



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland

2022 - 2027

Appendix 2

Full list of Proposed Measures

Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
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#	Issue / Pressure	Wording of "Action" in draft RBMP (end of sections)	Lead Organisation	Section
1	Implementation / Governance	In cooperation with our northern colleagues, DHLGH will prepare a "shared waters" document that will outline the water bodies that flow into or through both jurisdictions and the work to be undertaken to ensure they meet their environmental objectives as reported in the River Basin Management Plans for Ireland and Northern Ireland.	DHLGH / NIEA	2.2 Shared River Basins with NI
2	Implementation / Governance	LAWPRO, in consultation with stakeholders, to produce templates for the catchment management plans that will be put in place for each of the 46 hydrometric catchments.	DHLGH / LAWPRO	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
3	Implementation / Governance	Carry out a review of Local Authority Resources to put in place appropriate resources to support individual local authorities in fulfilling their role in water quality protection and restoration.	CCMA	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
4	Implementation / Governance	The Department along with the governance groups (WPAC, NCMC and NTIG) will continually review the progress in the implementation of the programmes of measures and the distance to the 2027 target.	DHLGH	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
5	Implementation / Governance	Explore the feasibility of establishing a high level interdepartmental group to develop a comprehensive financing strategy to support the implementation of measures to deliver on the ambitious Water, Climate and Biodiversity objectives committed to in the Programme for Government.	DHLGH	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
6	Implementation / Governance	Irish Water to review and update their Water Services Strategic Plan that covers a 25 year period of water services management.	Irish Water	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
7	Implementation / Governance	The Department, together with the Department of Rural and Community Development, will develop and publish in 2024 a Rural Water Services Strategic Plan for the period 2025 to 2050.	DHLGH / DRCD	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
8	Implementation / Governance	Irish Water and relevant stakeholders will work together to implement mitigation measures for abstractions determined to be significant pressures through the abstraction licensing process.	Irish Water	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
9	Implementation / Governance	The need for exemptions will be reviewed as the abstraction licensing process is rolled out.	DHLGH	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
10	Implementation / Governance	A multiagency group under the NTIG to continue a forum to co-ordinate efforts for implementation of Nature-based Catchment Management.	EPA	2.4 What we Want to Achieve
11	Implementation / Governance	Strengthening water protection provisions where necessary in relevant sectoral policies. These include; water services policy, spatial planning policy, agricultural policy and aquaculture policy.	DHLGH	2.5 Other plans and programmes

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12	Implementation / Governance	Identifying and embedding measures that will deliver multiple policy objectives (e.g. water, biodiversity and climate adaptation/mitigation) into sectoral policies.	DHLGH	2.5 Other plans and programmes
13	Implementation / Governance	Measures to be put in place to ensure the additional evidence required to determine if waterbodies are 'At Risk' can be obtained.	EPA	3.1 The current condition of our waters
14	Implementation / Governance	Undertake a technical Review and public Consultation on the designation of Heavily Modified Water Bodies.	EPA	3.3 Artificial and Heavily Modified Water Bodies
15	Climate Change	To ensure that the actions selected are effective, sustainable and cost efficient under changing conditions, a "climate check" will be required for all measures carried out under this plan.	Relevant Body	3.4 Impacts of Climate Change
16	Climate Change	Update the Climate Adaptation Plan for the Water Quality and Water Infrastructure Sectors	DHLGH	3.4 Impacts of Climate Change
17	Climate Change	Examine opportunities in the monitoring programme to improve our understanding of climate change trends	EPA	3.4 Impacts of Climate Change
18	Climate Change	Support additional research and pilot projects in the area of climate change.	DHLGH / EPA	3.4 Impacts of Climate Change
19	Implementation / Governance	Progress further studies under the ESRI Joint Research Programme on Water.	DHLGH	4.3 Continued Monitoring, Evaluation and Review
20	Implementation / Governance	Review to be undertaken of the Local Authority Waters Programme and Wider Local Authority Structures to inform their evolution and identify the appropriate level of resources and involvement required from the sector to meet WFD objectives.	CCMA	4.3 Continued Monitoring, Evaluation and Review
21	Implementation / Governance	DHLGH to review the outcomes of the IPA Governance Research programme on Ireland's water governance arrangements and implement their recommendations where appropriate.	DHLGH	4.3 Continued Monitoring, Evaluation and Review
22	Implementation / Governance	Carry out an assessment of the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) to review, examine, evaluate, comment and report on the rationale, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of ASSAP to date, along with recommendations for the future and its role and objectives under the third-cycle plan.	Teagasc	4.3 Continued Monitoring, Evaluation and Review
23	Implementation / Governance	Working Group to be established under the National Technical Implementation Group to examine the implementation of current legislation governing activities which pose a risk to waters and to identify opportunities to improve compliance with it.	EPA	5.2 Protection of Waterbodies

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24	Implementation / Governance	DHLGH to provide clarification on the roles and responsibilities of the various implementation bodies, shifting emphasis from the sharing of information and the provision of updates to a more focused provision of high-level policy direction, monitoring implementation of the Plan, and project management.	DHLGH	5.3.1 Implementation / Governance
25	Implementation / Governance	An enhanced programme of formal and scheduled monitoring and reporting of progress in respect of the implementation of the RBMP will be put in place.	DHLGH	5.3.1 Implementation / Governance
26	Implementation / Governance	Provide a continued emphasis on the full range of the regulatory mix, from awareness and education, through to norms and enforcement, with a review undertaken to ensure there is an appropriate balance in the third cycle to ensure a greater emphasis on compliance assurance activity.	DHLGH	5.3.1 Implementation / Governance
27	Implementation / Governance	Specific capacity building programmes of work to be put in place to encourage the transfer of learning and knowledge.	DHLGH	5.3.1 Implementation / Governance
28	Implementation / Governance	Ensure further activation, development and support of local level initiatives (rivers trusts, catchment partnerships).	LAWPRO / Regional Committees	5.3.1 Implementation / Governance
29	Implementation / Governance	Review the outcomes of the IPA/EPA Governance Research Programme.	DHLGH	5.3.1 Implementation / Governance
30	Areas for Action	Restoration works to be advanced in 427 areas where environmental objectives are not being met.	LAWPRO / Regional Committees	5.3.2 Areas for Action
31	Areas for Action	Protection measures to be progressed in 85 areas that are meeting their environmental objectives but require protection to ensure their water quality does not deteriorate.	LAWPRO / Regional Committees	5.3.2 Areas for Action
32	Areas for Action	Catchment projects aimed at improving water quality to be advanced in 15 areas	LAWPRO / Regional Committees	5.3.2 Areas for Action
33	Areas for Action	The Blue Dot Programme to draft a detailed work plan for waters with a High Status Objective, with a view to them forming part of the proposed local catchment plans.	LAWPRO	5.3.2 Areas for Action
34	Public Participation	Evaluate the outcome of the Resilience Project for Rivers Trusts to inform future community engagement initiatives.	LAWPRO	5.3.3 Public Participation
35	Public Participation	Examine ways in which further support can be provided for the formation and capacity building of local forums to help identify and implement measures.	LAWPRO	5.3.3 Public Participation
36	Public Participation	Increase the level of funding under the Community Water Development Fund	DHLGH	5.3.3 Public Participation
37	Public Participation	Explore opportunities for the development of a national citizen science programme.	DHLGH	5.3.3 Public Participation

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38	Public Participation	An Fóram Uisce to identify the optimum level of engagement with the implementation structures for the WFD as part of their strategic planning process.	An Fóram Uisce	5.3.3 Public Participation
39	Agriculture	<p>New GAP Regulations: The existing GAP Regulations are due to expire and be replaced at the end of 2021. The Nitrates Expert Group is working on the development of the new Nitrates Action Programme, which will be implemented by the regulations. It is expected that the new NAP will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing controls on Nitrogen and Phosphorous from agriculture. • Implement tighter controls on nitrogen and phosphorus inputs by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Establishing a chemical fertiliser register for farmers » Providing for enhanced programmes of enforcement. » Stipulating tighter controls on the use of chemical nitrogen fertilisers focussed on critical source areas » Incorporate an industry-led initiative to reduce agricultural impacts on water quality. 	DHLGH	5.4.1 Agriculture
40	Agriculture	CAP Strategic Plan: New Rural Development Programme Regulations under the National CAP Strategic Plan will underpin the establishment of a new green architecture that aims to deliver and reward positive environmental outcomes, including water, biodiversity and climate mitigation and adaptation objectives.	DAFM	5.4.1 Agriculture
41	Agriculture	Teagasc will progress the development of a web-based Farm Sustainability Plan that will complement the existing Nutrient Management Planning online tool and support the wider Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems (AKIS) programme.	Teagasc	5.4.1 Agriculture
42	Agriculture	Consideration will be given to extending and expanding LAWPRO and ASSAP to support the implementation of the new CAP Strategic Plan. There will be an increased focus on sustainability across the entire farm advisory service (both Teagasc and private advisory services). This may include a role in the preparation of Farm Sustainability Plans.	DHLGH	5.4.1 Agriculture

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43	Agriculture	Local authorities and the EPA, through the NIECE network, will ensure that compliance assurance (including enforcement) actions for agricultural activities will be further enhanced and ensure that there is an increased targeting of inspections by local authorities based on water quality results, critical source areas and the EPA's PIP Maps.	LA's/EPA	5.4.1 Agriculture
44	Hydromorphology	DHLGH to develop a new Controlled Activities for the Protection of Waters regime to address pressures on the physical condition of waters.	DHLGH	5.4.2 Hydromorphology
45	Hydromorphology	DHLGH to establish a restoration programme to mitigate the negative impact of past construction in or near water bodies.	DHLGH	5.4.2 Hydromorphology
46	Hydromorphology	A pilot project will be undertaken for the Annacotty weir in County Limerick to assist with the design and implementation of the national restoration programme.	IFI	5.4.2 Hydromorphology
47	Hydromorphology	DHLGH to oversee the implementation of the roadmap of actions to improve fish migration in the lower Shannon at the Hydroelectric scheme located around Parteen and Ardnacrusa.	DHLGH	5.4.2 Hydromorphology
48	Forestry	Continue to seek improvements to the licence applications process for key forestry activities	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
49	Forestry	Increase the area of forests with appropriate water setbacks through the ongoing restructuring of existing forest stands at clearfell / reforestation stage to incorporate appropriate water setbacks	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
50	Forestry	Ensure the application of water setbacks and other water-based protection during the creation of new forests, principally under the Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme.	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
51	Forestry	Manage the application of support measures that have a clear application in relation to the protection of water, including: the Continuous Cover Forestry Scheme; the native woodland and agro-forestry options under the Afforestation Scheme, and the Native Woodland Conservation Scheme.	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
52	Forestry	Encourage uptake of the recently-revised Woodland Creation on Public Lands Scheme to deliver woodland-based solutions for the protection of drinking water sources and water in general.	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
53	Forestry	Roll-out the Woodland for Water Scheme which is focused on strategically realising native woodland in areas where such features would have a marked impact in relation the protection of water.	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry

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54	Forestry	Continue to address all forestry-related water incidents, as identified by DAFM Inspectors or reported to DAFM by foresters, water agencies, NGOs and members of the public.	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
55	Forestry	Further engagement between DAFM and other parties on forestry-related issues, both within the existing WFD structures and forums, and bilaterally (e.g. with Inland Fisheries Ireland).	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
56	Forestry	Deliver further training of Registered Foresters and Consultant Ecologists and of Department Forestry Inspectors and Ecologists, in relation to the design, assessment and implementation of forestry projects from the perspective of the protection environment, including water.	DAFM	5.4.3 Forestry
57	Urban Waste Water	Continue investment in waste water infrastructure with Irish Water investing in 83 wastewater treatment plants and 10 collection networks at an estimated cost of €1.022bn, over the period 2020-2024.	Irish Water	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
58	Urban Waste Water	DHLGH to ensure ongoing engagement with Irish Water on the requirements for the next investment period (2025-2029).	DHLGH	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
59	Urban Waste Water	EPA to carry out a review of Waste Water Discharge Licences	EPA	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
60	Urban Waste Water	Deliver a multi-annual investment programme to provide waste water infrastructure for unsewered villages	DHLGH	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
61	Urban Waste Water	Irish Water's River Basin Management Plan – Enhanced Ambition Programme to advance priority wastewater treatment plant projects whose discharges have been identified as being significant pressures on water bodies and impacting on WFD objectives.	Irish Water	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
62	Urban Waste Water	Complete negotiations and transposition into Irish law of the recast Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive	DHLGH	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
63	Urban Waste Water	Ensure development of any new standards for Combined Storm Overflows emerging from an update to the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.	DHLGH	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
64	Urban Waste Water	Continue to develop and update the Gap Analysis as a tool to deliver environmental benefits for infrastructural planning.	DHLGH	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
65	Urban Waste Water	Update the Nutrient Sensitive Areas designations under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.	DHLGH	5.4.4 Urban Waste Water
66	Urban Runoff Pressures	Develop recommendations for an implementation strategy for nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems on a national scale.	DHLGH	5.4.5 Urban Runoff Pressures

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67	Urban Runoff Pressures	Provide interim guidance documentation to the Local and Planning Authorities on measures to be implemented to support the delivery of a greater focus on nature based solutions in advance of a national implementation strategy.	DHLGH	5.4.5 Urban Runoff Pressures
68	Urban Runoff Pressures	The National Bathing Water Expert Group to undertake a project to determine the most suitable approach to protecting bathers' health outside of the current bathing season in Dublin Bay.		5.4.5 Urban Runoff Pressures
69	Urban Runoff Pressures	DHLGH to amend the existing Bathing Water Regulations (S.I. No. 79 of 2008) to provide discretion to local authorities on determining the bathing season for individual bathing waters.		5.4.5 Urban Runoff Pressures
70	Urban Runoff Pressures	Establish a programme for the modelling and monitoring of rainwater run-off and overflows.	DHLGH	5.4.5 Urban Runoff Pressures
71	Urban Runoff Pressures	Oversee the preparation of integrated urban drainage management plans.	DHLGH	5.4.5 Urban Runoff Pressures
72	Domestic Waste Water Discharges	In line with the programme for government commitment to 'continue to help fund upgrades to domestic waste water treatment systems, DHLGH will continue to monitor the uptake of the new grant schemes to ensure adequate numbers of people are availing of this measure. A research project will be initiated under the ESRI Research Programme on behaviours and attitudes to assess the level of uptake, impediments to uptake and to make recommendations for improving uptake.	DHLGH	5.4.6 Domestic Waste Water Discharges
73	Domestic Waste Water Discharges	A review of the National Inspection Plan (NIP) 2018-2021 to be completed, with the outcome informing the next NIP for the period 2022-2027. An objective of these plans is to prioritise inspections to areas of greatest environmental and public health risk and secure upgrading works where required.	EPA	5.4.6 Domestic Waste Water Discharges
74	Domestic Waste Water Discharges	DHLGH to consider the outcomes of the research project into the application of zero discharge nature based solutions and their applicability or not within Ireland's climatic conditions.	DHLGH	5.4.6 Domestic Waste Water Discharges
75	Domestic Waste Water Discharges	Review the outcomes of the pilot projects under the first multi-annual Developer-Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme to inform future policy considerations on resolving sub-standard developer provided infrastructure with sustainable solutions.	DHLGH	5.4.6 Domestic Waste Water Discharges

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76	Unknown Pressures	The Local Authority Waters Programme will conduct assessments of water bodies with unknown pressures in priority areas for action to identify the significant pressures in these areas with a high level of confidence.	LAWPRO	5.4.7 Unknown Pressures
77	Unknown Pressures	Each local authority will conduct assessments of water bodies with unknown pressures (those not within priority areas for action) to identify the significant pressures in these areas with a high level of confidence.	Local Authorities	5.4.7 Unknown Pressures
78	Unknown Pressures	The Local Authority Environmental Services National Training Group (LAESNTG) will provide a training programme for catchment assessment and Integrated Catchment Management for the staff of local authorities and all implementing bodies.	LAESNTG	5.4.7 Unknown Pressures
79	Other Pressures	Relevant national authorities to ensure full implementation of the existing measures.	Relevant Bodies	5.4.8 Other Pressures
80	Peat	Measures set out in the National Peatlands Strategy be updated into a new Implementation Plan by NPWS	NPWS	5.4.9 Peat
81	Peat	NPWS to continue driving the implementation of the various programmes to restore the raised bog SAC and NHA network	NPWS	5.4.9 Peat
82	Peat	Appropriate bodies to implement the actions arising from the CANN and CABB Interreg programmes.	Relevant Bodies	5.4.9 Peat
83	Peat	DHLGH to oversee the coordination of the Wild Atlantic Nature LIFE Integrated Project (IP), bringing together the experience and knowledge of the associated partners.	Relevant Bodies	5.4.9 Peat
84	Peat	Bord na Móna to oversee the "Peatlands and People" LIFE Integrated Project.	Relevant Bodies	5.4.9 Peat
85	Peat	NPWS and Geological Survey Ireland to fund an investigation into the causes of blanket bog landslides that occurred across Ireland in 2020, and the vulnerability of other at-risk areas to future failures.	NPWS & GSI	5.4.9 Peat
86	Peat	DAFM to oversee the implementation of sustainable management practises developed through the Blackstairs Mountains, Wicklow Mountains and MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountains EIP projects.	DAFM	5.4.9 Peat
87	Peat	NPWS to explore peatland financing options to escalate restoration efforts including public private partnerships, community trusts, offsetting etc.	NPWS	5.4.9 Peat
88	Industry, Mines & Quarries	DHLGH will examine opportunities to further support businesses in taking on a water stewardship approach in their operations.	EPA	5.4.10 Industry, Mines & Quarries

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89	Industry, Mines & Quarries	The EPA will establish a Working Group under the National Technical Implementation Group to examine the implementation of current legislation governing activities which pose a risk to waters and to identify opportunities to improve compliance with it. The focus will be on protecting waterbodies from pressures and activities which are resulting in deterioration of water quality.	EPA	5.4.10 Industry, Mines & Quarries
90	Drinking Water Source Protection	Drinking Water Expert Group to make recommendations to the Minister regarding a new approach to drinking water source protection as part of the transposition of the recast Drinking Water Directive.	DHLGH	5.4.11 Drinking Water Source Protection
91	Invasive Alien Species	NPWS to finalise legislation for the implementation of the EU IAS Regulation	NPWS	5.4.12 IAS
92	Invasive Alien Species	NPWS to prepare draft management plans and priority pathway action plans for priority invasive species.	NPWS	5.4.12 IAS
93	Invasive Alien Species	NPWS to advance negotiations on the recruitment of additional Biodiversity Officers	NPWS	5.4.12 IAS
94	Invasive Alien Species	An additional €500,000 to be provided for projects tackling Invasive Alien Species under the Local Authority Biodiversity Grant Scheme	NPWS	5.4.12 IAS
95	Invasive Alien Species	DHLGH to provide increased funding to the Community Water Fund to allow for additional projects, including invasive species control projects, to be undertaken at community level.	DHLGH	5.4.12 IAS
96	Hazardous Chemicals	DHLGH will amend the EQS Regulations to take account of the assessment of River Basin Specific Pollutants (RBSPs) by the National Aquatic Environmental Chemistry Group (NAECG)	DHLGH	5.4.13 Haz Chem
97	Hazardous Chemicals	DHLGH and EPA will input into the recently commenced EU work to revise the list of Priority Substances and Priority Hazardous Substances.	DHLGH & EPA	5.4.13 Haz Chem
98	Hazardous Chemicals	Follow up scoping study on River Basin Specific Pollutants will be undertaken by the NAECG	Marine Institute	5.4.13 Haz Chem
99	Hazardous Chemicals	The NAECG will oversee a project to develop revised Environmental Quality Standards for the protection of designated shellfish waters.	Marine Institute	5.4.13 Haz Chem
100	Aquaculture	DAFM to seek to improve access to information through the launch of an online mapping viewer of licensed aquaculture sites in Ireland which will link to licence information already available online.	DAFM	5.4.14 Aquaculture

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101	Aquaculture	DAFM and DHLGH to review opportunities to strengthen the links between the Aquaculture licensing process and the objectives of the WFD.	DAFM / DHLGH	5.4.14 Aquaculture
102	Aquaculture	DHLGH will seek to implement a new legislative and management framework for shellfish waters in Ireland.	DHLGH	5.4.14 Aquaculture
103	Land-Use Planning	Roll out of training on the new water and planning guidelines to practitioners.	DHLGH	5.4.15 Land Use Planning
104	Land-Use Planning	Progress amendments to the planning and development legislation to give effect to the new guidance.	DHLGH	5.4.15 Land Use Planning
105	Economic Analysis	Prior to confirming the final programme of measures, the most cost effective combination of measures will be analysed.	DHLGH	5.5 Update and Review of Economic Analysis
106	Economic Analysis	The economic regulator of water services (the CRU) will continue to assess and approve Irish Water's costs and investment plans. This will include assessment of Irish Water's investment decisions to ensure effectiveness, efficiency and economy in Irish Water's expenditure. The CRU will continue to monitor and report on Irish Water's delivery and performance in that context	CRU	5.5 Update and Review of Economic Analysis
107	Economic Analysis	Irish Water to publish a National Water Resources Plan and to maintain national waste water capacity registers to ensure security of supply and sufficient capacity in drinking and waste water networks to allow for balanced regional development in line with the National Planning Framework	Irish Water	5.5 Update and Review of Economic Analysis
108	Economic Analysis	Irish Water to continue to implement domestic excess use and non-domestic changing.	Irish Water	5.5 Update and Review of Economic Analysis
109	Economic Analysis	Conduct a new economic assessment of the potential for a natural capital / freshwater ecosystem services approach to protecting water resources, including the need for new economic instruments and protection of freshwater and marine ecosystem services.	DHLGH	5.5 Update and Review of Economic Analysis
110	Economic Analysis	Put in place a funding stream to upgrade and take in charge towns and villages without waste water networks.	DHLGH	5.5 Update and Review of Economic Analysis
111	Economic Analysis	Finalise the review of rural water services and produce a rural water services strategic plan including a national rural water resources plan for the rural water sector.	DHLGH	5.5 Update and Review of Economic Analysis

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