



**UK AND IRELAND LAKES
CONFERENCE PERTH**
Introduction To Irish Loughs

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Lough Neagh Partnership



Context

Hard and Soft Issues

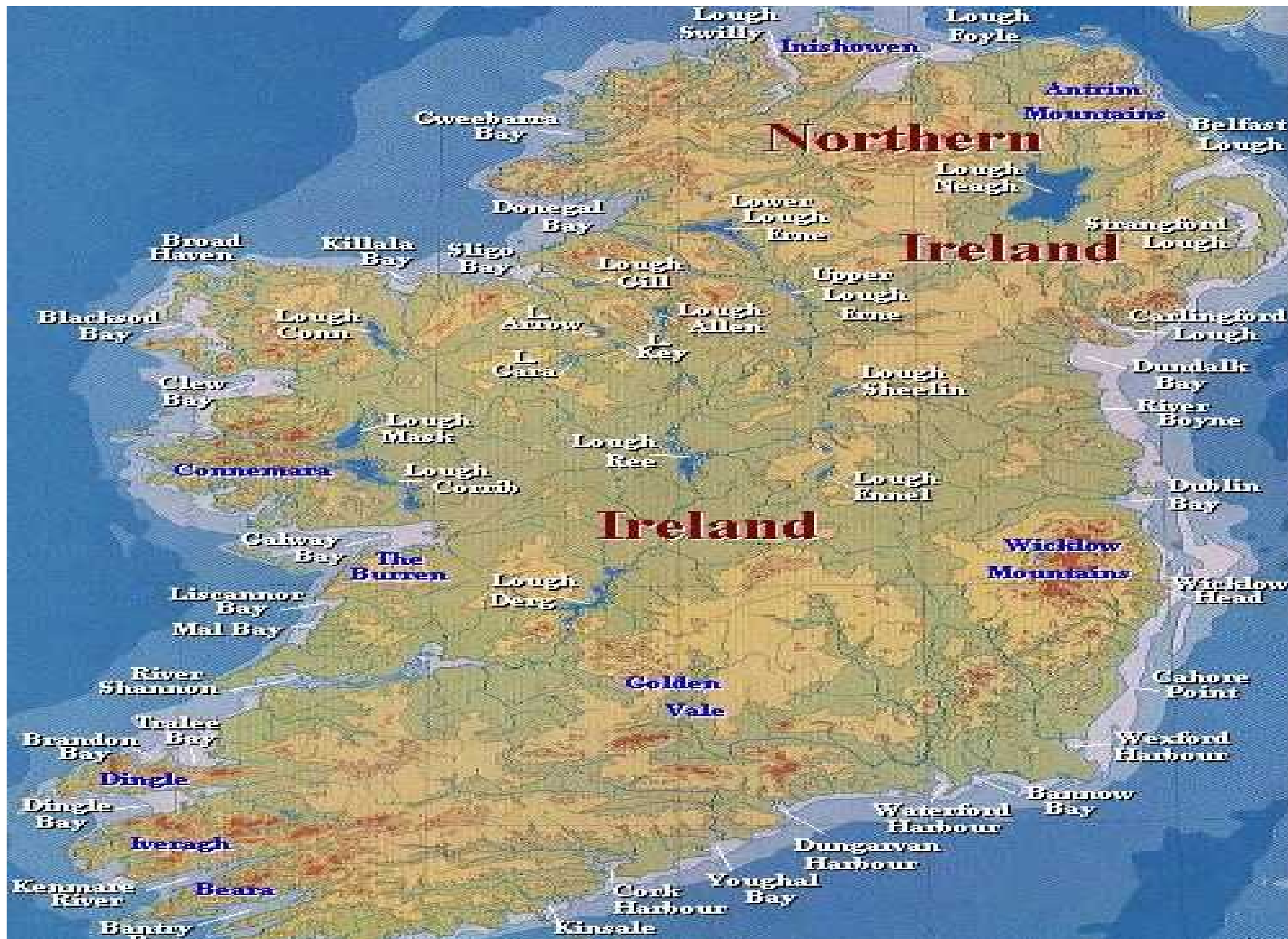
Where are Irish Loughs?

Who looks after Irish Loughs?

Perspectives North and South

Lough Neagh Rehabilitation context

Future





Irish Lough issues

- Water Quality/Pollution/Eutrophication
- Biodiversity/Species
- Invasive species
- Recreation v Conservation
- Planning and development
- Top down statist v Local bottom up
- Scientific v Aesthetic
- Connectivity
- Cultural Historical Significance
- The Future

Lough Water Quality

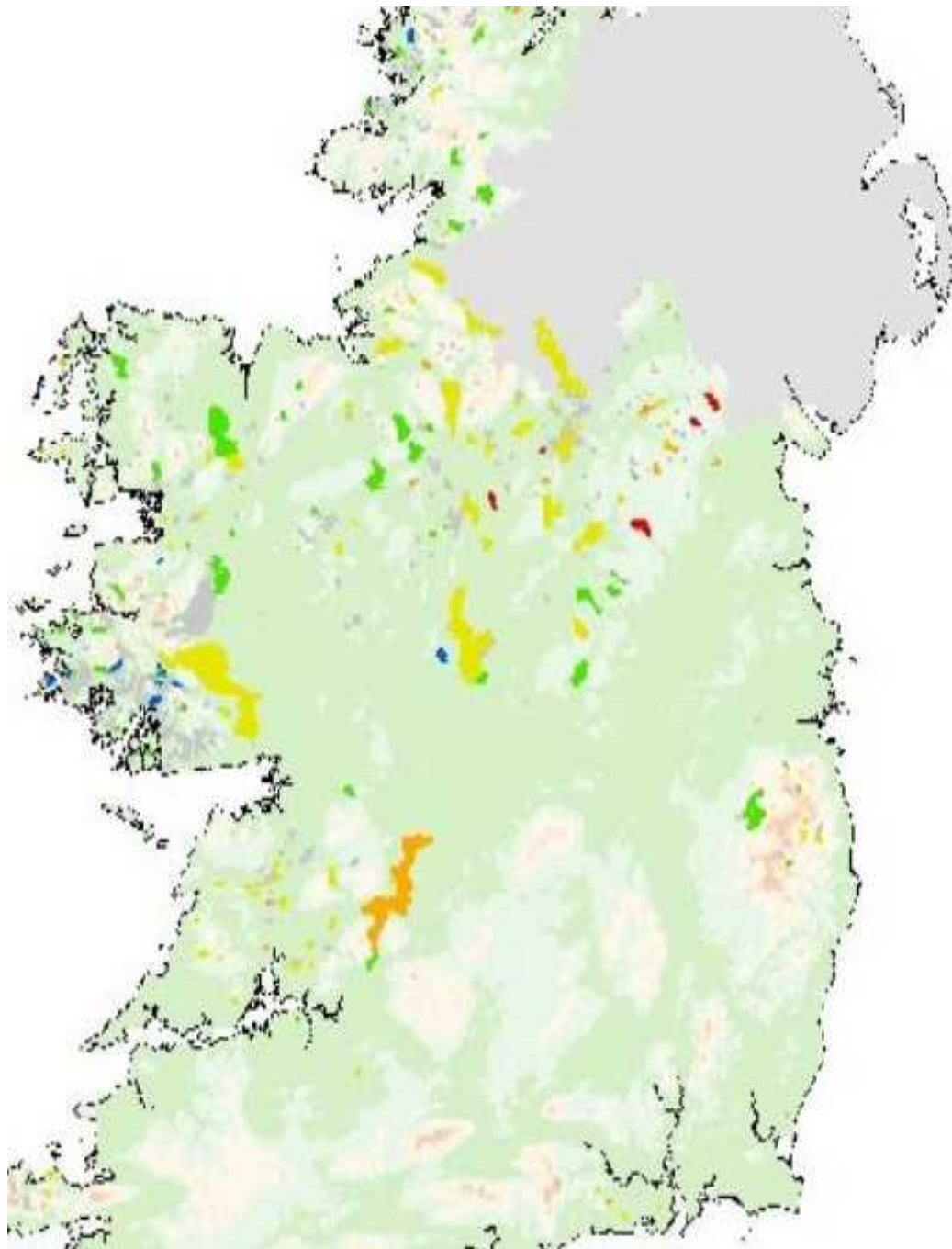
Lake Water Quality – WFD Ecological Status 2007 - 2009
(Source: EPA)

Ecological Status	Number of Lakes	Surface Area (km ²)
High	20 (9%)	21.7 (2.2%)
Good	85 (38.3%)	323.8 (32.8%)
Moderate	92 (41.4%)	501.6 (50.7%)
Poor	19 (8.6%)	126.8 (12.8%)
Bad	6 (2.7%)	14.6 (1.5%)

Lake Waterbody Status

- High status
- Good Status
- Moderate Status
- Poor Status
- Bad Status
- No Status

Digital Terrain Image





Biodiversity/Designation/Species

- National and Local Biodiversity Strategies
- Most big Loughs ASSI/SPA/SAC Ramsar
- Salmonoid Enhancement
- Eel Management
- Fresh Water Pearl Mussel
- Birds Wild Fowl

Invasive species





Recreation v Conservation

RAMSAR

- The Convention's mission is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development”

40TH ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

- "Healthy wetlands mean healthy people and sustainable livelihoods"

Lough Neagh Recreation V Development





Planning and Development

**“Presumption in favour
of sustainable
development?”**

NORTH /SOUTH DIVIDE



STATE V LOCAL

South

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Arts Heritage and Gaelteacht
- Fisheries Ireland

North

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Department of Environment
- Department of Culture Arts and Leisure

All Ireland

- Waterways Ireland
- Failte Ireland
- Loughs Agency

All Ireland Local bodies

- IWAI
- Angling Clubs
- Environmental groups
- Lough/River Trusts



THE BIG LOUGHS SOCIETY!

NEED NEW LOCALIST APPROACH FROM STATE

- Multi dimensional
- Integrated
- Partnership,
- Stakeholder based,
- Local Knowledge,
- Local Control
- Carrot and Stick not just a big stick



SCIENTIFIC V AESTHETIC

- Professionalisation of water/landscape management
- Water Quality issues stem from agricultural technological revolution
- Most people do not view loughs from a habitat/water quality/designation perspective
- View it from a human poetic sublime perspective

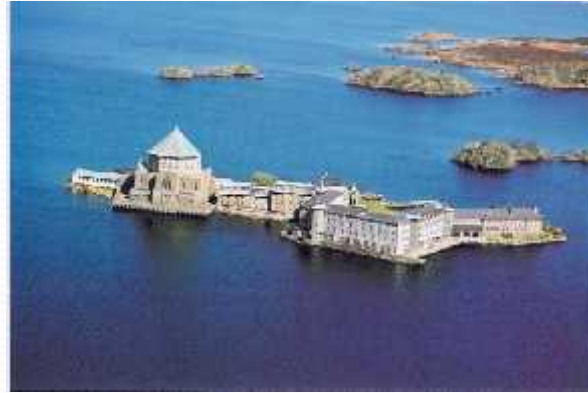
Connectivity



Present Connections



Cultural/Archaeological/Industrial



Future for Irish Loughs

Not so positive

- Recreational development
- Bottom up engagement poor
- Separation from amateur
- Bigger Stick smaller carrots
- Economic Crisis

Positive

- WFD and water quality positive trend
- Species Biodiversity Action
- Cross border co operation
- Promotion of Navigable Waterways
- Possible transport use
- Greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of Irish Loughs