

Socio-Economic Assessment of Water Governance and Management Legislations in the Republic of Ireland

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Water resource management and governance in Ireland may not be enough to meet benchmarks set in its various water legislations. This is evident from the widening disparities in water demands and supply and the steady decline in the ecological status of coastal and transitional water bodies, rivers, lakes and groundwater status triggered by the increasing impact of climate change, population growth, agricultural and industrial pollution. This research proposes to assess water resource management practices and governance in Ireland under the purview of existing legislations in addition to social values associated with water vary across spatial scales. How those values change in response to, for example, effects of climate change in Ireland through a combination of analytical reviews, surveys, key informant interviews, and a social return on investment. In addition, a set of integrated mechanisms and strategies that can help spur benchmark performances in the future will be propose.

Key Words: Climate Change, Water Resources Management, Water Governance, Socio-economic values, Ireland