

# **EPA Water Conference 2022**

## **18 & 19 May**

### **Galway & Online**

**#epawater2022**







# EPA Water Conference 2022

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## Wednesday / 18 May 2022

### 09:30 – 17:00

#### Session 1: Setting the scene

**Session Chair:** Mary Gurrie  
*Programme Manager, EPA*

09:30  
**Opening address**  
Laura Burke  
*Director General,  
Environmental Protection Agency*

09:45  
**Water quality in Ireland**  
Dr Eimear Cotter  
*Director of Evidence and Assessment,  
Environmental Protection Agency*

10:10  
**Ireland's next River Basin  
Management Plan 2022–2027**  
Feargal Ó'Coigligh  
*Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage*

10:35  
**Panel discussion**

11:00  
**Tea/Coffee Break**

#### Session 2: Agriculture

**Session Chair:** Mary Gurrie  
*Programme Manager, EPA*

11:30  
**Nitrates and water quality across the EU**  
Gorka Barrio Montoya  
*Policy Officer (Nitrates Directive), EU DG  
Environment, Land Use and Management*

11:55  
**Achieving water quality objectives  
through regulation and incentivisation**  
Dr Leanne Roche  
*Nitrates & Biodiversity Division,  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*

12:15  
**ASSAP — A good start but a lot more still to do**  
Pat Murphy  
*Head of Environment Knowledge Transfer,  
Teagasc*

12:35  
**Panel discussion**

13:00  
**Lunch**

#### Session 3: Hydromorphology

**Session Chair:** Noel Byrne  
*Programme Manager, EPA*

14:00  
**Flood Risk Management in  
a changing environment**  
Mark Adamson  
*Head of Risk Management and Climate  
Adaptation Division, Flood Risk Management  
Services, Office of Public Works*

14:20  
**Assessing physical barriers to fish migration**  
Brian Coghlan  
*Research Officer, Inland Fisheries Ireland*

14:40  
**Restoring fish passage in the  
Lower River Shannon**  
Marq Redeker  
*Principal, CDM Smith*

15:00  
**Panel discussion**

15:20  
**Tea/Coffee**

**Register: [ti.to/waterconference/2022](https://ti.to/waterconference/2022)**

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## Session 4: Health and water services

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**Session Chair:** Noel Byrne  
*Programme Manager, EPA*

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15.40  
**Research – current and emerging concerns for water and health**  
Dr Anne Nolan  
*Associate Research Professor,  
Economic and Social Research Institute*

16.00  
**Irish Water wastewater investment plans and future needs**  
Ted O'Reilly  
*Asset Planning Lead, Irish Water*

16.20  
**Addressing significant pressures on water quality: enforcement approaches**  
Jim Moriarty & Becci Cantrell  
*EPA*

16.40  
**Panel discussion**

17.00  
**Close of Day 1**

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## Thursday / 19 May 2022 09:30 – 13:00

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### Session 5: Policy and people

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**Session Chair:** David Flynn  
*Principal Advisor – Water, Department of  
Housing, Local Government and Heritage*

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09.30  
**Water in Europe: Towards sustainable solutions**  
Dr Hans Bruyninckx  
*Executive Director,  
European Environment Agency*

10.00  
**The public perception of water quality**  
Ella McSweeney  
*Journalist*

10.20  
**Combining trust and science: the group water scheme approach to integrated catchment management**  
Sean Corrigan  
*National Federation of Group Water Schemes*

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10.40  
**Panel discussion**

11.00  
**Tea/Coffee Break**

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### Session 6: Local measures and solutions in action

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**Session Chair:** David Flynn  
*Principal Advisor – Water, Department of  
Housing, Local Government and Heritage*

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11.30  
**Progress with the Areas for Action, data sharing and the LAWPRO referrals process**  
Gary O'Connell  
*Catchments Manager,  
Border Region, LAWPRO*

11.50  
**Improving bathing water quality in Lough Ennell**  
Jonathan Deane  
*Senior Engineer for Water,  
Environment and Climate Change,  
Westmeath County Council*

12.00  
**Steps to build in Nature Based Solutions in a congested Public Realm Project Area**  
Leonore O'Neill  
*Senior Executive Officer,  
Ennis Municipal District,  
Clare County Council*

12.10  
**Sliabh Beagh habitat restoration. Co-benefits for the sites water quality.**  
Dr Rory Sheehan  
*Climate Action Co-Ordinator,  
Louth County Council*  
Paul Sherlock  
*Collaborative Action for the Nature Network  
(CANN project), Monaghan County Council*

12.20  
**Panel discussion**

12.45  
**Closing address**  
Dr Eimear Cotter  
*Director of Evidence and Assessment,  
Environmental Protection Agency*

13.00  
**Lunch / Close of Day 2**

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# Speakers

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## Mary Gurrie

Mary Gurrie is Programme Manager of the EPA's Water Programme in the Office of Evidence and Assessment which includes the hydrometrics and groundwater, ecological monitoring, and catchments teams. Mary has worked in the EPA for almost 23 years.



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## Laura Burke

Laura Burke is the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), appointed in 2011 and served as a Director within the EPA since 2004. As Director General she has the responsibility to lead and strategically manage the EPA. Laura is the Chair of the European Environment Agency (EEA) Management Board. Prior to joining the EPA, she worked in the private sector. Laura is a graduate chemical engineer of University College Dublin (UCD), holds an MSc from Trinity College, Dublin, is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland and is a Chartered Director. In 2016 Laura was awarded the UCD Engineering Graduates Association (EGA) Distinguished Graduate Award.



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## Dr Eimear Cotter

Dr Eimear Cotter was appointed in 2017 as Director of the EPA initially with responsibility for the Office of Environmental Sustainability. She is currently Director of the Office of Evidence and Assessment. She previously worked in the EPA and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. Eimear holds a BA (Mod) in chemistry from Trinity College Dublin, a PhD in atmospheric chemistry from Oxford University and an MBA from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School.



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## Feargal Ó Coigligh

Feargal Ó Coigligh is Assistant Secretary at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government heading up the Water Division of the Department. He previously served as Assistant Secretary in the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht where he headed up both the Heritage and Culture Divisions of that Department in successive periods. During his time in charge of the Culture Division he had responsibility for commemorations as part of the *Decade of Centenaries* including the successful *Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme*.

In the past he has worked on land-use planning policy, the reform of the local government system in Ireland, on modernising waste management policy – including the introduction of Europe's first levy on plastic bags, and as an adviser to the Minister for the Environment.



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## Gorka Barrio Montoya

Policy officer in the unit Land use and management. Member of the team working on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive. Directorate-General for Environment. European Commission.



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## Dr Leanne Roche

Agricultural Inspector with the Nitrates and Biodiversity Division with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Main responsibilities are on the development and implementation of Ireland's Nitrates Regulations and Nitrates Derogation working in conjunction with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



# Speakers

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## Pat Murphy

Pat Murphy leads the Environment Knowledge Transfer Programme in Teagasc. The programme provides advisory services to farmers to improve environmental sustainability of Irish agriculture, focussing on water quality, GHG emission, biodiversity, soil fertility and soil quality. Recently he has led the establishment of the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme in conjunction with industry and government partners. The programme works in conjunction with catchment assessment teams to assist farmers in reducing their impact on water quality in at risk catchments.

He has led the development of decision support systems including the Carbon Navigator, which focuses on increasing awareness of farmers to reduce emissions, and NMP Online which has been used to prepare nutrient management plans for 60,000 Irish farmers.

Pat graduated from UCD (B.Agr.Sc -Econ and M.Agr.Sc). In 2009 he completed an M.Sc. in Economic Policy Studies in Trinity College. He has worked with Teagasc for over 35 years



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## Noel Byrne

Noel has a degree in Agricultural science graduating 1st in his year from UCD receiving the Dr McGuckian Award and has a Master's in Business Administration. He commenced his career working as an advisor with Teagasc followed by work as an inspector with the Department of Agriculture. From there he moved to the Office of Environmental Enforcement in the EPA where he managed the southeast regional enforcement office enforcing IPC and waste licensed facilities. In 2014 he became manager of the National wastewater enforcement team and became programme Manager of the OEE Radiological, Drinking water and Waste water enforcement team in 2021.



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## Mark Adamson

Mark Adamson is the Head of the Risk Management and Climate Adaptation Division within Flood Risk Management Services in the Office of Public Works in Ireland. Mark is responsible for:

- the implementation of the EU 'Floods' Directive in Ireland,
- the national flood risk assessment and mapping programmes,
- the advisory service to planning authorities on flood risk,
- climate change adaptation planning for flood risk management and the promotion of nature-based solutions, and,
- the coastal and hydrological research and analysis programmes.

He has previously overseen the design of flood relief schemes and the delivery of the National CFRAM Programme, and served six years as the Chairman of the EU Working Group on Floods (WG F).



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## Brian Coghlan

I have been working in Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) for the past 14 years. Currently, I am the Research Officer leading the National Barriers Program (NBP). Previously I have worked on the Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP) liaising with the Office of Public Works Drainage Division. My recent publications examine the effect of hydromorphological modifications and subsequent habitat recovery, the effect of a changing climate on modified rivers and a comparison of methods for assessing fish passage at riverine barriers.

Presently, as part of the national barrier assessment programme, we are investigating the effects of instream structures on a river's thermal dynamics, the effect of quantity, timing, and quality of water flows on river water temperatures downstream of Dublin reservoirs and developing a monitoring network of barrier mitigation sites, evaluating habitat/ecological/fish response to barrier mitigation works.





# Speakers

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## Marq Redeker

Marq is a Civil Engineer, specialized in water management and hydraulic engineering, with 26 years international work experience. His special interests include fish passage and river restoration, river & dam engineering, hydropower, and flood risk management. Marq has been working in fish pass engineering for his whole career. In 2006 he became involved in the design and construction of Ireland's first rock-ramp fishway on the River Nore in Kilkenny in support of the OPW. Marq is currently involved in a number of fish passage projects in Ireland on the Nore, Suir, Ulster Blackwater and Erne Rivers. He also produced guidance on fish passage improvement at small barriers for OPW and IFI, using the Inny arterial drainage scheme as a template. Besides the Lower Shannon Fish Passage Improvement Project, he's currently working on other flagship fish passage restoration projects, e.g., at the Iron Gate Dams on the Danube River and the Fish Migration River on Lake IJssel in the Netherlands.

Marq is the chairman of the German Expert Committee on Fishways, and familiar with and involved in water management strategies and development of best practice guidelines.



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## Dr Anne Nolan

Anne Nolan is an Associate Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), and an Adjunct Professor in Economics at Trinity College Dublin (TCD). She is on the Study Team Management Group of the Growing Up in Ireland (GUI) study, and is a research affiliate at the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) at TCD. She is the Programme Coordinator for the joint EPA/ESRI Research Programme in Environmental Economics. Her research focuses on the use of longitudinal data analysis techniques to provide evidence for policymakers and practitioners on the role of factors such as socioeconomic status, health insurance and the physical environment in shaping health and wellbeing outcomes across the life course.



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## Ted O'Reilly

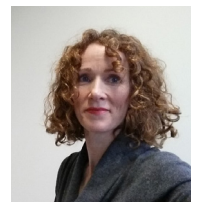
Ted is the Asset Planning Lead for wastewater treatment in the Asset Management & Sustainability Directorate of Irish Water. He leads a national team responsible for the definition and generation of Irish Water's wastewater treatment capital investment plans, and the prioritisation and initiation of projects and programmes in this area. A Civil Engineer with MEngSc and PhD degrees in environmental engineering from NUI Galway, Ted has worked in the water industry for 20 years. Prior to working in Asset Management, Ted was involved in the establishment of Irish Water through the Irish Water Programme, and before that was an Adjunct Lecturer and Research Fellow in NUI Galway leading EPA and Enterprise Ireland funded research projects in areas of sustainable technology and research infrastructure development.



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## Becci Cantrell

Becci works in the Office of Environmental Enforcement in the EPA. She is team lead for the enforcement priority group on significant pressure licences across the industrial and waste enforcement programmes. She is a graduate of Trinity College and has an MSc in Hydrogeology from the University of Birmingham.



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## Jim Moriarty

Jim Moriarty leads the wastewater enforcement team within the EPA's Office of Environmental Enforcement with responsibility for managing compliance assessment of over 1000 authorised sites. A chartered Chemical Engineer, following stints in industry and consultancy, Jim has worked with EPA for over 20 years in a variety of roles



# Speakers

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## David Flynn

David Flynn is Principal Adviser and leads the Water Advisory Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Advisory Unit provides policy advice on: water and waste water services; Ireland's Water Framework Directive planning process; implementing the EU's water directives in Ireland; and climate adaptation for water quality and water services infrastructure. Prior to joining the Department, David worked with the Environmental Protection Agency.



## Dr Hans Bruyninckx

Hans Bruyninckx is the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency since 1 June, 2013.

In 1996 Dr Bruyninckx completed a PhD in international environmental politics at Colorado State University.

Until his appointment at the EEA, he was professor of environmental politics and director of the HIVA Research Institute in Belgium, a policy-oriented research institute associated with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Over the last 20 years, he has conducted research in areas including environmental politics, climate change and sustainable development. He has taught global environmental politics and global environmental governance in relation to the European Union (EU), publishing extensively on EU environmental policies and its role as an actor in global environmental governance.

Throughout his career Dr Bruyninckx has worked with governmental agencies, civil society and businesses, often in an advisory role.

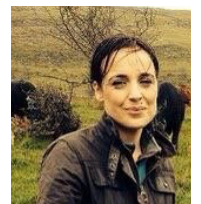


## Ella McSweeney

Ella Mc Sweeney is an Irish journalist and reporter. She is a science (zoology)graduate from Trinity College, Dublin and holds a masters in food policy from City University, London.

She works across radio, television and print for a variety of broadcasters and publications, including RTE, BBC, TheGuardian and the Irish Times, amongst others. She's presented a wide range of radio shows for RTE, including Shanks Mare, Documentary on One, Into the Deep, award-winning Mind Matters, Future Tense, Nature's Web, The Green Light, Farm Week, Country wide and she has also guest-presented The Ryan Tubridy Show. For BBC, she has reported for and presented Farming Today, On Your Farm and The Food Programme on Radio4, and documentaries on BBC World Service.

She has presented RTE's food and farming television series Ear to the Ground since 2009, and other series such as Big Week on the Farm, The Consumer Show and more recently, Open for Business.



## Sean Corrigan

Sean is passionate about the importance of communications, he has worked with communities on water related projects for over 15 years. He is currently on secondment from Irish Water working with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes. Sean was the programme lead on the implementation of the National Ground Water Source Protection Pilot Programme in Roscommon, and is currently working across the North West Region implementing catchment scale mitigation measures. Sean has a Master's degree in Water Engineering, is a voluntary director with the children's charity Variety Ireland, he coaches underage girl's soccer and is trainee bee keeper. Sean's interest in bees, and the efforts of the group schemes in county Roscommon recently translated into the Roscommon source protection project winning the European Bee award for the protection of pollinators and change of land management usage.



# Speakers

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## Gary O'Connell

Gary O'Connell is the Catchments Manager for the Border Region in the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), a national shared service working on behalf of all 31 local authorities in Ireland.

LAWPRO is working to identify the issues affecting water quality on a national level. Where issues are identified, collaboration ensues with the relevant local authority, public body and water stakeholder to find a solution. Community engagement is a vital aspect of the process which aims to ensure compliance with objectives set out in the EU Water Framework Directive by assisting in the implementation and delivery of the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

After completing studies at Queens University Belfast, Gary had over a decade in private sector consultancy prior to joining LAWPRO in 2018. This work provided a rounded technical background in many aspects of water quality and Integrated Catchment Management in relation to environmental impact assessment. By assisting in the delivery of the 1st Cycle RBMPs, he now has experience in the preparation and implementation of all three RBMP cycles to date.



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## Jonathan Deane

Jonathan qualified from UCD as a Civil engineer in 1988 and worked for international consultants on a variety of large infrastructure projects in Australia, Caribbean, UK, Sellafield and Cork. He obtained an MBA from City University London and joined the public service with Kildare county council in 2003 to work in a variety of roles. He was appointed as a Senior Engineer to Westmeath County Council 3 years ago to manage the delivery of Climate Change, Environmental and Water Services for the county. He is a fellow of Engineers Ireland



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## Leonore O'Neill

Leonore O'Neill is a Senior Executive Officer in Clare County Council with responsibility for Ennis Municipal District. She holds a BSc in Biotechnology from NUIG, a Bachelor of Arts in Public Management from the IPA and a Master's in Business Administration from DCU. She has over 20 years local authority experience across five local authorities working in various departments, including Housing, Finance, Road Design Office. In her current role, she is the local authority project manager for Public Realm Regeneration projects in Ennis and is Chairman of the Ennis Age Friendly Town team.



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## Dr Rory Sheehan

Rory is the Climate Action Coordinator with Louth County Council. He is an ecologist with a broad skillset across the marine, freshwater and uplands. He holds a B.Sc. in marine and freshwater biology and a postgraduate qualification in environmental toxicology and pollution monitoring and a Ph.D in freshwater invasive species ecology. His previous varied research includes water quality assessment, rare fish environmental impact assessment, fish population research, angling promotion, market research, upland ecology and habitat restoration.



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## Paul Sherlock

Paul Sherlock works for the Heritage section in Monaghan County Council and the CANN Project (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network). The CANN project is a cross-border environment project which aims to improve the condition of protected habitats and to support priority species found within Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland. His main role involves working for the CANN Project where he is the Conservation Officer for the Sliabh Beagh site which is a protected blanket bog. In this role he oversees numerous works in relation to improving the conservation status of Sliabh Beagh which is a cross border site located across the counties of Monaghan, Tyrone and Fermanagh. These works include drain blocking, invasive species removal and the creation of a wildfire management plan for the area.







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## Register: [ti.to/waterconference/2022](https://ti.to/waterconference/2022)

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**Conference Platform:** EPA Water Conference (sli.do)

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Rialtas na hÉireann  
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