

# Water Quality in County Clare

An analysis of the EPA Water Quality Report  
2015-2018

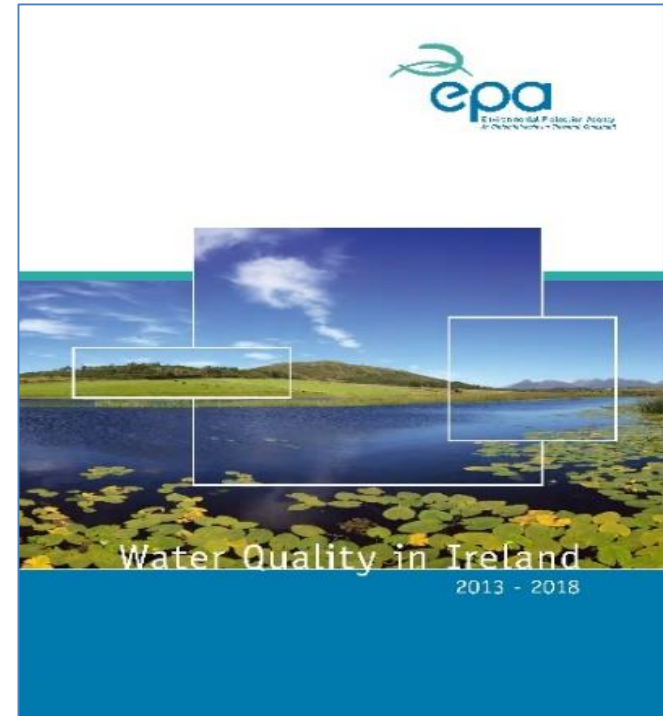
SPC Meeting 21/10/ 20



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR  
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



- **Currently in County Clare 48 % of rivers have satisfactory water quality ( High and Good Status) compared to 64% in 2015.**
- EPA data between the monitoring periods 2010-2015 to 2013-2018 in the county show a deterioration in river water quality of 16%
- Waterbodies with less than **Good** status need to be improved and restored to at least **Good** status to comply with Water Framework Directive.



# Current Water Quality Status

## Overall Water Quality Status in County Clare

- **High** ; 4 rivers
- **Good**; 57 (48 rivers , 9 lakes)
- **Moderate** ; 31 (25 rivers,6 Lakes)
- **Poor** ; 34 (33 rivers, 1 Lake)  
(Increased in rivers from 17% in 2009 to 27% in 2018)
- **Bad**; 3 (1 rivers, 2 Lakes)

Unpolluted

(decrease in percentage of rivers at high status 2009 to 2018 is 18% to 4%, decrease in Lakes 5% to 0% in same period )



Very Polluted

## HIGH STATUS WATER BODIES IN Clare (i.e. pristine or near pristine water quality)

- Ardclloony 010
- Ayle 010
- Corra 010
- Glenorma Wood Stream 010

All sites above in Hydrometric area 25 (Lower Shannon)

Hydrometric areas of Co. Clare are No. 28 (Mal Bay),  
27 ( Shannon Estuary North), 29 ( Galway Bay S.E.)  
25 (Lower Shannon)

High and Good are Unpolluted

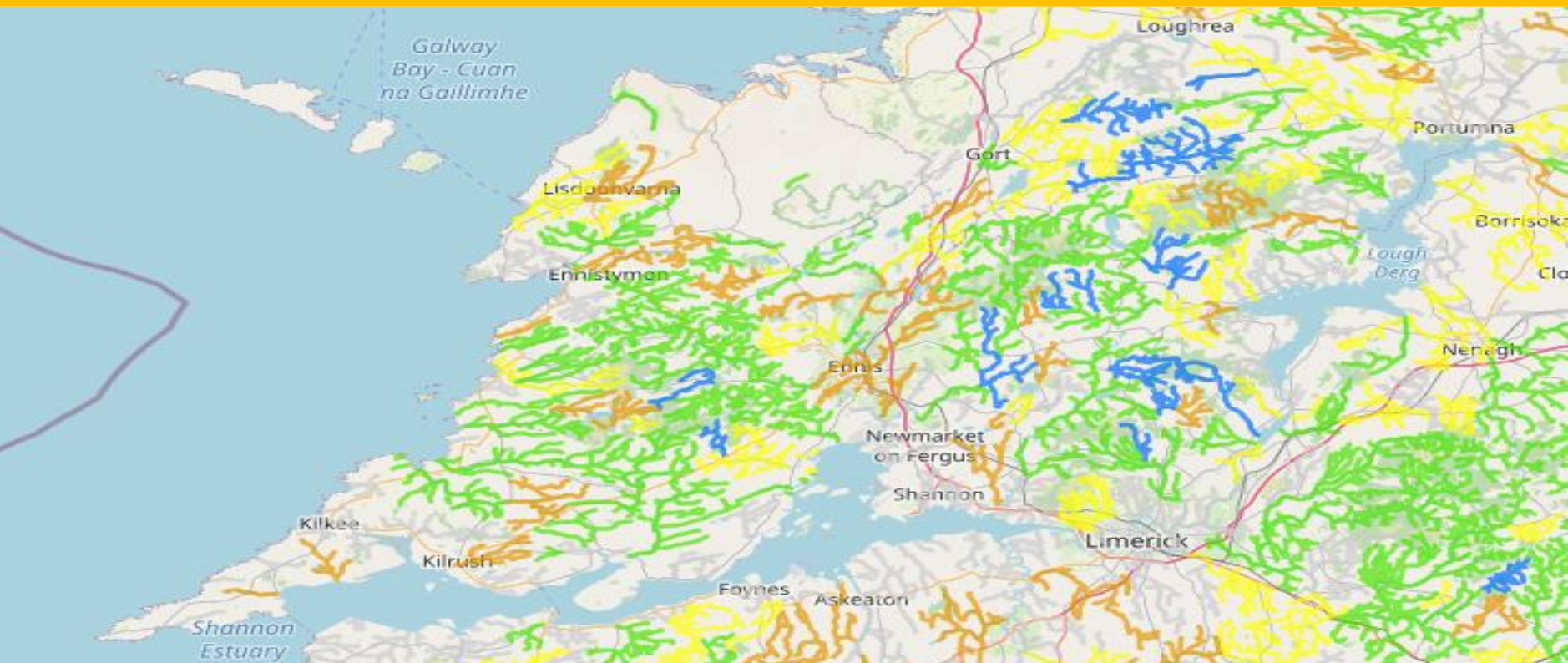
Moderate is Slightly polluted

Poor is Moderately polluted

Bad is Seriously polluted



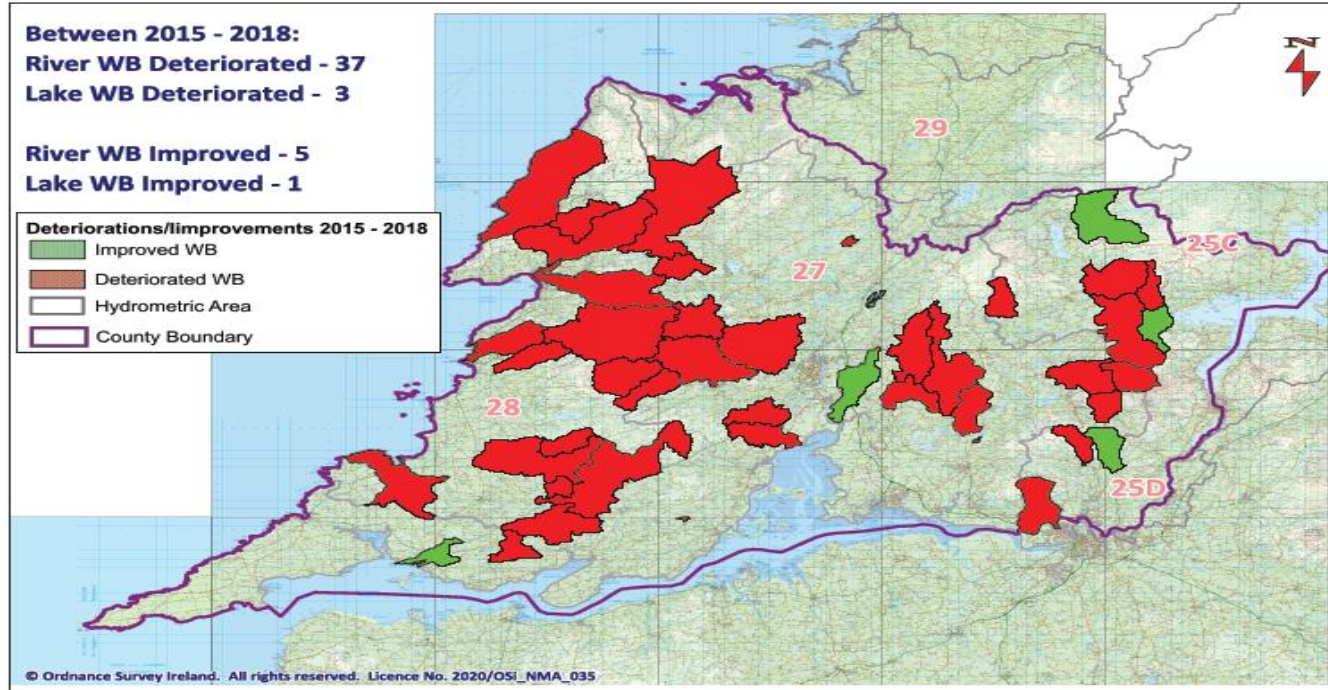
# County Clare River Waterbody WFD Status 2010-2015



# County Clare River Waterbody WFD Status 2015-2018



# Improvements and Deteriorations in the County Clare



# Clare County Council- Protect & Restore, Work carried out at present

- **Domestic wastewater treatment systems** Inspections (DWWTS as part of National Inspection Plan)
- **Farm Inspections** in “at risk” waterbody areas to ensure compliance with the Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) Regulations.
- **Inspections and licencing of Wastewater Treatment Plants of Section 4 (trade) Licenced premises**
- Investigation of all **water pollution complaints**, taking enforcement action under the Water Pollution Act 1977/1990 and the Good Agriculture Practice Regulations when necessary
- **Thorough assessments of single house, commercial , agriculture and forestry planning applications** in order to ensure that proposed developments will not cause deterioration in water quality.
- Water Services Section operatiion of Urban Wastewater Treatment Plants in order to comply with EPA licence conditions
- **Working with LAWPRO** and Community Water Officer (CWO) in Priority Areas of Action and with communities
- **Catchment assessments** in Ballycullian Lake catchment which includes, septic tanks inspections, farm inspections, water quality monitoring.
- **Environmental Awareness education** in schools and the community such as Streamscapes ( Kilrush and Ballyvaughan) Working with CWO in promoting of bio-diversity and water protection initiatives



# What happens now !

- EPA is working with many statutory agencies to review water quality data and to identify Priority Areas of Action.
- Clare County Council and LAWPRO have identified and proposed 125 water bodies for protection and restoration to be included in the next River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)
- EPA will be engaging with LAWPRO LA's and other statutory agencies in October 2020. Draft RBMP will be completed by the EPA by December 2020 and public consultation will take place from December 2020 to June 2021.
- The public can participate in the public consultation for the next River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, see here <https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water-framework-directive/public-consultation-significant-water-management>
- Clare County Council continues to **implement its water quality work programme**. Inspections will be carried out all over the county and in known “ at risk” areas.
- The most commonly encountered forms of pollution in Clare are eutrophication (excessive input of nutrients) organic pollution (slurry, fertiliser and sewage) and siltation. This pollution leaches into waterways by overland runoff from agricultural land and breakdown of organic matter such as sewage from urban wastewater treatment plants and commercial developments. Eutrophication and siltation of surface waters is also encountered in areas where land is disturbed for Forestry
- Agriculture has expanded and intensified therefore there is more diffuse nutrients runoff from farming activities especially as the climate gets wetter. Agricultural drainage has also meant that there are more hydromorphological impacts. Urban wastewater treatment plants are impacting on water quality in some areas, there are point source problems in areas where improvements in public wastewater treatment is required.





EPA Water Quality Report is located on EPA website at :

<https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/waterqualityinireland2013-2018.html>

Monitoring Data for all catchments is at ; [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie)





**Go raibh míle maith agaibh**  
**Thank You**

