

World Wetland Day 2nd Feb 2005

Hosted in Dun Laoghaire County Hall by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
Organised by Coastwatch

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran (1971), provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for
the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

To be wise, you need information, education and more, including good example and adequate law and law enforcement.

Every year a theme is decided upon by Convention signatories. The Theme for 2005 is

The cultural and biological diversity of wetlands

Ireland is a signatory of the Ramsar Convention.

We are rich in wetland types, many with ancient cultural uses and teeming with life, including internationally rare species. We have a strong fishing and angling tradition and some excellent management practices.

However there are urgent issues to be addressed: Our stock of highest quality wetlands is diminishing and often we act before we have the information to ensure wise use. Ancient wetland destruction law still roosts on our statute books and where we have sound laws, public information and enforcement are weak. A National Committee, to coordinate and spearhead wetland protection and wise use has not been established.

The Tsunami destruction around the Indian Ocean shows how fragile and small our world is. Is it likely that it only caused human and material loss? How much damage was there to the coastal reefs, fish nursery areas, shrimp beds – the bases of life for traditional coastal communities? This was catastrophic damage, one may not be prepared for, but are we preparing for climate change which is happening? Even modest sea level rise?

Join in on the day's events – Politicians, Teachers and Pupils, Heritage and Environment Officers, Recreational and Work Users of wetlands.

A Day of Information exchange, Debate, Celebration and Scheming for better Wetland Protection

Prior registration is essential. Space is limited.

Registration fee 15 €adult and **2 €**student (waived for Coastwatch surveyors 04) Registration covers program, tea/coffee/juice and reception. Sandwich lunch **5€**extra per person.

Treasure Hunt entry fee 10 €/team to be paid at start line.

Please return registration by email and cheque made out to Coastwatch, attention Karin Dubsy, Civil Eng. TCD, Dublin 2.

Exhibition on view Feb 1st to Feb 4th includes Dublin Bay surveyor shore features, displays by schools exploring wetlands, Irish Ramsar Wetlands.

Further Information



Coastwatch attention Karin Dubsy, Civil Eng. TCD Dublin 2

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**Program for World Wetland Day Wednesday Feb 2nd 2005
Dun Laoghaire Town Hall, Assembly Room**

9.20 am Registration and chance to view the Wetland exhibition – ground floor.

9.45 am Introduction Tim Carey, Heritage Officer *Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown CoCo* and Karin Dubsky *Coastwatch*

9.50 am Welcoming Address *Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach, Cathaoirleach Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council*

Session 1 – Politics of wetland protection and wise management

10.00 - Wetland protection and ‘good ecological status’ in the context of the Water Framework Directive

Dr. James Ryan, NPWS Dept of the Env. and contact officer Ramsar Convention in Ireland.

10.15 - Quality Wetland and economic benefits – an Austrian case study.

Claudia Bachkoenig, Commercial attaché Austrian embassy

10.25 - Wetland protection dealing with challenges in Ireland: Some environmental group views presented by

Karin Dubsky, Coastwatch – marine and coastal wetlands, Sinead O’Brien, Environmental NGO

WFD Co-ordinator, rivers, streams and ponds

10.40 -The Way forward: Panel Discussion with Q and A from the floor.

11.00 Break Coffee/juice offered by Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council

Session 2 – Wetland information and education Chair: Eanna Ni Lamhna President of An Taisce

11.30 - The five secrets of Wetlands, *John McCullough, Wildlife and Wetland Trust, Northern Ireland*

11.50 - Primary School: presentations *by pupils and teachers from Co. Wexford* and County Council future plans outlined by *Noel Stacey Environment Officer Wexford County Council.*

12.20 - Discussion

12.55 - Logistics note on afternoon and exhibition judging

1.00 Light lunch and selection of favourite exhibits by participants.

1.40 Wetland Treasure Hunt, or Harbour walks, *one guided by Capt Carter Harbour master.*

2.10 Parallel Workgroups A, B and C.

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| <p>A Protecting the biodiversity of Dublin Bay.</p> <p><i>Facilitated and introduced by Dr Jim Wilson Zoology Dept TCD</i></p> <p><i>With input statements from Niamh Fleming, planner DLR coco* and Helen Hennebry student TCD.</i></p> | <p>B Wetland Information & Education including dealing with threats.</p> <p><i>Facilitated and introduced by Sorcha O'Brien, UCD.</i></p> <p><i>With input statement from Beatrice Kelly, Heritage Council and presentation by Blackrock Teacher Centre on ‘Something fishy’.</i></p> | <p>C Biodiversity in engineering Design –from bridges, flood relief Measures to constructed wetlands.</p> <p><i>Facilitated and introduced by Eamon Hore, Sn. Eng. Wexford County Council</i></p> <p><i>With input statement from Lawrence Gill, Civil Eng. TCD and James McCartan Anglers Assoc.</i></p> |
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3.15 Workgroup report back

3.30 Prize giving and toast sponsored by ARCHERS Organic cider.

3.40 Closing remarks