

LAWPRO

Communities on the River Blackwater Catchment

Public Meeting

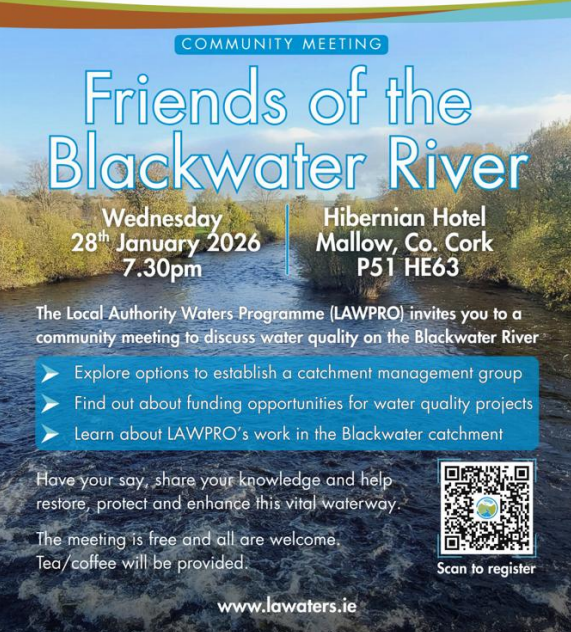
Friends of the Blackwater River

Hibernian Hotel, Mallow, Cork, P51 HE63

Wednesday, 28th January 2026 @ 7.30pm

AGENDA

- Opening & Welcome Barry Deane, LAWPRO SW Regional Coordinator
- Background to the meeting
- Setting the Scene & the Work of the Local Authority Waters Programme in the Blackwater Catchment - Community Water Officer – Ellen Murphy, LAWPRO Community Water Officer
- Q & A Session
- Case Study: A Community Response to a Fish Kill & Options for establishing a “Friends of the Blackwater” type catchment management grouping with Ruairí ÓConchúir, LAWPRO Senior Community Water Officer
- Open Discussion
- Next Steps
- End of Meeting



Local Authority
Waters Programme

COMMUNITY MEETING

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- Explore options to establish a catchment management group
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- Learn about LAWPRO's work in the Blackwater catchment

Have your say, share your knowledge and help restore, protect and enhance this vital waterway.

The meeting is free and all are welcome.
Tea/coffee will be provided.

www.lawaters.ie



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Setting the Scene & the Work of the Local Authority Waters Programme in the Blackwater Catchment

Ellen Murphy
Community Water Officer
(CWO) Cork



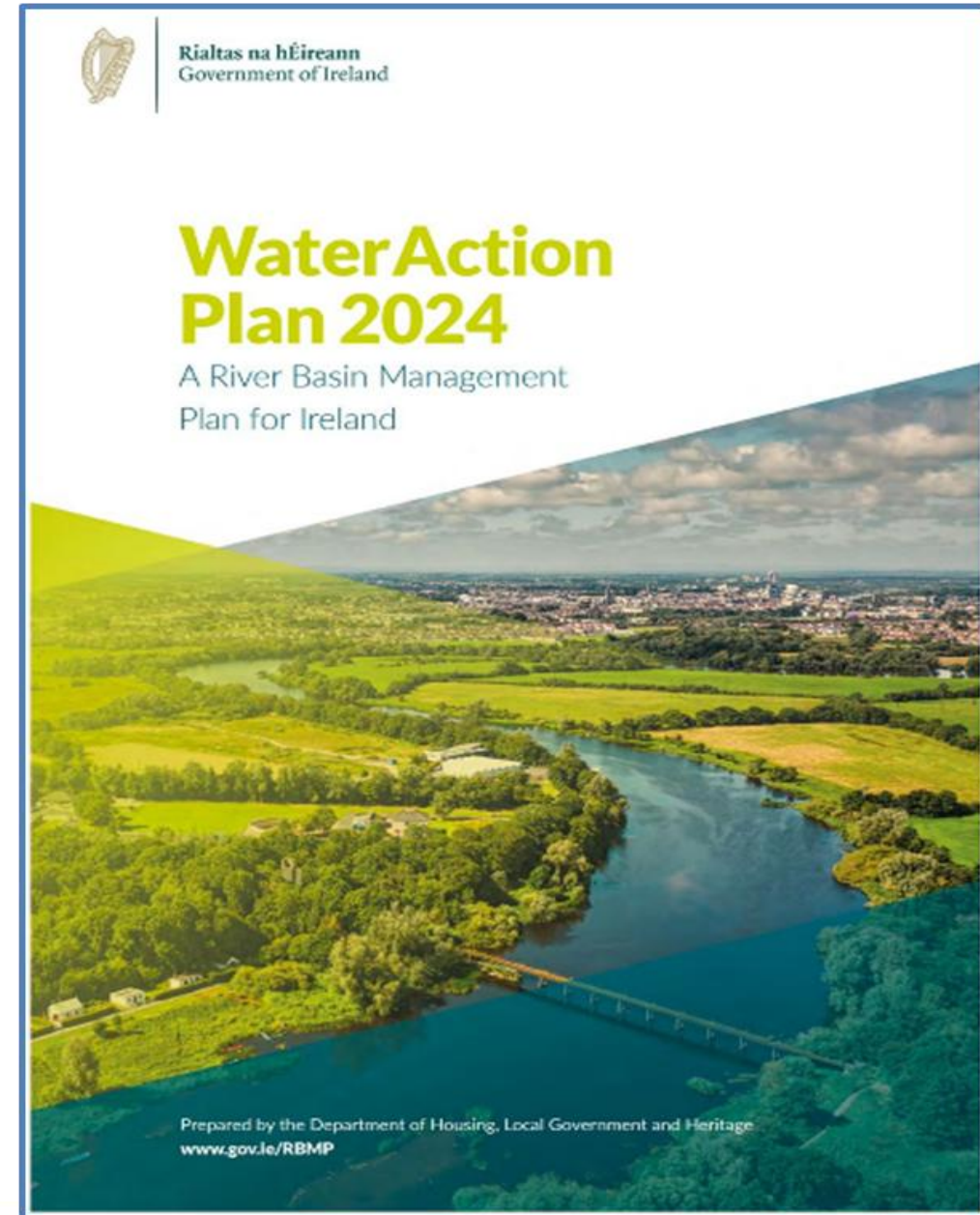
What is LAWPRO?

Local Authority Waters Programme

- A national shared service provided to all 31 local authorities
- Led by Kilkenny & Tipperary Local Authorities
- Help co-ordinate the implementation of **Water Framework Directive** at Local & Regional level

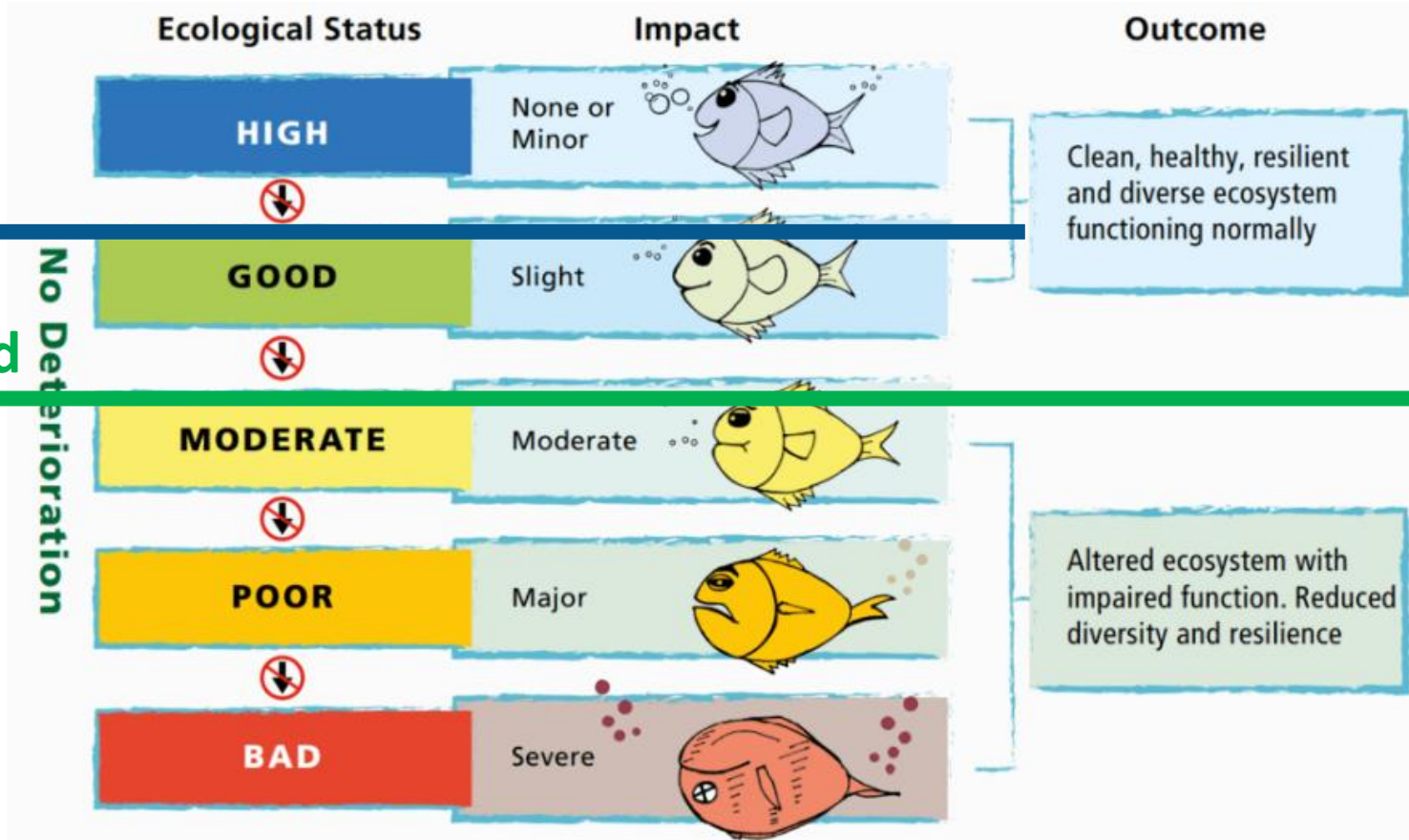
Water Action Plan 2024

- Plan to protect & restore Ireland's natural waters
- Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Accelerate the identification and implementation of the **Right Measures In The Right Places**
- Aim to restore and protect all water bodies



What do we mean by water quality?

EU Water Framework Directive



No Decline –
 Blue Dots

At least Good



WFD Co-ordination

Catchment Science

Community Engagement



Local Catchment Assessment Identifying issues on the ground



Field chemistry and field observations



Biological sampling - invertebrates



River walks

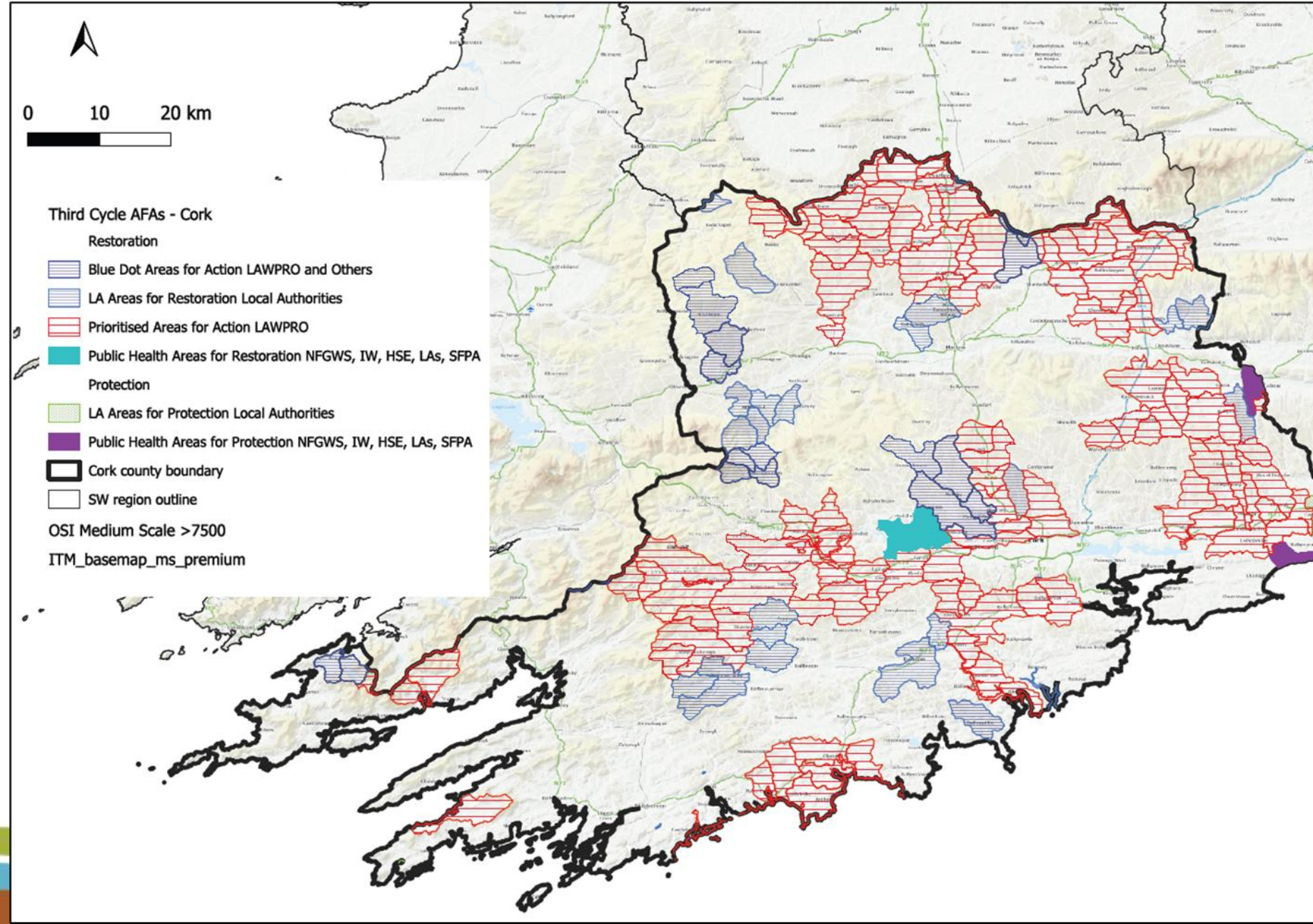
Biological sampling - vegetation



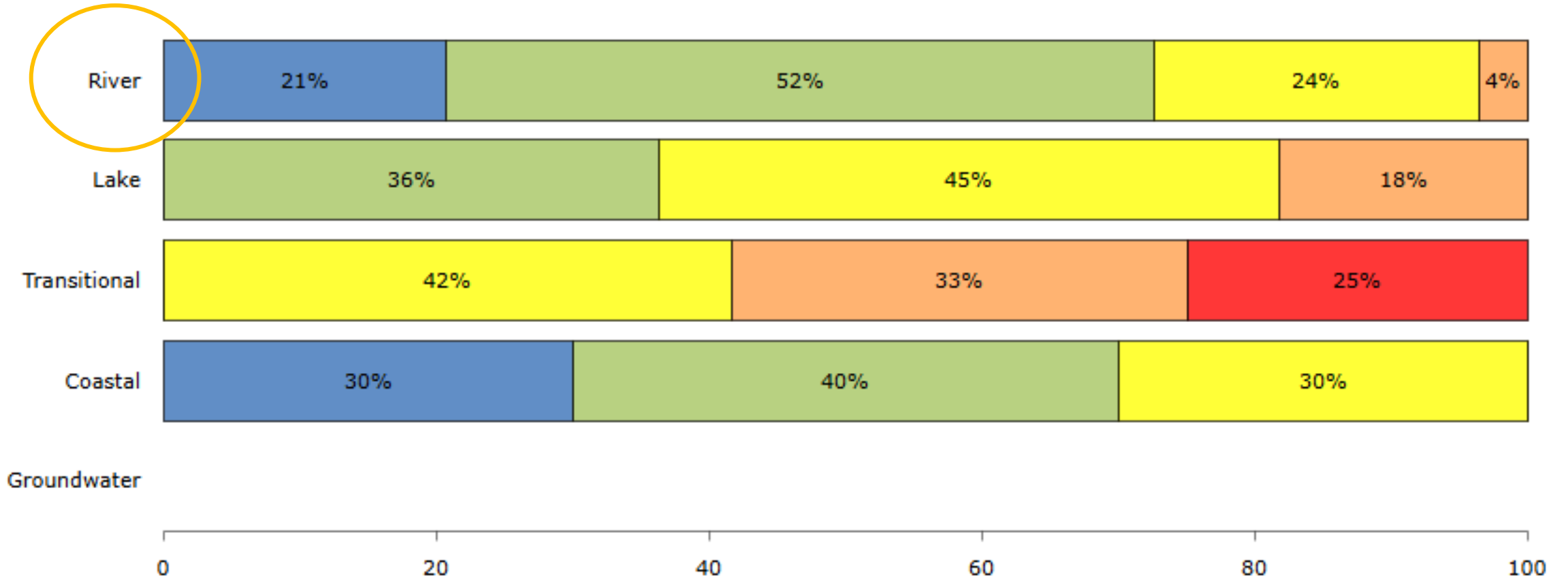
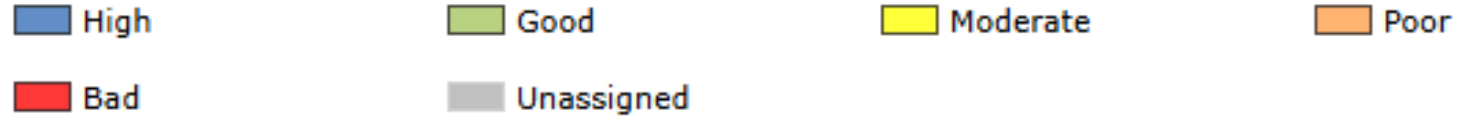
Chemistry sampling



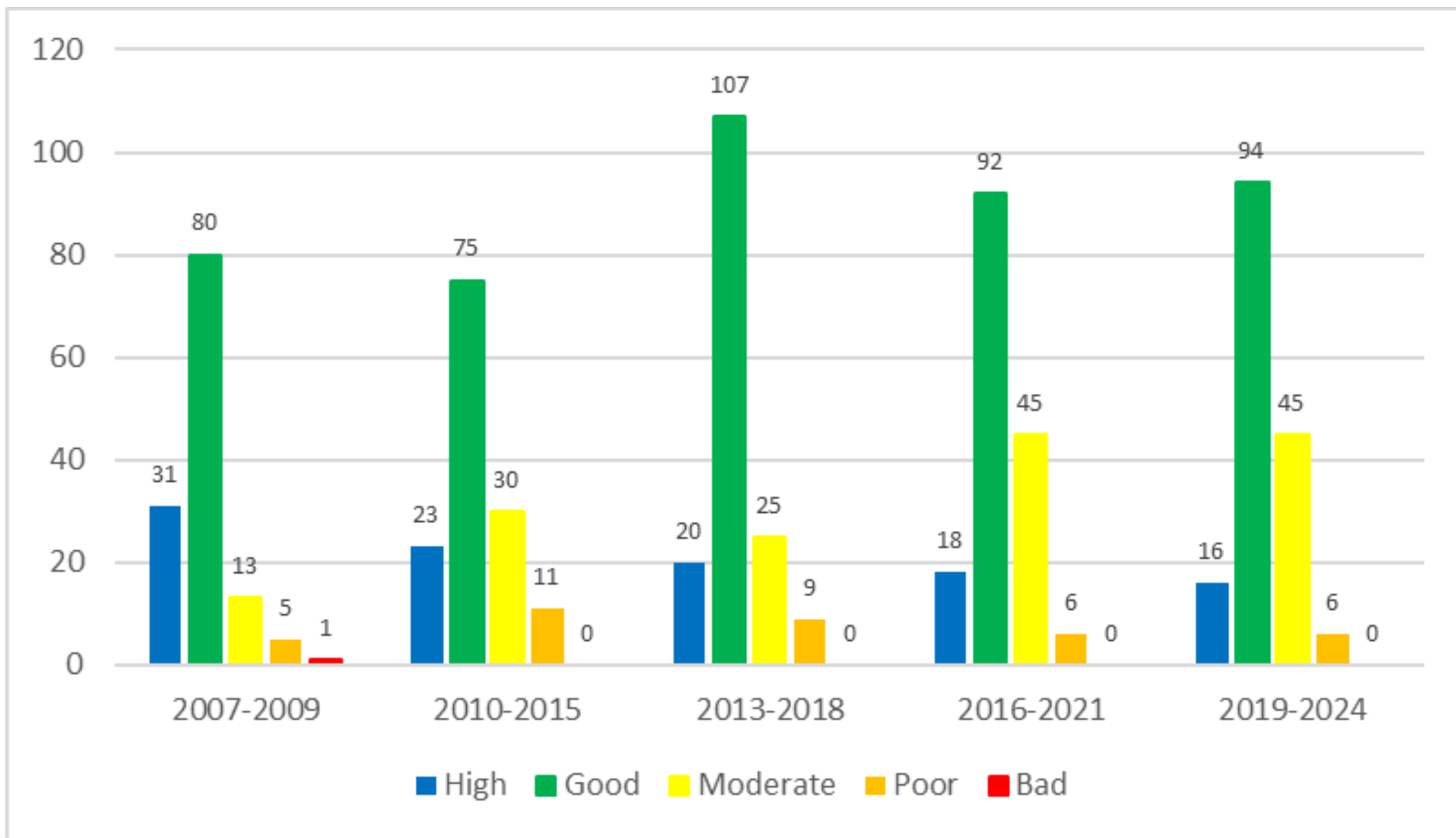
Cork - Areas for Action (55)



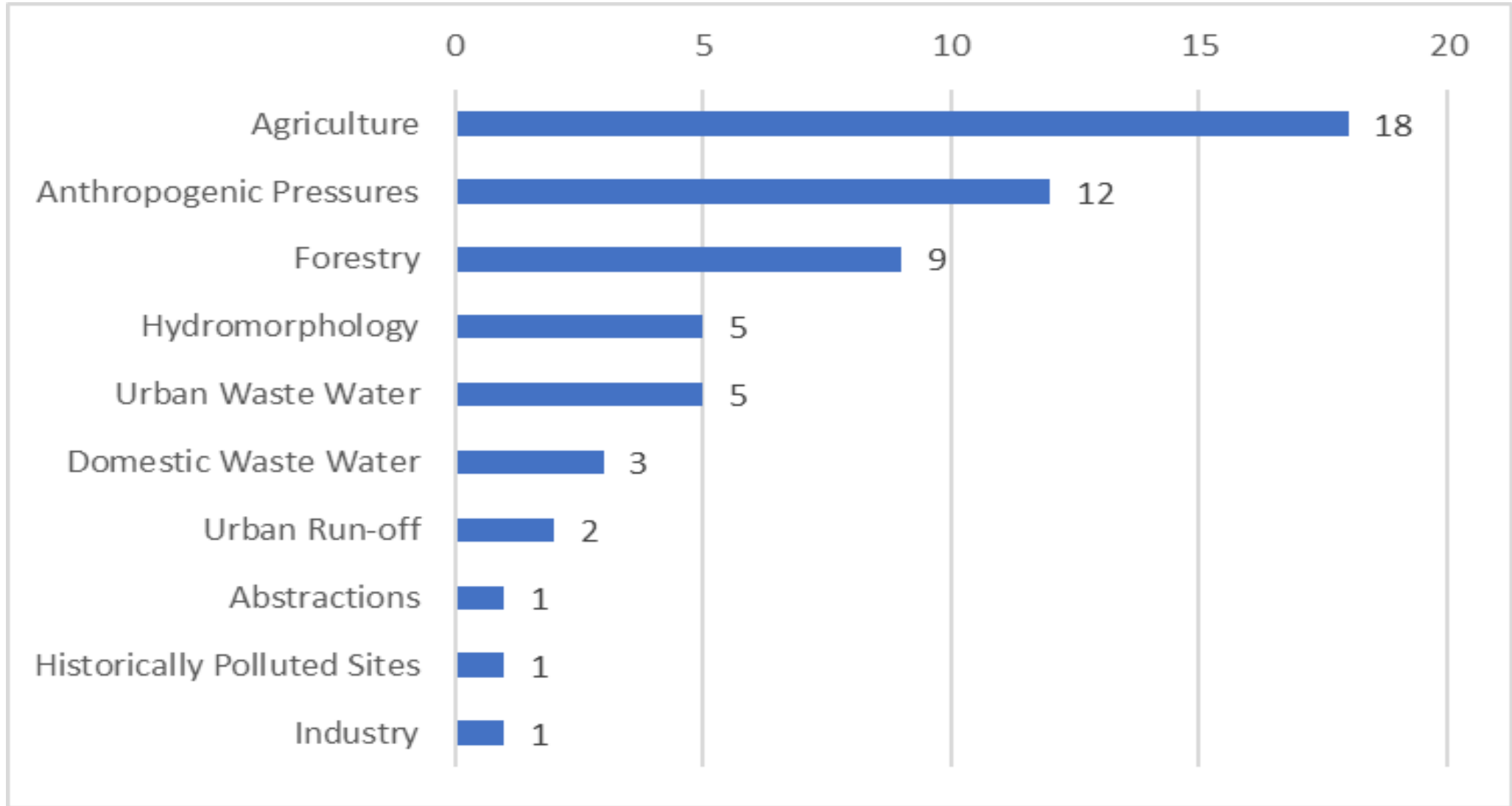
What is the current Water Quality Status in Cork?



WFD status in the Blackwater catchment

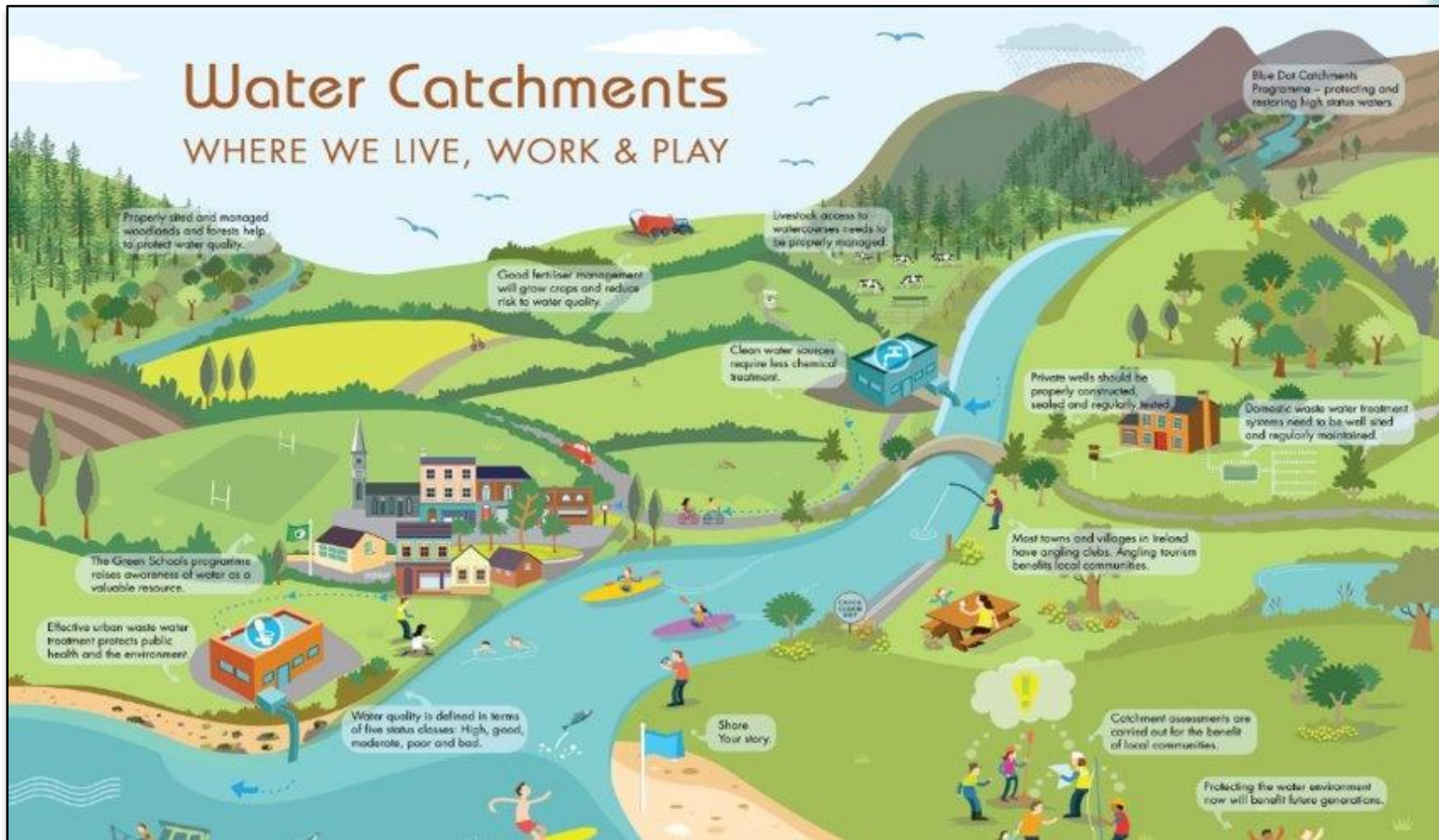


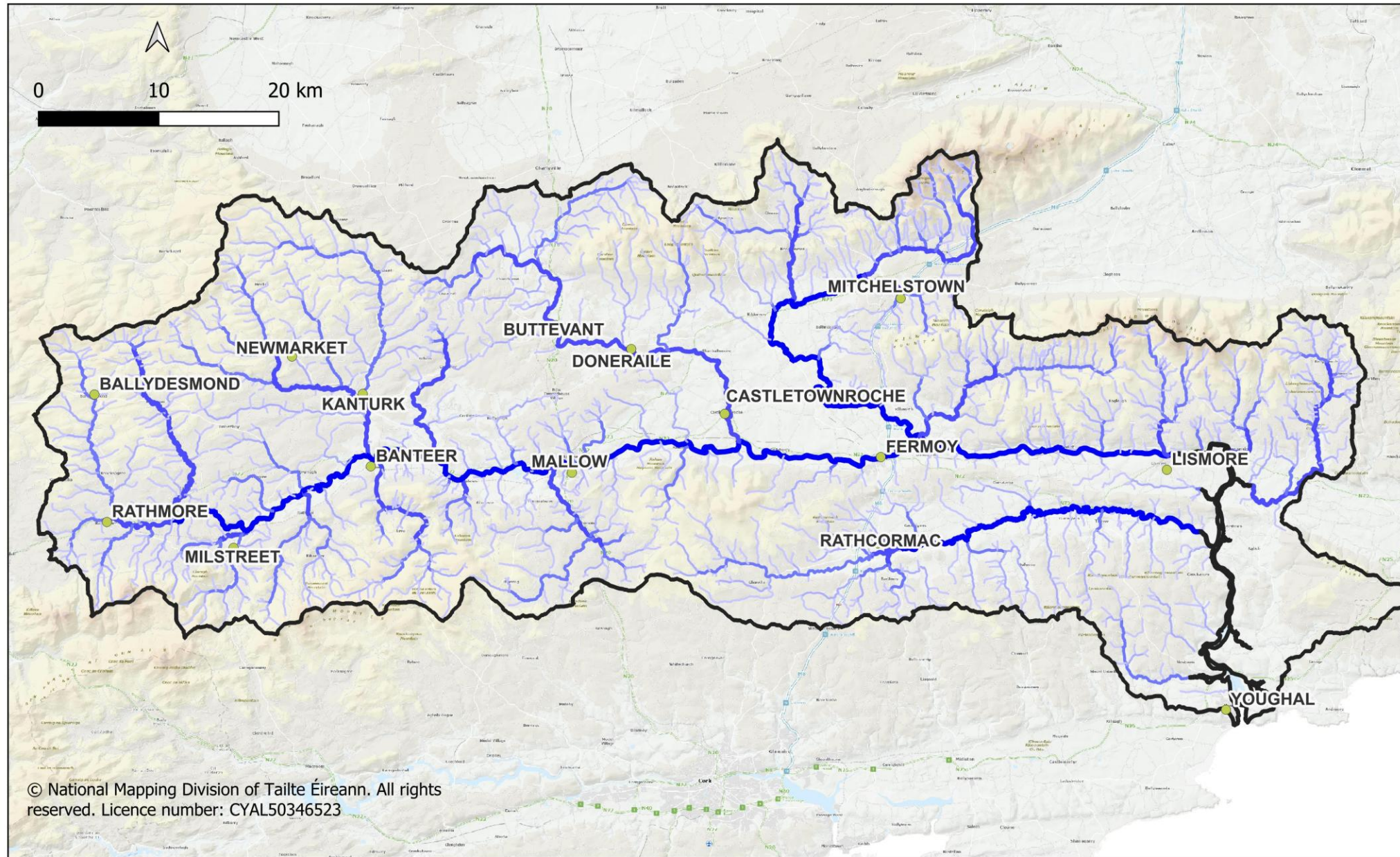
Significant Pressures in monitored waterbodies



Let's Talk Catchments

46 catchments in Ireland

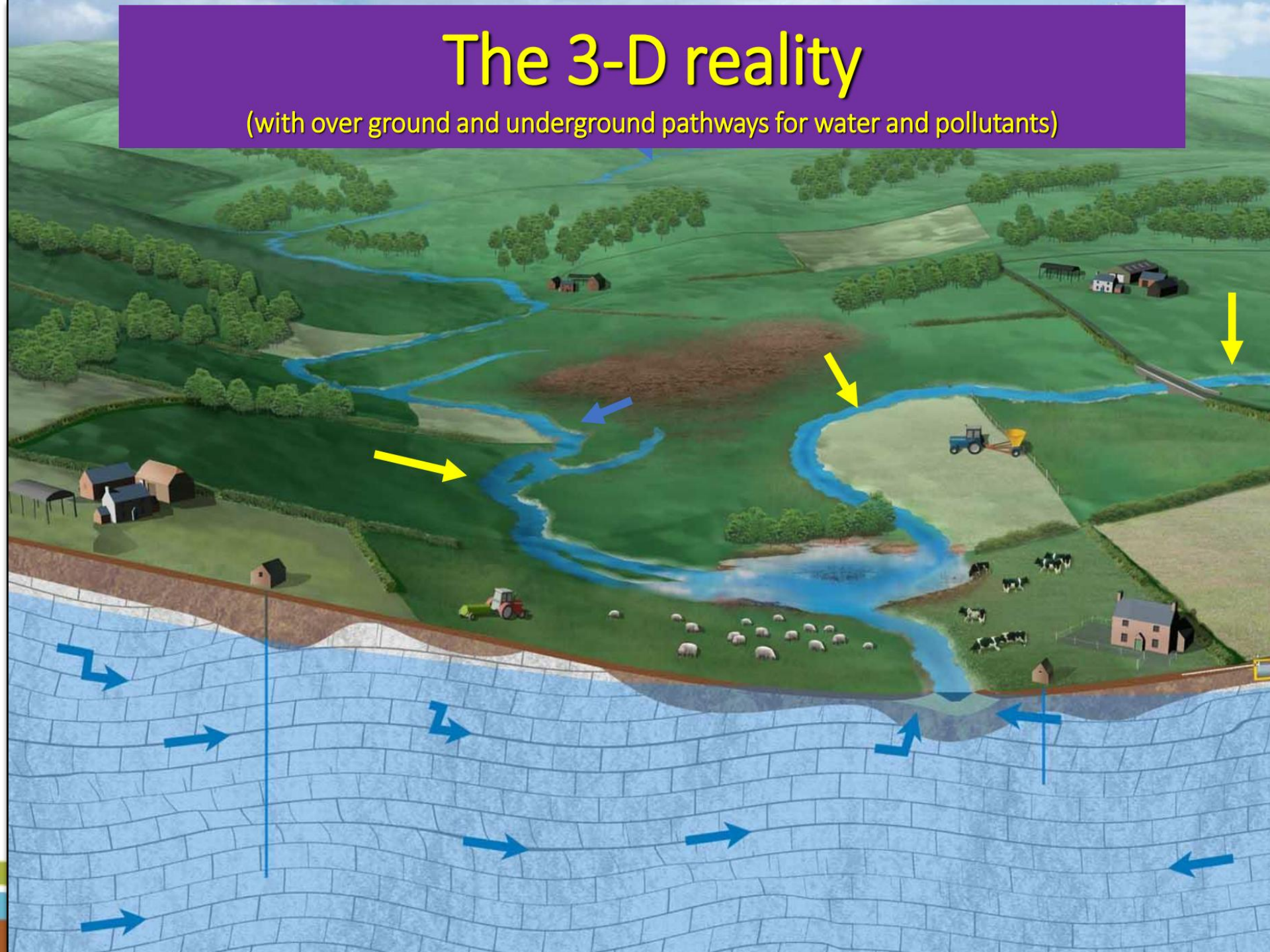




Blackwater Catchment

The 3-D reality

(with over ground and underground pathways for water and pollutants)



CWDF Projects

Catchment Support Fund Projects

Small Grant Scheme

World Wetlands Day

Heritage Week – Water Heritage Day





LAWPRO Funding Calls

- Catchment Support Fund
- Community Water Development Fund
- Small Grant Scheme
 - www.lawaters.ie/funding/

Working with Communities





Water Framework Directive (WFD)

“Through working together we can achieve more”

Public Participation is enshrined in the Water Framework Directive (under Article 14) and is a key process in Integrated Catchment Management

Community engagement is key to WFD Delivery, the work of LAWPRO, and other partner organisations

Communities around the Blackwater catchment already play a significant role in the protection, restoration of water quality

Action in the Blackwater Catchment



*Please sign our
contact sheet*

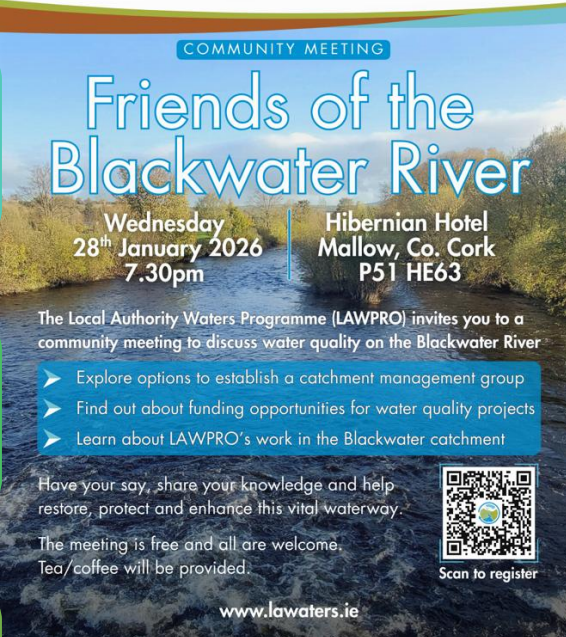
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Case Study: A Community Response to a Fish Kill & Options for establishing a “Friends of the Blackwater” type catchment management grouping

Ruairí Ó Conchúir

LAWPRO Senior Community Water Officer

Public Information Meeting Friends of the Blackwater River



Image: Ruairí Ó Conchúir

Ruairí Ó Conchúir – Senior CWO, South West Region
28th January 2026

Case Study:

A Community Response to a Major Fish Kill

Restore Ballymacraven River Association



Impact of Fish Kill

Turning A Negative Into A Positive

Restore Ballymacraven River Association

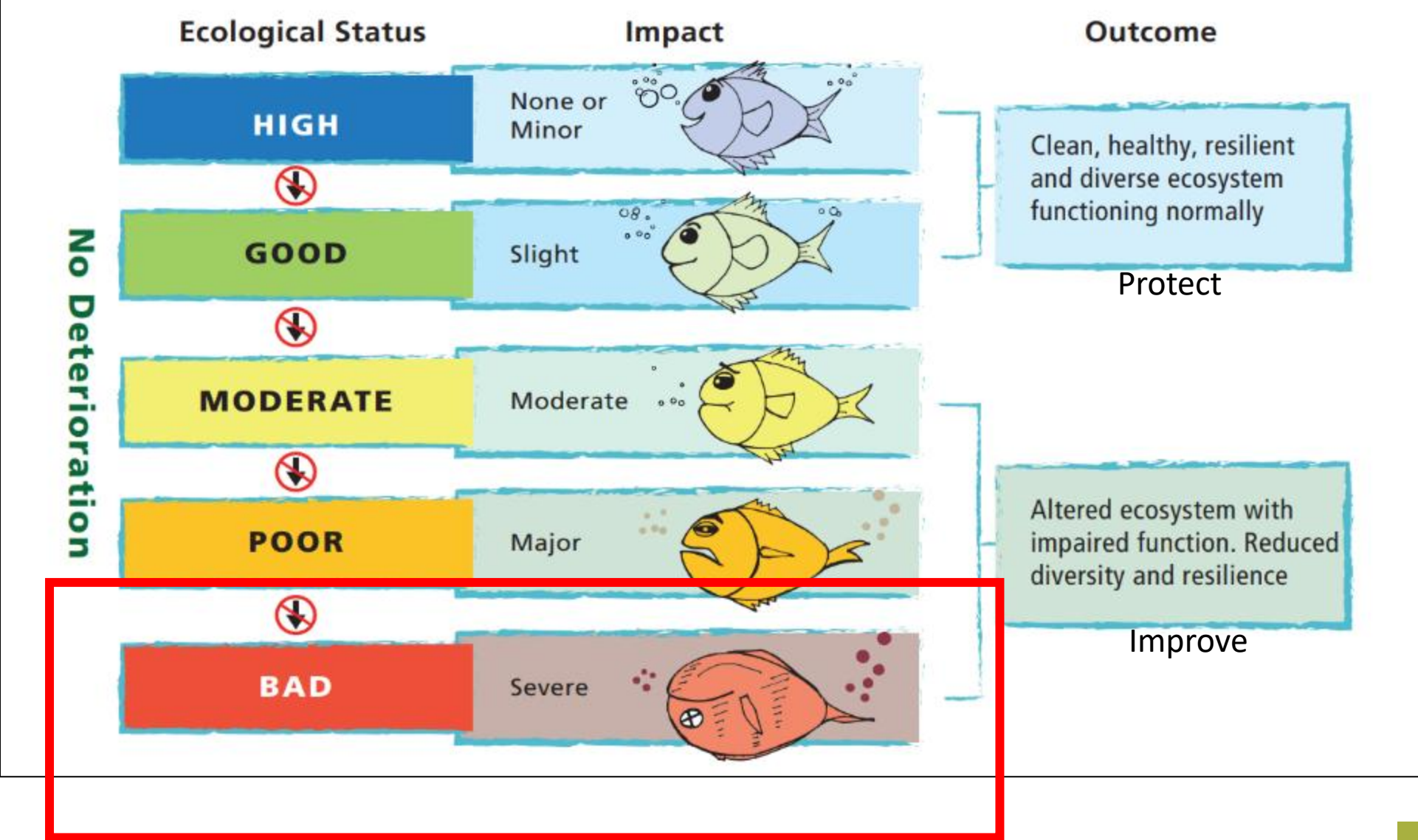


Background to the establishment of the Restore Ballymacraven River Association



Fish Kill On the Ballymacraven River (early May 2023)

Fish kill on the Ballymacraven River (early May 2023) resulting in loss of an estimated 2,000 fish on a 2.6 km stretch of the Ballymacraven rivers



The Community Response

Turning A Negative Into A Positive

A Fish Wake on the Square in Ennistymon



Ecological tragedy in Clare heralds imminent water crisis in Ireland

Ballymacraven river may never recover from pollution that killed thousands of fish, an incident that highlights an even wider problem as the State's water treatment infrastructure creaks under growing pressure



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Up to 2,000 fish killed in Co Clare river - Inland Fisheries Ireland

Updated / Tuesday, 9 May 2023 20:07





Uisce Éireann to pay over €15,000 after 'very significant fish kill'



By Contributor

February 19, 2024 5:30 PM

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RBRA

*Restore Ballymacraven
River Association*

A Resilient Community, A Resilient River

Building Community Capacity to Respond to the Fish Kill

Awareness Raising Events



Calling Local Volunteers

**Come Celebrate World Wetlands Day
on Saturday 1st February 2025 @ 11am**

**River Walk & Talk, River Clean-up, Tree
Planting & Networking**

World Wetlands Day is a global event celebrating the importance of wetlands. This year's theme is "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future." To mark this event, you are invited to celebrate local wetlands in North and West Clare with the **Restore Ballymacraven River Association (RBRA)**. This practical community event will focus on exploring the importance of wetlands and will include a 'Walk and Talk', a river clean-up and tree planting in association with **Hometree**, along the Ballymacraven River. The field element will be followed by a networking event with tea / coffee and scones in the Falls Hotel. The event will explore how wetlands, like the Inagh Estuary and the Ballymacraven River, help sustain biodiversity and help address climate change. It will also focus on how we can work in practical ways to protect wetland sites for our common future: supporting ecosystem and human wellbeing. This is a family friendly World Wetlands Day event and is supported by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO).

Please bring appropriate footwear and clothing and if you wish to partake in the river clean-up or tree planting, please bring gloves, heavy duty bags, and a spade. All of these will also be provided.

Meeting: River path, Falls Hotel, Ennistymon V95 D2PC

When: Saturday, 1st February 2025 @ 11am

Free Event All Welcome

Followed by a networking event with tea/coffee & scones in the Falls Hotel



Building Community Capacity to Respond to the Fish Kill



Building Partnerships and Establishing A Monitoring Baseline



Small streams matter



Small Streams represent 77% of the length of the Irish river network



Using a Nature Based Approach to River Restoration

Using large woody debris to add river complexity

Riparian Planting

Following the removal of significant areas of alien invasive Cherry Laurel, a large scale programme of native tree planting has been ongoing since Nov. 2024

3,300 trees planted

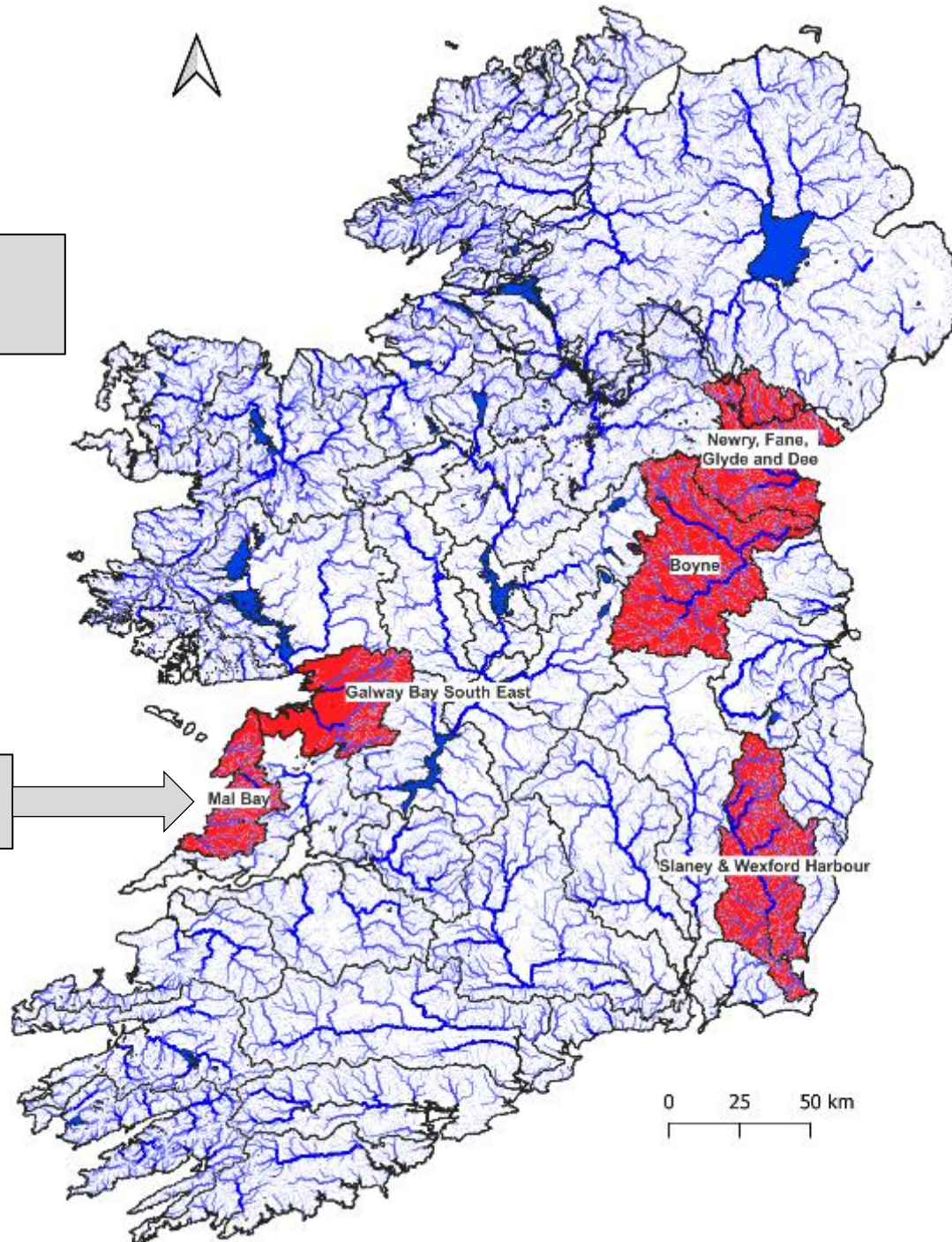
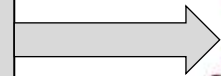
What's happening at a National Level?

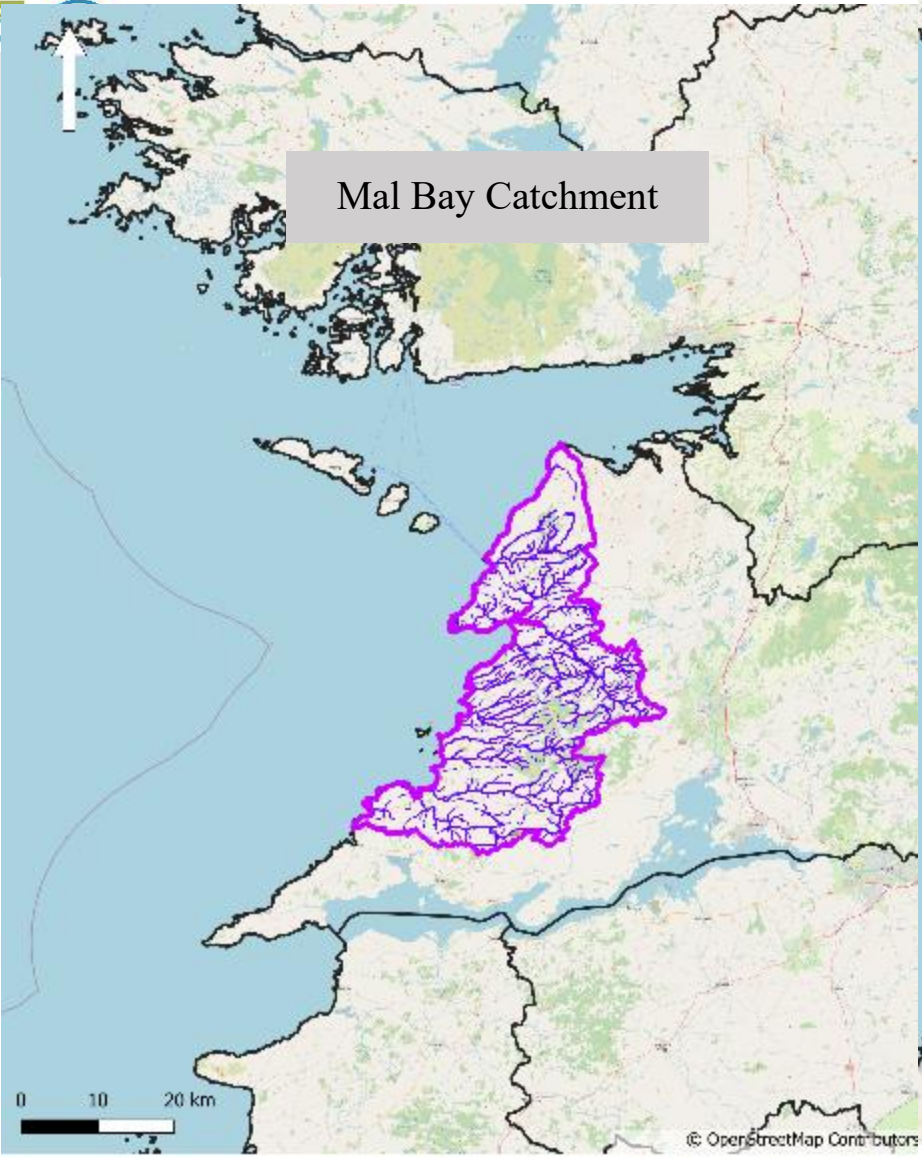
**Establishment of five (5)
Catchment Community Forums**



**5 Pilot Catchment
Community Fora**

**Mal Bay Catchment
Community Forum**



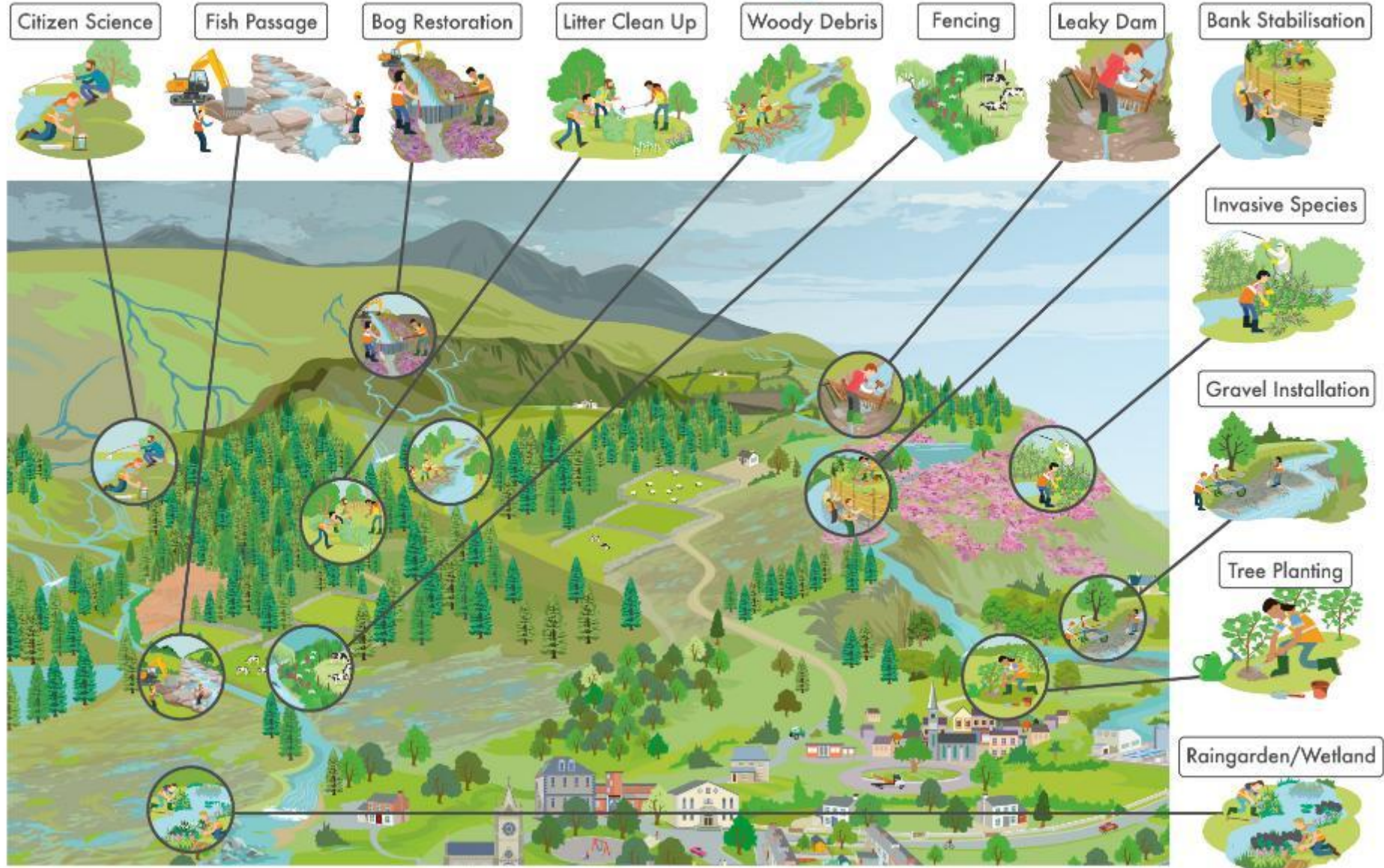


Mal Bay Catchment

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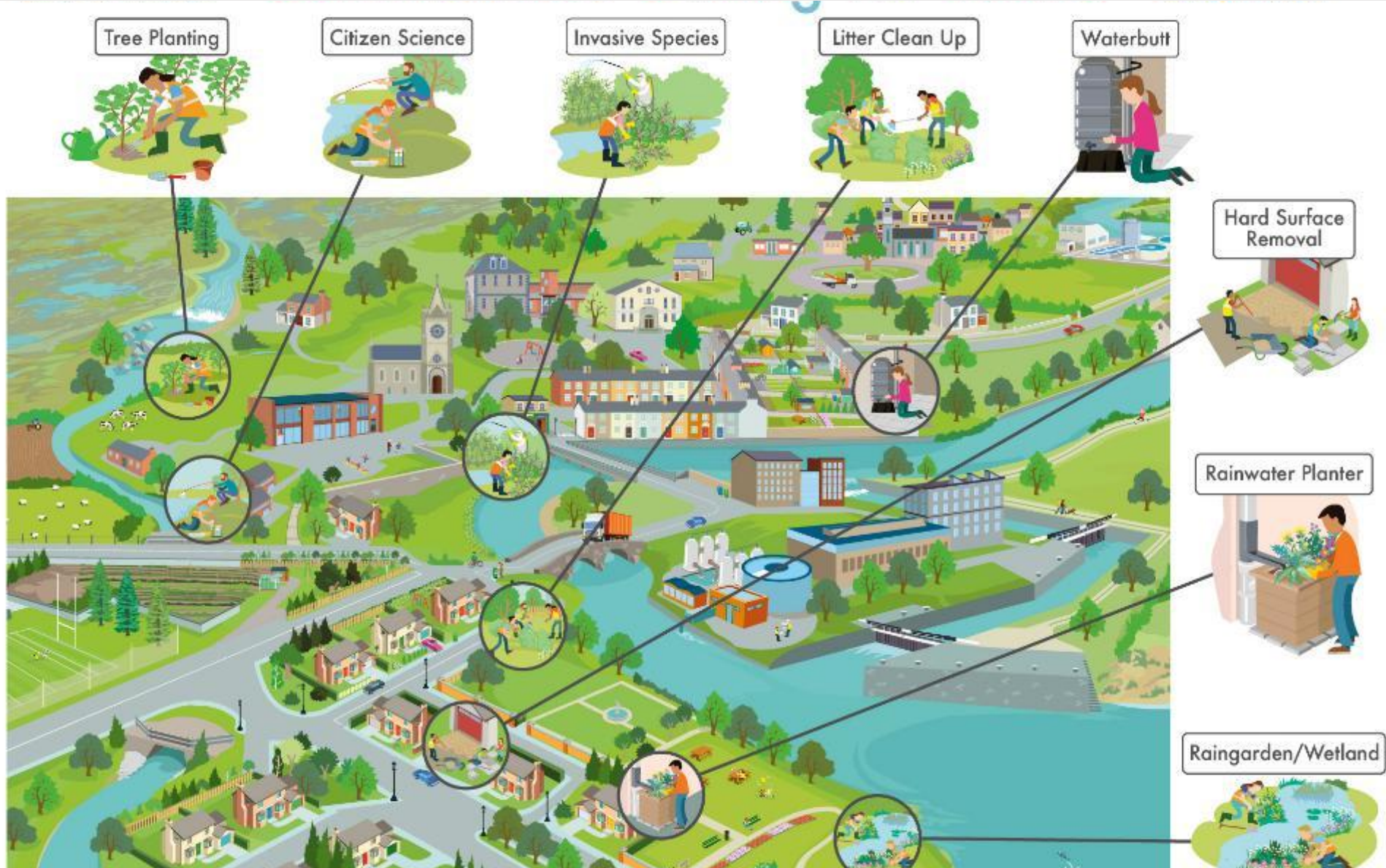
Imaginary Friends of the Blackwater ICM Group

Working at Catchment Scale



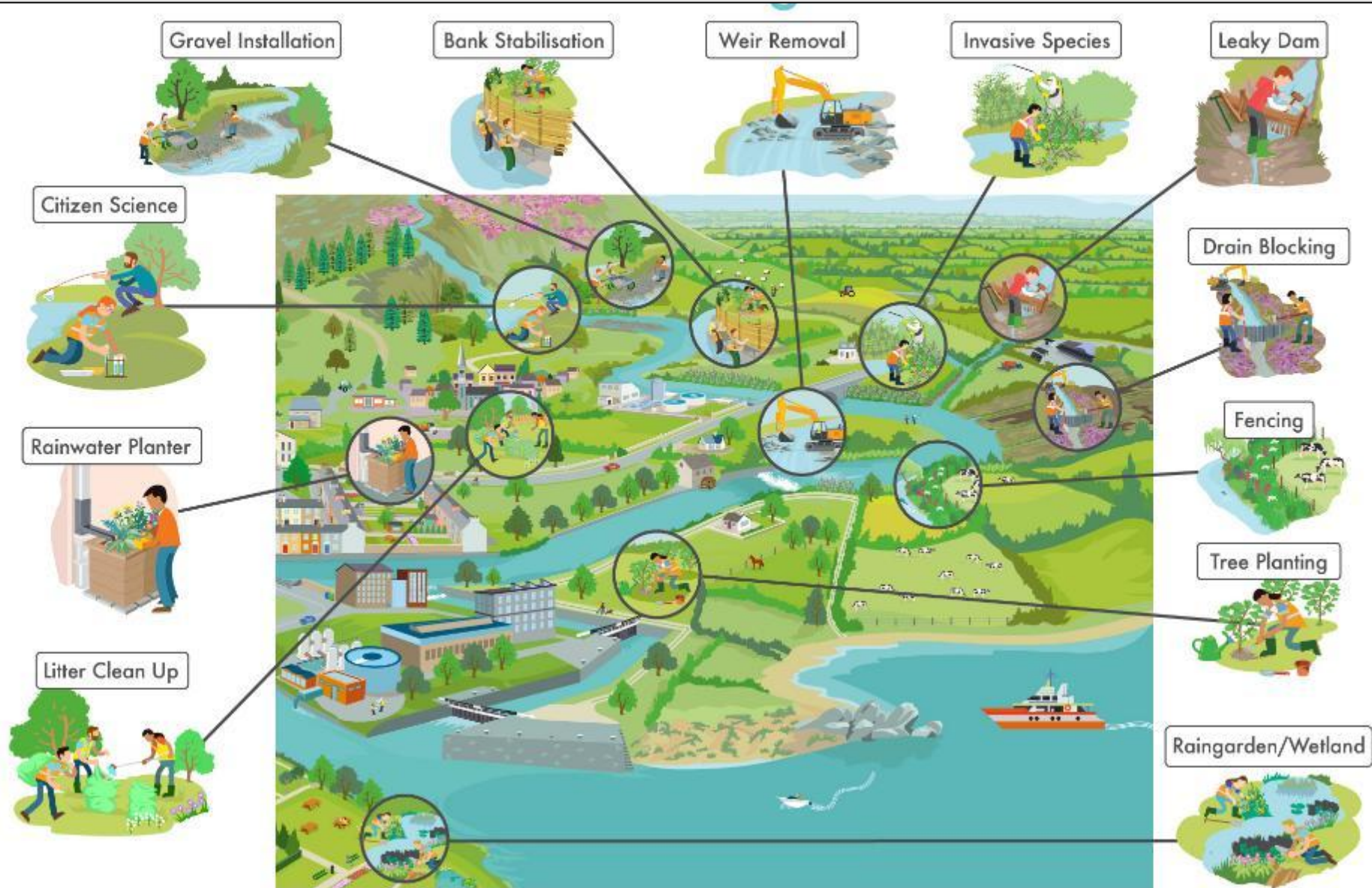
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Websites:

Local Authority Waters Programme

www.lawaters.ie

EPA: Water Quality, Maps & Newsletter

www.catchments.ie

Thank You

Ruairí Ó Conchúir
roconchuir@lawaters.ie / 085 808 3715

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• Open Discussion

• Next Steps

• End of Meeting

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