

## Guidance notes to WFD “selection of recommended Areas for Action” consultation process

### What is an Area for Action?

An initial list of recommended ‘Areas for Action’ has been drawn up by Local Authorities in collaboration with the broad range of public bodies interested in the management of our natural waters. These recommended Areas for Action contain one or more river, lake, estuary, groundwater or coastal waterbodies (covering approximately 100km<sup>2</sup>). The reason for this list is to focus available resources and make a difference during the period of WFD 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle River Basin Management Plan for Ireland, 2018-2021.

The reasons for not selecting all WFD priority water bodies primarily centers around the lack of measures currently available to address the specific significant pressures, e.g. agriculture, hydromorphology, and urban wastewater treatment plants (not included in the Irish Water Capital Investment Programme).

Significant scientific and technical assessment work on waterbodies across the entire country has been carried out over the past 3 years by the EPA, Local Authorities and Inland Fisheries Ireland. This was followed by detailed data/map based workshops attended by approximately 30 Public Bodies and organisations who work on a catchment scale. The list of recommended Area for Action has therefore come through a rigorous scientific process, which also considered the multiple catchment benefits (e.g., tourism, amenity, wildlife etc).

### What we would like you to do?

We would like you to consider these recommended Areas for Action. If you believe that a waterbody you are familiar with meets the selection criteria (on next page) and should be considered for inclusion on the list, please let us know by filling out a feedback form. The information you provide will be “stress tested” against the selection criteria following scientific best practice and if it meets these criteria it will be considered for inclusion in the Areas for Action agreed list.

Please note the agreed list of Areas for Action will have gone through a process of careful consideration for fit with the selection criteria. It is recommended that you consider the selection criteria before recommending a waterbody for inclusion.