



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Ireland's 5th NAP and beyond

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Presentation Overview



- EU WFD and ND
- Irelands NAP
- Water quality Trends
- 5th 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



Irelands NAP



- DHLGH competent authority
- Irelands 1st 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 9th March



STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

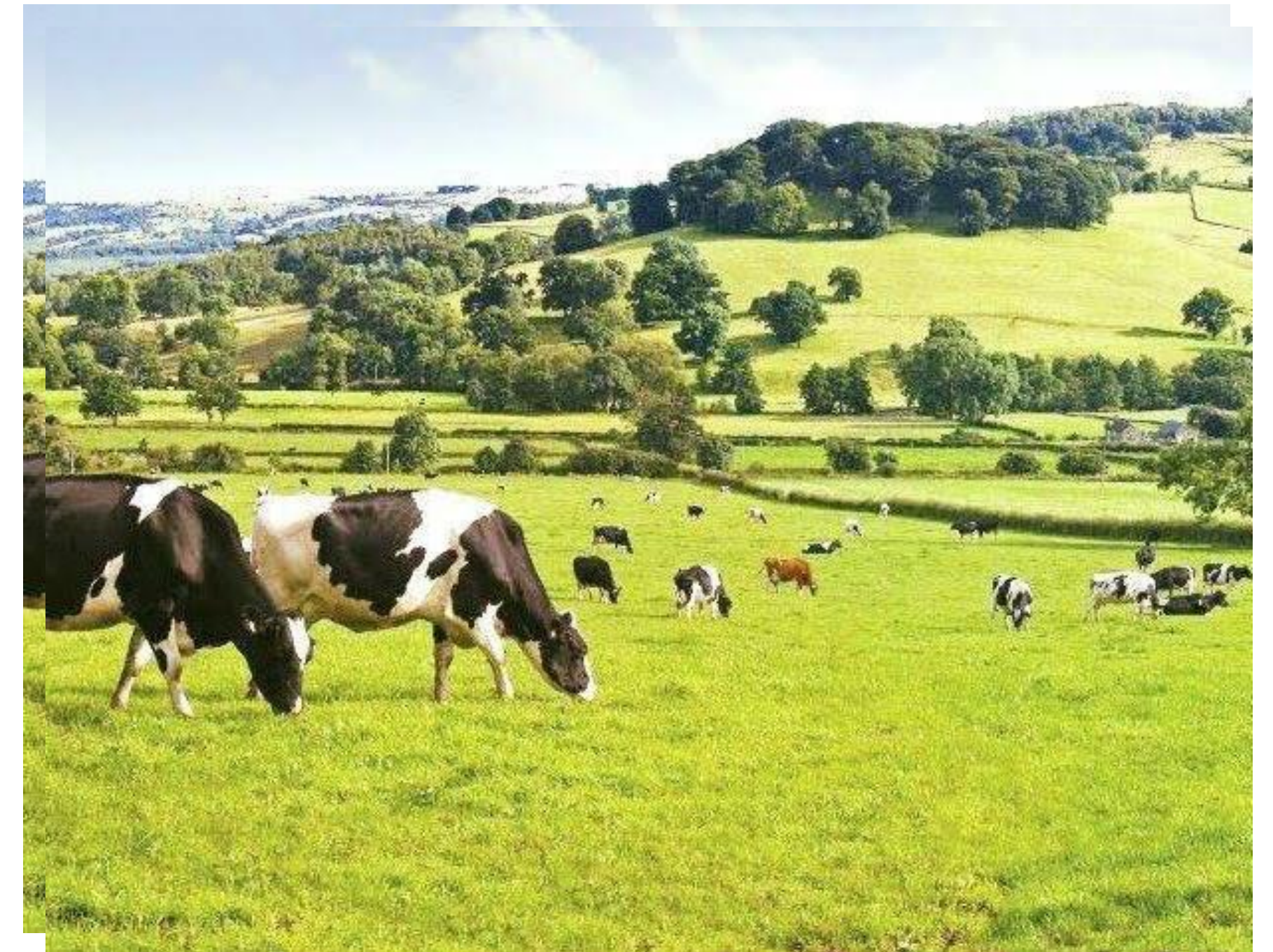
S.I. No. 113 of 2022

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

Nitrates Derogation



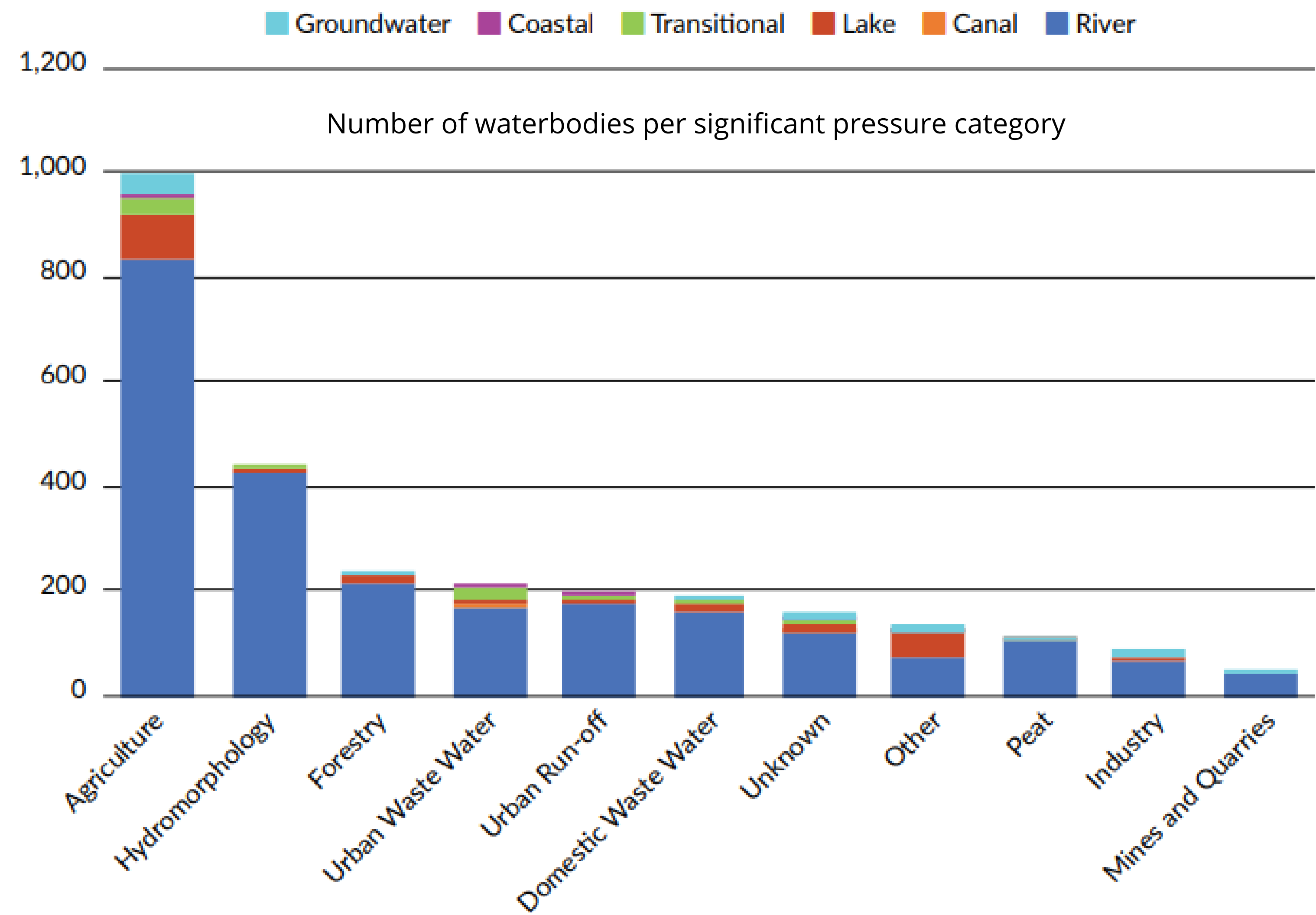
- In place since 2006 & reviewed every 4 years
- Allows more intensive farmers to farm at higher stocking rates up to 250 kg N/ha
- This is subject to stricter rules
- Derogation secured 2022 – 2025





Water Quality

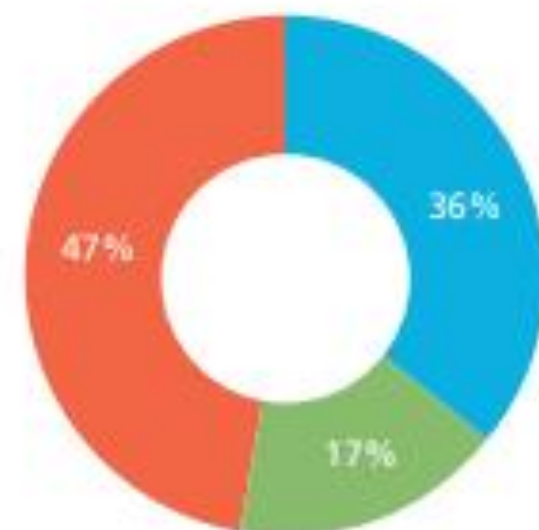
Pressures on Water Quality



Recent water quality and trends

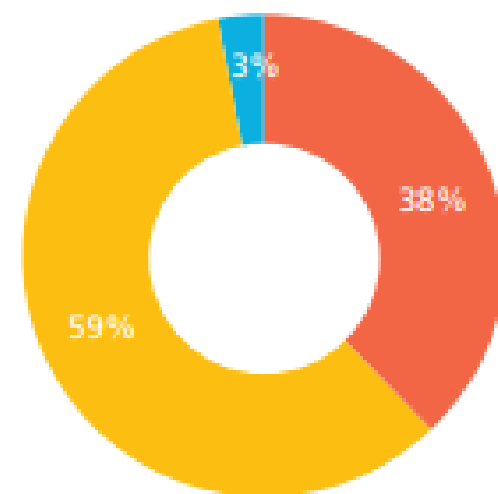
River nitrate

River Nitrate Quality

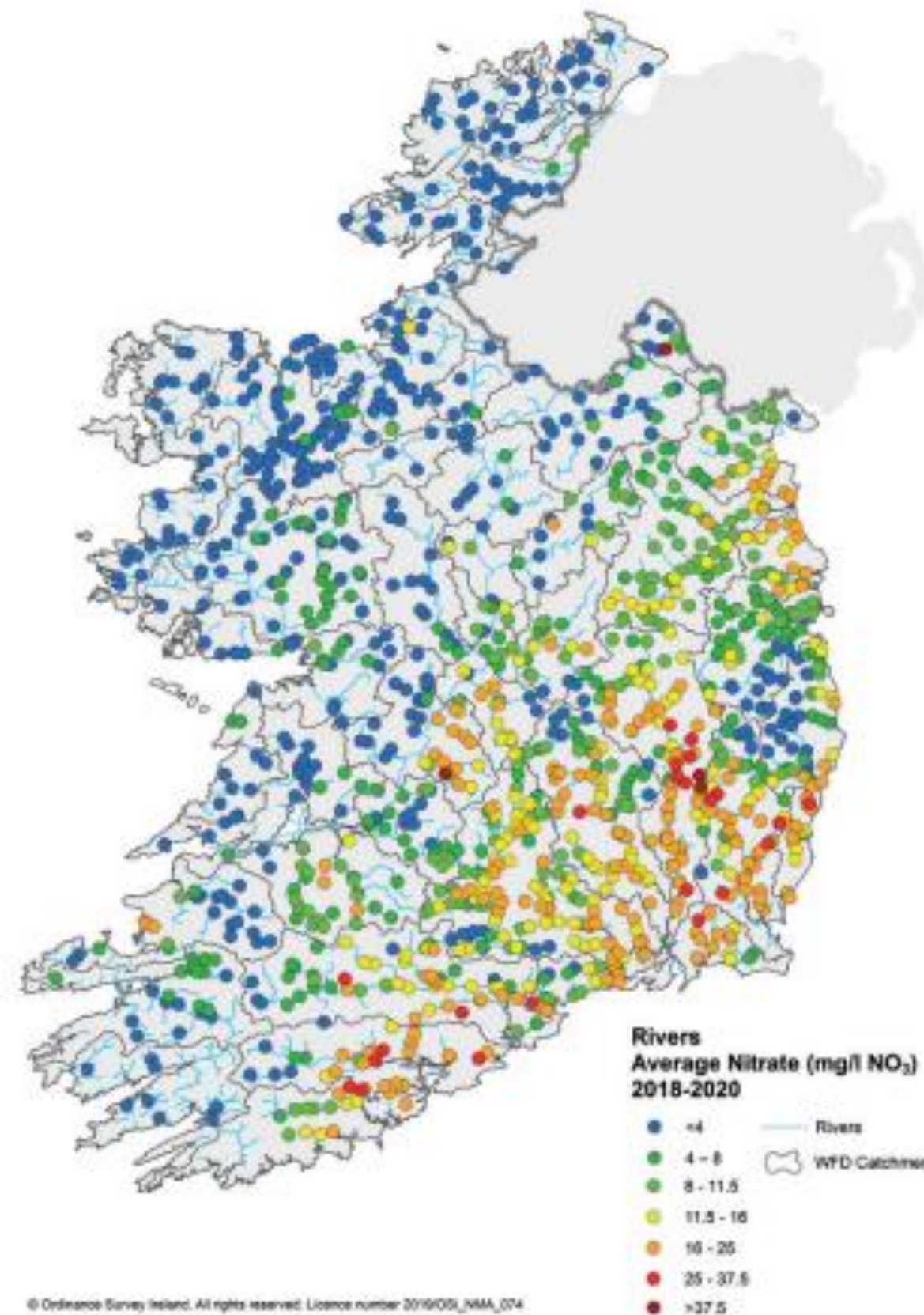


High Good
Unsatisfactory

River Nitrate Trend

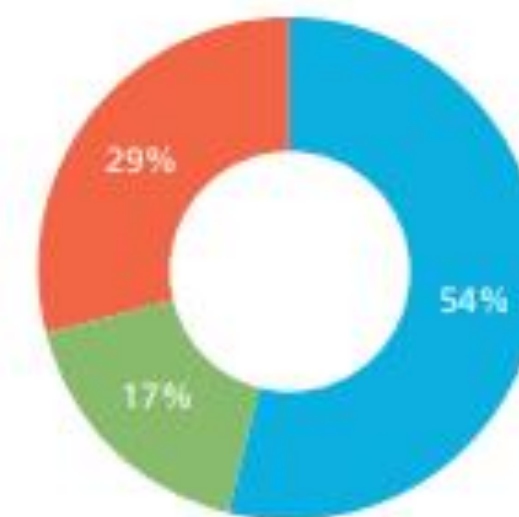


Increase No change
Decrease



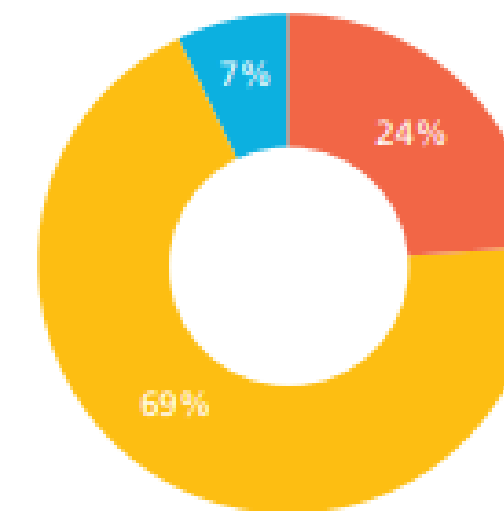
River phosphate

River Phosphate Quality

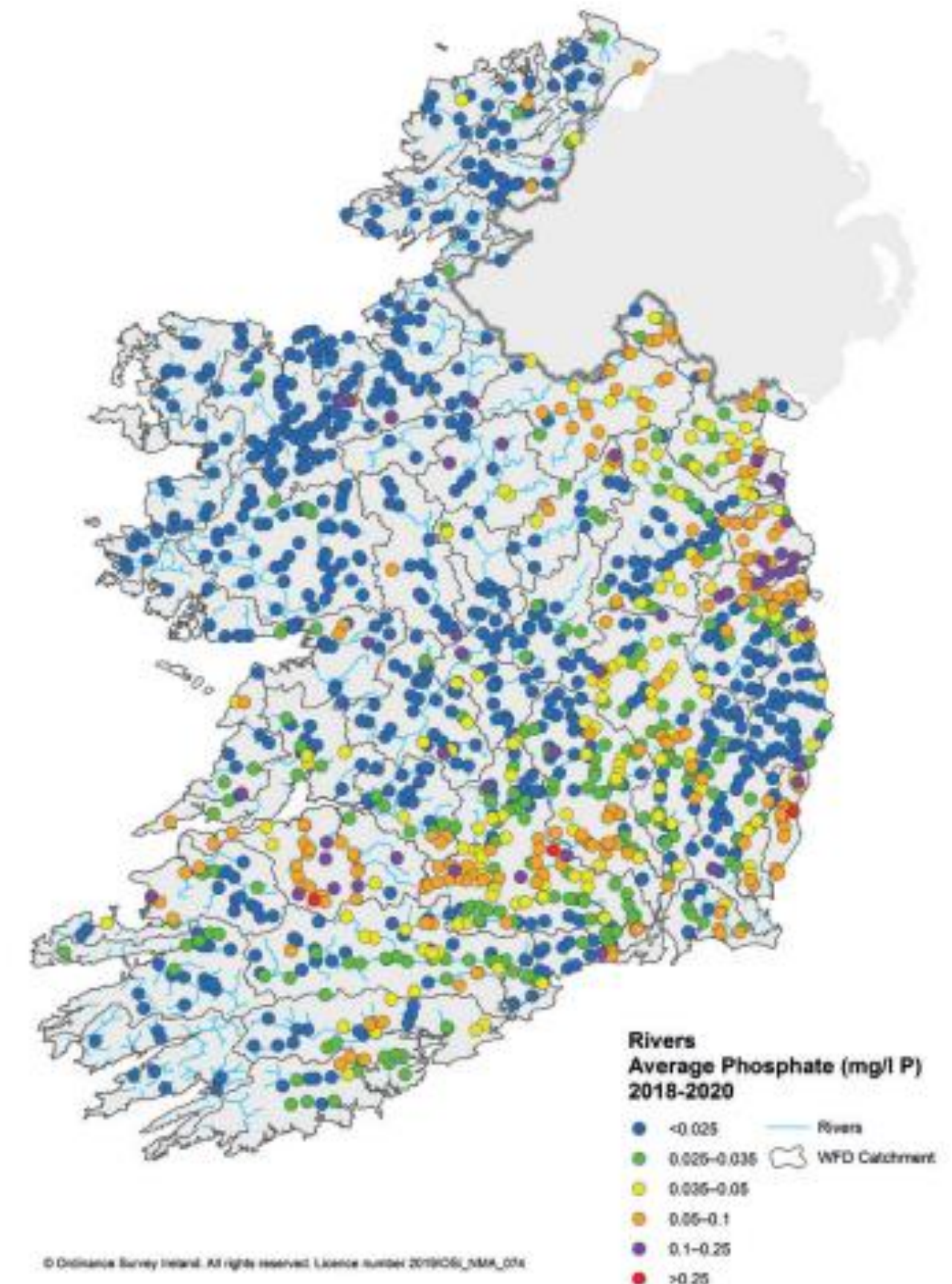


High Good
Unsatisfactory

River Phosphate Trend



Increase No change
Decrease



Where agriculture is a problem:

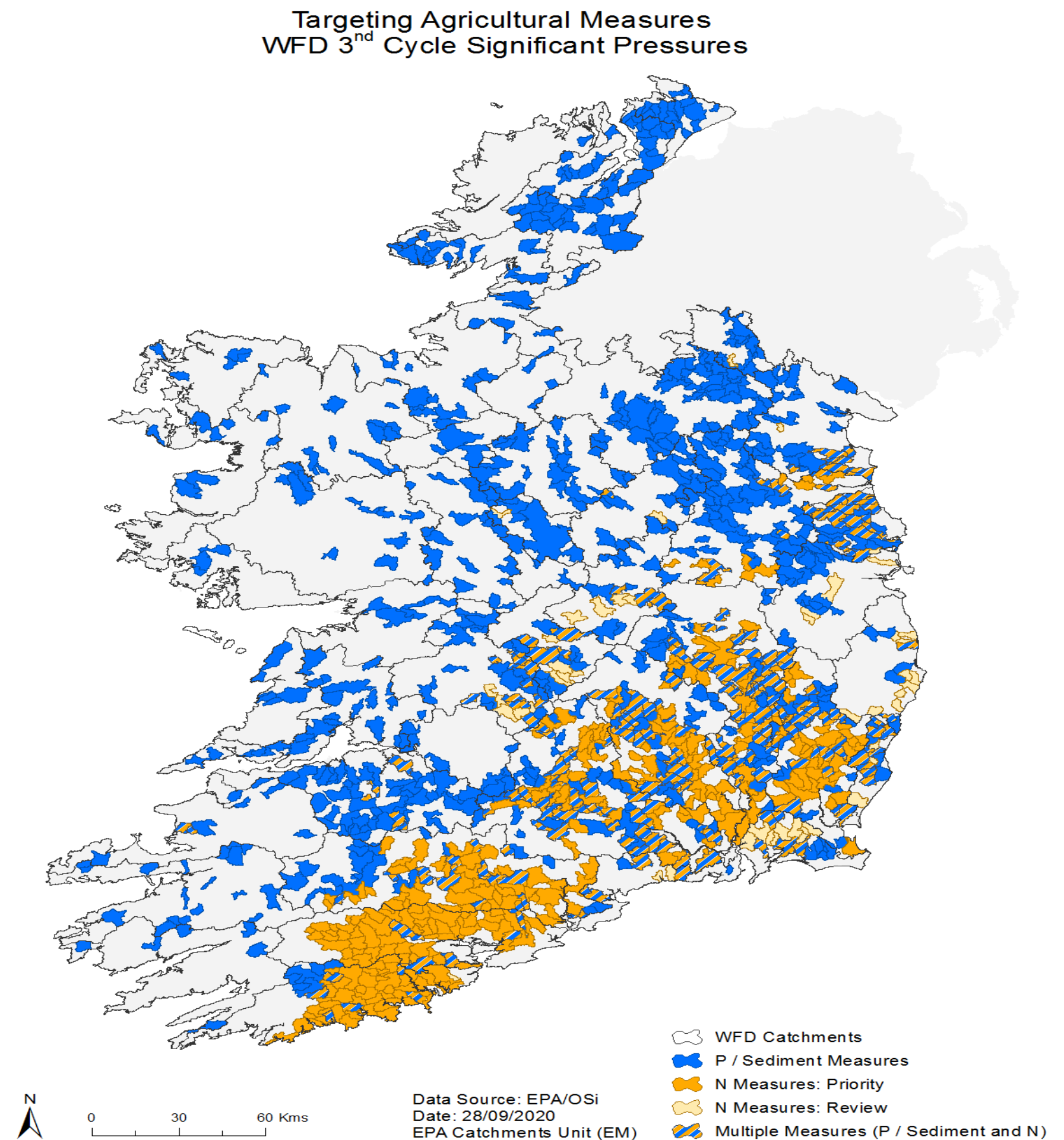


Phosphorus

- 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.





Measures in 5th NAP

Slurry Storage and Management



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



Banding of N excretion rates for dairy cows



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

- Will come into effect from 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 15th April and 30th 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

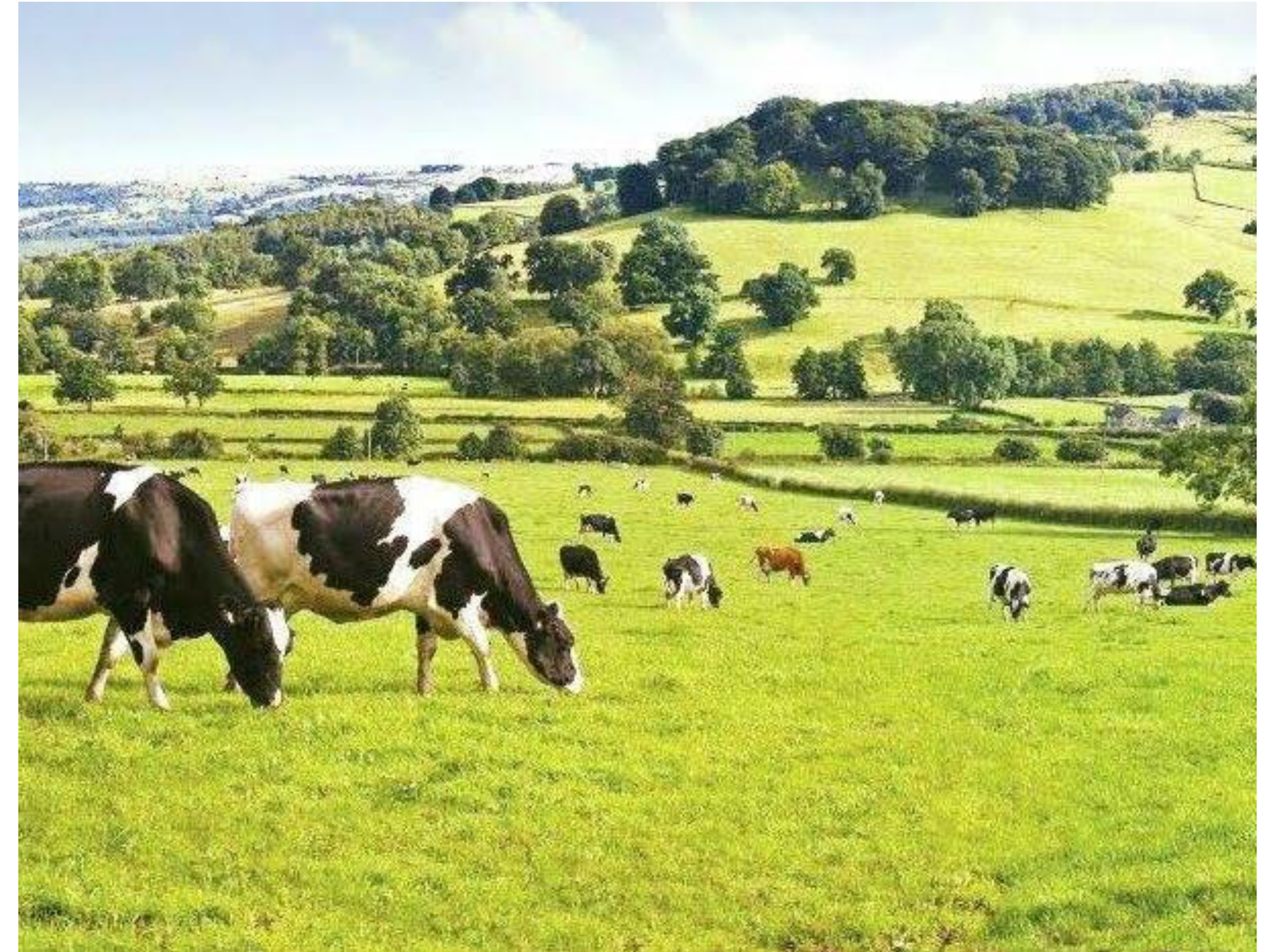


European Commission Derogation Decision



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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