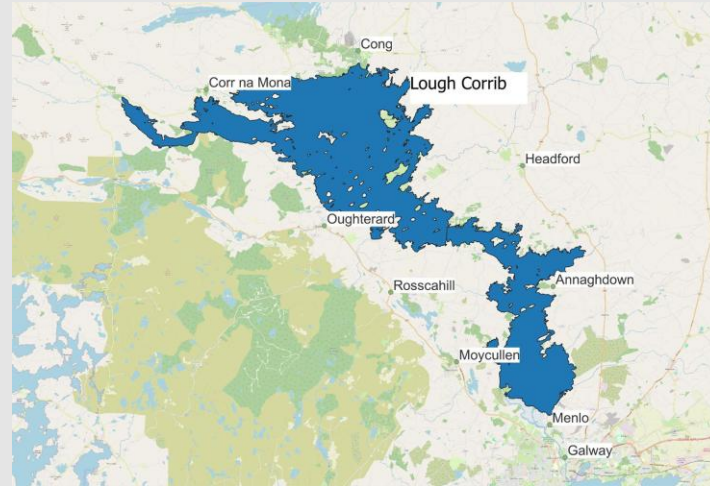




Corrib Beo

Connecting Corrib Communities



Let's Talk Water
Jennifer Cunningham
Corrib Beo, Project Manager
March 28th, 2025
Galway Atlantaquaria

Corrib Catchment

Features/Threats

Unique features;

- *Rich biodiversity*
- *Critical nesting site for birds*
- *Spawning ground for Brown Trout, Atlantic Salmon and European eel*
- *Haven for water users*
- *SAC Designation*

Imminent threats;

- *Declining water quality*
- *Invasive species*
- *Poor multi-stakeholder engagement*
- *Infrastructural challenges an obstacle to public engagement*





Corrib Beo

**Corrib Beo is an voluntary environmental group.
Established in 2019.**



**Our mission is to restore, enhance and protect
Lough Corrib and the Corrib catchment as a
sustainable living ecosystem.**

Corrib Beo Pillars





Key Pillars of Corrib Beo



EDUCATION

To empower schools & communities to create a greater awareness and provide better care for the natural capital of the Corrib.



ECO-ADVOCATES FIELD TRIPS



Water clever bunch of students

● Initiative for Transition Years focuses on importance of biodiversity

ENVIRONMENTALIST Duncan Stewart and students from Coláiste Iognáid conducted a water-sampling session last week as part of a new Transition Year field trip course called Eco-Advocates. This is an initiative of EcoEd4All, a voluntary environmental organisation that promotes education for sustainability in secondary schools.

Stewart, an award-winning architect, environmentalist and producer and presenter of RTE's *Eco Byr* and patron of EcoEd4All, joined the students and Eco-Advocate Course leader, Jen Cunningham, on the banks of the River Corrib. The water-quality sampling session was led by GMT Marine Biology students, Molly Curran and Joseph Donnelly.

Brendan 'Speedie' Smith, the founder of the campaign to make Galway a National Park City, and also a committee member and content contributor to EcoEd4All, spoke about the importance of the circular economy and the Galway National Park City initiative. Pam Dolan, Environmental Officer and Coláiste Iognáid Art Teacher, was also involved.

The Eco-Advocates field trip experience offers Transition Year students a unique outdoors experience, connecting them directly with the exploration and monitoring of biodiversity, climate change, water pollution and circular economy.



Environmentalist and EcoEd4All patron Duncan Stewart with students from Coláiste Iognáid; Pam Dolan, Environmental Officer at the school; Jen Cunningham, Course Developer EcoEd4All; third-year GMT marine biology students Joseph Donnelly and Mollie Curran; and Brendan Speedie Smith, Galway National Park City, at the Water Biodiversity Session and Climate Change Chat with Duncan Stewart at Corrib Village Pier. PHOTOS: BRIAN HARDING



Third-year GMT marine biology student Mollie Curran taking students through an analysis of a water sample from the River Corrib at the Water Biodiversity Session and Climate Change chat with Duncan Stewart at Corrib Village Pier.



Third-year GMT marine biology student Joseph Donnelly shows students from Coláiste Iognáid how to take a water sample from the River Corrib.



Students listening as environmentalist Duncan Stewart explains the importance of biodiversity.



Duncan Stewart and Jen Cunningham of EcoEd4All with the Coláiste Iognáid TV channel.

- Over 850 TY students
- EU Erasmus+ Project Partner, **Watersport4Green**
- Pilot primary school field trips delivered
- Guest speakers at Climate Action Youth Assembly
- Studying of Trout and Pearl Mussel at Oughterard Hatchery
- Finalists at the ECO UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards 2024

SCHOOL FIELD TRIP TO LOUGH CARRA

Corrib Beo & Lough Carra Catchment Association





Key Pillars of Corrib Beo



ENVIRONMENT

To connect community-led actions to address water quality and climate change impacts on the Corrib.



CORRIB COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Corrib Catchment Partnership - evolved from the “Who’s Who on the Corrib” Workshop in October 2023, co hosted by LAWPRO and Rivers Trusts, facilitated by Trish Murphy. A roadmap then evolved for effective community collaboration to restore and protect Corrib catchment water quality by...

- *Clarifying purpose*
- *Convening the right people*
- *Cultivating trust*
- *Coordinating existing activities*
- *Collaborating for impact*





CORRIB CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Corrib Catchment Partnership

An alliance of Corrib anglers, farmers, environmental organisations, a group water scheme and other community groups.

Mission: *Work together to address water quality issues, partnering with local communities and schools.*

Goals: *Identify
Restore
Protect
Engage*





CORRIB CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

“Our Lakes Our Legacy”



East Corrib Alliance

Carra Mask Corrib Water Protection Group

Lough Corrib Angling Federation

Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Assoc.

Chairde an Chláir

Kilcoona Caherlistrane Group Water Scheme

Corrib Beo



CORRIB CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Farming for Water - EIP Funded

Water & Environment: Farming for Water EIP

- ✓ *Corrib Catchment Partnership (CCP) secured Farming for Water EIP funding through Corrib Beo*
- ✓ *Supports sustainable agriculture to protect water quality*
- ✓ *Funds a 3-year Agricultural Animator – Peter Higgins*

appointed



CORRIB CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP

Farming for Water

Key Actions:

-  **Reduce agricultural runoff & improve nutrient management**
-  **Restore natural habitats & establish buffer zones**
-  **Foster collaboration among farmers, experts, and environmental groups**

Impact:

- ◆ **Part of Ireland's €50M EIP scheme**
- ◆ **Supports a *coordinated, long-term* approach to water conservation**
- ◆ **Aligns with CCP's mission: "Our Lakes, Our Legacy"**



Strength in Unity / Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile

- *Deepening engagement with key stakeholders*
- *Increased funding streams for projects and supporting the Corrib Catchment Partnership*
- *Increase inclusive community engagement and education awareness programs*
- *Rolling out the Farming for Water EIP Community Agricultural Animator 2025-2027*





***Go raibh míle maith agaibh to
Galway Atlantaquaria for inviting me, and to you all for
listening.***

Photography Credit: Jess Walsh, Mick Bourke Photography, Bart Fannin, Chaosheng Zhang, Galway Hooker Sailing Club, Corrib Beo & GK Media.