

How you can help

Much work has gone into understanding our waters, this work is continuing, but there is enough information at this stage to put the preliminary findings in a booklet, called *Water Matters*.



Water Matters can be downloaded from the district's website www.swrbd.ie or requested from the contact below. It gives a preliminary overview of the main problems in our waters and identifies some of the actions to solve these problems.

You can help by reading the booklet (or just the sections that interest you) and making comments to correct or improve the listing of problems and the suggested actions.



Please send your comments to

Seán Ó Breasail
Cork County Council

sean.obreasail@corkcoco.ie

021 4310467

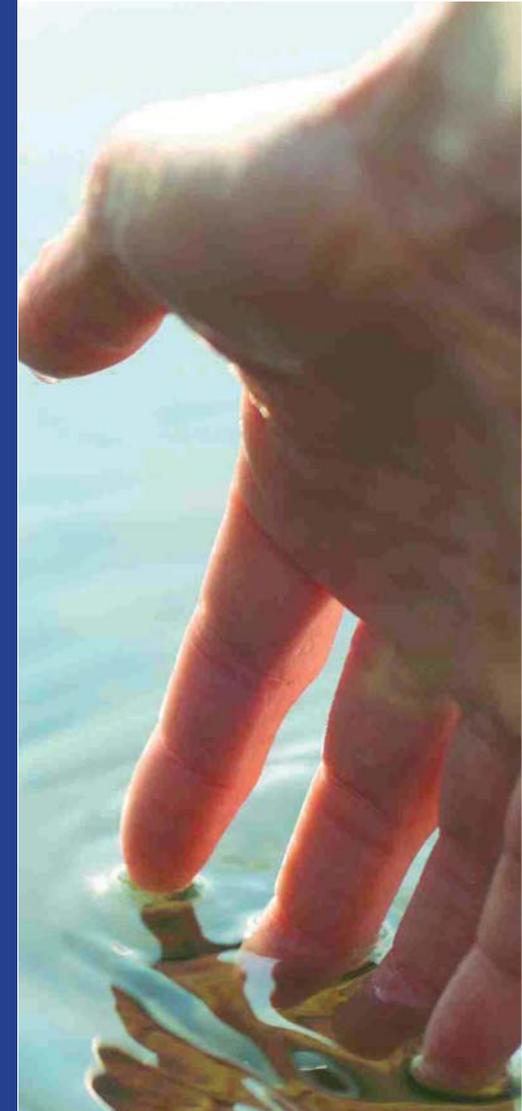
South Western RBD Project Office,
5 Eastgate Avenue,
Little Island, Co. Cork



South Western River Basin District

Water Matters "have your say!"

**south
western**
river basin district



 **NDP**
National Development Plan 2007 - 2013

Our rivers and lakes, coastal waters, estuaries and groundwaters are wonderful assets. They provide us with our drinking water, places to swim and fish, water for industry and agriculture and hydro electric power. We use our waters for the benefit of our society.

As the population increases, and more demands are made on water, we need to plan for the future. We must take practical steps to ensure all our waters are in a healthy state so that:

- drinking water sources are sufficiently protected
- we have enough water to sustain commercial use
- our native aquatic plant and animal communities are protected
- our waters can be used for recreation and tourism.

That's what the EU Water Framework Directive is about. It requires us to ensure that our waters achieve at least good status by 2015 and that there is no deterioration in the status of any waters.



The Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive is about managing our waters in natural, geographical units called River Basins.

The South Western RBD is one of eight on the island of Ireland. Each RBD will have a management plan for its waters; a draft plan will be issued at the end of 2008 and you will have an opportunity to comment on it.



The Water Framework Directive requires a structured approach: find out the facts, identify the necessary action, make a management plan and implement the plan.

The plan has to be based on the facts, and that means using the knowledge, understanding and views of people who use water in their everyday lives.

That is why the process includes consultation at every stage.

What has happened so far

The first stage of implementing the Water Framework Directive is about finding out the facts. That has meant listing:

- all the waters in each district and the lands that drain into them
- all the uses of those waters and the human activities that affect them, from supplying drinking water to industrial and agricultural discharges to the construction of harbours
- all the animals and plants: not just those that live in the waters but also those on the fringes. Some important and vulnerable species and habitats need particular attention
- all the existing controls on the uses of water: EU Directives and national legislation
- all the threats to the quality of the waters, ranked in order of importance.

