



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

Conserving Migratory Waterbirds: Shared Birds, Shared Responsibility

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Voices and Vision for Ireland's Wetlands
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East Atlantic Flyway

- Waterbirds migrate here for the mild winter, extensive wetlands & rich food resources
- What we do in Ireland impacts waterbirds, people and nations across continents
- Migratory waterbird conservation must operate at the flyway scale



Ireland's flyway action

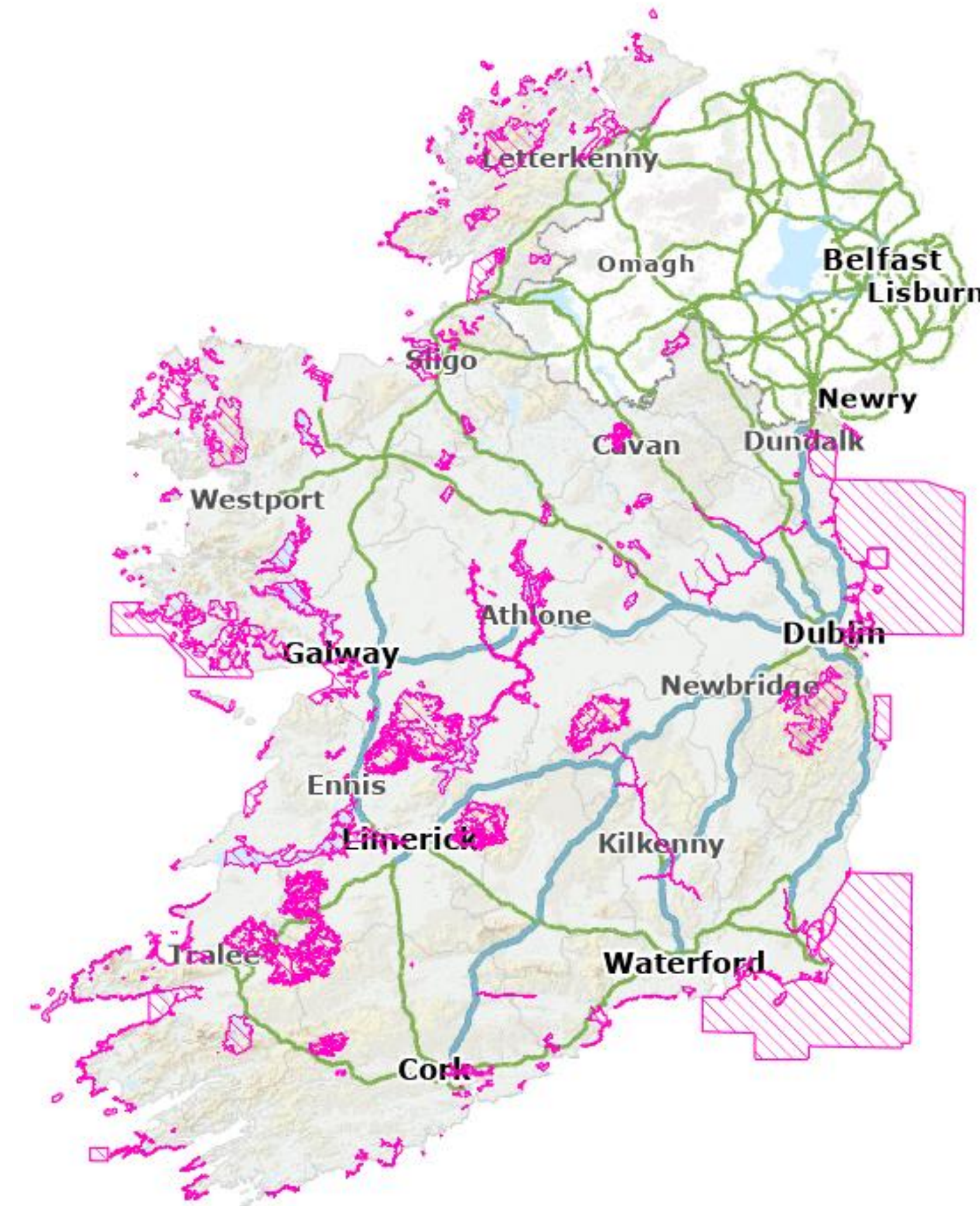


Signatory to Ramsar (1971): identified wetlands of international importance

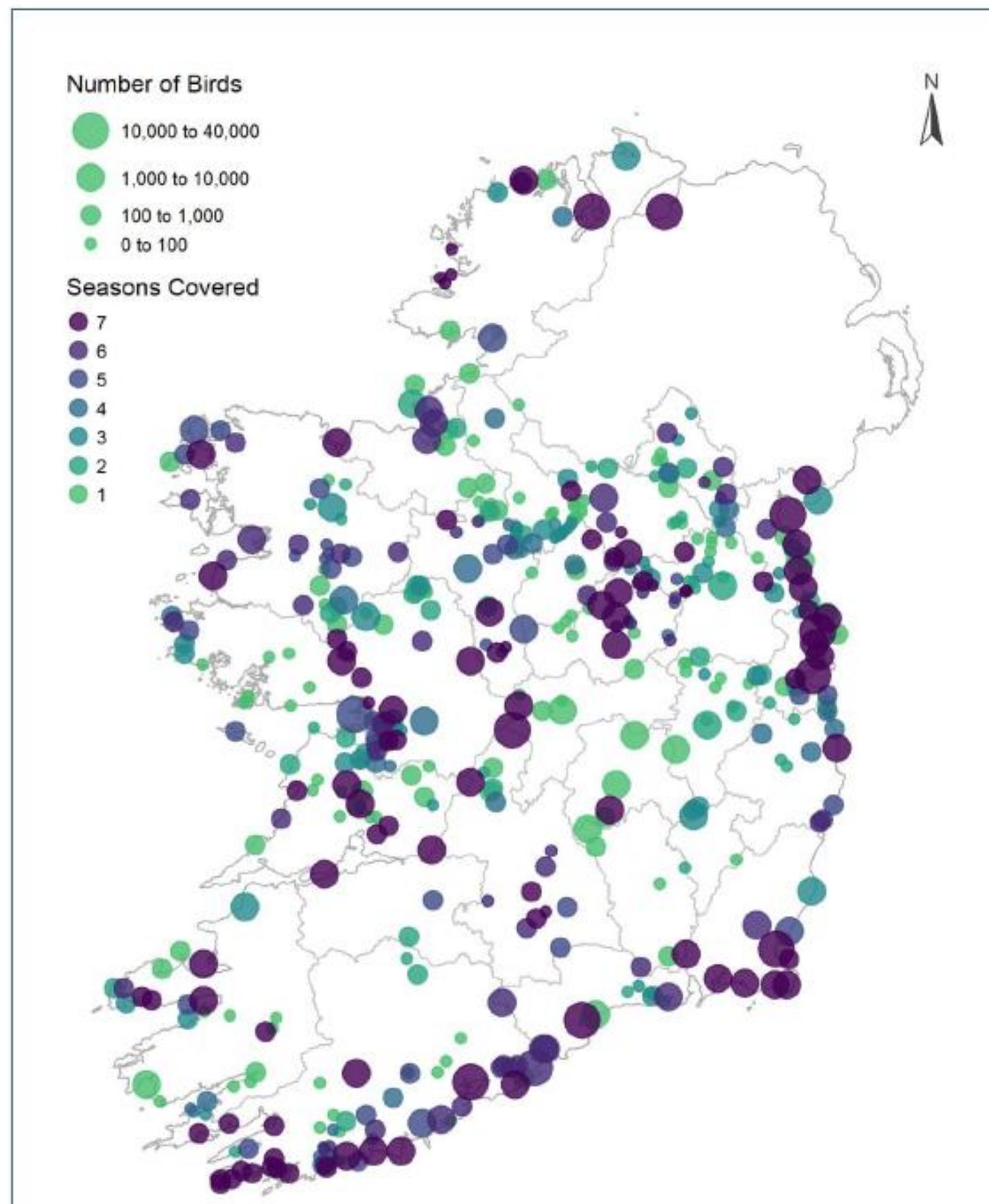
EU Birds (1979) & Habitats (1992) Directives:

- Extensive network of SPAs and SACs
- Linked directly to vast EU Natura 2000 network

Process: identify, designate, monitor and manage



Waterbird monitoring in Ireland



Systematically counting birds at wetlands for over 30 years, e.g. Irish Wetland Bird Survey, >300 sites

Data underpins conservation assessments: site – national – international

Evidence base for policy & management decisions



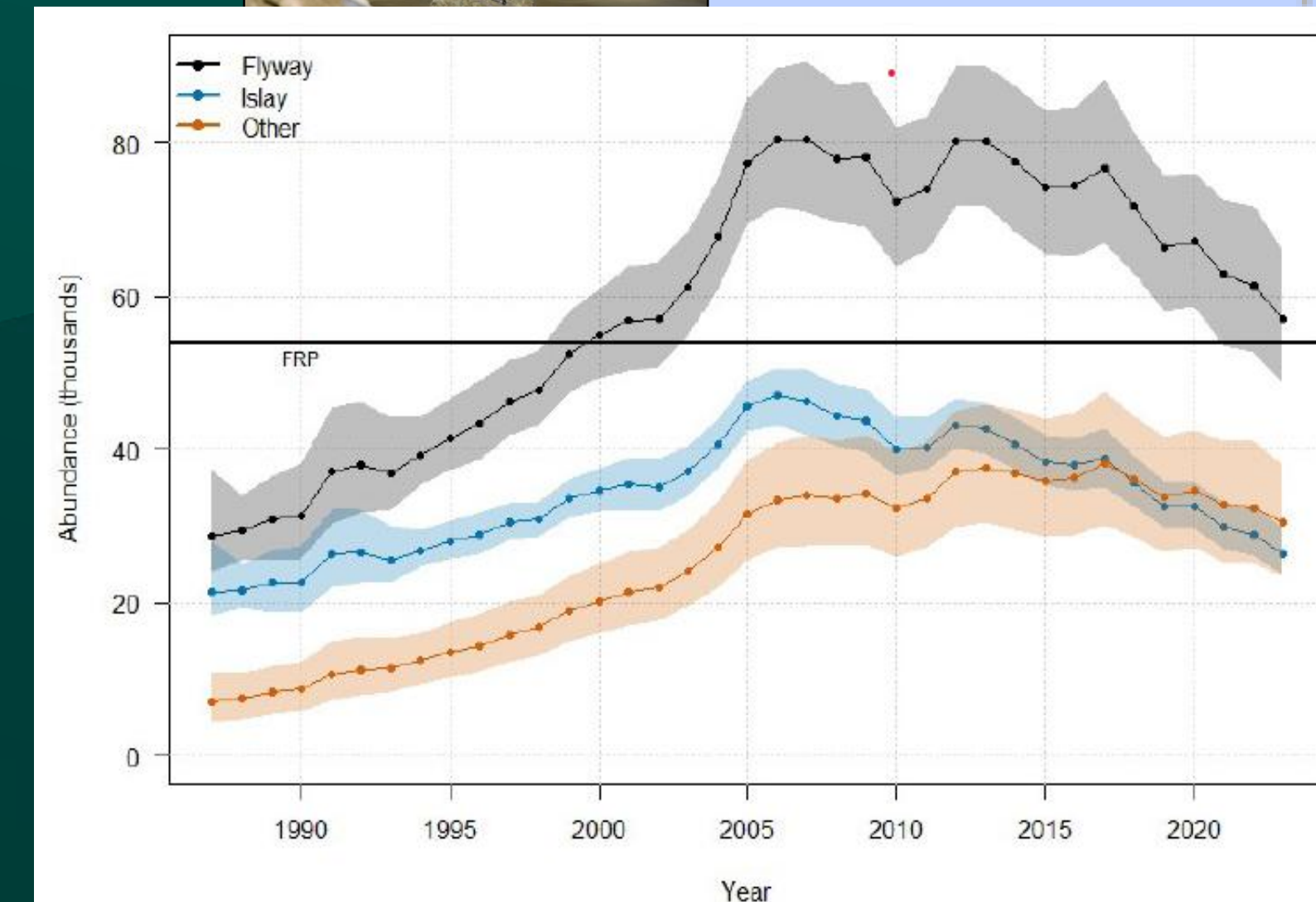
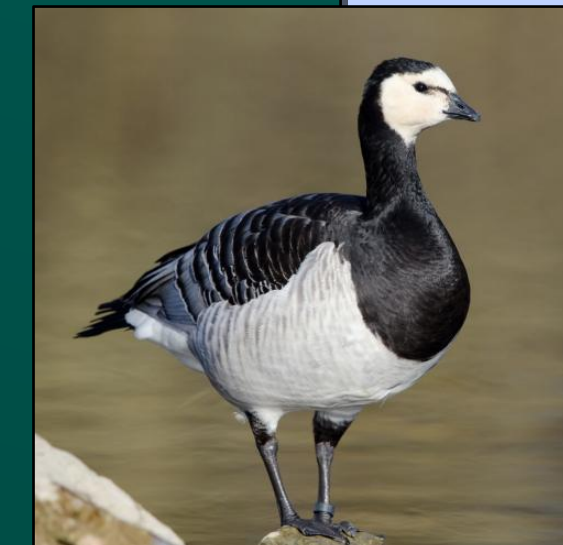
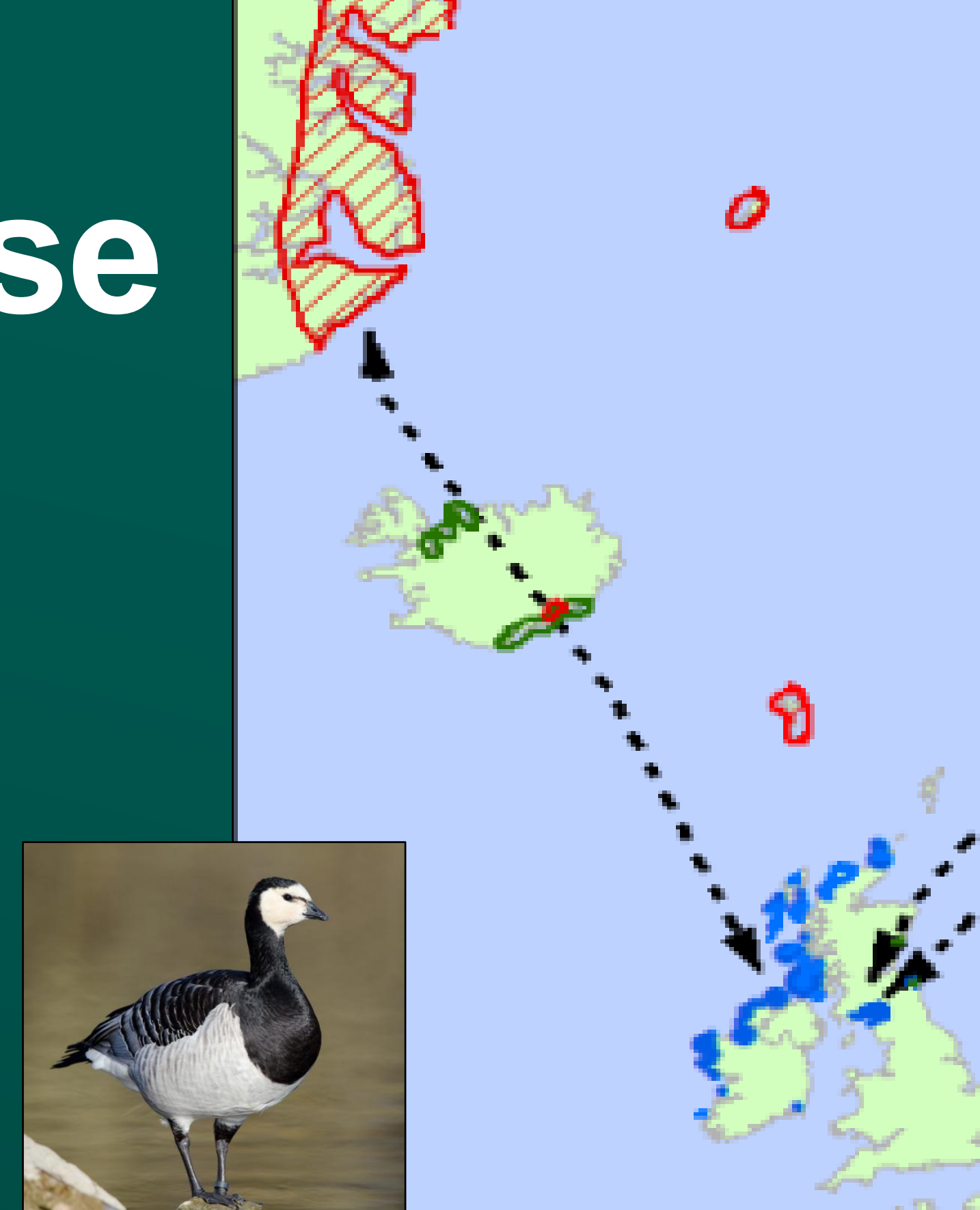
Flyway action: Barnacle goose

Hunted in Iceland and Greenland

Shooting in Scotland to limit agricultural conflict

Listed species for 22 SPAs in Ireland

Flyway decline from 2015



Flyway action: Barnacle goose

EGMP: coordinate sustainable use and conservation across flyway

Adaptive Flyway Management Programme

Using robust data and models, agree on harvest level each year

Avian influenza 2021/22 – adaptive response in harvest



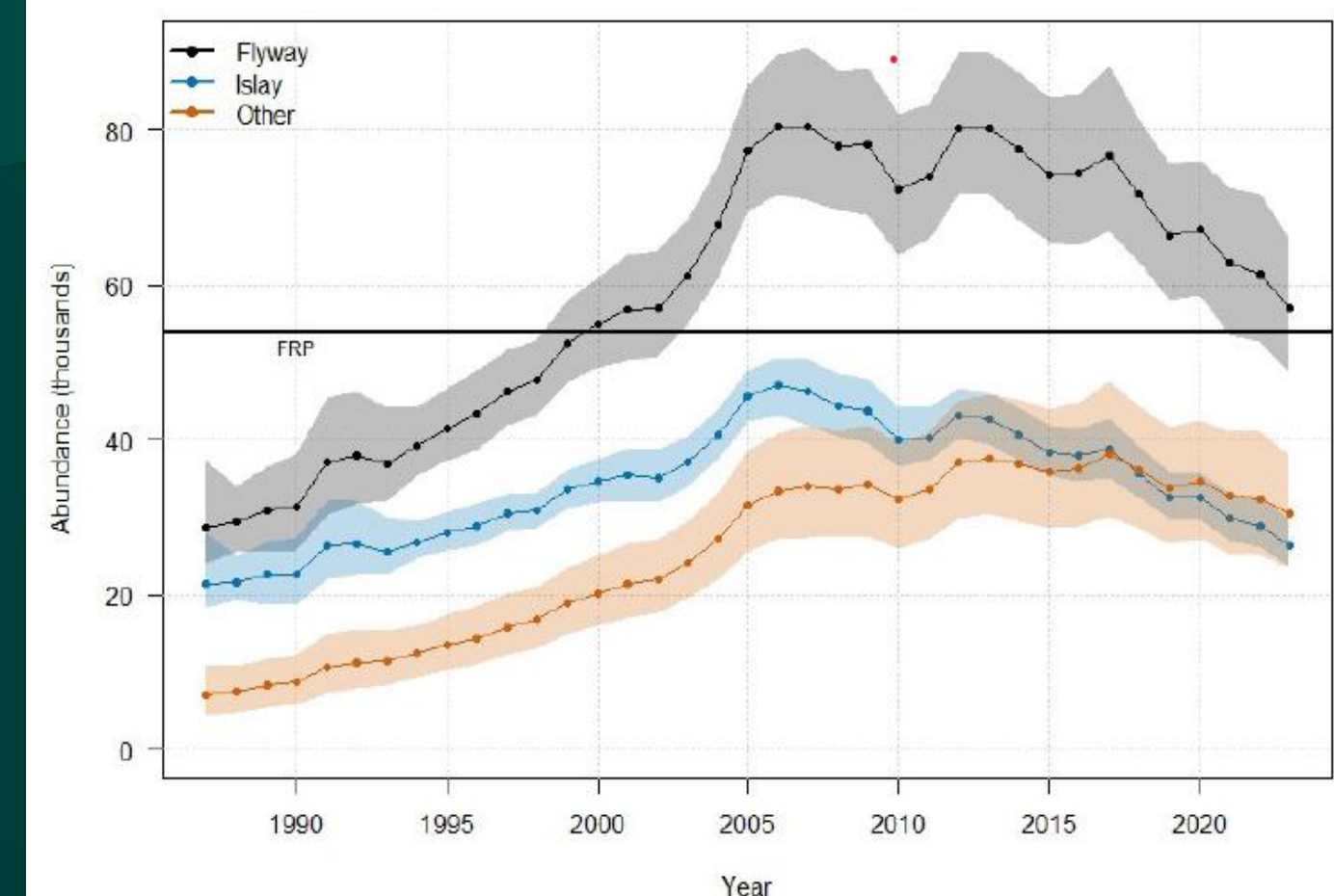
AEWA European Goose Management Platform



Adaptive Flyway Management Programme for the Russia/Germany & Netherlands Population of the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

AEWA European Goose Management Platform

AEWA EGMP Programme No. 3





Other ongoing work:

AEWA Emergency Meeting for Greenland White-fronted Goose:

- Flyway in ongoing, steep decline
- Excellent monitoring + research
- Major pressures: climate change and hunting

EU Task Force on the Recovery of Birds (2022):
development of necessary measures for
recovery



New Horizon: Nature Restoration Regulation

Monumental opportunity to restore our habitats,
species & ecosystems; NRP due 2026

Wetlands are central to Ireland's biodiversity and
ecosystems

At least 33 migratory waterbird species prioritised



Waterbird Flyway Conservation

Ireland matters globally, impacts globally

International cooperation is essential – but must be resourced

Nature Restoration Reg. is our opportunity, but we must also work beyond EU

