SEA SCOPING REPORT
Long Term Conservation Plan for Great Western Lakes

Prepared for Inland Fisheries Ireland

SI435 of 2004 as amended

Contents

1 SEA Scoping Report – Long Term Conservation Plan for the Great Western Lakes.

1.1 Introduction

In accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)'s most recent policy direction and their statutory remit for the management of Ireland's inland fisheries resources, seven lakes, primarily in the West of Ireland, are managed as salmonid waters.

The emphasis of proposed management programmes for these lakes will be to protect, conserve and, where possible, enhance their natural attributes and native biodiversity which will, in turn, optimise their potential as sustainable wild brown trout and, in some cases, Atlantic salmon fisheries.

IFI's interest in eels (EC Regulation (Council Regulation 1100/2007) for the recovery of the eel stock) , Arctic Char which are now only found in Lough Mask and Ferox Trout is also reflected in the draft Long Term Conservation Plan for the Great Western Lakes, which are the subject of this SEA Scoping process..

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Under Directive 2001/42/EC - Assessment of Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, certain plans and programmes require an environmental assessment. This is known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Article 1 of this Directive states that its objective is:

'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.'

1.3 Screening

A SEA Screening exercise was undertaken, and it was determined that the plan will require full SEA. The following criteria triggered the need for full SEA:

1. Given the legal requirement to not consider mitigation measures as they apply to European (Natura 2000) sites, it was determined that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required following the preparation of the Screening Statement in support of appropriate assessment.

1.4 Purpose of this Scoping Report

Therefore, the purpose of this Scoping Report is to ensure that the relevant environmental issues are identified so that they can be addressed appropriately in the Environmental Report, which will inform the plan. The Environmental Report is required to include information that may be reasonably required, considering the following:

- Existing Environmental Information for each HLO.
    - Current knowledge and methods of assessment;
    - Content and level of detail in the draft plan;
    - Stage of the plan in the decision-making process and

    - The extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process to avoid duplication of environmental assessment.

- Existing Environmental Problems at each HLO.
- Information Gaps
- Scoping meeting actions and responsibilities for each HLO.

1.5 Structure of the remainder of this SEA Scoping Report

Chapter Two: Summary of draft Conservation Management Plan for Great Western Lakes

Chapter Three: Scoping of Environmental Issues in the SEA

Chapter Four: Preliminary Environmental Overview

Chapter Five Next Steps and Consultation

Annex A: List of proposed plans and programmes

2 Summary of draft Long Term Conservation Plan for the Great Western Lakes

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) has a statutory remit under the Inland Fisheries Act of 2010 - to protect, conserve and manage Irelands inland fisheries resources. An integral part of this resource is the habitats and waters inhabited by fish species of conservation interest. This plan has been prepared for a group of waterbodies and their catchment areas to advance the conservation and restoration of their ecological integrity and thus, native fish stocks. Seven lakes and their catchments, primarily in Connaught, are managed as salmonid waters in Ireland. These waterbodies are large by Irish standards (1,266 - 16,562 Ha.) and are generally based on carboniferous limestone. Their bathymetry, water chemistry and unique assemblages of flora and fauna has resulted in the evolution of rare and highly valued ecosystems that offer an abundance of services to society and the natural environment. The lakes have become an integral part of the European Natura 2000 network and immense centres for recreational and cultural activity, particularly angling. Figure 2.1 below presents the locations of the Great Western Lakes.

FIGURE 2-1 LOCATION OF THE GREAT WESTERN LAKES

The draft plan sets out a series of measures which aim to address and manage many of the factors currently impacting on the ecological wellbeing and the status of native fish stocks on the designated lakes and their catchments. Key objectives include:

- To ensure the sustainability of salmonid fish within the designated waterbodies and to introduce measures to mitigate against the pressures currently impacting on their ecological integrity.

- To protect, manage and where they have been damaged, restore the natural attributes and biodiversity of the designated waterbodies.

- To optimise existing habitat and its potential to support sustainable wild brown trout and salmon fisheries.

Although this plan relates primarily to the conservation and management of salmonid fish, the importance of their co-dependence and relationship with other, native flora and fauna must also be recognised.

Through a series of targeted actions, connected to an overall strategy, IFI will coordinate programmes under 7 categories of High-Level Objectives (HLO). Each HLO aligns to IFI's Corporate Plan (2021 to 2025) and is summarised below in Table 2.1

TABLE 2-1 HIGH LEVEL OBJECTIVES OF DRAFT PLAN

HLO 1. (Section 4)	**Stakeholder Engagement**
HLO 2. (Section 5)	**Climate Action & Biodiversity**
HLO 3. (Section 6)	**Water Quality**
HLO 4. (Section 7)	**Invasive Species**
HLO 5. (Section 8)	**Stock Management**
HLO 6. (Section 9)	**Habitat Restoration**
HLO 7. (Section 10)	**Research**

3 Environmental Assessment Process

3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

This chapter outlines the SEA methodology and the steps required for SEA. The methodology used to carry out the SEA of the plan reflects the requirements of the SEA Directive, regulations, and available guidance on undertaking SEA in Ireland, including:

- SEA Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland – Synthesis Report Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2003;
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities - published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004;
- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 and SI 435 of 2004);
- Planning and Development (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (S.I No 200 of 2011);
- SEA Process Checklist Consultation Draft 2008, EPA 2008;
- Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011 Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- Guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment European Union 2013;
- Integrated Biodiversity Assessment -Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes-Practitioners Manual, EPA Strive Report, 2013.
- SEA Resource Manual for Local and Regional Authorities, Draft Version, 2013;
- Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland – A Guidance Note, EPA, 2015;
- Developing and accessing alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA, 2015
- GISEA Manual: Improving the evidence base in SEA, EPA, 2017
- SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources 2020.
- Good practice guidance on Cumulative Effects Assessment in SEA, EPA, 2020
- Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring, EPA, 2020.
- Strategic Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities, DHLGH, 2022.

3.1.1 Departmental Circulars

A number of Circulars have been issued by the DHHLG and will be considered and applied as appropriate, these are:

- PSSP 6/2011: Further Transposition of the EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- Circular PL 9 of 2013: Article 8 (Decision Making) of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as amended, and
- Circular 01/2022: Adoption of updated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities and Update to the Government's Website with information on SEA.

3.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment process

The steps involved in SEA are as follows:

Figure 3-1 SEA Process and stages

3.3 Links to Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive requires, *inter alia*, that plans, and programmes undergo AA screening to establish the likely or potential effects arising from implementation of the Programme. If the effects

are deemed to be significant, potentially significant, or uncertain then the plan must undergo Stage 2 AA. The AA Screening report[1] has been prepared and concluded the following:

"*The proposed Long-term Management Plan for the Great Western Lakes is likely to contribute to the maintenance or restoration of the favourable conservation condition of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites where they have been designated as a feature of interest. However, the potential for adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites are uncertain. Based on the above AA Screening a Natura Impact Statement is required in relation to Actions 2.2, 2.3, 4.1. 5.1, 5.2 and 6.1. This Plan fundamentally aims to improve the management and condition of habitat quality for the long-term sustainability of salmonid populations. The implementation of future plans and projects for the aforementioned Actions based on the guidance of this Long-term Management Plan for the Great Western Lakes may present uncertain impacts on Natura 2000 sites. As a result, future plans or projects arising from the proposed actions in this Plan must be Screened for Appropriate Assessment on a case-by-case basis. This action can be viewed as a mitigation measure and following the precautionary principle, will necessitate a Stage 2 NIS for each of the actions that have been screened in*."

Other requirements of the EU Birds and Habitats Directive are not addressed through the AA process such as annex IV species under Articles 12 and 13 of the Habitats Directive, Article 10 landscape features and bird habitats per Article 4 (4) of the Birds Directive. The SEA will apply the methodology for Integrated Biodiversity Assessment (EPA, 2013) and address these issues through the Biodiversity, Flora, and Fauna Section of the SEA ER.

[1] Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening of the Long Term Management Plan for the Great Western Lakes Invas Biosecurity July 2022

3.4 Other Relevant Plans and Programmes

Under the SEA Directive, the relationship between the draft plan and other relevant plans and programmes must be considered. The preparation of the plan must be examined within the context of a hierarchy of policies, plans and strategies which include international, national, regional, and local level policy documents. A full review of the relevant plans and programmes will be prepared as part of the SEA Environmental Report. These documents set the policy framework within which the draft plan will operate. A preliminary list of the plans and programmes are provided at the end of this SEA Scoping Report.

4 Scoping

4.1 Environmental sensitivities

The purpose of this section is to provide a brief overview of the main environmental resources and issues identified thus far, for the draft plan. At national level the publication Ireland's Environment 2020 –an assessment (EPA 2020) identifies seven key actions to underpin the environment; these can be used to help inform and consider the proposed plan process.

Section 3 provides further information on the other environmental assessment processes underway

A brief summary of current understanding of SEA topics and scoping in or out of environmental topics is provided below:

4.2 Summary of environmental baseline

This section provides a short summary of key environmental resources relevant to the draft plan.. A short profile of each lake is provided below in Table 4.1 and an overview of the key environmental issues is presented first.

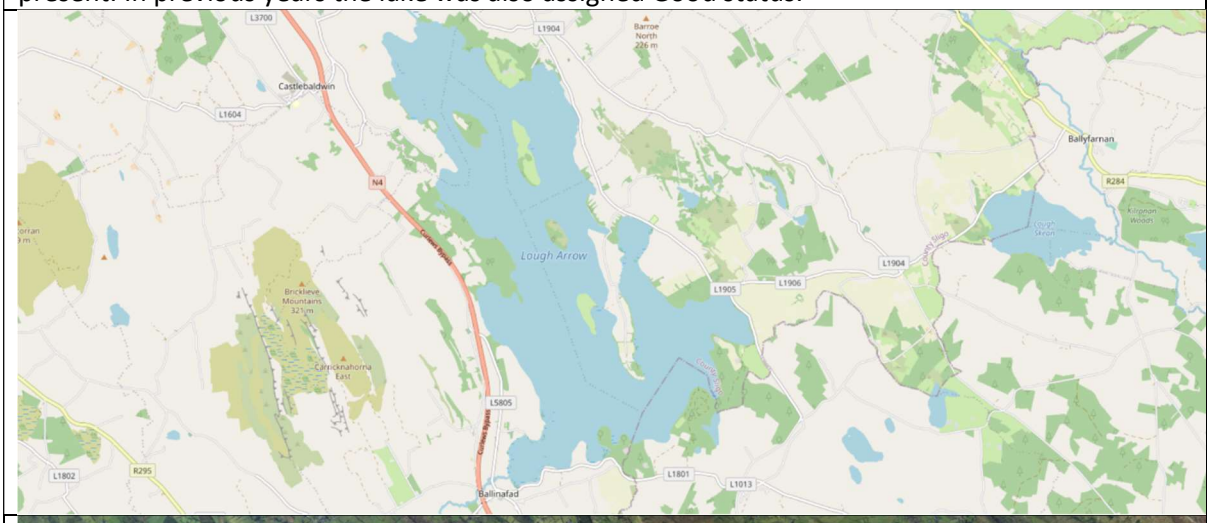
Lough Arrow, Co. Sligo

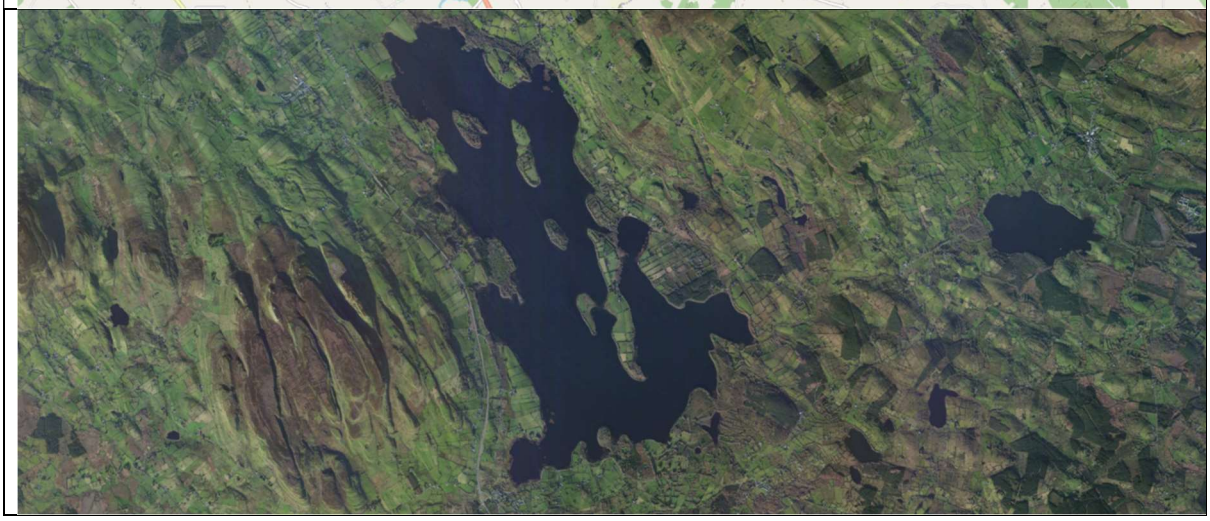
Lough Arrow is a limestone lake situated in Co. Sligo, approximately 24km south-east of Sligo town and 6.4km north-west of Boyle, Co. Roscommon. It is sheltered on three sides by hills and is the source of the Unshin River. Lough Arrow is the smallest of the Western lake catchments fed largely by springs on the lake bed and as such is hydrologically different from most lakes in Ireland (Roscommon County Council, 2009).

Lough Arrow has a surface area of 1266ha, with a mean depth of 9m and a maximum depth of 33m. It is categorised as typology class 12 (as designated by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive), i.e. deep (>4m), greater than 50ha with high alkalinity (>100mg/l $CaCO_3$).

It is of major conservation significance as it conforms to a type (hard water lake) listed in Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The shores of the lake are, for the most part, stony, although the common club-rush (Scirpus lacustris) and common reed (Phragmites australis) occur abundantly in several bays (NPWS, 1999). Recent research conducted on the lake has reported the presence of extensive stands of the invasive alien species Nuttall's waterweed (Elodea nuttallii) in bays throughout the lake.

Lough Arrow was assigned an ecological status of Good in 2018 based on the fish populations present. In previous years the lake was also assigned Good status.

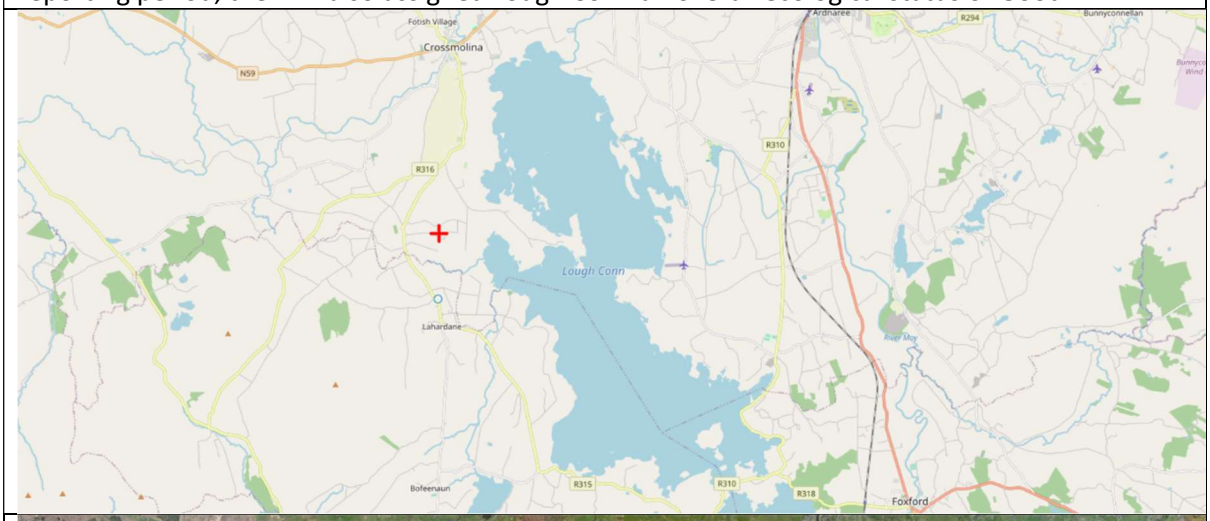




Lough Conn , Co. Mayo

Lough Conn is located in the Moy catchment in north County Mayo. It is connected to its immediate neighbour to the south, Lough Cullin, by a narrow channel that passes under a regional road at Pontoon village. The River Deel flows into Lough Conn and exits Lough Cullin at its southern end near Foxford, before joining the River Moy which discharges into the Atlantic at Killala Bay. The lake has a surface area of 4,704ha and a maximum depth of 37.9m. The lake is categorised as typology class 12 (as designated by the EPA for the Water Framework Directive), i.e. deep (mean depth >4m), greater than 50ha and high alkalinity (>100 mg/l CaCO3). Lough Conn is part of a Special Protection Area (SPA) (Site code: 004228) under the E.U. Birds Directive. It also forms part of the River Moy SAC where Atlantic Salmon are a qualifying interest.

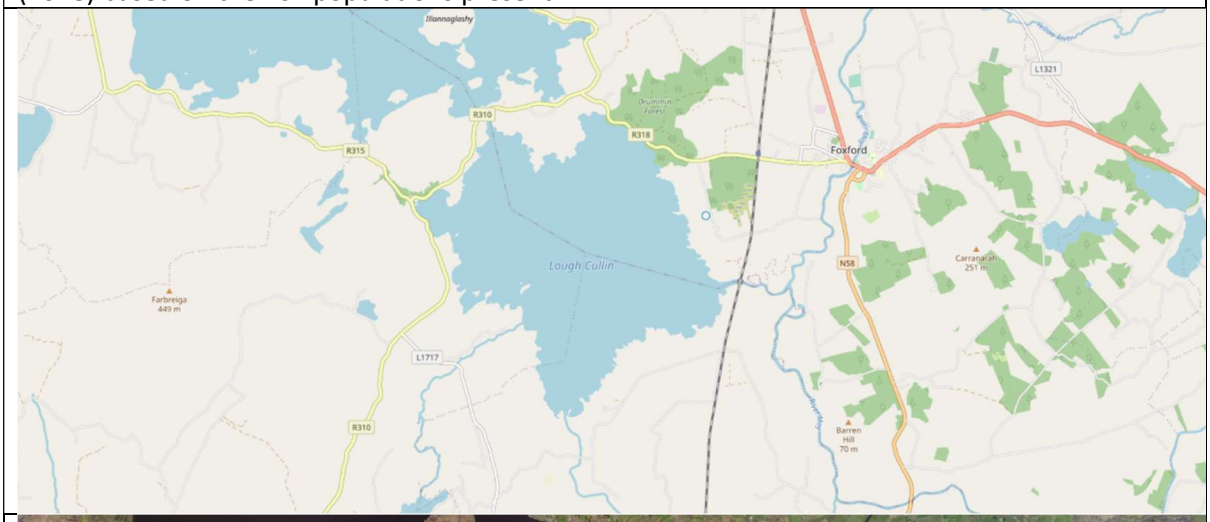
Based on the fish populations present, Lough Conn was assigned an ecological status of Good in 2016, the most recent survey under the WFD. In the 2010 to 2015 surveillance monitoring reporting period, the EPA also assigned Lough Conn an overall ecological status of Good.

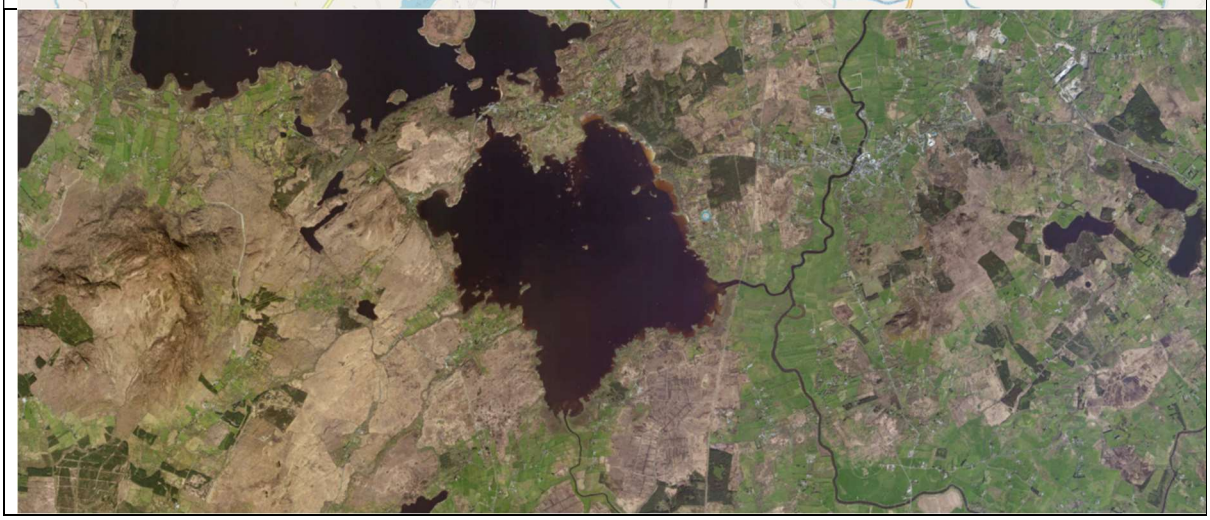


Lough Cullin, Co Mayo

Lough Cullin is a large, shallow lake situated to the west of Foxford, which is connected to Lough Conn by a narrow inlet at Pontoon, Co. Mayo. The outflow from the lake discharges directly into the River Moy south-west of Foxford (NPWS, 2004). Lough Cullin has a surface area of 1019.3ha with a maximum depth of approximately 3m (O' Reilly, 2007). The underlying geology of the lake is mainly granite with some areas of limestone present in the southern region of the catchment (NPWS, 2004). The lake is categorised as typology class 10 (as designated by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive), i.e. shallow (100mg/l CaCO3).

Lough Cullin is located within the River Moy Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (NPWS, 2005). The underlying geology of the majority of the SAC is Carboniferous limestone, with areas of Carboniferous sandstone, Dalradian quartzites and schists also present. Some of the tributaries at the east and south of Lough Conn, and all inflowing to Lough Cullin are underlain by granite. The site has been selected as a candidate SAC for containing alluvial wet woodlands, raised bog, old oak woodlands (present on the shores of Lough Cullin), degraded raised bog and *Rhynchosporion* depressions (*Rhynchospora alba*), all priority habitats on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. Lough Cullin was assigned an ecological status of Moderate following the most recent WFD survey (2018) based on the fish populations present

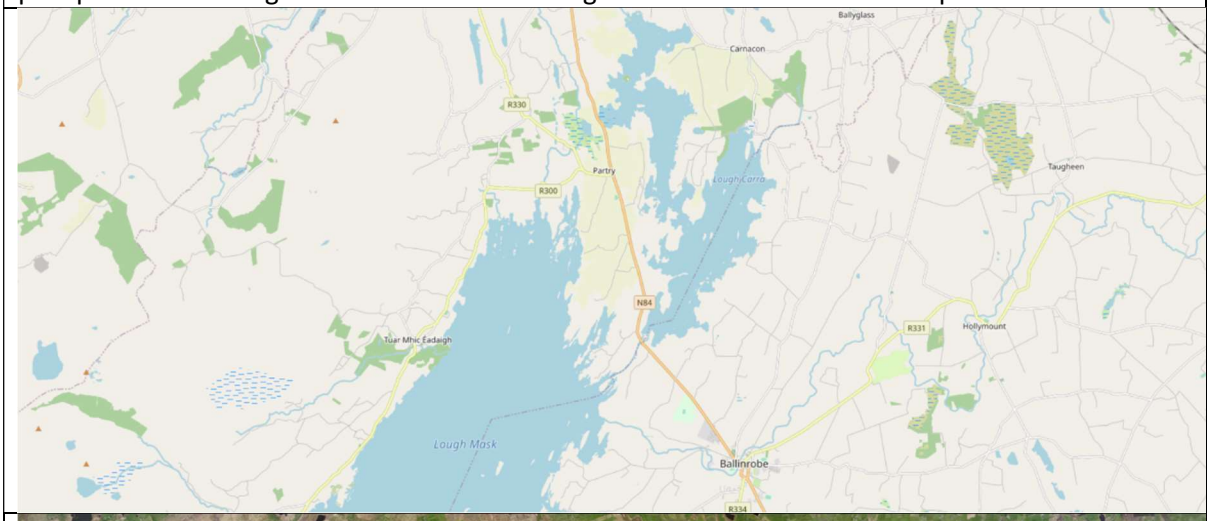




Lough Carra, Co. Mayo

Lough Carra is situated in County Mayo and forms the most northerly part of the Great Western Lakes system of Loughs Corrib, Mask and Carra. It is located approximately 5km north of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. Lough Carra is the largest marl lake in Ireland, with a surface area of approximately 1600ha. It is a hard water lake which acquires most of its water via the feeder streams that flow in at various points around its perimeter (Huxley and Huxley, 2009) with some contributions from ground-water springs. The majority of the lake is shallow with a mean depth of approximately 1.8m; however, there are sections of the lake where depths reach over 19m (Huxley and Huxley, 2009). Lough Carra is well known for its green/blue colour which is due to the formation of calcareous encrustations (NPWS, 2004). The lake contains well developed stonewort communities with *Chara curta, C. desmacantha, C. rudis* and *C. contraria* also recorded (NPWS, 2004). Dense and expanding stands of *Myriophyllum verticillatum* have been recorded in the lake over the past decade. In the 2013 to 2018 surveillance monitoring reporting period, the EPA assigned Lough Carra an overall draft ecological status of Good, based on all monitored physico-chemical and biological elements, including fish.

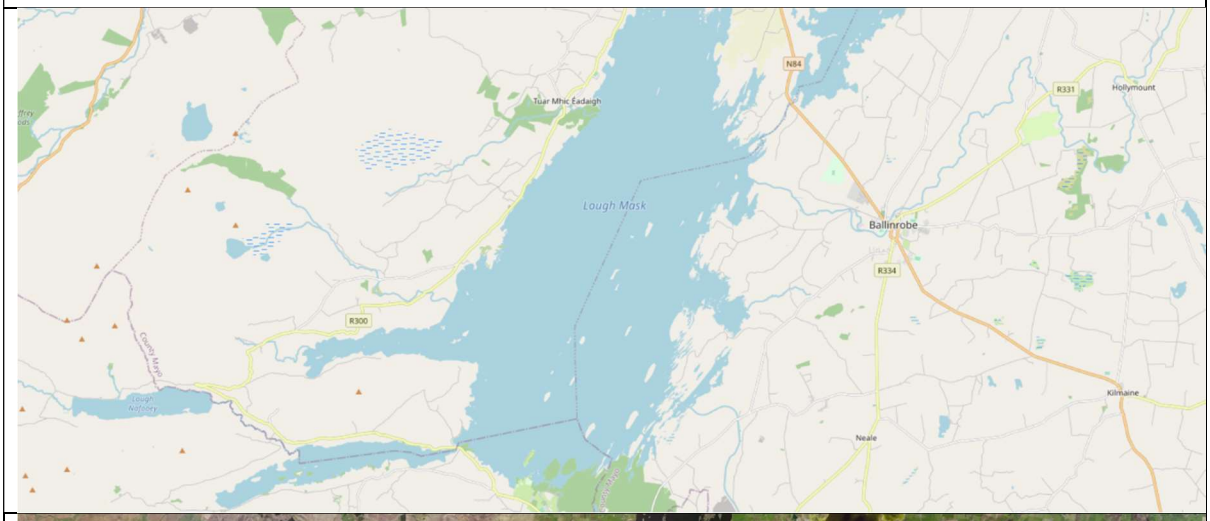
Notwithstanding this relatively recent designation, lough Carra has experienced a significant deterioration in water quality over the last decade. Recent EPA reports indicate rises in ortho-phosphate and Nitrogen levels and increased algal biomass in lake water samples.



Lough Mask, Co. Mayo

Lough Mask is situated north of Lough Corrib, adjacent to the town of Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo. It is the sixth largest lake in Ireland with a surface area of approximately 8,218ha. The length of the lake from north to south is approximately 16km and the width is approximately 6.4km at its widest point. The main rivers flowing into Lough Mask are the Cloon, Robe, Owenbrin, Finny, Glensaul, Glentraig and the Keel River, which is the out flowing river from Lough Carra. Lough Mask is linked to Lough Corrib by the Cong Canal. It is generally a shallow lake with a mean depth of 5m; however, it attains a maximum depth of 57m along a long narrow trench on the western shore of the lake (NPWS, 2004).

The underlying geology of Lough Mask is Carboniferous limestone, with areas of shale and sandstone, and it is an excellent example of a lowland oligotrophic lake (NPWS, 2004). Lough Mask, Carra and Cloon make up the Lough Carra/Lough Mask Special Area of Conservation (SAC) complex. Six habitats listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive are found in this site, including two priority habitats - limestone pavement and *Cladium* fen (NPWS, 2004). This is also an important SAC for otter, a species that is listed on Annex II of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The zebra mussel, an invasive species in Ireland, was confirmed to be present in Lough Mask in 2008. Lough Mask was assigned an ecological status of Good for 2019 based on the fish populations present. The lake was also assigned Good fish status in 2009, 2012 and 2015



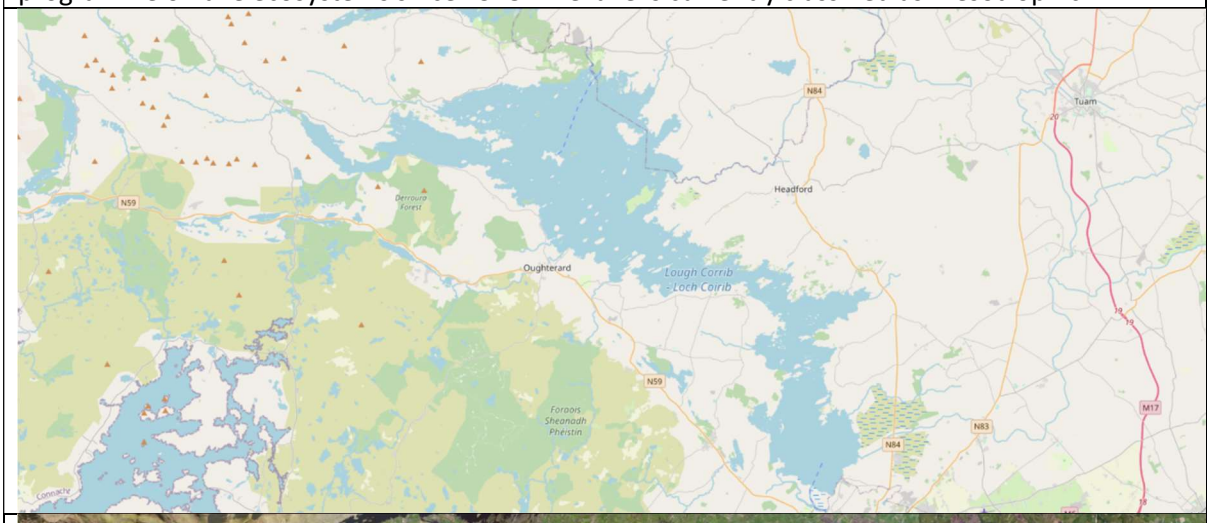
Lough Corrib, Co. Galway

Lough Corrib, the largest of the western lakes and the second largest lake in Ireland (after Lough Neagh), is situated in Co. Galway in the River Corrib catchment. The lake stretches from outside Galway city to within three kilometres of Maam Cross, a distance of over 50 kilometres. The main rivers draining into Lough Corrib include the Black, Clare, Dooghta, Cregg, Owenriff rivers and the Cong canal which joins Lough Corrib to Lough Mask.

The lake can be divided into two parts: Lower Lough Corrib - a relatively shallow basin underlain by carboniferous limestone in the south (Fig. 1.1), and Upper Lough Corrib - a larger, deeper basin underlain by more acidic granite, schists, shales and sandstones to the north. The lake has a surface area of 16,562Ha (5,042ha Lower Lough and 11,520ha Upper Lough), and has a maximum depth of 42m.

The lake supports 14 protected habitats and six species, including salmon that are listed on Annex I and Annex II respectively of the EU Habitats Directive (NPWS, 2004). It is one of the best game fisheries in the world and is internationally renowned for its brown trout fishing.

Lough Corrib has been included in Inland Fisheries Irelands long term water quality monitoring programme of lake ecosystems since 1975. The lake is currently classified as mesotrophic.



Lough Sheelin, Counties Cavan, Meath and Westmeath

Lough Sheelin is situated in counties Cavan, Meath and Westmeath in the Inny sub-catchment of the River Shannon Basin District. The lake is located north-east of Finnea, Co. Westmeath. It is seven kilometres long and has a surface area of 1,900 hectares. The River Inny flows through the lake. Lough Sheelin is a relatively shallow lake with a mean depth of 4.4m, a maximum depth of 15m, and 51% of the lake is less than 5m in depth. The geology of the catchment is predominantly Carboniferous limestone, but Silurian/Ordovician formations underlie the western and northern drainage basin.

The lake is eutrophic.

FIGURE 4-1 NATURAL HERITAGE DESIGNATED SITES REPUBLIC AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

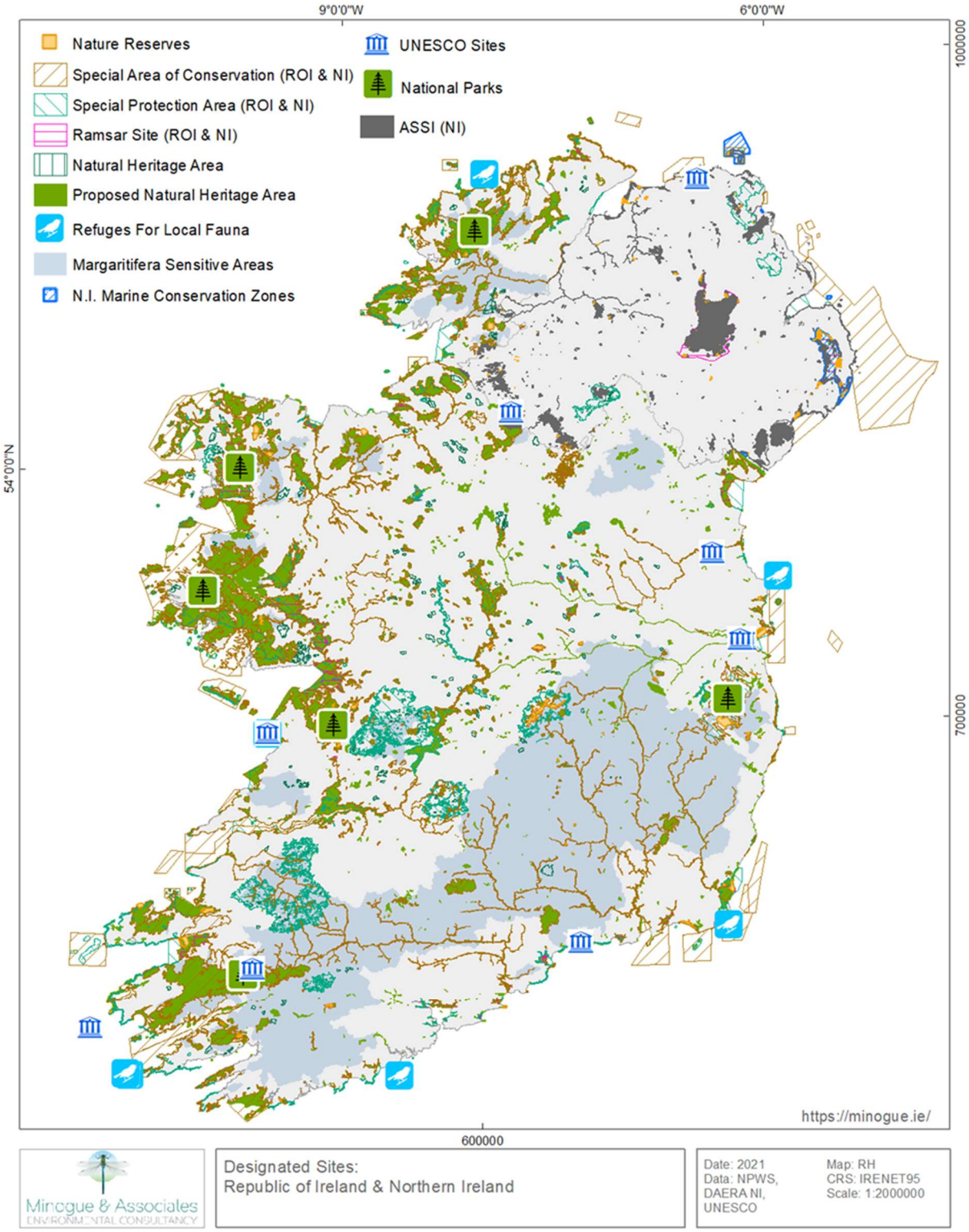
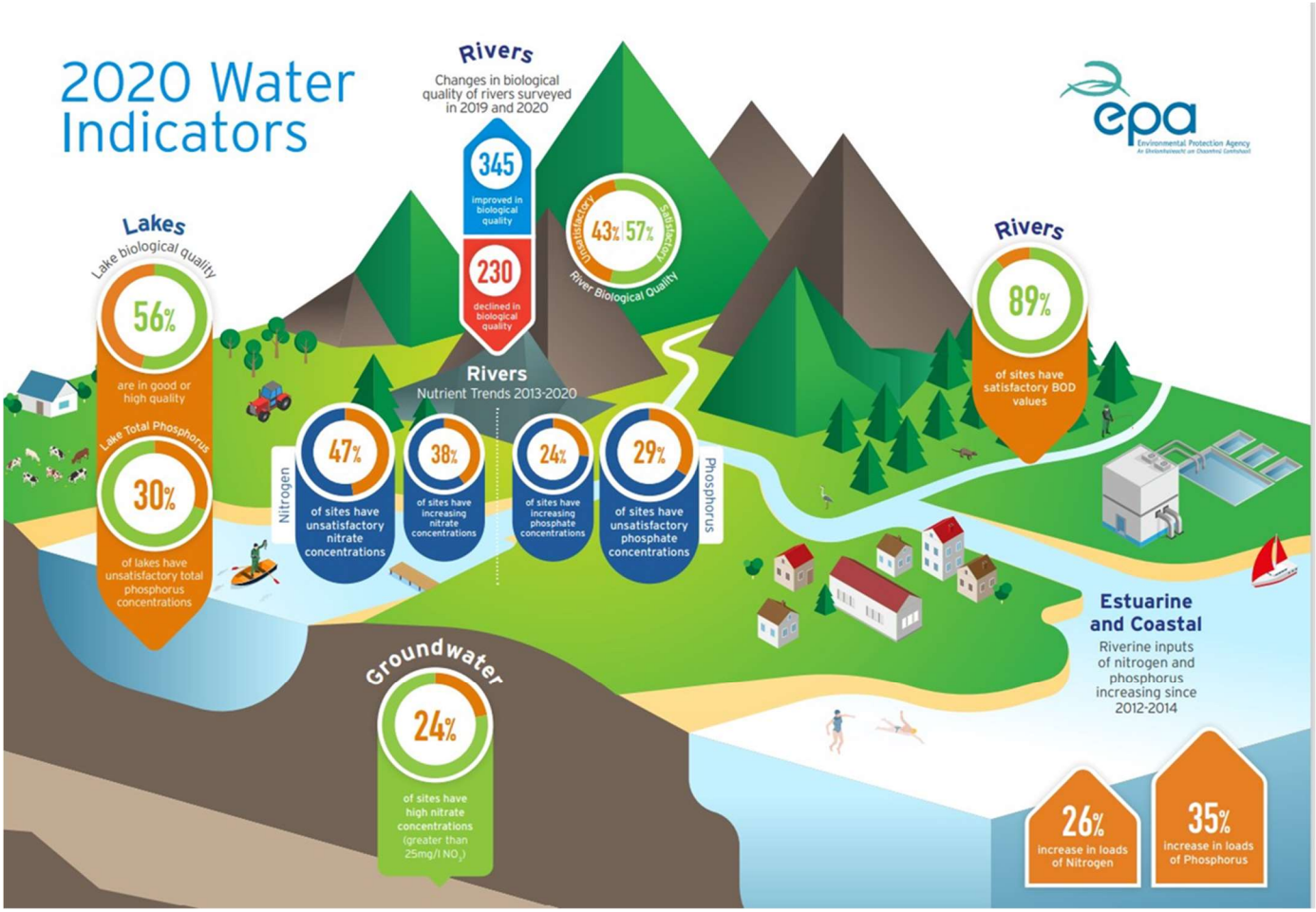


FIGURE 4-2 WATER QUALITY IN IRELAND 2020 KEY INDICATORS



4.3 Inter-relationships and approach to assessment

The SEA ER will describe and assess the potential for in-combination and cumulative effects of the draft plan as well as to prepare an environmental sensitivity map(ESM) that will assist in identifying areas relevant to the plan area.

Potential significant environmental effects, if unmitigated, and likely significant environmental effects, if any, will be identified by the SEA and assessed. Such effects will include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Where appropriate, seasonality will be considered in determining relevant effects. When assessing cumulative effects consideration will be given to any outputs from national studies on cumulative effects in SEA.

4.3.1 Consideration of Alternatives

One of the critical roles of the SEA is to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative development scenarios, in this case the draft plan. These alternative development scenarios should meet the following considerations:

- Consider the geographical scope, hierarchy, and objectives of the plan –**be realistic**
- Be based on socio-economic and environmental evidence – **be reasonable**

- Be capable of being delivered within the plan timeframe and resources –**be implementable**
- Be technically and institutionally feasible – **be viable**

The reason for assessing alternatives to the draft plan is to determine if the significant adverse effects of the proposed plan can be reduced or avoided. Therefore, the alternatives should be "reasonable". The term reasonable is not defined in the Directive. However, considering the EPA guidance, for an alternative to be considered reasonable for the purposes of this SEA, it must meet the objectives of the plan

The consideration and assessment of Alternative Scenarios will be developed and explored in the Environmental Report.

4.4 Scoping of environmental topics.

The following environmental parameters are listed in the SEA Regulations. Each parameter has been considered with an overarching question of significance:

- Is this an issue that will change/affect the physical proposals of the plan and policy framework?

Where the answer was yes, the parameter is scoped in. **Table 4.2** below presents this information along with proposed data sources.

TABLE 4-1 SEA PARAMETERS –SCOPING IN OR OUT.

Topic	Scoped in	Data sources
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Yes	Aerial photography Habitat Surveys and other primary research NPWS datasets Bat Conservation Ireland dataset Birdwatch Ireland Consultation with statutory bodies IFI data EPA catchment data EPA ESM tool and AA tool. Natura Impact Reports of County Development Plans
Population and Human Health	Yes	Census 2016/2022 Data Pobal data IFI data Institute of Public health HSE Local authority Development Plans SEA and NIRs reports
Water Resources	Yes	Irish Water IFI Data EPA catchment data Water Framework Directive Data Consultation with statutory bodies
Soil and geology	Yes	Geological Survey of Ireland Historical mapping

		HSE
Material Assets	No	No interactions at significant strategic scale identified for this topic. Material assets through water and wastewater will be addressed through Water Resources
Climate Change, Air Quality and Noise	Yes- climate change	EPA
Cultural Assets	No	No interactions identified at significant, strategic scale
Landscape	Yes	County LCAs Relevant County Development Plans
Inter-relationships	Yes	Ecosystem Services Mapping (NPWS) EPA ESM web tool

5 Next Steps

As part of this SEA Scoping process, Inland Fisheries Ireland will also be undertaking statutory consultation with the appropriate environmental authorities in Ireland. In addition, transboundary consultation will be undertaken with Northern Ireland. The following consultees will be a part of the scoping of the SEA for the draft plan, there will be statutory consultation with the designated consultees for SEA in Ireland as shown below. In addition, informal transboundary consultation will be undertaken with Northern Ireland as part of scoping.

Consultee

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of the Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Development Applications Unit, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Northern Ireland: Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Annex A: List of key plans and programmes

Table A0-1 International and EU Legislation, Plans/Programmes

International and EU Legislation

- SEA Directive - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment, (2001/42/EC) 2001
- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC) (97/11/EC), 1985
- EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, (2009/147/EC) 1979. Known as the Birds Directive
- EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, (92/43/EEC), 1992 known as the Habitats Directive
- Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as amended
- Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC
- EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
- EU Shellfish Waters Directive (EU 2006/113)
- EU Bathing Water Directive (revised) 2006 (2006/7/EC)
- Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)
- Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021-The Climate Law
- Green Deal for Europe 2050
- EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030
- 8th Environmental Action Programme
- SEA Protocol for the ESPOO Convention (2010)
- The Stockholm Convention
- The European Landscape Convention 2000
- The Aarhus Convention
- Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals [1983]
- Bern Convention on European Wildlife and Natural Habitats [1982]
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [1971]

International and EU Legislation

- UN Convention on Biological Diversity [1992]
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030
- Paris Agreement COP21 [adopted 2015]

Table A-0-2 National Legislation, Plans/Programmes

National Legislation, Plans and Programmes

- Inland Fisheries Act 2010
- The Fisheries Acts 1939 - 2003 Foreshore Acts 1933 – 2014 [comprise a collective series of Acts
- Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, (S.I. 435 of 2004) as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011
- The Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011 as amended)
- European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003, (S.I. 722 of 2003)
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Water) Regulations (S.I. 272 of 2009)
- Quality of Bathing Waters Regulations 1988 (S.I. 84 of 1988) as amended
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021
- National Planning Framework (DHLGH)
- National Marine Planning Framework (DAFM)
- Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies (RA)
- National CFRAMS Programme (OPW)
- National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (DHLGH)
- FoodWise 2025 / Agri Food Strategy 2030 (DAFM)
- National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development
- Draft Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 Sites (NPWS)
- National Landscape Strategy (DHLGH)
- Heritage Ireland 2030 (in preparation, DHLGH)
- National Biodiversity Plan (DHLGH)
- Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme / Draft Water Resources Management Plan (Irish Water)
- Climate Action Plan 2021(DECC)
- Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies and Low Carbon Roadmaps (DECC)

- Nitrates action plan (DHLGH)
- The National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 (DECC)
- Northern Ireland Second Cycle River Basin Management Plans 2015-2021
- Northern Ireland Joint Fisheries Statement (2022 draft)