



Exceptional weather events

Type of event:

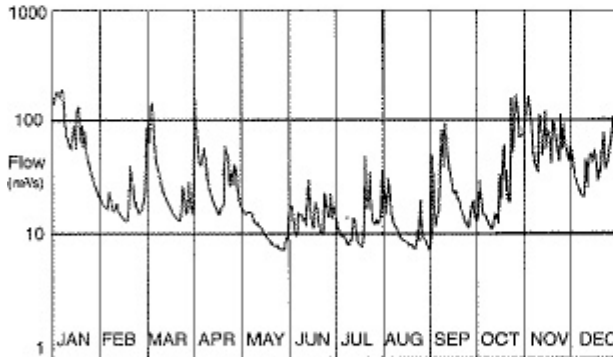
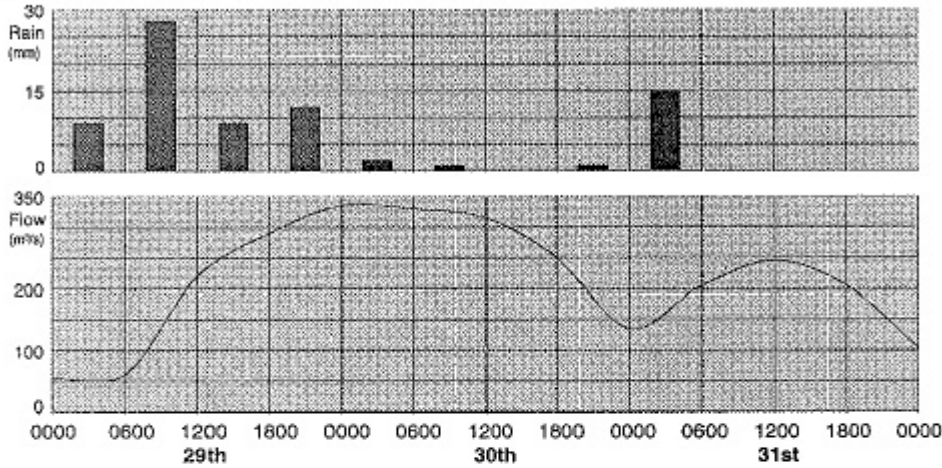
Rainfall / flooding

Date:

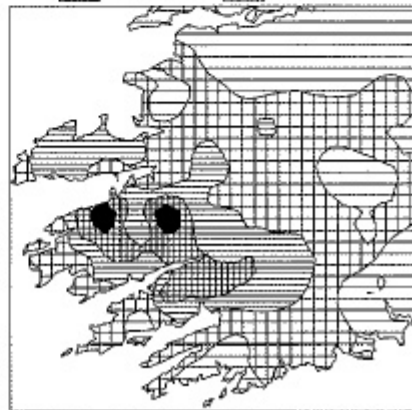
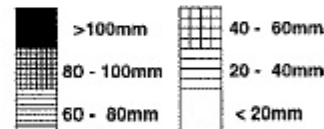
December 1998

FLOODING ALONG BLACKWATER IN LATE DECEMBER

Heavy rain in the period December 29th to 31st 1998 caused extensive flooding along the Munster Blackwater, with the towns of Mallow and Fermoy (bottom picture) particularly badly affected. Soil moisture levels were already close to saturation before the rain arrived early on the 29th, causing an immediate response in flow rates of the river. The top chart below shows 6-hourly rainfall values at Mallow, with corresponding flow rates measured at Mallow Sugar Factory. The peak flow rate here measured around midnight on the 29th was the highest of the year (middle chart) and the fourth highest since 1977.



Thanks to Micheál MacCárthaigh of the Environmental Protection Agency for supplying flow data.



Above- 48-hour rainfall values beginning at 0900UTC on the 28th

