

4,832

water bodies

## Draft River Basin Management Plan 2018-21

### Situation today

✓ Percentage OK



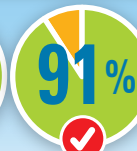
Rivers



Lakes



Estuary and coastal waters



Groundwater

Decline in proportion of rivers with excellent water quality

13%

2007-2009

10%

2013-2015

Understanding risk to good water quality for all water bodies

At risk

32%

New actions needed

Not at risk

41%

Continue existing actions

Review

27%

Further analysis needed

### Causes of reduced water quality



**Agriculture:**  
Nutrients, sediments, pollution from farms.



**Urban waste water:**  
Sewage and storm water pollution.



**Changes to the aquatic environment:**  
Physical changes or damage to aquatic habitats.



**Forestry:**  
Clearfelling. Draining land for forestry. Planting and establishing forests.



**Peat extraction:**  
Particles in water bodies that change the aquatic environment. Possible release of ammonia.



**Domestic waste water:**  
Pollution from septic tanks.



**Urban run-off:**  
Contaminated run-off from paved and unpaved surfaces.



**Invasive alien species:**  
Non-native plants and shellfish.

### Main actions in draft plan

- ✓ Improved waste water treatment
- ✓ Improved drinking water protection
- ✓ Farming initiatives to help improve water quality
  - ✓ National Dairy Sustainability Forum
  - ✓ Blue Dot Catchments Programme (a network of rivers and lakes targeted for excellent water quality)
    - ✓ National Water Forum
    - ✓ Greater public participation

### Expected results of plan

- ✓ Increased waste water treatment in urban areas
- ✓ Increased focus in agriculture on efficient use of nutrients and on water quality
- ✓ Improved protection of public drinking water sources
- ✓ New water quality measures in 600-700 water bodies
- ✓ Improved water quality in 150 additional water bodies
- ✓ Increased public engagement through the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office