



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Lake Habitats in Ireland

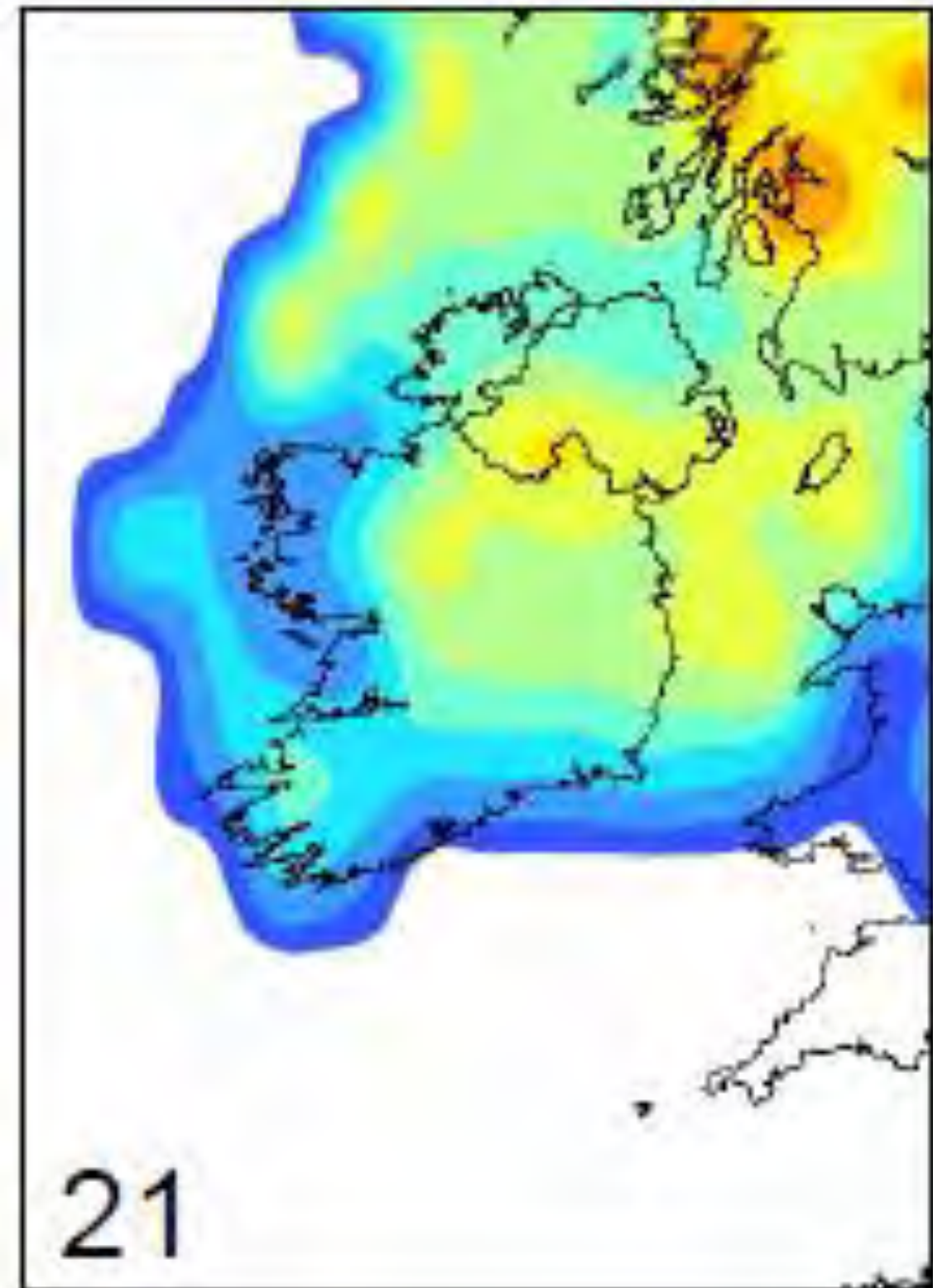
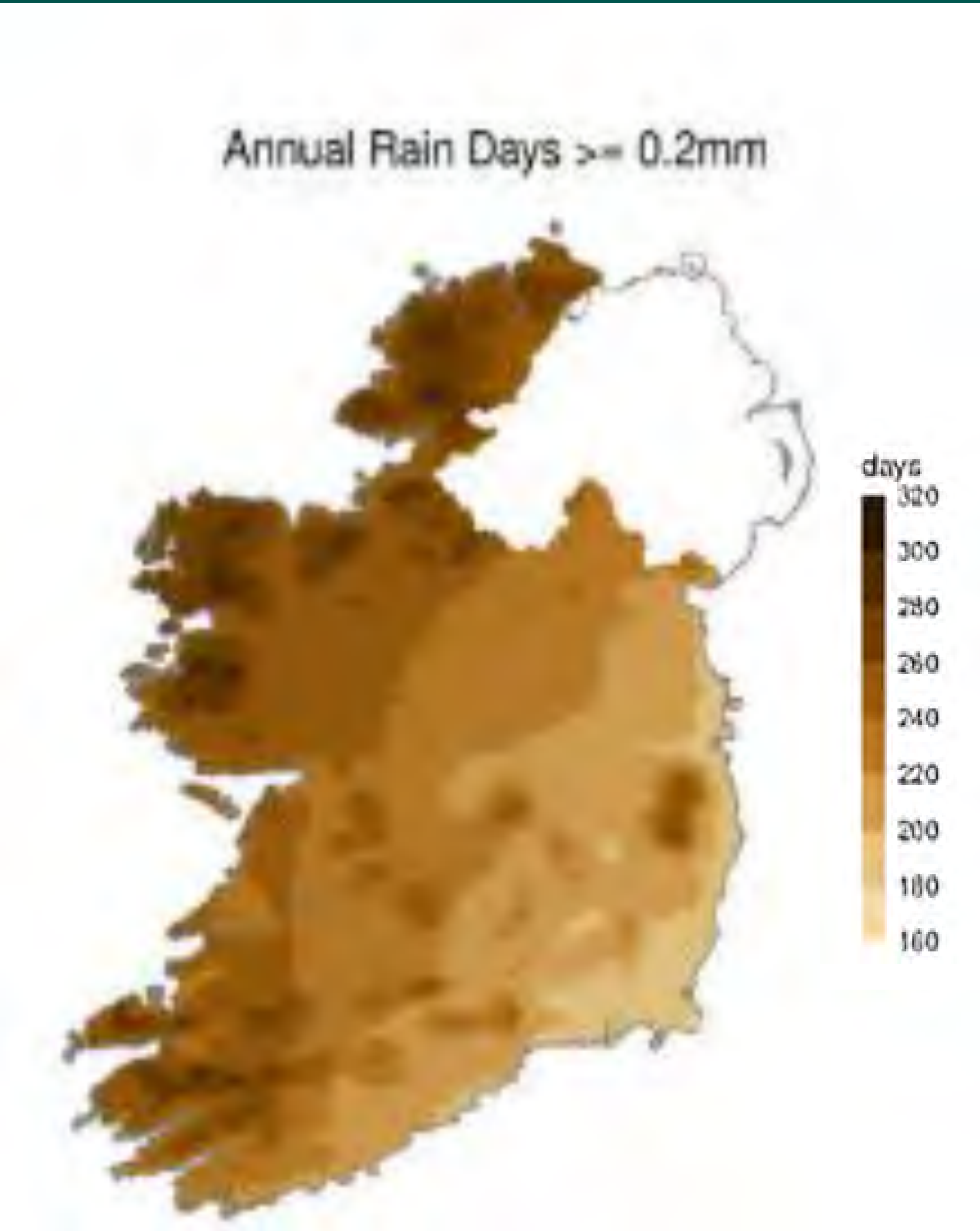
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National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

23 June 2026







Lakes and pool systems in peatland



Deeper, soft-water, rocky lakes in peatland



Nitella gracilis



https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Roden_et_al_Distribution_Luronium_natans_in_Connemara_in_2025_V1.1.pdf

Photos by Chris Carter

Hard-water, marl and rock lakes on karst limestone



<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM124.pdf>

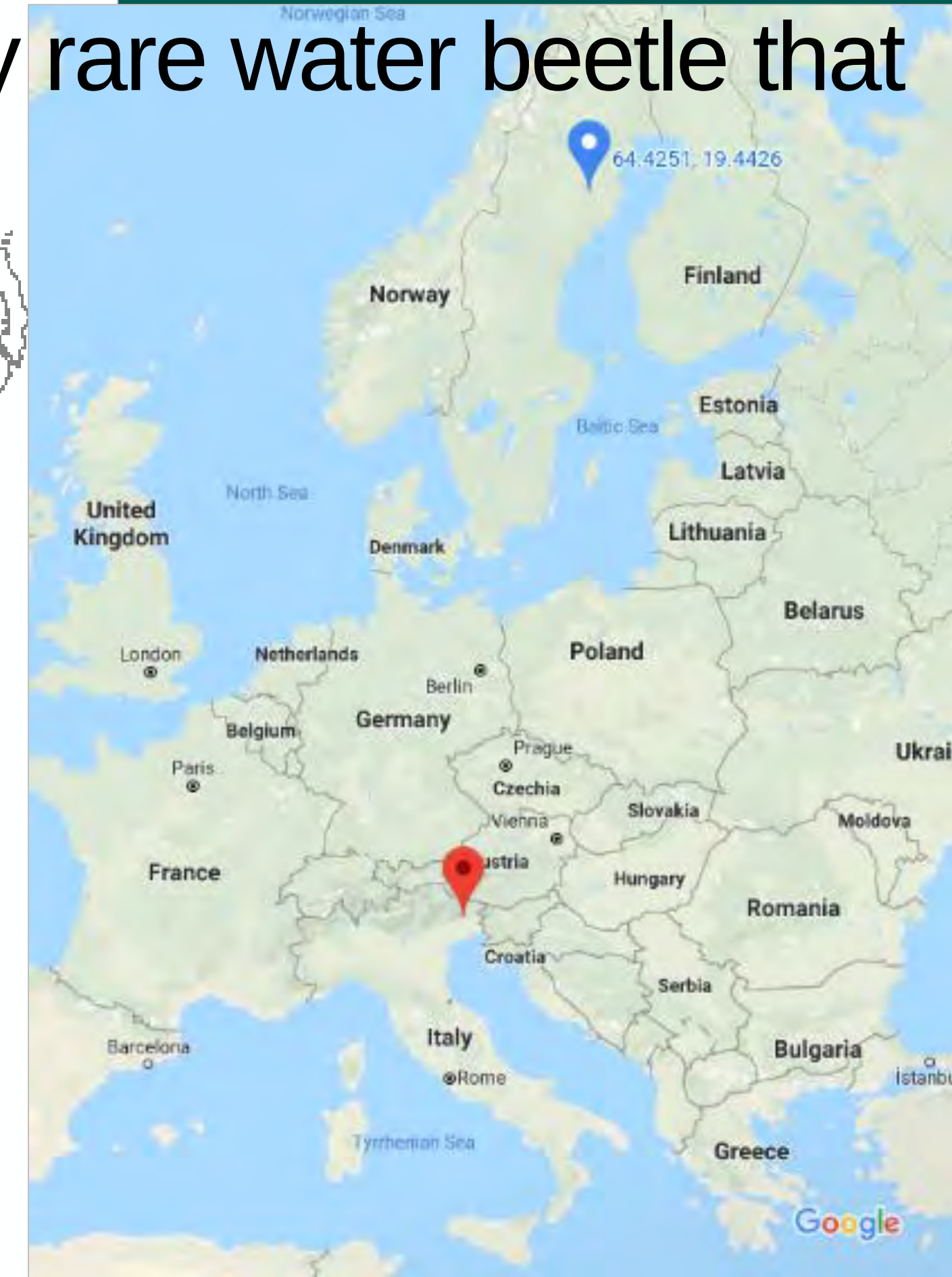
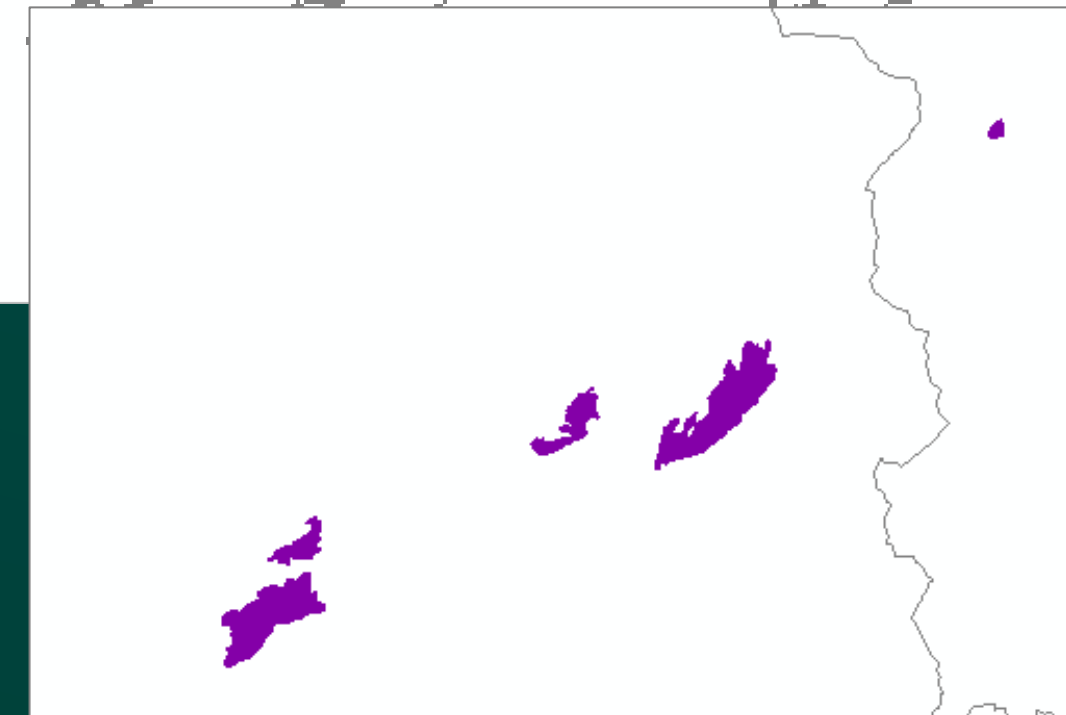
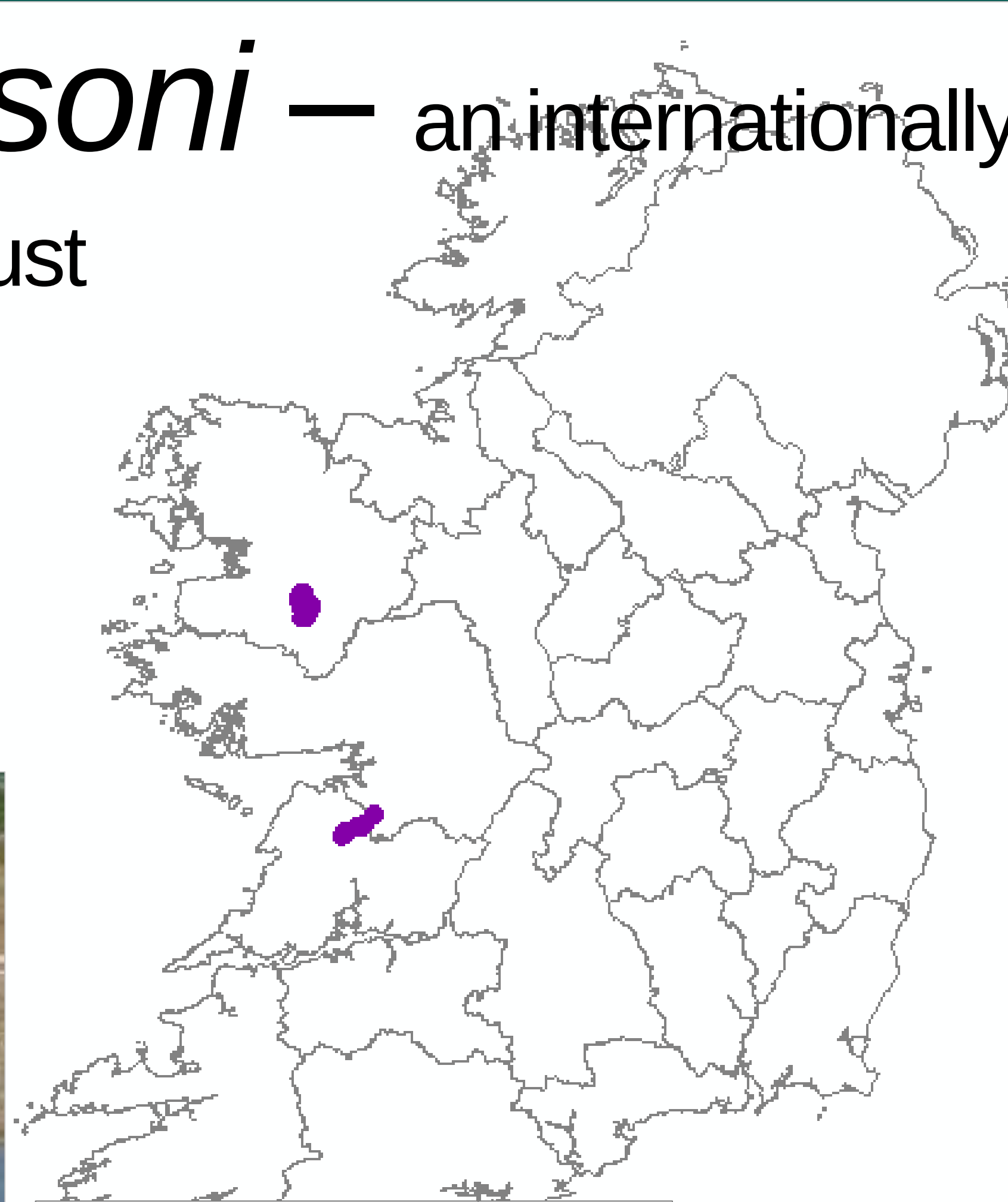
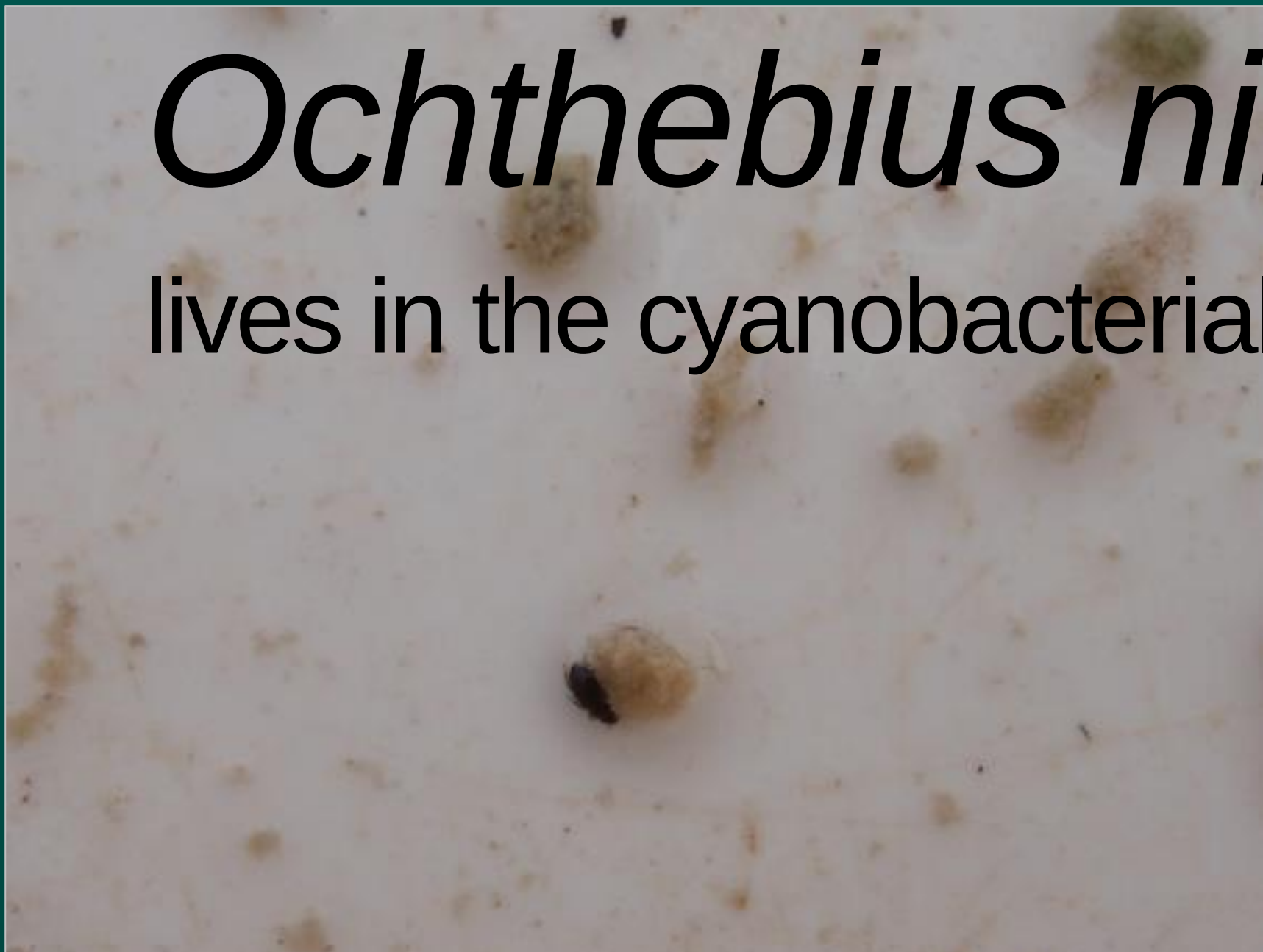
<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM124%20Appendix%20III.pdf>

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM125.pdf>



The cyanobacterial crust of
hard-water lakes

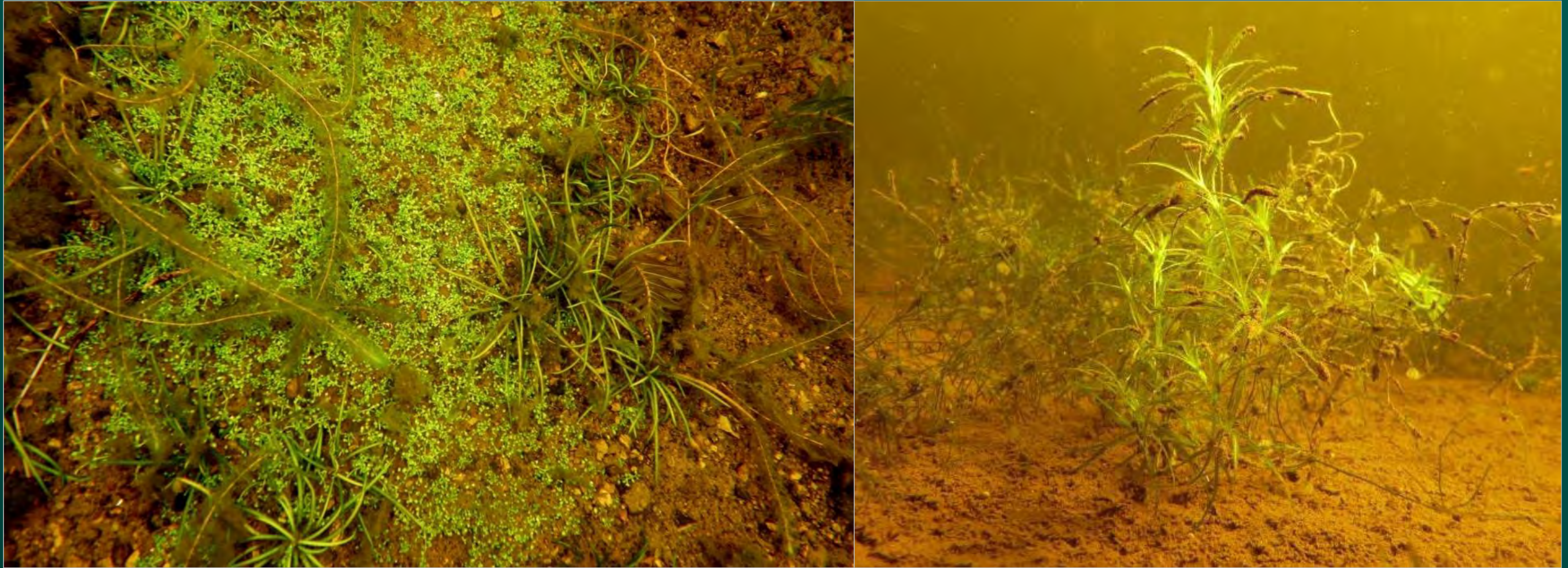
Ochthebius nilssoni — an internationally rare water beetle that lives in the cyanobacterial crust



Hard-water lake zonation of primitive photosynthetic organisms (crust and stoneworts) to depths of 10 m or more in extremely clear water



Moderate-alkalinity lakes – basic ($\text{pH} > 7$) - intermediate between soft-water and hard-water lakes. Often in peatland landscapes. Species-rich with rare deep-water flora



<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM132.pdf>

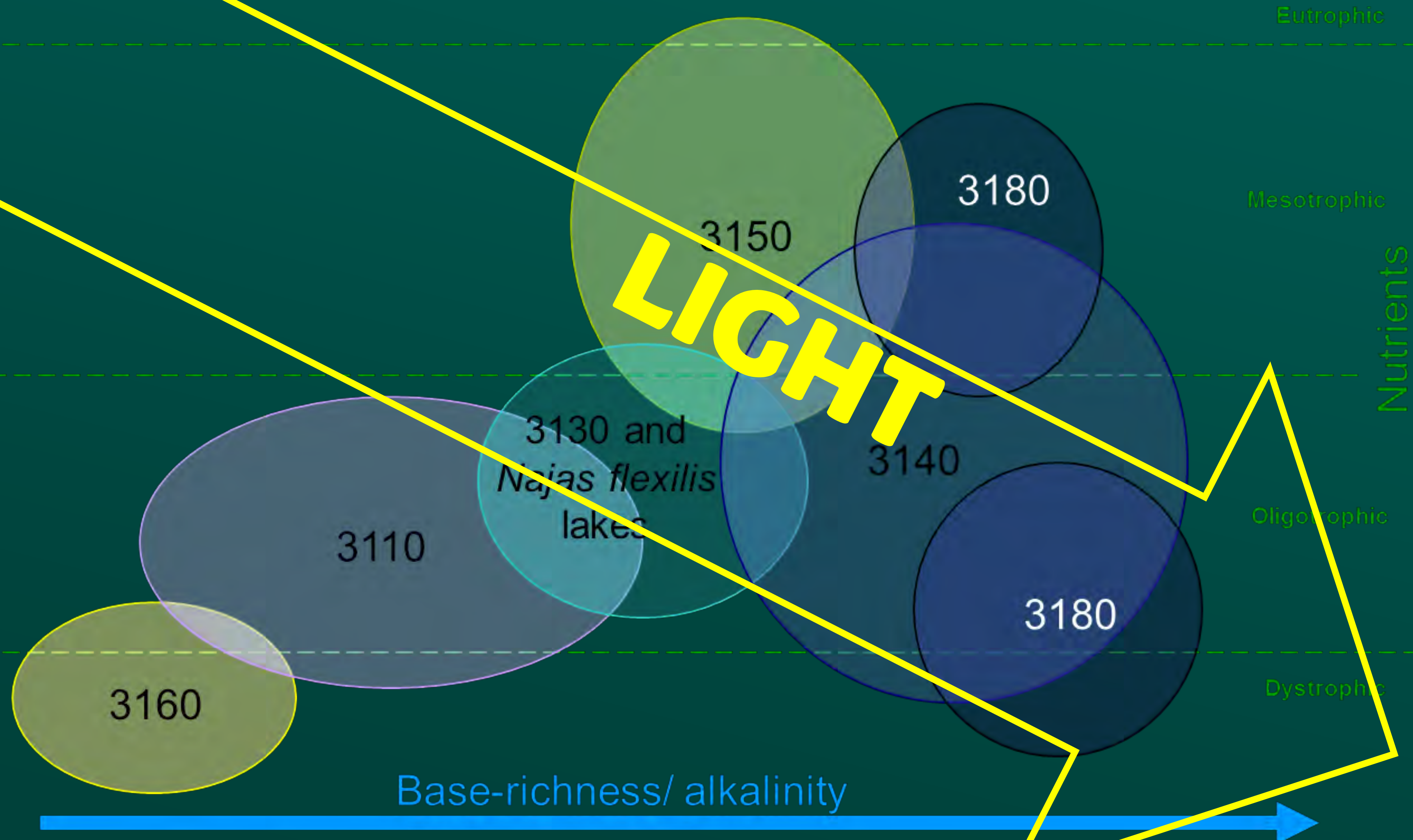
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Habitats Directive lake types

Lake habitat/ species
Rocky peat lakes 3110
Moderate alkalinity lakes 3130
Marl lakes 3140
Rich pondweed lakes 3150
Bog lakes and pools 3160



https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/Lake_habitats_supporting_document_Nov_2015_V1.1_FINAL.pdf

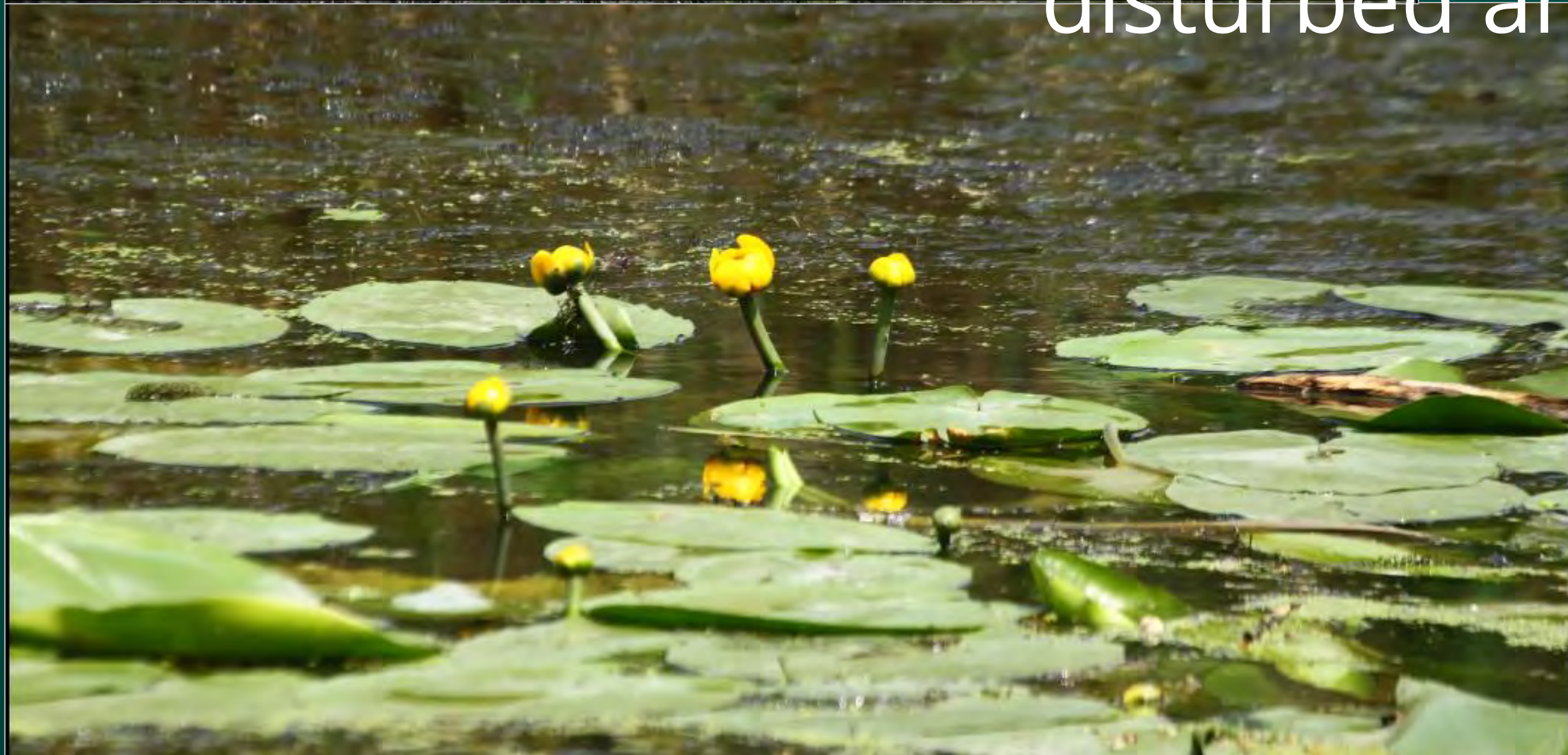




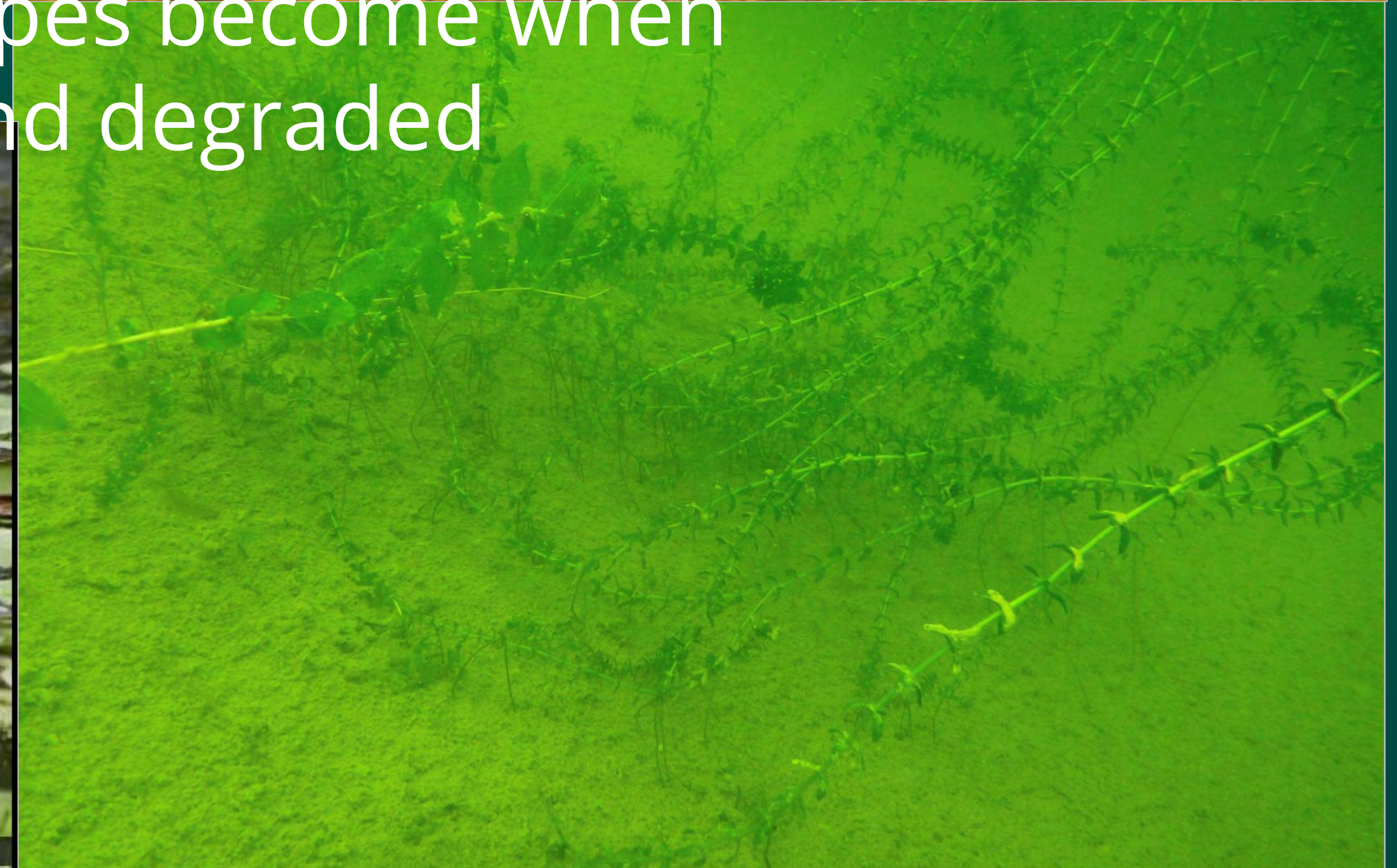
Rob Still / Chris Gibson



What most lake types become when
disturbed and degraded



Rob Still / Chris Gibson



Conservation status of Lakes 2019-2024

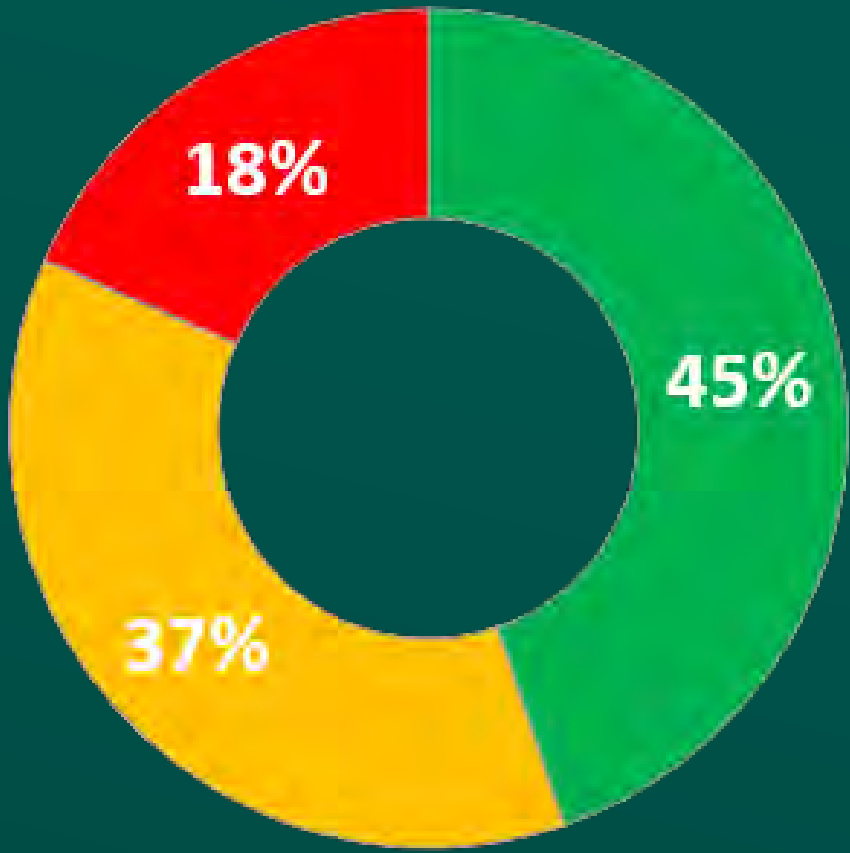
Habitat/species	Overall status
3110 Rocky peat lakes	?
3130 Moderate alkalinity lakes	↓
3140 Marl lakes	=
3150 Rich pondweed lakes	?
3160 Bog lakes and pools	↑
1833 Slender Naiad	↓

Conservation status
Favourable
Unfavourable Inadequate
Unfavourable Bad

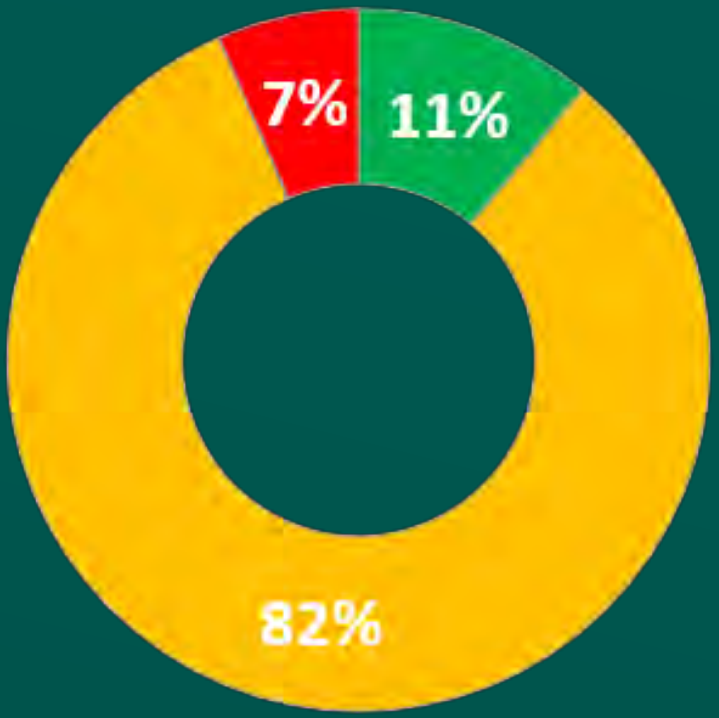
Trend
↑ Improving
= Stable
↓ Deteriorating
? Uncertain

<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/article-17-report-2025-volume-1.pdf>
<https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/article-17-report-2025-volume-2.pdf>

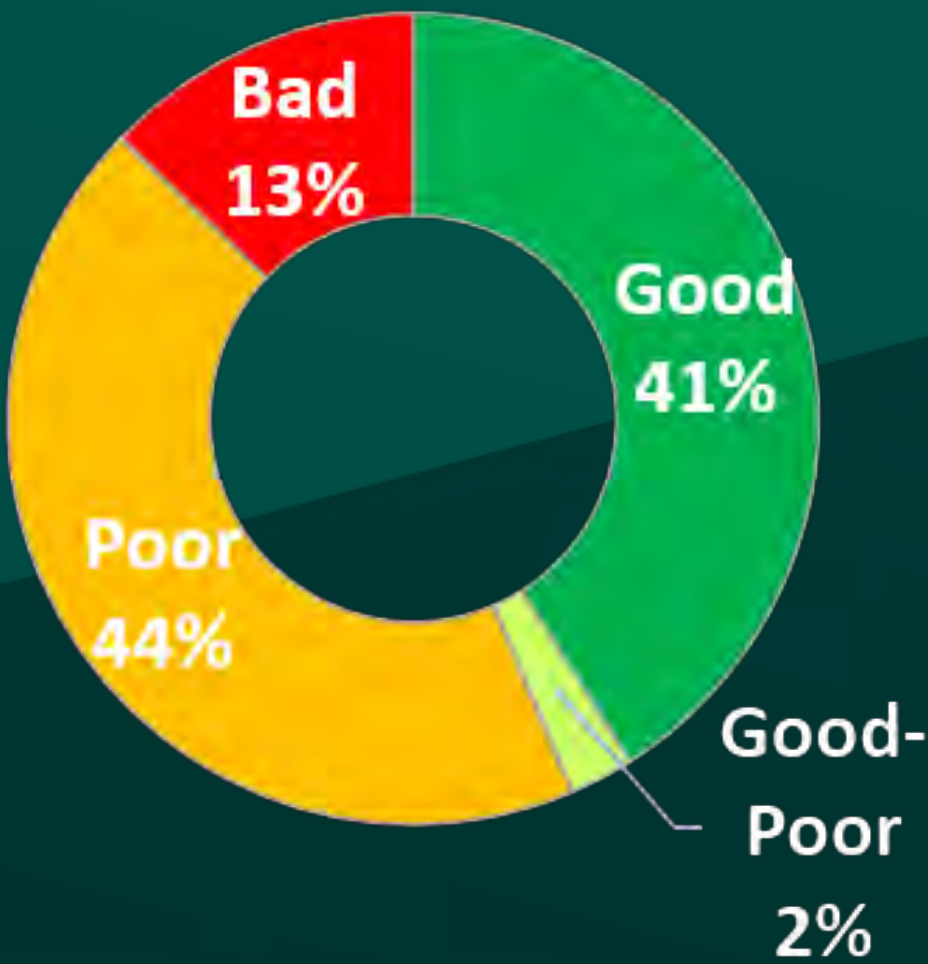
3140 (N = 38)



3140 (AREA)



3130 (N = 39)



Thank you

