

## 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 (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.

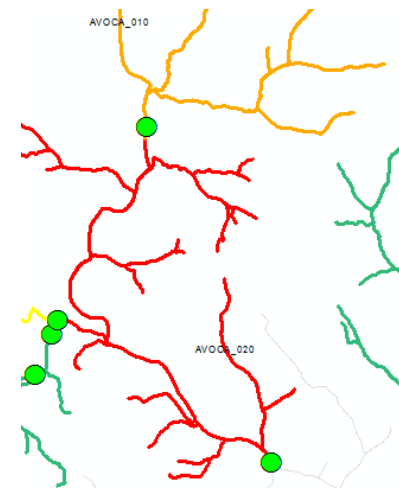


Fig 1 shows the Avoca now in 2 parts, now with different WFD status classifications

### How have river waterbodies 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 waterbody 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.

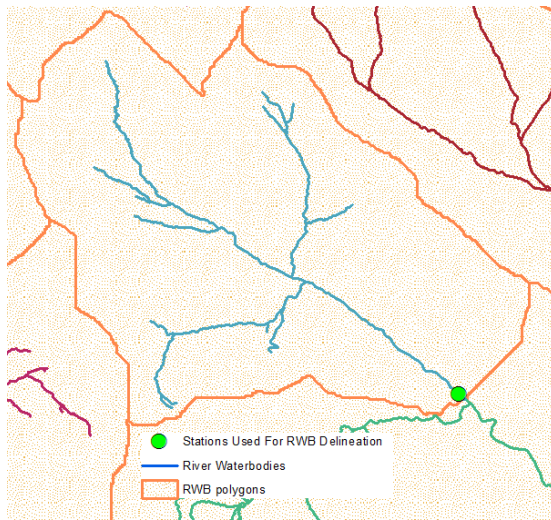


Fig 2 shows the new RWB, the new RWB polygon and the monitoring station

### 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 derived from Ordnance Survey Ireland data. To get a copy of RWB GIS files you need to have a licence for the OSI Discovery Series vector water lines data. To request GIS files please [Contact Us](http://gis.epa.ie/ContactUs) on the EPA Geoportal. (<http://gis.epa.ie/ContactUs>)

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>)