

Mitigation Measures

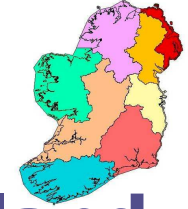
European Workshop on WFD &
Hydromorphology
17-19th October 2005

Ireland



AN ROINN COMHSHAOIL, OIÐHREACHTA AGUS RIALTAIS ÁITIÚIL
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT





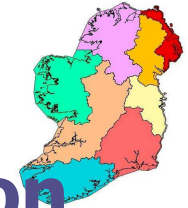
Hydromorphological pressures in Ireland

■ Pressures

- includes structures such as hydroelectric dams and major water supply reservoirs, and morphological pressures (or physical alterations).
- Morphological pressures include activities such as channel alterations, agricultural enhancement, flood defences, locks and weir facilities, dredging, ports and tidal barrages.

■ Result of risk assessments

- Rivers - 6% at risk, 34% probably at risk
- Lakes – 18% probably at risk
- Transitional - 15% at risk, 16% probably at risk
- Coastal - 8% at risk, 16% probably at risk



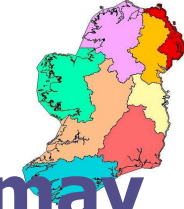
Work being done to identify mitigation measures in Ireland

■ Main pressures

- Freshwater – channelisation + Intensive land-use (urbanisation, peat extraction, arable & forestry)
- Marine - significant ports with associated activities including dredging

■ Work in progress

- 3 national studies (Freshwater & Marine morphology, HMWBs/AWBs)
 - Confirm impact using evidence (e.g. fish stocks in drained rivers)
 - Identify morphology indicators for monitoring
 - Will propose “best practices measures” (e.g. Drainage maintenance protocols, SUDS)
 - Timeframe:
 - Revised risk assessment for SWMI Report (June 2007)
 - Decision support tool for POMS (Dec. 2007)



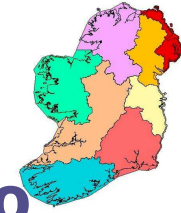
Possible mitigation measures which may be compatible with various water uses

- **Generally too early to say, but, possible measures include;**
 - Channelisation – “best practice” in drainage maintenance
 - Intensive landuse – SUDS, Habitat Rehabilitation*





System in Ireland for ensuring all practical mitigation measures are taken in relation to physical modifications



- **Environmental Impact Assessment;**
 - Built into the landuse planning consent system (Planning and Development Regulations, 2001)
 - Planning authorities apply thresholds to developments and judgement in relation to developments below thresholds
 - EPA provide guidance
 - Guidelines on the information to be contained in EISs
 - Advice notes on current practices in preparation of EISs