

Irish Barriers – Identification, mitigations and removals

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To be or not to be... removed
International seminar on dam removal
Sweden, 24 – 26 September 2018



An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Inland Fisheries Ireland

- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the state agency responsible for the protection, management and conservation of Ireland's inland fisheries and sea angling resources.
- Fisheries resource = $\Sigma(\text{species} + \text{habitats})$



1959 Fisheries Consolidation Act

- Section 115 – 125 Dams and Natural Obstructions

(2) Every dam constructed on or after the 10th day of August, 1842,... shall be so built to allow, the migration of all fish at all periods of the year

116 (1) of affording a free and uninterrupted passage to the fish frequenting such river.





Presentation



1. Status of the Irelands National Barrier Program
Identify / Locate / Assess
2. Barrier removals/ mitigations
3. How are Weir removals/ mitigations
considered by the population?
 - Success and Failure.....
4. Biological response to simple mitigation



History of barrier mitigation in Ireland

Before 2016 – Regional identification and mitigation of high priority barriers

After 2016 - AMBER (EU) / Reconnect (National) Programs



National Barriers Assessment Programme



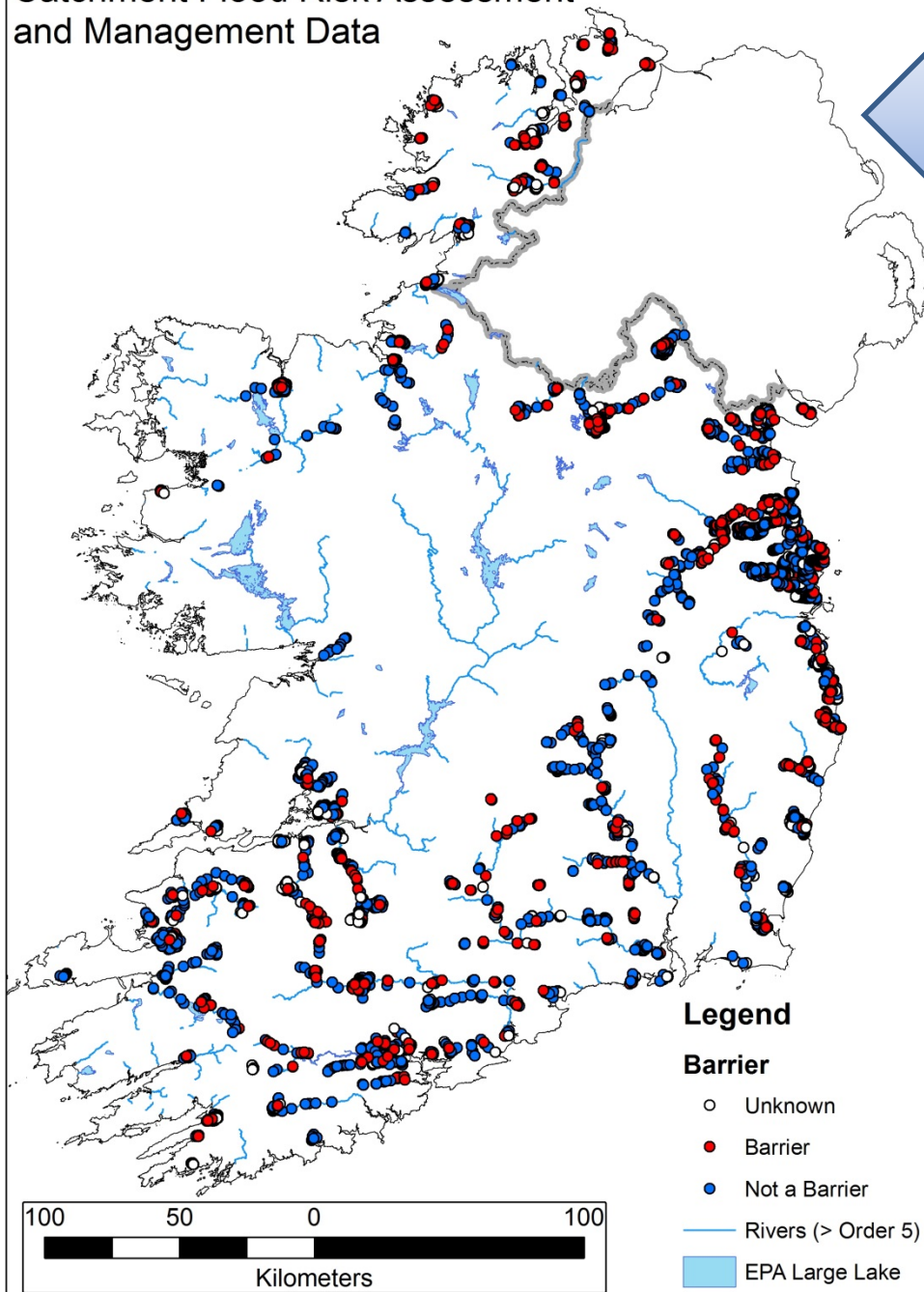
2018-21



- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG)
 - Item 1: Assessment tool
 - Item 2: Survey programme
 - Item 3: National Database
 - Item 4: Prioritisation of works
 - Item 5: Guidance documents



Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Data

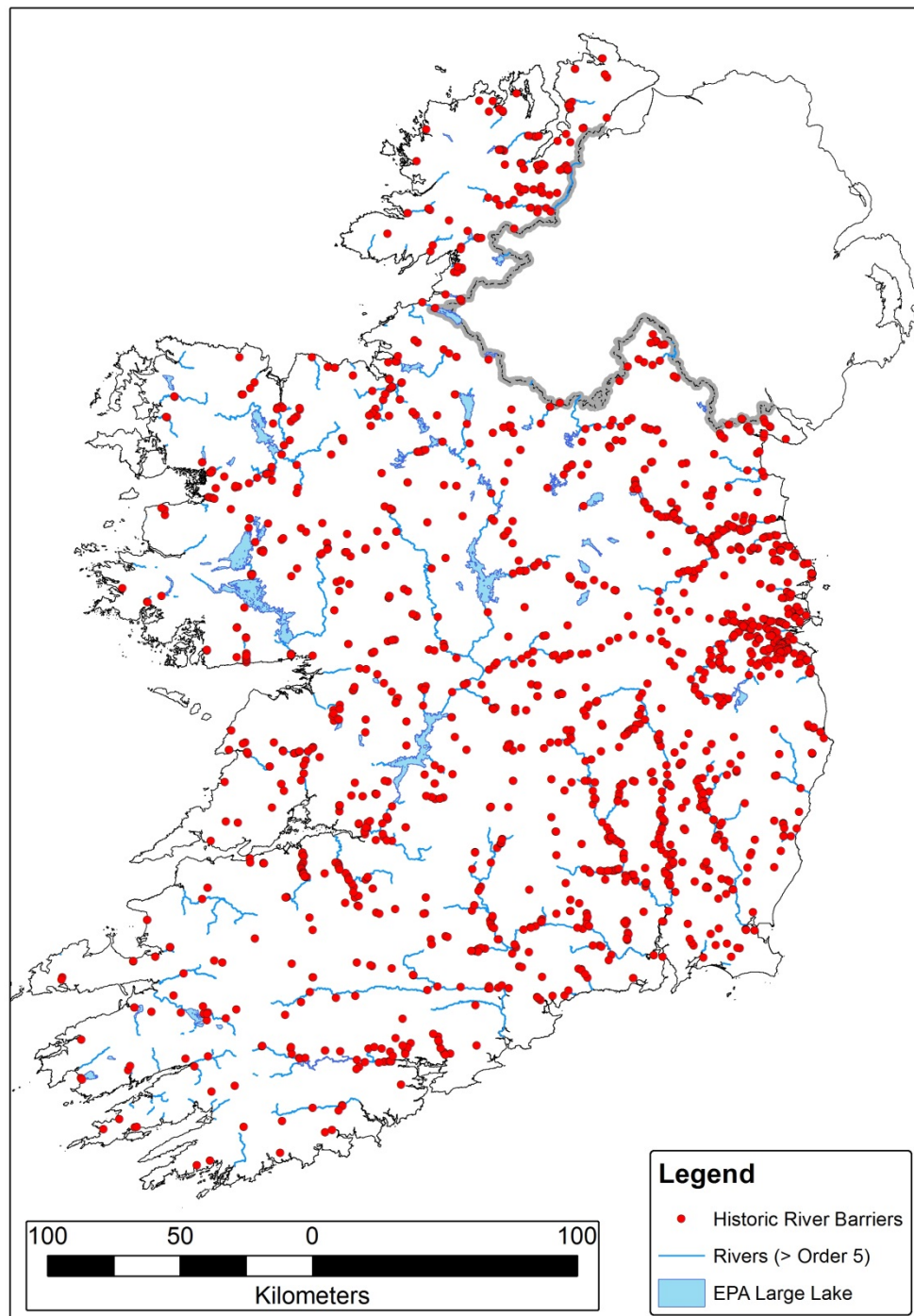


Historic Barriers Layer

- Innovatory of Historic Structures
 - 1830-1890'S
 - Canals
 - Weirs
 - Mills
 - Fords
- ~1700 Structures



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Road River Intersections



- 50,000 ++ Structures

Progress so far

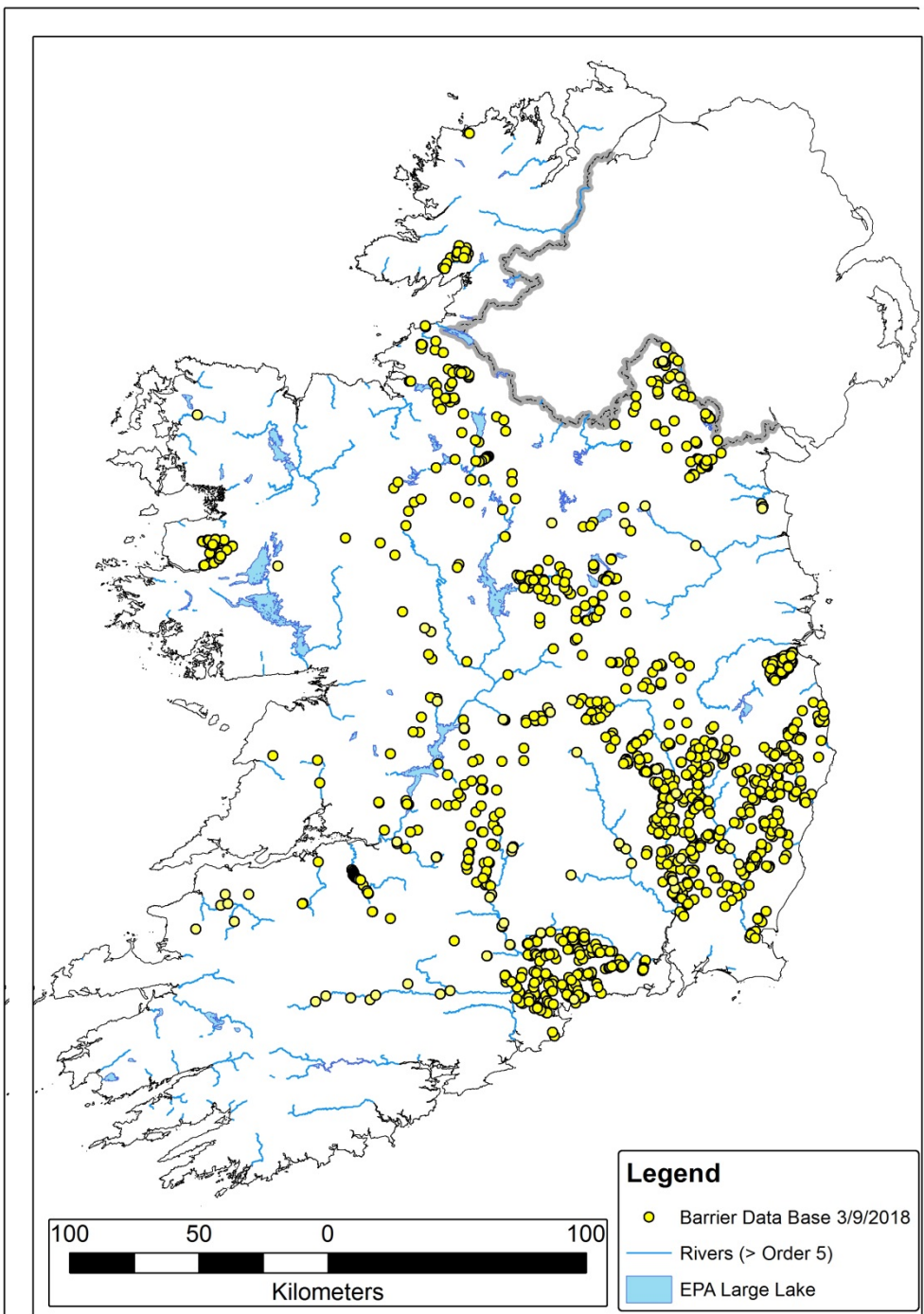
On site surveys

- 1400 Structures

Out of ~ 76,421 Potential
Barriers



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Issues and solutions



Weir removal



- Solution fits with WFD
- Removes ponding upstream
- Re-connects river and allows natural flow pattern
- No fish passage issues!!!!



Bridge Mitigation

Clashdog Bridge pre-works



Clashdog Bridge Post mitigation Works



KILKENNY ROCK RAMP - LACKEN WEIR



AMBERing, Going wrong and going right....

Fermoy Weir – Munster Blackwater



1. Fish Passage issue
 - Remediation Plan issues
 - Communication issues
 - Perceived Lack of consultation with stakeholders
 - Perception of no choice given

1. Fish Passage issue
 - Fisheries and community approach
 - Consultation with all stakeholders
 - Planning permission Approach
 - Community led

Castletown Weir – Nore



2018: AMBERing, , going wrong and going right....

Fermoy Weir – Munster Blackwater



1. Fish Passage issue
 - Why not have a rock ramp or a nature like fish pass...?

**SAVE FERMOY
WEIR**

STOP the SLAUGHTER of our
Salmon



SAVE Fermoy Weir
Our Salmon

1. Passage issue eased
 - Community Managed Area
 - Stakeholders are happy



Castletown Weir – Nore

**Public perception is more important than
construction and more difficult !!**

Small, Simple, positive steps.....



Monaghan Blackwater - Weir

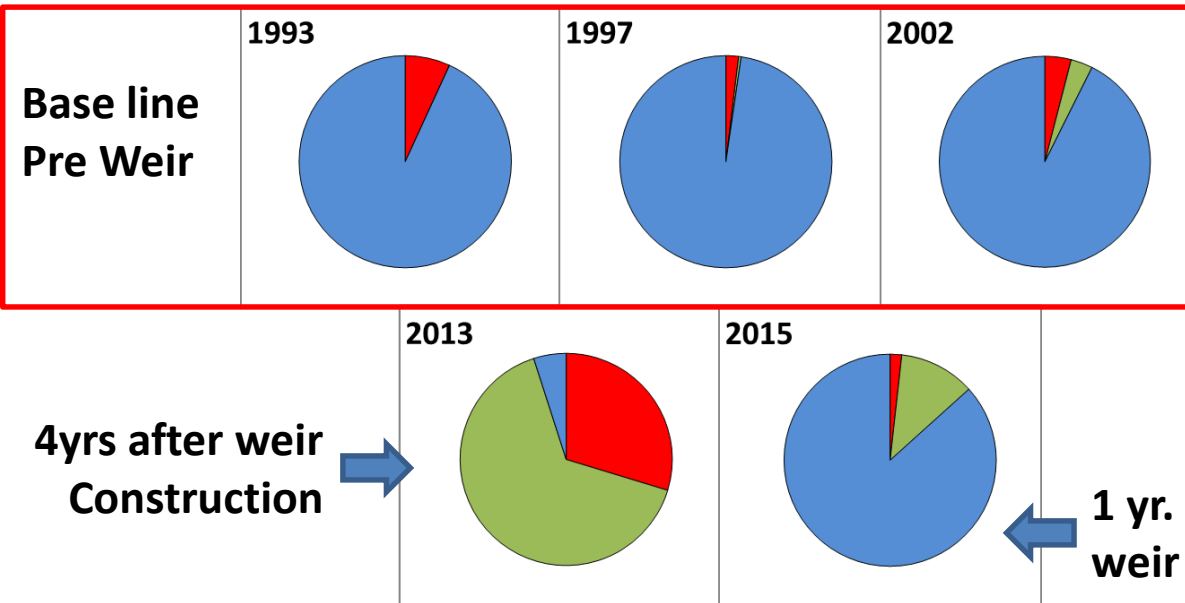


- Built in 2009 by community group for aesthetic reasons
- Barrier Height = 0.39 m
- Blackwater is a Brown Trout fishery
- The Weir is not a natural Feature



- Survey work indicated Fish community changes
- Developed a works plan with government agencies in conjunction with community group

Observed fish community change



Salmo trutta



Esox lucius

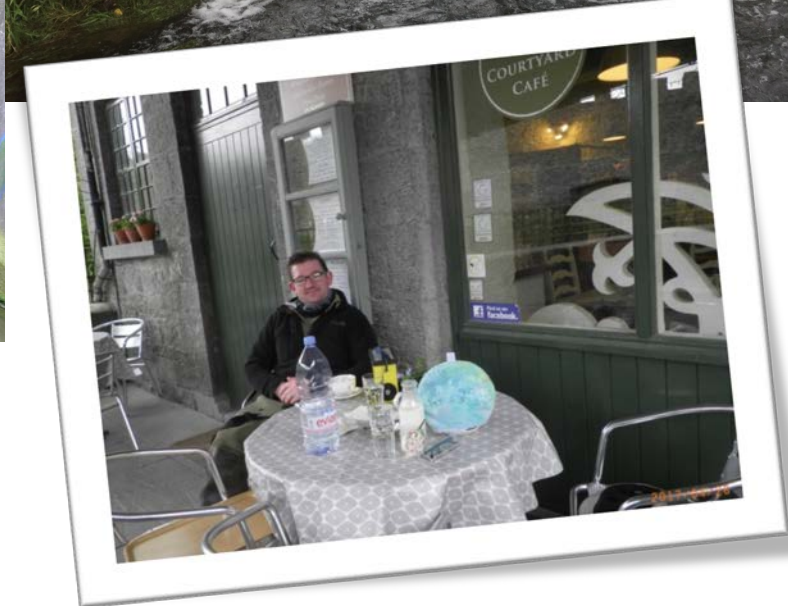


Rutilus rutilus



- Reinststate a more natural flow regime
($>$ Water Velocities, $<$ Depth)
- Community composition restored
- Improved trout numbers
- More visually appealing structure

Small modification making a
big difference



Any Questions...



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