow**

[www.watersandcommunities.ie](http://www.watersandcommunities.ie)  
[www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)