



SHANNON
CFRAM
STUDY
CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK
ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT



Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report Summary Leaflet



**Shannon Catchment-based Flood Risk
Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study**

JACOBS

Introduction

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is undertaking a Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study of the Shannon Catchment area (see Figure 1.1 overleaf).

The Shannon CFRAM Study will deliver the following for the areas identified to have the greatest river and coastal flood risk:

1. Flood Maps;
2. Flood Risk Management Plans;
3. Strategic Environmental Assessment; and
4. Public Consultation and Engagement.

The purpose of this leaflet is to inform you of the publication of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report [Consultation Draft] and invite your comments. This leaflet also provides a non technical summary of the SEA Scoping Report and a brief overview of the SEA Process.

Box 1: The Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)

FRMPs will be prepared for areas of greatest significant risk of flooding. They will include guidance on appropriate future development, and the creation of a prioritised programme of specific measures to manage the risk of flooding in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

The full Shannon CFRAM Study SEA Scoping Report is available on the project website www.shannoncframstudy.ie under the “Downloads” section.

Box 2: The SEA Scoping Report:

- Identifies the *Environmental Characteristics* considered to be influential on the study area;
- Presents initial understanding of key *Environmental Issues* relating to flooding and its management; and
- Presents draft *Environmental Objectives*.

What is Strategic Environmental Assessments?

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a requirement under European and Irish law. SEA is the process to ensure that environmental and sustainable considerations are integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes, such as the FRMPs before they are adopted.

The SEA process has four main stages as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 : Stages of the SEA Process

Stage	Description
Stage 1	Screening: deciding whether or not SEA is required. This stage has been completed and concluded that SEA is required for the FRMPs.
Stage 2	Scoping: This stage identifies which Environmental Characteristics are considered to be influential on the study area. The identified Environmental Characteristics help define the key Environmental Issues relating to flooding and its management. We are currently in the Scoping Stage. However the Scoping Stage is not 'closed', new and revised data will continue to be recorded and used to inform the SEA process.
Stage 3	Identification, Prediction, Evaluation and Mitigation of Potential Impacts: This stage will involve the production of the Environmental Report to provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An outline of potential flood risk management options;• The identification of predicted environmental effects and potential mitigation; and• Monitoring requirements.
Stage 4	Consultation, Revision and Post-Adoption: This is the final stage. This sets out how the key findings from the SEA and comments from consultations have been taken into account in the preparation of the FRMPs. The SEA Statement is produced at this stage.

Box 3: What are the Environmental Characteristics, Environmental Issues and Environmental Objectives?

Environmental Characteristics – The environmental baseline of the study area (Shannon Catchment) e.g. its land use, water features, fisheries resources and landscape features.

Environmental Issues – Environmental issues identified during the scoping process related to flooding and flood risk management that need to be considered during the next stage of the SEA process.

Environmental Objectives – Provide a “benchmark” against which the environmental effects of the FRMPs can be tested. The Environmental objectives will be used in the next stages of the SEA to inform the flood risk management options and to assess the environmental effects of these options.

Box 4. Environmental Characteristic considered in the SEA Scoping Stage

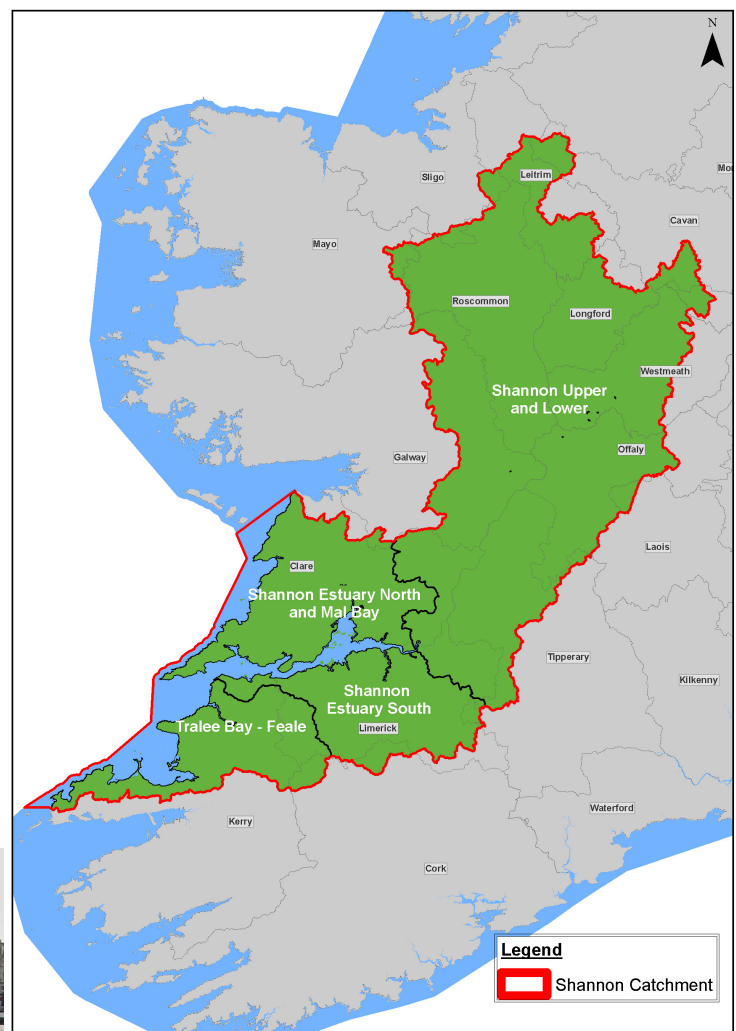
- Population and Human Health;
- Geology, Soils and Land use;
- Water;
- Air Quality and Climate;
- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna;
- Fisheries, Aquaculture and Angling;
- Landscape and Visual Amenity;
- Material Assets, Development and Infrastructure;
- Tourism and Recreation; and
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.

What areas of the Shannon Catchment are covered by the SEA?

The entire Shannon Catchment will be considered in the SEA process. The map shown here depicts how the Shannon Catchment has been divided into the following four reporting areas:

- Tralee Bay-Feale;
- Shannon Estuary South;
- Shannon Upper and Lower; and
- Shannon Estuary North and Mal Bay.

The SEA Scoping Report provides further detail on the Environmental Characteristics of these areas, and the sites identified as being at most significant risk of flooding.



Stakeholder Input

Correspondence and consultation with a number of stakeholders has played an important role in the SEA Scoping process. Local Authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) were initially consulted to obtain data and relevant information on the Shannon Catchment. This has helped us to better understand the Shannon environment from a geological and environmental perspective. Following this, additional consultation workshops with statutory environmental authorities and other key environmental stakeholders (including representatives from the Irish Farmers Association, Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Irish National Flood Forum) were held to help identify Environmental Issues most significant to the study area.



Box 5: Statutory Environmental Authorities:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government;
- Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine;
- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources;
- Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; and
- Local Authorities.

What are the outcomes of the scoping stage?

The SEA Scoping process has identified both the existing and potential future significant Environmental Issues that can influence flood risk management options for the Shannon Catchment.

Box 6 provides some examples of the Environmental Issues identified during the Scoping Stage. Full details of the Environmental Issues for all the Environmental Characteristics are provided in the SEA Scoping Report, which is downloadable at www.shannoncfрамstudy.ie.

Box 6: Example of Environmental Issue identified during the Scoping Stage:

- Population and development growth will potentially increase the number of people at risk from flooding;
- Modifications to rivers can affect plants and animals;
- Waterside access and variety of water depths are important features for anglers; and
- Flooding may restrict, or reduce the quality of resources important for tourism.

All Environmental Characteristics listed in Box 4 will be carried forward for further study with the exception of Air Quality as it was a recommendation of this study that Air Quality will not be influenced or affected by FRMPs.

The SEA Scoping report also presents the draft SEA Environmental Objectives developed during the scoping process; these objectives will be used during Stage 3 of the SEA and to inform the development of FRMPs.

The SEA Environmental Objectives have been categorised under the following headings:

Social

- Minimise risk to human health and life;
- Minimise risk to community; and
- Minimise risk to social amenity.

Economic

- Minimise economic risk;
- Minimise risk to transport infrastructure;
- Minimise risk to utility infrastructure; and
- Manage risk to agricultural land.

Environmental

- Support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD);
- Minimise the risk of environmental pollution;
- Avoid damage to, and where possible enhance, the ecology of the Shannon catchment;
- Avoid damage to, and where possible enhance, fisheries within the Shannon catchment;
- Protect, and where possible enhance, landscape character and visual amenity within the Shannon catchment; and
- Avoid damage to or loss of features of cultural heritage importance, their setting and heritage value within the catchment.





What next for the SEA?

Following the assessment of flood risk management options and the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plan, a separate report will be prepared to document the SEA process - an Environmental Report. This report will build on the information presented in the Environmental Scoping Report and will identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of the Flood Risk Management Plan

How to contact us

There will be many stages throughout the life of the Shannon CFRAM Study where we will involve stakeholders and local communities. You have an important role to play and we are keen to hear from you at any stage of the study. If you have any comments on the draft SEA Environmental Objectives, any views on the SEA Scoping Report [Consultation Draft], any questions about the SEA or any general queries relating to the Shannon CFRAM Study, you can contact us using any of the methods below.

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