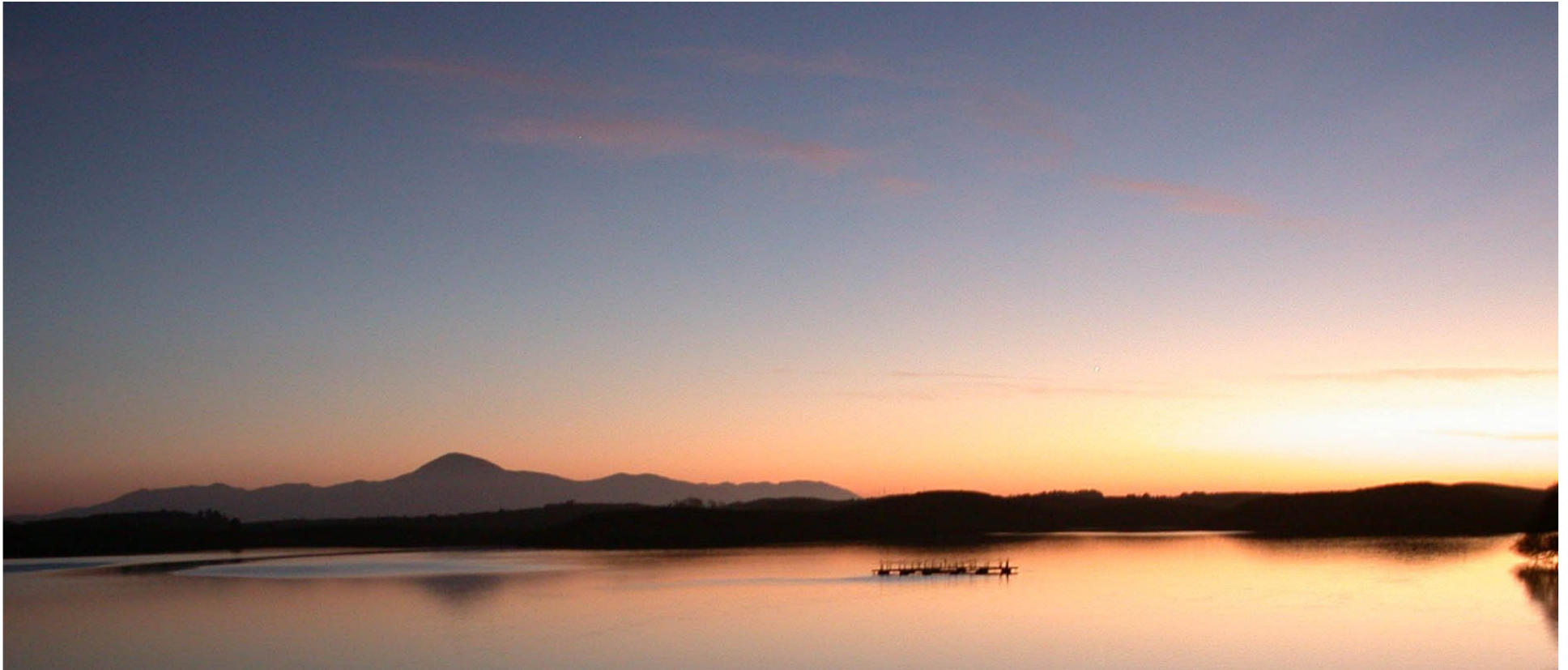


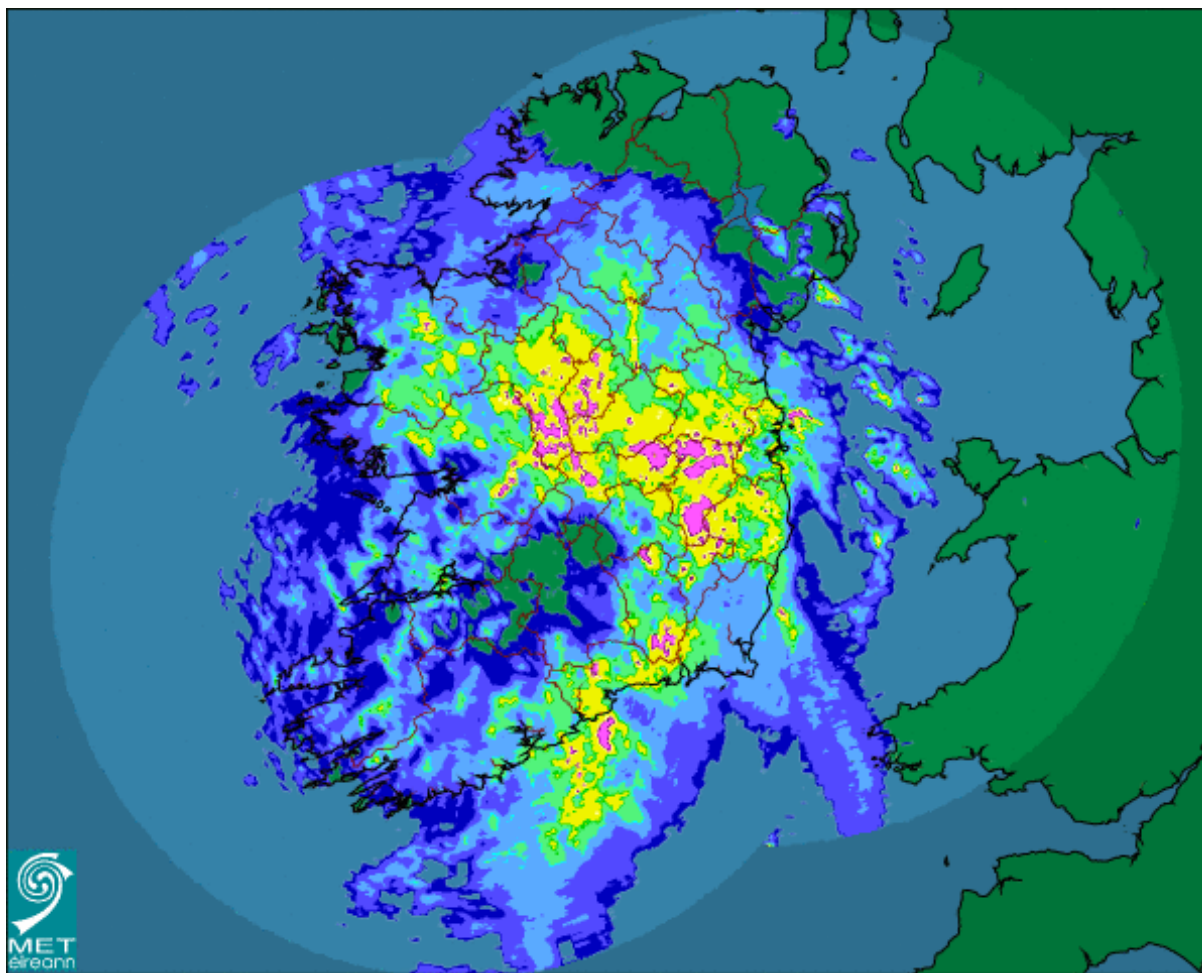
Water and Ireland



Eleanor Jennings
Dundalk Institute of Technology

Water on Ireland.....

Annual rainfall 1000-2000 mm annum⁻¹



Water in Ireland.....



Water FOR Ireland.....ecosystem services

Examples of services



Water supply



Tourism



Fishing



Aesthetic & cultural

- Lakes and rivers provide many services for the human population.
- But are vulnerable to a wide range of stressors.
- Subject to stringent regulation.
- Water Framework Directive.

Examples of environmental stressors



Water abstraction



Nutrient enrichment



Climate change



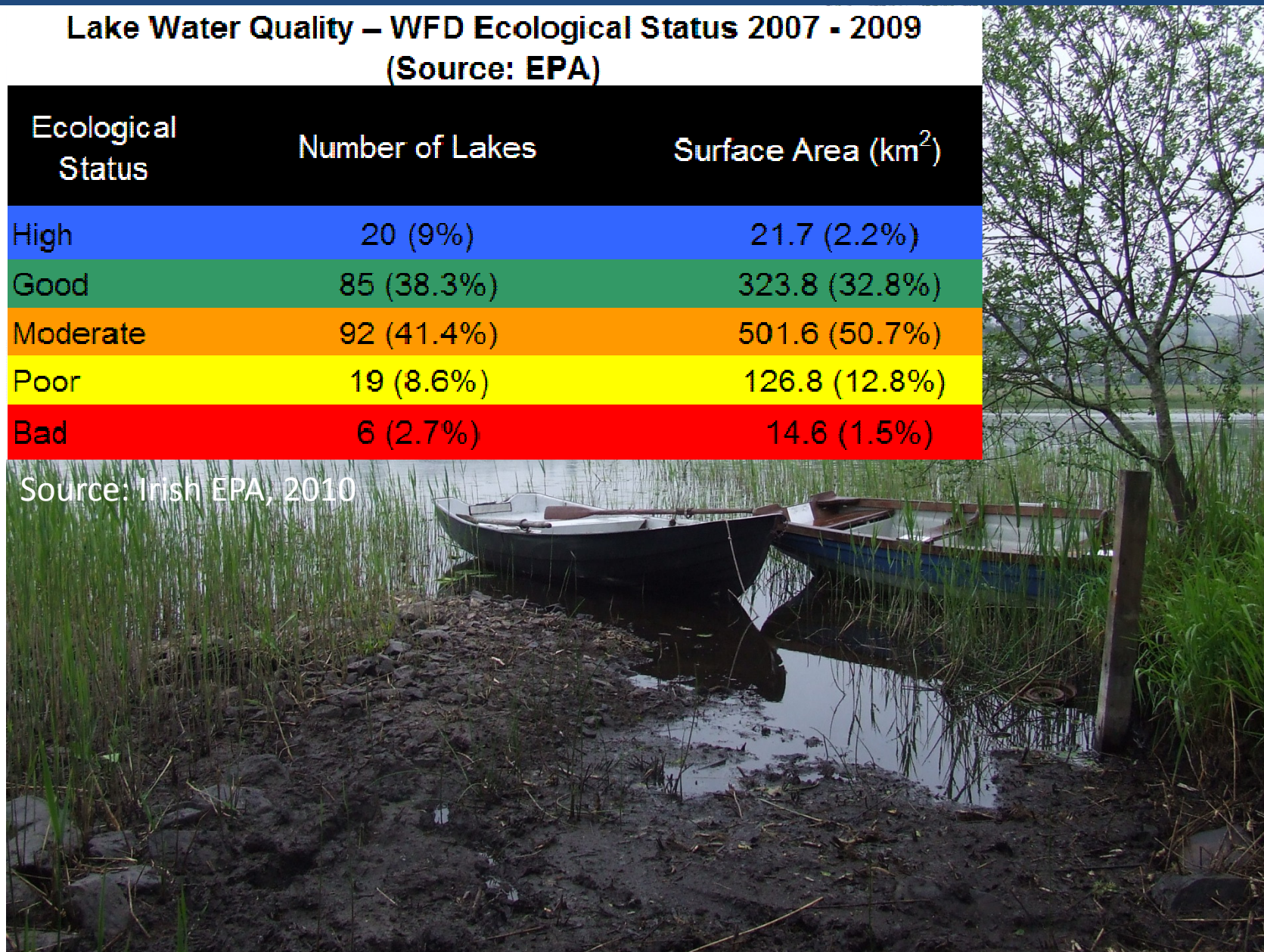
Invasion of non-native species

Water quality in Ireland

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%)

Source: Irish EPA, 2010



Water is a hot topic in Ireland just now..... because we are being asked to pay!



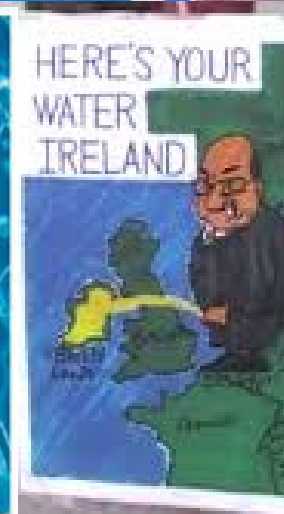
Image: Irish Examiner



Image: Irish Examiner



Image: Irish Examiner



Water is a hot topic in Ireland just now..... because we are being asked to pay!

ie ready to bo x

www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/irish-water-issue-ready-to-boil-over-as-government-loses-patience-1.1970762


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Irish Water issue ready to boil over as Government loses patience

Quickening of pace towards changing Irish Water has taken many by surprise



A water leak which followed water meter installation works in Sandymount, south Dublin. Irish Water has not been communicating effectively to people at the most basic level: on the phones and the doors. Photograph: Frank Miller

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EN 15:40 28/10/2014

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6.3 million cattle in Ireland...4.6 million people



What is in the water in Ireland.....



**Cattle poaching close to lake
abstraction point inflow stream**



**Cattle poaching close to lake
abstraction point inflow stream**



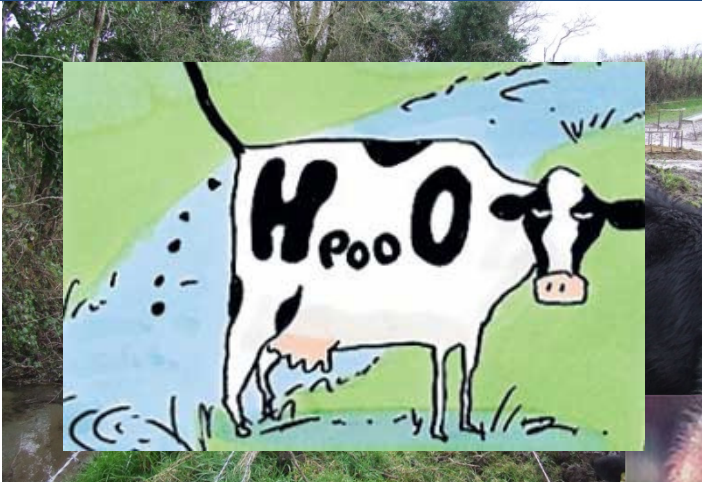
**Discharge pipe into lake
abstraction point inflow stream**



Images Alec Rolston DkIT

**Excessive algal growth in stream
flowing into a lake abstraction**

What is in the water in Ireland.....



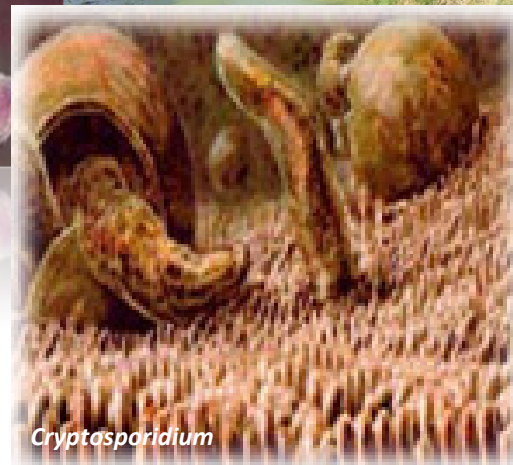
Cattle poaching close to lake
abstraction point inflow stream



Cattle poaching close to lake
abstraction point inflow stream



Discharge pipe into lake
abstraction point inflow stream



Excessive algal growth in stream
flowing into a lake abstraction



On-going issues with quality.....

My email today – 30% of wells contaminated with *E coli*....

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying a URL from staffmail.dkit.ie. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://staffmail.dkit.ie/OWA/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAAhWX0cYQ0rQIEh%2bqXThCmaBwD1iabpOCvpTYsTAGIXBVV0AAAAVj%2brAAD1iabpOCv>. The browser's address bar also shows the text "Householder Information on Private Wells - EPA Newsletter October 2014". The browser's address bar also shows the text "28 October 2014". The browser's address bar also shows the text "Send to a Friend » | Subscribe » | Archive » | Update your Profile » | Print Newsletter » | RSS »". The browser's address bar also shows the text "Greater risk of illness if you drink contaminated water from private wells". The browser's address bar also shows the text "30% of private wells in Ireland are contaminated by E.coli. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) census figures indicate that there are approximately 170,000 wells in Ireland. Therefore 50,000 private wells may be contaminated. According to the Health Service Executive (HSE), Ireland has the highest rate of VTEC (Veritoxigenic E.Coli) in Europe. VTEC is a toxin producing form of E.coli and is a lot more serious than an ordinary tummy bug." The browser's address bar also shows the text "What is not generally known is that there is a greater risk of illness associated with private well supplies. You may have been using your well for years and have had no health problems as you may have built up immunity to the contamination. However, friends, family and children may become ill as a result of consuming your well water People treated for VTEC are four times more likely to have consumed untreated water from private wells." The browser's address bar also shows the text "However, by taking simple steps to protect your well this disease is preventable. Continue reading". The browser's address bar also shows the text "What can you do to make sure your well water is safe and secure Watch the animation explaining the risks to well water quality and the simple things that you can do to reduce these risks". The browser's address bar also shows the text "Protect Your Well App". The browser's address bar also shows the text "Start", "Google", "Internet Explorer", "Skype", "Word", "PowerPoint", "EN", "13:01", "28/10/2014".

Householder Information on Private Wells - EPA Newsletter October 2014 28 October 2014

Send to a Friend » | Subscribe » | Archive » | Update your Profile » | Print Newsletter » | RSS »

Greater risk of illness if you drink contaminated water from private wells

30% of private wells in Ireland are contaminated by E.coli. The Central Statistics Office (CSO) census figures indicate that there are approximately 170,000 wells in Ireland. Therefore 50,000 private wells may be contaminated. According to the Health Service Executive (HSE), Ireland has the highest rate of VTEC (Veritoxigenic E.Coli) in Europe. VTEC is a toxin producing form of E.coli and is a lot more serious than an ordinary tummy bug.

What is not generally known is that there is a greater risk of illness associated with private well supplies. You may have been using your well for years and have had no health problems as you may have built up immunity to the contamination. However, friends, family and children may become ill as a result of consuming your well water People treated for VTEC are four times more likely to have consumed untreated water from private wells.

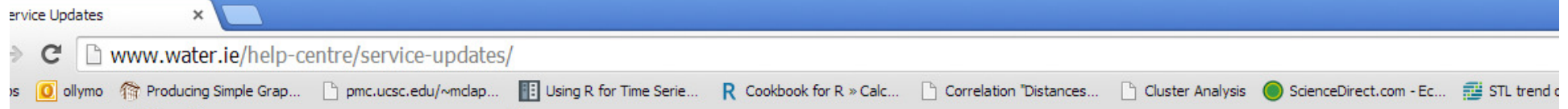
However, by taking simple steps to protect your well this disease is preventable. Continue reading

What can you do to make sure your well water is safe and secure

Watch the animation explaining the risks to well water quality and the simple things that you can do to reduce these risks

Protect Your Well App

On-going issues with quality.....



We're always working to provide with the highest quality service, up to date with water repair work and latest incidents in your area using this page.

UNPLANNED



Boil Water Notice - Leitrim

📍 Churchfield 🕒 10/10/2014

There is currently a boil water notice in place for the Churchfield Water Supply Scheme.

Sampling is currently being carried out by Leitrim Co. Council on behalf of Irish Water.

On the advice of the Health Service Executive a boil water notice has been issued in respect of this scheme. Accordingly, in the interest of public health, it is recommended that all users of the water scheme boil water before use.

Water must be boiled for:

- Drinking
- Drinks made with water
- Preparation of salads and similar food which are not cooked prior to eating
- Brushing of teeth
- Making of ice

For further information please contact the Irish Water Customer Contact Centre on 1890 278 278.

Protecting the source.....

Fencing at streamside

Before



After



Fencing provides a vegetation barrier as well as prevents direct defecation into the water bodies

BUT the whole issue is raising awareness of our water issues!

HOW WE (MIS)USE WATER

 **150 litres**
average consumption per person per day

 **6 litres/1 litre**
water wasted if you leave tap on/off while brushing teeth

 **54,750 litres**
average consumption per person a year

 **49 litres**
water used in a seven minute 'ordinary' shower

 **63,800 litres**
used in power showers over a year

 **65 litres**
used in washing machine load

 **9,000 litres**
annual saving if showers lasted just six instead of seven minutes

 **20 litres**
used by dishwasher load

 **80 litres**
water in an average bath

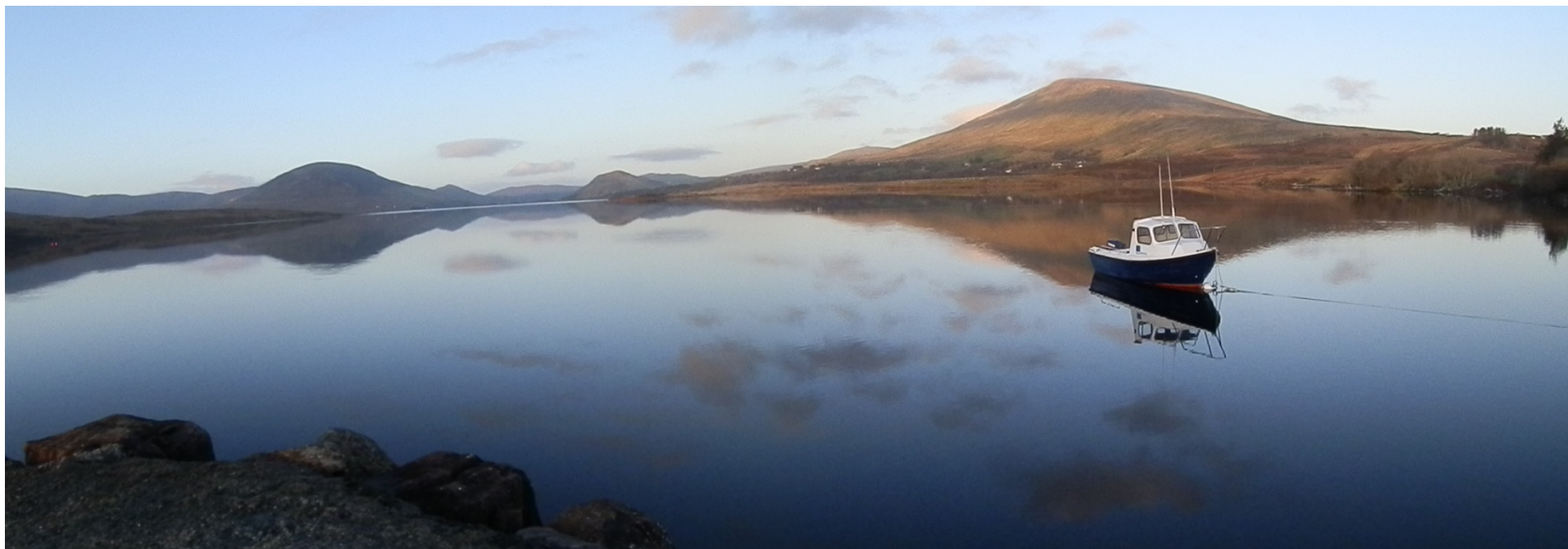
 **67**
number of people who overfill kettle, wasting water & energy

 **28%**
number of people who have never heard of
a water butt, which harvests rainwater to
water the garden or wash the car

 **3 litres**
amount of water saved by using a toilet
displacement device which stops the
cistern from fully filling



Go raibh mile maith agaibh!



Images L. Feeagh: Daniel Brady