



## Welcome back to the Fourth Issue of the Source to Tap Newsletter

---

### In this issue

- Every day is a school day
- We're on the road again...
- A Land Incentive Scheme for our streams
- Otter the way for our River Bank friends
- Source to Tap Forestry Pilot 2019
- Catchment Snapshot - Erne

---

### Every day is a school day...

Our Education Programme has been in full swing this year and we have now delivered the programme in 14 schools – 11 from the Erne catchment and 3 from the Derg catchment. We have made on average 3 return visits to each of these schools meaning that we have delivered 46 units of our programme and have engaged with 505 pupils.



The Source to Tap education message soon spread, and we were invited to deliver a workshop on Water Pollution and Water Treatment to the lovely students at St. Patrick's College, Cavan. This gave us the opportunity to share Source to Tap's message beyond Primary and National schools.

Source to Tap has also collaborated with other environmental education providers. We were invited to take a stand at the Water and Ecology day in the Ulster Canal Stores, Clones on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO) and Waterways Ireland were also there on the day. Here we worked with four local schools and a special needs group. The afternoon was open to the public to come along and see what creatures live in the rivers and the water treatment process.

We jumped at the chance to take part in Waterways Ireland Biodiversity Week. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May we delivered a workshop on river life, food chains and pollution with a display of river invertebrates to three Erne schools - Teemore, St. Paul's, Irvinestown and Florencecourt Primary Schools. There were 86 children in attendance.



Eco-Schools hosted a forum for teachers in the Fermanagh and Omagh Council area in Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh 18th September. Eco- Schools is a global programme engaging 19.5 million children across 67 countries, making it the largest educational programme on the planet. We were invited to talk about the Source to Tap Education Programme and so we had an amazing opportunity to promote our education programme.

Lough Erne Landscape Partnership hosted a Schools Convention in conjunction with Share Discovery Centre, Lisnaskea on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September. We were amongst the workshop providers invited. We held four workshops for four different schools for 100 students in total – Derrylin, Bridge, St. Mary's Newtonbutler and Lisbellaw Primary Schools. In the main arena over 200 pupils from 13 other schools had the opportunity to ask questions at our information stand. That is 300 students bringing the message of Source to Tap home to their families and friends.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October along with Irish Water we were involved with holding a school's workshop for ESB at Ballyshannon Dam. This was a great opportunity to promote our shared message of improved water quality and to work with a local school.





Additional details of the education programme are available on our project website at:

<https://www.sourcetotap.eu/learn/>

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

When we're not on a farm, or in a chatty classroom we're on the road spreading the message that we need to look after our rivers to protect drinking water source catchments.

No better place to spread this message than at our Agricultural Shows. This year we have been to more shows than Derek Ryan. We've been to: Balmoral Show, Fermanagh Show and Arva's Agricultural Show. To each we brought a sample of river invertebrates to show everyone what lives in the rivers and how we can all do our bit to help protect our river environment.

Source to Tap have had the pleasure of being involved in two Angling Fairs this year the first was the North West Angling Fair which took place at Castlederg Castle on the 6-7th April. This event welcomed a host of world class Fly Dressers, Casters and Angling Celebrities. Visitors to the event had the opportunity to watch these fly dressers practice their art and fly casters demonstrating their techniques and tactics. The second Fair was The Pettigo and District Angling Association's Angling Day at the Termon Complex, Pettigo on Saturday 15th June. Visitors to this event had the opportunity to watch fly tying demonstrations and casting tuition while Junior anglers enjoyed fly tying demonstrations and a virtual fishing simulator.

At both events Source to Tap's information stand provided information on our project and we had some river invertebrates on display to allow everyone to see what the fish in the Derg and beyond eat, and why we should protect these precious invertebrates. Many of the anglers in these areas are Riverfly Volunteers with Source to Tap so we were delighted to support their event.

To celebrate World Water Monitoring Day we were delighted be involved in Ireland's first time hosting Water Blitz events. Along with Dublin City University (DCU) we hosted a Water Blitz event on Saturday 21st September in Castlederg. It was great to learn more about the water quality in the River Derg and also have the opportunity to do some Riverfly monitoring together with the local community.







A few pictures of our information stands

## A Land Incentive Scheme for our streams





Some stock fencing recently installed to exclude cattle from a water course, limiting sediment getting to the watercourse

Work on the pilot Land Incentive Scheme has been gaining steady momentum. Our Project Officers have been busy carrying out Farm Visits and assisting farmers and landowners with their applications to the scheme to fund water protection measures on their farms.

In the River Derg catchment to-date we have visited 115 farms and produced 108 Water Environmental Management Plans (WEMP's). Within these plans we have offered over 3000 acres of weed-wiping to replace the boom spraying of MCPA, 27km's of stock exclusion fencing along watercourses, 30 pesticide storage units, 2 tree planting projects and over 30 solar powered water troughs and 40 pasture pumps; to provide alternative livestock watering facilities. These measures are all designed and sited to reduce colour, turbidity and MCPA in the River Derg drinking water catchment.

Here is a step by step guide for applying to the scheme:

1. A farmer/ landowner contacts one of our Project Officers, Lyndsey, Lisa or Patrick.
2. We book in a farm visit at a time convenient to the farmer/ landowner.
3. We walk the farm with the farmer/landowner to discuss current farm practice and suggest how we can together protect and improve water quality in the River Derg while also making the farm business more sustainable.
4. We create a confidential and bespoke Water Environment Management Plan (WEMP) which includes funding opportunities for the farmer/landowner.
5. The farmer/landowner can decide whether to apply to our scheme.
6. We assist the farmer/landowner in finding quotes, filling the application forms and submitting claim forms.

## Rush Control Event



publicly advertised the event in local press, local businesses, and personally invited farmers we are currently engaging with and new ones as well to attend the event. We held two sessions; the first at 2pm and the second at 6pm. We started the event with some PowerPoint presentations on the project, the importance of appropriate rush control following best practice guidelines and the success of NI Water's campaigns. We had speakers from Source to Tap, NI Water, Cafre and Teagasc. We then took the attendees by bus to the nearby field to show the rush control plots we had treated and to give some advice on controlling rushes. The event was well attended.



Contractor demonstrating how the weed wiper works.

## Otter the way for our River Bank friends





Our project officers and colleagues from Ballinderry Rivers Trust with Dr. Jane Preston after having received Otter Survey training.

As our Land Incentive Scheme involves work to be undertaken in the River Foyle and Tributaries Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC), we are mindful that these prime wildlife conservation areas deserve the utmost caution and sensitivity. This ASSI/SAC is designated to protect the European otter (*Lutra lutra*) amongst other sensitive species. Under the Habitats Regulations, otters are classed as a European protected species and due to this are given the highest level of protection.

With this in mind, our Project Officers recently received Otter Survey training from Dr. Jane Preston from ATEC NI Environmental Consultancy.

We set out in search of signs of otters along the Ballinderry River, near Cookstown, County Tyrone. We searched for paw prints, spraints, runs and slides on the riverbank. We were lucky to find one underground home-like structure called a holt.

This training will allow our project team to carefully plan the location of measures on farms in the River Derg catchment so that there will be no disturbance or harm to the holts and couches of the otters that call the Derg home.

If you would be interested in more information about Otters visit:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/mammals/european-otter>



## Source to Tap Forestry Pilot 2019

As part of the Source to Tap project, a pilot study has been taking place which aims to reduce the amount of sediment, released entering streams and rivers in the Derg catchment from commercial forestry harvesting. Three sites on Forest Service (NI) land and 2 on Coillte (IE) land were included in the 2019 pilot.

### Forest Service



Cover Crop adjacent to a stream

Three forestry compartments have been offered for the 2019 to trial 3 different types of mitigation measures. Two forestry plots in the Killeter Forest have had check dams installed in streams. The purpose of these measures is to slow the flow of water and causing the suspended sediment to fall out at the base of the dams. Unfortunately, during one of the summer rain storms, some of the dams were washed away. Further work has been completed to re-enforce the dams in the peaty soils with timber to prevent further damage.

One forestry plot was felled at the end of May. A cover crop was planted along a 200m stretch of the stream that runs alongside the plot. It is hoped that the cover crop will consolidate the soil and prevent it from washing into the stream.

The two sites in Ireland which have been offered for the Source to Tap project are managed by Coillte. At Grousenan (near Pettigo) a scrape/settlement area has been created in an existing low area to allow the nearby river to spill into at high flows. This is hoped to encourage settlement of sediment which may have been generated from felling upstream. The second Coillte site already has a buffer strip in place and has been used as an example of existing best practice measures and will act as a comparison to the measures being trialled at other sites.



Digger work being carried out on site.

Water samples are taken weekly from upstream and downstream of the pilot measures to determine how effective these pilot measures are in reducing the amount of sediment in the water. At the end of the trial period, the data will be analysed and used to inform best practice for the protection of water quality.

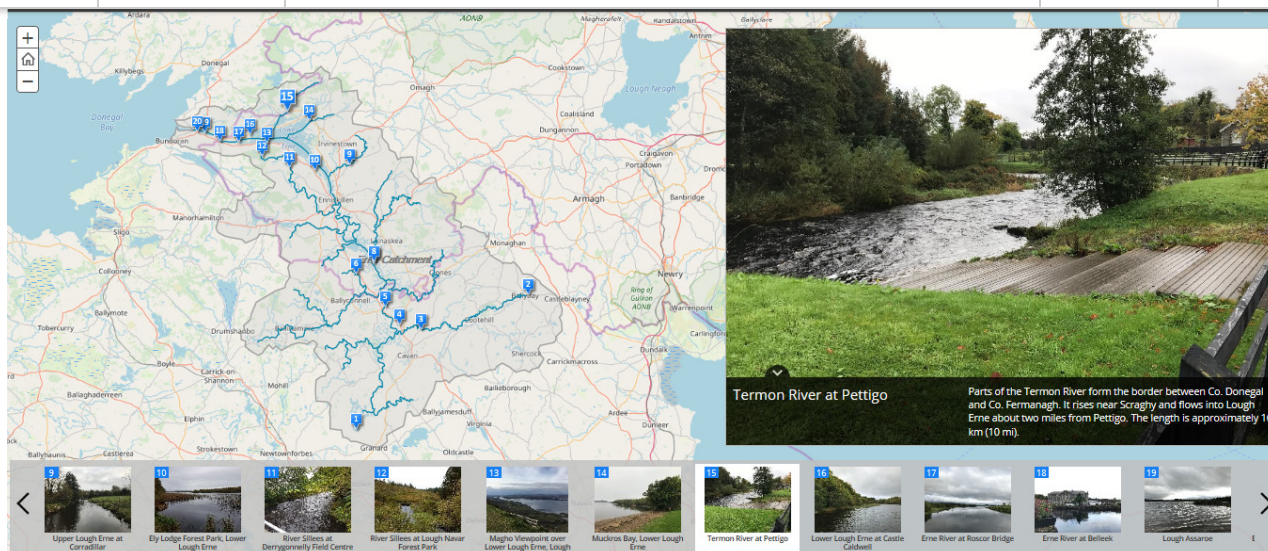
---

## Catchment Snapshot: The Erne

We have prepared a story map showing the Erne Catchment and some of its notable tributaries which is available on the Source to Tap website. For additional detail on the catchment and to view the story map showing the catchment and some of its tributaries. Check out the 'Explore' section of the Source to Tap website which is available at the following link;

<https://www.sourcetotap.eu/explore/>



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Snippet of the Erne Story Map.

## Our funders

A project supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)



## Our Partners



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

Copyright © 2018 Source to Tap, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you are involved in the Source to Tap project, or you are on the Source to Tap's newsletter mailing list, or because you opted in via the Source to Tap website.

**Our mailing address is:**

Source to Tap Project Office,  
c/o Waterways Ireland Headquarters,  
2 Sligo Road,  
Enniskillen,  
Co. Fermanagh,  
Northern Ireland,  
BT74 7JY

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Source to Tap · Source to Tap · c/o Waterways Ireland Headquarters, Sligo Road · Enniskillen, Fermanagh BT74 7JY · United Kingdom

