

# ***SMR 1 Implementation of certain requirements under the EU Water Framework Directive***

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Integrated Controls Division**



# Presentation outline



## WFD summary

- What is it ?
- What are its objectives ?
- How is it implemented ?



## WFD and SMR 1

- How is WFD linked to Conditionality ?
- What is SMR 1 ?
- What controls are in place ?



# Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC



**WFD = EU Water policy**

- All EU Waters – rivers, lakes, transitional, coastal, groundwaters
- Integrated approach by MS to water management using whole ecosystems approach
- All water related EU legislation within framework





# WFD Objectives

**‘Good Status’ in ALL WATERS by 2027**

- Get polluted waters clean
- Keep clean waters clean



High Status: reference conditions

Good Status: slight deviation

Moderate Status: moderate deviation

Poor Status: large deviation

Bad Status: very large deviation





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# WFD - Implementation

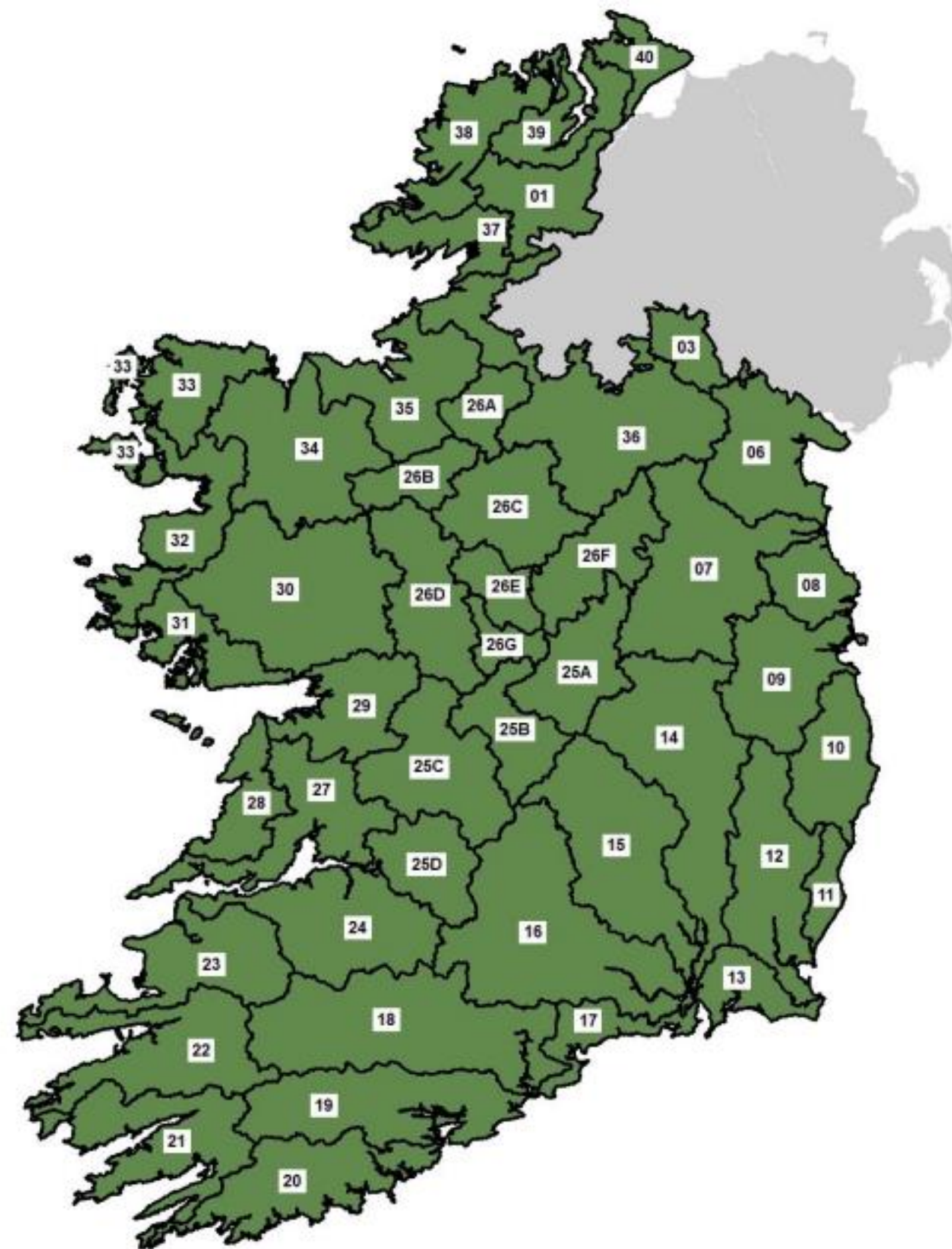


## Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland

2022 - 2027



Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage  
[www.gov.ie/housing](http://www.gov.ie/housing)

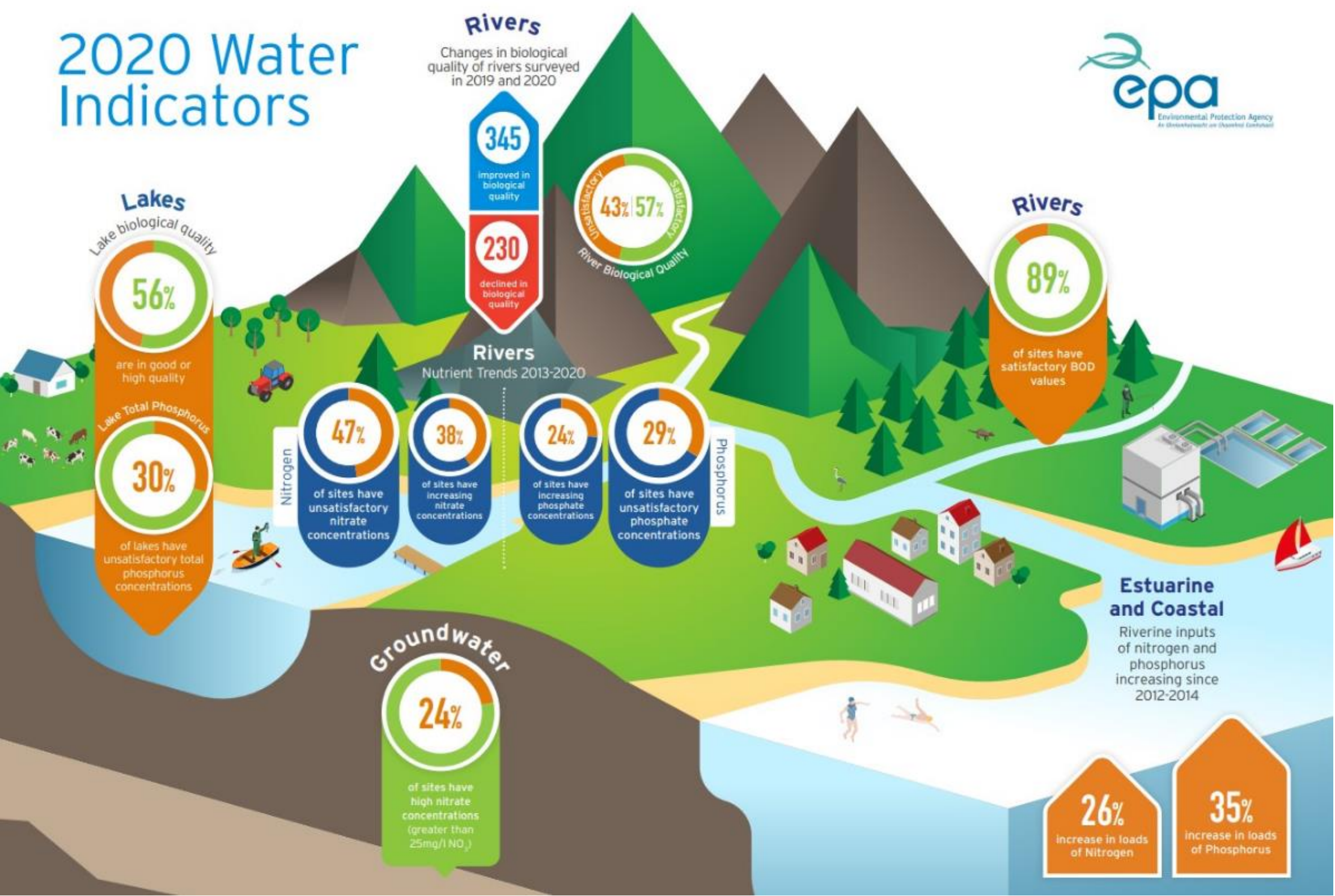


- 70,273 km<sup>2</sup>
- 46 catchment management units
- 4,842 waterbodies

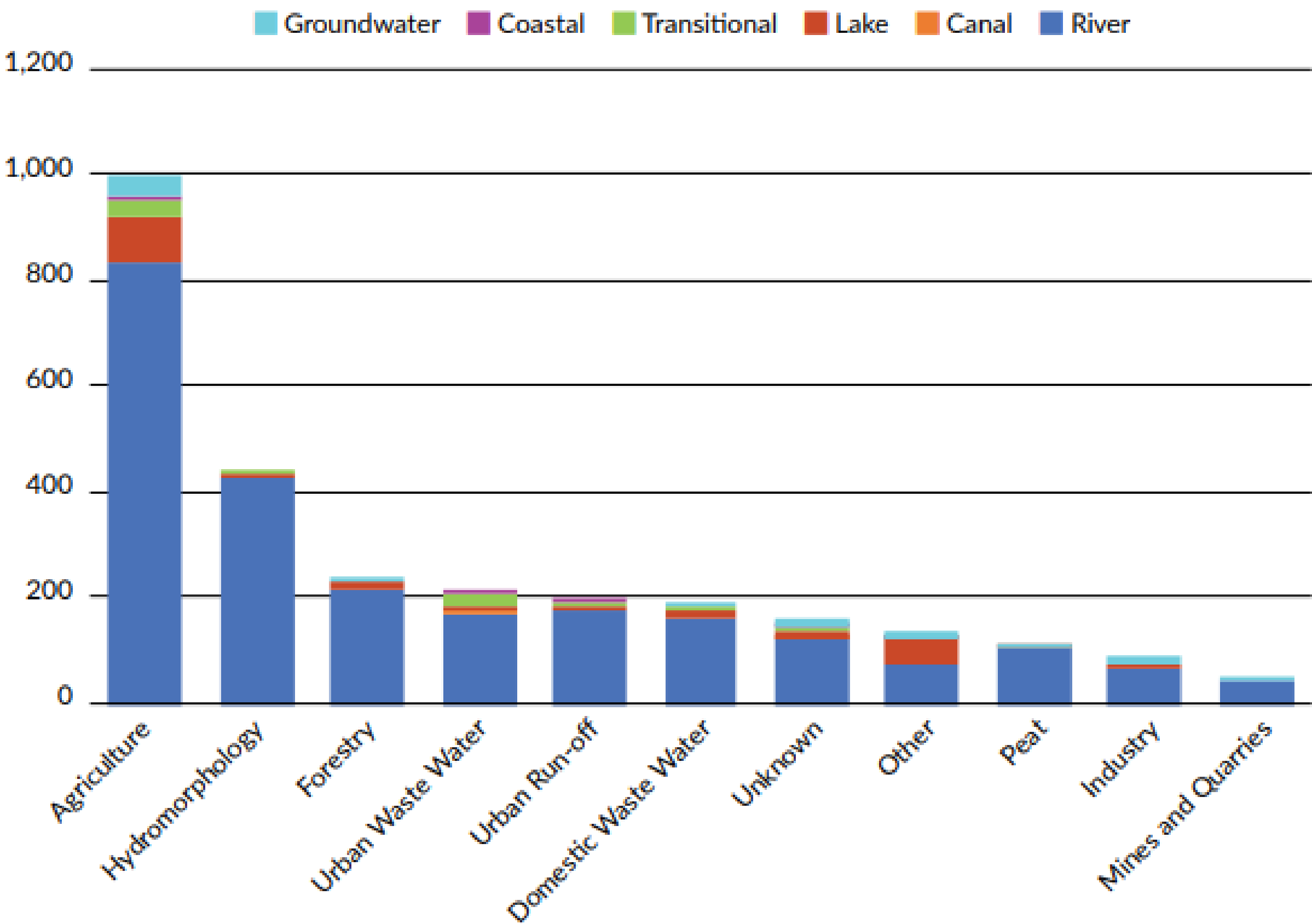
*Department of Housing,  
Local Government and  
Heritage*



# WFD – Monitoring



## Agriculture posing significant pressure on our waterbodies





# Conditionality and certain WFD requirements



## *Controls*

- SMR 1 – Water Abstraction
- SMR 2 – Protection of water from pollution by nitrates/phosphates
- SMR 3 – Conservation of Wild Birds
- SMR 4 – Conservation of Natural Habitats
- SMR 7 – Proper and safe use of Plant Protection Products
- SMR 8 – Sustainable use of Plant Protection Products



# SMR 1 CAP Strategic Plan



## 1. Protection of water from pollution by phosphates

- a) WFD 2000/60/EC
  - i. Article 11 (3) (h) Diffuse pollutants, **HOWEVER**
- b) EU Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC
  - i. Annex I A (3) identifies ‘*eutrophic freshwaters*’
- c) Nitrates/GAP Regulations
  - i. S.I. 113 of 2022 – **SMR 2 of Conditionality**

## 2. Water abstraction rules

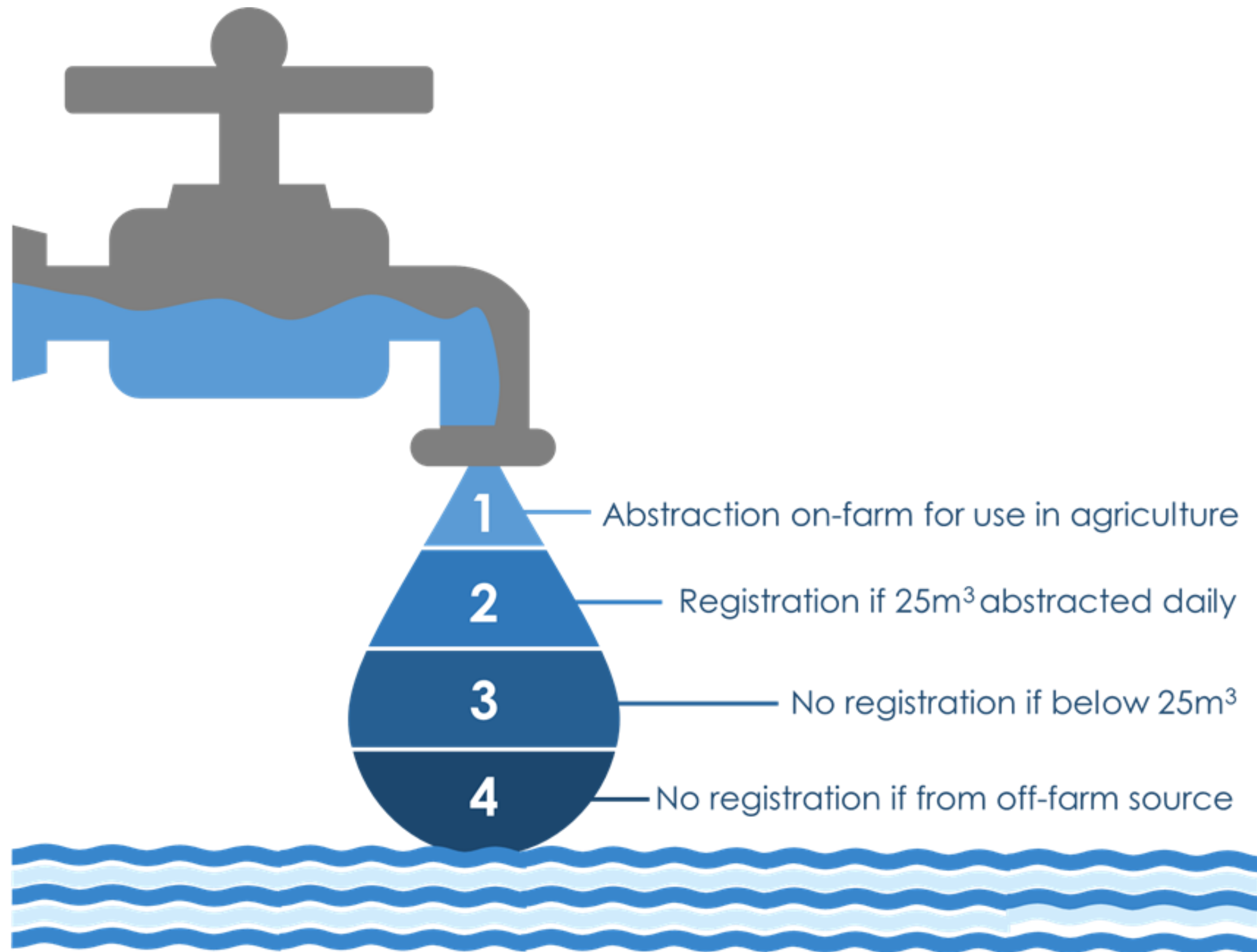
- a) WFD 2000/60/EC
  - i. Article 11 (3) (e) Water abstraction register
  - ii. Annex VI Part B (viii) Abstraction controls
- b) Water Abstractions Registration Regulations
  - i. S.I. 261 of 2018 – **SMR 1 of Conditionality**



# Water Abstraction



***Water abstraction is the removal or diversion of water from a river, lake, stream, spring, groundwater well, borehole or estuary for any purpose***



## Requirement

If you abstract 25 m<sup>3</sup> (25,000 litres) or more of water per day, by law you must register this abstraction with the EPA

## ***For example:***

- 200 dairy cow farm
- 42 household housing estate
- 150 bath tubs

*Registration of water abstraction ensures that flows are maintained to benefit all water users, the environment and biodiversity*



# Calculating water abstraction use



How do I know if I use more than 25 cubic meters per day ?

- *Flow meter*
- *EPA Calculator*



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

	A	B	C	D
7	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
8	<b>Agriculture[i]</b>	<b>Fill in numbers in yellow cells in this column only</b>	<b>Water use sub-totals (litres/day)</b>	<b>Water use sub-totals (m<sup>3</sup>/day)</b>
9	<b>1. Cattle</b>	Number of animals	litres/day	m <sup>3</sup> /day
10	- Dairy - 125 litres / day per animal	200	25000	25
11	- Growers, Beef Cows, Heifers, Bulls, Beef Store Cattle - 35 litres / day per animal		0	0
12	- Calves - 20 litres / day per animal		0	0
13	<b>Total Water use - Cattle</b>		<b>25000</b>	<b>25</b>
14				
15	<b>2. Sheep</b>	Number of animals	litres/day	m <sup>3</sup> /day
16	- Ewes - 5 litres / day per animal	0	0	0
17	- Lambs, Adult Sheep - 3.5 litres / day per animal	0	0	0
18	- Lambs (< 1 year) - 1.8 litres / day per animal	0	0	0
19	<b>Total Water use - Sheep</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0.000</b>
20				
21	<b>3. Pigs</b>	Number of animals	litres/day	m <sup>3</sup> /day
22	<b>4. Poultry</b>	Number of animals	litres/day	m <sup>3</sup> /day
23	<b>5. Horses</b>	Number of animals	litres/day	m <sup>3</sup> /day
24	<b>6. Crop Irrigation</b>	Hectares	litres/day	m <sup>3</sup> /day
25	<b>7. Horticulture</b>	Meters (of table)	litres/day	m <sup>3</sup> /day
26				
27	<b>Total agricultural volume</b>		<b>#REF!</b>	<b>#REF!</b>
28				



# SMR 1 Farm Inspections



## DAFM controls under SMR 1 :

**Q 1.** Is water used on the agricultural holding supplied from:

- A non-public groundwater abstraction, e.g. private well or borehole ?
- A surface water feature present on the holding, e.g. river, lake, reservoir, etc. ?

**Q 2.** If so, is the water abstraction activity likely to exceed 25 m<sup>3</sup> in a single day at any time in the year ?

**Q 3.** If so, has the agricultural holding registered the abstraction activity with the EPA ?



# Take Home Messages



## Water Abstractions Registrations Regulations S.I. 261/2018 :

- Give legal effect to Article 11 (3) (e) of EU WFD
- Legal obligation to register water abstractions  $\geq 25 \text{ m}^3$  per day
- Control integrated into CAP 2023-2027 under SMR 1 of Conditionality

## DAFM Conditionality inspection involves :

- Determining the source of on-farm water abstraction
- Checking if on-farm water abstraction is  $\geq 25 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$
- Checking registration with the EPA where  $\geq 25 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$



# Thank You





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

# 2022 FAS briefing for new advisers

## SMR 2 - Nitrates

**Ronan Gleeson,**  
**Assistant Agricultural Inspector,**  
**Integrated Controls Division.**

**9<sup>th</sup> of February 2023, Portlaoise**



# SMR 2 presentation outline



1. Legislative context
2. Farmyard management
3. Nutrient management
4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities
5. Nitrates records

# Legislative context



- Nitrates Directive (91/ 676/1992)
  - Objectives: **reducing and preventing** water pollution caused by agriculture
  - Limit of 170kg livestock manure nitrogen/ha - may be higher provided won't prejudice objectives and justified
- Each MS must draw up Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) : Art. 5 of 91/ 676/1992
- Ireland's first NAP came into operation in 2006
  - Gives effect to the Nitrates Regulations
  - Sets out rules for the management and application of livestock manures and other fertilisers to protect and improve water quality
- NAP reviewed every 4 years – 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2021
- Given legal effect by (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters ) Regulations 2022 – S.I. 113 of 2022 as amended by S.I. 393 of 2022 and S.I. 716 of 2022



## 2. Farmyard management



### **Soiled water**

Clean water which has become **contaminated** with livestock excreta, fertiliser or effluent, or water used in the process of washing e.g. dairy washings

### **Minimise the amount of soiled water produced on the holding**

Prevent clean water from becoming soiled and clean water must not enter storage facilities

### **Storage of soiled water**

Soiled water stored in its own dedicated facility must have sufficient storage capacity for a period of 10 days (15 days where the tank was built after 01/01/2015).

However, soiled water stored with slurry is **treated as slurry**

## 2. Farmyard management (cont.)



### NEW for 2022 and beyond:

- From 2022, a land-spreading prohibited period will apply to **soiled water**, and from 2023, increased storage requirements will also apply to **soiled water**

YEAR	Soiled water prohibited spreading period		Minimum storage requirements where soiled water is managed separately	Applicable to
	Starts	Ends		
2022	21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	10 or 15 days storage	All milk producers
2023	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	21 days storage	All milk producers
2024	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	31 days storage, <b>except contracted winter milk producers</b>	All milk producers, <b>except contracted winter milk producers</b>
2025	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	31 days storage	All milk producers



# 2. Farmyard management (cont.)



## Storage facilities for organic fertilisers (slurry, FYM etc.)

Prior to its land application, organic fertilisers must be **collected** and **held** in a manner which prevents discharge to the environment.

Facilities must be **fit for purpose** and **free from structural defects**

## Minimum required storage capacity

Animal category	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C (Donegal, Leitrim)	Zone C (Cavan, Monaghan)
Cattle	16 weeks	18 weeks	20 weeks	22 weeks
Sheep, goat, deer	6 weeks			
Pigs, poultry	26 weeks (or as per cattle for less intensive units holdings)			



## 2. Farmyard management (cont.)

**Reduced storage capacity is permitted in certain circumstances:**

*Having in place exclusive access to stores located off the holding  
or  
by out-wintering certain categories of livestock subject to the following,*

- The holdings annual organic N loading must be <130kg N ha, **or <100kg N ha from the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025**
- For out-wintered *bovines*, the out-wintering organic N loading must not exceed 85kg N ha
- For out-wintered *sheep, goats or deer*, the out-wintering organic N loading must not exceed 130kg N ha, **or <100kg N ha from the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2025**
- Out-wintered dairy cows cannot count towards reduced storage
- Severe poaching must not occur





# 3. Nutrient management

## Limits on the amount of livestock manure that can be applied to land

Up to 170kg N ha yr of **livestock manure** can be applied across the entire holding (whole farm), including that deposited by grazing livestock themselves (*derogation to 250kg N ha*).

Category	Numbers/ vol.	Calculation	SI 113 of 2022*	Kg N produced
Grazing livestock	40 (1-2yr old) cattle	40 x 57kg N head	Table 6	2,280
Non-grazing livestock	200 pig place integrated	200 x 87kg N place	Table 6	17,400
Exports	1000m <sup>3</sup> pig slurry	1000 x 4.2 kg N m <sup>3</sup>	Table 7	-4,200
Imports	50m <sup>3</sup> cattle slurry	50 x 2.4kg N m <sup>3</sup>	Table 7	+120
				15,600

**Whole farm stocking rate** calculation: **15,600kg N** (total N produced by grazing and non-grazing, ± imports/ exports, ÷ **95 ha** (15ha grass + 80ha tillage) = **164kg N ha**

**Grassland stocking rate** calculation: **2280kg N** (total N produced by grazing only, ÷ **15 ha** (15 ha grassland area only) = **152kg N ha**

# 3. Nutrient management (cont.)



- From 2023, N excretion banding will apply to dairy cows. Required to recognise differences in nutrient excretion rates across different herds

	Milk Yield (Kg)	Milk Yield (litres)*	N kg/year	P kg/year
Band 1	<4,500	<4,370	80	12
Band 2	4,501 - 6,500	4,371 – 6,313	92	13.6
Band 3	>6,500	>6,313	106	15.8
*CSO co-efficient 1.0297				

- Based on average herd milk yield on a rolling 3-year basis or for proceeding year
- Calculated using AIM data and Dairy Co-op data



# 3. Nutrient management (cont.)



## Nitrogen management

N (and P) must not be applied in excess of crop requirement. There is no specific test for soil N. N recommendations based on a holding/ field assessment method.

## Grassland crop N allowance (Table 12 SI 113 of 2022).

N fertiliser recommendations for grassland reflect the level of grazing intensity and production that is required on a specific farmer unit.

## Arable crop N allowance (Table 16 SI 113 of 2022).

Nutrient N advice for arable crops are based on a soil nitrogen supply index (SNSI)

SNSI categorised into four index's (N Index 1 = definite response to fertiliser to N Index 4 = no response expected). See Table 10 of SI 113 of 2022.

# 3. Nutrient management (cont.)



## Phosphorus management

- Soil testing can be used to determine readily available P that can be extracted from the soil (Morgan's P test).
- Soil samples are valid for **4 years**, and a sample must not exceed an area of **4ha, or 5ha** where cropping patterns are similar for the previous 5 years.
- Soil P supply status categorised into an P Index system (P Index 1 = definite response to fertiliser to P Index 4 = no response expected). See Table 11 of SI 113 of 2022.

## Grassland crop P allowance (Table 13A, 13B SI 113 of 2022).

P build-up allowance (additional 20kg P ha and 30kg P ha permitted on P Index 1 and 2 soils. Applicable to holdings with a organic N loading >130kg N ha.

## Arable crop P allowance (Table 17 SI 113 of 2022).





# 3. Nutrient management (cont.)

In the absence of valid soil samples, P Index 3 (medium P status) must be assumed (subject to the rules below which will apply to certain holdings).

**New for 2022 and 2023:** soil sampling and liming requirements

YEAR	Soil samples are required on the following holding types, or P Index 4 must be assumed		A liming programme must be prepared and implemented on the following holding types
2022	Holdings with a grassland stocking rate (GSR) >170 before N exports		Holdings with a grassland stocking rate (GSR) >170 before N exports
2023	Holdings with a grassland stocking rate (GSR) >130 before N exports	All arable land on holdings	

# 3. Nutrient management (cont.)



## Teagasc/ EPA indicative OM layer

Assume P Index 3, or if GSR loading  $>130\text{kg N ha}$  before N exports, assume P Index 4.

**or**

Take an OM sample in these area's

-If OM result is  $> 20\%$ , plan as organic soil i.e. at least P Index 3

-If OM result is  $< 20\%$ , plan as mineral soil







### 3. Nutrient management (cont.)

- **NEW for 2022 and beyond:** The use of low emission spreading systems (LESS), e.g., trailing shoe, is now a mandatory requirement on some holding types

YEAR	LESS must be used in the following circumstances		
2022	In the application of slurry on holdings with a <b>grassland stocking rate (GSR) &gt;170</b> before N exports		
2023	As above where the holdings <b>GSR is &gt;150</b> before N exports	In the application of <b>pig slurry</b> (including imported pig slurry), irrespective of stocking rate and/ or holding type	In the application of <b>livestock slurry to arable land</b> (unless it is incorporated within 24hrs of application)
2024	As above where the holdings <b>GSR is &gt;130</b> before N exports		
2025	As above where the holdings <b>GSR is &gt;100</b> before N exports		

### 3. Nutrient management (cont.)



**NEW for 2022 and beyond:** A crude protein (CP) limit applies to imported concentrate feedstuffs

This measure applies to holdings with a **GSR > 130kg N ha** before N exports

On the above holding types, where concentrate feeding stuffs are being fed to **>2 year old bovines, including dairy cows**, between 15<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September, the maximum

CP content must not exceed 15%



# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities.



Buffer zones	Land storage buffer for FYM	Spreading buffer for organic fertiliser and soiled water	Spreading buffer for chemical fertiliser	Land storage of silage bales/ supplementary feeding	Uncultivated margin for <u>non-grassland crops</u>	Uncultivated margin for <u>late harvested crops</u> e.g. beet, potatoes, maize
<b>Water abstraction points</b>	50m to 250m	15m to 200m	3m	20m	3m for watercourses marked on a 1:5000 OSI map	6m where the parcel slopes towards a watercourse marked on a 1:5000 OSI map
<b>Lakes/ turlough</b>	20m	20m	3m	20m		
<b>Other surface waters</b>	20m	5m to 10m	3m	20m		



# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities.



There must be **no direct discharge** from farm roadways to waters.

Mitigation measures can include cambering, bunding or banking

This requirement applies to **all holdings** with farm roads.





# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities.



Poaching must not lead to a direct discharge to water courses





# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities.



Bovine livestock must **not** have direct access to watercourses which are identifiable on a 1:5000 scale OSi map.

Such watercourses must be **fenced** to a distance of **1.5m**

Temporary fencing (e.g. pig-tail and tape) is permitted

This measure only applies to those holdings with a **GSR  $\geq$  170kg N ha** **before N exports**





# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities.



Supplementary drinking points must **not** be located **within 20m** of watercourses which are identifiable on a 1:5000 scale OSi map.

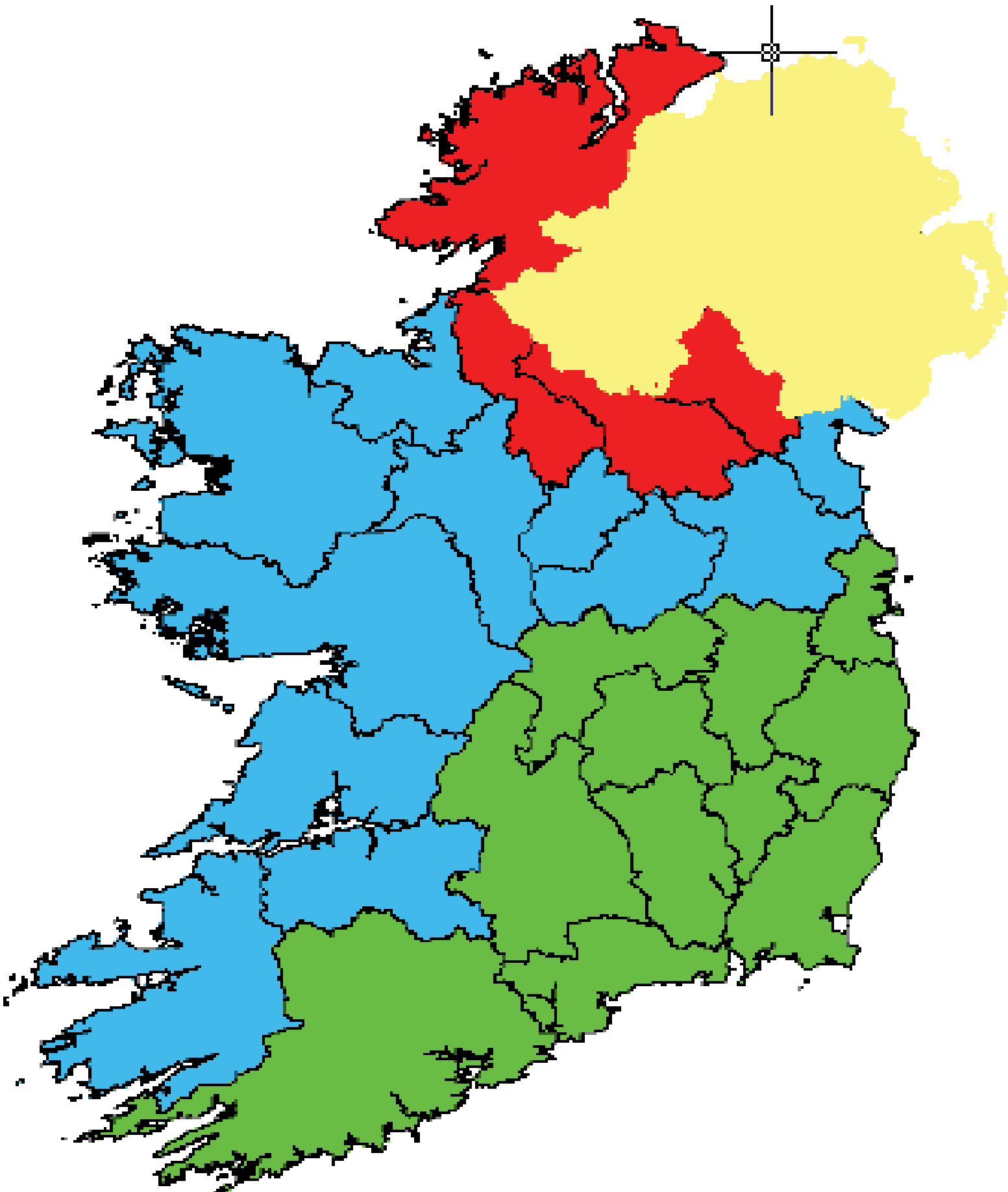
Exemptions apply to narrow strips of land <20m in width along such watercourses.

This measure only applies to those holdings with a **GSR  $\geq 170\text{kg N ha}$  before N exports**





# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities



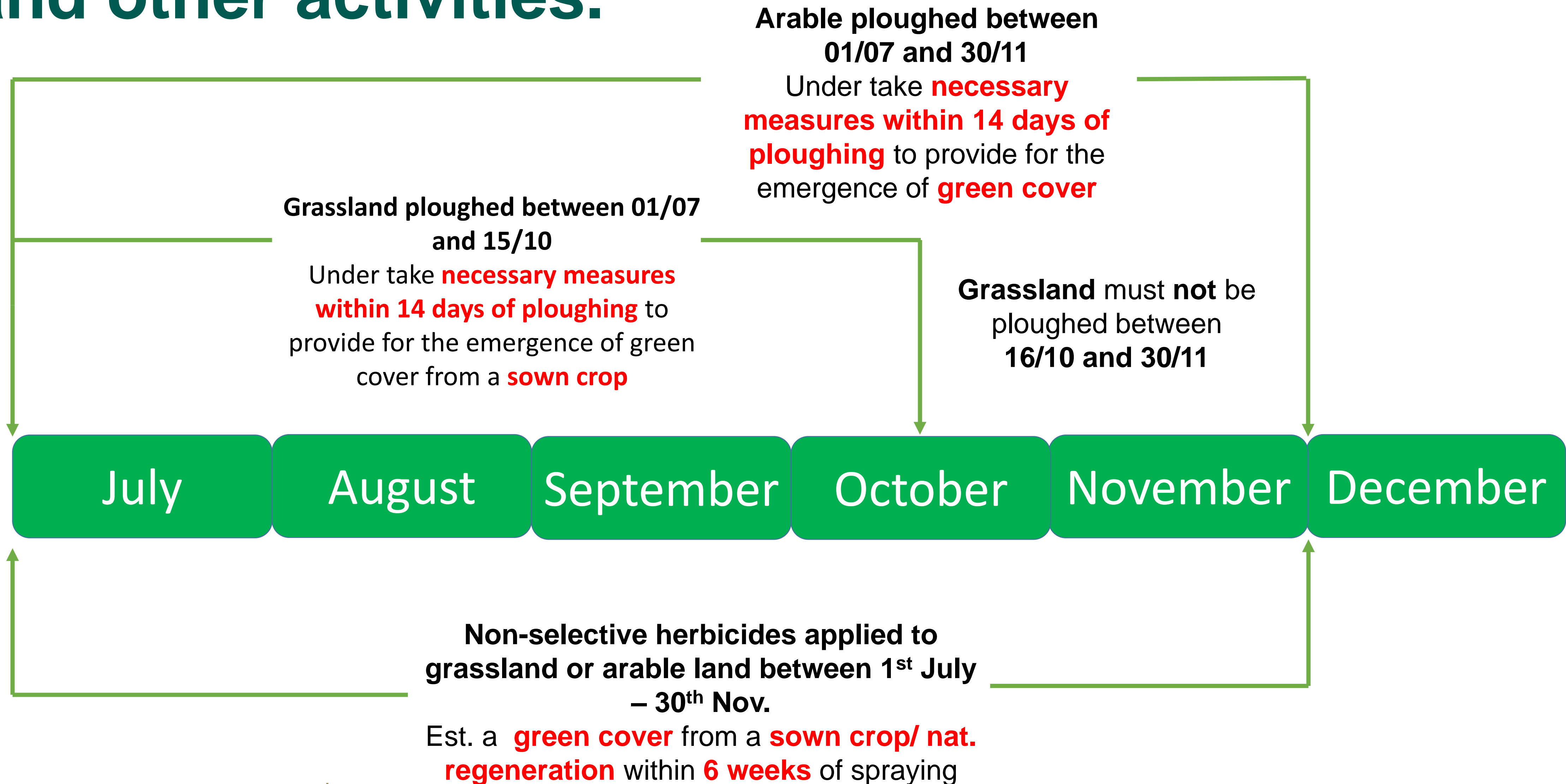
Prohibited spreading periods for 2023

Fertiliser type	Start date	End date		
		Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
Chemical	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept to	26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Organic	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct to	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan
FYM	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov to	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan
Dairy soiled water	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec to	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec

The spreading of **chemical fertiliser from the 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023**, and the spreading of **slurry between 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct and the 15<sup>th</sup> of Oct 2023**, may be permitted in limited circumstances.

Fertiliser must not be applied to land outside of these periods in poor weather or when poor weather is forecast

# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities.





# 4. Prevention of water pollution from fertilisers and other activities.



## Post-harvest cereal stubble management

Field activity by the farmer	Requirement for compliance		Additional requirements
Straw <b>chopped</b> after harvest	Shallow cultivate or roll <sup>1</sup> stubble, or sow a crop <b>within 10 days of harvest</b>	In all circumstances, shallow cultivate or roll <sup>1</sup> stubble, or sow a crop <b>within 14 days of harvest</b>	If <b>stubble cultivating</b> , then 20-25% of cereal stubble must remain uncultivated (winter food source for seed eating birds/ mammals)
Straw <b>baled</b> after harvest	Shallow cultivate or roll <sup>1</sup> stubbles, or sow a crop <b>within 10 days of baling</b>		

**Exempt areas:** certified organic crops, root crops, under sown cereals, cereals/ beans harvested after 15/09, winter combinable crops sown before 31/10

<sup>1</sup> OSR stubble may be rolled. Other post-harvest stubbles may also be rolled where certain arable grass weeds have been FAS certified as present

# 5. Nitrates records



**All holdings must maintain nitrates records for a period of five years.**

From 2023, **inspected derogated holdings** must submit fertiliser records by the **31<sup>st</sup> of January** in the year following the inspection (**31<sup>st</sup> March** for all other holdings subject to a future amendment)

**Required records (a nitrates record template is available)**

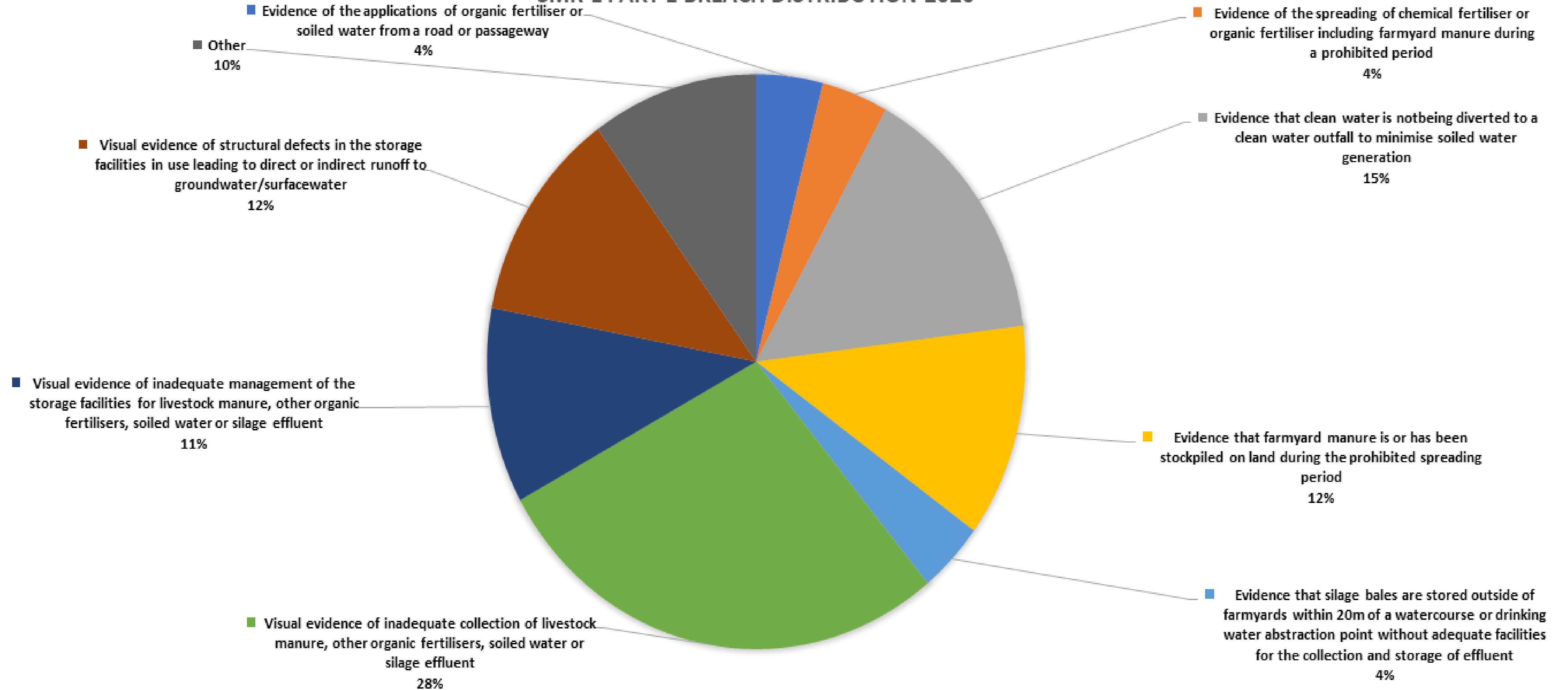
Feed and fertiliser statements, non-bovine animal inventory, soil samples and nutrient management plans if applicable.

**Inspection of records (desk based)**

- Completeness and quality of records provided,
- Available storage capacity assessed against the volume of slurry/ manures produced,
- Fertiliser use limits assessed against the volume of N and P imported and applied on the holding.



SMR 1 PART 1 BREACH DISTRIBUTION 2020



# Further reading

[Departments](#)[Consultations](#)[Publications](#)[Policies](#)

Publication

## Rural Environment & Sustainability - Nitrates

From [Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine](#)

Published on 23 November 2020

Last updated on 7 June 2022

1. Nitrates Information
2. Nitrates Derogation
3. 2019 Nitrates Derogation Review
4. Nitrates Records
5. Cross Compliance Inspection Forms
6. Nitrates Action Programme - Consultation Paper
7. Legislation
8. National Soil Analysis Programme

[gov.ie - Rural Environment &  
Sustainability - Nitrates  
\(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/publications/publication/rural-environment-sustainability-nitrates)





**Thank you**

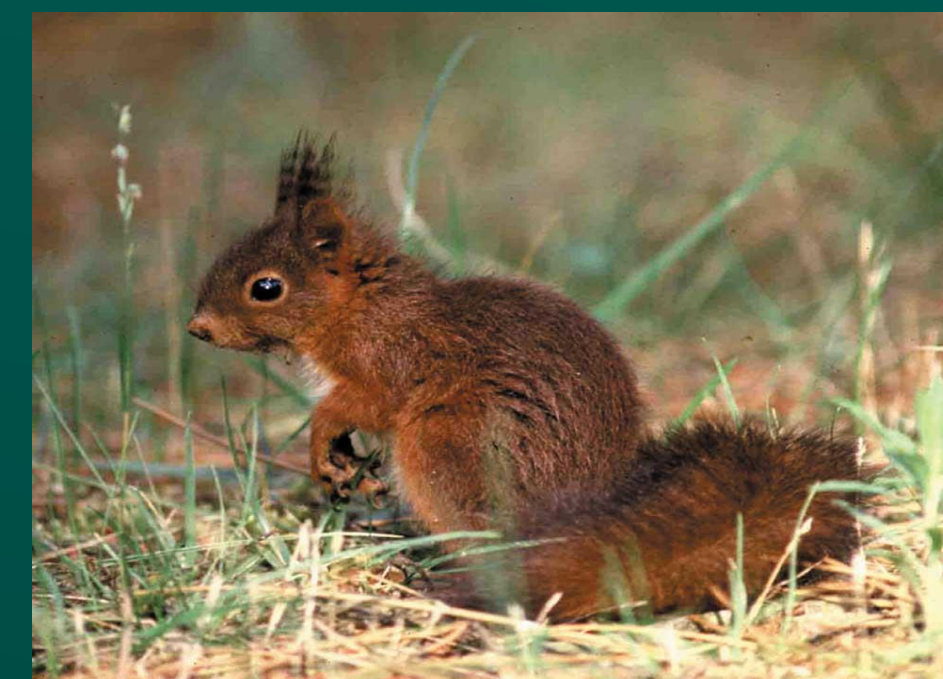


An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# 2023 FAS training for new advisers

## SMR 3 & SMR 4

John Barry  
Integrated Controls Division





# Conditionality



## 11 Statutory Management Requirements (SMR)

AREA 1 – Environment, Climate Change  
and Good Agricultural Condition of Land

SMR 3 – Conservation of Wild Birds

SMR 4 – Conservation of Natural  
Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna

# IRELAND



- ❖ 28 species of land mammals
- ❖ >400 species of birds
- ❖ >4,000 plant species
- ❖ >12,000 species of insect
- ❖ Must ensure enough suitable habitat for all these species to flourish
- ❖ Need the support of landowners





# SMR 3: Conservation of Wild Birds



## Birds Directive 2009/147/EC (79/409/EEC)

- ❖ Europe: > 500 species of wild birds
- ❖ 32%: not in a good conservation status
- ❖ Birds Directive: aims to protect all of these 500 wild bird species naturally occurring in the EU





# Annex 1: Birds Directive



194 species and sub-species are particularly threatened. Member States must designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for their survival and the survival of all migratory bird species

SPA sites are habitats for Annex 1 birds, e.g. upland, wet grassland and scrub, blanket bogs and machairs

## Ireland

- ❖ SPA sites selected by NPWS
- ❖ 154 SPAs – SI's formally designate each SPA
- ❖ Most sites >100 hectares in size, approx. 570,000 hectares designated as SPA





# Annex 2: Birds Directive



82 bird species can be hunted. However, the hunting periods are limited and hunting is forbidden when birds are at their most vulnerable: during their return migration to nesting areas, reproduction and the raising of their chicks

**Wild game birds may be hunted at certain times of the year “Open Season”**





# Annex 3: Birds Directive



Bans activities that directly threaten birds

## For example

- Deliberate killing or capture of birds
- Destruction of birds' nests and eggs and taking of birds' eggs
- Trading in live or dead birds
- Deliberate disturbance of birds particularly during breeding and rearing





# Derogation to hunting limits



**Magpie**



**Feral Pigeon**



**Wood Pigeon**



**Collared Dove**



**Hooded (Grey) Crow**



**Rook**



**Jackdaw**



**These birds can  
currently be  
captured or killed  
anywhere at any  
time of the year**



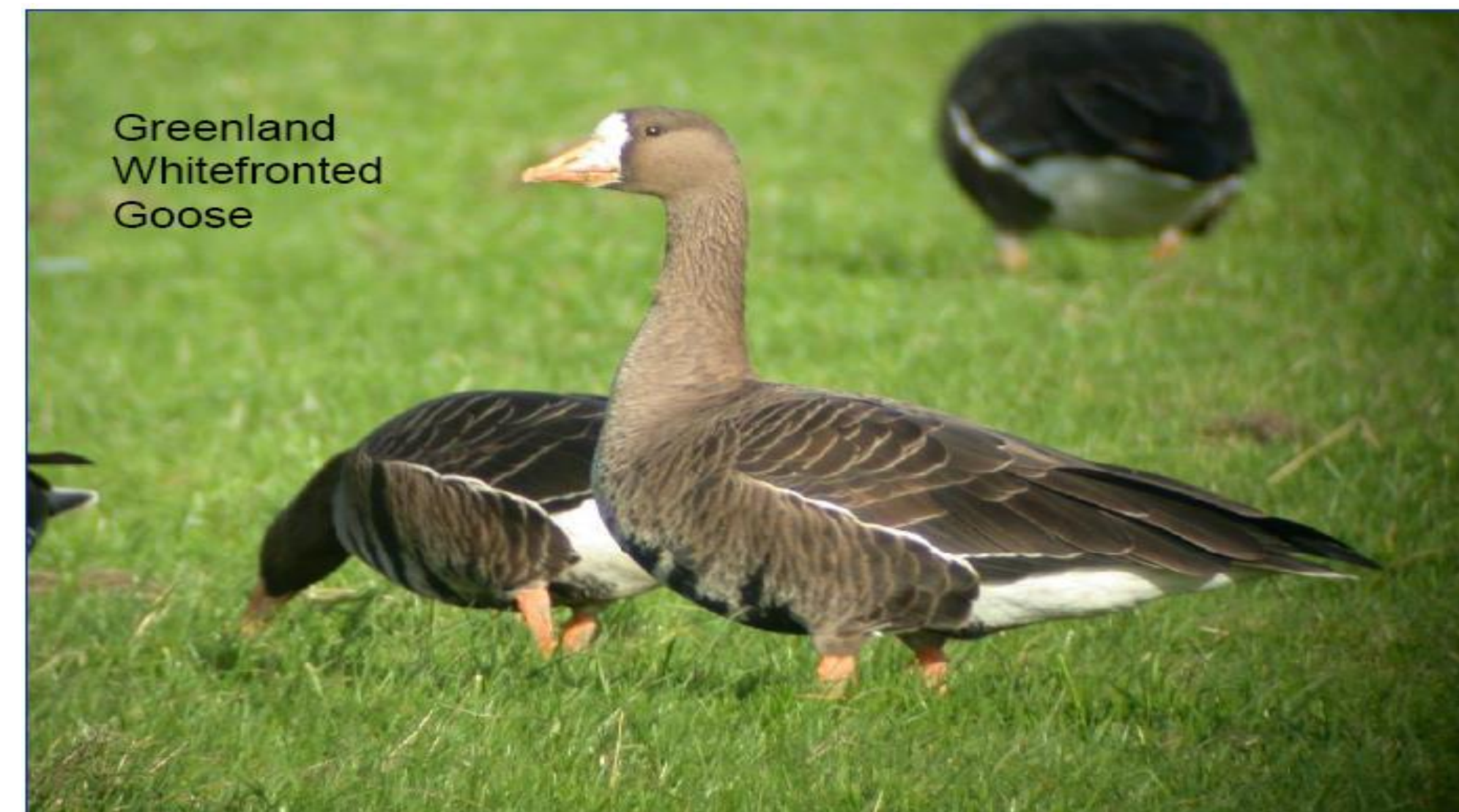
# Annex 4: Birds Directive



Provides for the sustainable management of hunting but Member States must outlaw all forms of non-selective and large scale killing of birds

## **For example:**

- Snares
- Explosives
- Net/Traps
- Poisoned/anaesthetic bait





# SPA: Activities Requiring Consent



Landowners have been notified by NPWS of SPA areas and associated **Activities Requiring Consent (n=38)**

ARC-01	Reclamation, including infilling.
ARC-02	Use of excavators, rock breakers, bulldozers, back hoes or use of any other hydraulically-powered excavation equipment.
ARC-03	Blasting, drilling, dredging or otherwise removing or disturbing rock, minerals, mud, sand, gravel or other sediment.
ARC-04	All activities relating to turf cutting and/or peat extraction.
ARC-05	Cutting, uprooting or otherwise removing plants. [Consent is not required for harvesting of cultivated crops, or for grazing or mowing.]
ARC-06	Introduction, or re-introduction, of plants or animals not found in the area. [Consent not required for planting crops on established grassland or cultivated land.]
ARC-07	Removal of geological specimens including rock samples, minerals or fossils.
ARC-08	Undertaking scientific research involving the collection and removal of biological material.
ARC-09	Construction or alteration of tracks, paths, roads, bridges, culverts or access routes.
ARC-10	Construction, removal or alteration of fences, stone walls, hedgerows, banks or any field boundary other than temporary electric fencing. [Consent is not required for normal maintenance.]

# SPA: Activities Requiring Consent



ARC's which apply to an SPA will be outlined the SI;

## Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA

S.I. No. 587/2011 - European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains Special Protection Area 004165)) Regulations 2011.

### SCHEDULE 4

#### SITE SPECIFIC OPERATIONS OR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING CONSENT OF THE MINISTER:

1. Construction, removal or alteration of fences, stone walls, hedgerows, banks or any field boundary other than temporary electric fencing. [Consent is not required for normal maintenance.]
2. Agricultural improvement of heath or bog.
3. Off-road recreational use of mechanically propelled vehicles.



# SMR 3: DAFM Inspections



## Applies to all areas of all farms with additional emphasis on SPAs

It is the beneficiary's responsibility to be aware if the land they declare (including rented land) for the BISS is within a SPA and to be aware of the particular requirements attaching

38 ARCs = basis of DAFM inspections

Are activities likely to cause a deterioration of habitats or any disturbances affecting birds?  
*e.g. trimming/removing a hedgerow/scrub during the bird nesting season (1<sup>st</sup> Mar-31<sup>st</sup> Aug)*

*NPWS – cross reporting body*

**KEY: Farmer must have written consent for ARCs**





# SMR 4: Conservation of Natural Habitats, Wild Flora and Fauna



## Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC

- Cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy with the [Birds Directive](#)
- Establishes the EU wide [Natura 2000](#) ecological network of protected areas
- >1,000 animal and plant species plus 200 habitat types listed



**White Prominent Moth**



**Petalwort**



**Sea Cliffs**



# Key elements of the Habitats Directive



**Annex 1:** Member States must designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

**Annex 2:** Certain habitats and species must be protected within SACs

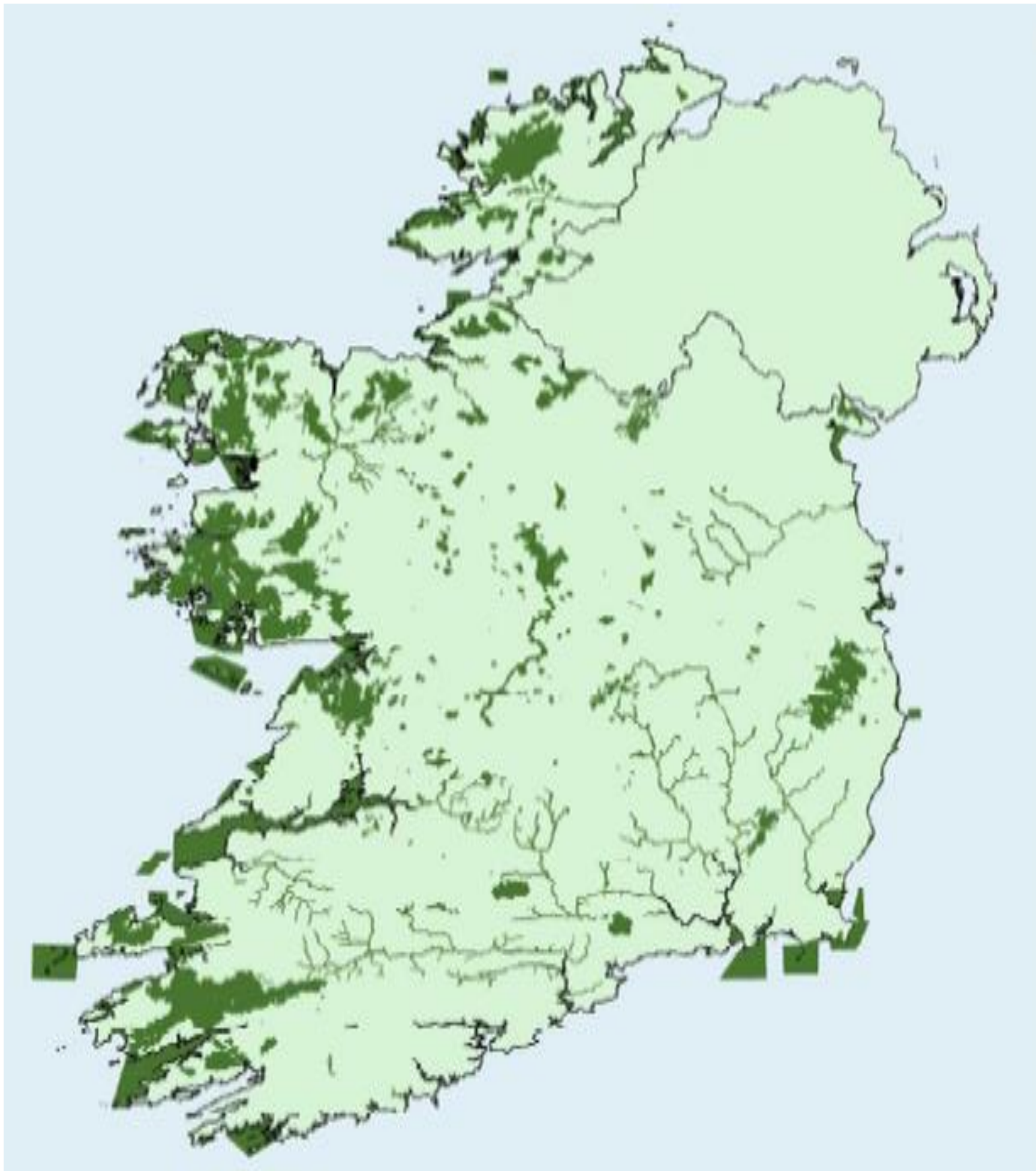
## Ireland

- SAC sites selected by NPWS
- 13,500 km<sup>2</sup> designated





# SAC's In Ireland



**Limestone Pavement**



**Machair**



# Species for which habitats in Ireland are especially important





# SAC: Notifiable Actions



SAC notifiable actions will depend on the habitat type(s) present

E.g. Woodlands, Wetlands, Raised bogs, Blanket bogs, Grassland, Maritime habitats etc.



**Habitat Type:**

**Rivers or Streams**

## Examples of NA applicable to river/stream habitats located within an SAC

1. Supplementary feeding of livestock within 30m of a river or stream
2. Applying fertiliser/lime within 30m of a river or stream
3. Extracting water for irrigation or other purposes
4. Alteration of the banks, channel, bed or flow of the river or stream
5. Dumping, burning or storing any materials within 30m of the river or stream
6. Harvesting or burning of reeds or willows
7. Causing siltation



# SMR 3: DAFM Inspections



It is the beneficiary's responsibility to know if the land they declare (including rented land) for the BPS is within a SAC designated area and to be aware of the particular requirements attaching

Have Notifiable Actions (NA) been carried out without the appropriate prior consent?

Where there is consent, did the works go beyond what was granted?  
e.g. land reclamation activities

NPWS – cross reporting body

**KEY: Farmer must have written consent for NA**




# Finding ARCs/NAs on NPWS website




Home | About NPWS | Work with the NPWS | Contact Us | Accessibility

Google Custom Search

 National Parks & Wildlife Service

National Parks | **Protected Sites** | Nature Reserves | Publications | Licences | Maps and Data | Planning

  
**Minister Humphreys launches the 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan**  
Minister Humphreys pictured at the launch of the 3rd National Biodiversity Action Plan in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin 3 / 13

**News and Events**


Restrictions on Burning and Hedgecutting  
01 March 2019


Applications now open for Curlew Conservation Programme seasonal contracts  
22 February 2019


Public Consultation: Ireland's Biodiversity Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Plan  
12 February 2019

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- > Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)
- > Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- > Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- > Designation process
- > Conservation management planning
- > Appropriate Assessment
- > Nature Reserves
- > National Parks
- > Wildfowl Sanctuaries
- > OSPAR Sites

## Protected Sites

Ireland is home to 28 species of land mammal, over 400 species of birds, more than 4,000 plant species and over 12,000 species of insect. If we want all of this to survive, we must ensure that there are enough suitable areas for all these species to flourish.



Natural Heritage Areas (NHA)



Special Area of Conservation (SAC)



Special Protection Areas (SPA)

## Find a Protected Site

By Site Code

By County

Features of Interest

▼

☒ SACs

☒ SPAs

☐ NHAs

Submit





**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Galtee Mountains SAC](#) (000646)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Clare Glen SAC](#) (000930)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Glen Bog SAC](#) (001430)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Glenstal Wood SAC](#) (001432)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Ballyhoura Mountains SAC](#) (002036)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC](#) (002037)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Lower River Shannon SAC](#) (002165)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Blackwater River \(Cork/Waterford\) SAC](#) (002170)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Askeaton Fen Complex SAC](#) (002279)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA](#) (004077)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA](#) (004161)

**Short Description:**

**Site Name:** [Slievefelim to Silvermines Mountains SPA](#) (004165)

**Short Description:**







- > [Natural Heritage Areas \(NHA\)](#)
- > [Special Areas of Conservation \(SAC\)](#)
- > [Special Protection Areas \(SPA\)](#)
- > [Designation process](#)
- > [Conservation management planning](#)
- > [Appropriate Assessment](#)
- > [Nature Reserves](#)
- > [National Parks](#)
- > [Wildfowl Sanctuaries](#)
- > [OSPAR Sites](#)

## Stack's to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA 004161

### Features of Interest

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) [A082]

### Site Documents

Download Conservation Objectives

 [CO004161.pdf](#) [1KB]

Download NATURA 2000 Standard Data Form

 [NF004161.pdf](#) [1KB]


Download Site Synopsis


 [SY004161.pdf](#) [1KB]

Statutory Instrument

<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2012/en/si/0591.html>

### Related Publications



Title:  [Lower River Shannon SAC \(002165\) Conservation objectives supporting document - coastal habitats \[Version 1\] \(7.841KB\)](#)

Year: 2012



SCHEDULE 3

SPECIAL CONSERVATION INTERESTS

Bird Species	
Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Hen Harrier

Scroll Down to ARCs

SCHEDULE 4

SITE SPECIFIC OPERATIONS OR ACTIVITIES REQUIRING CONSENT OF THE MINISTER:

- 1. Construction, removal or alteration of fences, stone walls, hedgerows, banks or any field boundary other than temporary electric fencing. [Consent is not required for normal maintenance.]
- 2. Agricultural improvement of heath or bog.
- 3. Off-road recreational use of mechanically propelled vehicles.





# Further information



- DAFM
  - [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)
- NPWS.ie
  - [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)
  - *Helpline 1800 405000*
- National Biodiversity Data Centre
  - [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie)
- Birdwatch Ireland
  - [www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie)
- Invasive Species Ireland
  - [www.invasivespeciesireland.com](http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com)



# Thank you