

## **Other environmental effects of a Plan on WATER**

### **Transboundary effects**

A Plan could lead to transboundary effects associated with water (e.g. a Plan in Northern Ireland producing significant environmental effects in the Republic of Ireland).

For example:

- Engineering works (e.g. reservoir, flood defence) in the upper reaches of a shared catchment in Northern Ireland could lead to flooding or a decrease in water availability downstream in the Republic of Ireland.
- Point and diffuse water pollution (e.g. nutrients, toxic substance) in the upper reaches of a shared catchment in Northern Ireland could lead to a decrease in water quality in low reaches of the river, estuaries and coastal areas in the Republic of Ireland.

### **New receptors**

A Plan could also, for example, result in exposing new receptors (e.g. residents/ users) to water bodies with an existing problem of water pollution (e.g. by promoting house building or water sports in a particular location). It should be noted that some waters present naturally elevated levels of toxic substances (e.g. metals) or nutrients (e.g. phosphates) due to the geochemical characteristics of the underlying geology.