



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil
Department of Communications,
Climate Action & Environment

Environmental Services Training Group

LOCAL AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE 2018

Climate Change and the Environment A New Reality

Minella Hotel, Clonmel Wednesday 25th. April 2018.

Climate Change and the Environment A New Reality

River Basin Management Plan Where are we?

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(LAWCO)

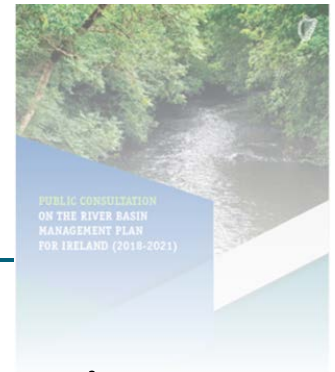


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Outline



- ❑ The Water Framework Directive & River Basin Management Planning
- ❑ Lessons from 2009 – 2015 cycle
- ❑ Our water quality challenges
- ❑ New approach and structures
- ❑ Key measures
- ❑ Where we are at and moving forward

Background: Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000

Legal framework to *protect and restore* clean water and to ensure its long-term sustainable use.

Three cycles (RBMP)

1st Cycle: 2010-2015

2nd Cycle: 2016-2021

3rd Cycle: 2022-2027

..... “to achieve good ecological status in all waters”.

River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021

Good water quality is vital to

- ❑ well-being of our society
- ❑ economy
- ❑ environment

- ❑ protect public health,
- ❑ sustain jobs in agri-food and tourism
- ❑ preserve natural heritage for future generations



The River Basin District

- ❑ 70,273km²; 46 catchments, 583 sub-catchments & 4,832 water bodies
- ❑ 4.78 million people – 33% in cities, 29% in towns, 38% in rural areas
- ❑ Protected Areas:
 - 134 designated bathing waters
 - 64 shellfish waters
 - 42 nutrient sensitive areas
 - 358 SACs with water dependency.
- ❑ Key drivers of economic activity rely on safe and secure water supply:
 - Agri/Food/Bev export value of €11bn pa
 - Pharma €30bn & organic chemicals €21bn



First Cycle RBMP

Positive: Legal framework in place

- Water Framework Directive
- Nitrates Directive
- Urban WWT regulations

Single water services authority established

But: Mixed results on implementation

Outcomes from 1st Cycle

- ❑ 13% target for improvement not met
- ❑ Circa 1000 waterbodies changed status:
 - 550 deteriorated
 - 450 improved
- ❑ 45% of rivers, 54% of lakes, 60% of transitional waters and 24% of coastal waters at less than good status
- ❑ Continued long term decline of high status waters –13% to 10%
- ❑ Protected areas meeting requirements in 2015
 - Bathing waters: 128 of 140
 - Nutrient Sensitive Areas: 26 of 42 meeting treatment standards
 - Shellfish Waters: 48 of 64 shellfish areas meeting guide values
 - SACs: 60% of rivers and 69% of lakes meeting required status

Water Quality Status

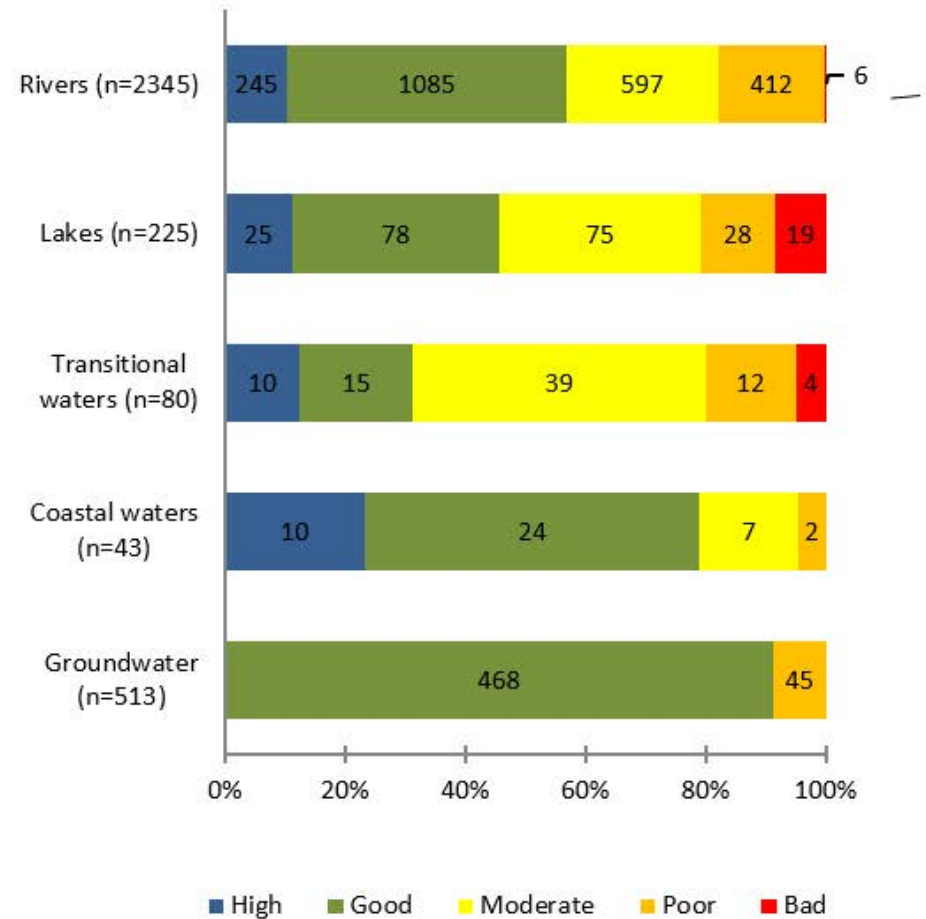
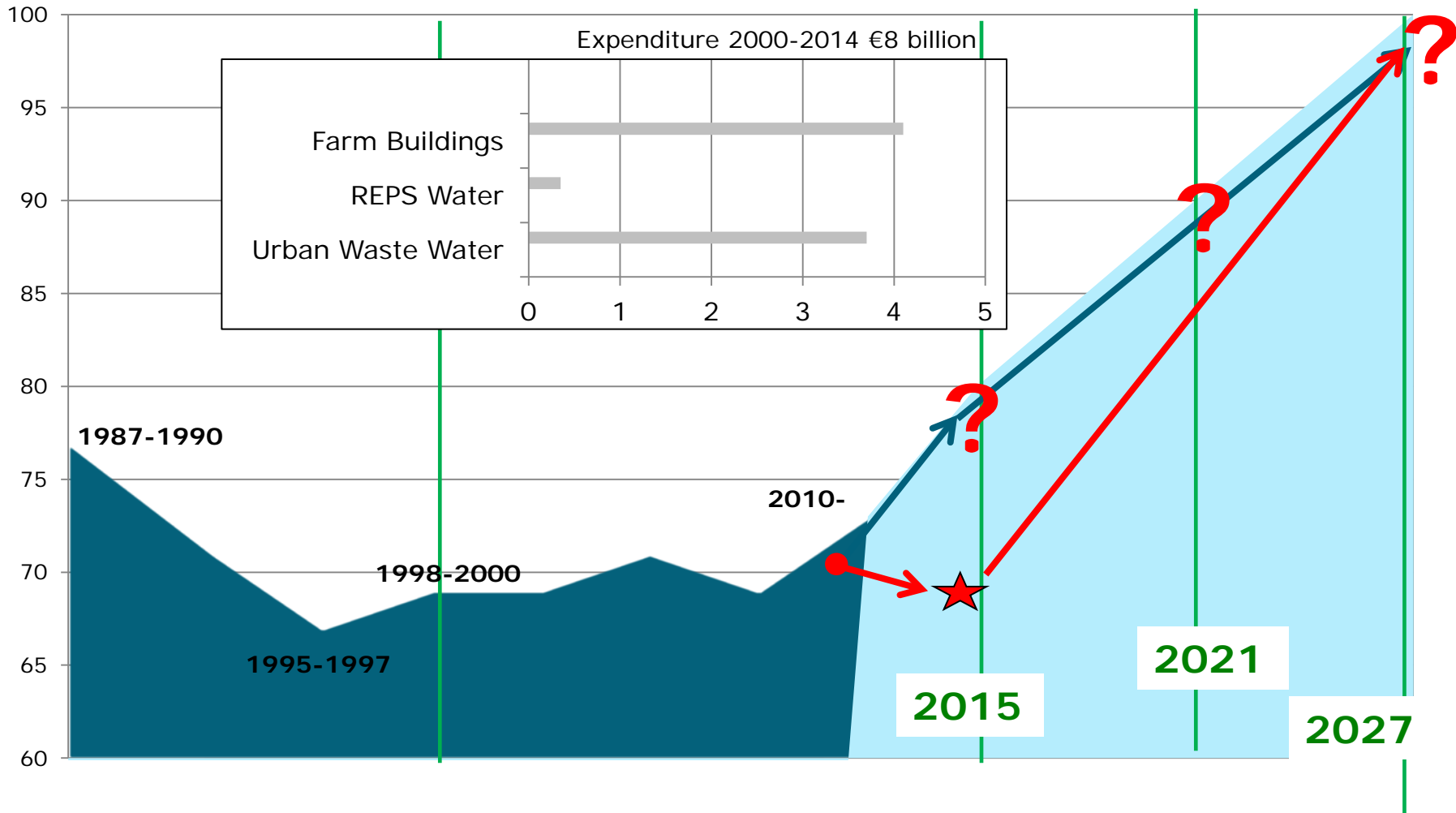


Figure 4.1: Surface water ecological status for rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters and groundwater status (2010-2015)

River Water Quality, past, now, future?

% river channel length at satisfactory status



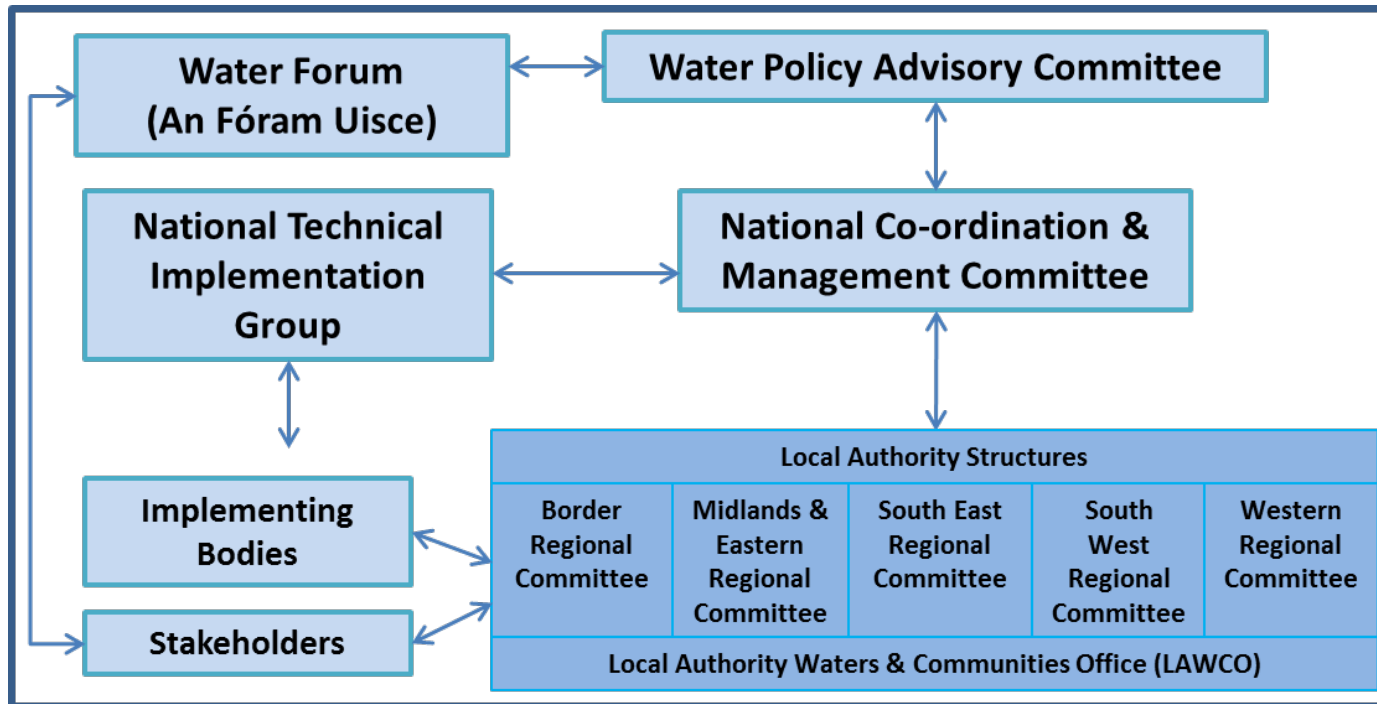
Lessons Learned

Targets must be sufficiently supported by actions

- Need governance and implementation structures
- Need for better evidence base
- Need to reach out to the public

Second Cycle: New Approach (1)

New implementation structures:



Second Cycle: New Approach (2)

Development of evidence base: water quality monitoring

- ❑ EPA Catchments Unit
- ❑ New Local Authority Science and Advisory Teams

Regional prioritisation:

- ❑ Building on EPA characterisation process
- ❑ Workshops with regional stakeholders
- ❑ List of 190 Prioritised Areas for Action
- ❑ Coordination of activity across stakeholders

Identified Pressures

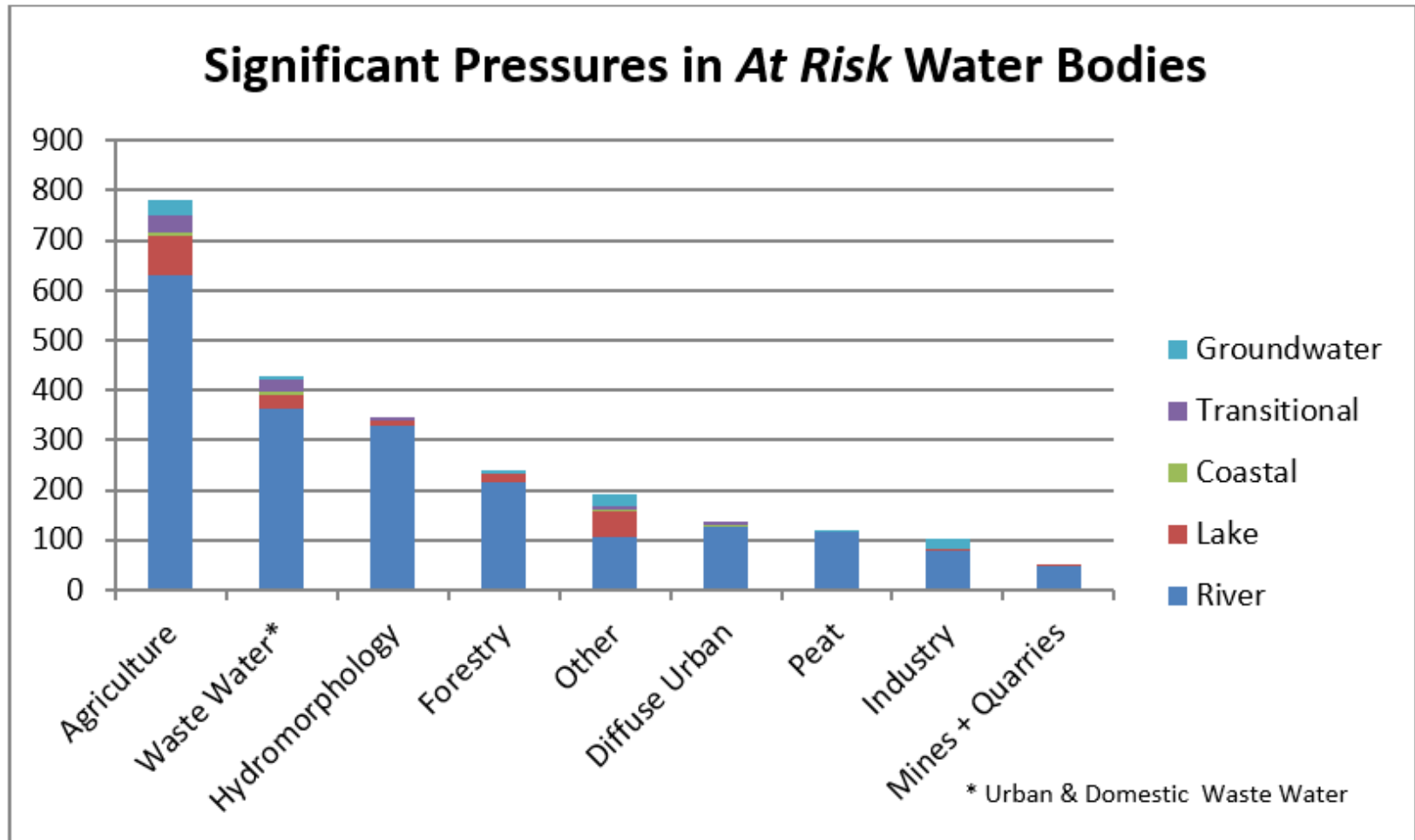



Figure 1: Frequency of significant pressures on *At Risk* water bodies.

Second Cycle: New Approach (3)

■ Public Consultation & Engagement Processes

- SWMI (46 submissions)
- National (938 submissions)
- Regional/local (120 local meetings, >1,000 submissions)
- LAWCO engagement activities and fund

Public Consultation Outcomes

	State Responses to Improve Water Management	Pressures on Waterbodies and Water Quality	Physical Condition of Surface Waters	Value of Water Bodies
 <p>More Frequently Raised</p> <p>Less Frequently Raised</p>	Policy Issues, Regulation and Enforcement	Agricultural Practices	Biodiversity Management	Water & Health
	Organisational Coordination	Nutrient Enrichment	Flooding	Education
	Public Engagement	Forestry	Abstraction & Flow	Recreation
	Coordination of Plan Implementation	Hazardous Chemicals	Physical Elements	High Status Waters
	Resourcing & Prioritisation	Invasive Species	Hydromorphology	
	Level of Ambition	Climate	Land Use Planning	

Programme of Measures

- ❑ Agriculture
 - ❑ Urban waste water
 - ❑ Water abstractions
 - ❑ Water and Planning guidance
 - ❑ Drinking water source protection
 - ❑ Domestic waste water treatment systems
 - ❑ Physical condition of surface waters
- High Status waters
 - Forestry
 - Peatlands
 - Hazardous chemicals
 - Lead strategy (drinking water)
 - Flood risk management
 - Climate change
 - Invasive alien species

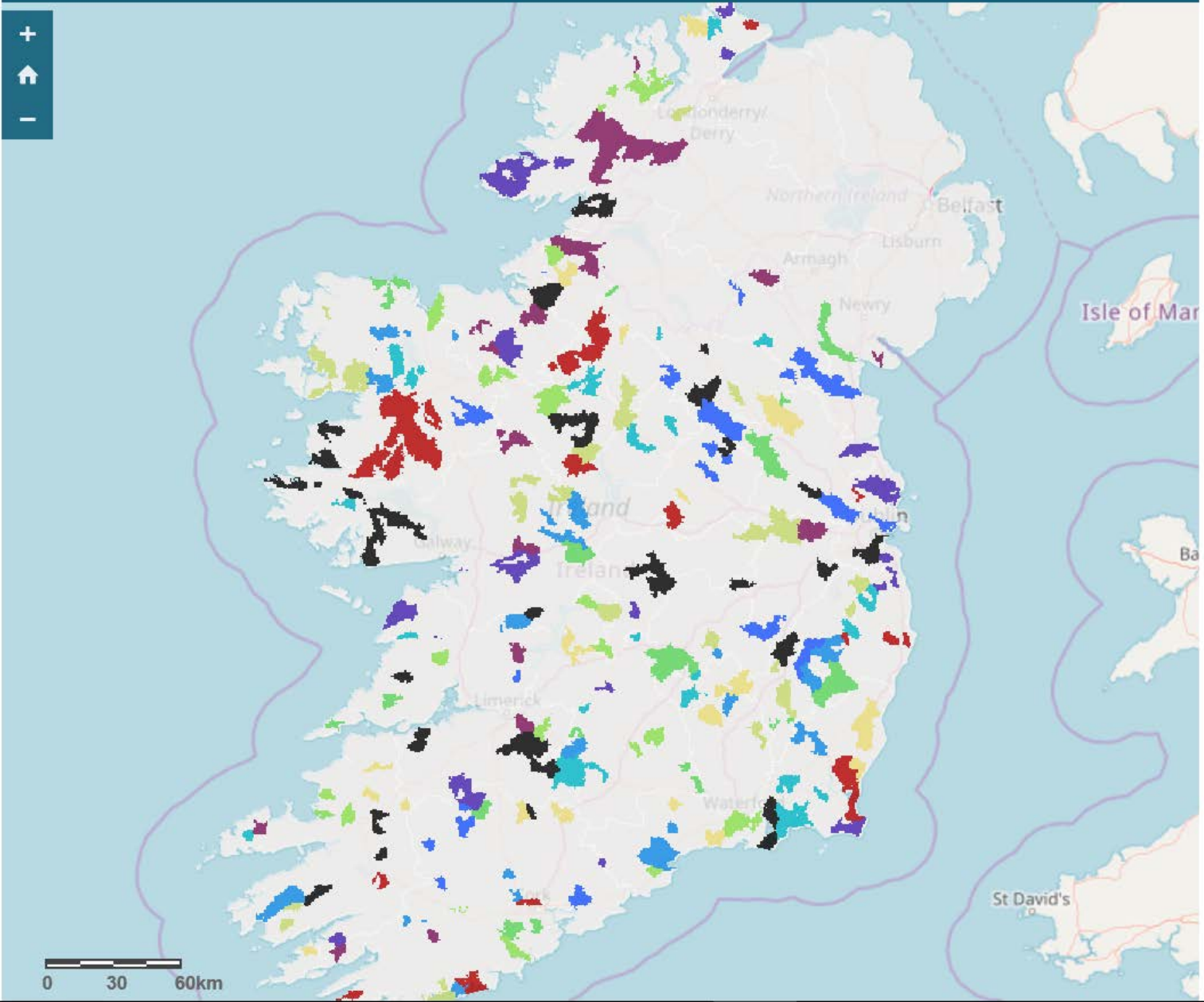
Coordination in International River Basin Districts

- ❑ Shared waterbodies with NI include
 - 35 waterbodies in the Neagh Bann RBD
 - 407 water bodies North Western RBD
- ❑ North South Water Framework Directive Coordination Group will continue to oversee coordination of Directive between two jurisdictions
- ❑ Brexit may require a review of arrangements
- ❑ 3 Areas for Action that contain cross border waterbodies where collaboration will be important
- ❑ 12 Areas for Action that are wholly within the ROI contain waterbodies that will contribute to water-quality improvements in waterbodies that flow into the North.

Objectives and Priorities

- ❑ Ensure full compliance with relevant EU legislation
- ❑ Prevent deterioration
- ❑ Meet the objectives for designated protected areas
- ❑ Protect high-status waters
- ❑ Implement targeted actions and pilot schemes in focus sub-catchments

Find address or place



Expected Outcomes

- ❑ Comprehensive programme of measures in place
- ❑ A total of 190 Areas have been prioritised for action (2018-2021). These include a total of 726 water bodies. Improvements are expected in all.
- ❑ Conservatively estimate that 152 additional water bodies in AAs (10% of all at risk water bodies and 21% of those in AAs) will show improvement in status by 2021 with further improvements thereafter
- ❑ Progress with urban waste water and agricultural measures particularly important
- ❑ Key objective is to build the foundations and momentum for delivery in the long-term
- ❑ Regional work programmes to be developed by local authorities
- ❑ The new governance structures will underpin effective implementation
- ❑ Ongoing management of the process is essential

Progress to date

- ❑ 5 Regional management committees chaired by CEO committees in place
- ❑ 5 Regional Operational committees chaired by DOS in place
- ❑ New resource (LAWSAT) - recruiting
- ❑ Interagency networking and collaboration has commenced & has great potential
- ❑ Information sharing & learning

Supporting Resources

- www.catchments.ie
- www.watersandcommunities.ie
- Catchments Newsletter
- WFD app for all public bodies (WFD tracking)
- <http://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plan-2018-2021>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kx2DyC8Wokk&feature=youtu.be>

Closing comments

- ❑ Entering a new era in water management with obvious linkages to other environmental and social areas
- ❑ LAWCO seeing the value on the ground of cross sectional and interagency relationship building and learning.
- ❑ Need to support and nurture the new regional structures and the shared service approach in order to achieve expected outcomes
- ❑ Very significant challenge ahead
- ❑ Need for technical training but also need to look at cross functional working within LA's - are there training implications?
- ❑ 'We receive no training for interagency networking and collaboration – we rely on personalities' John Breen.

Thank You