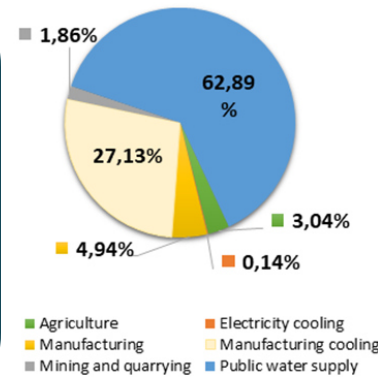
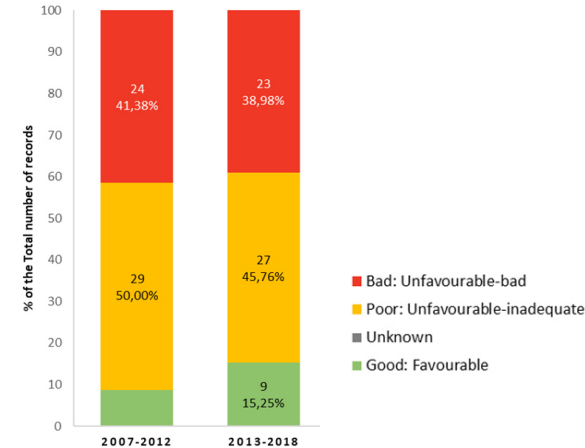


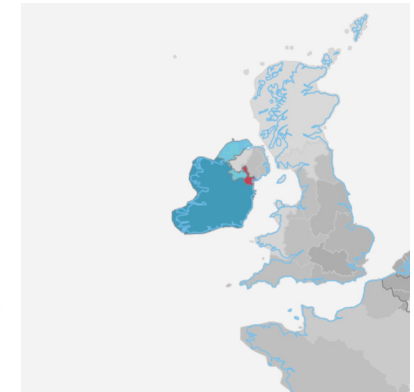
of inhabitants **5.2 million**
Surface area **68 655 km²**
GDP per capita **234 pps [1]**
Significant bodies of water (RBDs) **Ireland; North Western**
Polity **parliamentary democracy and unitary state**
Layers of government **central government; 3 regions; 26 countries; 3 city councils; 2 city and county councils**
Legislative powers at the sub-national level **No**
Decentralisation index **0.8 (27 out of 27) [2]**
Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) **2.98% (2017) [3]**



Water abstraction per sector in Ireland - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Ireland - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Ireland - Source: EEA (2021)

Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

NEXUS PILLARS

POLICY MAKING

POLICY EXECUTION

Water

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Water Forum; Office of Public Works; Environmental Protection Agency; Irish Water; regional assemblies; Local Authorities Waters Programme

Energy

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Climate Action Regional Offices; regional assemblies

Food

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

regional assemblies

Ecosystems

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

regional assemblies



More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU

- [1] EU purchasing power standard
[2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>
[3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%
[4] <http://citizen-science.ie/>
[5] <https://lawaters.ie/>
[6] <https://exploreyourshore.ie/>

WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

CHALLENGES

- Complete the designation of nature protection areas and put in place the necessary conservation plans and measures
- Take practical steps to address the serious decline of waders in Natura 2000 sites and the wider countryside
- Reduce water pollution from nutrients and address hydromorphological pressures
- Ensure appropriate control over water abstraction and hydromorphological changes
- Improve wastewater management infrastructure

OPPORTUNITIES

- The Irish administration has been restructured - to improve water governance coordination among authorities at local, regional and national levels - to ensure local engagement for solutions at the catchment level
- Many citizen science initiatives, including Citizen Science Ireland[4], LAWPRO[5] water quality monitoring, Explore Your Shore[6] and Dragonfly Ireland project[7] to promote public participation in the monitoring and collection of data.
- Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments (INCASE) (2019-2023)[8] develops capital accounts for different Natura 2000 sites in Ireland.

- [7] <https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/dragonfly-ireland/>
[8] <https://www.incaseproject.com/>

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