

Waters of **LIFE**

Waters of LIFE is a European Union funded Life Integrated Project to help reverse the ongoing deterioration in water quality in Ireland's most pristine rivers.

High status waterbodies provide important services to society: they support tourism and salmon and trout fishing, they provide sources of clean drinking water and a refuge for rare species and sensitive species.

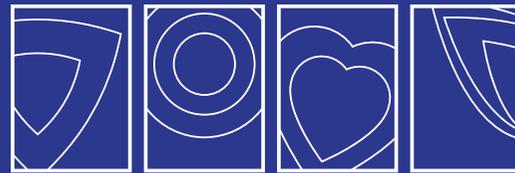
This ongoing loss of high-status waters is a worrying trend for overall water quality in Ireland. The protection and restoration of these waters is a key principle underpinning the EU Water Framework Directive and will have benefits for us all.



Co-funded by
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Photo: Peter Mitchell



protect restore respect sustain

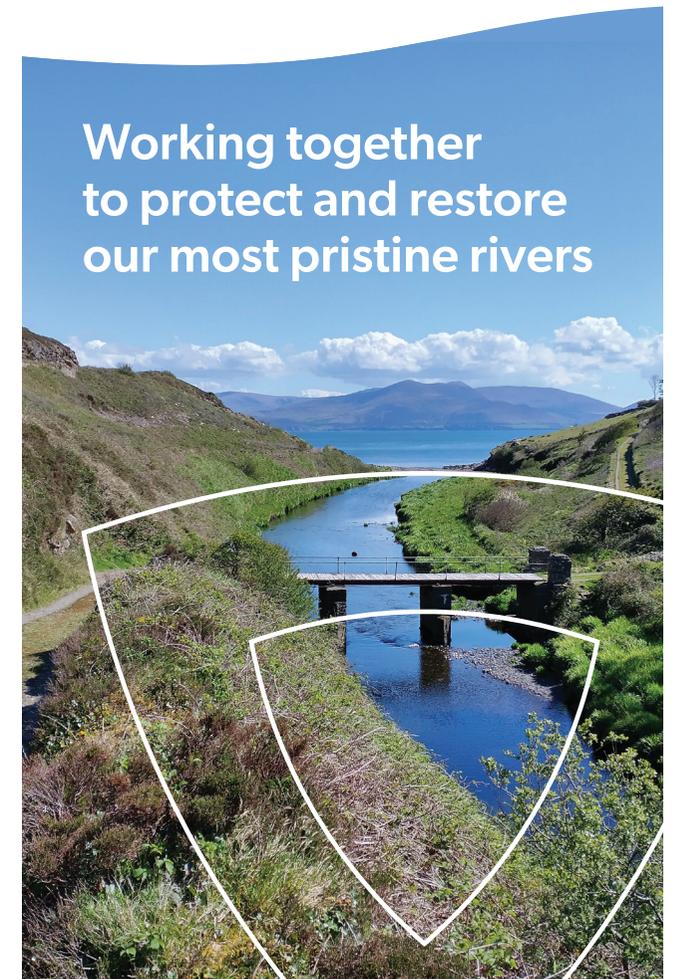
Waters of **LIFE**

Waters of LIFE Project Office
Croom Enterprise Park, Croom,
Co. Limerick, V35 WF77.

Email: info@watersoflife.ie
www.watersoflife.ie

Waters of **LIFE**

Working together
to protect and restore
our most pristine rivers



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



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the European Union

www.watersoflife.ie

Waters of LIFE

The Waters of LIFE project aims to develop, test, and validate measures to address the deterioration in water quality in most

pristine and sensitive river catchments and reverse the declining trend. Six demonstration catchments have been selected for the project, five test catchments and one control. These are:

1. The Avonmore, Co. Wicklow
2. The Awbeg (Kilbrin), Co. Cork
3. The Graney, Co. Clare
4. The Sheen, Co. Kerry (Control)
5. The Island, Galway/Roscommon
6. The Shournagh, Co. Cork

The locations of the demonstration catchments can be seen on the map below.

- Active
- Control



The project's primary aim is to protect and restore high status objective river waterbodies, which are also known as Blue Dot rivers. These waterbodies are frequently in remote and lightly populated areas. Measures implemented through this project can also deliver multiple benefits for climate action and biodiversity.

The project will include a 'Results Based Agri-environmental Payment Scheme' (RBAPS) for participating landowners. But the project will look at pressures from all sectors including forestry and wastewater.

Engaging and communicating with stakeholders and the public will be an important element of the project. The project plans to co-design measures in consultation with the implementing stakeholders such as farmers.

A project team has been established which will work in close cooperation with the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and the Blue Dots Catchments Programme (www.lawaters.ie) along with other River Basin Management Plan projects and implementation bodies.

The project is expected to run until March 2028.



Photo: Michael Sheridan



Photo: Breda Moriarty



The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is the lead authority for the project and there are a number of different project partners, including: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Teagasc, The Environmental Protection Agency, Coillte, The Forest Service, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) and several local development companies.

The total project budget is €20,206,605 and the project is programmed to run until March 2028. The project was officially launched by Malcolm Noonan, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage on 29th April 2022 at an event in Kilmallock, County Limerick.

Further information can be found on the project website at www.watersoflife.ie or email: info@watersoflife.ie