

A Future for our Waters

→ What's Next?

The work of the project team will investigate the human activities which put waters at risk of failing to achieve good status. These investigations are intended to identify measures which can be taken to improve and protect our waters.

→ How Can I Help?

Clean water benefits every one of us. It is an essential part of our everyday lives, both directly and indirectly. For this reason public participation is an essential and obligatory part of the WFD. The WFD states that:

“the success of the WFD relies on close co-operation and coherent action at Community, Member State and local level as well as on information, consultation and involvement of the public, including users”.

Your participation is vital to ensure the SWRBD project works efficiently and creatively to implement the WFD. We welcome the advice, views and concerns of all our citizens, whether your interest is in farming, forestry, tourism, education, water sports or simply to ensure that there is clean water for our generation and the generations to come.



→ Project Partners

Pettit in association with RPS Consulting Engineers and Jacobs Bابتie, have been appointed to develop a River Basin Management Plan, including a programme of measures, designed to achieve at least good status for all waters and to maintain high status where it exists.



→ Where Can I Get Information?

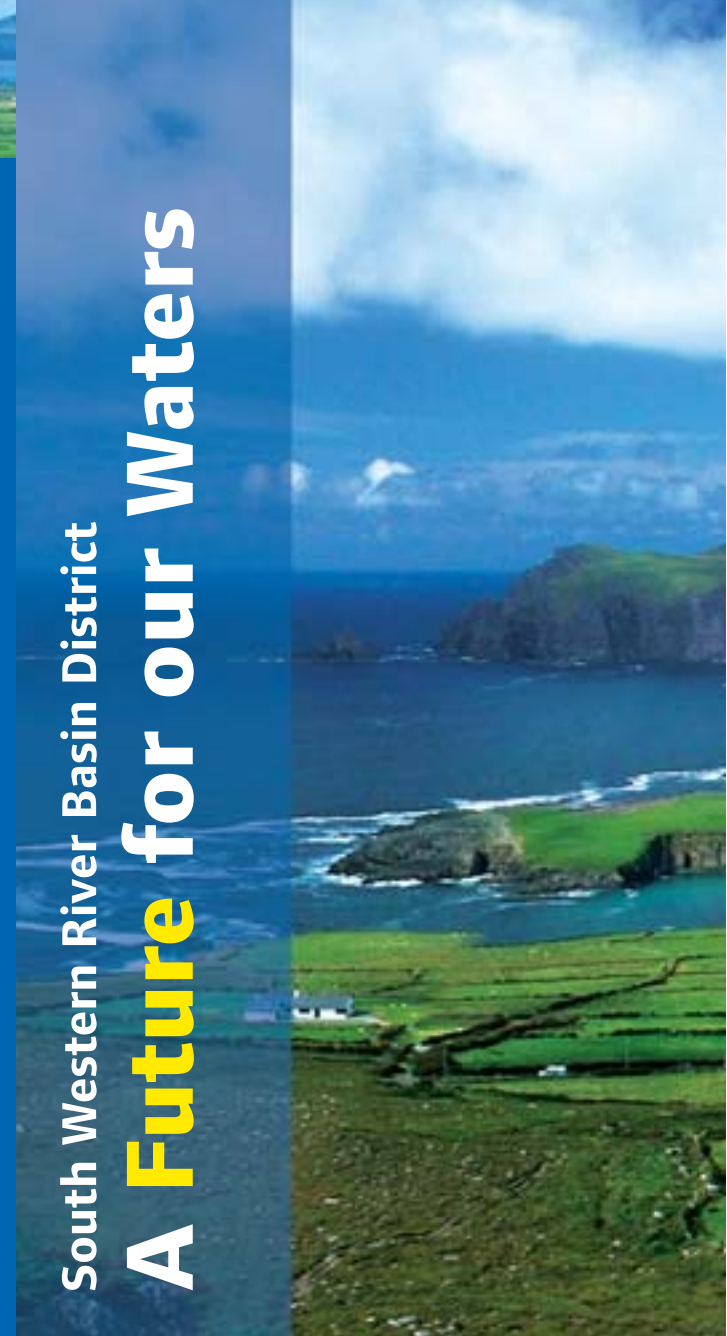
Information on the Water Framework Directive is available from the National website:

www.wfdireland.ie

Information on the SWRBD is available from the Project website at:

www.swrbd.ie

Enquiries can be made to the Project Team at info@swrbd.ie or by phone on (021) 4310467.



South Western River Basin District
A Future for our Waters



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→ The Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) was adopted by the European Union in December 2000 and incorporated into Irish Law by Regulations in 2003.



The Directive brings a new approach to the improvement and protection of our waters based on River Basin Districts. Ireland has been divided into eight River Basin Districts (RBD).

The boundaries of the RBDs are defined by river catchment boundaries rather than political boundaries.

River Basin Districts in Ireland

→ Objectives

The objectives of the WFD are to be achieved by putting in place a River Basin District Management Plan setting down actions to achieve good status in surface waters and groundwaters by 2015. The stated objectives are:

- ◆ Protect and enhance the status of all our waters
- ◆ Encourage sustainable water use
- ◆ Provide for sufficient supply of good quality surface water and groundwater
- ◆ Reduce or phase out discharges of dangerous substances to waters
- ◆ Protect territorial and marine waters
- ◆ Establish and maintain a register of 'Protected Areas'
- ◆ Involve the public
- ◆ Streamline legislation

→ South Western RBD

The SWRBD is made up of most of the counties of Cork, including Cork City, and Kerry and small areas of counties Limerick, Waterford and South Tipperary. The boundary of the RBD extends to cover the coastal waters one nautical mile from the shoreline. The SWRBD encompasses an area of approximately 15,000 km². The principal river catchments are the Blackwater, the Lee, the Bandon, the Ilen, the Inny, the Maine and the Laune.

For the purposes of the WFD, the SWRBD is to be administered jointly by the Local Authorities within the RBD with Cork County Council acting as the co-ordinating authority.



Rivers



Lakes



Estuaries and Coastal Waters



Groundwaters

→ The SWRBD Project

The Government, through the National Development Plan, has provided funding for the SWRBD Project. This is a four year project to start implementing the WFD leading to the publication of the draft River Basin District Management Plan in 2008.

Work commenced in August 2004 with the initial focus being on the characterisation of the RBD and the classification of water bodies. The SWRBD includes:

- ◆ 885 river water bodies
- ◆ 90 lake water bodies
- ◆ 84 ground water bodies
- ◆ 43 estuarine water bodies
- ◆ 29 coastal water bodies

→ What Activities Affect Our Water Quality?

Ireland has some of the cleanest waters in Europe and the South West has some of the cleanest waters in Ireland. But over the last thirty years our water quality has deteriorated.

Our developing economy and increasing population are putting added pressure on our water resources and water quality. Our waters can be affected by such activities as:

- ◆ Abstractions
- ◆ Urban Discharges
- ◆ Industry
- ◆ Forestry
- ◆ Agriculture
- ◆ Dredging
- ◆ Land Drainage
- ◆ Road Run-off

