



An Chomhairle Oidhreacht
The Heritage Council



Module 2: Water Management

Unit 1: Roles, Responsibility and Legislation





Objectives of this presentation

- To give participants an understanding of the key players in water management
- Define who does what



Who Manages our Waters?

Discussion

from source



to tap





Key players in water management

- The European Commission
- Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government
- 19 Public Authorities including
 - The Environment Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Local Authorities
 - Central and Regional Fisheries Boards
 - The Heritage Council
- Group Water Schemes (GWS)
- Health Service Executive

AND MOST IMPORTANT

- **The general public (you and I)**



The European Union

Policy and legislation in the area of water management

The EU recognises that:

- A healthy environment is essential to long-term prosperity and quality of life
- A comprehensive approach to environment and health is needed with **precaution** and **prevention** of risk central to policy
- There is a need to integrate environmental concerns into area such as agriculture and land use planning



Water management

Key EU Legislation:

- Bathing Water Directive 1976
- Drinking Water Directive 1998
- Nitrates Directive 1991
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 1991
- Water Framework Directive 2000
- Floods Directive 2007
- Groundwater Directive 2009





DEHLG

Objectives in the Area of Water Management

- To ensure the supply of clean and wholesome drinking water
- To tackle water pollution and to protect our natural resources.

The Water Services Investment Programme is the main vehicle for funding the current upgrading in water and wastewater treatment.



Water Management

Key National Legislation:

- Water Pollution Acts of 1977 and 1990
- Environment Protection Agency Act 1992
- European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003
- The European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009, (Nitrates Regulations)
- Water Services Act 2007
- Drinking Water Regulations 2000 and 2007
- Planning and Development Act 2000
- *European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations (2009)*



Water Management

Role of the EPA:

- Co-ordination of work under the **Water Framework Directive (WFD)** and reporting to the EU Commission
- Preparation of national report on Drinking Water Quality
- Supervision of the environmental performance of local authorities
- Licensing of industry and landfills
- Enforcement of environmental legislation
- Preparation of guidance documentation



Water Management

Role of Local Authorities:

- Implementation of environmental legislation and planning control
- Implementation of Water Services Investment Programme
- The operation and maintenance of water services (including public water supply and waste water treatment)
- Enforcement of Drinking Water Regulations in the Group Water Scheme sector
- Preparation, adoption and implementation of River Basin Management Plans



Water Management

Role of the HSE:

- The HSE may issue warnings in relation to the use of a water supply
- The HSE advise on the issue a "Boil Water" notice and when such a notice may be lifted
- The HSE form part of the **Incident Response Team** set up in relation to water related public health incidents
- Liaise with the local authority in relation to drinking water quality and public health



Water Management

Role of Fisheries Board:



Source CFB

- Conservation, protection, management and improvement of inland fisheries
- Assessment of fish stocks under the **Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme**
- Participation in the Advisory Councils established under the **Water Framework Directive**



Water Management

The Group Water Scheme Sector and Private Supplies:



Responsibilities of GWS sector

- To deliver potable water that meets the regulatory requirements
- To implement quality assurance procedures from source to tap
- To inform statutory authorities of any event that could affect public health



The Public's Role



- Comply with environmental legislation
- Use best practice at home, farm, business or in workplace
- Report accidental spillages and incidents of water pollution
- Participate in consultation processes - have your say!

A scenic view of a rocky coastline with blue water and a clear sky. The foreground shows dark, jagged rocks on the left and several large, light-colored rock formations in the water. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some wispy clouds. In the distance, a small white lighthouse is visible on the horizon.

Discussion/Exercise

Explore various agency websites