

# Waters of



## Shournagh Demonstration Catchment

Public Meeting, Blarney

10<sup>th</sup> October 2022



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



# Meeting Format



*Shournagh River © Catherine Seale, LAWPRO*

- ~ 1 hr meeting
- ~ 30 minutes presentations
- ~ 30 minutes discussion/ Q&A

## Hosted by:

Paul Duffy, GIS & Data Manager, Waters of LIFE

Catherine Seale, Community Waters Officer, LAWPRO

Mairead Shore, Catchment Scientist, LAWPRO

## Apologies

Anne Goggin Project Manager, Waters of LIFE

Cormac McConigley, Project Ecologist, Waters of LIFE





# Waters of



## Context of The Waters of LIFE project

Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer, LAWPRO

10<sup>th</sup> October 2022



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# Presentation Topics



*Shournagh River © Catherine Seale, LAWPRO*

- What is the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan?
- What is Water Quality Status?
- Why is High Status Important?



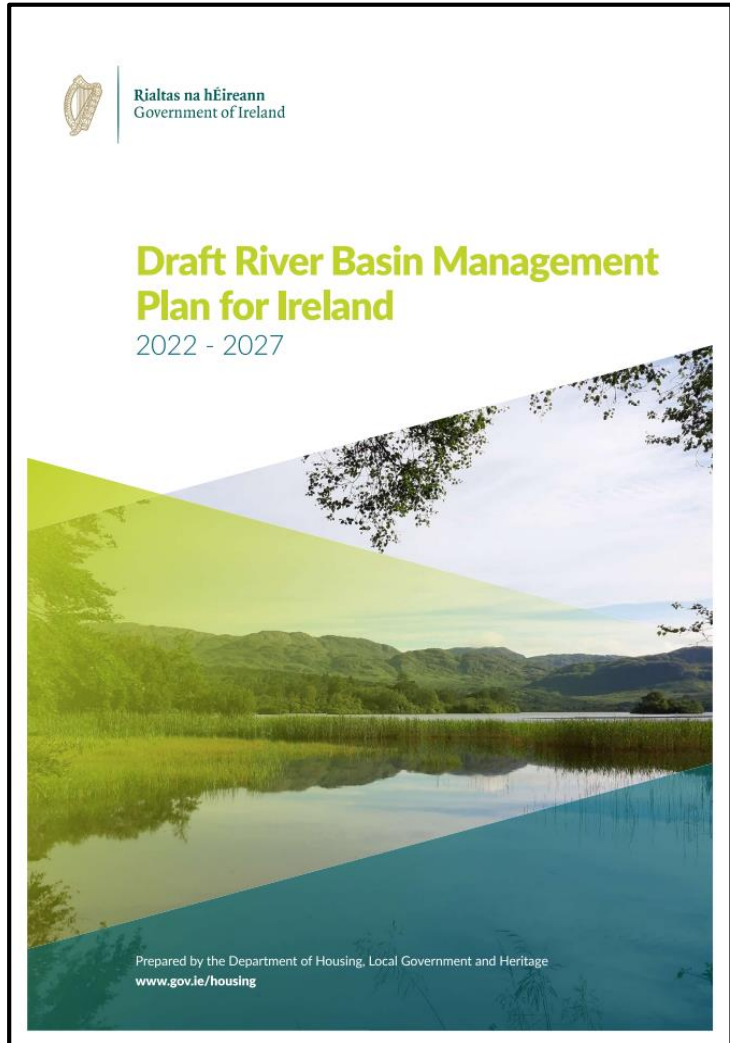
# What is the Water Framework Directive

- Legislation introduced by the EU in 2000
- Main objectives of the Water Framework Directive
  - **Protect** High status where it exists
  - **Prevent** deterioration in status
  - **Restore** all waterbodies at less than Good Status to at least Good status by 2027
- Required all member states to assign status to all water bodies in their territories
- Identify the main pressures impacting on these waterbodies
- 5 • Develop a plan to address the pressures on a sectoral basis to achieve the objectives of the WFD

*Shournagh at Bawnafinny Bridge  
© David Hegarty/Paul O'Callaghan*



# River Basin Management Plan



- Member states are required to prepare a River Basin Management Plan or Plans outlining how they will meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- This plan is updated every six years.
- Ireland 3<sup>rd</sup> River Basin Management Plan 2022 to 2027 is due to be adopted later this year.
- This plan highlights a worrying decline in surface water status in Ireland and outlines measure it considers necessary to address this.
- The Waters of LIFE project is one of the measures outlined in the plan in respect of High Status water bodies, along with the Blue Dots Catchment Programme.



# What is Water Quality Status?

Status reflects how clean the water is and the health of the habitat

<i>European Union Water Framework Directive</i>
High (Q5, Q4-5)
Good (Q4)
Moderate (Q3-4)
Poor (Q3,Q2-3)
Bad (Q2 or less)





## Why is High Status Important?

- Health and wellbeing through connection with the natural environment
- Sense of place and pride in local community
- Source of clean drinking water that require minimal treatment
- Supports angling and angling tourism
- Reservoirs of Biodiversity that can be absent from lower status waters
- Habitat for rare and endangered species such as Fresh Water Pearl Mussel



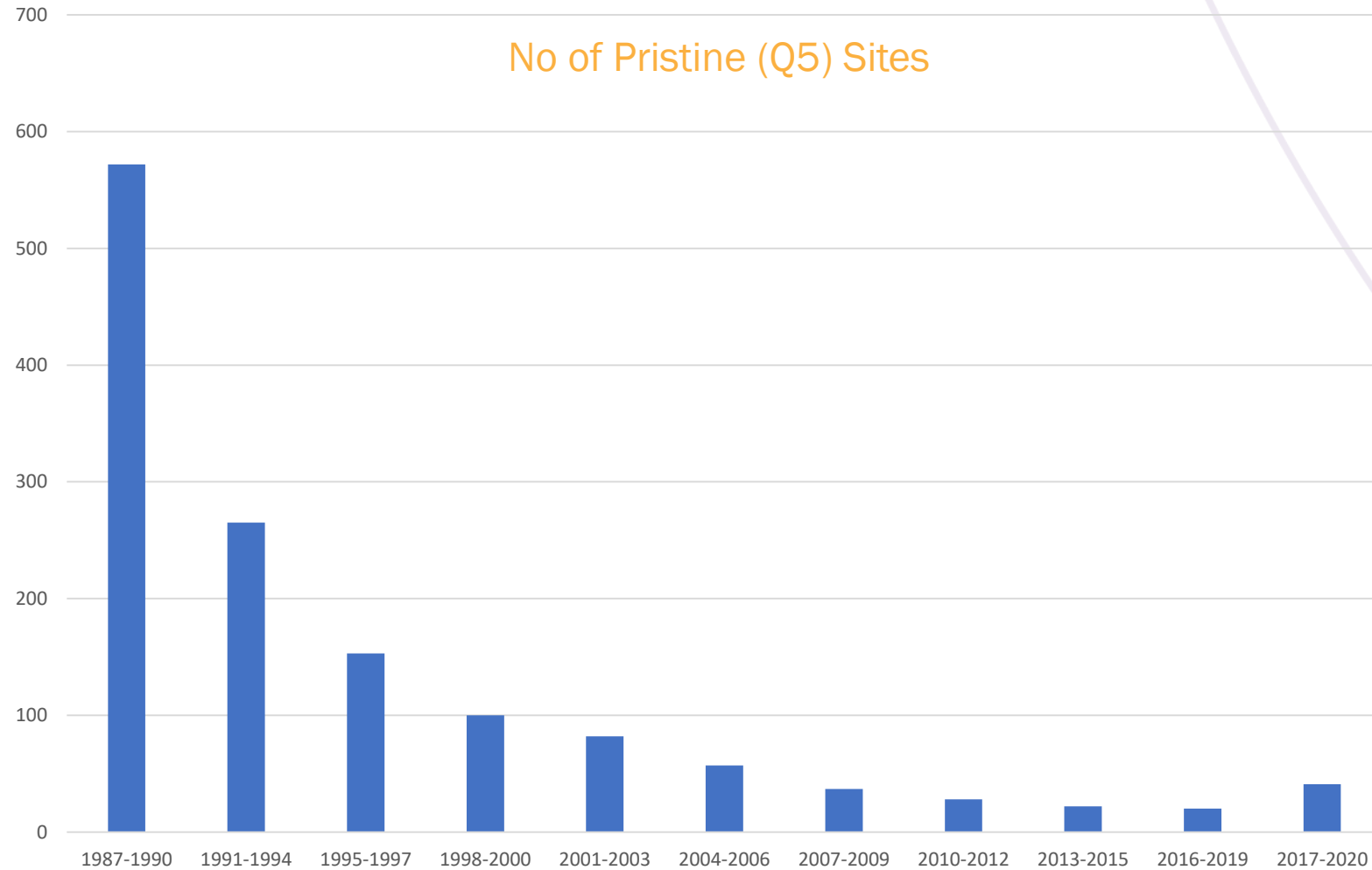
*Shournagh River © Catherine Seale, LAWPRO*



*(This is particularly the case with Q5 or Pristine Waters)*



# What's Been Happening to Our Pristine Rivers?





# Waters of



## Overview of the Waters of LIFE Project

Paul Duffy, GIS & Data Manager, Waters of LIFE

10<sup>th</sup> October 2022



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# What is an EU LIFE Integrated Project?

- The LIFE programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action.
- LIFE began in 1992 and to date there have been five phases of the programme.
- LIFE has co-financed some 4600 projects, with a total contribution of approximately 6.5 billion Euros to the protection of the environment.
- EU LIFE Integrated Projects are different from traditional LIFE Projects in a number of ways:
  - The support authorities in EU Member States to implement regional/national plans such as the River Basin Management Plan.
  - They tend to be larger scale and run for longer periods of time
  - There is a strong emphasis on influencing policy and on leveraging complementary funding.





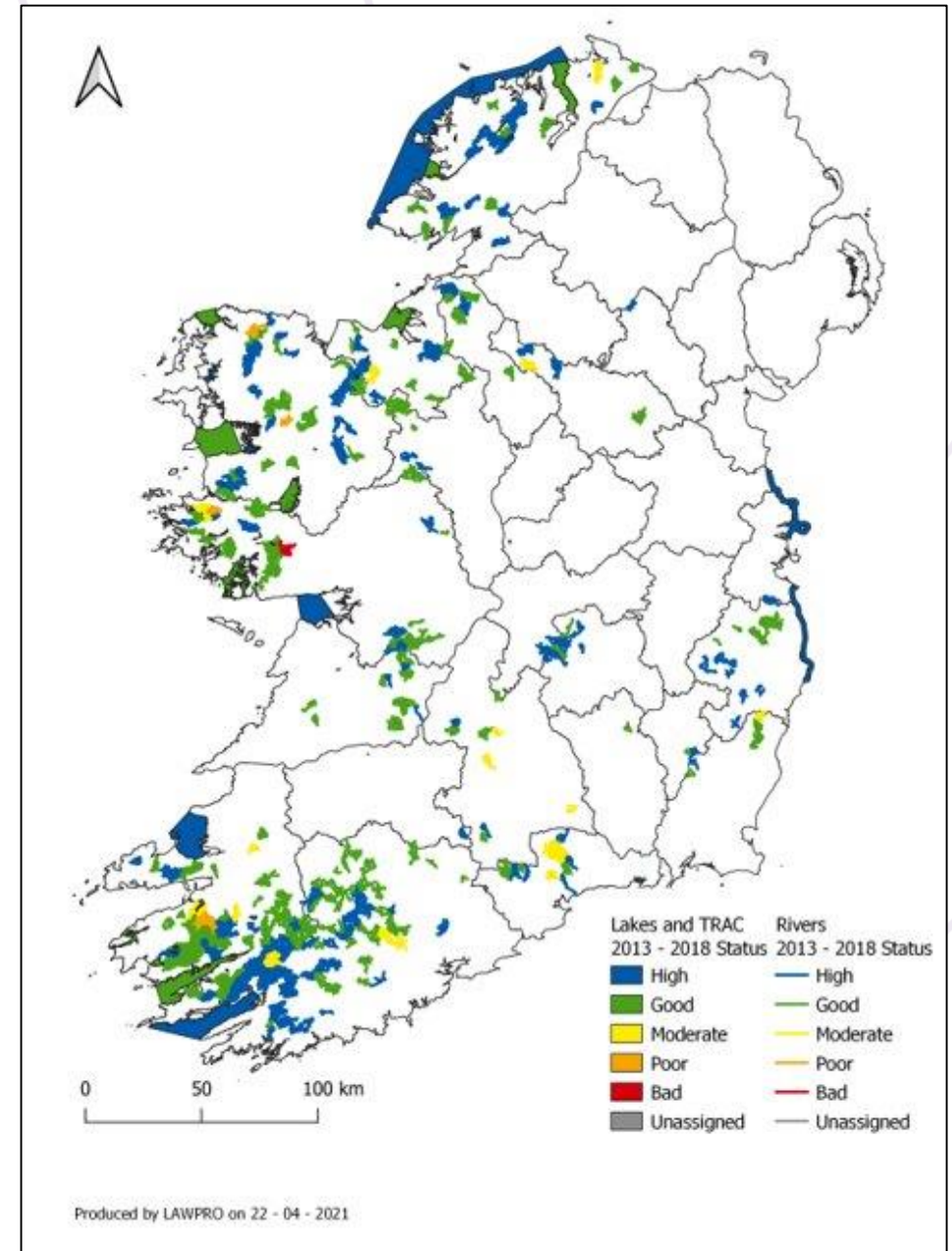
# Waters of LIFE Integrated Project

- The main objective is to protect and restore **High Status Objective River Waters Bodies**

*(High Status Objective = Rivers that are at high status or that have recently fallen from high status)*

- Ireland has 319 High Status Objective Waters Bodies of these only 140 are currently at high status. The others need to be restored.

Status	No HSO Rivers
High	140
Good	155
Moderate	18
Poor	5
Bad	1

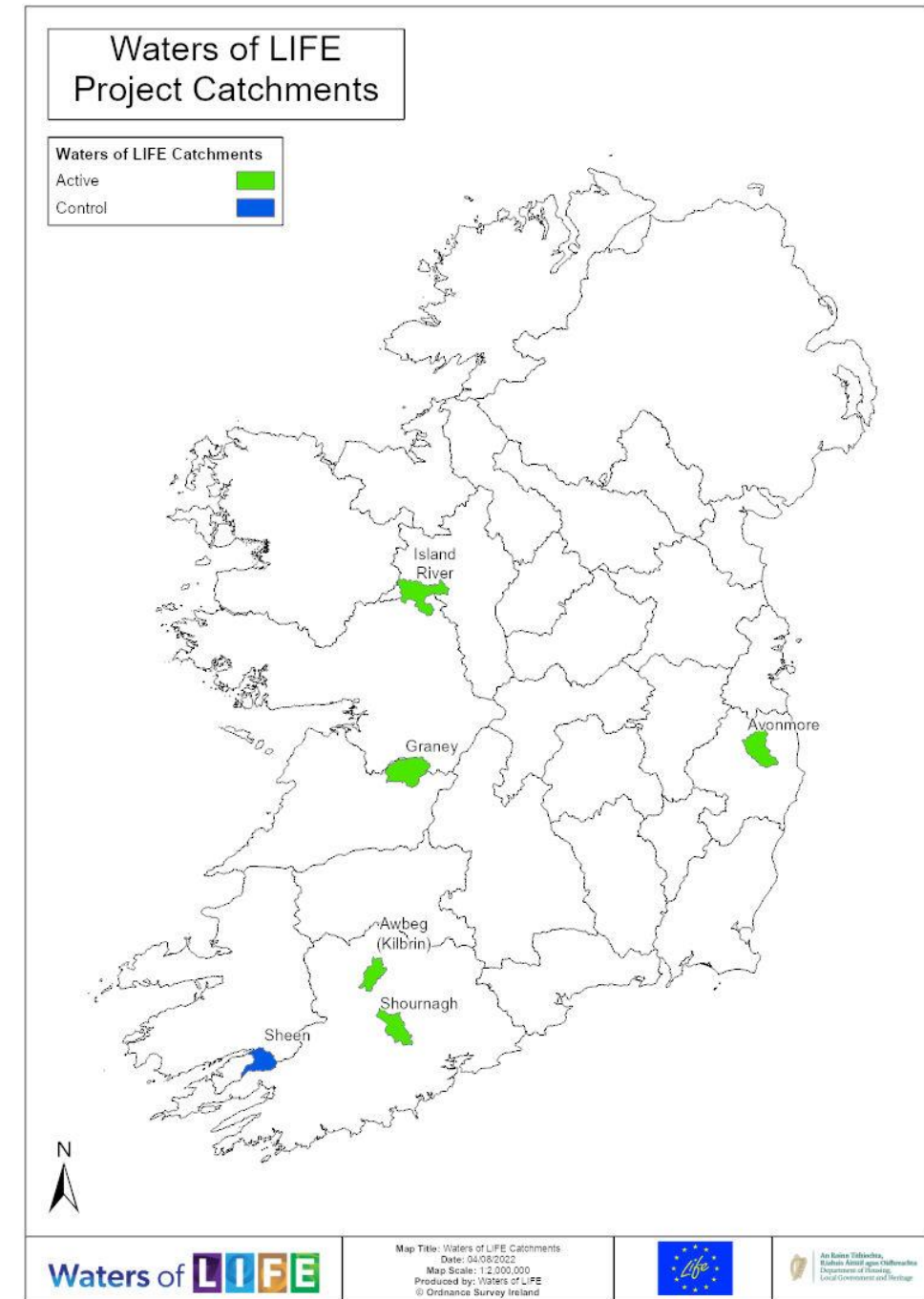


Distribution of HSO Water Bodies



# Waters of LIFE Integrated Project

- It aims to do this by
  - Improving our understanding of our 319 high status objective rivers, their landscape features and the causes of change in status
  - Selecting 5 active demonstration catchments and one control catchment.
  - Working with local landowners, communities and other stakeholders to co develop plans for these rivers – collaborative approach.
  - Testing measures to mitigate pressures
  - Incentivising land managers to take positive action for water quality by developing a results based agricultural payments scheme where agriculture is a pressure on water equality.



# Project Partners, Budget and Timeframe

## Partners

### Lead Partner

- Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage

### Other Partners

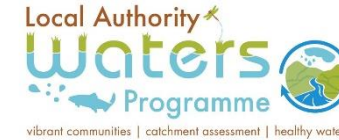
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Teagasc
- Forest Service
- LAWPRO
- Coillte
- EPA
- Local Development Companies

## Budget

- €20.2m with EU contribution of €9.5m

## Timeframe

- The project will run to March 2028, with practical implementation beginning in 2024.



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



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



# Overview of Project Actions

- Carry out more detailed catchment assessments.
- Develop a catchment management plan for each of the active demonstration catchments
- Develop a water quality monitoring programme
- Develop the Results Based Agricultural Payments (RBAPS) Scheme in consultation with stakeholders
- Deliver training to advisors and landowners
- Develop information and awareness programme for schools, communities and other stakeholders.
- Draft detailed action plans in collaboration with landowners across all sectors.

15 Implement measures and monitor effectiveness



*The Shournagh © Catherine Seale, LAWPRO*



Thank you for listening



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*With the contribution of the LIFE programme of the European Union*