

The Lough Melvin Programme Team includes:

- The Northern Regional Fisheries Board;
- Teagasc;
- Queen's University of Belfast and;
- The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast.

The Northern Regional Fisheries Board is responsible for coordination and development of the Catchment Management Plan.

How can you become involved?

To have your say on what you feel are the values of and threats to Lough Melvin and your vision of the future, please contact the Melvin Programme Manager:

Emer Campbell
Programme Manager

Angela Killalea
Administrative Assistant

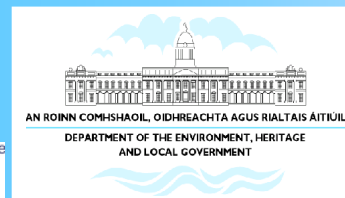
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Globeflower- Photo courtesy of Steve Waldron



A Heron searches for food in Lough Melvin



This project is supported by the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme for Ireland/Northern Ireland.

Other photos courtesy of Doris Ammann

LOUGH MELVIN PROGRAMME

Protecting Our Natural Heritage



**C/O NORTHERN REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARD
STATION ROAD
BALLYSHANNON
CO. DONEGAL**



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Lough Melvin

A unique and internationally renowned lake.



A family of otters on Lough Melvin

Covering an area of 2000ha, Lough Melvin provides a home, food or breeding areas for a significant number of plants and animals including:

- Otter
- White fronted geese
- Atlantic Salmon
- Arctic Char
- three types of trout (Sonaghan, Ferox & Gillaroo)
- Globeflower



Salmon



Arctic Char (copyright www.charr.org)

Sonaghan trout are unique to Lough Melvin and many other plants and animals are rare or endangered. The lake is a very important recreational and heritage area for anglers, tourists, scientists and the local community.



A toxic algal bloom caused by increased phosphorus in Lough Melvin

Threats

Lough Melvin is under threat from human activities.

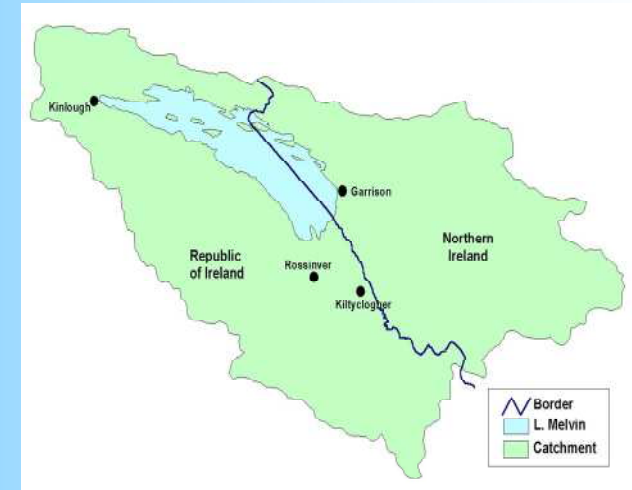
- Phosphorous in the lake has increased by 50% in recent years.
- Large amounts of phosphorus changes the lake, making it unable to support its unique plant and animal communities.
- Phosphorous comes from a range of human activities in the Melvin catchment including:
 - ⇒ Housing (wastewater)
 - ⇒ Agriculture (animal waste and fertilisers)
 - ⇒ Forestry (fertilisation and soil disturbance)
- Other threats and problems include the accidental introduction of non-native animals such as the Zebra Mussel.

A catchment is the area of land surrounding a water body that “catches” its water.

The Lough Melvin Programme

GOAL: “Protect the health and unique environmental qualities of Lough Melvin and its catchment”

- A Catchment Management Plan to be completed by June 2008 will identify ways to reduce the impacts of human activities on the lake.
- The catchment provides homes and livelihoods for many families and businesses.



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It is important that the community’s views are included in the Catchment Management Plan.

- The Lough Melvin Programme team are currently carrying out studies on housing and septic tanks, forestry and agriculture around Lough Melvin.