



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
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Department of Agriculture,
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Nitrates review 2020

- “Progress is impossible without change and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything”

George Bernard Shaw



Nitrates Directive 91/676/EC

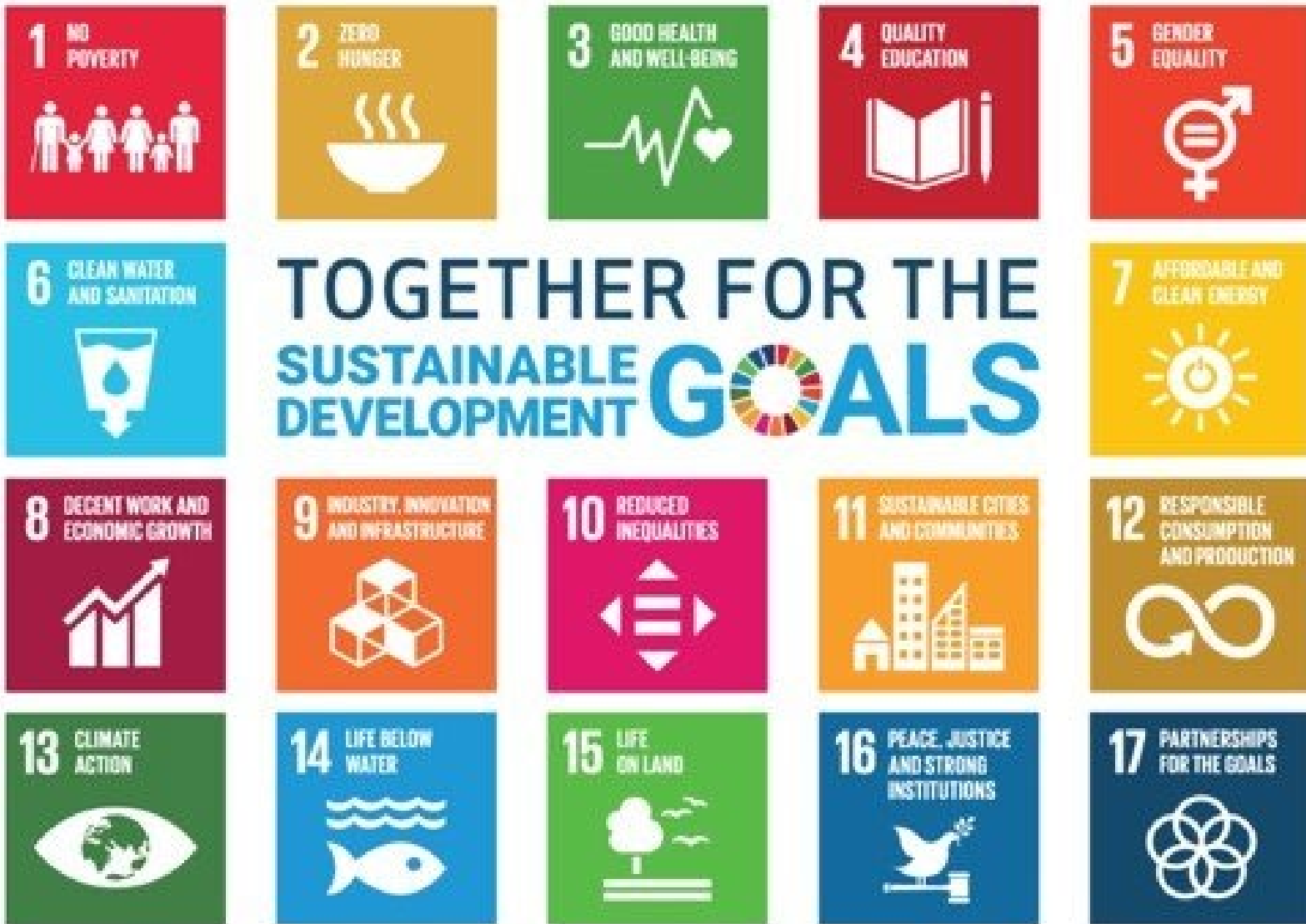
- SI 788 2005 Good agricultural practice regulations
- Commission Decision 2007/697 EC
- SI 610 2010 revised regulations



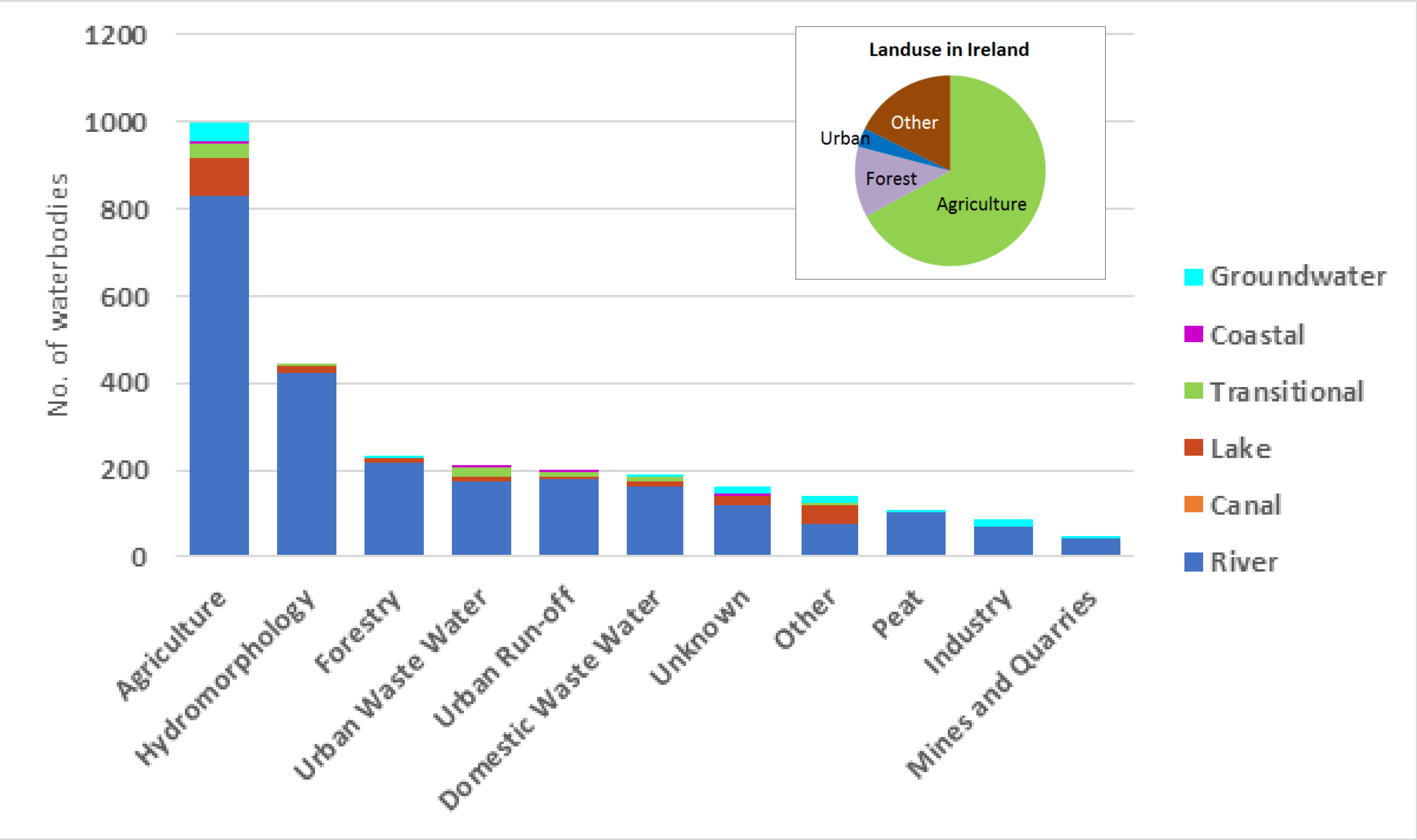
Nature based solutions




IRISH FORUM ON NATURAL CAPITAL

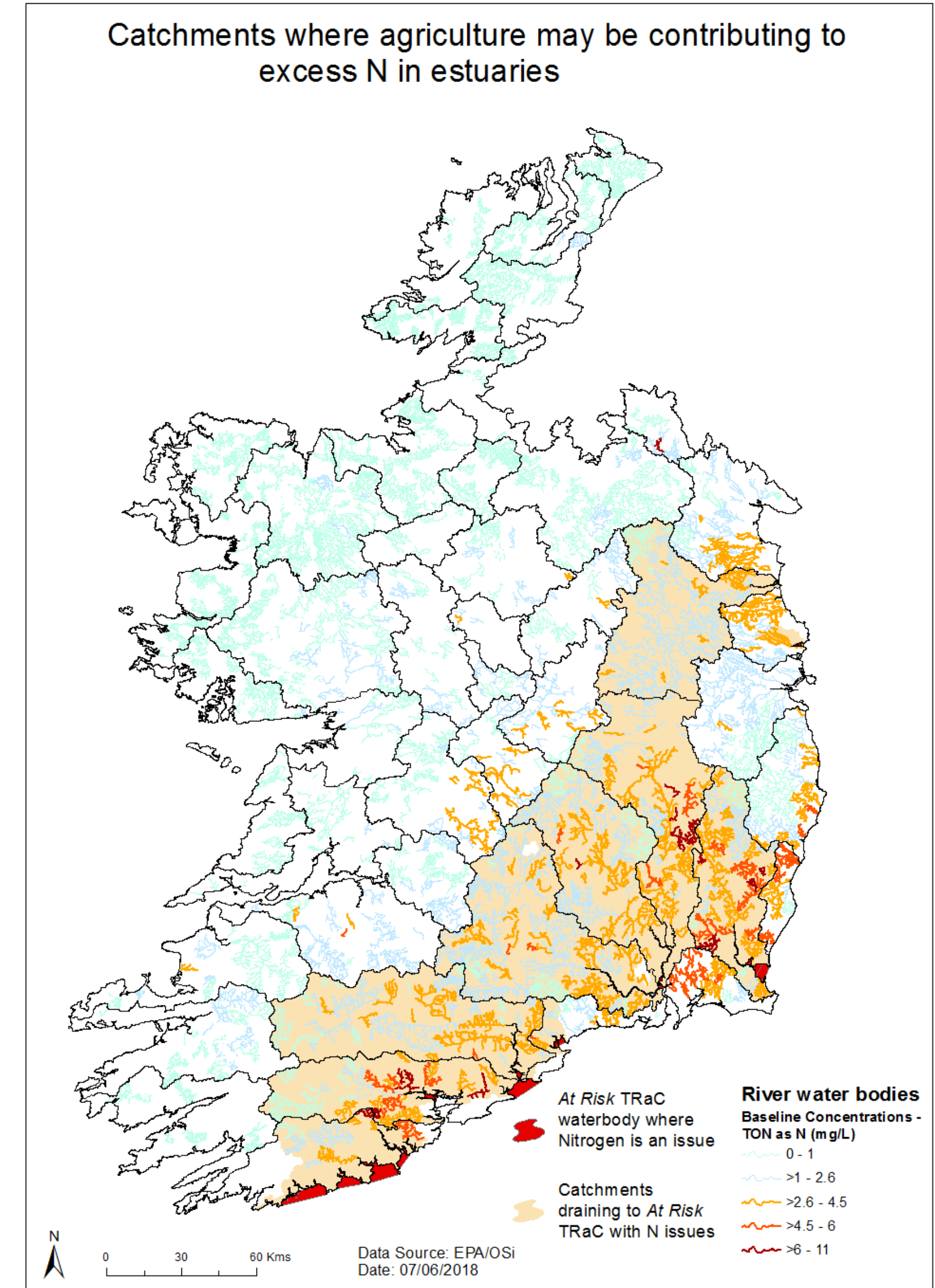
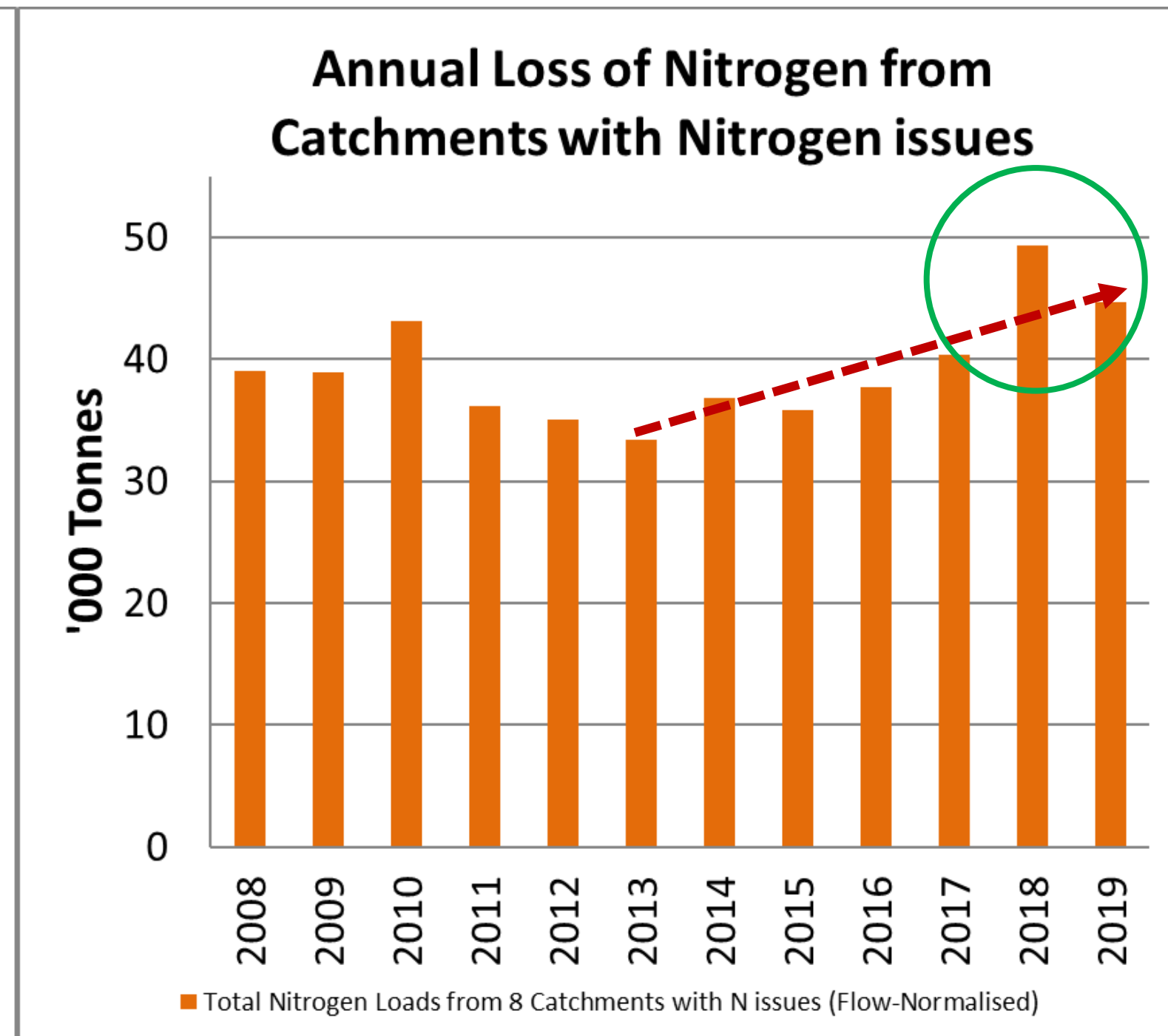
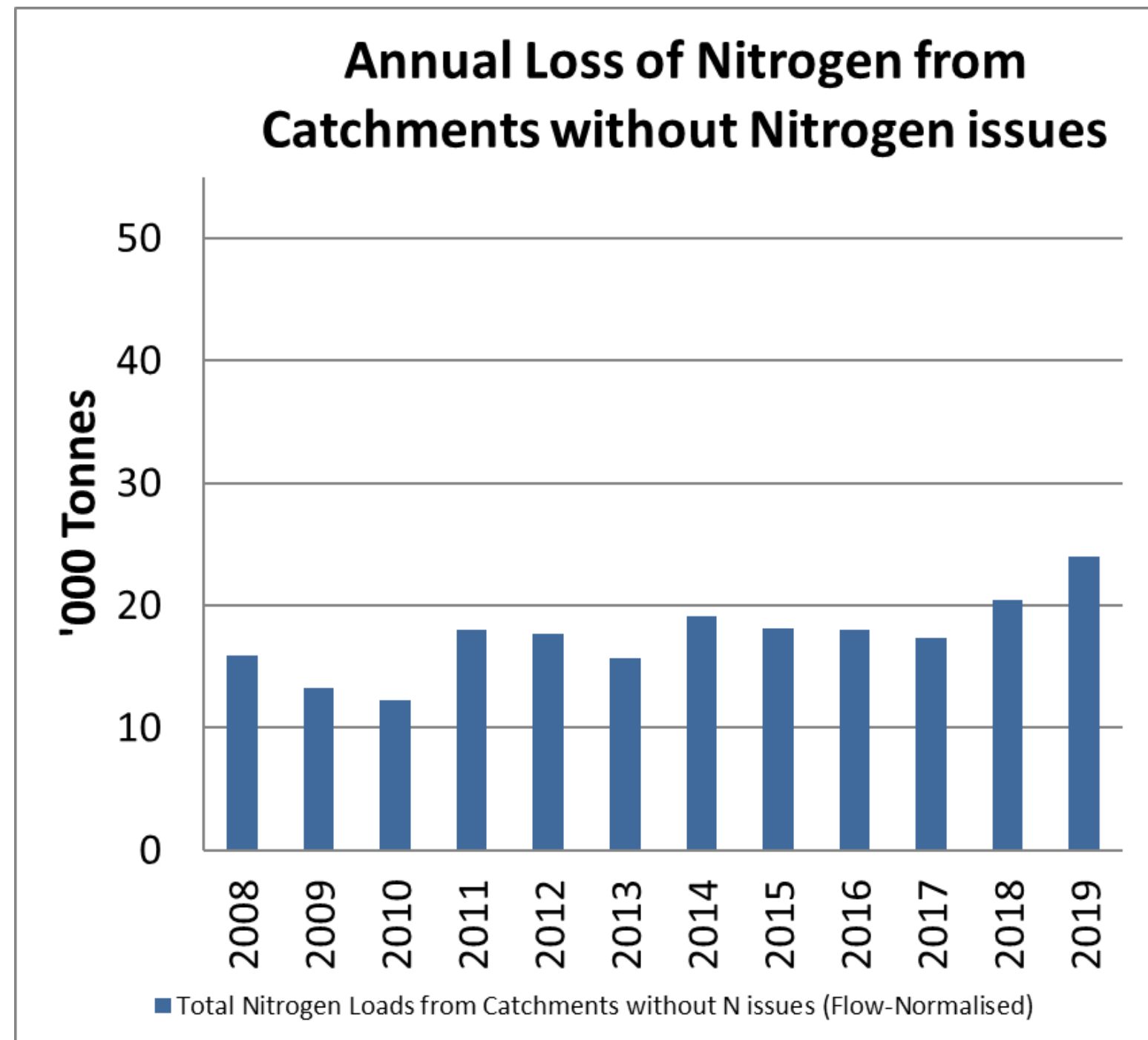


Significant pressures causing impacts – 3rd cycle RBMP

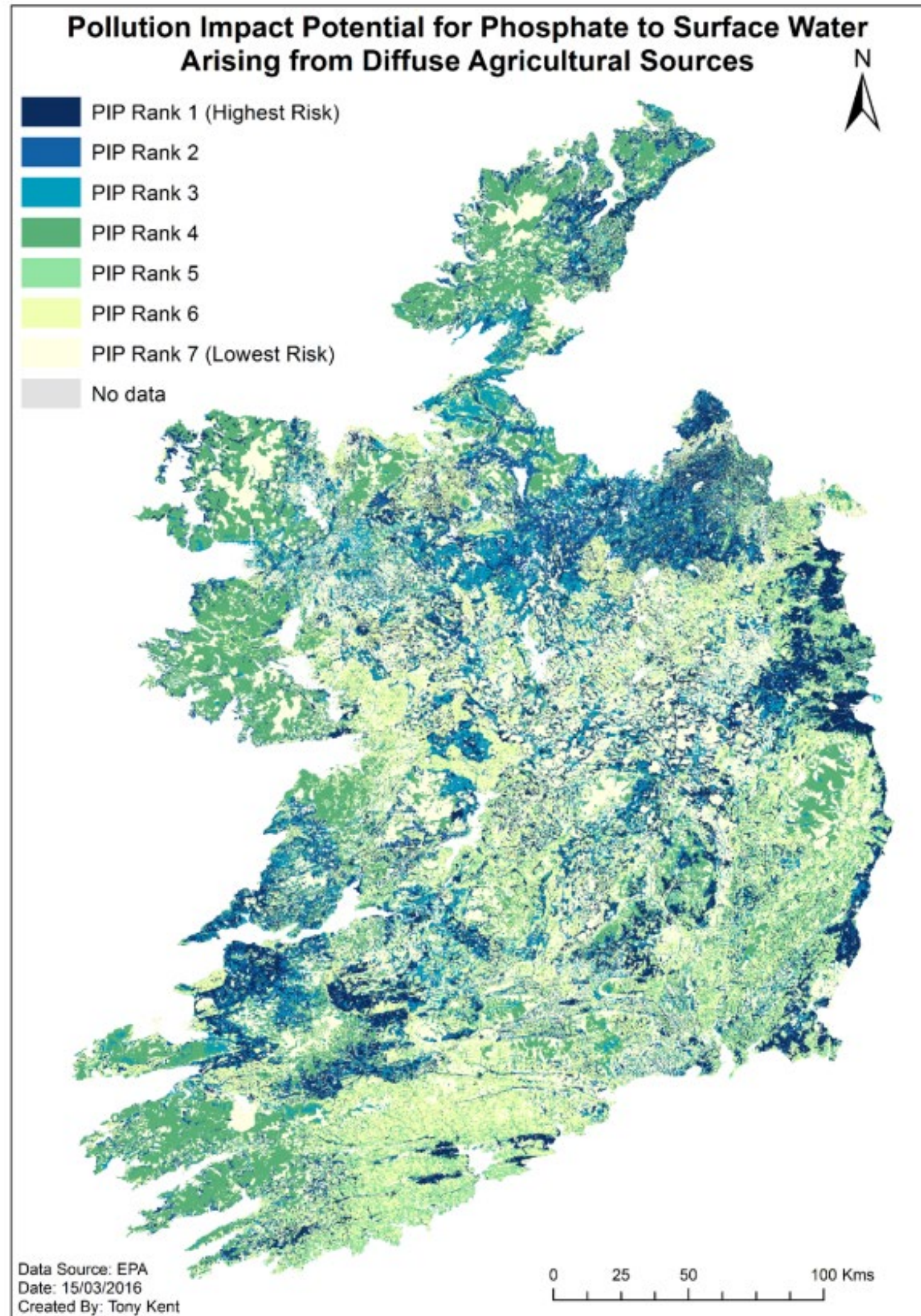


Regional agricultural nitrogen issues

- N losses 
- Agriculture is the main source.
- Spike in losses in 2018

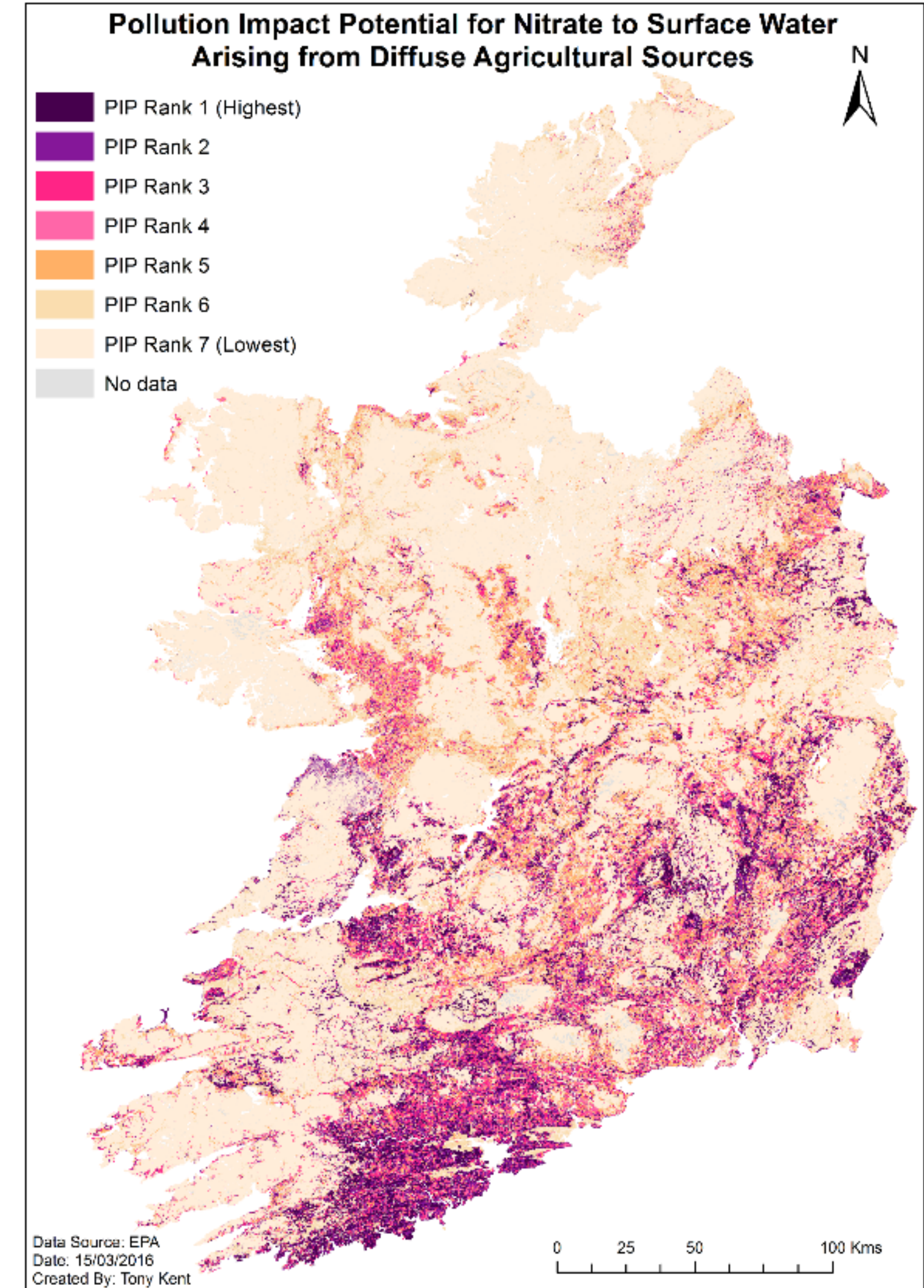


Critical source areas – risk of nutrient losses from diffuse agriculture



← Phosphorus

→ Nitrate



Targeting Agricultural Nutrient Measures for Maximum Co-Benefits

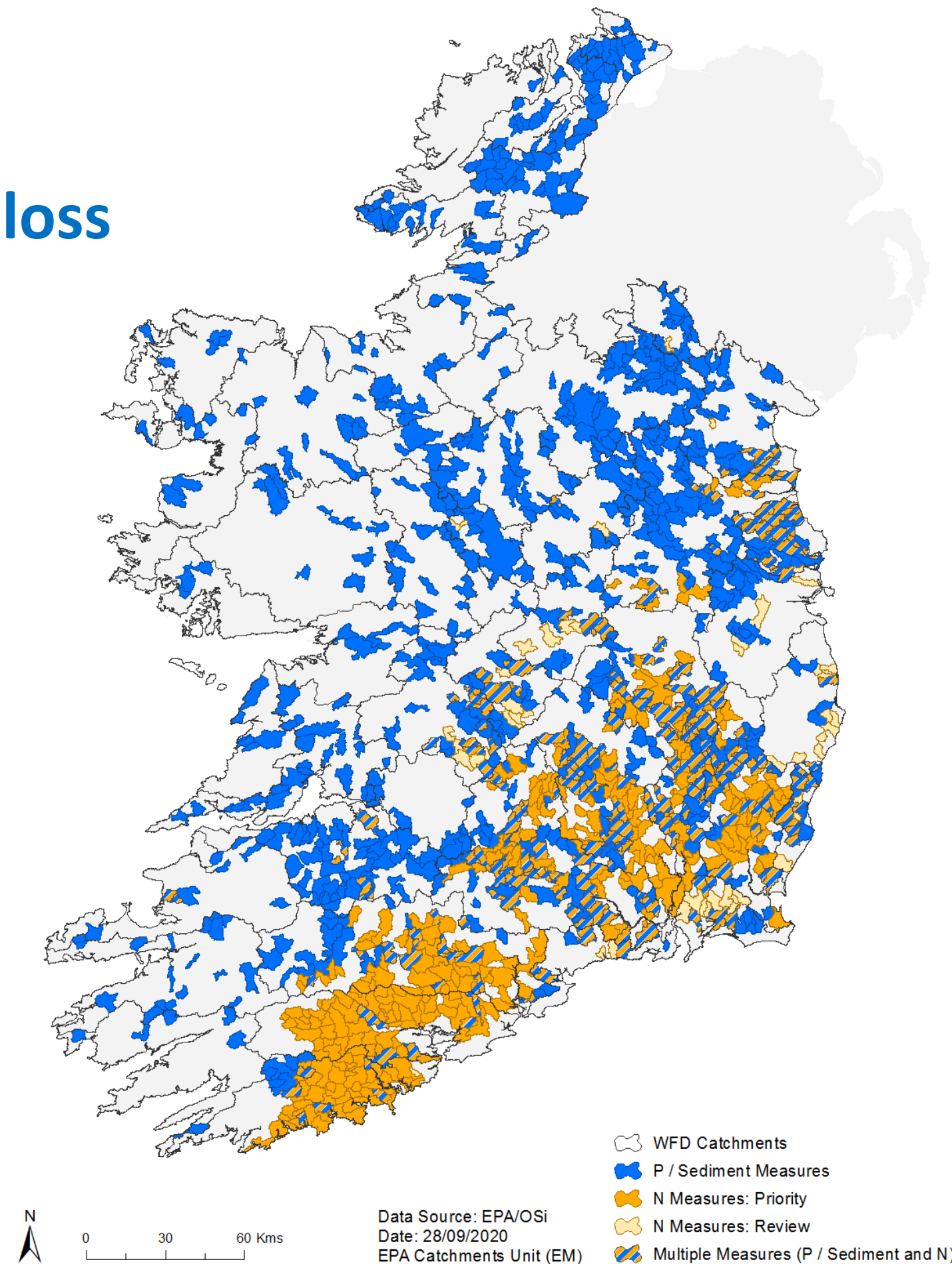
Targeting Agricultural Measures
WFD 3rd Cycle Significant Pressures

1. Measures to reduce phosphorus and sediment loss

‘Break the pathway’.
Co-benefits for nature

2. Measures to reduce nitrogen loss

‘Control losses at source’.
Co-benefits for climate and ammonia.



‘The right measure in the right place’

Bovine herd 2019

NPH	Herdnumbers	Area	Bovines	Dairy cows
0	25%	17%		
≤100	48	48	32%	4%
100-130	9%	10%	15%	7%
131-170	9%	11%	20%	24%
> 170	9%	14%	33%	65%



EPA

Catchment assessment 2021

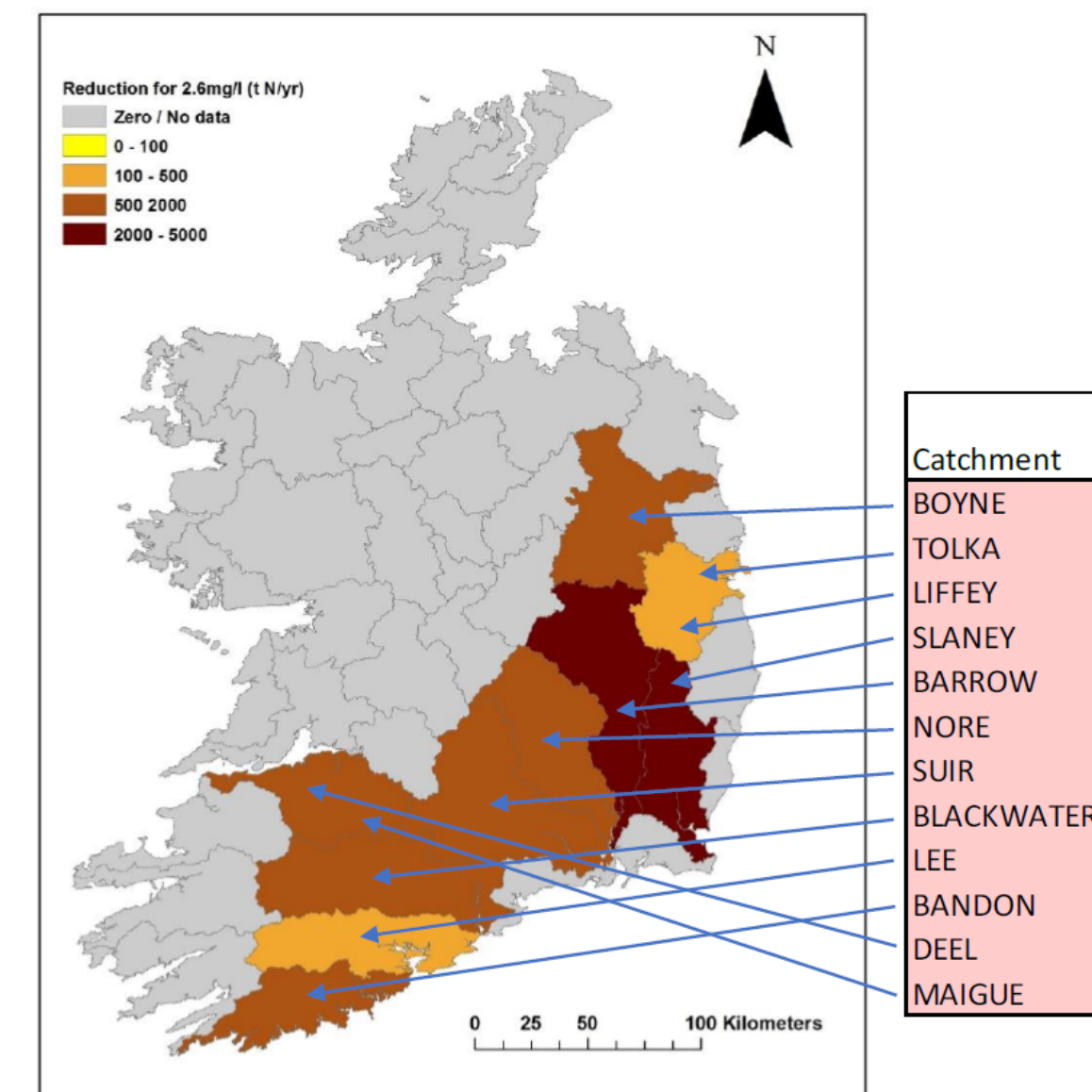


Figure 2. Catchments of concern with elevated nitrogen concentrations. Catchment shading shows the relative scale of nitrogen reductions needed to achieve the Environmental Water Quality Standard of 2.6 mg/l N in the downstream estuary, based on the peak concentration period from 2017-2019. Note that the River Dodder is part of the Liffey catchment.



The Impact of Nitrogen Management Strategies within Grass Based Dairy Systems (July 2021)

Closed period effective

Precision fertiliser use vital

Climate impact can overwhelm

Teagasc modelling July 2021



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Slurry

From 1st January 2022

30th September

15th September for 2023

- From 1st January 2022, all newly constructed external slurry stores must be covered.
- All existing external slurry stores covered no later than 31st December 2027.





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Soiled water

- Soiled water must be collected and kept separate to slurry on all holdings
- From 1 Jan 2022 spreading of soiled water will be prohibited between 15th November and 15th January
- 4 weeks soiled water storage in place by 31st December 2024





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Dairy cow excretion rates

- Band 1 <4,500kg – 80 kg
- Band 2 4,501 and 6,500kg, - 92 kg
- Band 3 >6,500kg – 106 kg





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Chemical fertiliser

- Grassland N allowances will be reduced by 10% nationally and potentially up to 15% in some areas
- Fertiliser application period under review.





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Green cover on tillage ground

- shallow cultivation of harvested crops must be undertaken 7 days post-harvest
- Additional requirements are needed for late harvested crops





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Additional measures

- **Soil tests**
- **Review of technical tables**
- **P build-up**





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“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success” Henry Ford