

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 CIS 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.

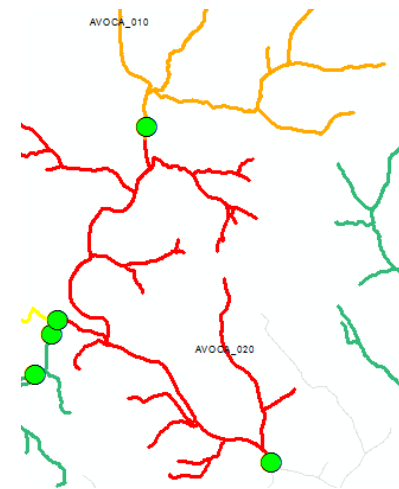


Fig 1 shows the Avoca now in 2 parts, now with different WFD status classifications

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 (RWB polygon) 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.

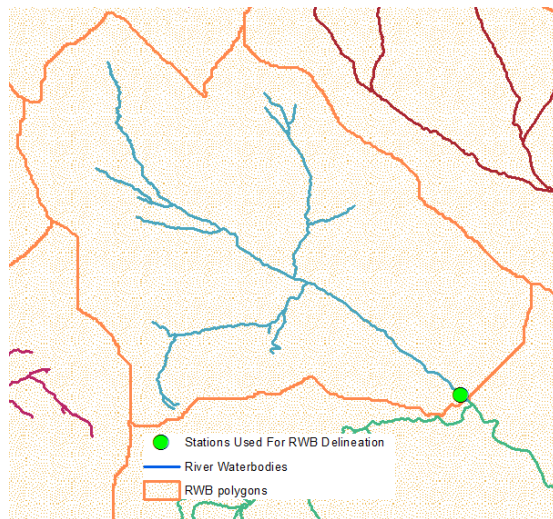


Fig 2 shows the new RWB, the new RWB polygon and the monitoring station

Since May 2015, further edits have been made.

- i) The new RWB were updated based on parallel work undertaken to finalise a rivers network dataset.
- ii) The associated RWB polygons were modified in order to fulfil EU requirements specifying that they do not overlap other surface water bodies (coastal and transitional).

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 2010-2012 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 February 2016 Catchments dataset package on the EPA Geoportal (<http://gis.epa.ie/GetData/Download>).



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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](#) on the EPA Geoportal.
(<http://gis.epa.ie/ContactUs>)