

The **Blue Dot** Catchment Programme preserving Irelands high status lakes

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*UKILN Conference
16-10-2019*

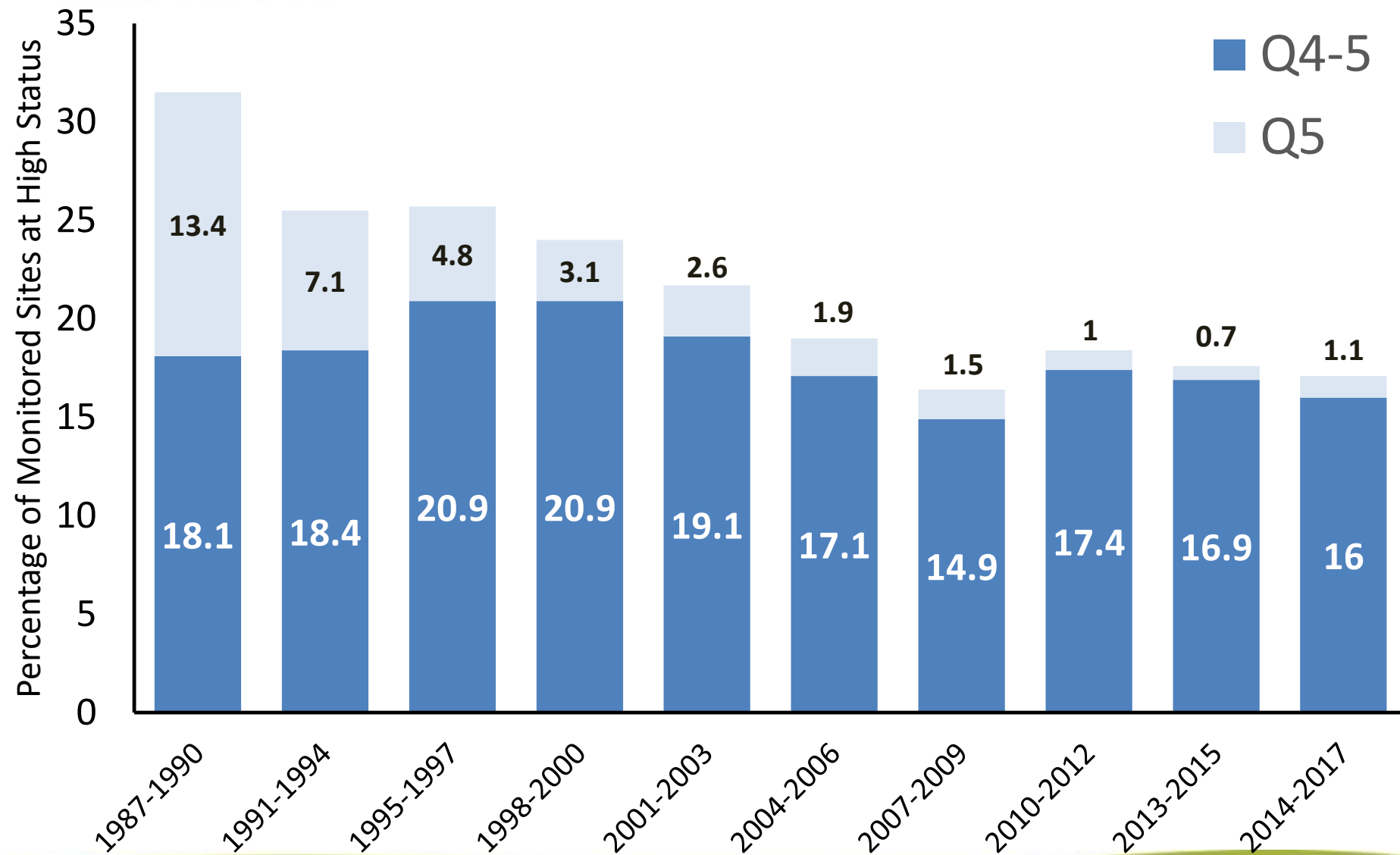
RBMP 2018 -2021



*“Some of the **most important measures in the Plan** include ... the development and implementation of a “**Blue Dot Catchments Programme**” for the protection of high-status waters....”**

**Emphasis added*

The Decline

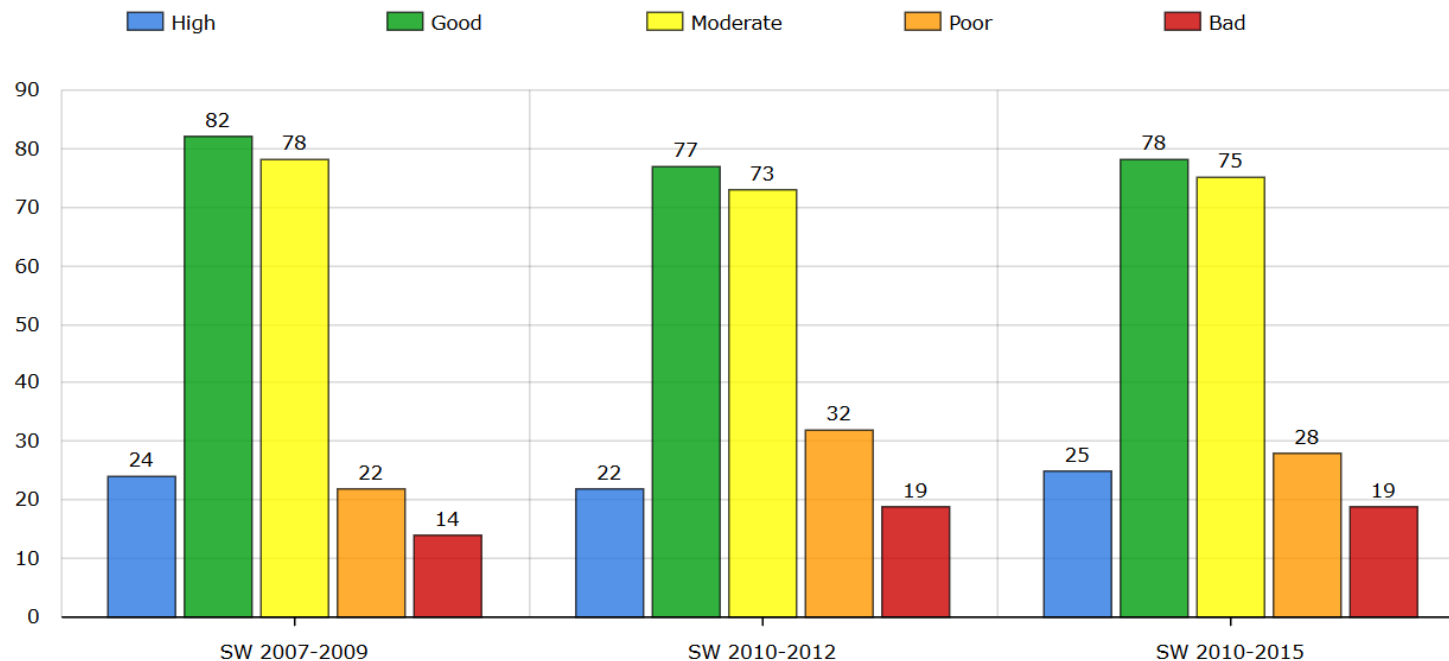


High Ecological Status (HES) Objective

How do we determine which waters must achieve high status?

- Some sites may fluctuate naturally making it difficult to identify improvements or declines
- A HES objective waterbody should have achieved high status regularly
- If deterioration has occurred, it should only have occurred recently, i.e. since WFD monitoring commenced.
- For lakes, high ecological status at any time during the WFD monitored period was considered sufficient for assigning a high status objective

Lake Status

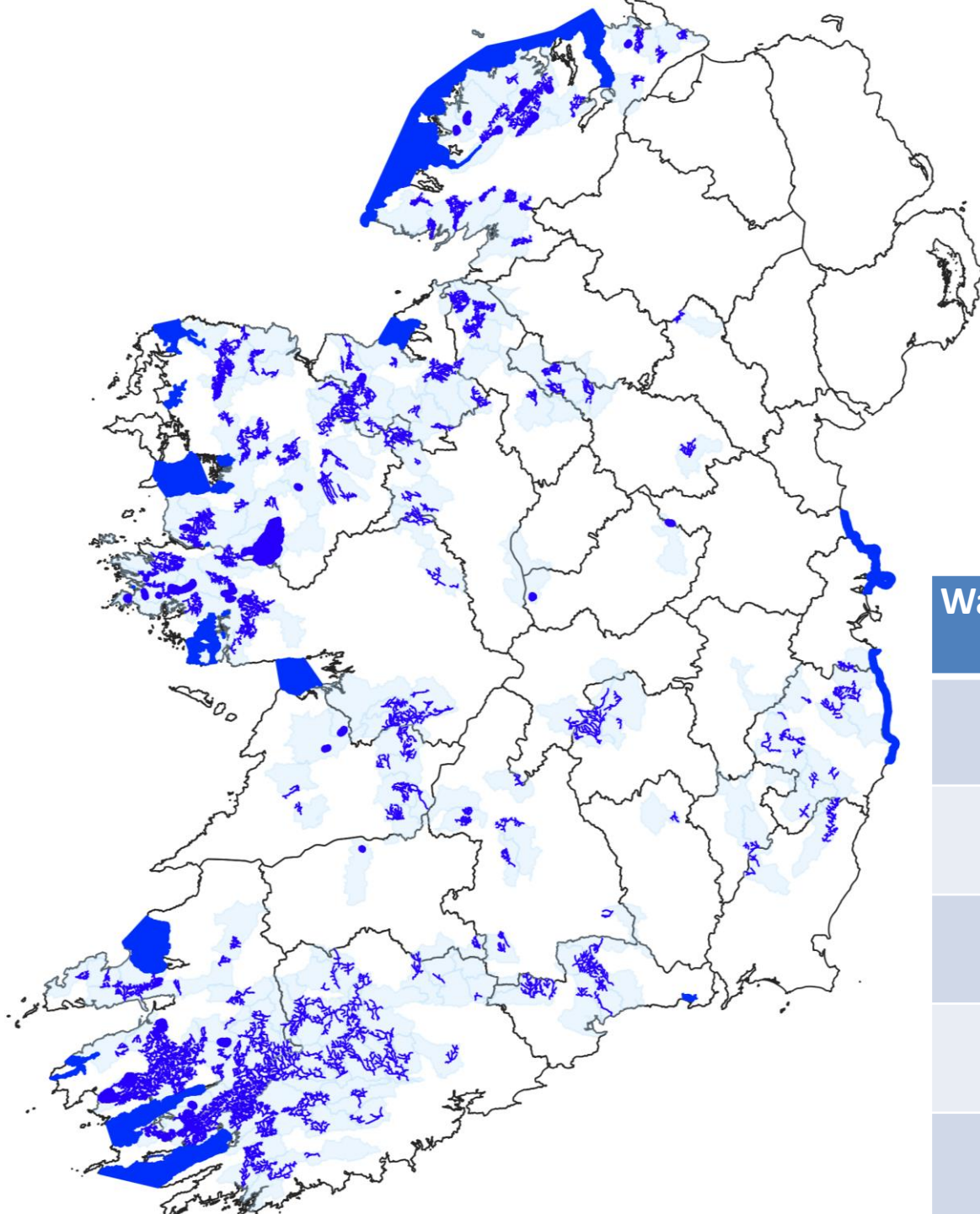


Period	High	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad
SW 2007-2009	24	82	78	22	14
SW 2010-2012	22	77	73	32	19
SW 2010-2015	25	78	75	28	19

Risk classification of Blue Dot waters

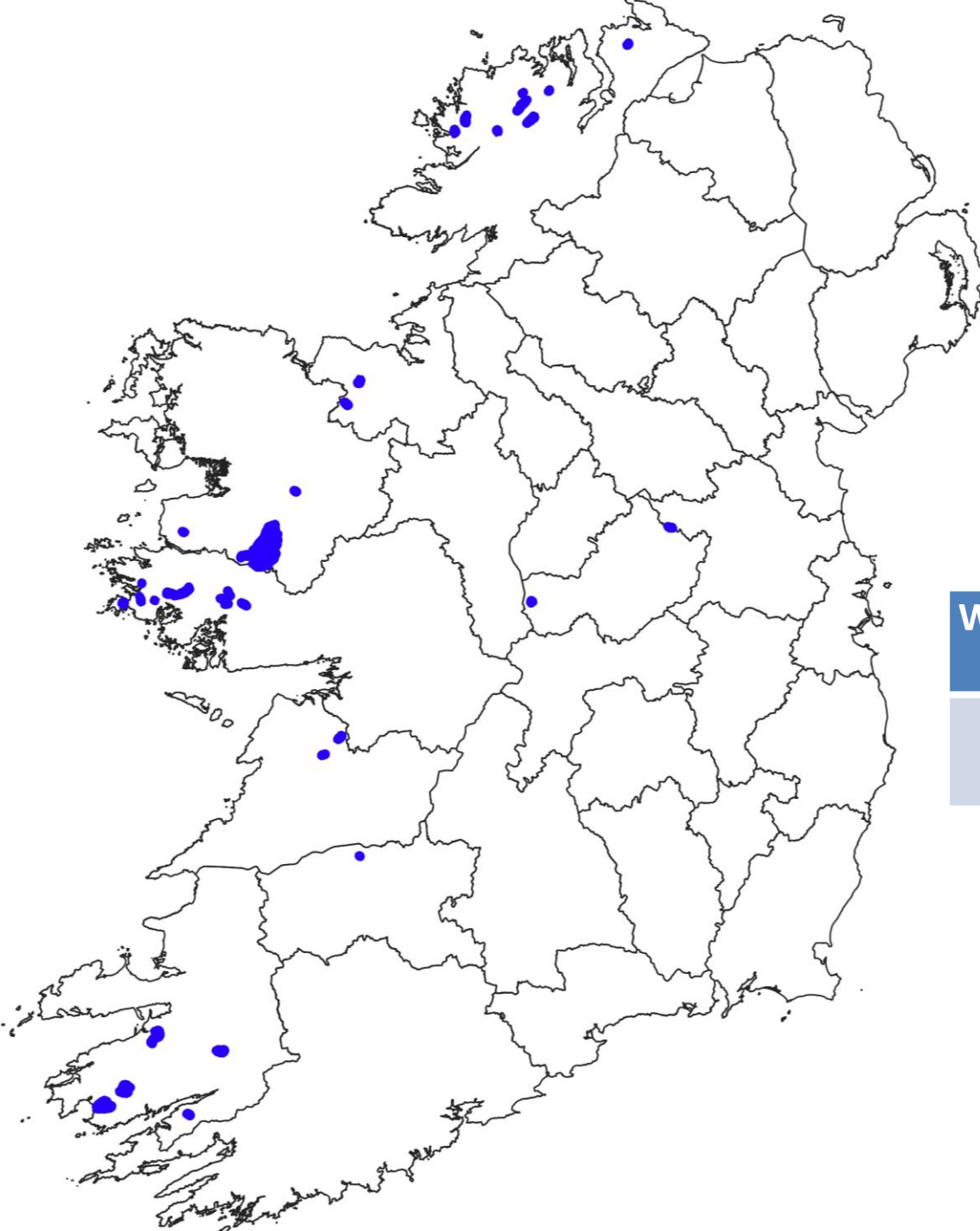
Water Body Type	High Status Objective	At Risk	Review	Not at Risk	Within PAA
Lake	37	12	2	23	4
River (FPM)	319 (28)	112 (15)	3 (2)	204 (11)	60(13) Within 45 PAAs
Transitional	12	9	2	1	0
Coastal	16	2	7	7	0
Totals	384	135	14	235	64

Blue Dot Waterbodies



Water Body Type	High Status Objective
River (FPM)	319 (28)
Lake	37
Transitional	12
Coastal	16
Totals	384

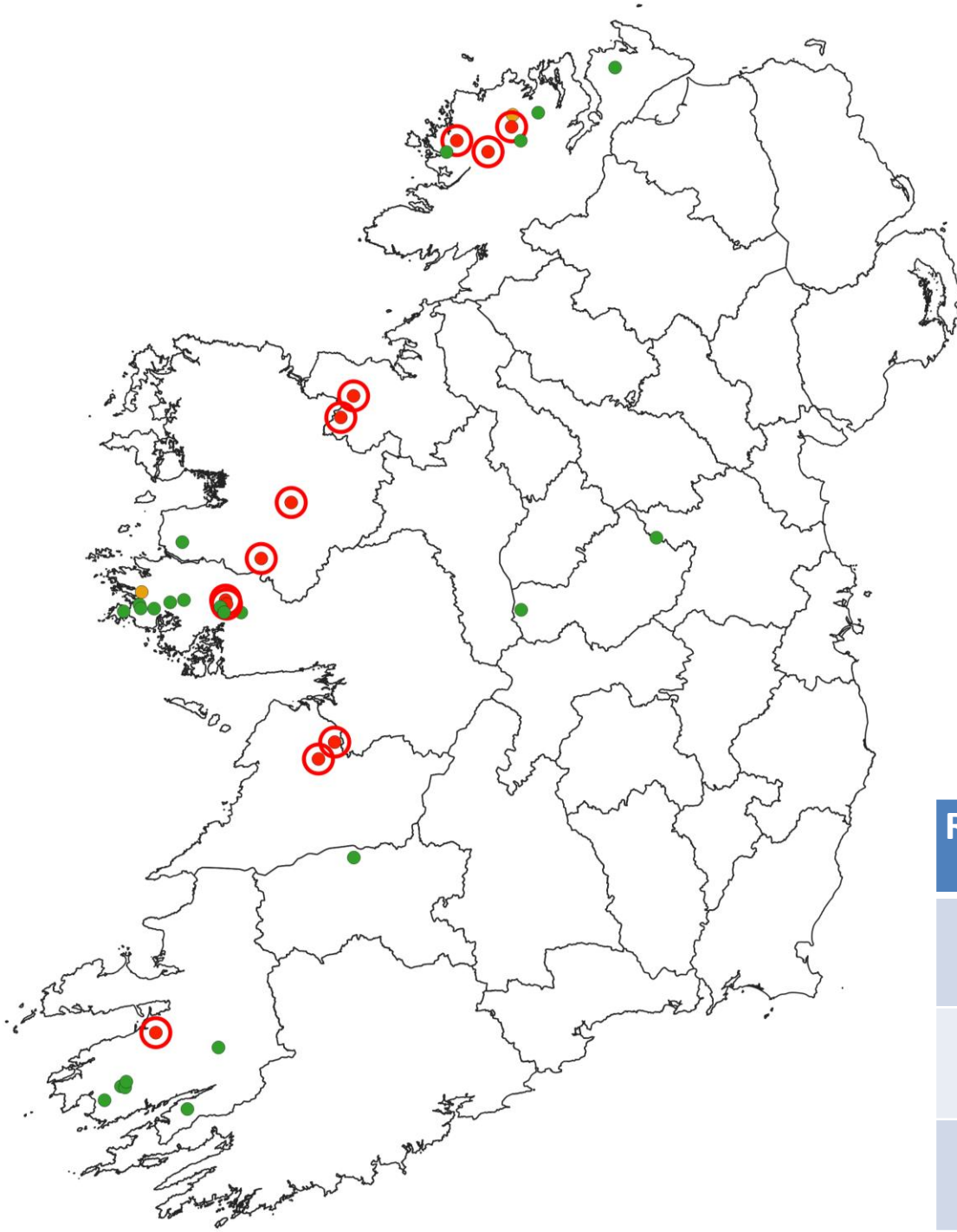
Blue Dot Lakes



Water Body Type	High Status Objective
Lake	37



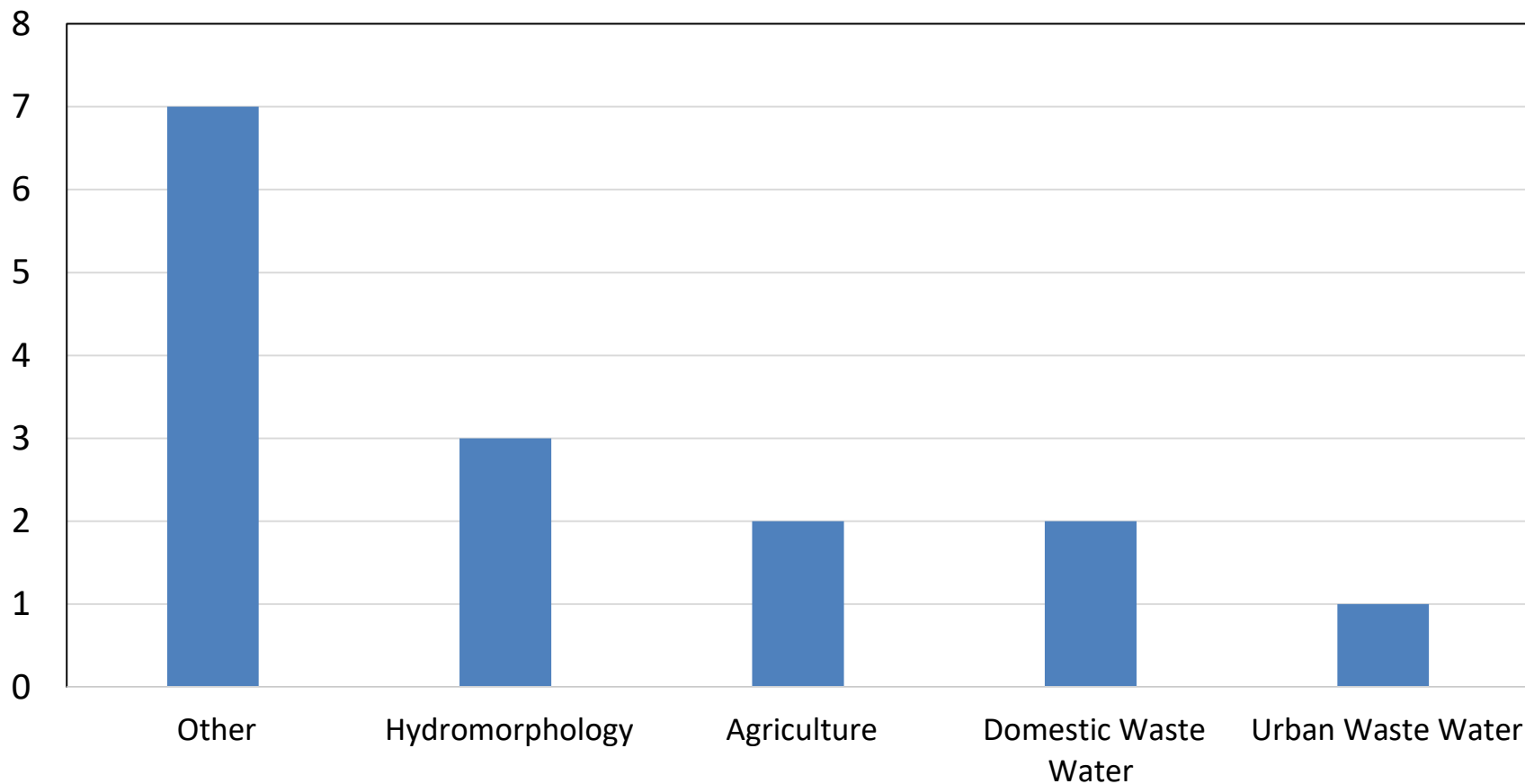
Blue Dot Lakes Risk



Risk Classification	Number of Lakes
At Risk	12
Not at Risk	23
Review	2

Pressures Blue Dot Lakes

Significant pressures on Blue Dot Lakes



Blue Dot Steering Group

To protect and restore our high-status waters, we will establish a “*Blue Dot Catchments Programme*” and associated working group. This will ensure that high-status waters are prioritised for the implementation of supporting measures and for available funding.

- Kerry County Council
- Wicklow County Council
- Donegal County Council
- Mayo County Council
- Local Authority Waters Programme
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Forest Service
- Irish Water
- NPWS
- EPA
- OPW
- IFI

Draft Programme

- **(1) Blue Dot** Catchments Programme Vision
- **(2)** Determine what constitutes a **Blue Dot** water body
- **(3)** Branding for the **Blue Dot** Catchments Programme



Draft Programme

- **(4)** Development of a communications and engagement strategy
- **(5)** Establish pilot projects for community engagement and action
- **(6)** Recommendations for planning and licencing control



Draft Programme

- **(7)** Influencing national schemes and programmes
- **(8)** Improving information exchange within and across authorities and with the public
- **(9)** Identify areas for further research & implement projects



Draft Programme

- **(10)** Development of a strategy which will provide focused resources for all high status objective water bodies
- **(11)** Developing a long-term strategy to improve our understanding of key drivers of High status loss and implement a robust and long-term strategy for their protection and improvement.



Thank you

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