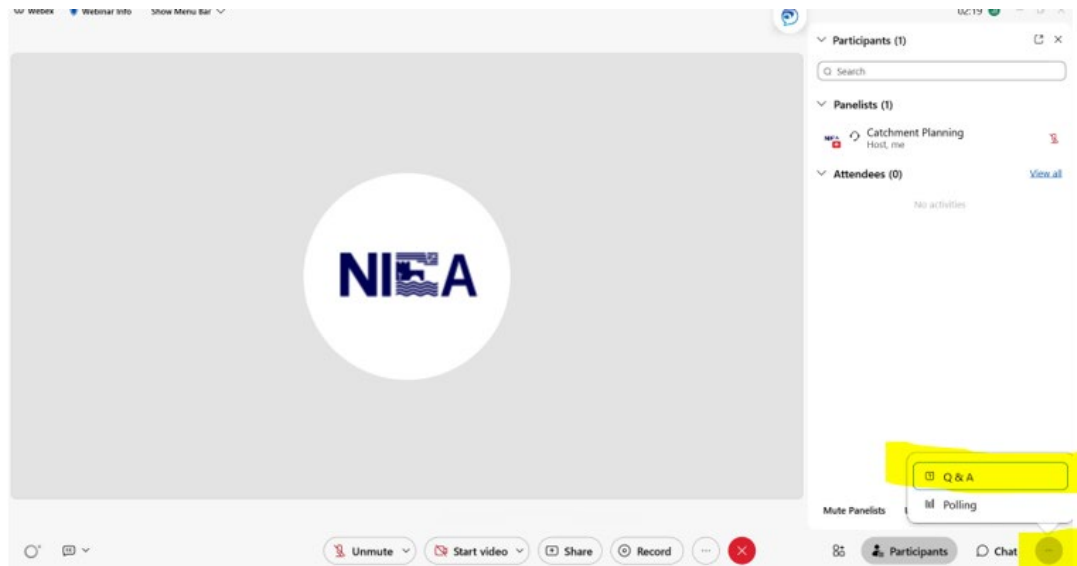


Thank you for joining

- The webinar will start shortly
- There is no sound until we start the webinar
- Presentation will be recorded and available on our webpage soon
- Q&A location screenshot below - use this for questions as chat will not be monitored
- <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/node/51826>



Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Pre-launch information session for Water Quality Improvement Strand (Environment Fund) 2024/ 25

**NIEA Water Management Unit
Integrated Catchment Planning Team
catchmentplanning@daera-ni.gov.uk**

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Outline

- A. Introduction – what is the fund & timeline**
- B. Problems with water environment**
- C. Preferred locations**
- D. Themes of fund**
- E. What to consider for your application**
- F. Examples of activities**

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

The small print

- The awarding of any funding is subject to departmental budgets being approved. No letters of offer will be issued until the budget has been approved.
- This means no commitment is being made to fund projects at this stage.
- Any costs incurred in submitting an application will not be re-imbursed.
- Any dates mentioned in this presentation are subject to funding being approved.

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

What is the water quality improvement strand?

- Annual fund – runs per financial year
- To fund projects that help improve our aquatic environment
- for constituted not-for-profit organisations and councils
- will cover up to 85 % of total project cost – i.e. match funding of 15 % is required
- Minimum: £5,000 and maximum: £30,000.
- Funding period: spring 2024 - February 2025
- No advance payments –
you can only invoice completed works/
activities

- In 2023/24 12 projects were awarded funding with a total amount of £260k.



A. Introduction

Approximate timeline



Launch of fund: early January 2024

**Closing date for applications:
early March 2024 (~2 months)**

**Assessment of applications by NIEA (~2
months)**

**Awarding of funding (subject to
budget approval) – spring 2024**

**Projects to be completed and
invoiced – February 2025**

Problems with water environment

Health assessment (called classification status) December 2021

Surface water	2015	2021
ecology	32 % at 'good or better' status	31 % at 'good or better' status

- Improvements are off-set by deteriorations

Groundwater	2015	2021
chemistry	68 % at 'good' status	71 % at 'good' status

NIEA Water Information Request

Layer List

Layers

- Pollution Incidents
- Monitoring Sites
- Industrial Consents Legacy Data
- Industrial Consents Stations (Trade)
- Abstractions Licensing
- Groundwater Monitoring Sites
- WFD Status 2015
- WFD Status 2018
- WFD Status 2021
- Ecological River Status 2021

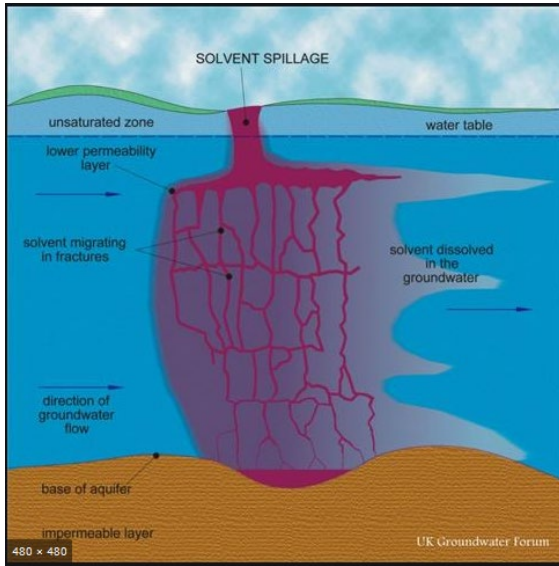


Water Information Request Web Viewer:
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers>

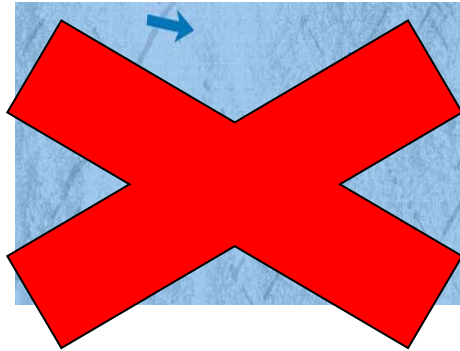
B. Problems

Where does a pollutant go? Source-pathway-receptor model

source



pathway



receptor



B. Problems

Different types of measures

Linkages broken – measuring dealing with pathway



Linkages cannot be broken – measures dealing with source



B. Problems

Pressures on water environment

Point sources



Diffuse sources



Preferred location for projects

- Local Management Areas: Roe, Strule, South Down, Lagan and Belfast Lough
- Protected Areas
- Areas of potential significant flood risk

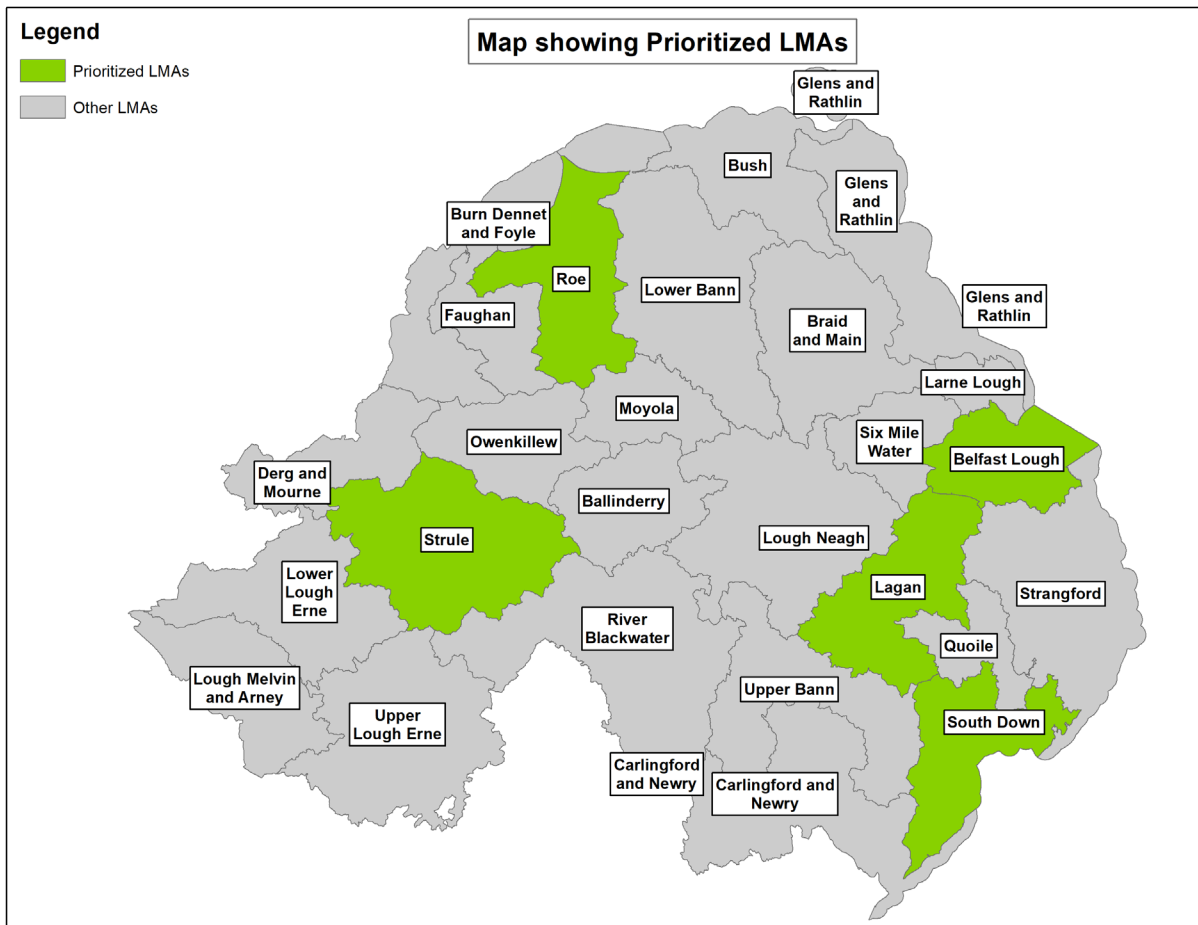


Environment Fund – Water Quality Improvement
Strand

Environmental Priorities 2024-25

Section 2.0

Local Management Areas



Layer List

Layers

- Lakes
- Rivers
- Marine
- Groundwater
- Protected Areas
- Water Framework Directive Monitoring Sites
- River Basin District including ROI catchments
- River Basin Districts Northern Ireland
- Local Management Area
- Freshwater Chemistry Monitoring Sites
- All Freshwater Monitoring Sites
- Programme of Measures

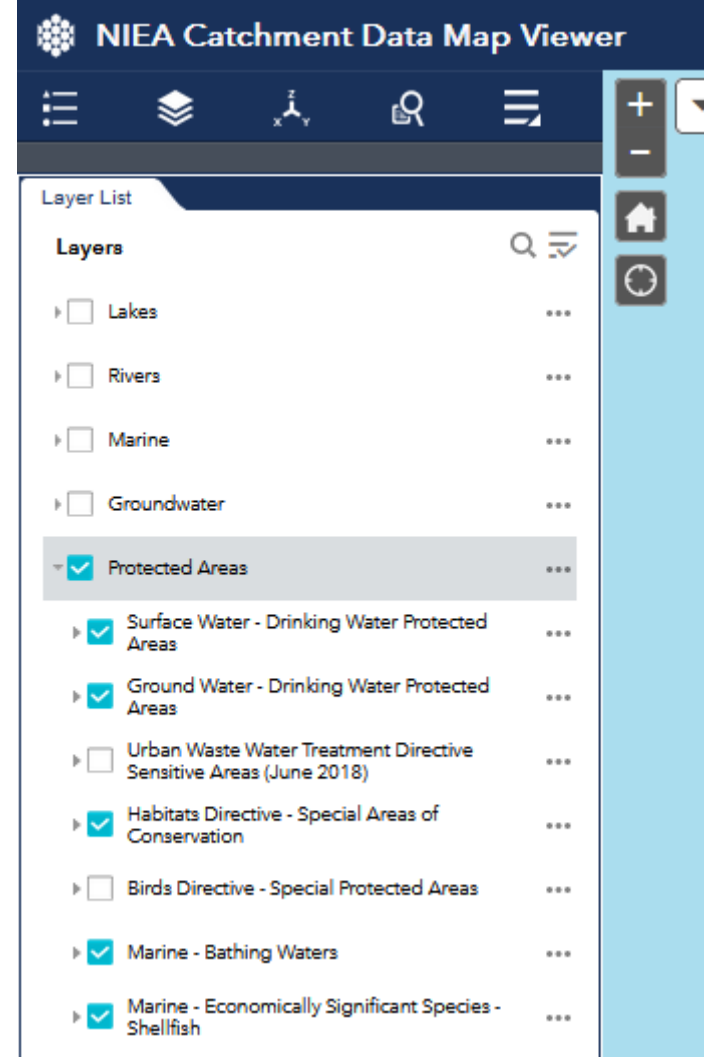


- Digital download: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/local-management-areas-digital-datasets>
- NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers>

C. Preferred locations

Protected Areas

- Important: protected area has to be water-dependent: either surface water or groundwater
- Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) – includes Lough Neagh
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Bathing Waters
- Shellfish Waters



- Digital download- SAC: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/special-areas-conservation-digital-datasets>
- NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers>

C. Preferred locations

Protected Areas – demonstration of map viewer

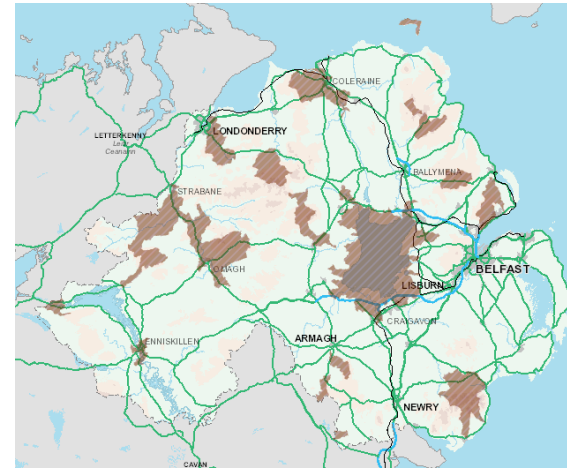


- NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer:
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers>

- Note on Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA)
2 options: groundwater and surface water



groundwater DWPA



surface water DWPA













Areas of potential significant flood risk (APFSR)

Figure 1-3: Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APFSR) and Transitional Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (TAPFSR) as defined through the NIFRA 2018



- Figure 1.3 of FRMP: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/second-cycle-ni-flood-risk-management-plan-may-2022.pdf>
- Individual APSFR: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/second-cycle-northern-ireland-flood-risk-management-plan-2021-2027>

C. Preferred locations

-  [Chapter 5 - Belfast APSFR](#)
PDF (7.5 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Londonderry APSFR](#)
PDF (7.1 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Newry APSFR](#)
PDF (6.9 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Lurgan APSFR](#)
PDF (4.4 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Glengormley and Mallusk APSFR](#)
PDF (5.4 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Larne APSFR](#)
PDF (4.7 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Bangor APSFR](#)
PDF (4.7 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Portadown and Craigavon APSFR](#)
PDF (5.5 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Omagh APSFR](#)
PDF (6.7 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Newtownabbey APSFR](#)
PDF (6.2 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Carrickfergus APSFR](#)
PDF (5 MB)
-  [Chapter 5 - Ballymena APSFR](#)
PDF (5.5 MB)

Themes for funding

- Connecting people with the aquatic environment to achieve behavioural change
- Conservation, protection and restoration of our aquatic environments
- Nature-based solutions, particularly for climate change mitigation and adaptation



Environment Fund – Water Quality Improvement
Strand

Environmental Priorities 2024-25

Section 3

Overview of assessment criteria (1 of 3) – eligibility criteria

No appeal process – decision of panel is final

- Not-for-profit organisation
- Registered, or in the process of registering on the government funding database

<https://govfunding.nics.gov.uk/>

- Match funding or contributions in-kind clearly outlined



Environment Fund – Water Quality Improvement Strand

Guidance notes

Section 5

E. Application

Overview of assessment criteria (2 of 3) - technical

- Does the project clearly fit into the key themes for this fund?
- Does the project have a clear objective to improve the water environment, most prominently water quality?
- What, if any additional benefits will the project achieve?
- Level of community involvement including awareness raising and encouraging behaviour change.
- Do the costs represent value for money?

Overview of assessment criteria (3 of 3) – bigger picture

Does your project:

- provide support to other initiatives within a catchment, avoiding duplication and conflict
- raise awareness of water issues and address them
- form a part of wider consideration/ awareness of the surrounding landscape
- fall within a priority local management area, water-dependant protected site or area of potential significant flood risk?

E. Application

What to consider for your application

- Provide all evidence in application form to allow us assessment of application
- Consider what permissions and permits you will need
- Include screenshot from map viewers showing:
 - location of project
 - Health/ status of water body
 - Location within priority area (if applicable)
- Consider what is likely cause of problem (source)? How does it get to my local area (pathway)?
- What behaviours need to change to protect/ improve my local area?
- What change (big or small) can everyone in your community make? How is community involved?

F. Application

Examples of activities

Bank Stabilisation	Litter Picking	Bog Restoration e.g. drain blocking	Reports/Plans Feasibility studies	Citizen Science, Awareness and Training
Signage/Water Literacy	Tackling diffuse pollution from land e.g. farm water quality restoration plan	Tree Planting <i>- not on flood defences like earth embankments</i>	Fenced off protection zones, headworks protection	Rain Gardens and Nature based SuDS
Fish Passage	Invasive Non-Native Species prevention, treatment and removal	Fish habitat improvement e.g. gravel installation	Wetland creation, restoration and/or protection	Slow the Flow Measures e.g. hard surface removal, woody debris
Natural Flood Management	Education / Awareness	Programme of events linked to your project	Rainwater Harvesting and Water re-use e.g. water butt	Measures to prevent soil erosion and nutrient run off



Environment Fund – Water Quality Improvement Strand
Environmental Priorities 2023-24

Table 1

Examples of activities

Previous grantees include:

- River trusts
- Councils
- Angling clubs
- Community groups




Armagh Fisheries & Angling Club





NIEA Northern Ireland
Environment
Agency
www.doe-eni.gov.uk



As an Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.doe-eni.gov.uk



ARMAGH FISHERIES

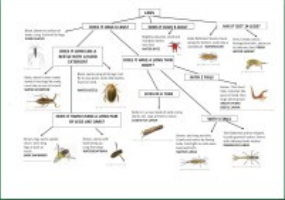
Rivers and Loughs are important habitats for a large variety of animals and plants. Fish, amphibians, birds, invertebrates, and reptiles live in our freshwater bodies or find their food there. They play a vital role in connecting habitats, and their value to plants and animals extends far beyond the surface area they cover.

The presence or absence of freshwater invertebrates such as Caddis Fly, May Fly and Damselfly can be used to provide an indicator of the health and status of our waterways. Kick sampling is a useful method of collecting these and other freshwater insects from shallow waters.

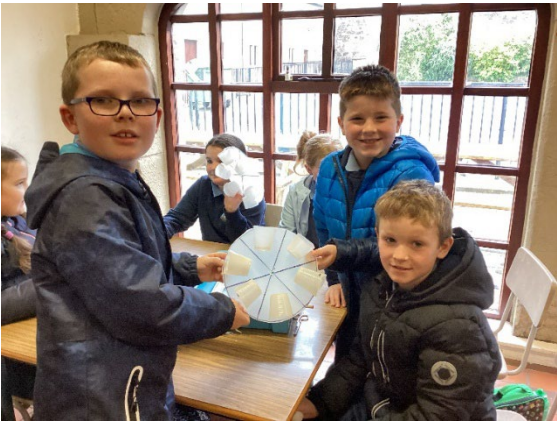
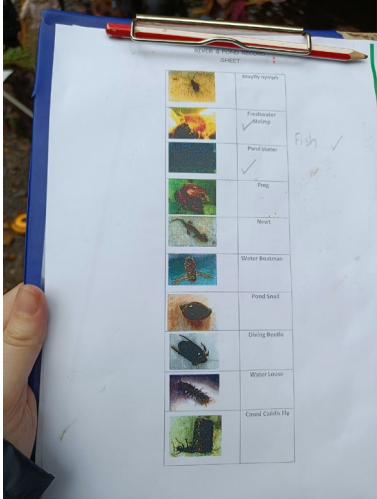
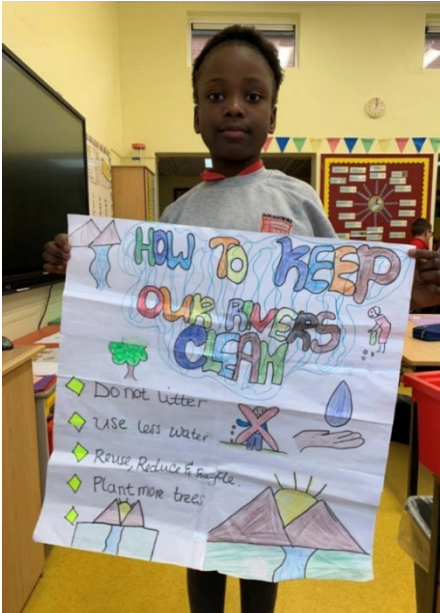
HOW TO CARRY OUT A KICK SAMPLE

This simple technique involves agitating the stones or sediment of a river or lough by moving your foot. The resulting disturbed material is collected in a sampling net and transferred to a tray on land where invertebrate and other river life can be identified and scored to give a rating as to the health of the particular water body.

POND DIPPING KEY

Speedwell Trust



Ballycastle angling club

Project:

- restored some of the adult salmon holding water in the Margy
- Had been lost due to excessive deposition and damage to in river structures

Before:



After:



E. Examples

Sea2it

A project focussing on cleanups, outflow and river stress safaris, including volunteers & behaviour change



The aims of an outfall safari are:

1. To record and map the dry weather condition of surface water outfalls in rivers;
2. To assess and rank the impact of the outfalls and report those that are polluting to the regulator (NIEA Water Quality) and water company (NI Water);
3. To build evidence on the scale of the polluted surface water outfall problem and drive an increase in investment to resolve it; and
4. To engage communities with their local rivers and inspire change.



E. Examples



Resources

- River restoration: <https://www.therrc.co.uk/rrc>
- Source-to-Tap: <https://www.sourcetotap.eu/educators-citizen-scientists/>
- Green clubs initiative: <https://www.gaa.ie/my-gaa/community-and-health/green-clubs-sustainability/>
- CatchmentCare: <https://www.catchmentcare.eu/publications/>
- NetRegs: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/households/>
- Tips and examples from similar fund run in Republic of Ireland <https://lawaters.ie/app/uploads/2021/06/LEADER-A-guide-for-community-groups-working-with-Water-Biodiversity-and-Climate.pdf> - check that your proposal complies with the eligibility criteria from the Environment Fund – Water Quality Improvement Strand

E. Examples

Questions



**NIEA Water Management Unit
Integrated Catchment Planning Team**
catchmentplanning@daera-ni.gov.uk

**Further information on the WQIS, including FAQ can
be found on the link below:**

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/node/51826>

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