Lough Neagh Pressures, Impacts and Partnership Working

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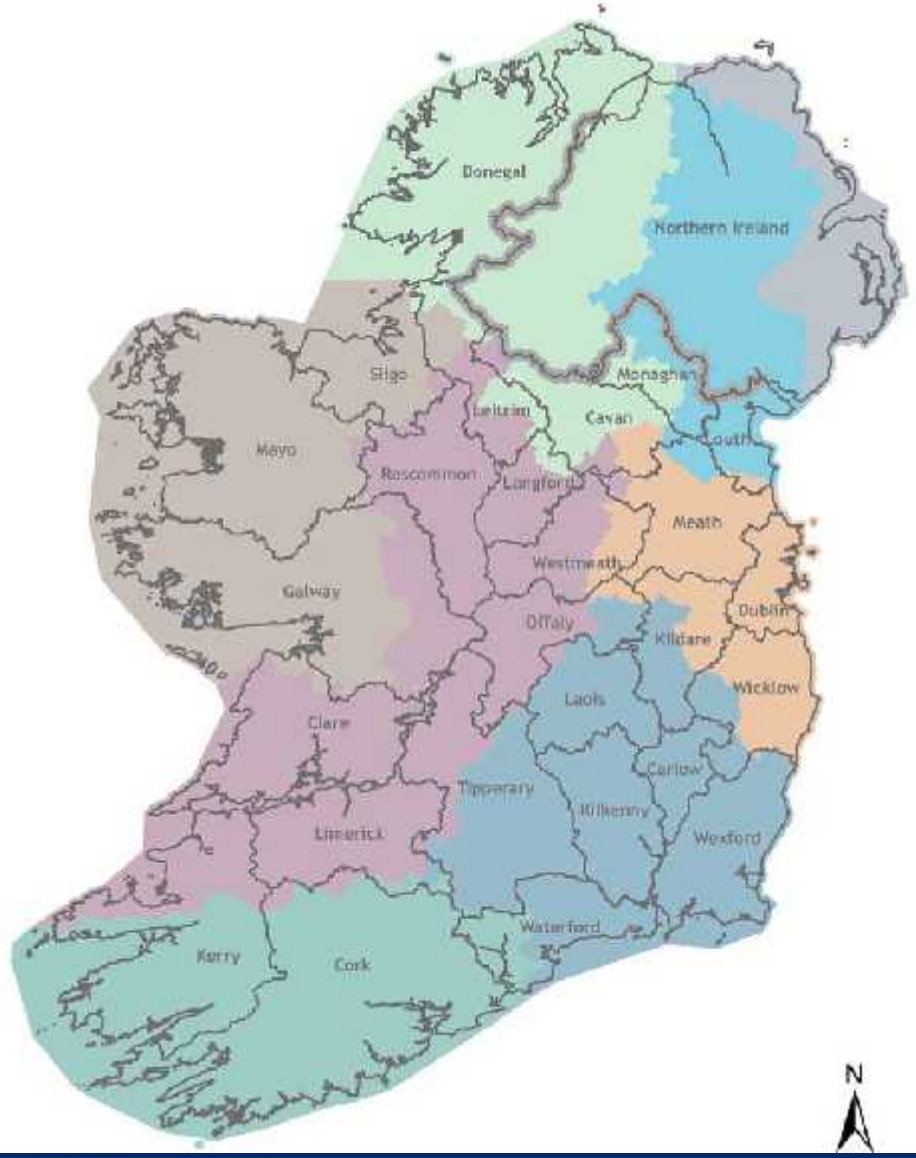
Contributions by Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI)

Overview

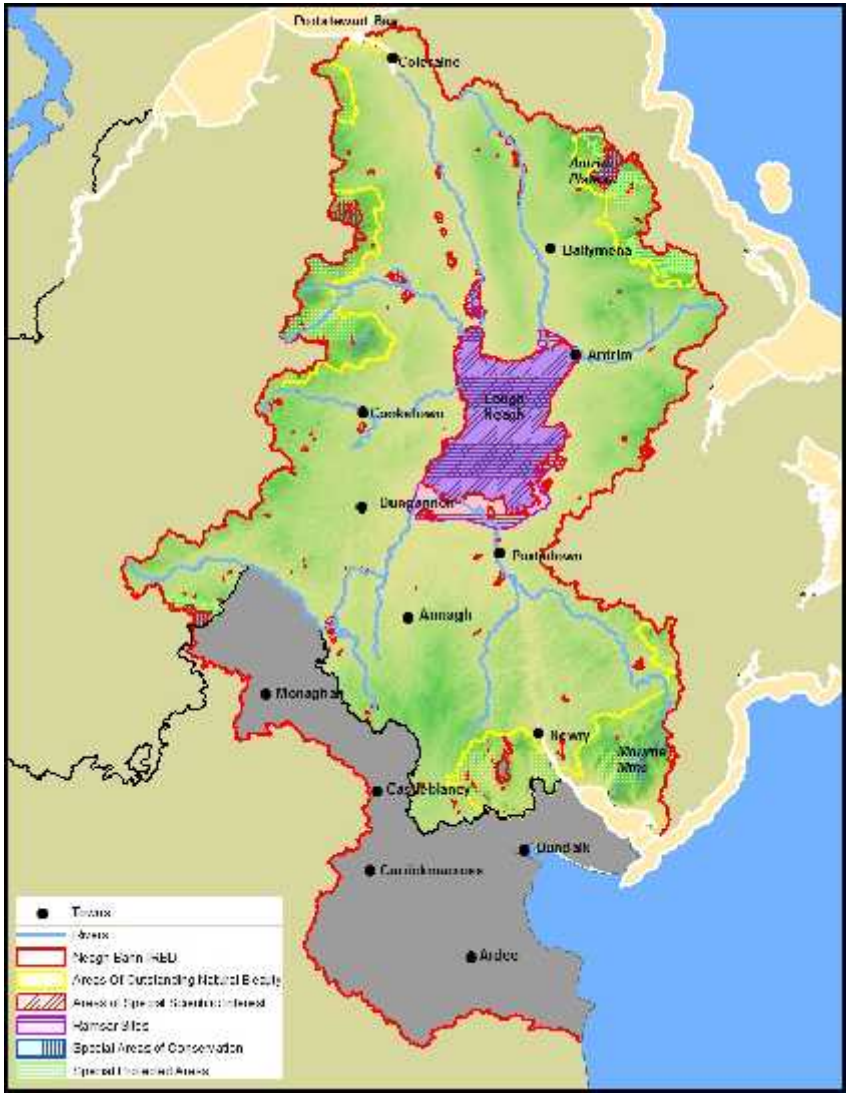
- River Basin District
- Pressures
- Status and objectives
- What actions are being taken
- Partnership working
- Lough Neagh trends
- Future work and next steps

River Basin Districts



- Main unit of management across Europe
- 8 River Basin Districts in Ireland
- Neagh Bann International River Basin District

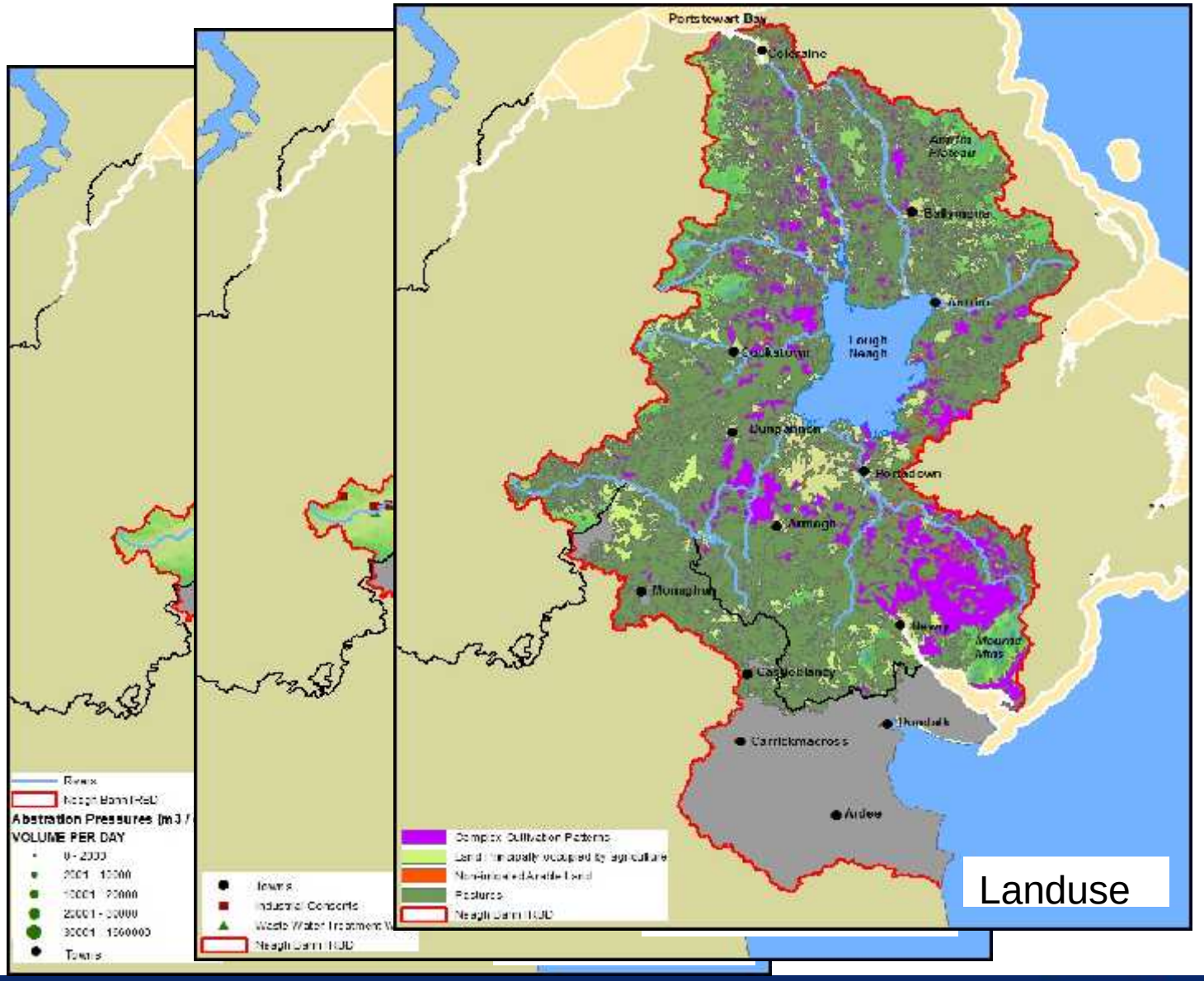
Neagh Bann River Basin District



Approx 6000km^2 NI
& 2000km^2 Ireland

Lough Neagh
- Ramsar Site
- ASSI
- SPA
- SAC

Lough Neagh analysis of pressures



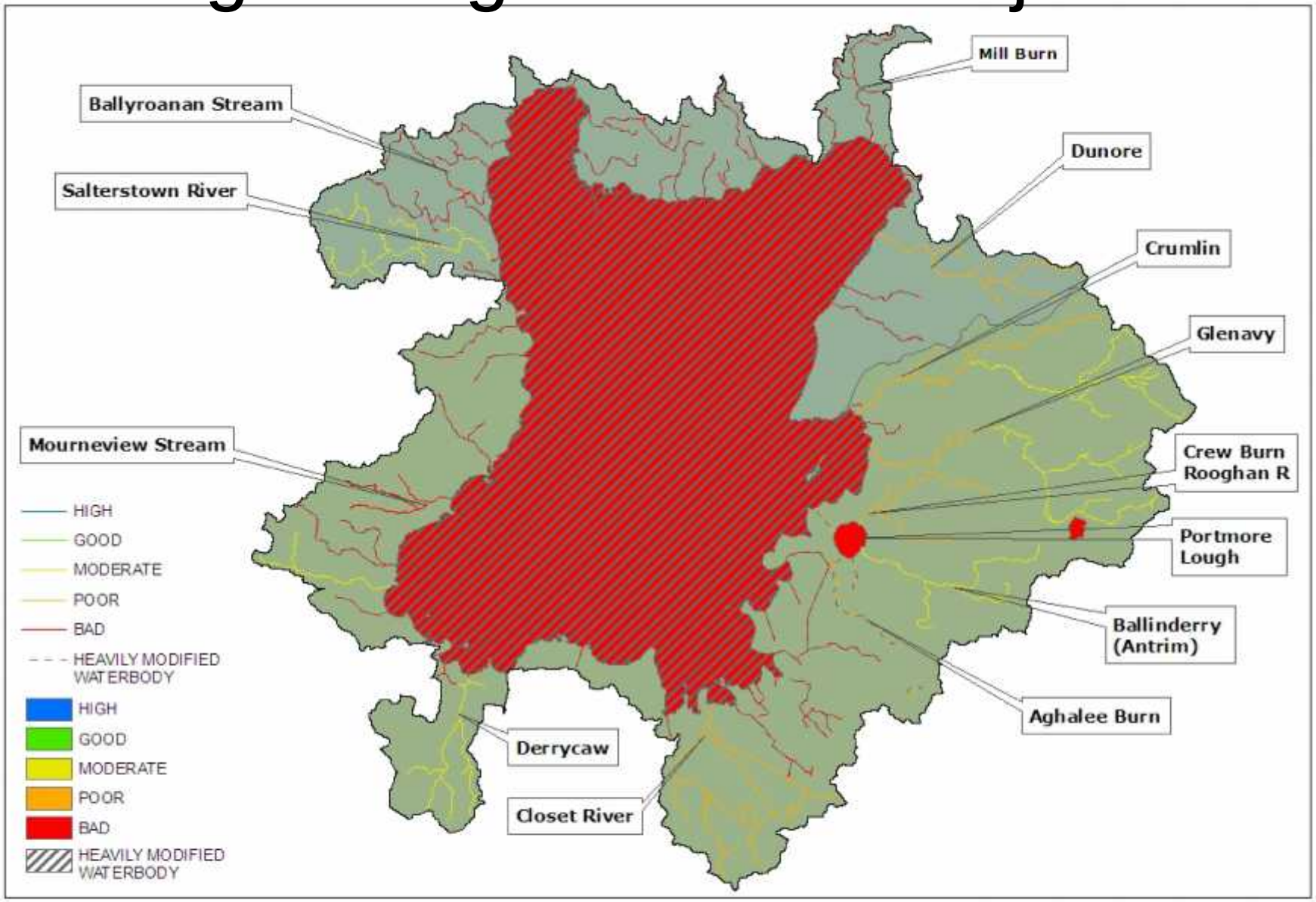
Established Invasive Alien Species

-Nuttall's pondweed (*Elodea nuttallii*) – first recorded in 1984 on Western shoreline.

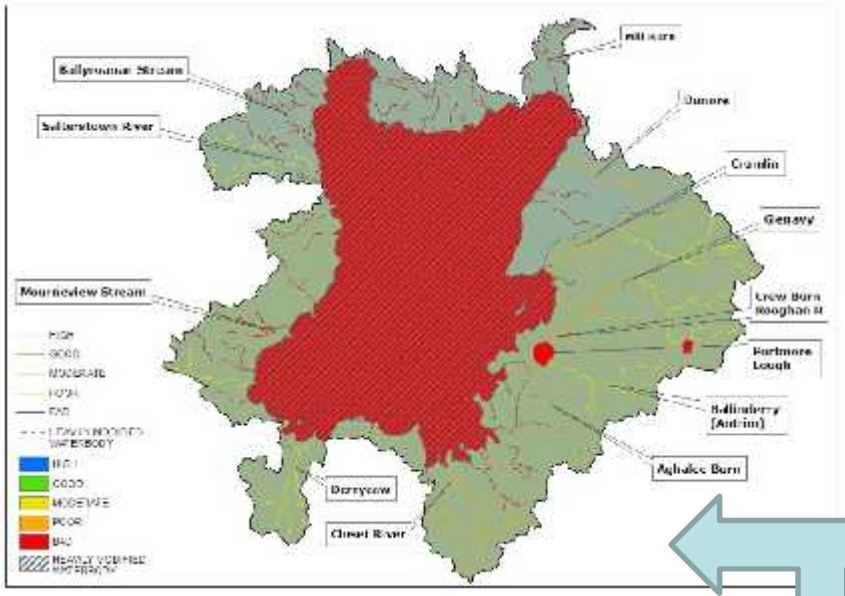
-Several freshwater shrimps – *Gammarus pulex, Crangonyx psuedogracilis & Gammarus tigrinus*.

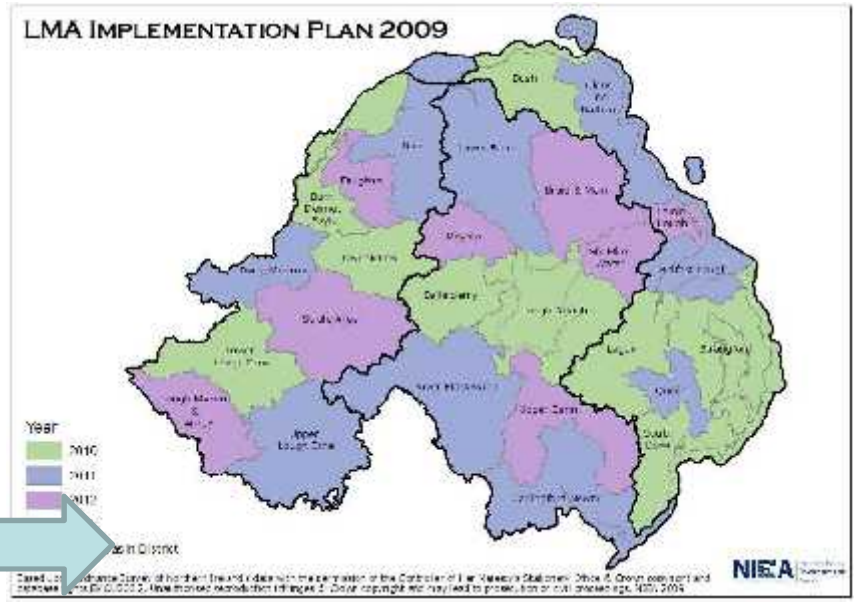
-Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) – first recorded in 2005 at Kinnego Marina.

Lough Neagh Status & Objective



Lough Neagh Action Plan





NATIONAL MEASURES

LOCAL MEASURES

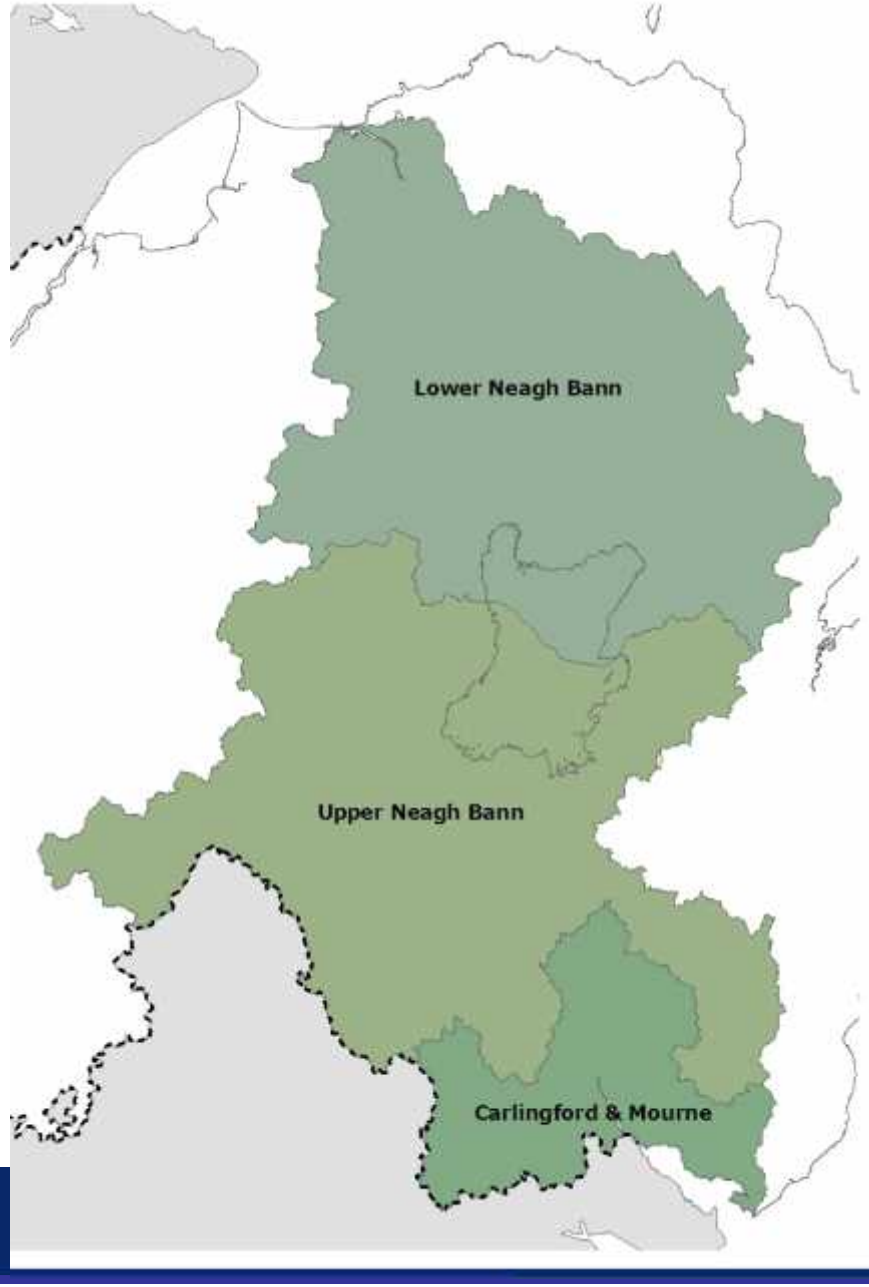
Action to be taken	Action to be taken by
Work with and support local Stakeholders in raising awareness of environmental issues and project	NIEA
Carry out a Lough Neagh baseline fish survey starting in Summer 2011	AFBI
Implementation of all other LMA action plans that feed into the Lough	NIEA

Targeted River Walks

Pollution
Hotline
Signage

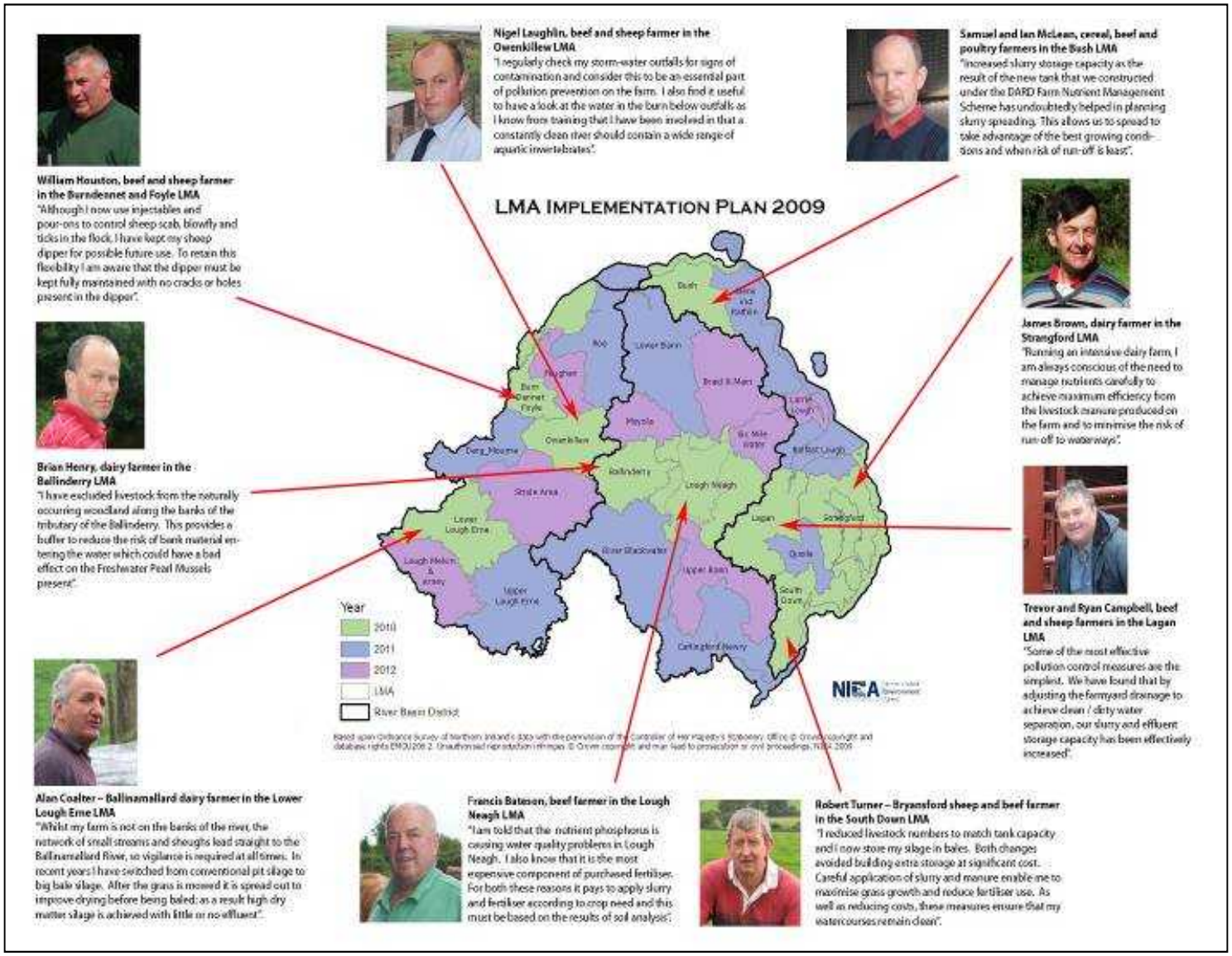
Removal of Himalayan Balsam

Catchment Stakeholder Groups

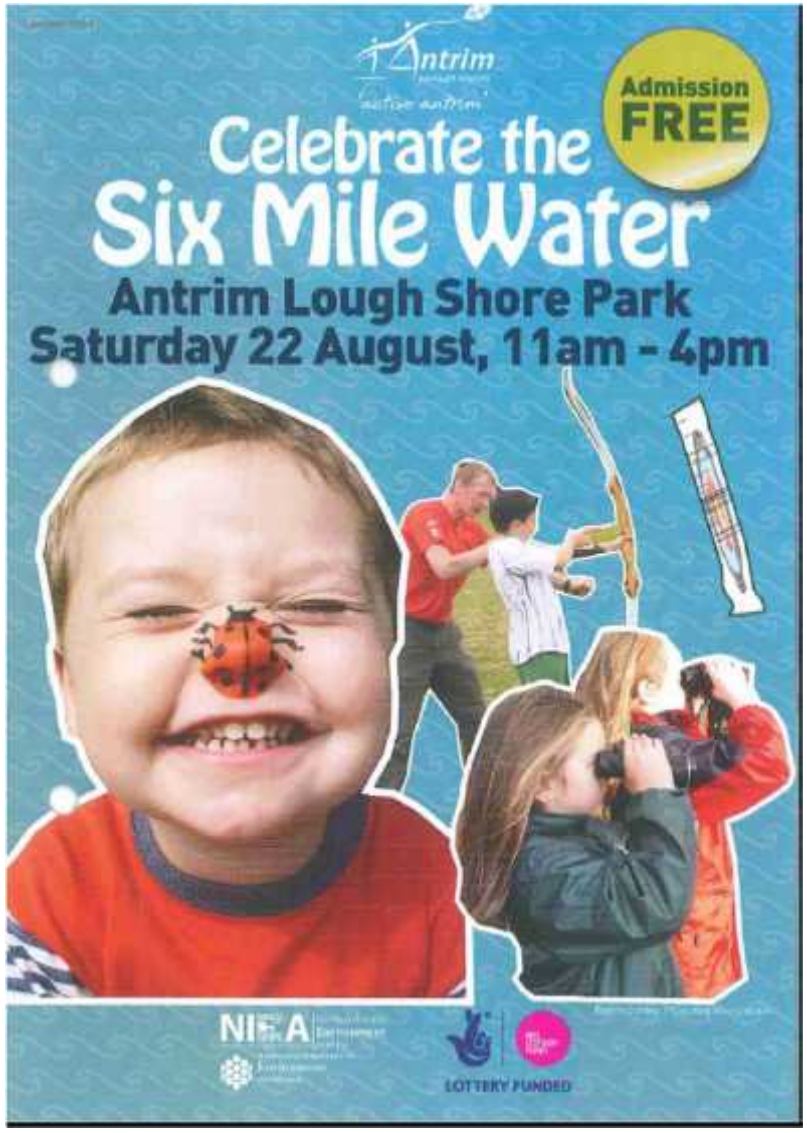


- Bi-annual meetings
- Informal
- Discussion topics:
  - Pollution in local area
  - Plans to improve the local environment
  - Guest speaker from the area e.g. local fishing club

DARD Press Articles

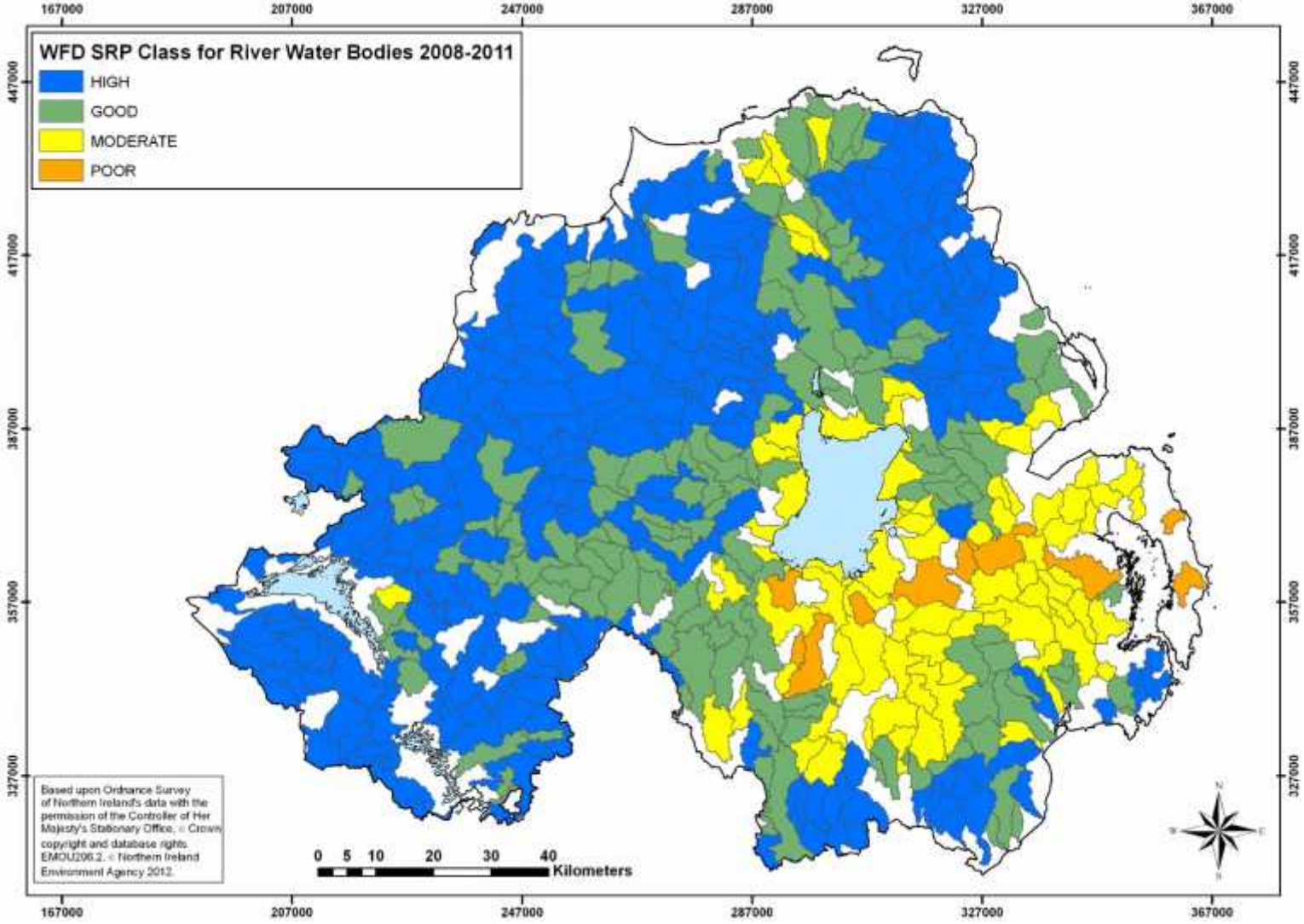


Public Participation

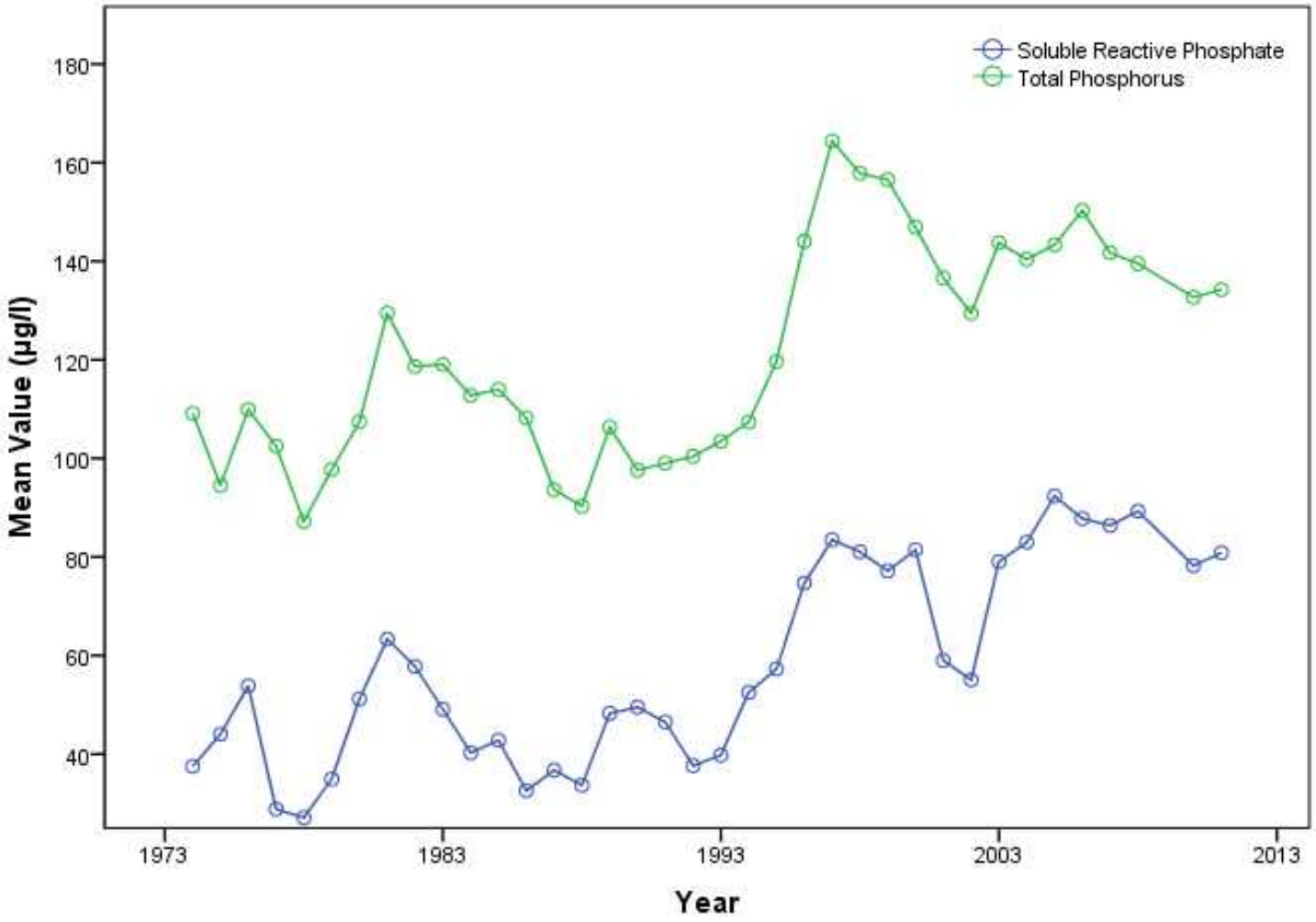


Trophic Status 2008 – 2011

(based on SRP, macrophytes and diatoms)



Long term lake trends



Graph provided courtesy of AFBI

European funded project (INTERREG IVA) – DOLMANT

Development of Lake Management Tools

2011 - 2014

- Aims to link catchments with lake ecology
- Study of lake biology, chemistry and catchment characteristics
- Lough Neagh included as one of the study lakes

afbi Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute

European Union
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in your future

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency

University of ULSTER

Iascach Intíre Éireann Inland Fisheries Ireland

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

epa Environmental Protection Agency

Conclusions & Next Steps

- Lough Neagh is important natural habitat
- Fragile resource managed as ecosystem
- Lake restoration scheme to manage internal and external nutrient sources
- Need for ongoing research
- Achieving Good Ecological Potential considerable challenge

Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote our natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.