



Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive

Irish NGOs and Water Quality

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October 2001

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results from a basic survey carried out in October 2001 among Irish NGOs that we considered might be involved in, or have a working interest in water issues. The goal of this survey was to determine the level of awareness of these NGOs to the new EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). Indeed this Directive would ensure the participation of NGOs and citizens in water management, and ensure transparency of the decision making process. It was thus important to know the state of knowledge and means/resources available among NGOs in order to take the measures, in term of co-operation, information and funding, that will be necessary for NGO participation in a successful implementation of the WFD.

This document includes a short and general description of the Water Framework Directive. Then the results of the survey are presented and analysed. The conclusion summarises the main issues and makes recommendations.

Many NGOs suffer from a considerable lack of resources, and the findings of the survey are in no way intended as criticism or judgement of the level of activity or awareness of NGOs on the WFD. The survey was intended only as an assessment of the current situation. The chronic lack of resources of NGOs is recognised, and indeed a survey of Environmental NGOs early in 2001 found that the majority of NGOs had budgets of less than £50,000 a year, and that almost half of these had budgets of less than £5,000 a year.

2. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC

This section presents the general framework of the Directive, and the main changes and new tools it introduces in water management. It also gives brief examples of the role that NGOs might have in the implementation of the Directive. A history of the Directive is given in **Appendix A**.

The most part of the information below and in **Appendix A** comes from the **EEB Handbook on EU Water Policy under the Water Framework Directive, by Dr. Klaus Lanz and Stefan Scheuer, January 2001**.

2.1 Main Features of WFD

The WFD will build on or repeal a number of Directives including: Surface Water Directive, Fish Water Directive, Shellfish Water Directive, Dangerous Substances Directive, Groundwater Directive.

Two of the main goals of the WFD are the protection and the improvement of the aquatic environment and the contribution to sustainable balanced and equitable water use. The Directive should also contribute to achieving the objectives of relevant international agreements. This is important since some of the objectives laid down by these

international agreements are far-reaching and might ask for more stringent measures than those currently required under the WFD.

New instruments are introduced in EU water policy to protect and improve all European Water (including transitional and coastal waters, which is currently neglected under EU legislation) :

- **River basin planning : the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP)**

The WFD establishes a water management at the level of river basins. These basins are defined as the surface of land drained by streams and river and includes also corresponding groundwater and coastal waters. Each river basin will have its own River Basin Management Plan that includes preliminary analyses and assessments and sets the objectives, program of measures and deadlines at the scale of the basin. Member States are required to empower one competent authority for each river basin.

Measures to undertake as well as the possible exemptions, derogation and deadlines extensions have to be clearly listed in the RBMP. The RBMP is revised and assessed every six years. An explanation is required when the objectives are not reached.

- **An ecological and holistic water status assessment approach (surface water)**

The WFD aims to protect the physical and biological integrity of aquatic systems and hence the basis of human water withdrawals.

All waters of a basin should be classified in high, good, moderate, poor, or bad status. “Good status” results from the conjunction of both “good ecological status” and “good chemical status”. Ecological status is defined by comparison with undisturbed water according to biological, hydromorphological, and physico-chemical quality elements.

The overall objective of the WFD is for “good status” to be achieved for all waters by December 2015, or at least a “good ecological potential” for waters designated as “artificial or high modified waters” in the RBMP.

- **Public information and consultation**

Members States are required to publish at least a summary of management plans. The Directive specifically requires Member States to list the contact points and procedure for obtaining the background document and information.

During the preparation of RBMP, Member States have to produce a timetable and a work programme, including consultation measures; interim documents, and draft copies of the RBMP, with a sufficient time (at least six months) for submitting comments in writing in order to enable active involvement and consultation.

Above all Art. 14 establishes a right to know for the Public and the NGOs: all background documents used for the development of RBMP and moreover monitoring data have to be available upon request.

- **A strategy for elimination of pollution by dangerous substances**

WFD sets a “non-deterioration principle”. A list of “priority substances” which discharge in waters should be reduced has to be established by the EU Commission. Among these priority substances “priority hazardous substances” should be designated, and their discharges must cease completely within 20 years.

- **Financial instruments**

WFD establishes a “full cost recovery” principle for water. That means that environmental damage and non-efficient uses of water resource should be taken into account in the price that users pay for water.

2.2 Role of NGOs

- **At river basin level**

NGOs can and should actively participate in the drafting of the RBMP to avoid the use of derogations and extensions of deadlines. In particular they can keep a watch on and limit the designation of “highly modified water” where objectives are less stringent. They also can use the right to know to check the application of measures set by RBMP and inform citizens.

- **At national level**

NGOs can monitor the transposition of the Directive in National Law. Indeed many terms of the Directive are vague and could be interpreted in different ways and possibly lead to a weakening of the objectives. They can also participate in the designation of reference water that will indirectly determine the “good status objective”.

They can and should to check that the assessment procedure is sufficiently stringent and sensitive.

- **At EU level**

NGOs can look at the harmonisation of the ecological assessment procedure, particularly the designation of reference waters and class boundaries (especially between good and moderate status). That should lead to the establishment of consistent, efficient and comparable ecological indicators for every Members States.

3. *ORGANISATIONS SURVEYED*

We sent the Questionnaire to a number of NGOs potentially interested in water issues, derived from the ENFO documentation leaflet “**Non-governmental organisations with environmental interests, February 2001**”, the **Sustainable Ireland Source Book 2000**, and **personal communication from Paddy Mackey and Ruth McGrath, VOICE**.

Thirty eight NGOs were surveyed as follows:

	NATIONAL	LOCAL
Non specialised	Earthwatch (Friends of the Earth Ireland) Environmental Action Alliance Dublin Friends of the Irish Environment Irish Womens Environmental Network An Taisce	Cork Environmental Forum Earthwatch Cork Macroom District Environmental Group Moville/Greencastle Environmental Group
Inland water and wetland	Inland Waterways Association of Ireland Irish Peatland Conservation Council	Coomhola Salmon Trust Ltd. Dodder Valley Project Lough Ree Conservation Society Save Our Lake and Valley Environment Save Our Lough Derg Save Our Lough Ree Save the Swilly
Coastal Water	Coastwatch Europe Network	North Wicklow Coastal Environmental Group Sherkin Island Marine Station
Wildlife	Birdwatch Ireland Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (Kilrush) Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (Cork) Irish Wildlife Federation Irish Wildlife Trust	Shannon Dolphin and Wildlife Foundation The Vincent Wildlife Trust Irish Water and Fish Preservation Society
Organic	Irish Organic Society Organic Trust	An t-Ionad Glas, Centre for Organic Education
Forest	Crann Forest Friends Ireland Just Forests	
Other	The Consumers Association Irish Doctors Environmental Association	Carra Mask Corrib Water Protection Group

16 NGOs did not complete the Questionnaire for various reasons:

- Three no longer exist :
- Six proved difficult to contact:
- Two indicated that they were not involved in water issues:
- Others indicated that they are interested in water issues but do not have time for, or are not really involved in, the implementation of the WFD.

This left 22 replies (complete or partial) with which to work. Excluding from the original list NGOs that no longer exist, or do not work on water issues, (i.e. 7 organisations), gives a list of 31 NGOs with a working interest in water quality issues, and a response-rate of $22/(38-7) = 71 \%$.

Appendix B lists the addresses and a short description of all NGOs contacted, that we considered might have a working interest in water issues (whether or not they replied to the Questionnaire). Although we tried to ensure that we included all relevant NGOs, this list may not be exhaustive and we apologise to any relevant NGO that may have been inadvertently omitted.

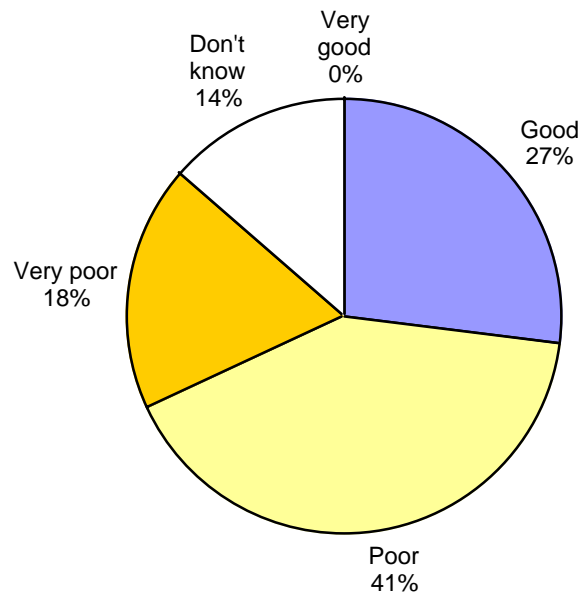
4. RESULTS: LEVEL OF AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT IN WFD IMPLEMENTATION

The questionnaire sent to the NGOs contained two sections. The goals of this Questionnaire were twofold: firstly to determine the NGOs' knowledge of the WFD, and secondly to determine their resources to work on the WFD. The results are presented below.

4.1 Information and documentation

This part details the level of awareness of the NGOs and the documentation they have.

- **Question 1:** *How would you rate awareness in your organisation about the overall implications of the WFD ?*



The level of awareness is low with only a quarter of NGOs aware of even the overall implications of the WFD. Almost 75% of the NGOs have a poor or very poor level of information, or can't rate their awareness. In few cases, especially in NGOs that have more volunteer staff, the level of awareness is mixed: some accustomed to water issues may be quite well aware about the WFD, but the most of the staff are not.

- **Question 2 :** *Have you received any information or back-up material on the WFD ?*

	Number	Percentage
YES	15	68 %
NO	7	32 %

If yes, the sources were:

	Number	Percentage
A : Government Bodies	4	24 %
B : NGO sources	7	41 %
C : Other	6	35 %

Comment: the total number in the table above is bigger than the 15 who had indicated they had received information, this is because a few NGOs have more than one source.

These documents come from: EU* (cited 5 times), EEB** (4), Heritage Council (3), EPA*** (2), DOELG (1) and Internet**** (3).

This is quite paradoxical in comparison with the response to the first question. Although NGOs have documentation they do not regard themselves as well informed. This may be explained by a lack of time to use the available documentation, or by the complexity, insufficiency, or inappropriateness of documentation, and the lack of resources that NGOs have to devote to such broad and complex issues like the WFD.

The sources are equally distributed in government bodies, NGOs and Others (mainly EU via Internet).

- **Question 3 :** *Do you have a copy of the Directive ?*

	Number	Percentage
YES	8	38 %

* Copy of the Directive, ** EEB-UFD info, *** Discussion document on National Lake Water Quality Monitoring Programme, **** EU website

NO	13	62 %
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Comment: there are less than 22 answers because of incomplete answers

- **Question 4** : *Have you attended any meetings, briefings or conferences about the WFD?*

	Number	Percentage
YES	7	33 %
NO	14	67 %

Comment: there are less than 22 answers because of incomplete answers

If yes these meetings were:

EEB Seminars (3), EPA presentation about water quality (1), DOELG/Heritage Council (1), DOELG/Central Fisheries Board (1) or local monitoring and management meeting (1).

Curiously, we find the same distribution as in the first question. We could so think that meetings are more efficient than written documents to spread the information (although this is only partly confirmed by a more precise analyse of answers).

4.2 Actions and means/resources

This part examines what actions/measures may be taken by NGOs, and the means and resources they would need to undertake these.

- **Question 1** : *What do you consider to be the main implications of the WFD for your organisation's area of work?*

	Number	Percentage
Don't know	4	14 %
Low or minimal	1	4 %
Giving information about the Directive	2	7 %
Surveying and monitoring	3	11 %
Campaigning or informing about usual organisational issues	11	39 %
Participation and lobbying in future River Basin Management Plans	7	25 %

Comment : there are more than 22 answers as some NGOs would act on several levels.

The answers demonstrates the distinction between NGOs that are partly or well informed on the WFD (i.e. one quarter), and could already consider participating in the drafting of RBMP and subsequent monitoring, and other NGOs (three quarters

%) that are as yet uncertain as to what they intend to do, or only plan to continue with their usual work.

- **Question 2 :** *Does your organisation have a written policy on WFD implementation ?*

At this point in time none of the 22 organisations contacted have a written policy on WFD. That could be explained partly by the newness of the Directive, and partly by the lack of information. However it seems to be urgent to raise the level of awareness of NGOs in advance of the transcription of the Directive into Irish Law.

- **Question 3 :** *Do you have a budget and work-plan for WFD ?*

None of the 22 organisations contacted have a budget or a work plan. This plainly shows the obvious shortage of resources of Irish NGOs.

- **Question 4 :** *How many staff-hours per year do you estimate it would be necessary for your organisation to devote to WFD ?*

	Number	Percent age
Don't know	9	45 %
None	4	20 %
Less than 100 hours/year	1	5 %
Between 100 and 200 h/y	4	20 %
More than 200 h/y	2	10 %

Comment: there are less than 22 answers because of incomplete answers

Most of the NGOs answered “none” or “don't know” because they do not have permanent staff, and rely on voluntary work that is difficult to estimate. In rare cases some of the work of the NGOs impinges on the implementation of the WFD and cannot be separated from the usual work of the NGO and consequently cannot be precisely calculated. Because of the present lack of information about the Directive a few NGOs don't know if it will fall within their area of interest and whether they can devote staff-hours.

- **Question 5 :** *What kind of support relevant to WFD implementation could you offer to volunteers in your organisation ?*

	Number	Percentage
Don't know	6	27 %
None	7	32 %
Knowledge of the Directive & legal background	2	9 %

Information, documentation	6	27 %
Others (computer, office...)	1	5 %

It is also obvious that, at the moment, because of their lack of information and resources in terms of money and staff, the NGOs are unable to provide a wide range of support to their volunteers. At most they can provide some limited information.

- **Question 6 :** *Which are the two main Government Departments you are in regular contact with in the course of your work*

	Number	Percentage
Dept. Of Marine and Natural Resources	10	24 %
Dept. Of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and Islands	10	24 %
Dept. Of Environment and Local Government	11	26 %
Dept. Of Agriculture	3	7 %
Others (Local Authorities, Finance, Education ...)	8	19 %

There are more than 22 responses as most NGOs would be in contact with more than one Government Dept.

The main departments involved in usual work of NGOs are DoMNR, DoAHGI and DoELG. Curiously, although in Ireland agriculture is responsible for a great part of the pollution and particularly the eutrophication of the lakes, the Dep. Of Agriculture is cited only 3 times as a Dept. with which the NGOs have contact.

- **Question 7 :** *How would you rate Ireland's past performance in implementing Environmental Directives ?*

	Number	Percentage
A : Very Good	0	0 %
B : Good	1	5 %
C : Poor	8	40 %
D : Very Poor	11	55 %

Comment: there are less than 22 answers because of incomplete answers

There was a clear and broad consensus about the failure of the Irish Government to implement EU Environmental Directives.

- **Question 8** : *Would you consider co-operating with other NGOs to work on WFD implementation ?*

	Number	Percentage
YES	19	95 %
NO	1	5 %

Comment: there are less than 22 answers because of incomplete answers

There is an obvious willingness for co-operation among the NGOs, although they may have different ideas of what form such co-operation might take, and what its goals might be (e.g. from simple information exchange, to the drafting of a common position on the WFD implementation).

- **Question 9** : *Any other comments ?*

The comments made reinforce the assessment of a lack of information and resources. One commented on the complexity of the issue. The information deficit is clearly criticised (cited 3 times) and consequently a need for help and documentation especially through co-operation and meetings is expressed (7) as well as the lack of money (2). The way that national or local authorities tackle environmental problems in Ireland and the low-level of environmental-awareness of civil servants is criticised (3).

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey shows an obvious lack of awareness and preparedness among NGOs, mainly because of a lack of resources (staff, time, money). This casts doubt on their capacity to cope with complex technical and legal issues raised by the implementation of the WFD, which means that the principle of transparency and public participation set by the Directive cannot be respected. Moreover, without effective NGO participation and contribution it is likely that poor implementation of the WFD may lead to very lax constraints and many derogations. The result could be no change in water quality or even a worsening in water quality.

To avoid this failure and a possible degradation of the Irish aquatic environment the capacity of NGOs to participate in implementation of the WFD needs to be improved.

In the short term an information campaign about the Directive seems necessary. The survey shows that the documentation the NGOs have does not seem to be adapted to their needs.

Meetings seem to be more efficient as a means of rapid dissemination of information. These meetings could be used both to inform the NGOs of the role they can play in

RBMP, and as a forum to work towards common strategies on the implementation of the WFD.

In a long term, lobbying for the creation of basin competent agencies where the NGOs would be represented would seem to be a worthwhile objective. This should be complemented by a growing funding of NGOs that would enable them to dedicate expert staff to follow the implementation of WFD in Ireland and in EU, through the political decisions of EU Parliament and also to monitor the technical and scientific issues raised.

6. *SOURCES*

Leaflets, files and handbooks :

- ENFO documentation leaflet “Non-governmental organisations with environmental interests”, February 2001.
- Sustainable Ireland Source Book 2000.
- EEB Handbook on EU Water Policy under the Water Framework Directive, by Dr. Klaus Lanz and Stefan Scheuer, January 2001.
- “Making the EU Water Framework Directive work”, Ten Actions for Implementing a Better European Water Policy. EEB, July 2001.
- Personal communication : Paddy Mackey and Ruth McGrath, VOICE

Websites :

- www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex
- www.seas-at-risk.org
- www.eeb.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE are very grateful in VOICE to Hervé Jouan, who travelled all the way from France, and calmly undertook this survey and wrote this report, and with whom it was a genuine pleasure to work!

Survey conducted by Hervé Jouan
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APPENDIX A : HISTORY OF THE DIRECTIVE

- The European water legislation began in a first wave of Directives in the 70s.
On one hand a certain number of these Directives laid down Environmental Quality Standards for specific types of water:
 - Surface Water Directive 75/440/EEC
 - Fish Water Directive 78/659/EEC
 - Shellfish Water Directive 79/923/EEC
 - Bathing Water Directive
 - Drinking Water Directive

- On the other hand others Directives established Emission Limit Values:
 - Dangerous Substances Directive 76/464/EEC
 - Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC

- Later in the 80s this legislation was completed by two other Directives :
 - Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
 - Nitrate Directive

- The latest Directives adopted in the water legislation are the new Drinking water Directive (November 1998) that reviewed the quality standards and the Directive for Integrated Pollution and Prevention Control (1996), addressing pollution from large industrial installation.

Due to this patchwork of legislation from the 1970s onwards, new and more co-ordinated water legislation was demanded by both Council and Parliament. During the last decade a major revision of the EU water policy was prepared, finally resulting in the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

This work began in 1988 when a ministerial seminar in Frankfurt called for such a reform. Consequently the 1992 Edinburgh Council asked the Commission to revise European water legislation. The Commission came forward in 1994 with a proposal for a Directive on the Ecological Quality for Surface Waters that was rejected by the European Parliament and Council in 1995. Later in 1996 the European Parliament called for a “Water Framework Directive”. In 1997, the Commission came forward with the proposal for a Council Directive establishing a Framework for Community Action in the Field of

Water Policy, but had to amend it twice. This was due in the first place to the extensive and complicated annexes, which play a crucial role in defining the directive's objectives.

The following legislative process was dominated by very contrary positions of the European Parliament and the Council on basically all essential elements and their respective roles in the legislative process.

The Member States represented at the Council were finally able to agree on a compromise at the end of the British presidency in June 1998. Since the European Parliament had not even completed its first reading of the Directive, the Council compromise could not be formally adopted as a Common Position, but was unofficially agreed as a mere 'political agreement'. The pressure exerted by the British government to complete negotiations had dire consequences for the Directive. In order to reach a compromise, far-reaching concessions were made to various Member States. This political agreement weakened all the essential elements of the Directive by weakening the objective of good water quality, introducing exemptions and derogations and extending deadlines.

The European Parliament fiercely criticised the fact that the Council did not consider Parliament's opinion before adopting a 'political agreement', as is required by the EU Treaty. Parliament adopted 122 amendments in its first reading in February 1999.

The EP identified overly long deadlines, generous and uncontrollable derogation clauses, the lack of rules for more efficient water use in households, industry and agriculture and insufficient protection of groundwater as the main weakness of the proposed paper. Furthermore, the delegates demanded the legally binding inclusion of international obligations for the protection of waters against hazardous substances (OSPAR) into the Directive.

When the Council's Common Position rejected virtually all the Parliament's amendments, the outcome of the second reading was predictable. Meanwhile, a new Parliament was elected and the Conservative European People's Party (EPP) won the majority at the expense of Socialist and Greens. The Amsterdam Treaty was finally ratified, giving the Parliament considerably more power under the co-decision procedure that is now applying to all environmental directives. In February 2000 the EP confirmed the majority achieved at first reading at its plenary session and went beyond some respects. Apart from better protection against hazardous substances and a precautionary groundwater protection, Parliament vehemently demanded the reinstatement of legally binding and enforceable objectives. On the other hand, the further legislative process was complicated by the fact that due to the complexity of the text some of Parliament's amendments were not fully consistent.

The Council rejected Parliament's amendments again and a subsequent conciliation became necessary between the Council and Parliament in order to reconcile the differing viewpoints.

In spite of the increased influence of Parliament, a conciliation process is a most demanding process for EP delegates. As generalists and without thorough advice from specialist they find themselves faced with a large number of water-only experts from the Member States and the Commission. After difficult and lengthy negotiations, the

Parliament and Council finally agreed on a compromise on 28 June 2000. Due to the difficult negotiation process and the many influences that had to be accommodated, the resulting text is hard to beat in terms of complexity and lack of clarity.

APPENDIX B : SELF-DESCRIPTION OF IRISH NGOS CONCERNED WITH WATER ISSUES

- An Taisce :

A voluntary organisation founded in 1948 to advance the conservation and management of Ireland's natural and built endowments in manners that are sustainable.

**An Taisce
Shirley Clerkin
Tailor's Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8
Tel : (01) 454 1786 or 4533428
Fax : (01) 453 3255
E-mail : info@antaisce.org
Website : www.antaisce.org**

- An T-Ionad Glas, Centre for Organic Education :

Education, support and promotion of organic farmers, growers and services. "The organic college is a peoples learning centre which affirms the right of farmers and growers to grow organically and in sustainable way. We provide courses support and linkage with the organic and environmental movements".

**An t-Ionad Glas, Centre for
Organic Education
Jim McNamara
Community College,
Dromcollogher,
Co. Limerick
Tel : (063) 83604
Fax : (063) 83042
Email : ionadglas.ias@tinet.ie**

- Birdwatch Ireland :

The primary objective of Birdwatch Ireland is the protection of wild birds and their habitats in Ireland. In order to fulfil this objective, we carry out extensive research and survey work; we operate applied conservation projects and manage a network of reserves nation-wide; we prepare and advocate policies; we recruit, retain and service a growing membership base and we promote the importance of this work through field education, dedicated media (such as Wings magazine, the Bird watch Ireland website, Irish Birds and other publications) and to the national media.

**Birdwatch Ireland
8 Longford Place,
Monkstown, Co. Dublin
Tel : (01) 280 4322
Fax : (01) 284 4407
Email : bird@indigo.ie
Website : www.birdwatchireland.ie**

- Carra Mask Anglers Federation :

We focus attention and have action taken to protect and restore our land and water environment. Water issue is the most environmental issue which we have to face. We are sponsored by the angling federation of Carra Mask Corrib and we have a wider community support as well.

- Coastwatch Europe Network :
Lobbying and surveying for a better quality of coastal water

Carra Mask Anglers Federation
Tony Waldron
Keenaghan, Ballymote, Co. Sligo
Tel : 071 83167

Coastwatch Europe Network
Karin Dubsky
Department of Civil Structural and
Environmental Engineering, Trinity
College, Dublin 2
Tel : (01) 677 3428 or (055) 25843
Fax : (055) 25842
Email : dubsky@iol.ie
Website
www.coastwatcheurope.org

- Coomhola Salmon Trust, Ltd.

The mission of the Coomhola is the environmental education. Water quality and local salmonid status are the touchstone (reference points) for our education programmes.

Coomhola Salmon Trust, Ltd.

Mark Boyden

Coomhola, Bantry, Co. Cork

Tel : (027) 50453

Email : streamscapes@eircom.net

Website : www.streamscapes.org

- Cork Environmental Forum :

The aim of the Cork Environmental Forum is to foster, promote and implement sustainable development within the Cork region. The CEF is so interested in all aspects of the environment including water quality and aquatic environment.

Cork Environmental Forum

**c/o Development Officer Jacqueline
Hodgson,**

Cooragurteen, Ballydehob, Co. Cork

Tel : (028) 37884

Fax : (028) 37884

Email

hodgson@corkenviroforum.com

Website : www.corkenviroforum.com

- Crann :

Crann is a voluntary, non profit organisation dedicated to planting trees and protecting Ireland's woodlands. Releafing Ireland is the quarterly magazine of Crann. The objectives for which the company is established are to maintain, protect, conserve and improve Irish broadleaf woodland resources and to encourage and promote the increased planting of Irish broadleaf and native trees. So increase broadleaf cover in Ireland, being about sustainable use of Irish hardwoods, to develop public education and awareness in the benefits of broadleaf trees, to promote and participate in the development of crafts and ?? based on Irish products.

Crann
Sean Donohoe
Crank House,
Main Street,
Banagher
Co. Offaly
Tel : (0509) 51718
Fax : (0509) 51938
Email : crann@oceanfree.net
Website : www.mde.ie/crann

- Forest Friends Ireland :

Our mission is to value forests because of their essential role in maintaining the fragile ecosystems which preserve the earth's rich biological and cultural diversity. We want to achieve it by planting our native trees, insisting on the preservation of our native woodlands, seeing to it that our native trees are planted in preference to the policy of planting monocultures of non native exotic species.

Forest Friends Ireland
P.O. Box 7814, Dublin 1
Tel : (01) 4550374
Fax : (01) 4550374
Email :
stephen_coyne@yahoo.co.uk

- Friends of the Irish Environment :

Friends of the Irish Environment is a network created by conservationists in Ireland in order to monitor the full implementation of European environmental law, to work for changes in the Irish planning laws, and to pursue concerns and cases in both the built and the natural environment based on the principles of sustainable community development.

Friends of the Irish Environment

Tony Lowes

Allihies, Co. Cork

Tel : (027) 73025

Fax : (027) 73131

Email : fie@eircom.ie

Website :

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~ireland>

- Inland Waterways Association of Ireland :

"The Inland Waterways of Ireland, a key part of our island's heritage, will be protected, preserved and sensitively developed for the use and enjoyment of all the people of Ireland and our guests from overseas."

"IWAI is the respected voice of the inland waterways enthusiast, representing all those who use, enjoy and value the waterways."

IWAI includes in its scope all the inland waterways of the island of Ireland (canals and man-made navigations, navigable rivers and lakes, other rivers, lakes, fens, bogs and watercourses), all leisure activities associated with inland waterways (boating : motor/power, sail, canoe, PWC etc, fishing, walking, day trippers), all matters relating to the conservation and development of the amenities of the waterways (restoration & conservation of the built heritage, development of new facilities and amenities, protection and conservation of the natural heritage).

The mission of IWAI shall be to advocate the use, maintenance, protection and appropriate development of the inland waterways of Ireland and in support of this to:

- advocate and promote the restoration to good order and maintenance in good order of every navigable waterway;
- advocate and promote the protection of all aspects of the inland waterways heritage and amenity - built, natural, social and cultural;
- advocate the fullest use of navigable waterways for leisure and commercial traffic consistent with safety and the protection of the amenity;
- be the respected voice both within Ireland and overseas of all inland waterways enthusiasts - achieve "Moral Ownership" of the waterways;
- promote safety awareness and appropriate training for all waterways users;
- provide for the social, recreational, cultural

Inland Waterways Association of Ireland

Colin Becker

c/o 2 Kylemore Park,

Taylor's Hill, Galway

Tel : (091) 527511

Email : Colin_Becker@IWAI.ie

Website : www.iwai.ie

and educational needs of it's members in
relation to inland waterways matters.

- Irish Doctors' Environmental Association :

IDEA was founded in 1997 with the intention of highlighting the link between health and the environment. The main objective of the organisation is to promote the right to health and peaceful co-existence world-wide by promoting environmental policies that contribute to global health and by urging the abolition of nuclear weapons and other weapon of mass destruction. We want to promote a concept of physical, psychological and social well-being, which acknowledges the potential Impact of environmental conditions, violent conflict and inequalities between and within nations on health and well being

Our concerns include pollution of air, water and soil, possible adverse health effects from GM food. Exploring link between electro magnetic radiation and health and the association between ill health and poverty affiliated to ISDE.

Water quality and the aquatic environment are important both from the impact of physical pollutants in water on health and also because of the impact the beauty of rivers has on our mental health.

Irish Doctors Environmental Association

Elizabeth Cullen

Thomastown, Kildare, Co. Kildare

Tel : (01) 8723116 (w) or 045485215 (h)

Email : elizab@iol.ie

- Irish Peatland Conservation Council :

Peatland Conservation and Education. IPCC aim to conserve a representative sample of bogs for future generation to enjoy. Our work includes buying bogs, campaigning, education and helping community initiatives.

Irish Peatland Conservation Council

Peter Foss

Capel Chambers, 119 Capel Street, Dublin 1

Tel : (01) 872 2397 or 872 2384

Fax : (01) 872 2397

Email : ipcc@indigo.ie

Website : www.ipcc.ie

- Irish Water and Fish Preservation Society :

The goal of the Irish Water and Fish Preservation Society is to restore the Shannon and lakes to their former glory. Clean natural water is important to all who live in it, on it or near it. This society has submitted to the European Commission a dossier on the plight of Shannon and its lakes between Carrick and Lanesboro. Over the last four years we have taken our own water samples and had them analysed by a leading laboratory. We also employed Anne Behan who is a leading expert on the environment. Our findings have been horrendous. In places the river is barely capable of sustaining fish life. A large factory situated on the river at Drumsna is causing a massive problem not only to water quality but also to the very air we breath. As we see it the river is now used as a dumping ground for anybody who wishes to use it. It appears that the powers that be in Ireland are prepared to allow the situation to continue. Perhaps if we all unite we may just turn the tide.

Irish Water and Fish Preservation Society

The Coopers Lodge, Tarmonbarry, Co. Longford

Tel : 043 26147 (Home) or 043 42333 (Work)

Email : cooperslodge@eircom.ie or geoffcooper@eircom.net

- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group :

“Dedicated to the conservation and better understanding of Whales, Dolphins and Purpoises in Irish waters, through education, study and interpretation”. So mainly Marine Aquatic Environment but freshwater as a critical part of the habitat in which target species of interest live.

Irish Whale and Dolphin Group

For sightings :

Dr. Simon Berrow

Cetecean Sighting Scheme,

c/o Slattery Island Visitors Centre Merchants Quay, Kilrush, Co.

Clare

Tel : (056) 9052139 or 086 8545450

Email : iwdg@eircom.net

Website

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~iwdg>

For enquiries :

Padraig Whooley

**2, Longford Place, Longford Row,
Cork**

Tel : (021) 432 0407

Email : padwhorca@hotmail.com

Website : <http://iwdg.ucc.ie>

For strandings :

**Department of Zoology, University
College Cork, Lee Maltings,
Prospect Row, Cork**

Tel : (021) 904 053

Fax : (021) 270562

• **Irish Wildlife Trust :**

To conserve Ireland's wildlife and habitats (rare and common) using campaigning, lobbying and education. To ensure legislation, both at national and at EU level, in relation to wildlife, is properly enforced. We do this by lobbying politicians, working with other NGOs on specific issues and by raising awareness through education initiatives amongst the general public.

Irish Wildlife Trust

107 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2

Lorraine Dufficey

Tel : (01) 676 8588

Fax : (01) 676 8601

Email : enquiries@iwt.ie

Website : www.iwt.ie

• **Irish Womens Environmental Network :**

Education, sustainable lifestyle, consumerism. We aim to enable women and men to live a sustainable lifestyle and work for the betterment of our environment through the provision of information, talks workshops and practical information leaflets also to provide a channel for representation at local and national level. Good water is important to both human and the rest of the living environment. Our information is quite consumer focused and a lot of consumer products impact on the aquatic environment in one way or another.

**Irish Womens Environmental
Network**

Jennifer Wann

Carmichael House,

**North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7
or 26 Viking Road,**

Stoneybatter, Dublin 7

Tel : (01) 6727327

Email : wannj@gofree.indigo.ie

- Just Forests :

Forest and timber education awareness. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Working for the just development of the world's forests and their dependents.

Just Forests
Tom Roche
Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Tel : (0506) 23557 – Fax : (0506) 23557
Email : woodlife@iol.ie
Website : www.iol.ie/~woodlife/

- Lough Ree Conservation Society :

The Lough Ree Conservation Society aims at the purification of water and sympathetic development of

Lough Ree Conservation Society
Hugh Hanley
0902 94126
Barrymore, Athlone, Co. Roscommon

- Macroom District Environmental Group :

Environmental matters both local and global. MDEG is a voluntary organisation that conserves and protects local nature and heritage for the common good and promotes ideas and practices that yield naturally sustainable prosperity.

The group has been operating for 16 years and is involved in seed saving for an indigenous tree masonry, waste management, magazine production, organic gardening and supplying environmental information. MDEG considers that river water qualities are indicators of healthy eco-systems within the river catchments.

Macroom District Environmental Group
Graham Pickering
South Square, Macroom, Co. Cork
Tel : (026) 42498
Fax : (026) 42498
Email : mdeg@oceanfree.net

- Moville/Greencastle Environmental Group :

Moville/Greencastle is a voluntary organisation whose members seek to protect the environment from violation and to promote sustainable living for individual and the community.

Moville/Greencastle Environmental Group
Rose Kelly
Ballybrack, Moville, Co. Donegal
Tel : (077) 82950
Fax : (077) 82368

- Organic Trust :

The Organic Trust Limited are a Dept. of Agriculture and EU approved organic inspection and certification body who offer services complying with DoA and REPS requirements. Producers, processors and traders who wish to obtain certification can rely on a top class efficient and user-friendly service from the Organic Trust Ltd. The Organic Trust Ltd is a non-profit making voluntary organisation who operate an Organic Symbol Scheme of the highest integrity to meet statutory, membership and ancillary requirements through the implementation to the best possible practices, procedures and operating standards relating to the certification of the integrity of the organic enterprises marketed under its symbol. Marketing initiatives have achieved sales of organic products in most major supermarkets in Ireland together with a number of organic export initiatives. Additional services include advice, education training and a quarterly magazine titled Clover Magazine.

Organic Trust
Helen Scully
Vernon House, 2 Vernon Avenue,
Clontarf, Dublin 3
Tel : (01) 853 0271
Fax : (01) 853 0271
Email : organic@iol.ie
Website : www.organic-trust.org

- Save Our Lake and Valley Environment (SOLVE):

The aim of SOLVE is to bring about a reversal of eutrophication problem through education and awareness rather than conflict.

Save Our Lake and Valley Environment
Mike O'Sullivan
Shanballa, Knocknagree, Killarney,
Co. Kerry
Tel : 064 56474 or 087 686 2832
Email : irishliterarytrails@oceanfree.net

- Save Our Lough Derg (SOLD) :

Water Quality Campaign on river Shannon. SOLD is a representative action group dedicated to the environmental rescue of Lough Derg and the River Shannon. Main activities lobbying and education. Our organisations consists of environmentalists, anglers and tourism interests. Clean Water is important to all these sectors i.e. environmental, leisure and economic.

Save Our Lough Derg
Paddy Mackey
Ballyhogan, Ballycommon, Nenagh
Tel : (067) 24315 – Fax : (067) 24315
Email : badoir@iol.ie
Website : www.shannonwaters.ie

- Save Our Lough Ree :

**Harry Waterstone,
Save Our Lough Ree
Shannon View, Athlone, Co.
Westmeath**

- Save the Swilly :

Save the Swilly seeks a moratorium on all aquaculture licensing until a comprehensive, independent baseline study and an environmental impact assessment on the whole of Lough Swilly have been completed. The government has refused this request and the organisation is now planning to commission its own study. Ours members include commercial fishermen, anglers, divers, sailors, bird-watchers, concerned residents. All these people are deeply worried about the expansion of aquaculture, because the government and the fish-farming industry seem unconcerned about the impact of intensive – salmon and shellfish – on nearby Mulroy Bay. Lough Swilly already has over 30 fish farms and many more are planned.

Save The Swilly

**John Mulcahy or Tony Morisson
c/o Buncrana Angling Centre
Castle Lane, Buncrana, Co.
Donegal
or Carrablagh House, Portsalon,
Co. Donegal (J. Mulcahy)
Tel : (077) 63733 or (353) 74 59113
or (353) (086) 2808636 (J. Mulcahy)
Fax : (353) 74 59778
Email : info@loughswilly.com or
jonmul@eircom.net
Website : www.loughswilly.com**

- Shannon Dolphin and Wildlife Foundation :

Develop and implement a plan for the development of sustainable dolphin-watching in the Shannon region. Address habitat quality of the Shannon estuary for bottle nose dolphin.

**Shannon Dolphin and Wildlife
Foundation
Dr. Simon Berrow, Project
Manager
Merchants Quay, Kilrush, Co.
Clare
Tel : (065) 9052326 or 086 8545450
Email : sdwf@oceanfree.net**

- Sherkin Island Marine Station :

**Sherkin Island Marine Station
Matt Murphy
Sherkin Island, Co. Cork
Tel : (028) 20187
Fax : (028) 20407
Email : sherkinmarine@eircom.net**

- The Consumers Association :

**The Consumers Association
45, Upper Mount Street,
Dublin 2**

- VOICE:

VOICE is one of Irelands leading environmental organisation, that was founded in 1997 following the closure of Greenpeace Ireland. As a membership based organisation VOICE campaigns for positive solutions to environmental problems. VOICE promotes a way of life that is in harmony with nature rather than in conflict with it and positive solutions to environmental destruction. In co-operation with local, national, and international organisations, VOICE works to campaign on national environmental policy, empower people to protect our environment; and increase environmental awareness through education

**VOICE
Ruth Mc Grath
7 Upper Camden Street, Dublin 2
Tel : (01) 6618123
Fax : (01) 6618114
Email : avoice@iol.ie
Website : www.voice.buz.org**

APPENDIX C: QUESTIONNAIRE

SECTION ONE : Organisation Details

- Name of organisation : _____
- Address : _____
- Phone : _____
- Email : _____
- Website : _____
- Contact Person : _____
- Address Details if different to above : _____
- Aims / Mission Statement of Organisation : _____

- Is water quality and the aquatic environment important to your organisation and if so why ?

SECTION TWO : Level of awareness and involvement in WFD implementation

CONFIDENTIAL (statistical totals only will be published)

PART ONE : Information and documentation

1. How would you rate awareness in your organisation about the overall implications of the WFD ?

A : () Very Good, B : () Good, C : Poor, () D : () Very Poor

2. Have you received any information or back-up material on the WFD ?

From : A : () Government Bodies, B : () NGO sources, C : () Other

If yes please specify. _____

3. Do you have a copy of the Directive ?

A : () Yes, B : () No.

4. Have you attended any meetings, briefings or conferences about the WFD ?

A : () Yes, B : () No.

If yes please specify. _____

PART TWO : Actions and means

1. What do you consider to be the main implications of WFD for your organisation area of work? _____

2. Does your organisation have a written policy on WFD implementation ?

A : () Yes, B : () No.

If yes please specify _____

3. Do you have a budget and work-plan for WFD?

A : () Yes, B : () No.

4. How many staff-hours per year do you estimate it would be necessary for your organisation to devote to WFD ? _____

5. What kind of support relevant to WFD implementation could you offer to volunteers in your organisation ? _____

6. Which are the two main Government Departments you are in regular contact with in the course of your work ? _____

7. How would you rate Ireland's past performance in implementing Environmental Directives ?

A : () Very Good, B : () Good, C : Poor, () D : () Very Poor

8. Would you consider co-operating with other NGO's to work on WFD implementation ?

A : () Yes, B : () No.

9. Any other comments ? _____