



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Ireland's 5<sup>th</sup> NAP and beyond

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May 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

# Presentation Overview



- EU WFD and ND
- Irelands NAP
- Water quality Trends
- 5<sup>th</sup> NAP Measures
- Nitrates Derogation
- Outlook



# EU Water Framework and Nitrates Directives



## Water Framework Directive

To protect and improve water quality in all waters by 2027

## Nitrates Directive

To protect water quality from pollution by agricultural sources and promote use of good agricultural practice



# Ireland's NAP

- DHLGH competent authority
- Ireland's 1<sup>st</sup> NAP came into operation in 2006
- NAP is reviewed every years
  - *2010, 2013, 2017, 2021*
- NAP is given legal effect by the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Regulations
- New Regulations SI 113 of 2022 signed 9<sup>th</sup> March



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

**S.I. No. 113 of 2022**

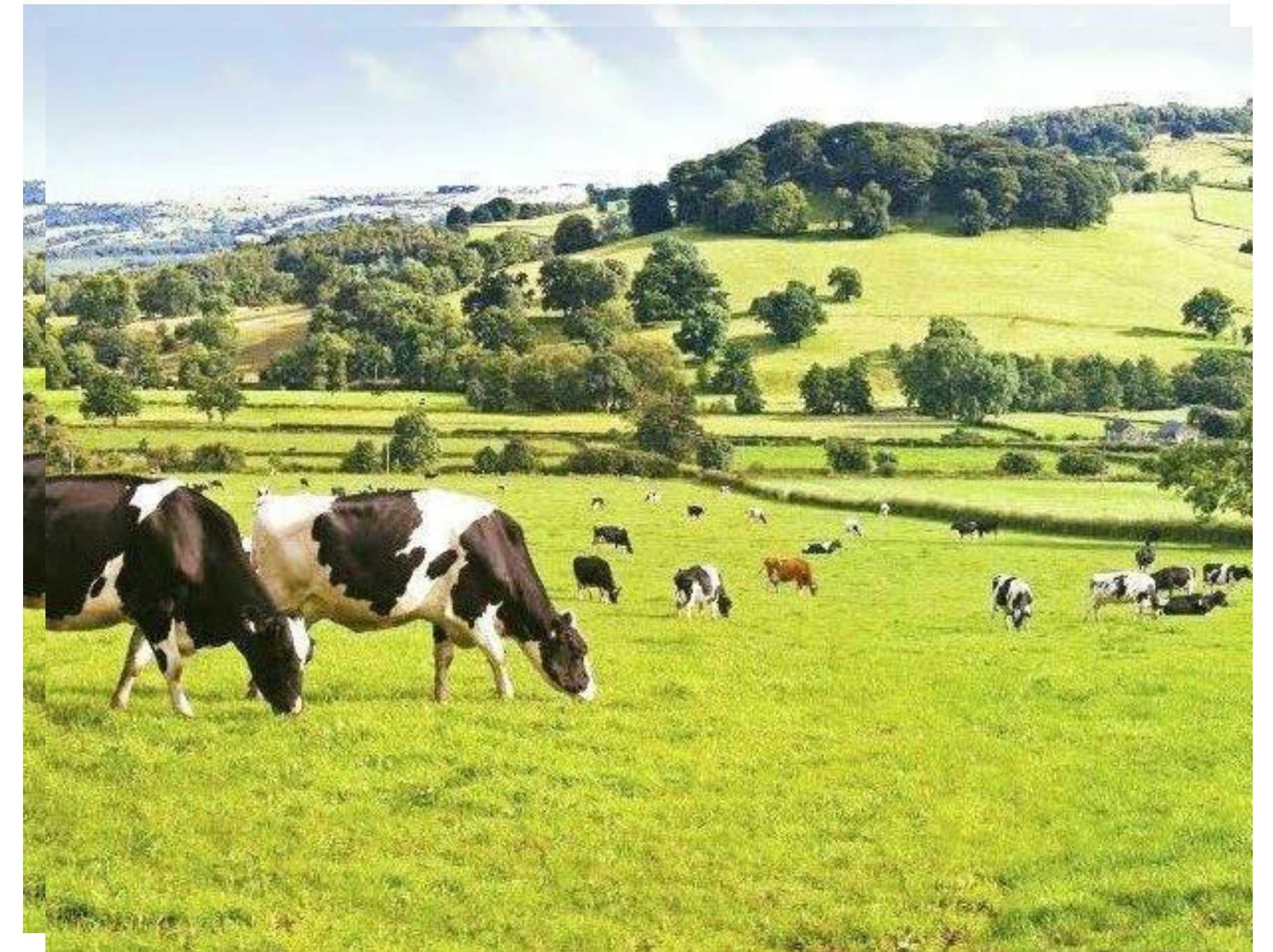
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EUROPEAN UNION (GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE FOR  
PROTECTION OF WATERS) REGULATIONS 2022

# Nitrates Derogation



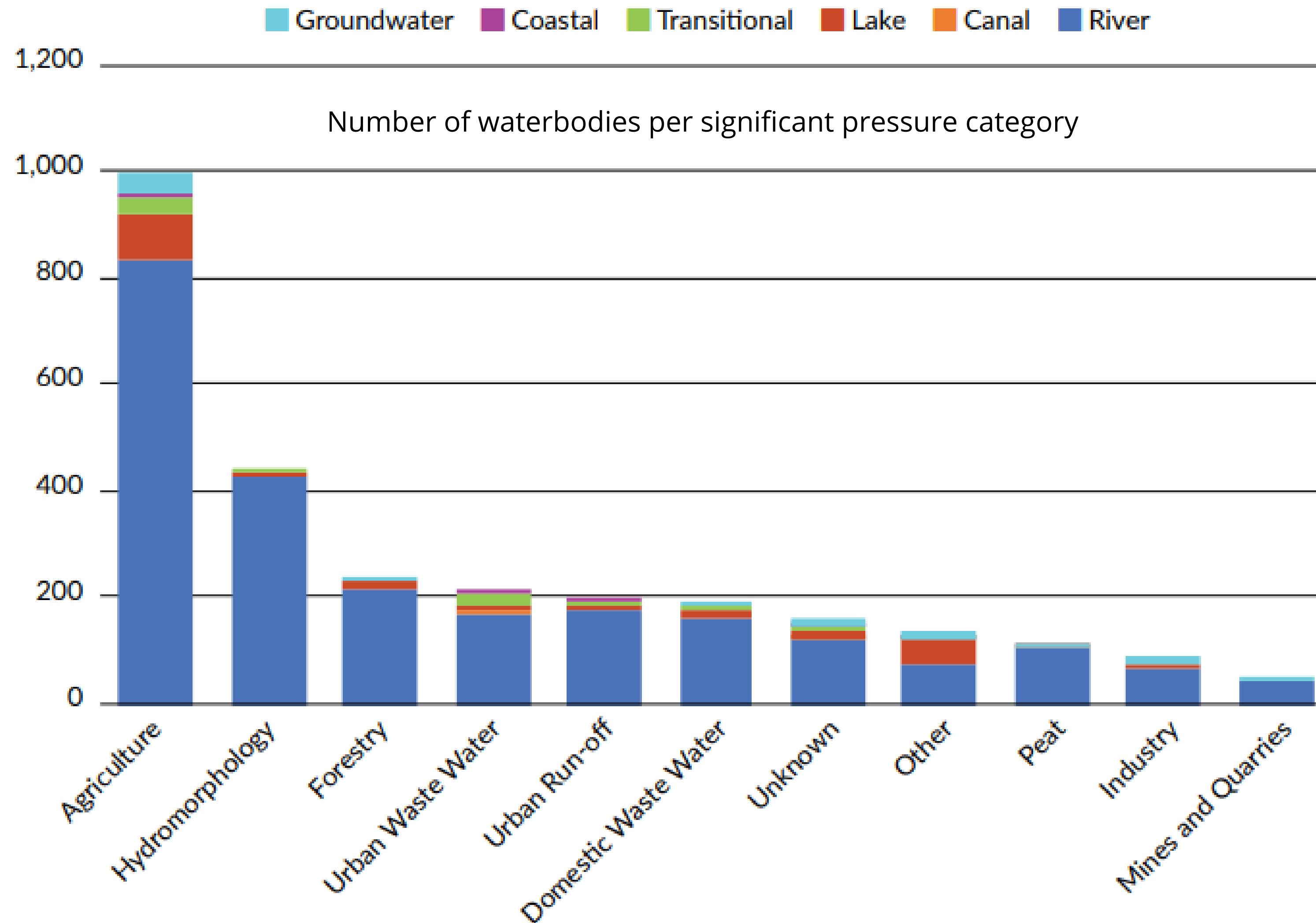
- In place since 2006 & reviewed every 4 years
- Allows more intensive farmers to farm at higher stocking rates up to 250 kg N/ha
- This is subject to stricter rules
- Derogation secured 2022 – 2025





# Water Quality

# Pressures on Water Quality



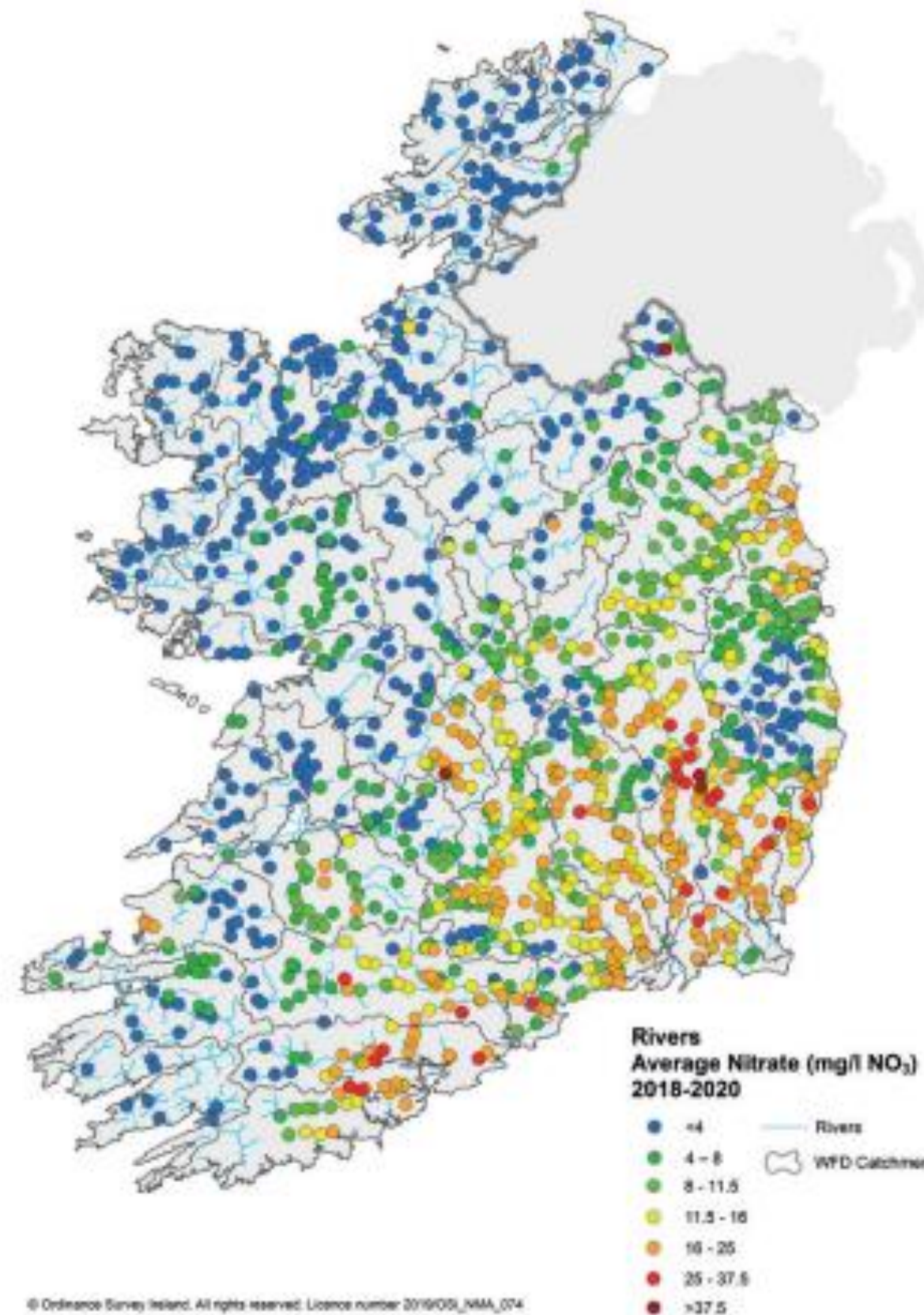
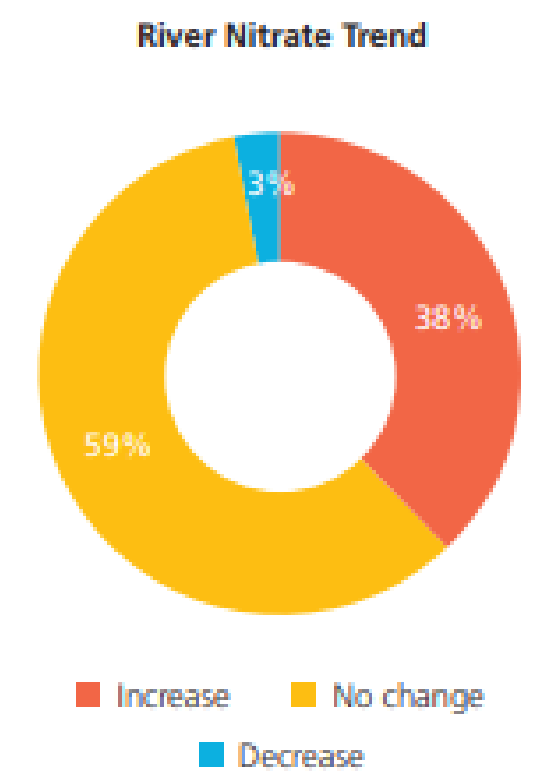
# Recent water quality and trends

## River nitrate

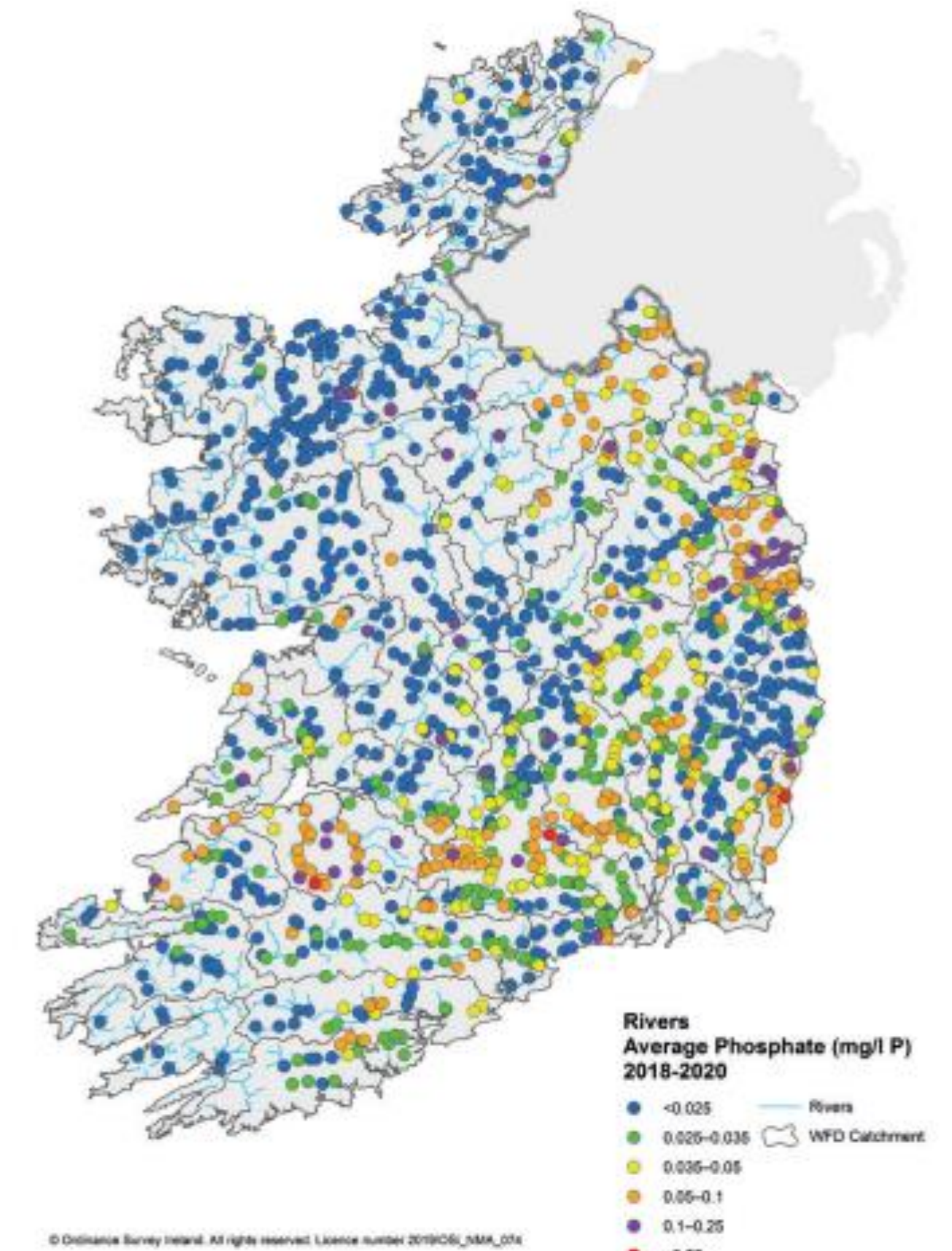
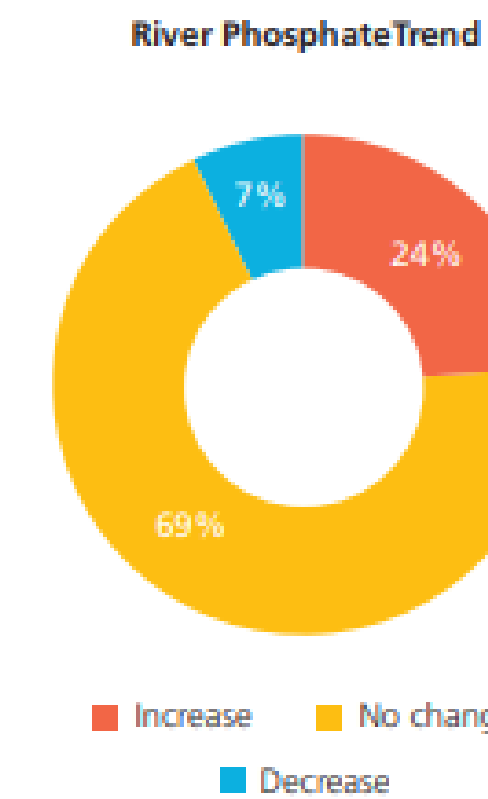
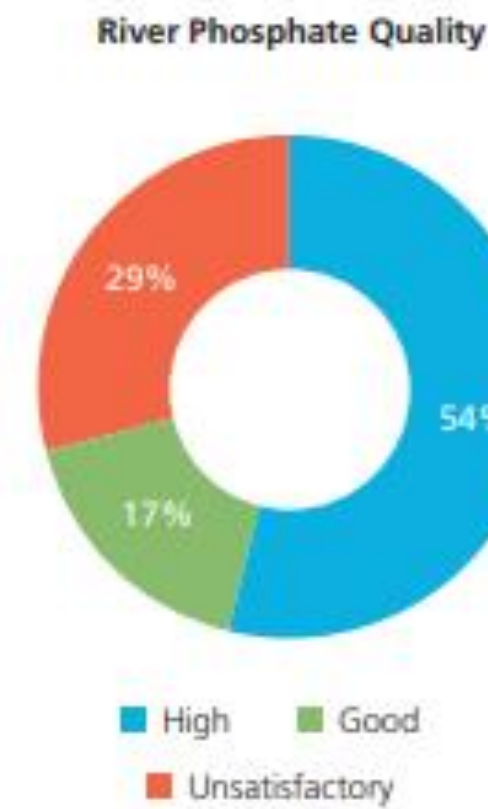
Quality



Trends



## River phosphate





# Where agriculture is a problem:



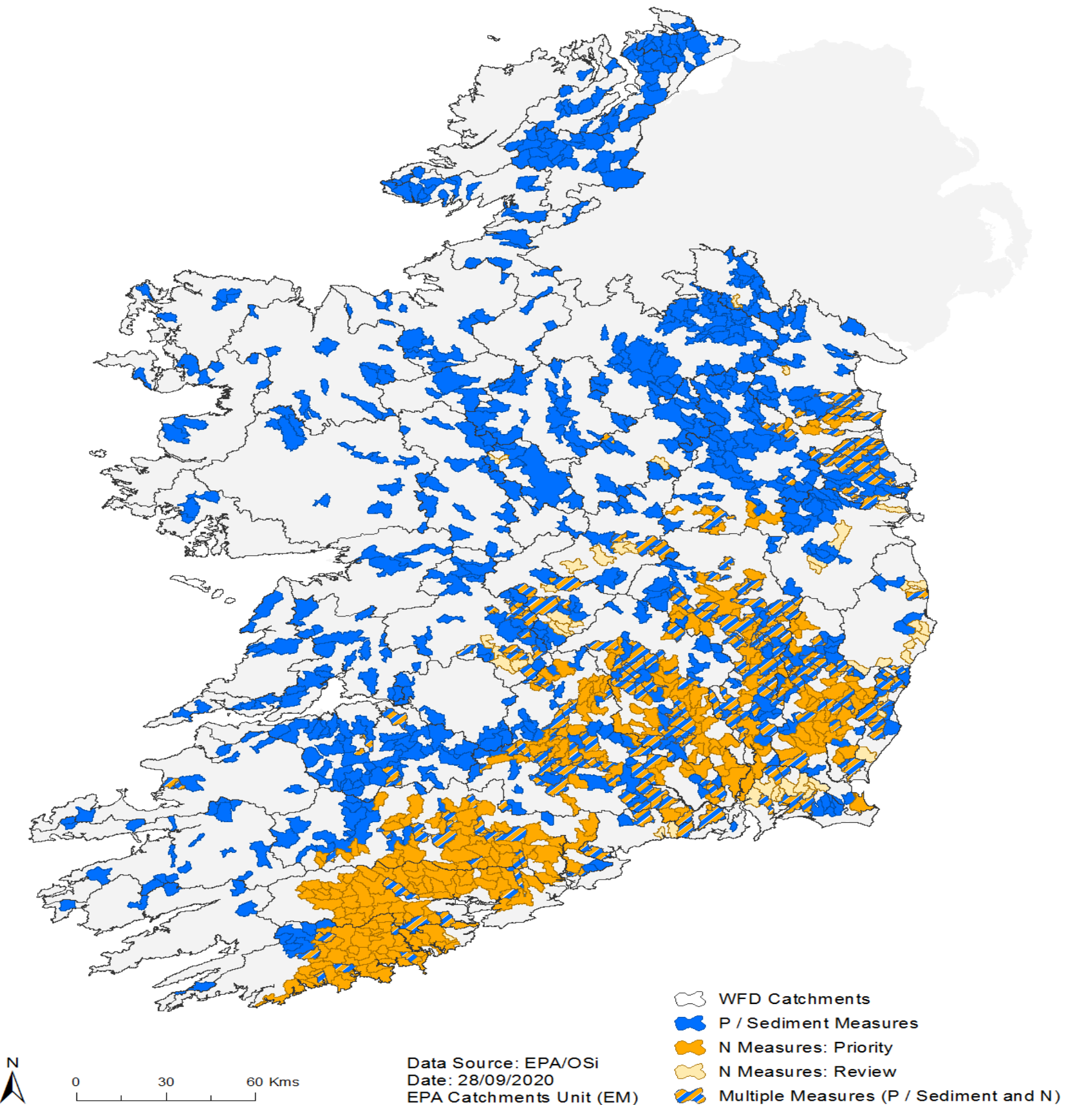
## Phosphorus

- Phosphorus runoff from poorly draining soils is the biggest issue for rivers and lakes. Trends appear to be stabilising.

## Nitrogen

- Nitrogen trends are increasing, especially in the estuaries in the south and south east. Soils, climate and farm practice are important drivers at farm scale.

Targeting Agricultural Measures  
WFD 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle Significant Pressures





# Measures in 5<sup>th</sup> NAP

# Slurry Storage and Management



- Closed period 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022
- Closed period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023
- Predefined scientific criteria for safe application up to 15<sup>th</sup> Oct to be established
- Soiled water storage requirements and closed periods



# Banding of N excretion rates for dairy cows



	<b>Milk Yield</b>	<b>N kg/year</b>	<b>P kg/year</b>
<b>Band 1</b>	<4,500	80	12
<b>Band 2</b>	4,500 - 6,500	92	13.6
<b>Band 3</b>	>6,500	106	15.8

- Will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023
- Calculated on rolling 3 year average
- First calculation is 2020 – 2022 inclusive

# Green Cover on Tillage Ground



- Shallow cultivation or sowing a crop must take place within:
  - 7 days of baling of straw
  - 7 days of harvest where straw is chopped
- Public Consultations highlighted importance of over-winter stubble for seed-eating birds
  - Expert Group will review this by July



# Soil Sampling



- From 2022 all farmers above 170 kg N/ha must take soil samples
- From 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023 all farmers above 130 kg N/ha must take soil samples
- Where soil samples are not taken under either requirement above P Index 4 will be assumed
- All arable land sown from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2023 must be soil sampled



# Grazing Land Management



- Commonage Land
  - Max stocking rate allowance 50 kg N/ha
  - No chemical fertiliser allowed
- Reduced storage through outwintering
  - From 2025 only applicable for 100 kg N/ha and below



# Low Emission Slurry Spreading



- Compulsory for farmers at 170 kg N/ha and above
- Further compulsory implementation of LESS on phased basis:
  - All farmers operating above 150 kg N/ha from 2023
  - All farmers above 130 kg N/ha from 2024
  - All farmers above 100 kg N/ha from 2025
- LESS will also apply to all pig slurry from 2023 onwards
- All organic manure applied to arable land must be applied by LESS or incorporated within 12 hours of application from 2023 onwards





# Other Measures



- Review of sewage sludges in interim review
- 10% reduction in chemical N allowances
- Organic Matter Determination
- Update to technical tables
- Max Crude Protein 15% to grazing livestock between 15<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September
- Non-GAP Measures
  - Register of Chemical Fertiliser Sales – start 2023
  - Improving Compliance and Enforcement
  - Review of the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP)

# Interim Review



- Interim Review in 2023
- Effectiveness of NAP measures
- Introduce new measures as required





# Nitrates Derogation 2022 - 2025

# European Commission Derogation Decision



## Improving Compliance and Enforcement

- Local Authority National Agricultural Inspection Programme in development
- DAFM derogation inspections increase to 10% per annum
- An applicant rejected from derogation is not eligible to apply the following year

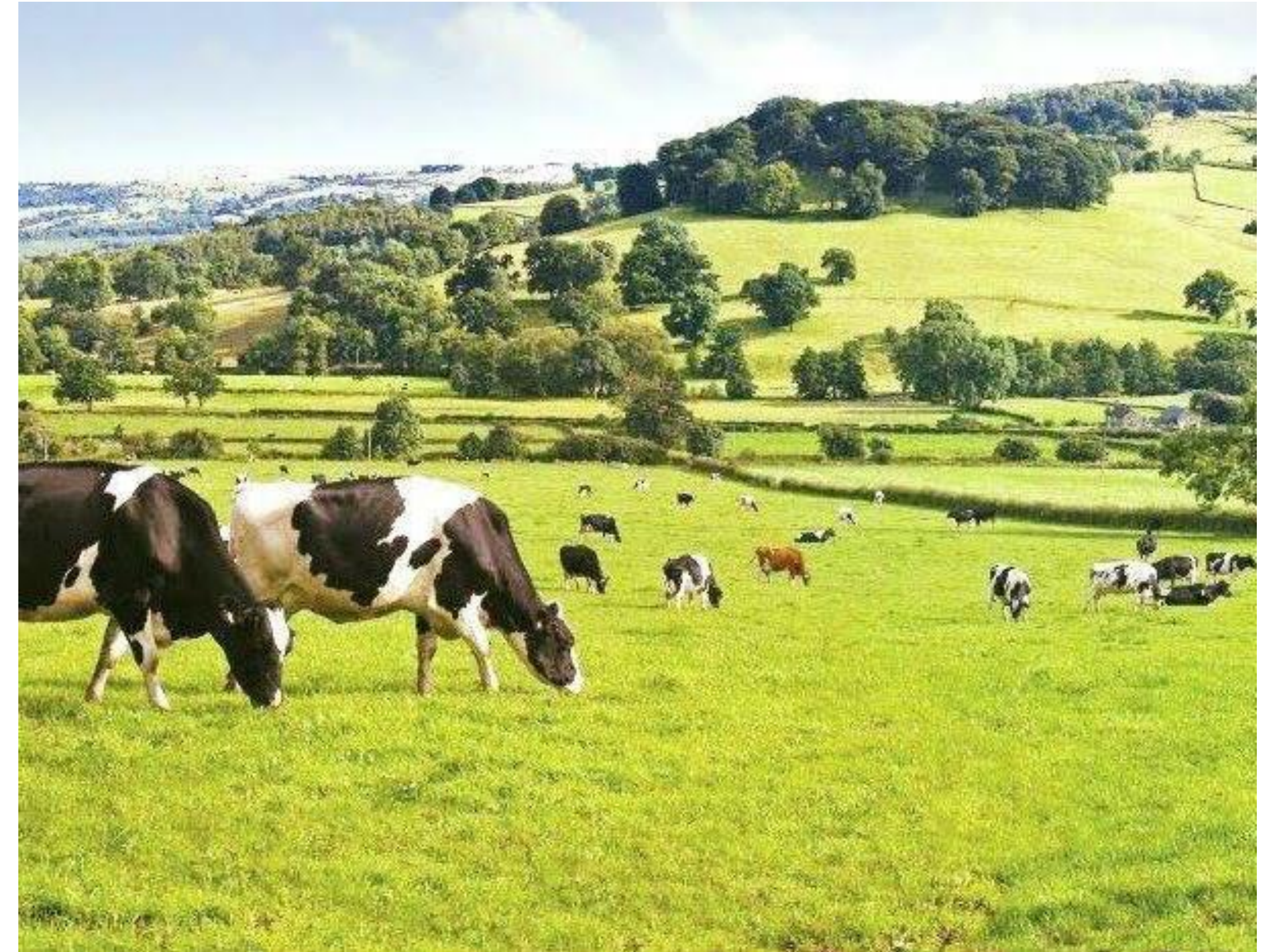


# European Commission Derogation Decision



Reduction in Derogation limit of 250 kg N/ha to – 220 kg N/ha from 2024, where:

- (a) average values of nitrate concentrations above 50 mg/l or increasing trends of nitrates concentration **in 2022** compared to 2021;
- (b) “*Eutrophic*” status or “*could become eutrophic*” status with a stable or worsening trend **in 2022** compared to 2021.



# Outlook



- Improved water quality and reduced nutrient losses
- Meet our requirements under the ND and WFD
- Increase our sustainability objectives which is win-win for farmer and environment
- Ensure Irelands Green Credentials





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