

ENGINEERS IRELAND, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

in association with

The CHARTERED INSTITUTION OF WATER and ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

LECTURE NOTICE

Implementing the new Bathing Water Regulations: a management challenge

Presented by Dr. Bartholemew Masterson

(UCD and Advisor to the Irish Government on the technical aspects of the revision of the EU Bathing Water Directive)

Venue: Engineers Ireland, Clyde Road, Dublin 4

Time & Date: 6.30 pm Monday 28th May, 2012

Abstract

The EU Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) was transposed to Irish bathing water regulations in 2008 (S.I. 79 of 2008), and these came into operation last year. The main features of the Regulations will be outlined briefly, as well as their predicted impact on the Irish bathing water water quality classifications that will ensue at the end of 2014. Main requirements of the Regulations for bathing water management will be described, with emphasis on the critically important provisions for ‘discounting’, i.e., allowing *predicted* high microbial water quality monitoring results, associated with ‘short-term pollution incidents’, to be omitted from water quality calculations. Some of the other management requirements, such as Beach Profiling and interaction with the Public, will be covered. Approaches to predictive modelling needed to underpin discounting will be outlined, with focus on work currently underway to develop such models.

About the Speaker...

Dr Bartholemew Masterson is a Research Associate of the School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science of University College Dublin. He is a Member of the International Water Association and of the Institute of Biology of Ireland. He was formerly a Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry at UCD.



He has had a long-standing involvement in research on the microbial pollution of recreational waters and water resources. His research group completed in 2001 an INTERREG-II funded, Irish-Welsh study of the impact of storm-related microbial pollution on recreational waters. His group was engaged through the INTERREG-IIIa programme (SMART) in extended research centred on two case-study estuaries and their associated catchments (concerning recreational water-quality in Dublin Bay and the quality of shellfish waters in Bannow Bay, Co. Wexford). He was the Irish project leader and a member of the International Management Board for the INTERREG-IIIb programme (iCREW) in collaboration with trans-national partners in France, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The work for iCREW involved the development of molecular biological source-tracking techniques to phenotype indicator microorganisms in the aquatic environment. He continues his interest in microbial pollution currently in the INTERREG-IVA (Ireland/Wales) project “Smart Coasts = Sustainable Communities”, and in two of the projects funded by the Irish EPA STRIVE programme.

He advised the Irish Government on the technical aspects of the revision of the EU Bathing Water Directive, and is continuing this consultation on the regulatory implications of the ensuing Irish Bathing Water Regulations.

All are welcome, admission is free and no registration is necessary. Please contact Eoin Cullinane (ecullinane@rod.ie) for further details.