

Water Framework Directive river water bodies have changed for River Basin Planning Cycle 2

In cycle 1 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), from 2004 to 2010, river water bodies (RWB) were delineated based on their physical characteristics. European Commission WFD GIS Guidance document No. 2 (2003), on the delineation of waterbodies, states physical characteristics **and** the likely WFD status of the waterbody should be used to set RWB units. The new cycle 2 RWB (originally released in May 2015) has this stronger relationship to WFD status classification than the cycle 1 RWB.

Why have they changed?

During the first River Basin Management Planning cycle it became apparent that the link between water bodies and WFD status was not optimal. Long stretches of channel were being inappropriately assigned bad or poor status based on the one out all out rule. There were also stretches of channel that had the same status along their length so could be treated as a single RWB unit.

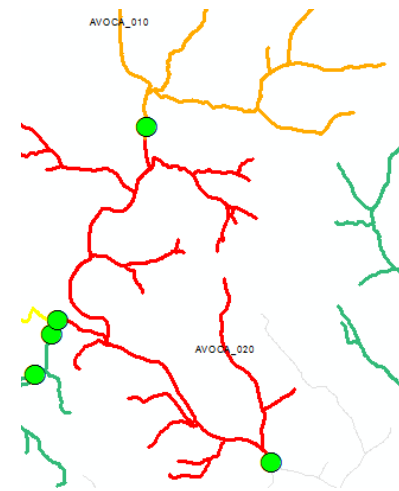


Fig 1 shows the Avoca now in 2 parts, now with different WFD status classifications

How has river water bodies changed?

New RWB originate from a defining monitoring station. The monitoring station was used as the location from which an immediate watershed (sub basin) for the river was generated. The rivers within this watershed together make the new river water body unit. For cycle 1, small tributaries were omitted. In cycle 2, all streams that appear on the 1:50,000 Discovery Series have been included.

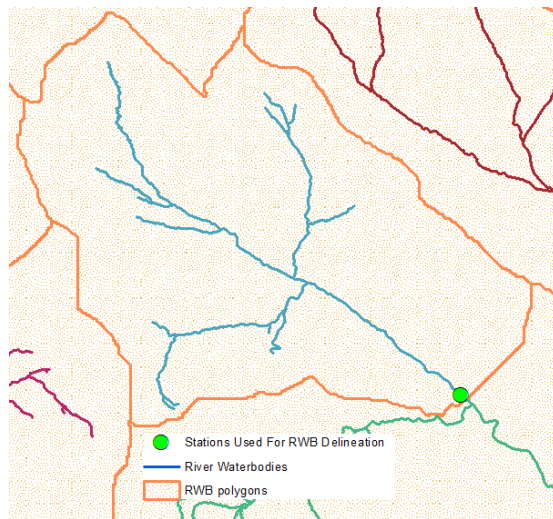


Fig 2 shows the new RWB, the new RWB sub basin and the monitoring station

Minor edits have been made to the RWB and RWB sub basins in this 2017 update;

There have been some edits to 1) Geometry and 2) Attributes.

Changes to the sub basins are reflected in the RWB update.

- A) Geometry Edits - A number of minor edits have made to the sub basins to rectify some topological issues.

In addition some edits were made to the sub basins based on an internal hydrometrics review. The largest edits are detailed in the table below.

Over +/- .1 km2 change in sub basin size [maximum change is 1.3 km2]	Over 1% change in sub basin size [maximum change is 5.1%]
WB Code:	WB Code:
IE_WE_34M010225	IE_NW_01R010200
IE_EA_09A020300	IE_WE_34M010225
IE_WE_34M020800	IE_WE_32C380790
IE_WE_34G010020	IE_WE_34G010020
IE_WE_32C380790	IE_WE_34C010500
IE_WE_30C020300	IE_EA_09L011050
IE_WE_32M010700	IE_WE_30A340980
IE_WE_35G030100	IE_WE_35G030100
IE_WE_34C010500	IE_NW_38O040100
IE_EA_09L011050	IE_EA_09A020300
IE_WE_30A340980	
IE_NW_01R010200	
IE_NW_38O040100	



B) Attribute Edits –

The following fields have been updated;

AREAKM2 – this has been updated to reflect the change in the size of some sub basins based on the geometry edits

NAME – typos were corrected and hydrometric area numbers were removed.

ORDER – this has been updated for some waterbodies based on river network updates.

What are the new names and codes?

New RWB are named according to the main river channel of that RWB. For example, the RWB at the source of the Avoca is named Avoca_010. The next downstream one is Avoca_020. The waterbody codes are based on the defining monitoring station code e.g. IE_EA_10A030700. IE is the international code, EA stands for the current Eastern River Basin District, 10A030700 is the code of the station that is currently most downstream for that waterbody.

Where can I get the new data?

You can view the new RWB (with their status classification) under the WFD Status group of [EPA Maps](http://gis.epa.ie/Envision). (<http://gis.epa.ie/Envision>).

The River Waterbodies are available as a single download file and also as part of the April 2017 Catchments dataset package on the EPA Geoportal (<http://gis.epa.ie/GetData/Download>).

The EDEN Monitoring Data System and the Feature Coding Tool have been updated: all river stations in EDEN MDS have been associated with their new waterbodies. New stations added by the Feature Coding Tool will be associated with the new river waterbodies.

If you have any queries please [Contact Us](http://gis.epa.ie/ContactUs) on the EPA Geoportal. (<http://gis.epa.ie/ContactUs>)