

Catchment Catch-up

LAWPRO Western Region

Issue 6

Oct 2020

Cashla PAA Online meetings

The first online PAA meeting in the Western Region was held via Zoom on Sept 28th. The meeting focused on the Cashla Catchment located in south Connemara Co. Galway and was well attended by important stakeholders in the catchment. A presentation on community engagement was given by Conor Ruane (Community Water Officer) while Francis Deery (Catchment Scientist) gave an overview of the Catchment Assessment Team's work to date and work plan for the area.

Zoom has been a revelation during Covid-19 restrictions and was adopted early by LAWPRO to deliver Community Information Meetings in the Priority Areas for Action. It is proving an effective method for delivering information about water quality and LAWPRO work plans to the local community and stakeholders.



The Local Authority Waters Programme
LAWPRO is working with local authorities, State agencies, stakeholders and communities to protect and enhance water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters.

UPDATE FOR WESTERN REGION

GALWAY MAYO ROSCOMMON

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catchments.ie

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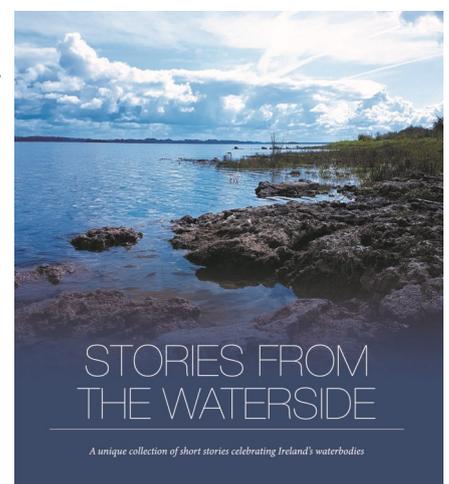
And find us on Facebook
@LAWPROteam

Stories from the waterside

Stories from the waterside is a unique collection of short stories celebrating people's connections with Ireland's waterbodies. It was published to mark Water Heritage Day and National Heritage Week 2020. The stories included in the book were shortlisted from 470 stories entered in a writing competition of the same name held in April and May, during Covid-19 Lockdown. The competition was organised by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), in partnership with The Heritage Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland and The Heritage Officers Programme.

The initiative and publication captured the spirit of volunteering and community engagement in water quality management and also includes some top tips from LAWPRO and the EPA for communities to take action to protect water, biodiversity and our climate.

The publication is available online at <https://bit.ly/2ZlZ8jy> and a hard copy can be obtained for your local Community Water Officer.



CLEAN WATER IS A VITAL RESOURCE, FOR WHICH THERE IS NO KNOWN SUBSTITUTE.

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

The WFD was the first directive to mandate participation by stakeholders and communities in developing and implementing public policies.

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)

The WFD requires good water status for all rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater and coastal waters. This is to be achieved through RBMPs and programmes of measures, developed and implemented in three six-year cycles up to 2027.

Public consultations on the 3rd Cycle RBMP are due to commence in January 2021 for a period of six months.

A healthy catchment provides good quality drinking water and ensures that plants, animals, fish and insects will survive and flourish. People are naturally drawn to locations with good water quality, whether for recreational or sporting activities. For those reasons, it is in our interests to protect and enhance our local catchments.

Good water quality is essential for human health, for wildlife and for vibrant communities.

Ongoing activities

EcoEye Filming on Lough Carra

The RTE Eco Eye team were filming a programme on Lough Carra during September, the programme will be aired on RTE in early 2021. The team interviewed a wide range of people from LCCA, LawPro, NPWS, IFI, Mayo County Council and others involved in the Carra catchment, Standard camera filming was used as well as drone and underwater filming. page <https://www.facebook.com/loughcarra.org> Well done to everyone who gave their time to make sure the team got comprehensive coverage and information about Lough Carra. Lough Carra is the largest marl lake in Ireland and is part of the Great Western Lakes complex. It covers 1,560 hectares and is joined to Lough Mask by the Keel River. It has many islands and a ragged shoreline with a plethora of bays and promontories, all on a bedrock of limestone.



LAWPRO's new animation video

We all live in water catchments and depend on water for our health, well-being and livelihoods. But, water quality is under threat and this video animation explains what LAWPRO, public bodies and communities are doing to bring about change. Please feel free to share with your contacts and on your social media channels.

<https://vimeo.com/456880739>

