

OILSPY

Protecting a Natural Resource



The Faughan river in Northern Ireland

Nereides Oilspy detection system goes On-Line to protect water ways in Northern Ireland.

CONTEXT

The River Faughan is a renowned salmon and sea trout fishery with approximately 20km of prime angling water. Rising on the north-western slopes of the Sperrin Mountains above Claudy in County Londonderry. Approximately 40 km long, the river has a catchment area of just under 300 km². The Carmony Water Treatment Works uses water from the river to provide drinking water for the town.

The river also supports a significant brown trout fishery. Some 13,000 salmon were recorded entering the system in 1996. The River Faughan is designated salmonid under the Freshwater Fish Directive and its chemical quality is good to fairly good. Biological quality is highly variable due to intermittent localised pollution.

APPLICATION

In 2000 the DOE (WaterExecutive) NI installed Nereides Oilspy units on all water intakes to treatment works throughout the Western region. This included the intake at Carmony on the River Faughan.

EFFICIENCY

In 2001, a household oil tank started to leak and traces of the oil went into the River Faughan.

The Nereides Oilspy detection system stopped the inlet pumps and no oil entered the Carmony Water Treatment Works. The sand filters were undamaged and after the leak was traced, the plant resumed operation.

The system is now on line to the Environment and Health Services (N.I.) as a first warning of oil pollution, protecting the health of all water drinkers who rely on the river.



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