

River Basin Management Plans for Northern Ireland

Kerry Anderson (NIEA)

Overview

- WMU Reorganisation
- Northern Ireland River Basin Districts
- Current Status
- Pressures and Measures
- Partnership Working
- The Future

Water Management Unit

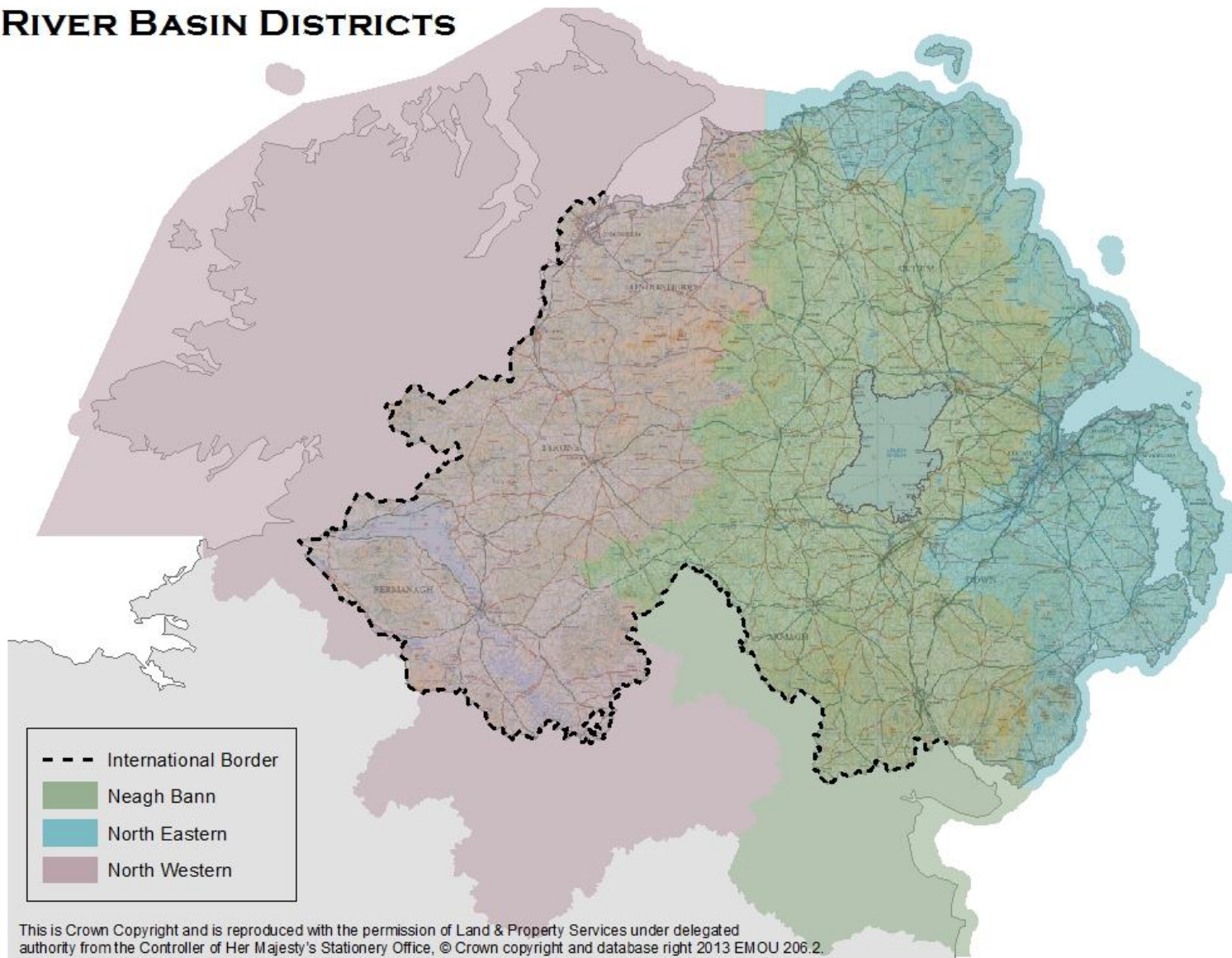
Before 1 April
2015

- Regulation Group
- River Basin Planning Group
- Freshwater Group
- Water Chemistry
- Business Group
- Regional Operations and Agricultural Regulation

After 1 April
2015

- North West River Basis District
 - Regulation
 - Catchment Management
 - Agricultural Regulation
 - Pollution Response
 - Field Staff
- Neagh Bann RBD
- North East RBD
- Freshwater Group
- Water Chemistry
- Business Group

RIVER BASIN DISTRICTS



Northern Ireland
Environment Agency

NORTH WESTERN

Draft River Basin Management Plan

December 2014



22nd Dec 2014 - The Environment Minister launched a six-month consultation on draft second cycle River Basin Management Plans for Northern Ireland.

The consultation runs for six months to 22 June 2015

The Department will publish final second cycle plans by 22 December 2015

The final plans will cover a planning period of six years until 2021

Available on NIEA website, hard copies can be requested by contacting NIEA

Northern Ireland Environment Agency - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.doeni.gov.uk/nia/

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Information for

- Business & Industry
- Teachers & Pupils
- Researchers & Consultants
- Farmers & Landowners

land water pollution control waste and resources

built heritage conserving biodiversity protected areas places to visit

Welcome to the NIEA Website.

Our strategic objective is to create prosperity and well-being through Environment and Heritage excellence.

Topical Issues

- Prosperity Agreements
- Consultation on Waste Classification and Assessment
- Drinking Water Quality Report 2013
- Water Management Facts and Figures Booklet - 2014

News

- Durkan and O'Neill extend Nitrates Derogation Applications deadline to 31 May
- Top Marks - 100% record as every school an Eco-School-Durkan
- Durkan congratulates Eco-Schools Programme on its' 20th Anniversary

Most Popular

- Buildings Database
- Waste Management Licensing
- Septic Tanks and Domestic Discharges
- Definition of Packaging
- Waste Management Public Registers

2015-2021 Water Framework Directive

River Basin Plans now available

Marine Litter Watch

Consultation on home page of NIEA website:

www.doeni.gov.uk/nia/

Proposed new water body boundaries and designation changes

2016 – 2021 Water Body Changes

Water bodies are the basic management units for reporting and assessing compliance with the WFD environmental objectives.

For the first river basin plan in 2009 - 623 surface water bodies were delineated for Northern Ireland.

During the first cycle we have been able to improve on our water body sets through better understanding of catchment characteristics and increased knowledge through river walks, routine monitoring and targeted LMA investigation work.

This has resulted in changes to the number of water bodies within the North Western RBD.

From 2016 there will be 497 water bodies delineated within Northern Ireland.

The total area covered by the Plan remains the same.

Number of surface water bodies in first and second cycle within Northern Ireland

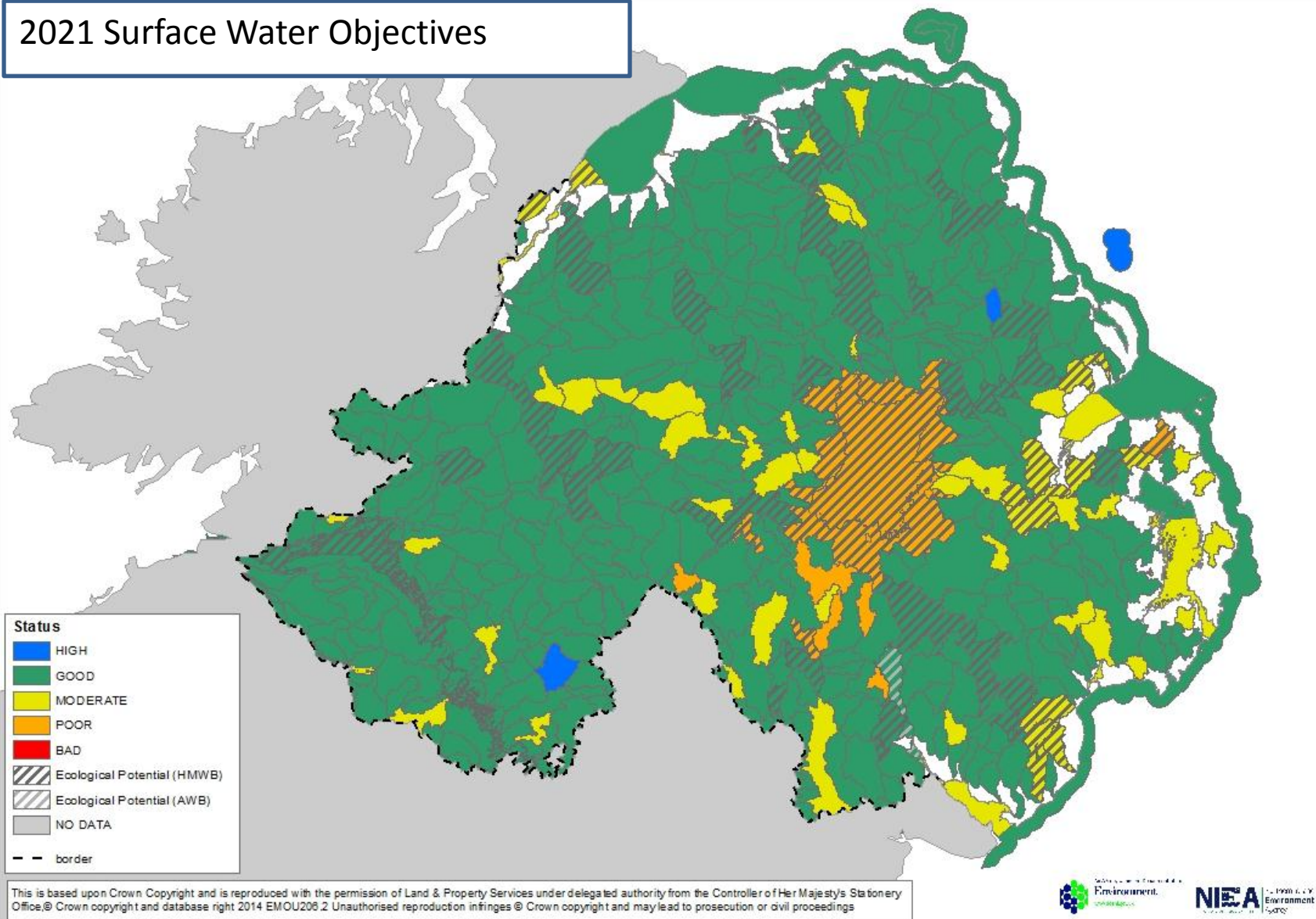
Water Body Type	No of water bodies	
	First RBMP	Second RBMP
Rivers	575	450
Lakes	21	21
Transitional	7	7
Coastal	20	19

Number of HMWBs in first and second cycle within Northern Ireland

Water Body Type	No of HMWBs	
	First RBMP	Second RBMP
Rivers	54	46
Lakes	12	11
Transitional	6	5
Coastal	2	2

The State of Our Water Environment

2021 Surface Water Objectives



Surface water bodies in Northern Ireland at good or better and less than good status for 575 water bodies and standards

2014 Status of surface water bodies	No of water bodies	% of water bodies
Good or Better Status	133	21
Less than Good Status	416	66
Good Ecological Potential or Better*	5	1.5
Moderate Ecological Potential or Worse	68	11
No Data	1	0.5

*HMWBS and AWBs are classified according to their Ecological Potential

Surface water bodies in Northern Ireland at good or better and less than good status for second cycle water body sets (450 water bodies and standards)

2014 Status of surface water bodies	No of water bodies	% of water bodies
Good or Better Status	157	32
Less than Good Status	272	55
Good Ecological Potential or Better	4	0.5
Moderate Ecological Potential or Worse	61	12
To be assessed	3	0.5

Targets for surface water bodies in Northern Ireland from 2014-2027

Surface water status	2014	2021	2027
Good or better	161	419	488
Less than good	333	78	9

Pressures and Proposed Measures

Key Pressures in Northern Ireland

- **Diffuse and point source pollution**

- Agriculture; sewage & industry; forestry; sediment; urban waste; quarries & mines, including oil and gas exploration; waste & contaminated land; chemicals

- **Water quantity & flow**

- Water supply, industry, agriculture, hydropower and flood control

- **Morphology**

- Historical engineering, urban development, public water supply, hydropower, agriculture, forestry

- **Invasive alien species**

Fisheries face all pressures!

Examples of measures to address pressures

- Diffuse and point source pollution - Agriculture

Improvement Required	Actions	Delivery mechanism	Lead Department / Agency	Support Provider	Deadline for delivery of action (year end)
Reduction in nutrient inputs & Reduction in organic waste (organic matter, faecal pathogens, & ammonia)	Measures to address the impact of pollution arising from farmyards, including farmyard audits and farmyard management practice with particular focus of farmyard drainage systems	Farm Inspections	NIEA	DARD	In Place
	Develop modelling tools to help understand the natural dynamics and science of the catchments, including groundwater. This may include further development of the SCIMAP tool which examines diffuse pressures, determines flow pathways and flood risk areas within catchments so that measures can be targeted to manage problem areas	Identification of agricultural and general diffuse critical risk areas using GIS and linking with hydrological significant pathways using SciMAP	NIEA		In Place

Examples of measures to address pressures *contd...*

- Diffuse and point source pollution – Sewage and Industry

Improvement Required	Actions	Delivery mechanism	Lead Department / Agency	Support Provider	Deadline for delivery of action (year end)
Reduction in pollution from sewage	Review consents to discharge on a pilot catchment basis using the SIMCAT model	Programme of priority catchments to be piloted	NIEA		2021
	Introduce flow and priority pollutant monitoring as part of the compliance regulation regime	Programme of compliance projects to be piloted	NIEA		2021
	Further development and implementation of innovative and sustainable measures such as the use of willows to treat effluent from small waste water treatment works and then harvesting for fuel	Negotiations as part of PC15 spending round	NIW/ NIEA		2021
	Controlling sewage gross solids by using separation devices such as screens in unsatisfactory storm overflows	Negotiations as part of PC15 spending round	NIW/ NIEA		2021

Working together to implement the Plan

Water Catchment Partnership

Formed in 2013 in response to excess pesticides being detected at NIW WTWs.

Partnership between several bodies

Actions include:

WCP leaflet and stickers produced

Postal drop to all residents in Derg Catchment

280 door to door engagements

14 farming events attended



Local Partnership Working

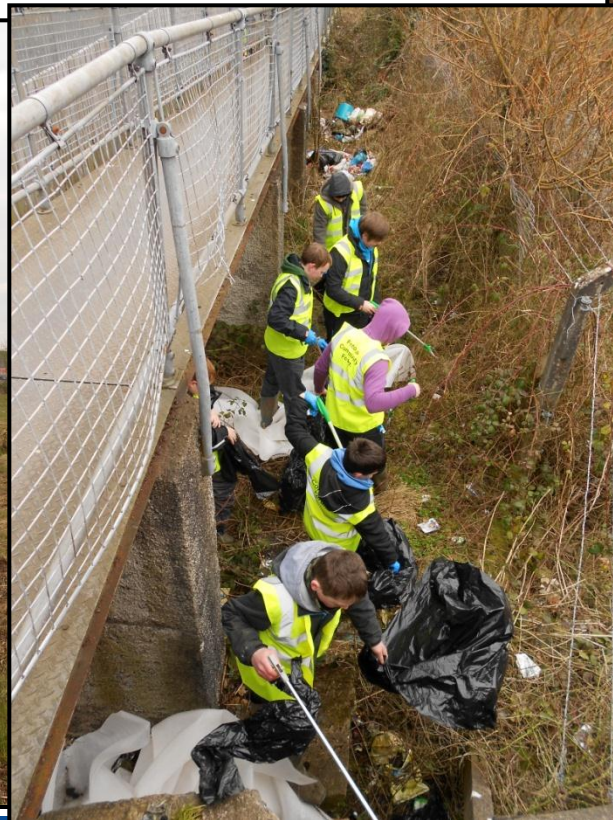
NIEA staff work on a local level with stakeholders to encourage 'ownership' of rivers

This has been assisted by the awarding of grants, for example, NIEL Challenge fund, and NIEA Water Quality Grants

The NIEA Water Quality Grants have been awarded to the value of just under £200,000 to local community groups throughout Northern Ireland - £10,000 max/project

Quiggery River Project

Fencing, litter clean up and revetment



Earls River Restoration Project

Enniskillen Angling Club in partnership with DCAL, EMEC and a local landowner.

The project on a small tributary near Lower Lough Erne resulted in reducing poaching and shading, improving river substrate and restocking with native Lough Erne fish.



31 NIEA Pollution Hotline Signs throughout North West RBD



28/06/2012

River Trusts - Key features

River Trusts –

Charities established to look after ***a whole river*** catchment or area with a number of waterbodies

A grassroots – “bottom up” movement

Involves people who are ‘doers’ with ‘wet feet’

Charitable status opening doors for funding

Working in Partnership with NIEA, LA etc

Contributing to local and EU Objectives



River Trusts

RT Development Officer - Mark Horton

Development Officer can help with:

- Start-up advice and support
- Start-up funding
- Documentation, templates etc
- Technical support
- Routes into national networks
- Help with employment, governance etc
- Regular news, meetings and seminars

www.associationofrivertrusts.org.uk

The Rivers Trust
BREA
231a Orritor Road
Cookstown
Co. Tyrone
BT80 9ND

Tel: 028 867 61515

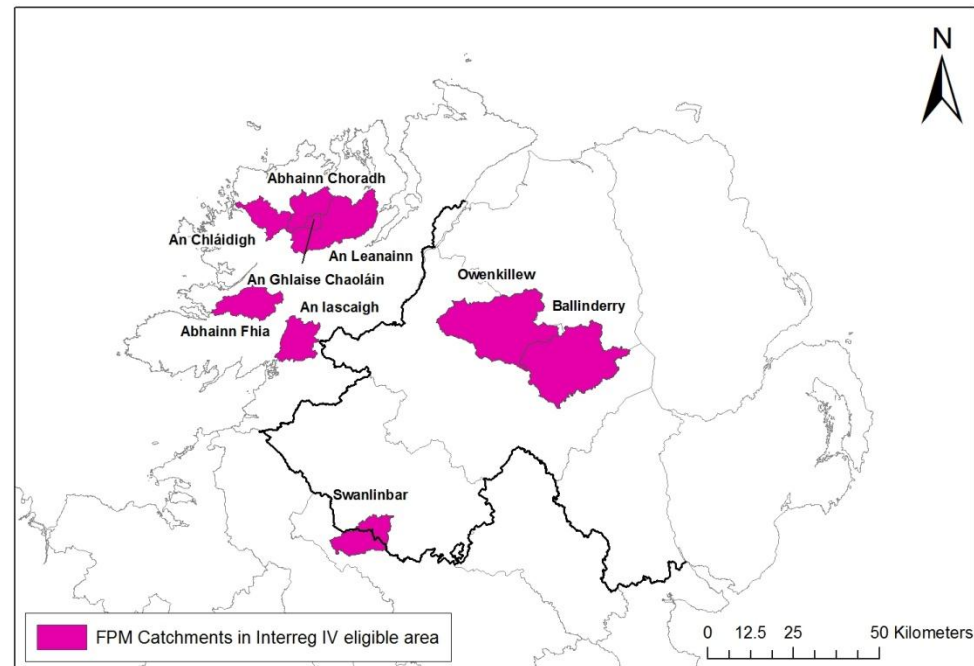
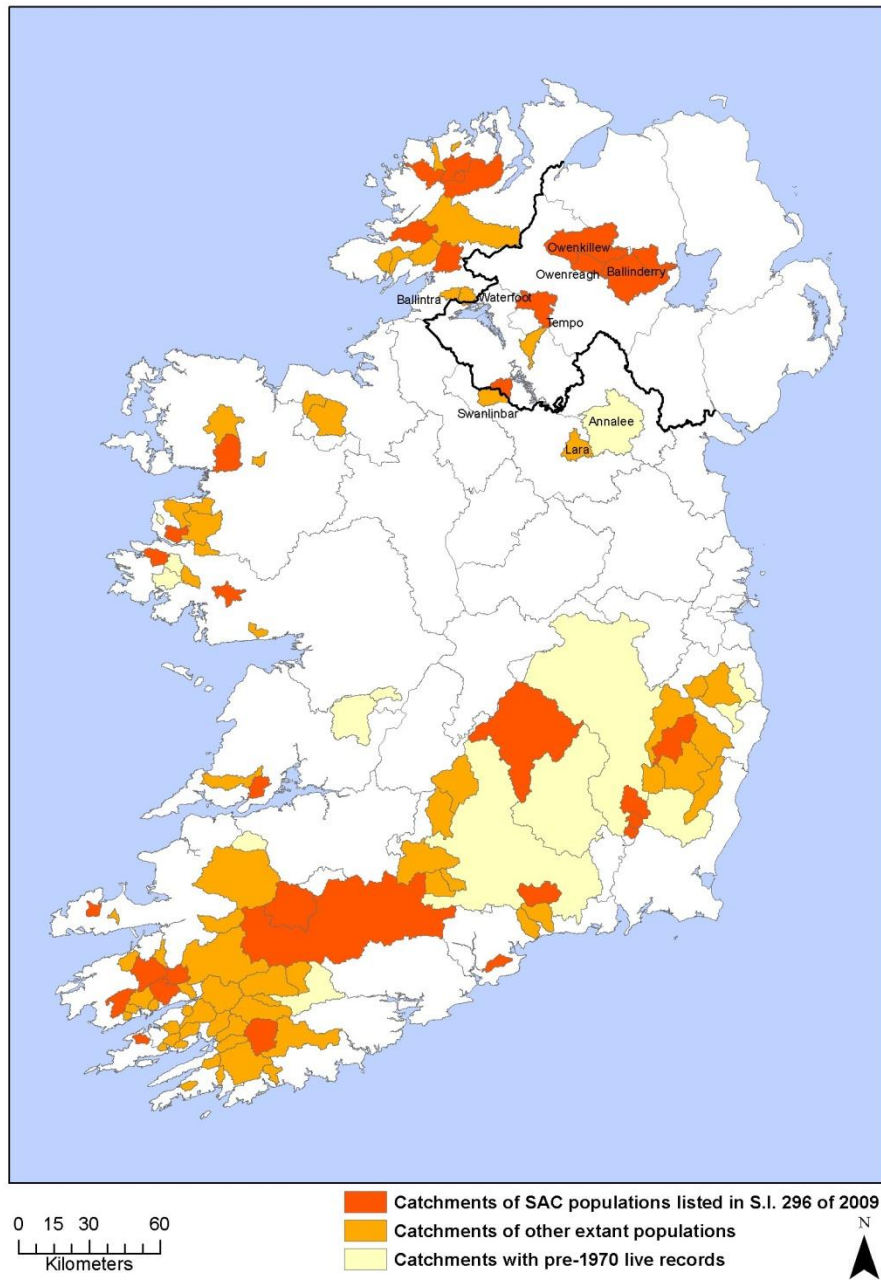
E-mail: mark@theriverstrust.org

***"I am happy to come and meet
with your club or group to talk
about forming a trust in your
river catchment"***

River Trusts

- There are currently 2 Rivers Trusts in the North West RBD:
 - Strule River Trust and;
 - Erne River Trust
- They are still only in the early forming stages

Pearl Mussel locations on the Island of Ireland



River Fly Monitoring Initiative

- A monitoring programme that encourages communities to take ownership of local rivers through regular monitoring
- There are currently 6 River Fly Monitoring Groups in the Northern Ireland:
 - The Faughan Anglers
 - The Pettigoe District Anglers
 - Ballinderry Rivers Trust
 - Six Mile Trust
 - Lagan Rivers Trust
 - Inler Angling Club

The method

- Volunteers trained to use an approved, standardised, methodology
- Monitoring points picked by volunteers
- Trigger levels set by NIEA
- Monitoring carried out on monthly basis
- Data submitted to local project coordinator
- Trigger level breaches varified locally
- Confirmed breeches reported to NIEA for further investigation



Why the need for community water quality monitoring?

- Ongoing intermittent and persistent pollution pressures in river catchment – RMI means more eyes on the river
- Identified the need for a 'local' water quality monitoring group by Trusts and Angling Clubs across NI
- NIEA operational monitoring reduced from annual to 3-year rolling programme



Focusing on the future

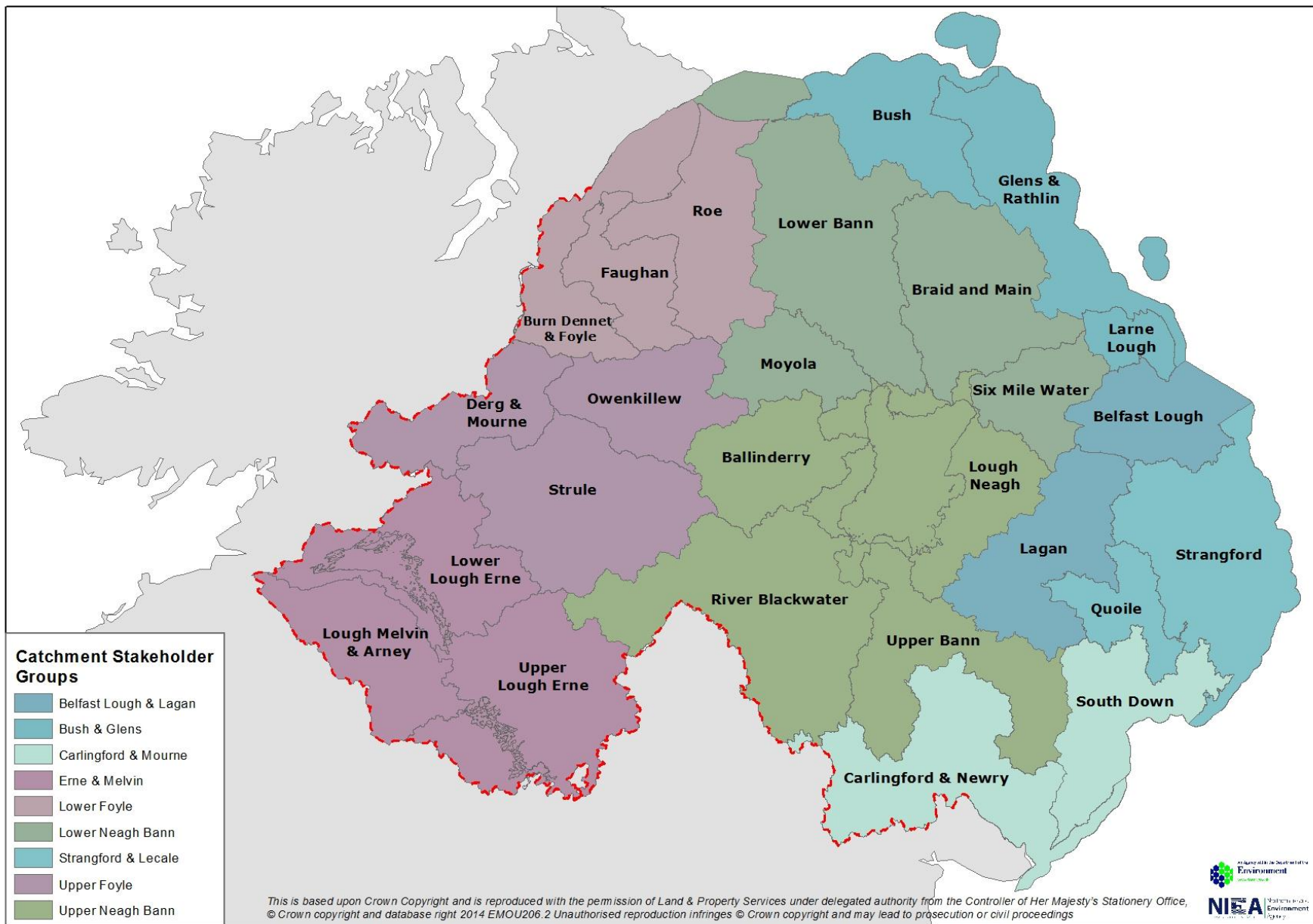
The main challenge in Northern Ireland waterways will be to continue to reduce run-off and nutrient inputs through working with land managers to improve the overall water environment.

Working together with local stakeholders will be a key driver in implementing the Plan.

Putting our new staffing set up to the test.

Working within the financial constraints of the UK Government.

The aim is that by introducing the specific measures highlighted in the plan and working in partnership with other Government bodies and stakeholders we can improve and protect our water environment.



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Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote the natural environment and built heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.



Thank you for listening