

# East Donegal - Community Information Meeting

*Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey*  
20<sup>th</sup> May 2025




Co-funded by  
the European Union



Waters of **LIFE**

# Meeting structure

- Presentation
    - 15 - 20 minutes
  - Questions and Answers
    - 10 - 20 minutes
  - Stand Engagement
    - 30 - 60 minutes
  - We have a **sign-up** sheet at the LAWPRO table if you want to be kept up to date with our work e.g. newsletter
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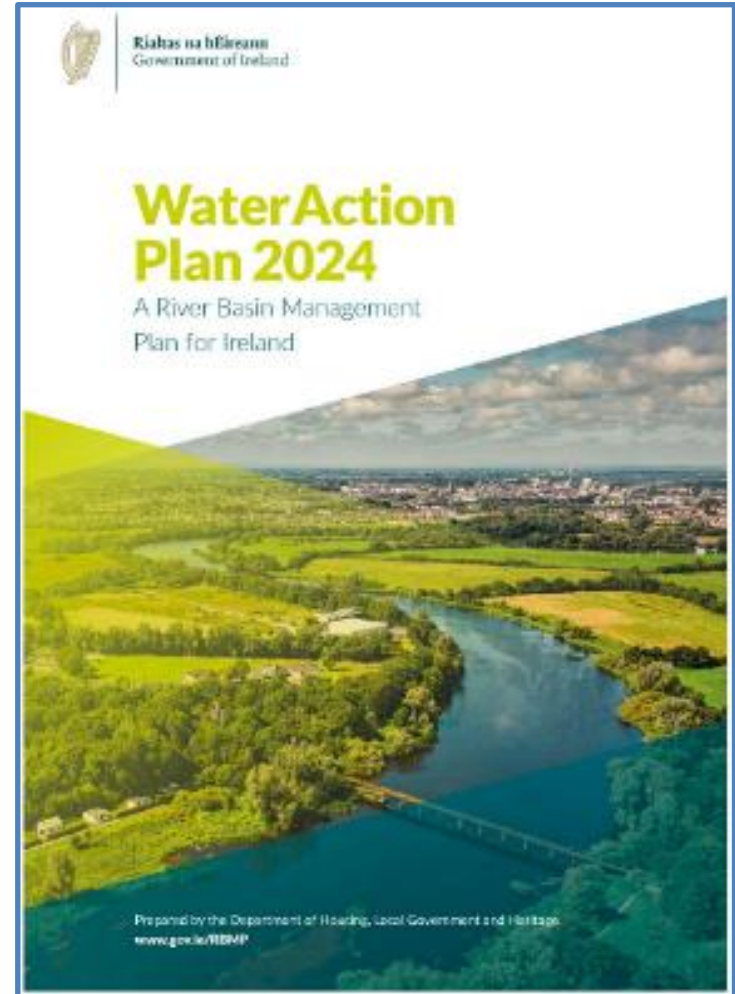
# Water Action Plan 2024

## Launched September 2024

- Government commitment to protecting & restoring Ireland's natural waters by complying with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive
- Accelerate the identification and implementation of the **right measures in the right places** to both restore and protect all water bodies



*“Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such” WFD, 2000/60/EC*



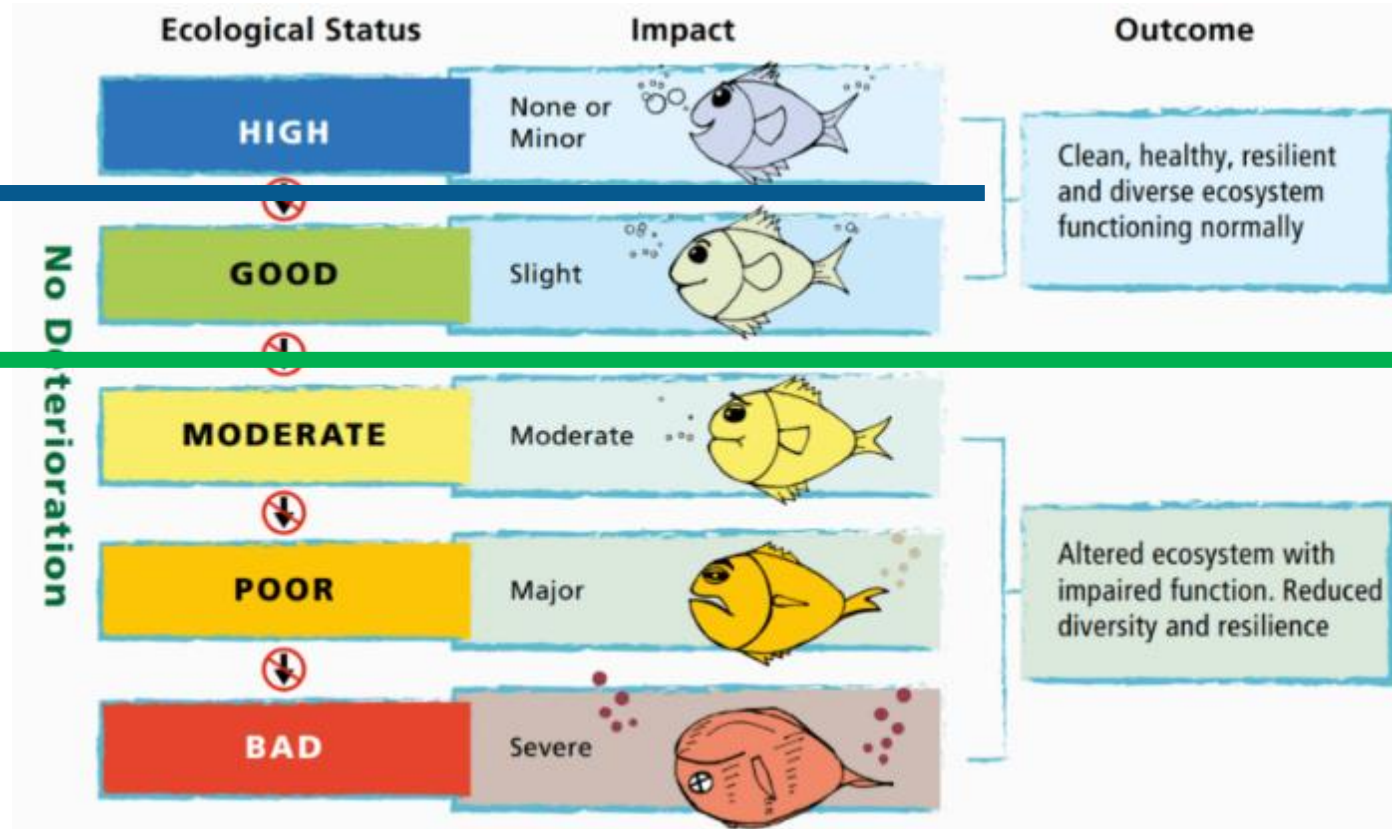
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - River Basin Management Plan 2022 - 2027

# What do we mean by water quality?

## EU Water Framework Directive

No Decline –  
Blue Dots

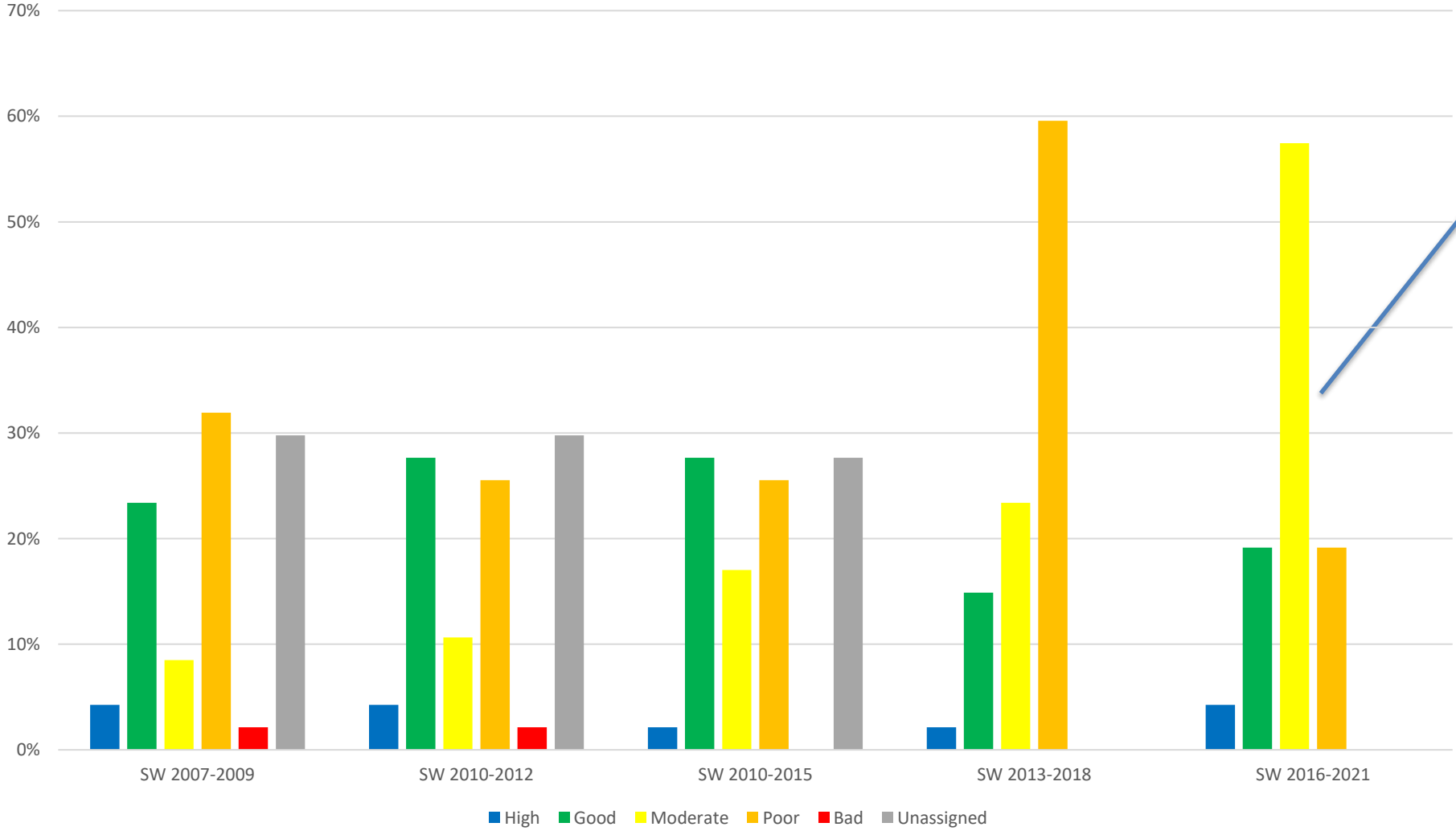
At least Good



All surface waters must achieve at least Good Ecological Status by 2027

# Water quality in Lifford – Stranorlar MD

## Ecological Status of Rivers & Lakes in MD over time



**Most recent WFD Status Assessment (2016-2021) of river waterbodies in the Lifford-Stranorlar MD 47 Waterbodies (WBs) (46 rivers and 1 lake)**

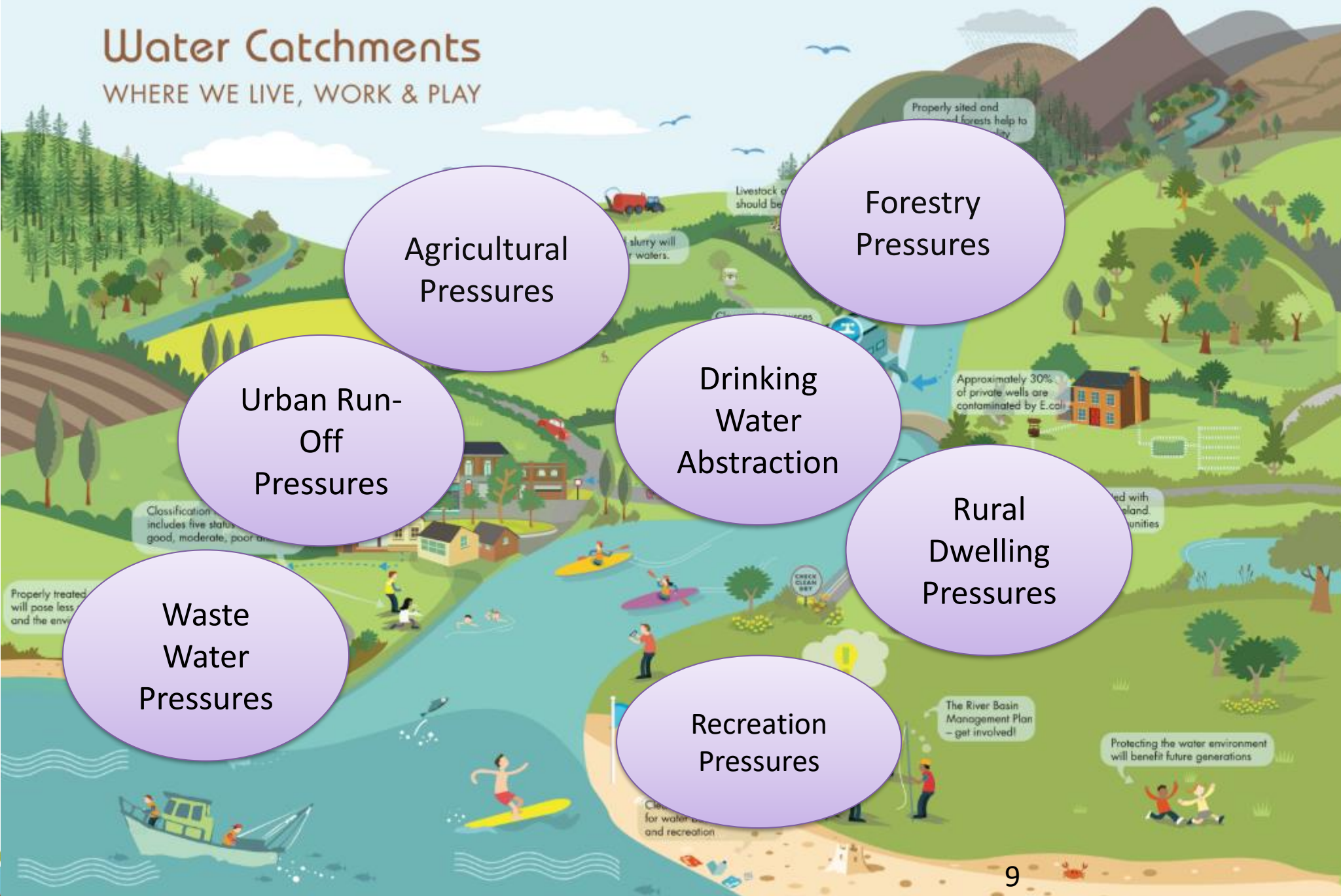
- **High** – 2 WBs (Reelan\_020, Lowerymore\_010 (Eske))
- **Good** – 8 WBs
- **Moderate** – 27 WBs
- **Poor** - 9 WB's

What impacts our water?



# Water Catchments

WHERE WE LIVE, WORK & PLAY



Agricultural Pressures

Forestry Pressures

Urban Run-Off Pressures

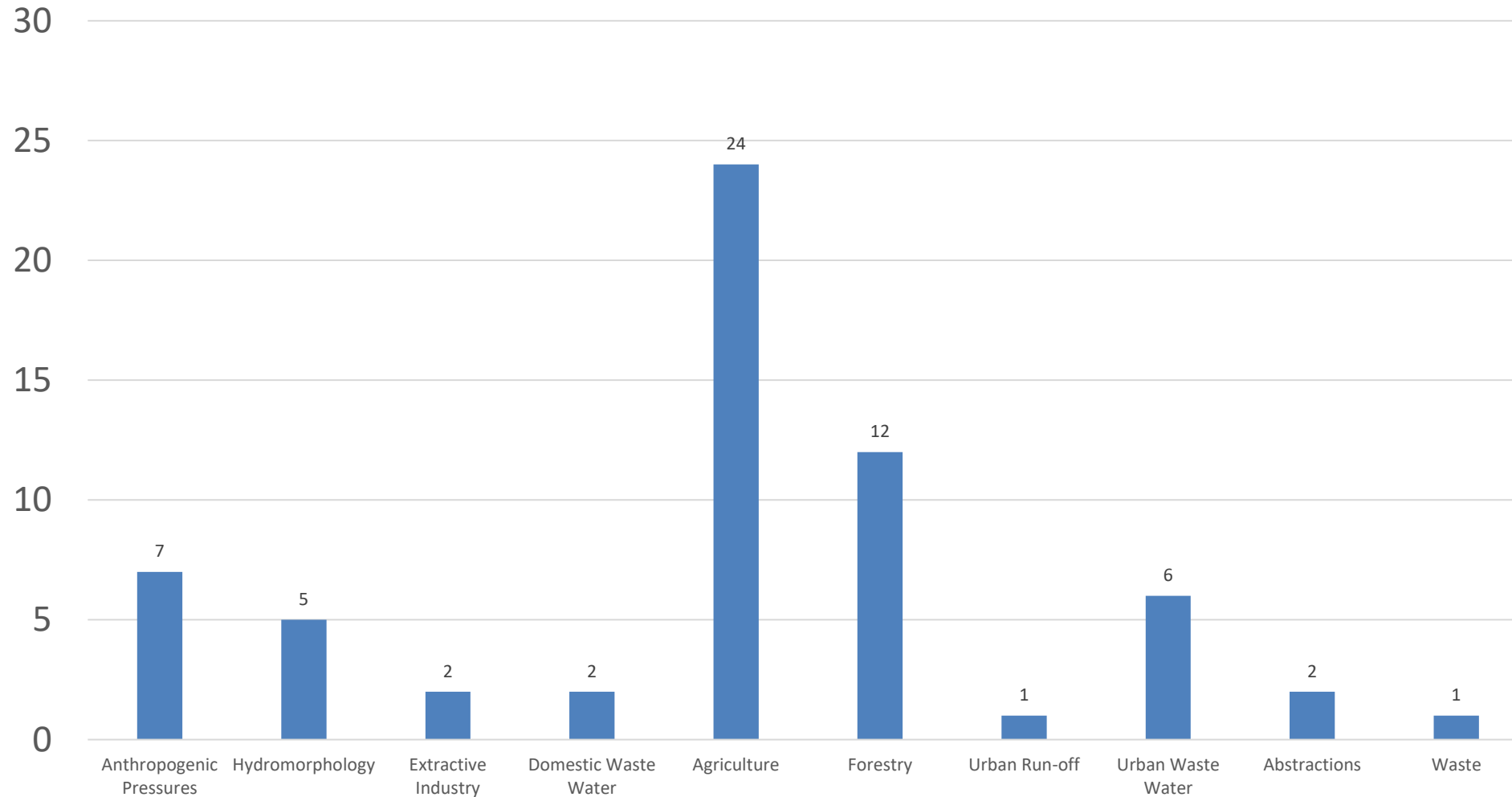
Drinking Water Abstraction

Rural Dwelling Pressures

Waste Water Pressures

Recreation Pressures

# Preliminary Assessment of likely Pressures in the Lifford - Stranorlar MD

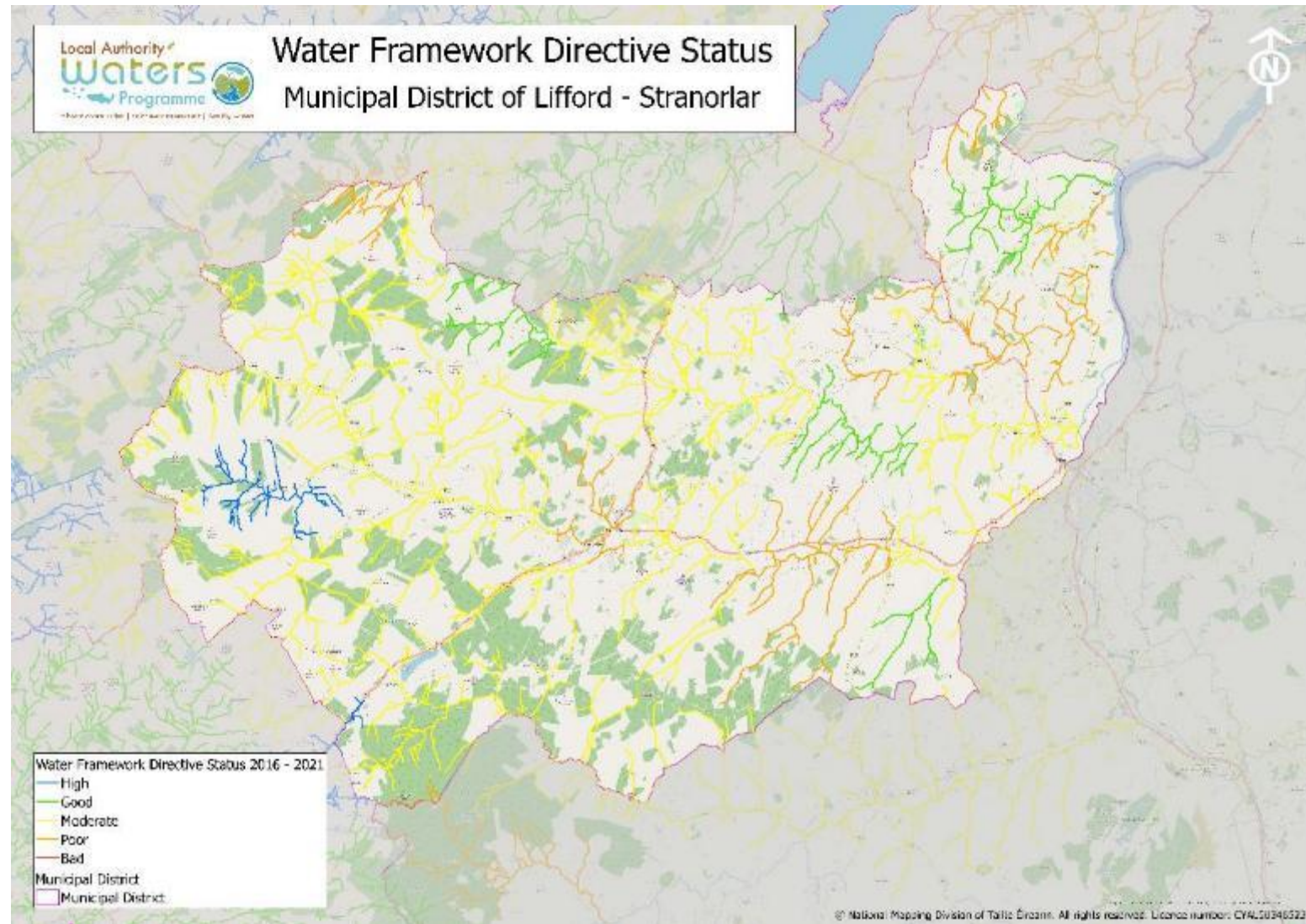


What are we are doing?



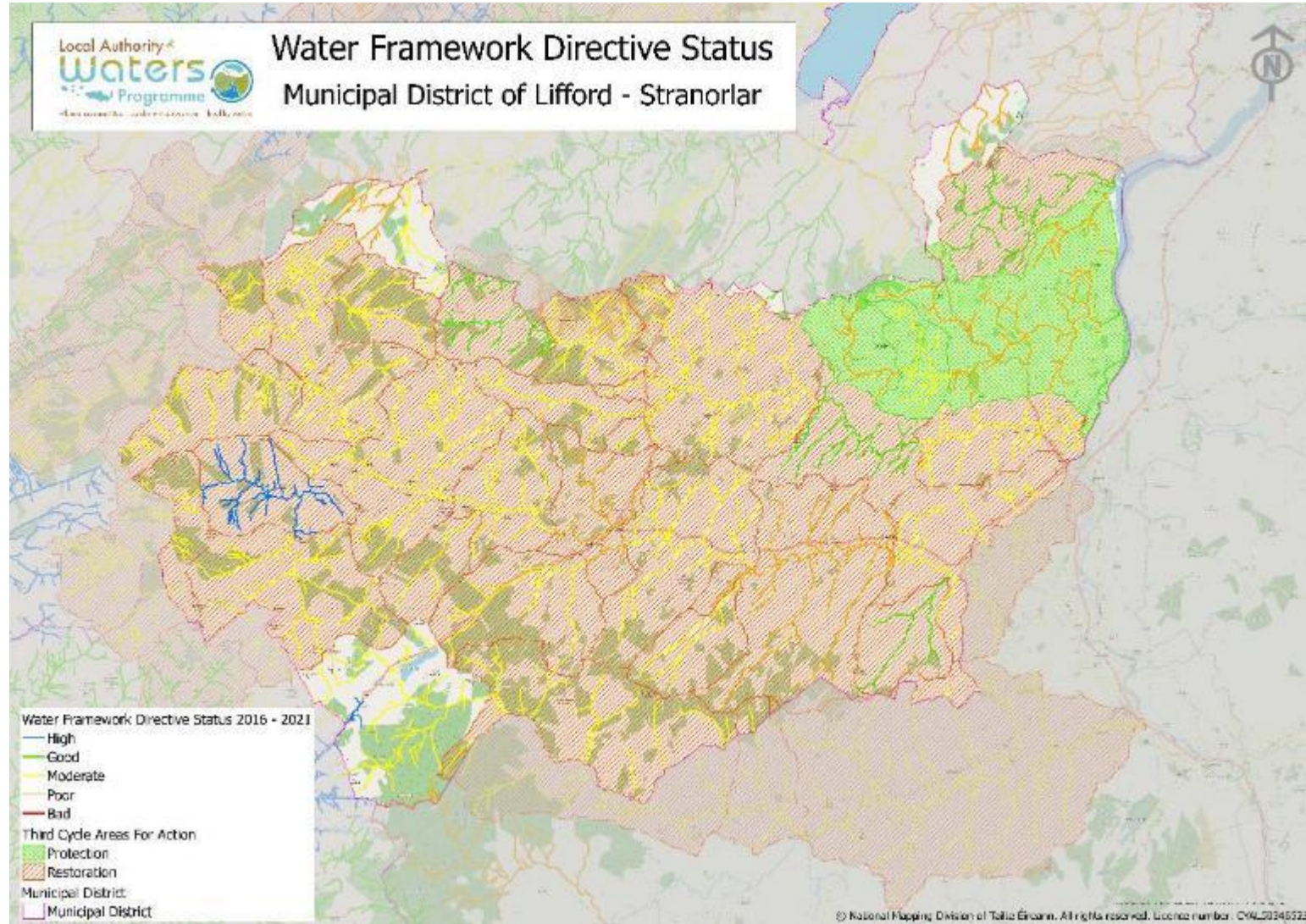
# Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) in the Lifford – Stranorlar Municipal District (MD)

- 46 river waterbodies intersect with or are contained within Lifford - Stranorlar MD
- 1 lake waterbody also within the MD Boundary (L Mourne)



# Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) in the Lifford – Stranorlar Municipal District (MD)

- 46 river waterbodies intersect with or are contained within Lifford - Stranorlar MD
- 1 lake waterbody also within the MD Boundary (L Mourne)
- LAWPRO are the lead organisation on 3 Priority Areas for Action:
  - River Finn – 24 waterbodies covering majority of MD
  - Deelee – 6 waterbodies
  - St Johnston – 1 waterbody carried over from 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle
- Donegal CoCo are the lead organisation in the Swilly Burn Area for Protection



# Local Catchment Assessment

## Finding issues on the ground



Biological sampling - invertebrates



Field chemistry and field observations



River walks



Urban assessments



Chemistry sampling



Biological sampling - vegetation

# Referrals Process

- When we find issues, we let people know
  - Agriculture, we refer to ASSAP
  - Forestry, we refer to Forest Service
  - Licensed discharges, we refer to Local Authority or Environmental Protection Agency etc.
- Measures can be used then to address the impact



# What is The ASSAP?

- Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme
- Focus is on improving water quality in Priority Areas for Action (PAA)
- Provides free & confidential farm advice and acceptance is voluntary
- Industry, government, farm orgs collaboration
- 44 Advisors - 20 Teagasc, 24 from Dairy Co-ops
- Work in collaboration with Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)
- LAWPRO – scientific investigation; LCA, desk study, chemical, biological, hydro morphology etc., assess streams
- Provide referrals to advisors to focus farm visits



CARBERY



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



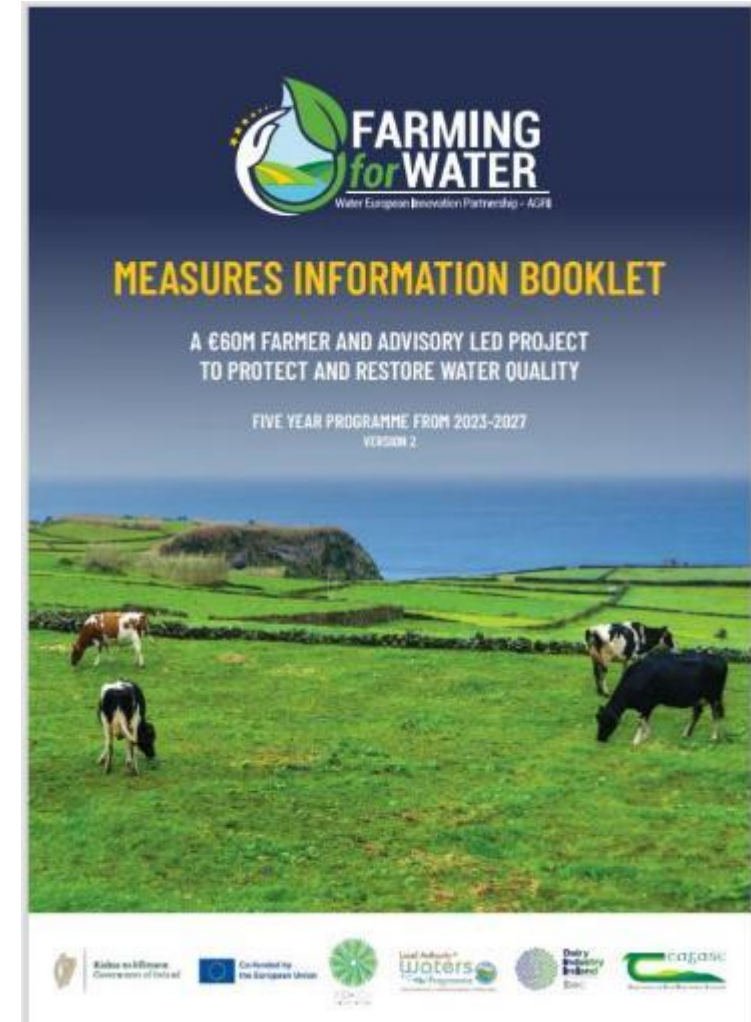
An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



# What is the Farming for Water EIP?

**The Farming for Water project**, aims to tackle water quality issues while promoting sustainable agricultural practices and delivering environmental benefits.

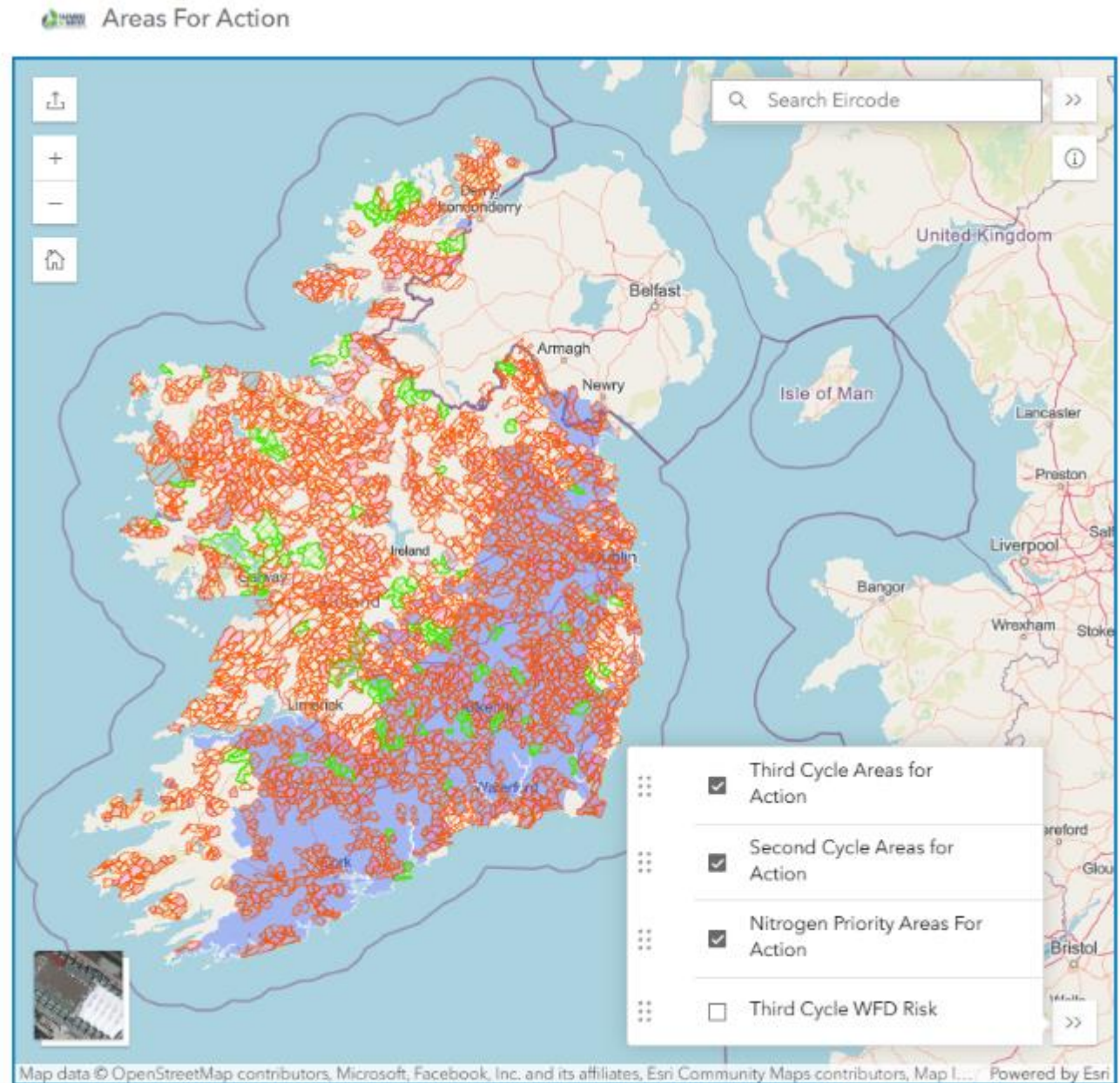
- **Collaboration & Innovation:** The project brings together farmers, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to co-develop practical, scalable solutions that go beyond regulatory requirements.
- **Funding & Support:** With €50 million from DAFM and the European Commission for farmer payments and €10 million in administrative support from DHLGH, the initiative is well-funded to support on-the-ground actions.
- **Leadership & Timeline:** Led by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) in partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland, the programme launched in March 2024 and will run until 2027, engaging a wide network of collaborators including other supporting stakeholders.



# Key Points

- **Prioritisation of Entry into the Project**
  - focus on specific areas based on risk levels.
- **Mapped Areas for Action:** Selected areas [Farming for Water website](https://farmingforwater.ie/).
- **Risk-Based Selection:** Entry into the project is guided by the ASSAP Advisor and is based scientific assessments of agricultural pressures on water bodies.
- **Research projects** being developed which will validate the measures being tested as part of the Farming for Water EIP.

<https://farmingforwater.ie/>





# ACRES

## DONEGAL

CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME

Agri-Climate Rural  
Environmental Scheme

supporting

**Biodiversity, Water & Climate**

**2023-2027**



*Aims '...to deliver significant long-term environmental improvement through participation by a significant number of farmers on the most appropriate land, with each making a strong improvement on their farm.'* DAFM

ACRES Donegal, Drumfries, Clonmany

Tel: 087 338 1548

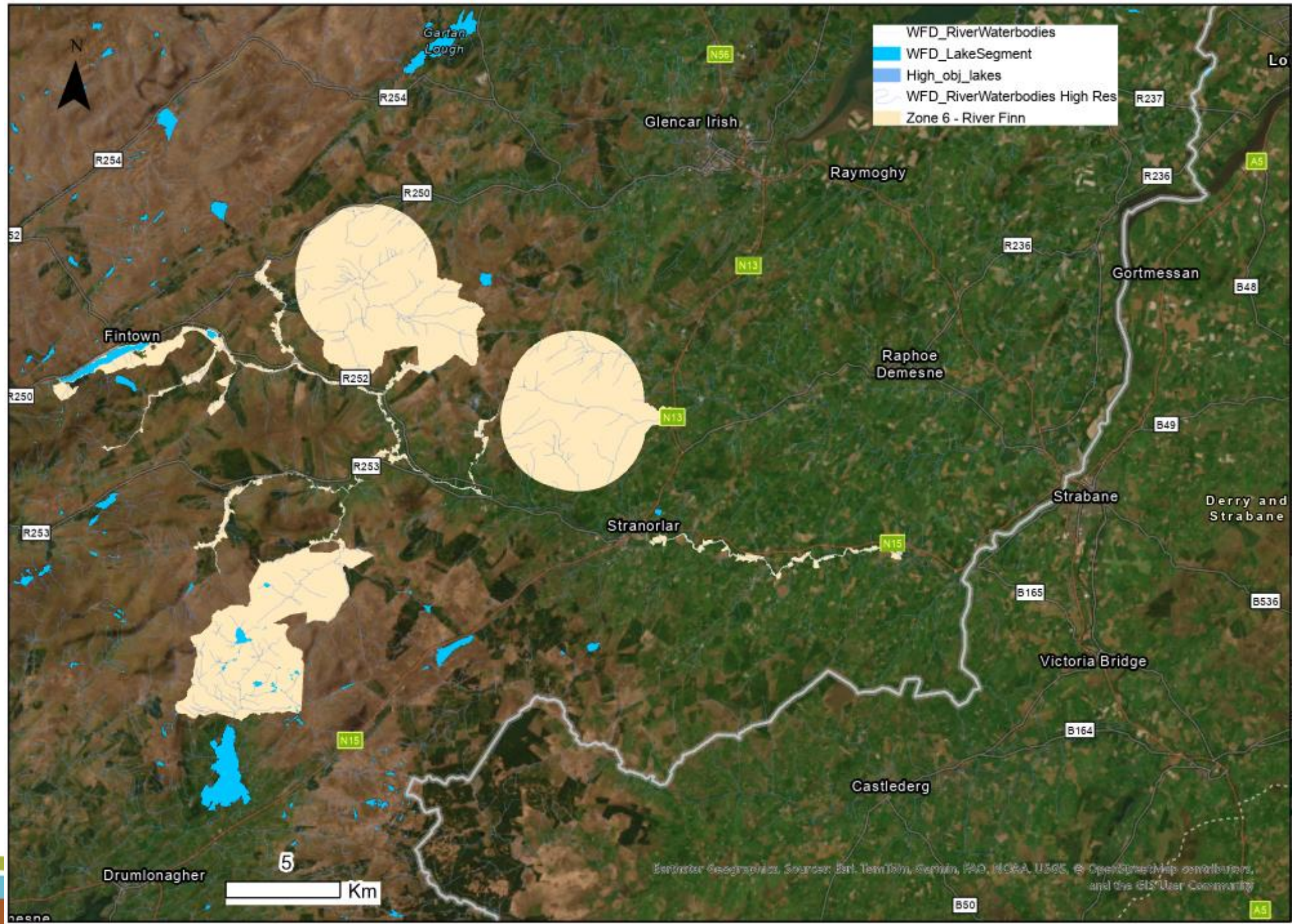
Email: [info@acresdonegal.ie](mailto:info@acresdonegal.ie)

Website: [www.acresdonegal.ie](http://www.acresdonegal.ie)



## ACRES

Co-operation Zone in  
River Finn area



# Community Engagement

- Lisa McDaniel is the Community Water Officer for County Donegal
- Our work with Communities
  - Funding:
    - Community Water Development Fund
    - Catchment Support Fund
    - Small Grants and Event Scheme
  - Capacity Building
  - Project Delivery: Guide development and management of local projects to improve water quality
  - Citizen Science Stream Index: Encourage collection of water quality data

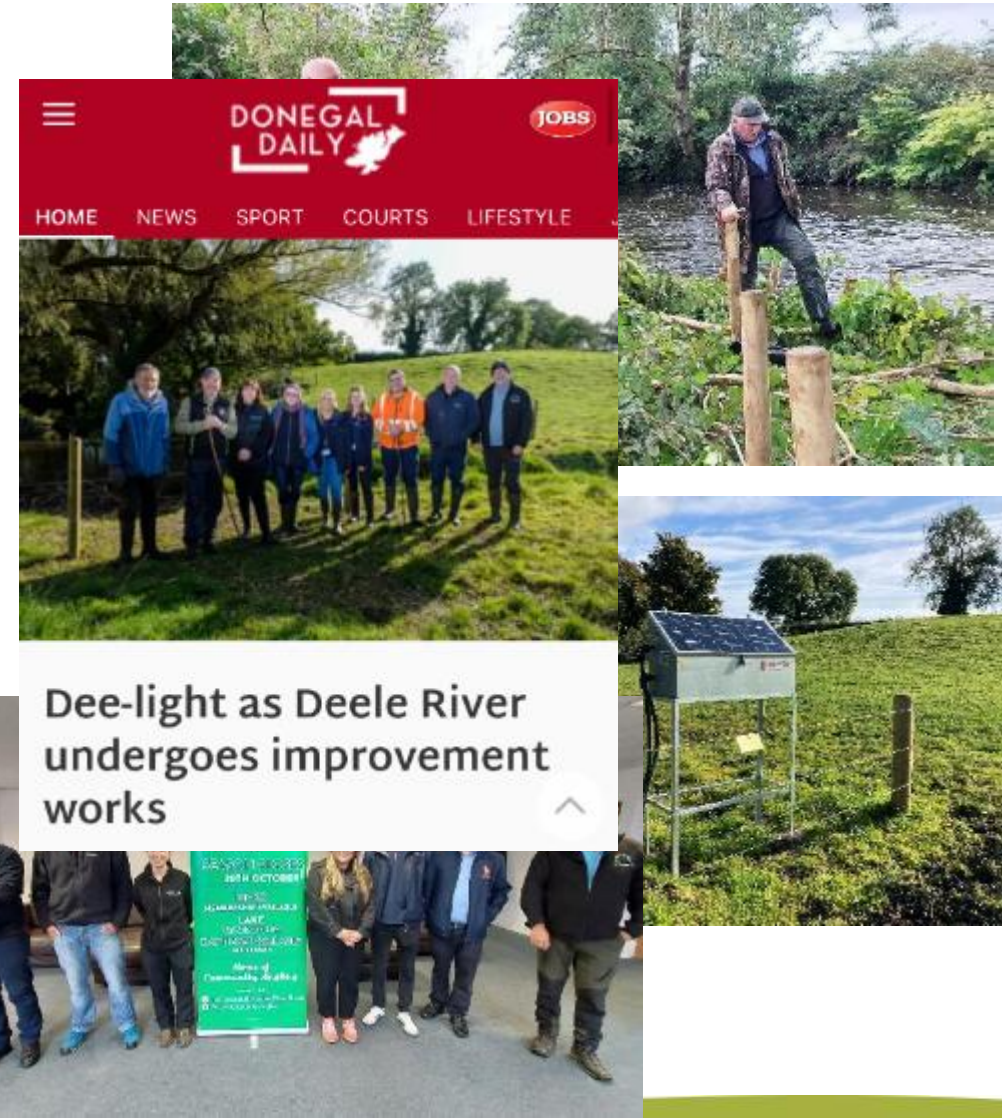




# Deele Community Anglers



- 2021 Wild Trout Trust advisory report to guide future management of River Deele
- CWDF Fund 2024: Erosion control and riparian planting
- CWDF 2025: Solutions to barriers on River Deele
- Catchment Support Fund 2025: Appointment of Damien Devine as Deele Community Catchment Co-ordinator
- Education Programme with local schools
- 2024 Heritage Week Event
- 2025 Biodiversity Week Events
- Collaboration with agencies



# National NbS Conference

- **2-day Conference - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2025**
- Day 1 - Upscaling and Mainstreaming Nature Based Solutions to Protect and Restore Urban, Rural, Coastal and Riverine Environments
- Day 2 – Masterclass Workshops with the following themes: Urban NbS, River Restoration and Coastal / Sea Grass Restoration.
- Including practical approaches to protecting urban, rural, coastal and riverine environments.



**Follow QR Code for Registration Options or see front page of LAWPRO Website <https://lawaters.ie>**

# Collaborative multi-agency approach to improve Water Quality



**“Water is the driving force of all nature”**

*Leonardo da Vinci*



Collaboration is key to success!!



**Q and A**



# Meet the room

- **LAWPRO**
  - Andy Hallewell (Senior Community Water Officer)
  - Gary O’Connell (Catchment Science Manager)
  - Lisa McDaniel (Community Water Officer)
  - Patsy Ryan (Catchment Scientist)
- **ASSAP/Farming for Water EIP**
- **ACRES Donegal**

[www.lawwaters.ie](http://www.lawwaters.ie)

[www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)



# Contact Details

