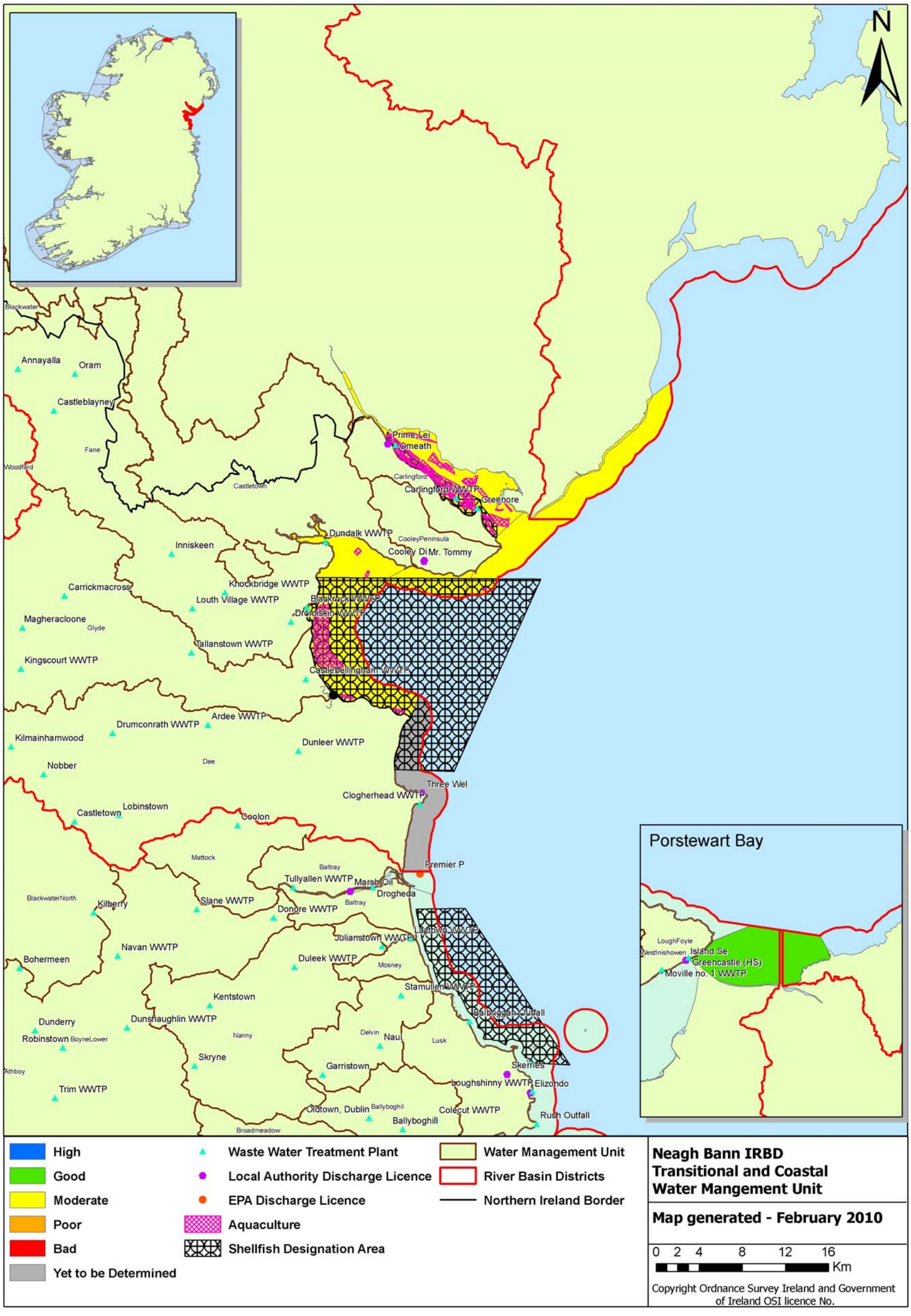
Neagh Bann IRBD

Transitional and Coastal Waters

Action

Programme



Name	**Neagh Bann RBD Transitional and Coastal Waters Action Plan**
Length of Coastline	177km, (Mainland), 4km (Islands)
Main Counties	Monaghan, Louth.
Protected Areas	4 Bathing Water; Shelling Hill/Templetown, Port, Lurganboy, Clogherhead, Seapoint. 2 Shellfish Water; Dundalk Bay, Carlingford 1 Nutrient Sensitive Water: Castletown Estuary. 2 SPA; Carlingford Lough SPA, Dundalk Bay SPA. 2 SAC; Dundalk Bay, Clogher Head, Boyne Coast And Estuary, Carlingford Shore.

STATUS/IMPACTS	
Overall status	There are 9 Transitional Waterbodies within this RBD; all are moderate status. There are 5 Coastal Waterbodies within this RBD; 3 moderate, 1 good and 2 unassigned. Chemical Status fails for Inner Dundalk Bay
Status elements	Moderate water bodies with monitoring data indicating the test determining below good status classification are as follows: Newry Estuary: High Nitrogen levels Carlingford Lough: High Nitrogen levels Outer Dundalk Bay: Suction and hydraulic dredge for cockles, and some dredge of razors Inner Dundalk Bay: Shellfish dredging (covering 21km^2) Castletown Estuary: Sensitive Area; UWWTD - Failing to meet objectives
Possible Impacts -	Nutrient input, WWTP, Shellfish dredging
PRESSURES/RISKS	
LAND BASED PRESSURES	Pressure Based Risk Assessment results (2008) identify the following waterbodies as at risk from land based point source pressures: **Transitional** — **Risk Test Identified as "at risk" or "probably at risk"** Fane Estuary — Point Source - WWTPs **Coastal** — **Risk Test Identified as "at risk" or "probably at risk"** Carlingford Lough — Point Source - WWTPs Pressure Based Risk Assessment results (2005) identifies the following waterbodies as at risk from land based diffuse pressures (nutrient input): **Transitional** — **Risk Test Identified as "at risk" or "probably at risk"** Outer Dundalk Bay — Point Source - WWTPs Castletown Estuary — Nutrient Inputs Further detail on the land based pressures which affect marine waters in this RBD, such as WWTP discharges, septic tanks, and agriculture are detailed in the following Water Management Unit Action Plans:

PRESSURES/RISKS (continued)

Transitional/Coastal Water Body	Relevant Water Management Unit Action Plan
Fane Estuary	Fane WMU
Glyde Estuary	Glyde WMU
Ballymascanlan Estuary	Castletown WMU
Newry Estuary	Carlingford WMU
Carlingford Lagoons	Carlingford WMU
Shilties Lough	Carlingford WMU
Corstown Lagoon	Dee WMU
Portstewart Bay	Lough Foyle WMU (NW)
Louth Coast (HA 06)	Dee WMU
Mourne Coast	Cooley Penninsula/Carlingford WMU
Carlingford Lough	Carlingford WMU
Outer Dundalk Bay	Cooley Penninsula/Glyde/Dee WMU
Inner Dundalk Bay	Castletown/Fane WMU
Castletown Estuary	Castletown/Fane WMU

Transitional and coastal water bodies where Shellfish designations are located will also include more detail in the relevant Pollution Prevention Programmes: http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/ShellfishWaterDirective/ShellfishWatersDraftCharacterisationReportsandPRPs/

MARINE PRESSURES

Morphology

Pressure Based Risk Assessment results (2008) identify the following waterbodies as at risk from morphological pressures:

Fane Estuary: Channelisation by OPW
Glyde Estuary: Maintained as part of the OPW Glyde and Dee channel scheme
Castletown Estuary: Coastal defences

Aquaculture

There are 77 licensed aquaculture areas in the NBRBD. The waterbodies with aquaculture areas protected under the Shellfish Directive are:

Carlingford Lough
Newry Estuary
Mourne Coast
Outer Dundalk Bay
Inner Dundalk Bay

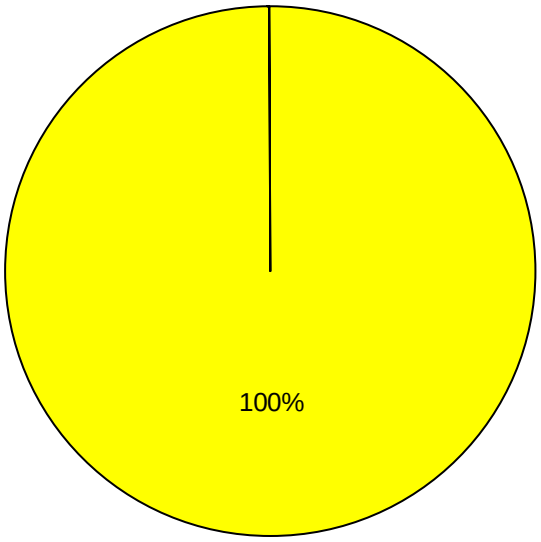
Shellfish Production Figures (provided by Bord Iascaigh Mhara):

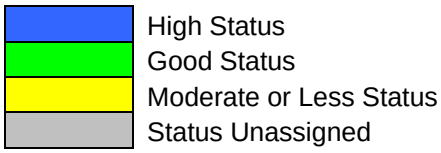
Shellfish	Volume (t)	Year	Value (€)	Location
Bottom Mussel	5160	2007	7,646,000	Carlingford Lough
Gigas Oyster	648	2007	1,164,300	Carlingford Lough

SELECTED ACTION PROGRAMME	
Bathing Waters	Measures are required to preserve protect and improve the quality of bathing waters. Guidance is being prepared in the preparation of management plans to minimise risk to bathers and human health. Where water quality problems exist, preventative and remedial action must be taken.
Shellfish Waters	Measures are included in the Pollution Prevention programmes under the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations. DAFF licence shellfish growing areas under the under the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1997 Aquaculture: Aquaculture is regulated and licensed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; local authorities control discharge licenses for fin fish farms. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government makes shellfish pollution reduction programmes which provide general water quality protection. A multi-department Marine Coordination Group has recently been established to ensure ongoing co-ordination of marine management activities and application of Appropriate Assessment through strengthened regulation; and coordination of biodiversity issues at an EU level.
Water Pollution Acts, Water Services Act, IPPC and Foreshore Act	Local Authority Licensing of trade effluent to surface waters include discharges to transitional and coastal waters IPPC licensed discharges under the integrated pollution prevention control directive and Environmental Protection Agency Acts Foreshore Acts – development under the mean High Water Mark within transitional and coastal waters are subject to control under the Foreshore Acts.
Birds and Habitats directive	Key provisions of the habitat regulations introduced under these directives allow for the DEHLG to control damaging activities within and outside designated sites. All planned projects not necessary for the management of the Natura 2000 network will be subject to appropriate assessment under Article 6 of the habitats Directive
Urban Wastewater Treatment	The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (S.I No. 254 of 2001) deal with the collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater and wastewater from certain industrial sectors. Transitional and coastal waters receive direct discharges from Wastewater Treatment Plants and industry. Controls under these Regulations and the Environmental Objectives Regulations will provide the basis for deciding on appropriate treatment required to meet the objectives of the WFD. In addition Wastewater Discharge Authorisation Regulations (S.I. No. 684 of 2007) require Local Authorities to have authorisations from the EPA for WWTPs >500pe
Morphology (Controls on Physical Modifications)	Marine morphological impacts can impact ecological standards. Ireland's existing planning and development controls and marine licensing systems provide a general level of control for new development. The DEHLG is considering the introduction of new regulations to control physical modifications in our surface waters which may involve an authorisation system where low risk activities may simply be registered and higher risk works would be subject to more detailed assessment and more prescriptive licences.

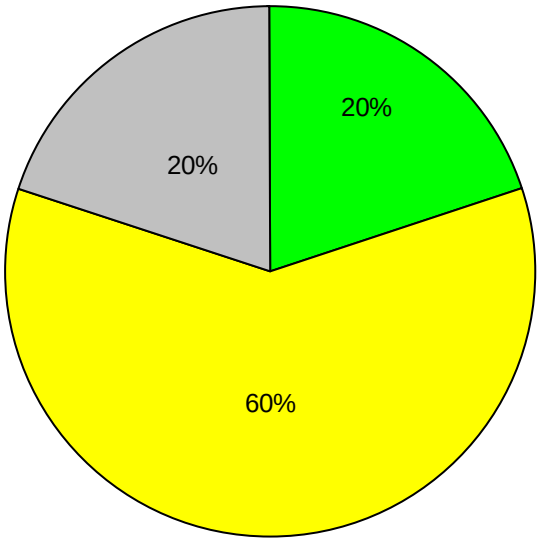
OBJECTIVES	
Protect/Restore 2015	2 water bodies
Alternative Objectives	Extended Deadlines – 11 water bodies (2021) 1 water body – objective not yet determined (Louth Coast) New Modifications – none HMWB – none

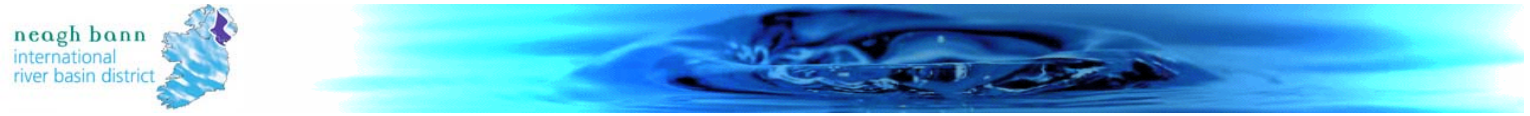
TRANSITIONAL





COASTAL



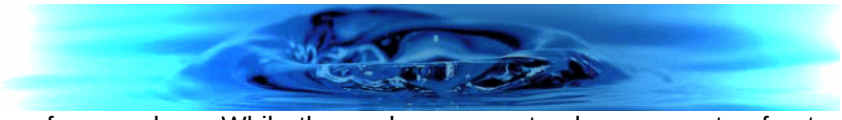


Transitional and Coastal Status

WATER BODY INFORMATION					GENERAL CONDITIONS				BIOLOGY						HYDRO-MORPHOLOGY			SPECIFIC POLLUTANTS[14]	ECOLOGICAL STATUS [15]	CHEMICAL STATUS [16]	Protected Areas				
									Phyto-plankton	Macroalgae[8]		Angio-sperms[9]													
MS_CD	RBD	TYPE	NAME	MONITORED (Y) EXTRAPOLATED (N)	DIN [1]	MRP [2]	DO [3]	BOD [4]	Phyto Biomass [7]	Oppor-tunistic	Reduced Species List	Seagrass	Benthos	Fish [11]	Hydrology[12]	Morph-ology[13]	HMWB	Annex VIII		Annex X	Bathing Waters	Shellfish Waters	Nutrient Sensitive Water	SAC	OBJECTIVES
NB_030_0200	NBIRBD	TW	Carlingford Lagoons	N															M			Yes			Restore 2021
NB_030_0250	NBIRBD	TW	Shilties Lough	N															M					Yes	Restore 2021
NB_040_0600	NBIRBD	TW	Corstown Lagoon	N															M						Restore 2021
NB_030_0100	NBIRBD	TW	Newry Estuary	Y												H			M			Yes		Yes	Restore 2021
NB_040_0100	NBIRBD	TW	Inner Dundalk Bay	Y	M	G	G	G	M	M						G		Fail	M	Fail		Yes	Yes	Yes	Restore 2021
NB_040_0200	NBIRBD	TW	Castletown Estuary	Y	M	M	M	G	M							M			M				Yes	Yes	Restore 2015
NB_040_0300	NBIRBD	TW	Ballymascanlan Estuary	N															M				Yes	Yes	Restore 2021
NB_040_0400	NBIRBD	TW	Fane Estuary	N															M					Yes	Restore 2021
NB_040_0500	NBIRBD	TW	Glyde Estuary	N															M					Yes	Restore 2021
NB_030_0000	NBIRBD	CW	Carlingford Lough	Y												G		Fail	M	G		Yes		Yes	Restore 2021
GBNIIE6NB020	NBIRBD	CW	Mourne Coast	N															M			Yes		Yes	Restore 2021
NB_025_0000	NBIRBD	CW	Louth Coast (HA 06)	N															ua		Yes	Yes		Yes	-
NB_040_0000	NBIRBD	CW	Outer Dundalk Bay	Y	H	G	G	H	H							G		Fail	M	G	Yes	Yes		Yes	Restore 2021
NB_010_0000	NBIRBD	CW	Portstewart Bay	N															G		Yes			Yes	Protect

Glossary and Abbreviations

Biodiversity:	Word commonly used for biological diversity and defined as assemblage of living organisms from all habitats including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part.
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
Coastal waters:	That area of surface water on the landward side of a line, every point of which is at a distance of one nautical mile on the seaward side from the nearest point of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured, extending where appropriate up to the outer limit of transitional waters.
DAFF:	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
DEHLG:	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.
DETE:	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
Diffuse sources (of pollution):	Non-point sources primarily associated with run-off and other discharges related to different land uses such as agriculture and forestry, from septic tanks associated with rural dwellings and from the land spreading of industrial, municipal and agricultural wastes.
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EC:	European Commission
Ecological status:	An expression of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems associated with surface waters. Such waters are classified as being of good ecological status when they meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
Ecology:	The study of the relationships among organisms and between those organisms and their non-living environment.
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency.
EU:	European Union
Good status:	A collective term used to refer to the status achieved by a surface water body when both its ecological status and its chemical status are at least good or, for groundwater, when both its quantitative status and chemical status are at least good.
HMWB (Heavily modified water body):	A water body that has been changed substantially in character as a result of physical alterations by human activity.
Inland surface waters:	All standing or flowing water on the surface of the land (such as reservoirs, lakes, rivers) on the landward side of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured.
Macroalgae	Multicellular algae such as seaweeds and filamentous algae.
Mitigation measures:	Measures to avoid, prevent, minimise, reduce or, as fully as possible, offset or compensate for any significant adverse effects on the environment, as a result of implementing a plan or programme.
On-site system:	Septic tank or other system for treating wastewater from unsewered properties.
Opportunistic	One of the elements used in classification of Ecological Status of transitional and coastal waters measured by spatial extent and biomass



Macroalgae	of macroalgae. While these algae are natural components of estuarine systems and play important roles in several estuarine processes, macroalgal blooms are of ecological concern because they can reduce the habitat quality.
Phytoplankton	Solitary and colonial unicellular algae and cyanobacteria that live in the water column, at least for part of their lifecycle.
Phytoplankton Biomass	One of the elements used in classification of Ecological Status of transitional and coastal waters measured by the total weight of phytoplankton, a free-floating flora, at a given time per unit area.
PRP	Pollution reduction programme
Programme of measures:	Those actions, defined in detail, which are required to achieve the environmental objectives of the Directive within a river basin district.
Protected area	Water protected by European legislation including drinking waters, shellfish waters, bathing waters, urban wastewater nutrient sensitive areas or sites designated as Special areas of Conservation or Special Protected Areas
River Basin District (RBD) & International River Basin District (IRBD):	Administrative area for coordinated water management, composed of multiple river basins (or catchments), with cross-border basins (i.e. those covering the territory of more than one Member State) assigned to an international RBD.
River basin	The area of land from which all surface water run-off flows, through a sequence of streams, rivers and lakes into the sea at a single river mouth, estuary or delta.
SERBD	South Eastern River Basin District
Special Area of Conservation (SAC):	Site designated according to the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora).
Special Protection Area (SPA):	Area designated under the European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds.
Statutory Instrument (SI):	Any order, regulation, rule, scheme or bye-law made in exercise of a power conferred by statute.
Surface water	Inland waters on the land surface (such as reservoirs, lakes, rivers, transitional waters, coastal waters) within a river basin.
Transitional waters	Bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their vicinity to coastal waters, but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows.
Water body	A coherent sub-unit in the river basin (district) to which the environmental objectives of the directive must apply. Hence, the main purpose of identifying “water bodies” is to enable the status to be accurately described and compared to environmental objectives
Water Framework Directive (WFD)	The Water Framework Directive is European legislation that promotes a new approach to water management through river basin planning. It covers inland surface waters, estuarine waters, coastal waters and groundwater.
WMU	Water Management Unit - geographical sub unit of a river basin district
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant