

Supporting the Implementation of River Basin Management Plans

Environment Ireland Conference 2020

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Running Order

Background:

- Presentation focuses on the outcomes of the Local Authority Waters Programme to date towards delivering the objectives of the RBMP

Implementation to date:

- Example and outcomes of catchment assessment work
- Ditto for Community Engagement
- Liaison with implementing bodies
- A focus on agriculture
- Some specific initiatives

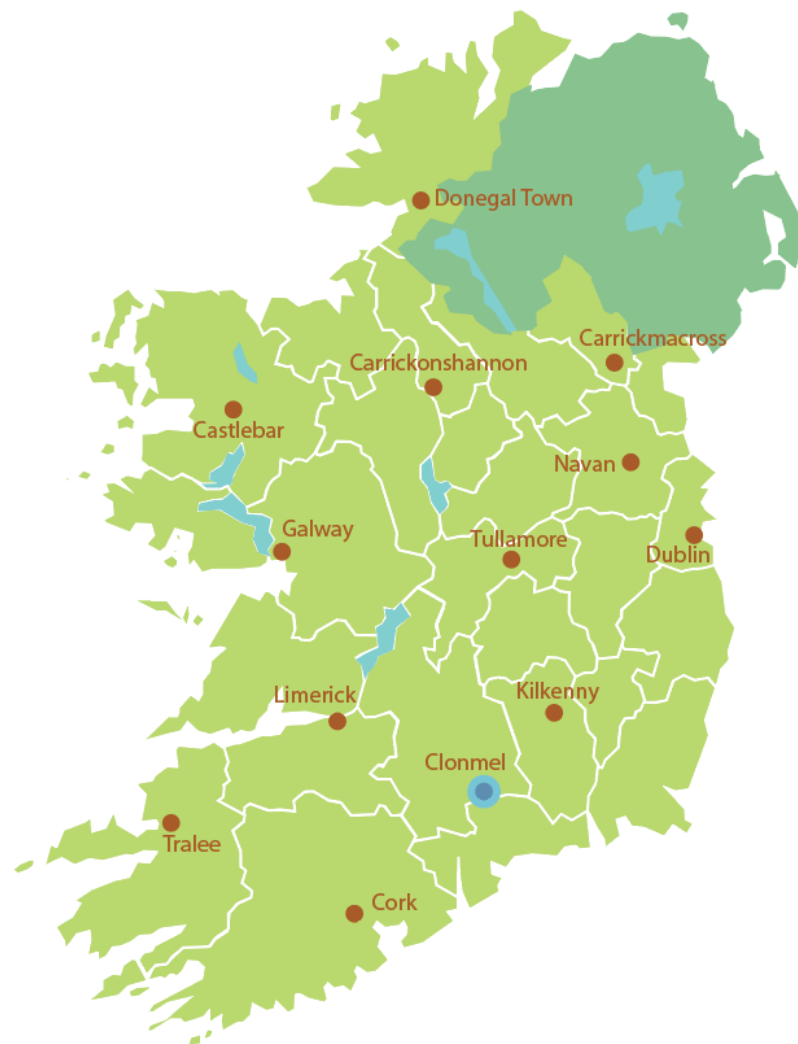
LAWPRO into the future

- Reviews & proposal for next RBMP cycle



Local Authority Waters Programme

- Shared Service of 31 local authorities
- Established 2016 – 2018
- Run jointly by Kilkenny & Tipperary County Councils
- Based in 13 centres across the country (hosted by LAs)
- HQ in Clonmel



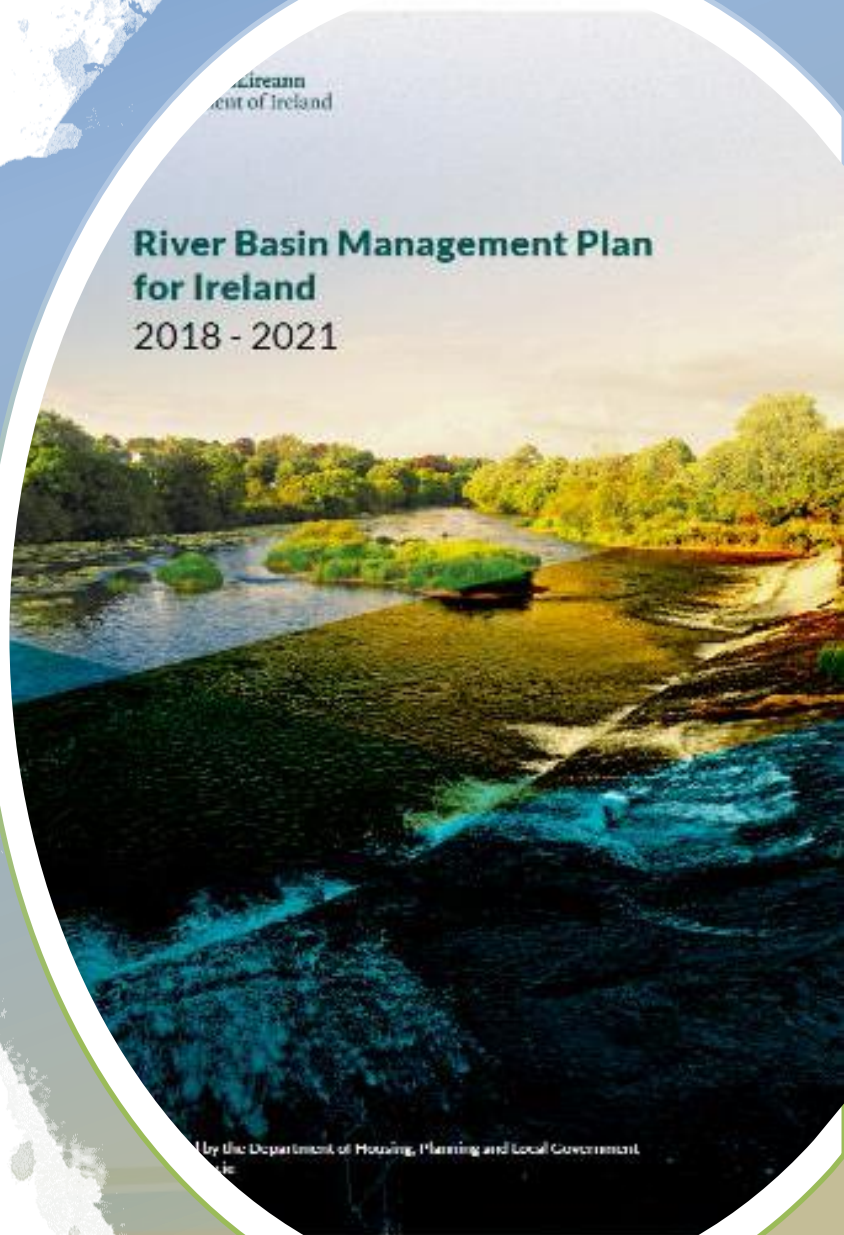
- **Support implementation of the RBMP through:**

Local catchment assessment and referrals to implementing bodies

Coordination among local authorities and organisations involved in river basin management

Engage local communities in the stewardship of waters in their local area

Support DHLGH & EPA



LAWPRO Teams

- **Communities Team (2016)**

- 13 Community Water Officers
- 3 Regional Managers

Community engagement

- encouraging communities to value water in their catchment and to participate in actions to **protect water**

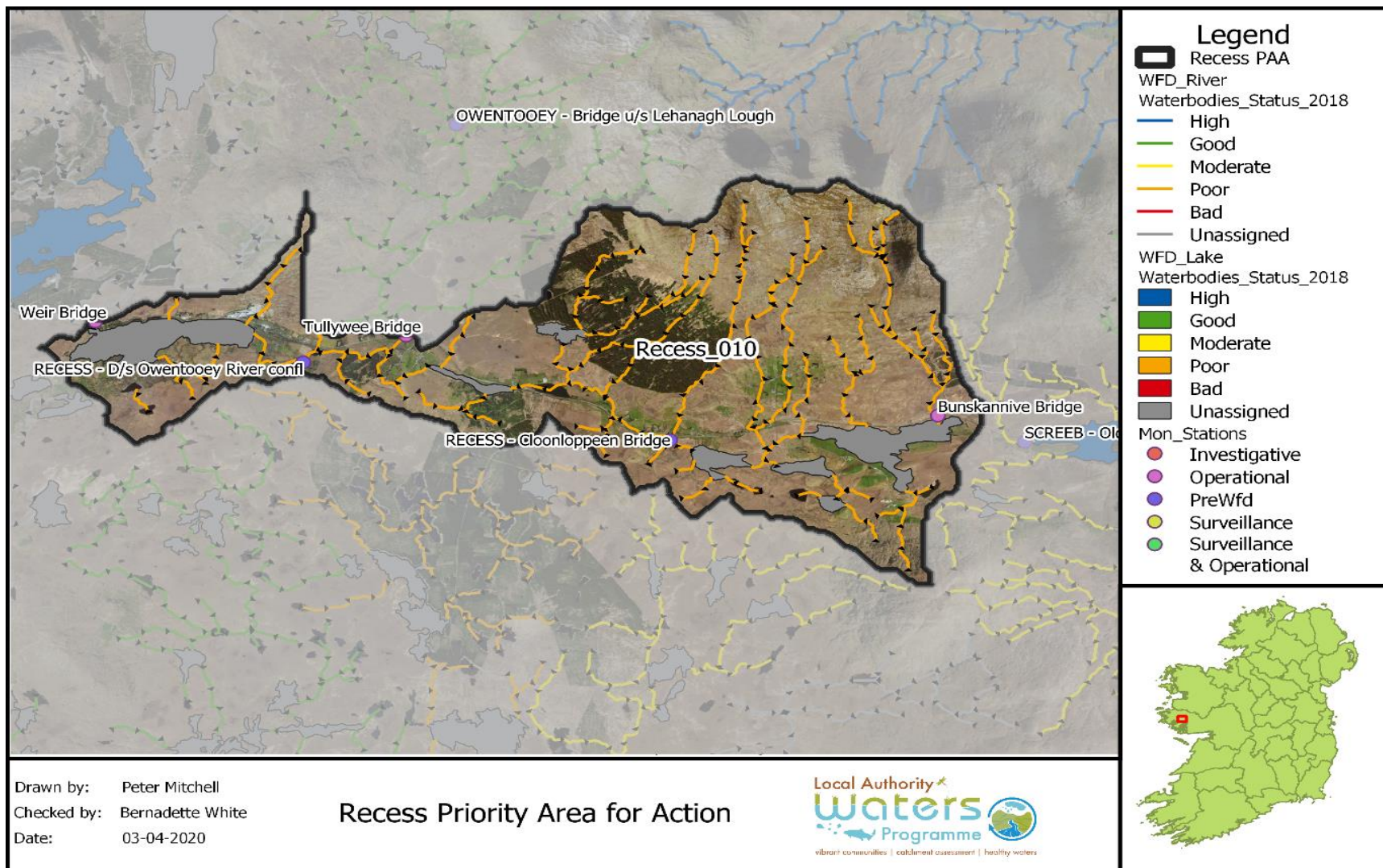
- **Catchment Team (2018)**

- 37 science staff

Scientific assessments

- identify the right measure in the right place to help **improve water quality**

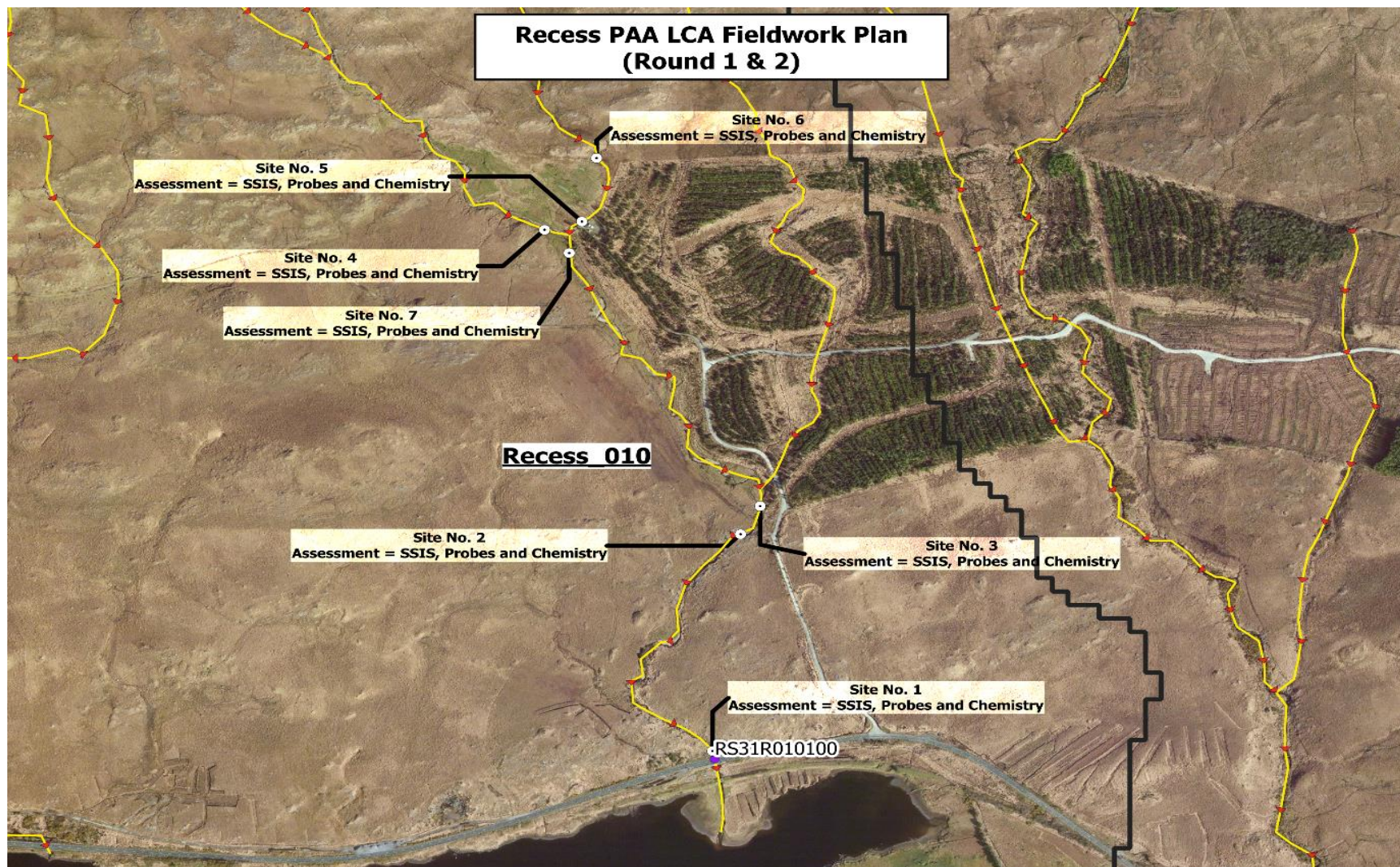
Recess Area for Action

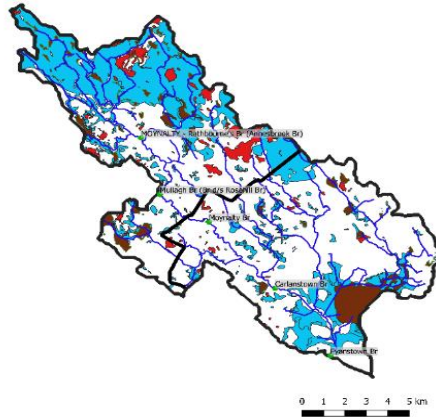


Summary Desk Study Findings

WB Name	WB Type	Risk	High status obj.	Ecological Status				Investigative Assessment Action	Initial Characterisation Significant Pressure Category	Significant Pressure	Desk study Review Potential Additional Pressures	Significant Issues (from deskstudy)	
				2007 - 2009	2010 - 2012	2013 - 2015	2013 - 2018						2019 Q Value
Recess_010	River	At Risk	No	Good	Good	Moderate	Poor	Q3-4, Moderate status	IA7 to LAWPRO: Multiple sources in multiple areas	Anthropogenic (Unknown)	Yes	Agriculture – sheep dip / pesticide misuse	Sediment Nutrients Toxic chemicals

Local Catchment Assessment





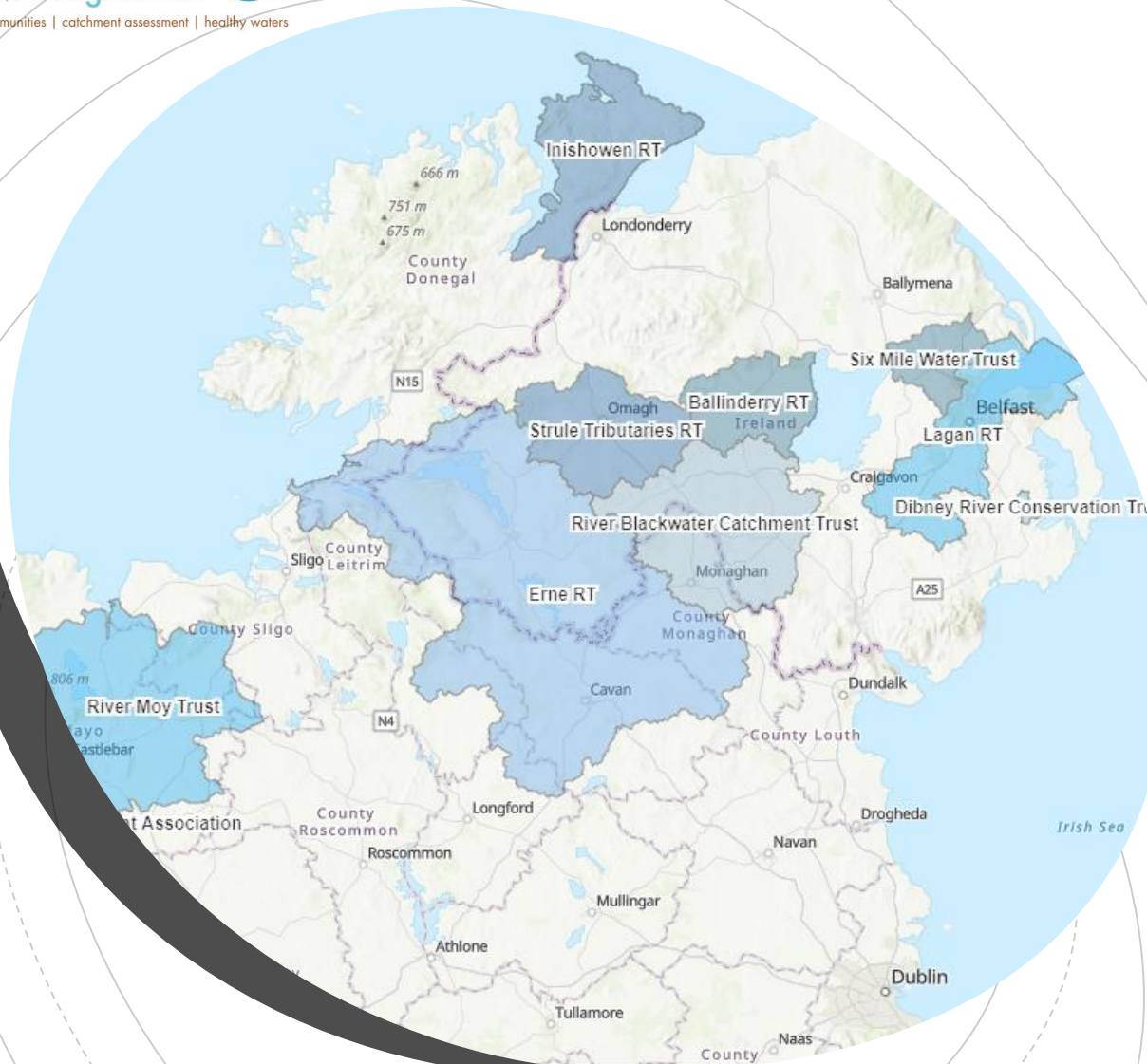
PAA Conceptual Model



In-stream assessment work

Catchment Assessment Outcomes

- Causes of water quality decline identified in up to 50% of PAA catchment areas
- Potential solutions referred to implementing bodies
- Desktop studies underway in 147 (77%) PAA
- Stream-side assessments in 121 (64%)
- Working on 70 PAA final reports.
- Agriculture – more that 1,500 farm visits
- Work underway on 3,000 frequently identified measures
- Identified complex causes of poor water quality that have persisted for decades



Inishowen Rivers Trust

WHO'S WHO? on Inishowen Rivers

A directory of organisations involved in the monitoring,
enhancement and promotion of the lakes, rivers
and coastal areas of Inishowen

An excellent
initiative to open
channels of
communication
between the
Trust and local
agencies



River Bredagh – Starting point for the IRT

Community Engagement Outcomes



Friends of the River Camac hold an organised river Clean-up

- New, more proactive public engagement
- Significant increase in public participation
- 950 Submissions to current draft RBMP
- 160 submissions to recent SWMI document

Community Engagement Outcomes

- 120 new community groups active on water issues
- 60+ groups moved from awareness to action
- 8 new Rivers Trusts formed
- Further 4 in planning stage
- Rollout of Citizen Science in Water



Rivers Trust and Catchment Partnership Conference

Coordinating with Implementing Bodies



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh



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



Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí



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



Kildare County Council
Comhairle Contae Chill Dara



Wicklow County Council
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHAINTAIN



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

- Implementing bodies more focused on water quality remit
- Becoming familiar with the work of other agencies (including local authorities)
- Actively collaborating on individual projects and in areas subject to multiple stressors
- Outcomes facilitated by active attendance of all local agencies at the Regional Operational Committee meetings held each quarter in each of the five regions.



LAWPRO and Forest Service Workshop



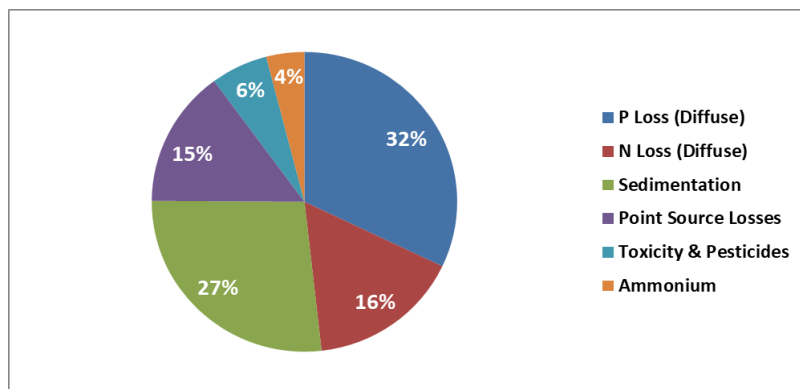
LAWPRO and IFI networking and knowledge sharing event

Agriculture Sector



On-site farmer meeting in the Analee PAA

- Avenues of discussion and interaction with agriculture sector more open than before
- Close linkages between LAWPRO & ASSAP
- Innovative approach on Agriculture brings DAFM, Teagasc, Dairy Cooperatives and principal farm organisations together
- Positive pathway to more substantive and targeted discussion
- Reduce negative impact of farming on WQ
- Maintain competitive position on the global food market.



Water quality pressures identified in PAA's

Community Water Development Fund

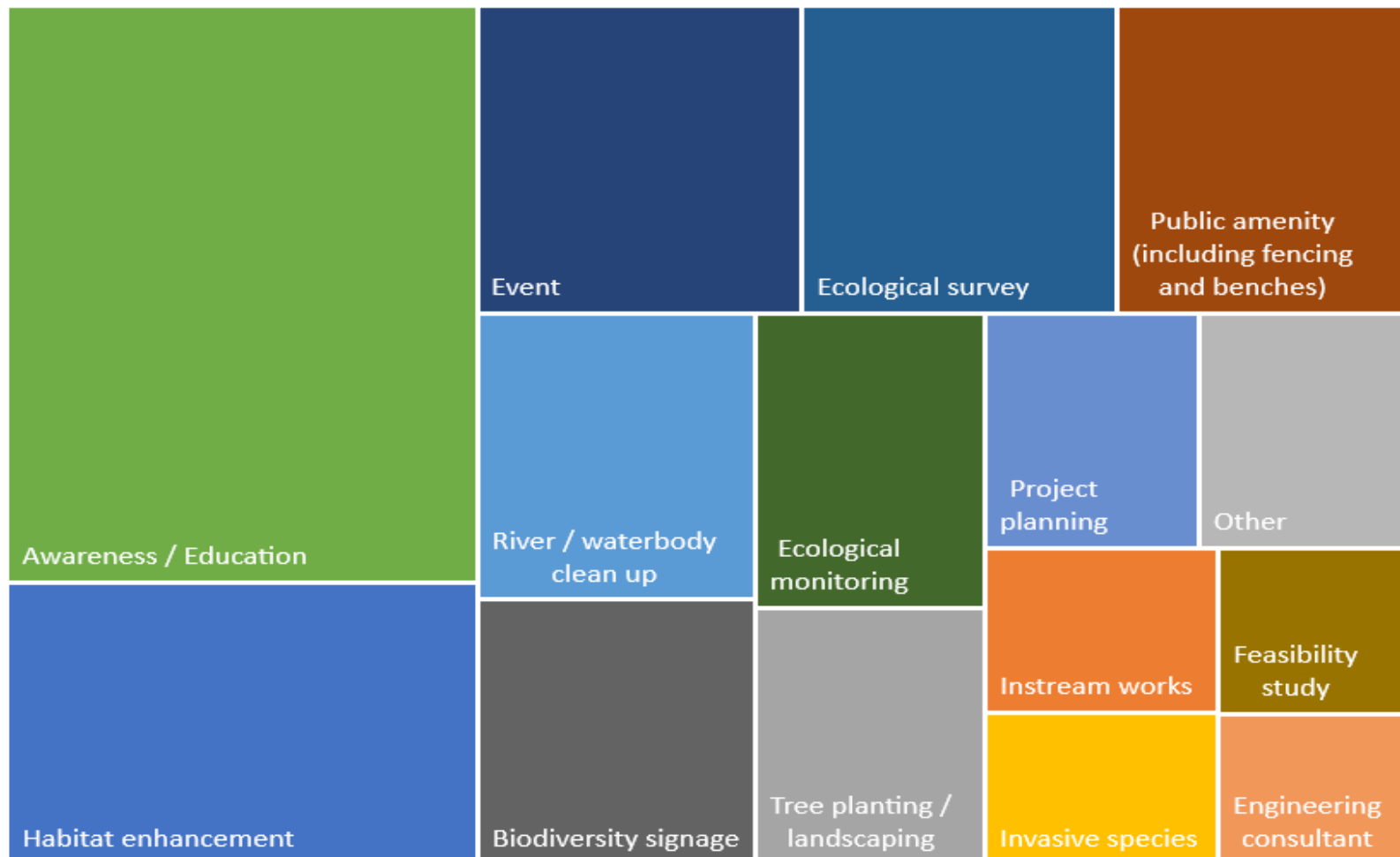
- Operates via an annual call for applications
- Focus is on **protecting & improving** water quality through **local action**
- **290** grants awarded to communities since January 2018
- **230** separate community groups actively involved in water-related activities
- **€595,000** spent on water-based themes in their local areas

Community Water Development Fund 2020

2020 / Region	No. Apps received	Amount sought	No. Apps awarded	Grants awarded
Border Region	26	€ 127,786.20	26	€ 52,879.50
East Midlands Region	53	€ 201,956.44	42	€ 73,643.00
South East Region	20	€ 130,184.43	13	€ 36,085.77
South West Region	25	€ 126,337.53	17	€ 34,190.56
West Region	21	€ 77,639.84	20	€ 33,448.98
Overall total grants sought	145	€ 663,904.44	118	€ 230,247.81

Community Water Development Fund 2020

Community Water Development Fund by project type 2020



CWDF 2020 (Examples)



Interactive Map of Successful Projects

Coiste Glan agus Glas, Falcarragh, Donegal

- raise public awareness of the importance of Water Conservation and Harvesting. The project will be entitled "Sky to Shore" ("Ón Spéir go dtí an Trá") (€2,000)

Wild Kildare (Citizen Science)

- To monitor water quality through river catchment biodiversity such as moths, butterfly and dragonfly (€3,000)

Castlegregory Trout Anglers Club

- To eradicate the invasive species (New Zealand Pygmy weed) from artificial ponds and a channel immediately adjacent to Lough Gill (€4,000)

COVID-19 Initiative

STORIES FROM THE WATERSIDE
 WRITING COMPETITION

The idea is simple; just send us a story of what makes your local waterbody special; this can be memories from childhood, wildlife, heritage, traditions – anything you feel that makes it special. You don't have to be an expert storyteller!

"If the waters could talk"

A waterbody is a river, stream, canal, lake, estuary, the sea, a wetland or a ground water feature!

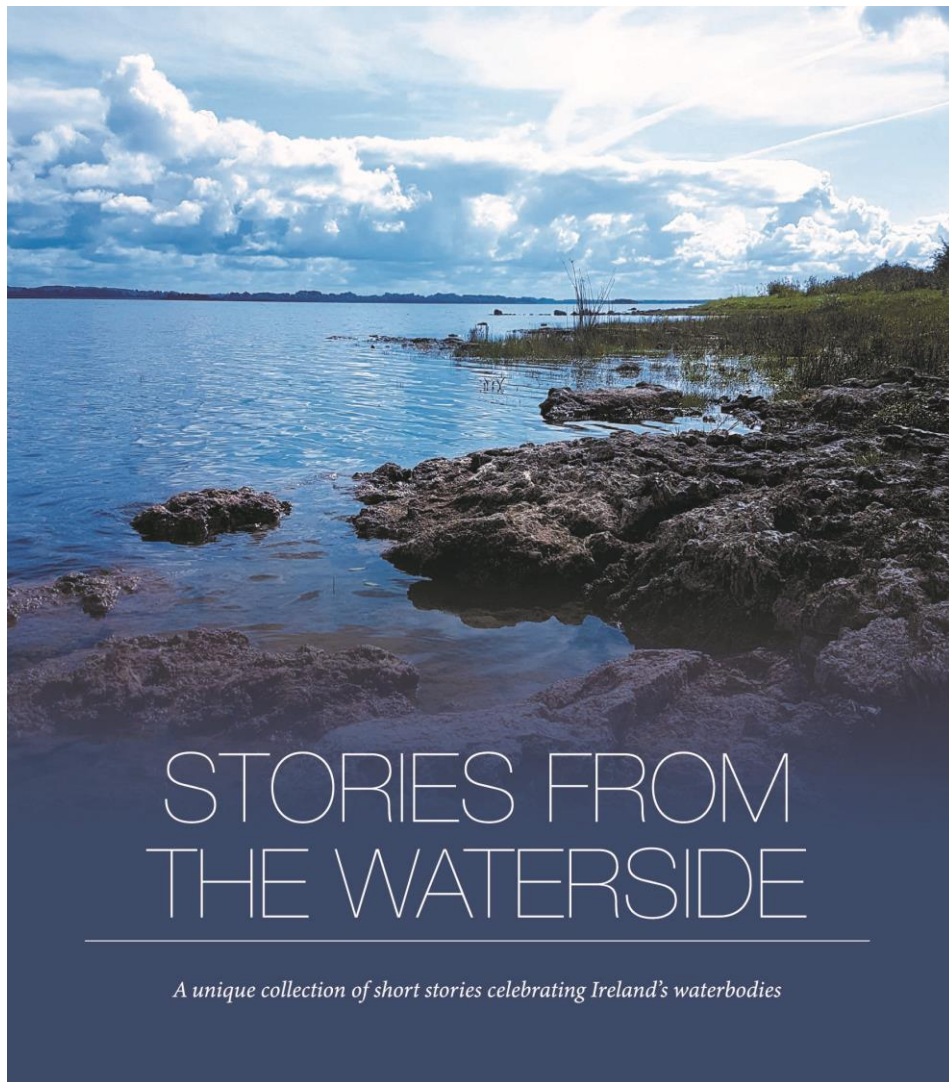
TELL US YOUR STORY
 TELL US YOUR ORIGINAL STORY IN 600 WORDS OR LESS
 YOU CAN ENTER MORE THAN ONE STORY! CLOSING DATE: May 31st 2020

FORMAT	THEMES
STORYTELLER TELLS THE STORY Share your memories and reflections of a waterbody from the past. INTERVIEW OF THE STORYTELLER Interview someone with an interesting story about their local waterbody. This is one that all of the family can join in.	MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS Send us memories of your favourite watery place or memories from the person you interview. FOLKLORE AND STORIES Is there a tale worth telling or folklore attached to your favourite waterbody?

Call for stories

- National storytelling competition during COVID-19 lockdown
- In partnership with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, The Heritage Council and The LA Heritage Officers Programme
- Engage with our local communities and further increase awareness of natural waters
- Promoted on the ground by the Community Water Officers and partner agencies.
- Open to all - with €4,000 in prizes

Stories from the Waterside



- Tap into Ireland's rich heritage of storytelling
- Our rivers, lakes, streams have long been associated with Irish mythology
- Lifestyle changes brought about by Covid 19 restrictions brought people closer to nature & provided an opportunity for reflection.
- Published a book containing winning & shortlisted stories from 470 entries

Stories from the Waterside (excerpts)

“The lakeshore of Lough Mask in Tourmakeady was a few fields down behind our house and the rocky shoreline with its Alder trees growing on the banks, was a haven for us children seeking adventure”

“I loved watching dad fish, watching his skill while casting worm or minnow into the flowing water.”

“The lake shrinks and grows depending on the weather.”

“It took the passage of time, travel abroad and a raging pandemic for me to realise how fortunate I was to have had Majesty (The Shannon) on my doorstep.”



Book launch in Kilkenny on 18th August 2020
with Minister Malcolm Noonan and Kilkenny CC CE Colette Byrne

Current Focus

- Continue to support the current Plan and prepare for next Plan
- Draft of the Cycle 3 Plan (2022 – 2027) to be published end December
- 6 Month consultation period
- Working with all agencies on selecting new areas for action
- Together with DHLGH & EPA, engaging with implementing bodies on measures for next plan
- Linking water quality, climate change and biodiversity initiatives across the local government sector and influencing a similar approach at central government level

Learning lessons

- External review of LAWPRO early 2020
- LG Proposal for continuation of LAWPRO as local authority shared service into the next 6-year RBMP
- Submitted to DHLGH for consideration in July
- Research by ESRI on behavioural change impacts of LAWPRO initiatives
- Research by IPA on experimental governance approach of current plan

Final Thoughts

Protect our water quality

At least good status in all
natural waters

Conserve our pristine waters
as **cradles of biodiversity** for
the future