Overview

September 2025 was relatively cool and wet overall with Atlantic low pressure dominating. Rainfall was above average everywhere, wettest in the southwest, northwest and southeast. Several active weather fronts crossed the country bringing spells of rain, heaviest in the west, interspersed with heavy and sometimes thundery showers.

Average river flows for September increased at almost all 135 river monitoring stations assessed, compared to August 2025. 41% of the monthly average river flows were above the normal long-term range, with increases mainly observed in the west. Lake levels increased at 93% of lake sites monitored and groundwater levels increased at 61% of the monitoring sites when compared to August. 39% of groundwater levels and 59% of lake and turlough levels were above the long-term normal range. Out of the three spring flows monitored, 2 were in the 'particularly high' range and 1 was 'above normal'.

Rainfall

September 2025 rainfall totals were above their monthly 1991-2020 Long-Term Average (LTA). Percentage of monthly rainfall values ranged from 106% (77.7mm) at Dunsany, Co. Meath to 191% (161.3 mm) at Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford. Monthly rainfall totals ranged from 73.7mm (120% of its LTA) at Casement Aerodrome, Co. Dublin to 218mm (168% of its LTA) at Valentia Observatory, Co. Kerry (its wettest September since 2006). The highest daily rainfall total was 31mm at Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford on Friday 19th. The number of rain days ranged from 19 days at Roches Point, Co. Cork to 25 days at both Newport, Co. Mayo and Knock Airport, Co. Mayo. The number of wet days ranged from 14 days at Dublin Airport, Co. Dublin to 23 days at both Newport, Co. Mayo and Valentia Observatory, Co. Kerry. The number of very wet days ranged from 1 day at a few stations to 10 days at Newport, Co. Mayo. There were up to six consecutive dry days, that is when no more than 0.0 mm of rain fell any day, at Roches Point (coastal), Co. Cork and Mount Dillon, Co. Roscommon between Sunday 21st and Friday 26th inclusive.

River Flows

The average river flows for September increased at 99% of the river monitoring stations compared to average flows observed in August 2025. Analysis of the monthly average flows at 135 river monitoring sites, identified, 28 (21%) as 'particularly high', 27 (20%) as 'above normal', 71 (53%) as 'normal', and 9 (6%) as 'below normal'. River flows at all monitoring stations on the western seaboard were above the normal long-term range. In contrast, river flows in the midlands and east were typically in the normal long-term range (see Figure 6).

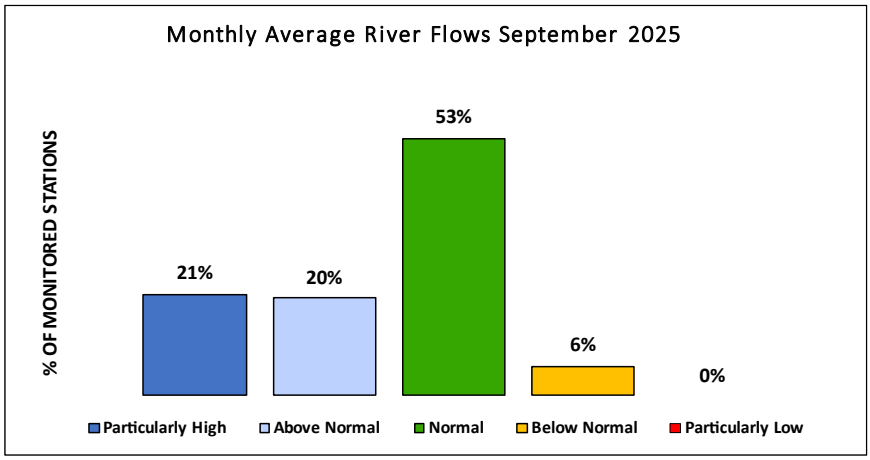


Figure 1: Percentage distribution of river flow monitoring sites within each of the percentile flow categories for September 2025.

Lake and Turlough Levels

Average water levels for September increased at 93% of the lake sites monitored compared to August 2025. Monthly average levels at 27 lakes and 2 turloughs were classified as being 'particularly high' at 9 (31%), 'above normal' at 8 (28%), 'normal' at 9 (31%), and 'particularly low' at 3 (10%).

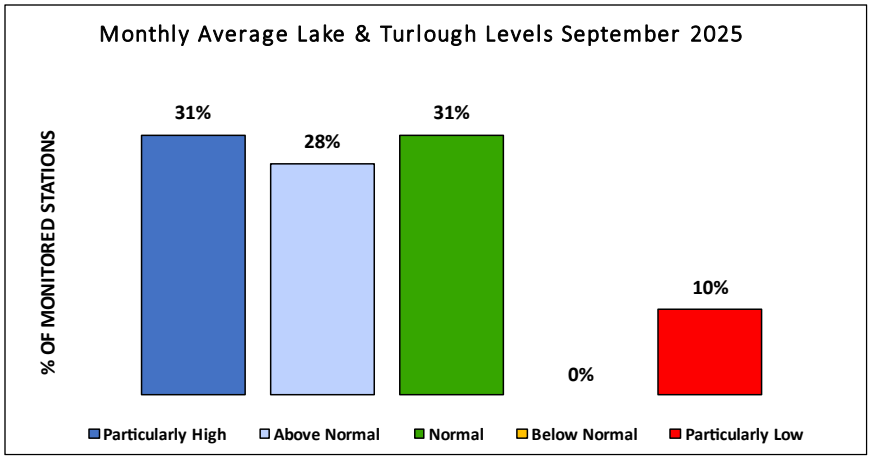


Figure 2: Percentage distribution of lake and turlough level monitoring sites within each of the percentile flow categories for September 2025

Groundwater Levels and Spring Flows

Groundwater levels for September were higher at 61% of the monitoring wells compared to average levels observed in August 2025. Groundwater levels at 36 monitoring wells were classified as being 'particularly high' at 8 (22%), 'above normal' at 6 (17%), 'normal' at 13 wells (36%), 'below normal' at 7 wells (19%), and 'particularly low' at 2 wells (6%).

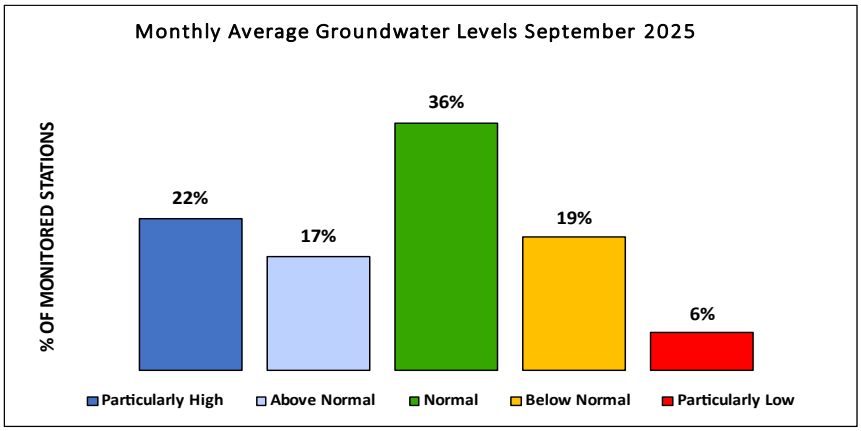


Figure 3: Percentage distribution of groundwater level sites within each of the percentile flow categories for September 2025.

Spring outflows were also monitored at 3 EPA monitoring sites for September. The outflows from these springs were compared to previously recorded September flows and were classified as 'particularly high' at 2 locations, and 'above normal' at 1 spring site.

Rainfall

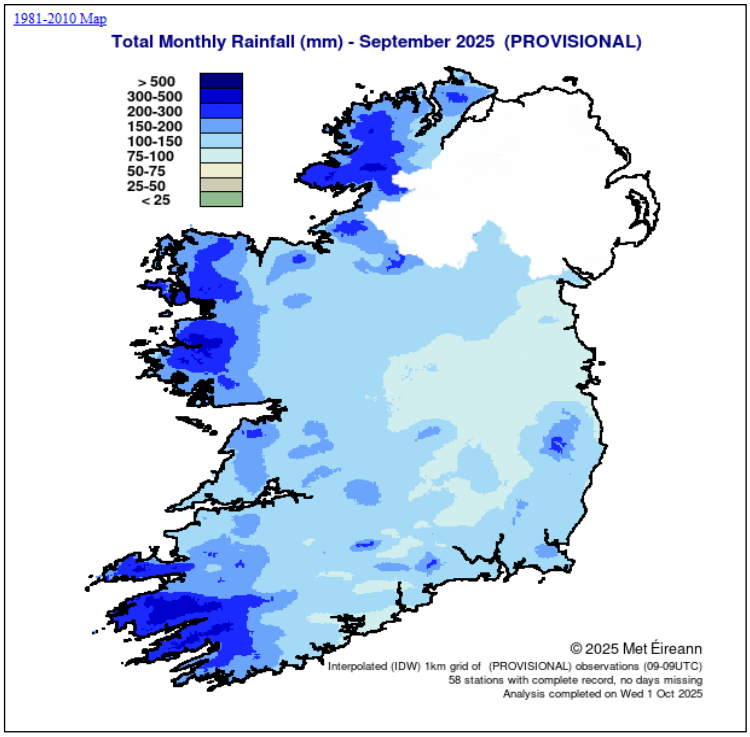


Figure 4: Rainfall map for Ireland September 2025 ***(Source: Met Eireann.ie).***

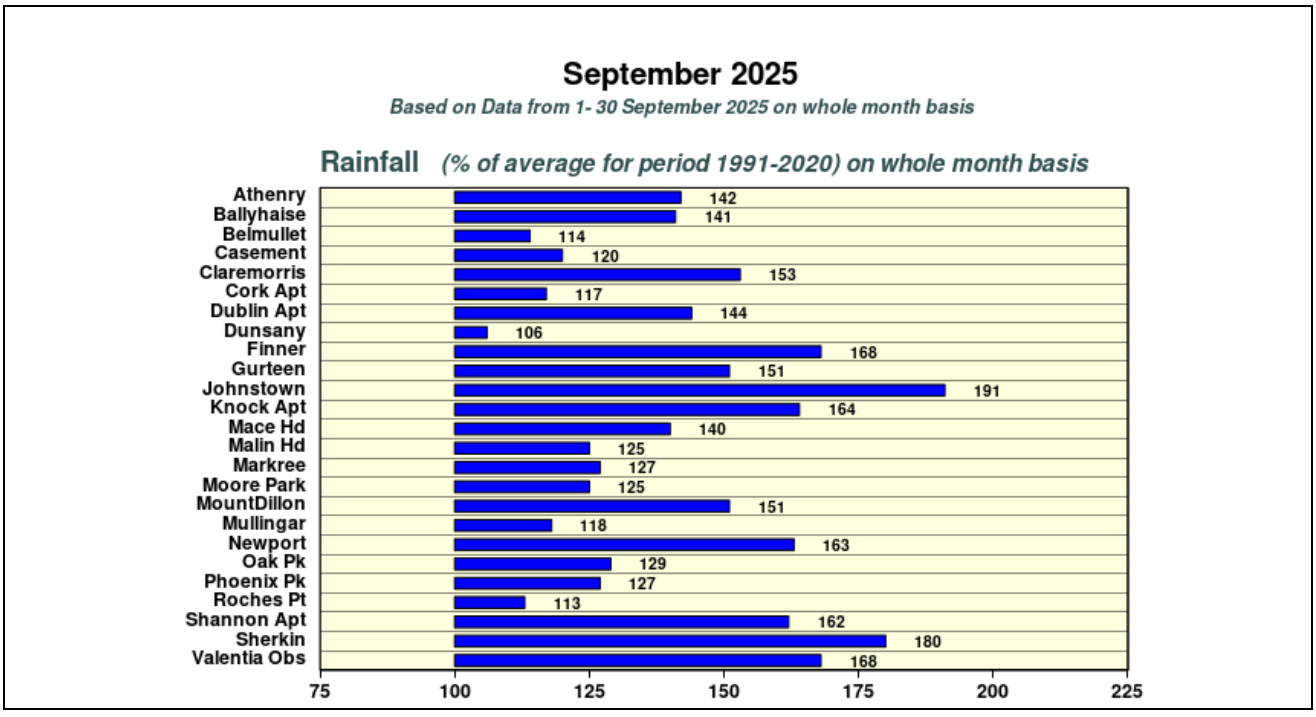


Figure 5: Summary of rainfall at synoptic stations for September 2025, figures indicate the percentage difference from the Long-Term Average rainfall for this month ***(Source: Met Eireann.ie).***

River Flows

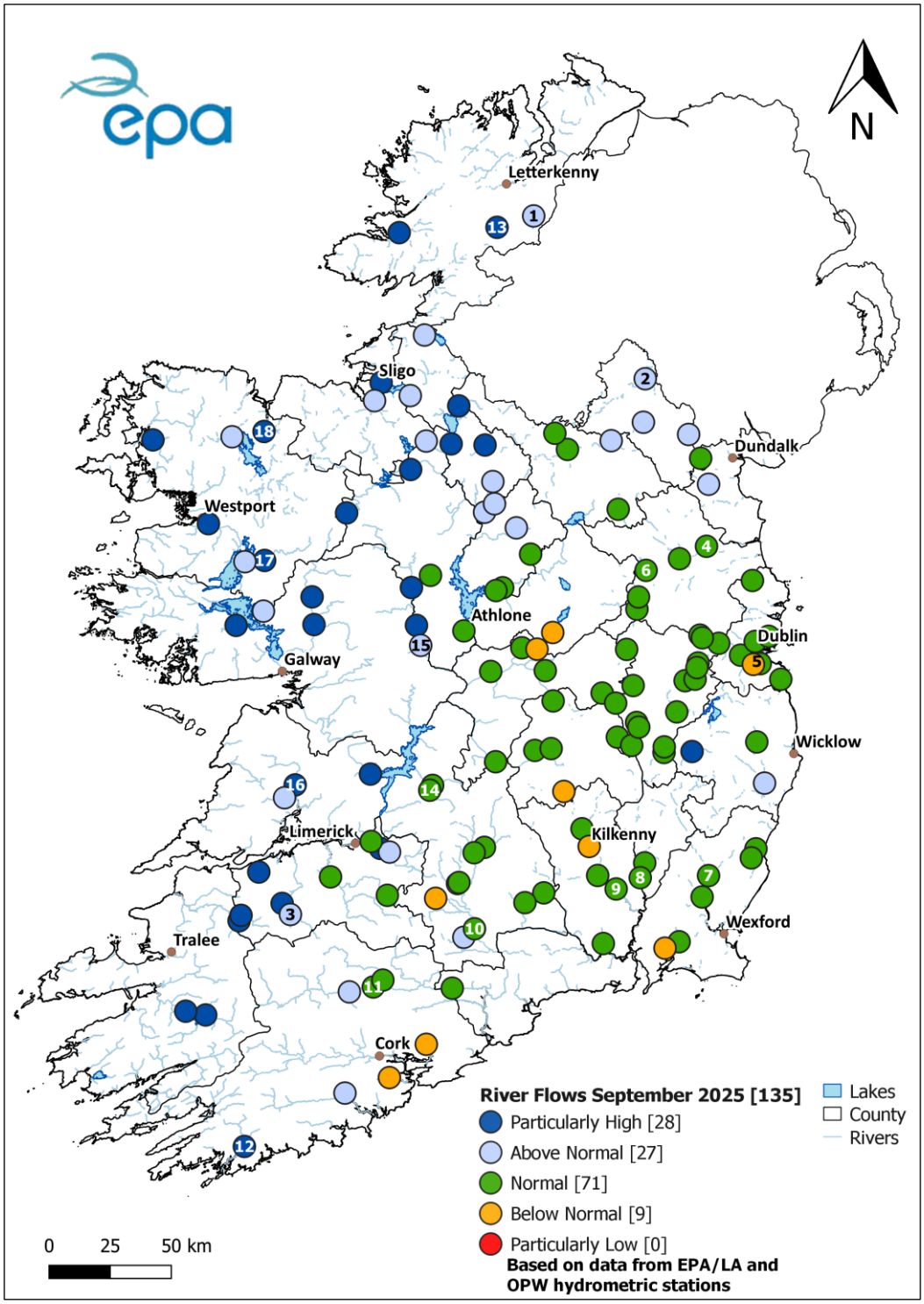


Figure 6: Monthly average river flows for September 2025 relative to historic monthly average flows expressed as percentile of the long-term values of monthly flow. Numbered sites are represented in the hydrographs below. All data are provisional and may be subject to revision ***(Source: EPA, OPW).***

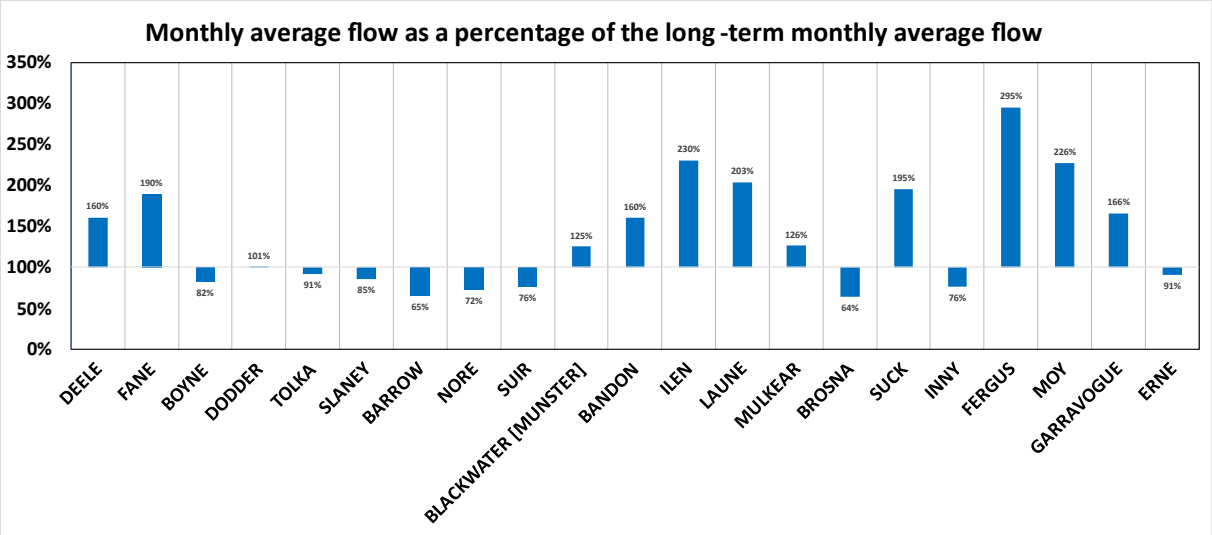
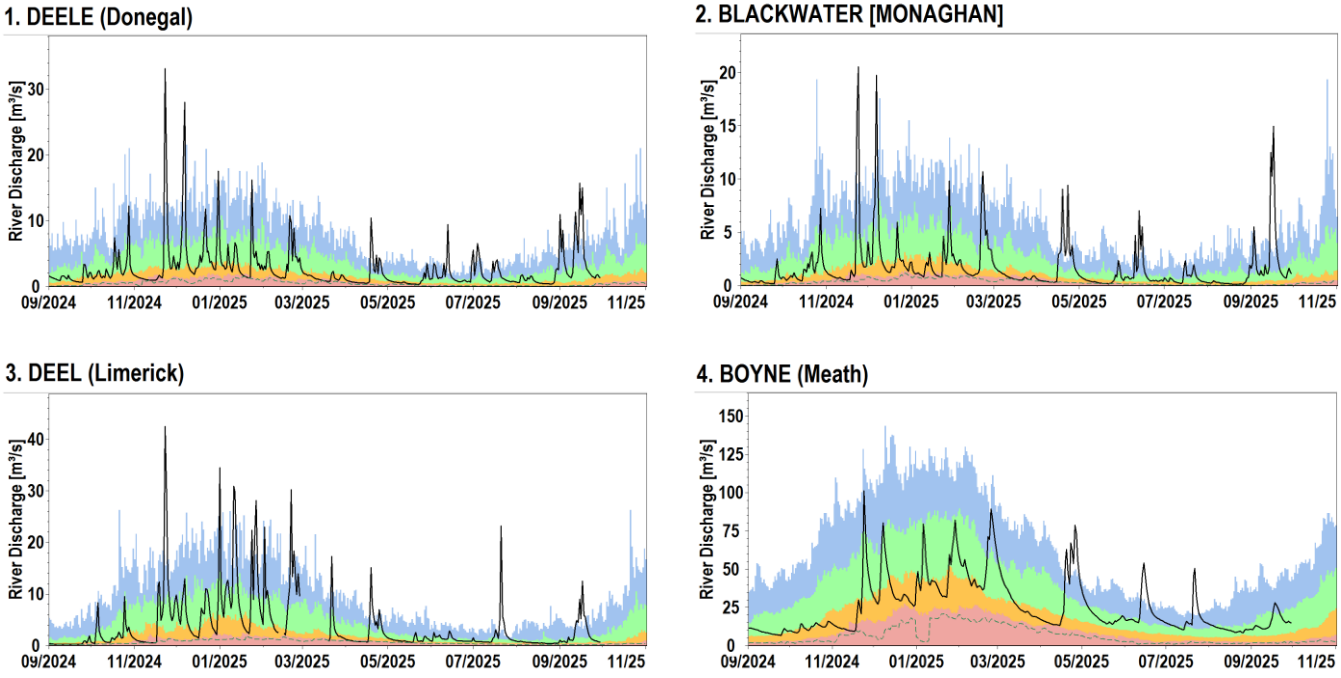
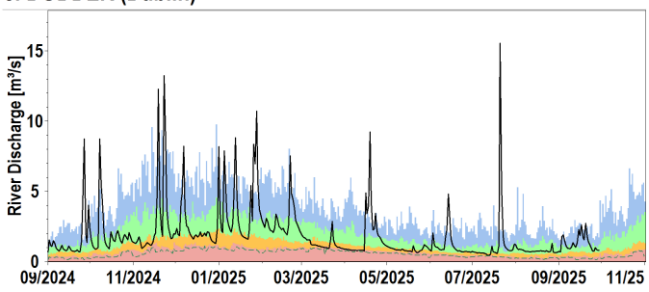


Figure 7: September 2025 average flows as a percentage of the long-term monthly average flow for this month at a selected number of stations. All data are provisional and may be subject to revision ***(Source: EPA, OPW)***

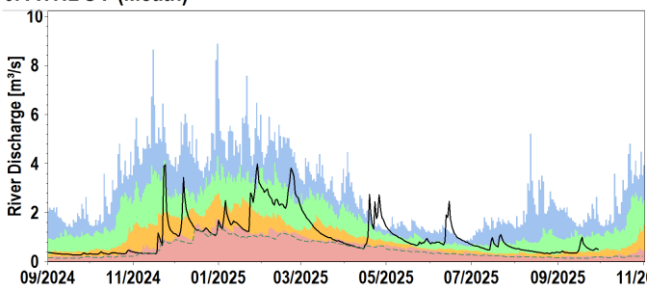
Flow hydrographs for selected rivers.



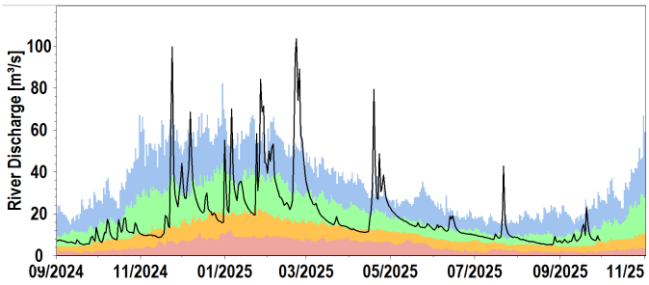
5. DODDER (Dublin)



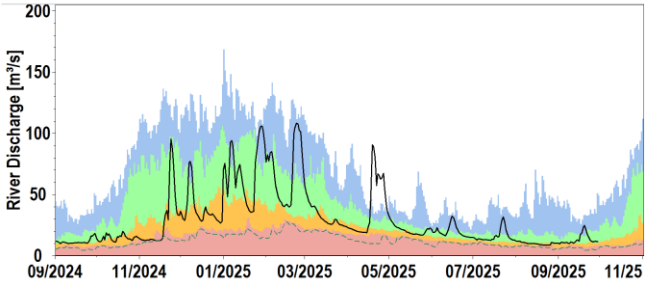
6. ATHBOY (Meath)



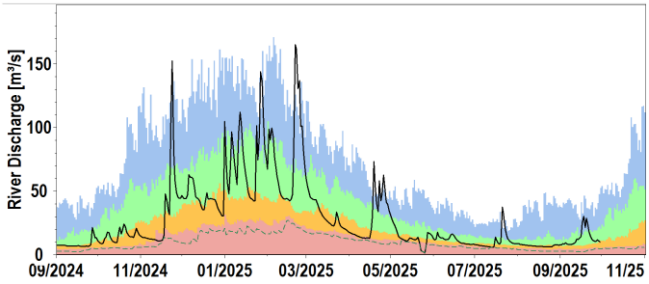
7. SLANEY (Wexford)



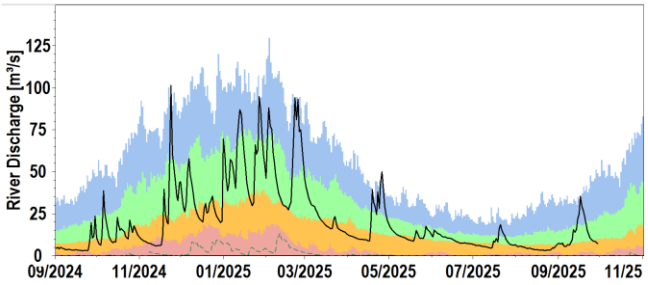
8. BARROW (Carlow)



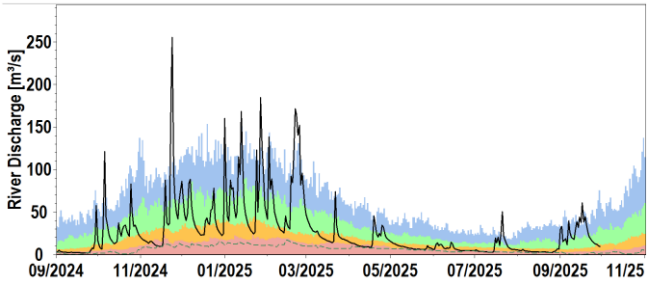
9. NORE (Kilkenny)



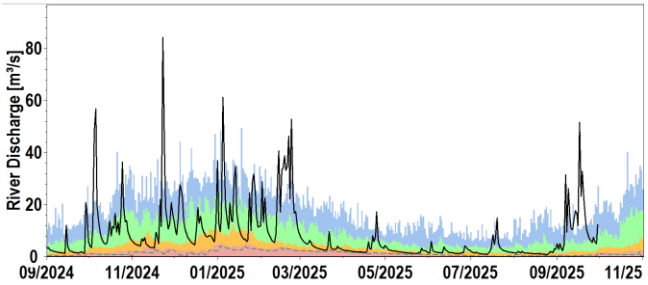
10. SUIR (Tipperary)



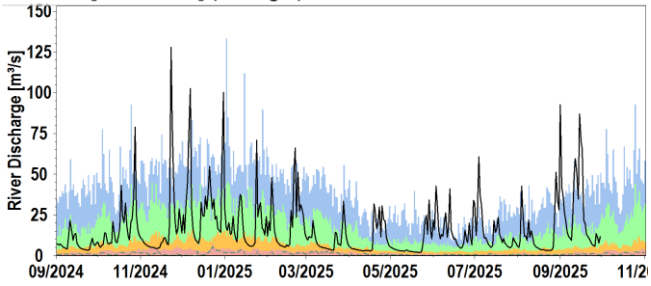
11. BLACKWATER [MUNSTER] (Cork)



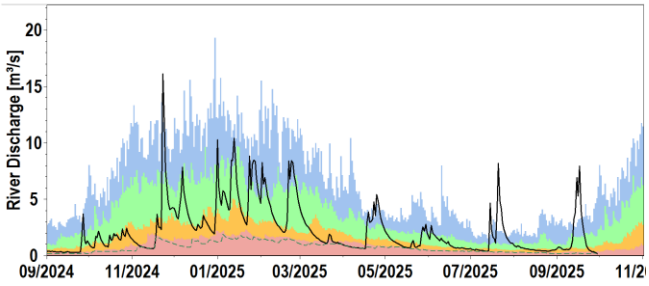
12. ILEN (Cork)



13. FINN [DONEGAL] (Donegal)



14. NENAGH (Tipperary)



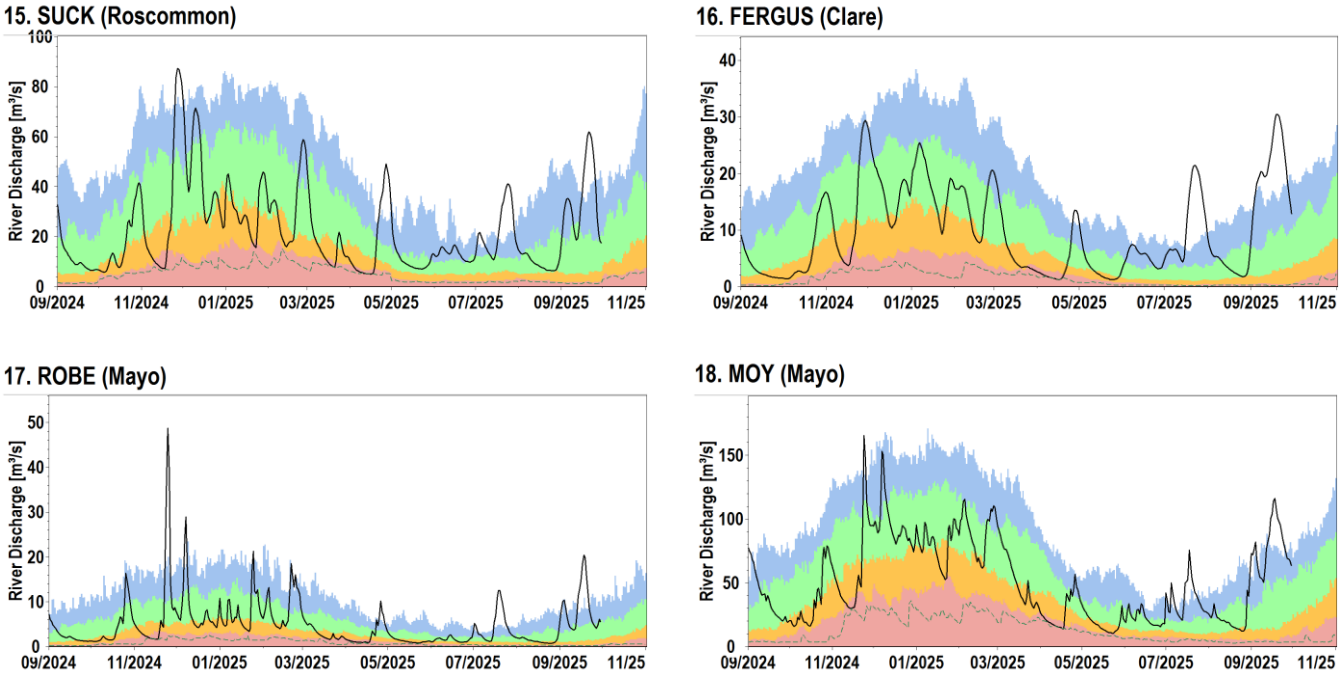


Figure 8: Daily average river flows measured in cubic metres per second relative to historic daily average flows expressed as percentile of the long-term values of each day and long-term minimum flows. All data are provisional and may be subject to revision ***(Source: EPA, OPW).***

Explanation – Classes						
Particularly Low **<95%tile daily average flow**	**Below Normal** **>95%tile <70%tile daily average flow**	**Normal** **>70 %tile <30%tile daily average flow**	**Above Normal** **>30%tile 10%tile daily average flow**	**Particularly High** **>10%tile daily average flow**	**Daily Mean Flow**	**Lowest Daily Mean Flow**

Lake and Turlough Levels

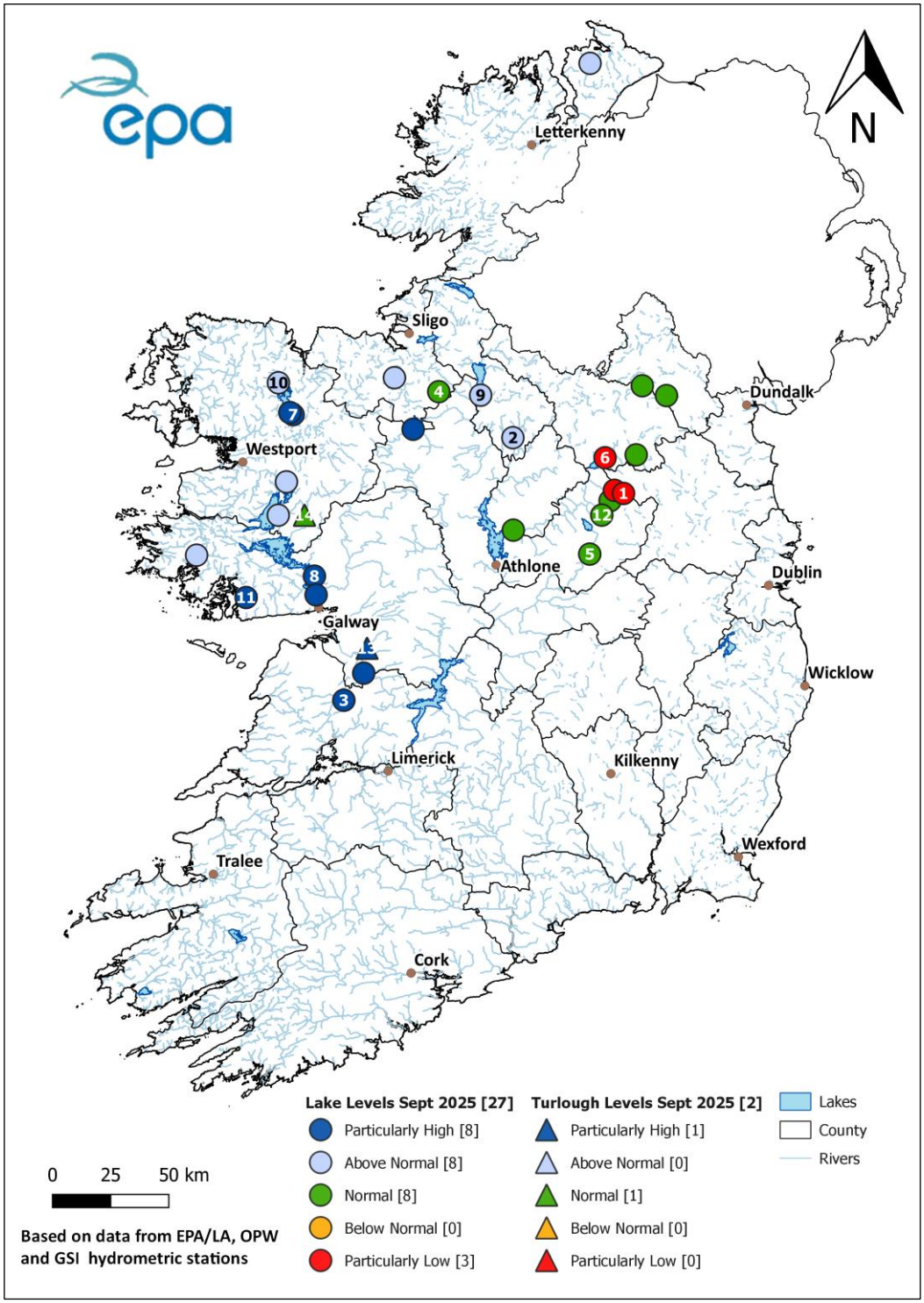
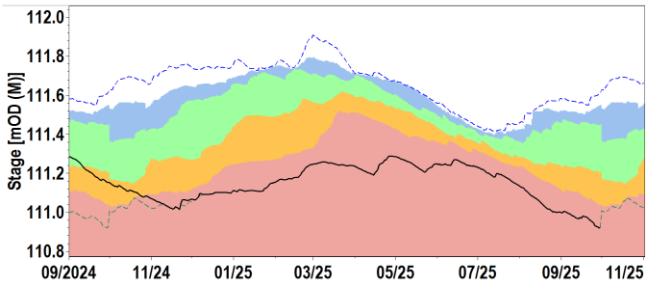


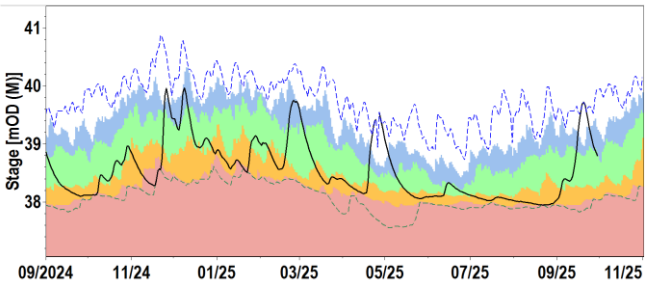
Figure 9: Monthly average lake & turlough levels for September 2025 relative to historic monthly average levels expressed as percentile of the long- term values for this month. Numbered sites are represented in the hydrographs below. All data are provisional and may be subject to revision ***(Source: EPA, OPW and GSI).***

Water level hydrographs for selected lakes and turloughs

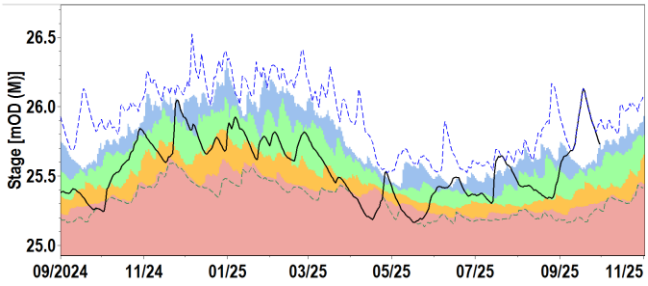
1. L. BANE (Meath)



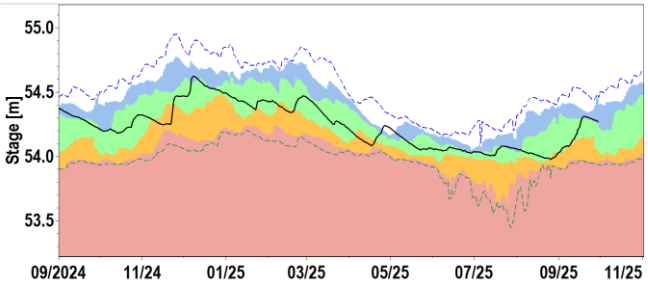
2. LOUGH RINN (Leitrim)



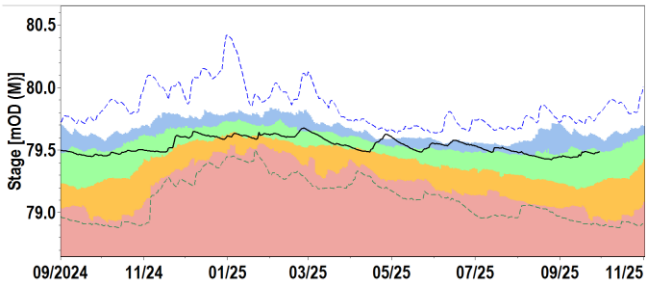
3. INCHICRONAN LOUGH (Clare)



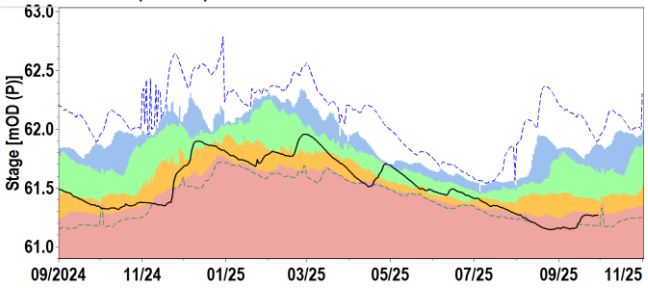
4. L.ARROW (Sligo)



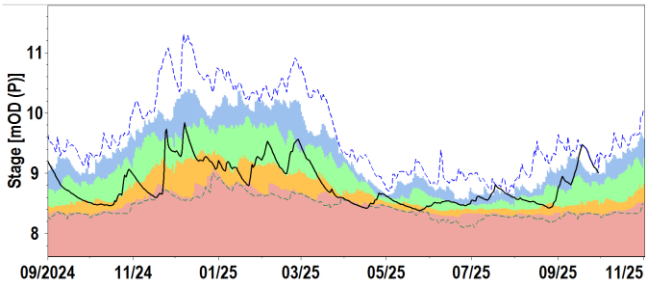
5. L.ENNELL (Westmeath)



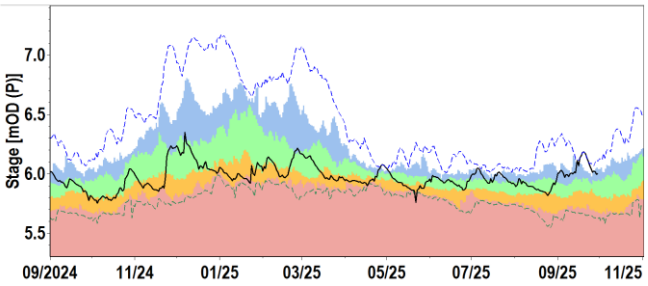
6. L.SHEELIN (Cavan)



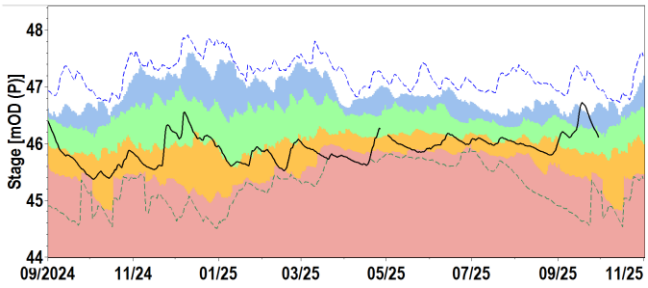
7. L.CULLIN (Mayo)



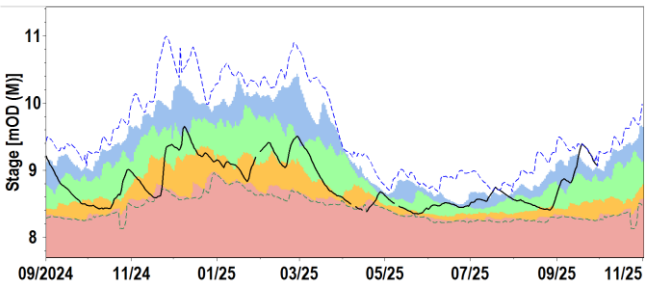
8. L.CORRIB (Galway)



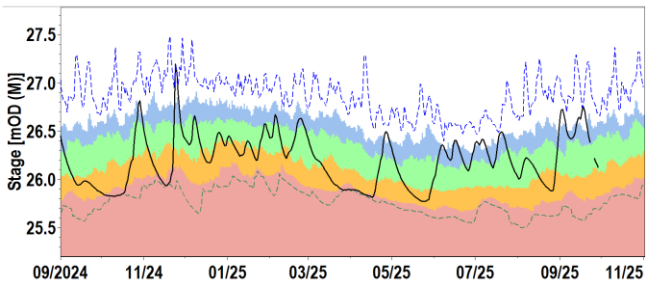
9. L.ALLEN (Leitrim)



10. L.CONN (Mayo)

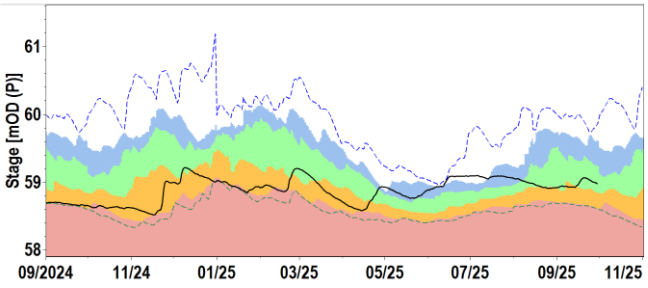


11. GLENICMURRIN LAKE (Galway)



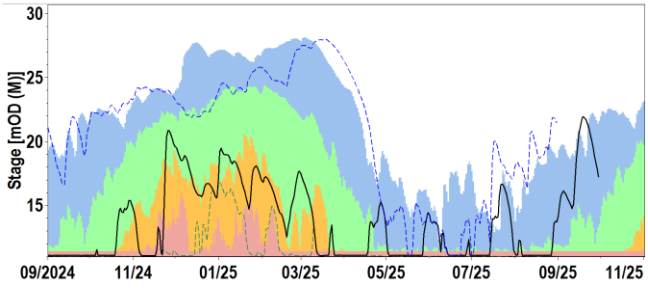
** Modelled long-term percentiles

12. L.DERRAVARAGH (Westmeath)



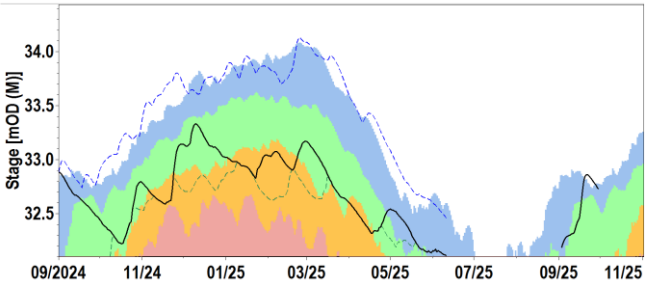
** Modelled long-term percentiles

13. BLACKROCK TURLOUGH (Galway)



** Modelled long-term percentiles

14. SKEALOGHAN TURLOUGH (Mayo)



** Modelled long-term percentiles

Figure 10: Observed daily mean lake and turlough levels (black trace) measured in meters above ordnance datum compared to the 10%tile, 30%tile, 70%tile and 95%tile for each month for the period of record and observed long-term maximum and minimum levels. Note historic percentiles for turloughs are based on modelled data. All data are provisional and may be subject to revision ***(Source: EPA, OPW, GSI, TCD, IT Carlow).***

Explanation - Classes							
Particularly Low <95%tile daily average level	Below Normal >95%tile <70%tile daily average level	Normal >70 %tile <30%tile daily average level	Above Normal >30%tile <10%tile daily average level	Particularly High >10%tile daily average level	Daily Mean Level mOD	Highest Daily Mean Level mOD	Lowest Daily Mean Level mOD

Groundwater Levels and Spring Flows

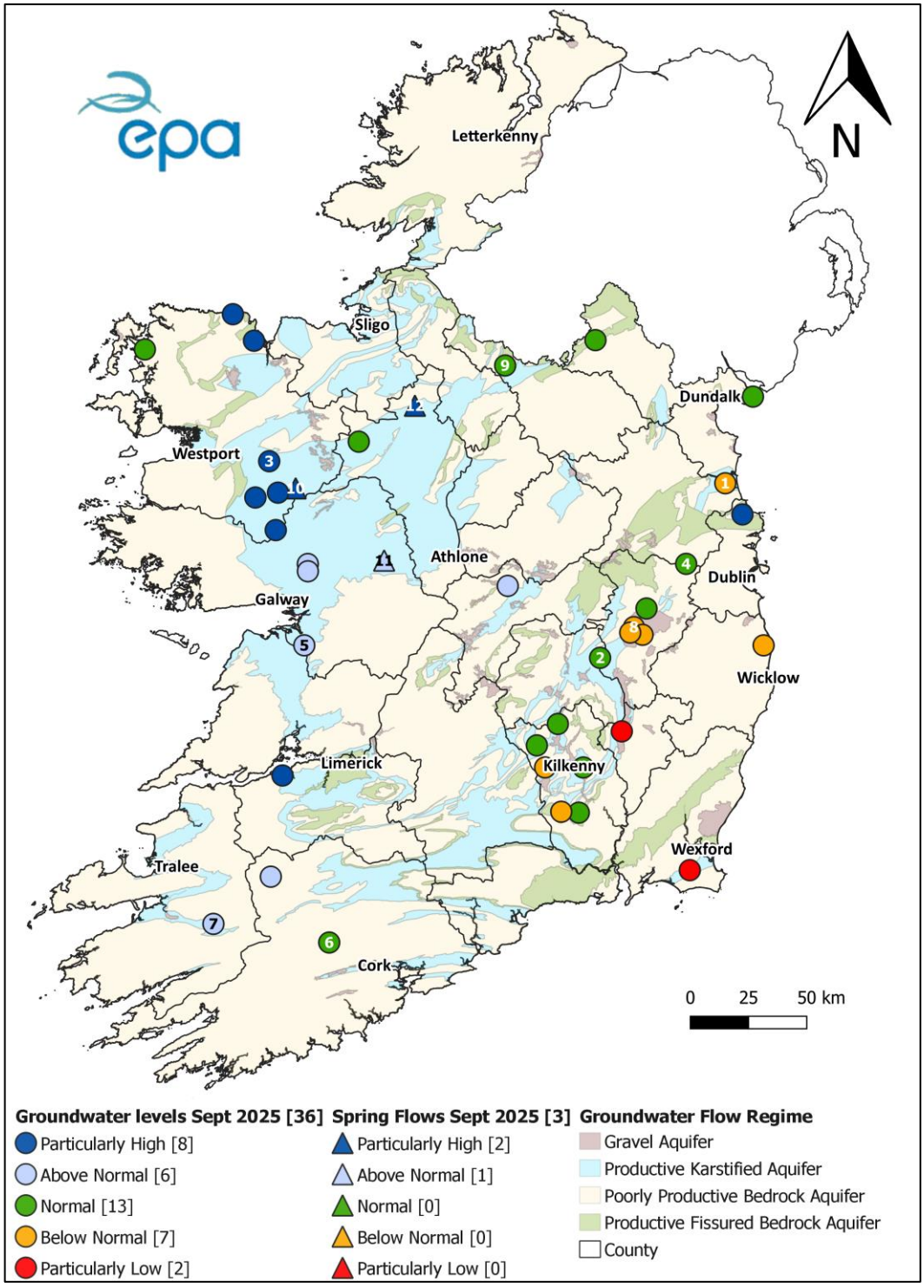
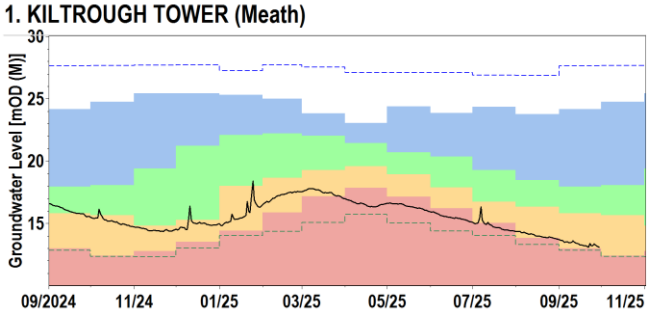


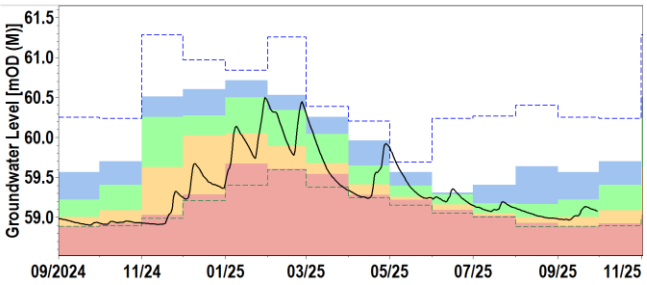
Figure 11: Groundwater level and Spring Flow status for September 2025, relative to historic monthly groundwater levels. Numbered sites are represented in the hydrographs below. All data are provisional and may be subject to revision ***(Source: EPA).***

Groundwater and spring hydrographs

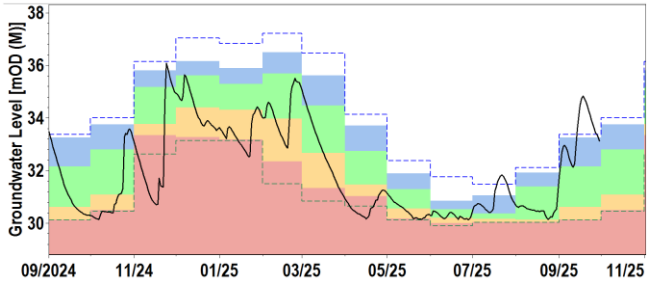
1. KILTROUGH TOWER (Meath)



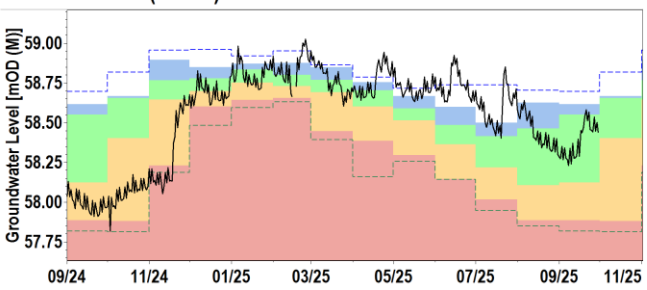
2. VICKERSTOWN (Laois)



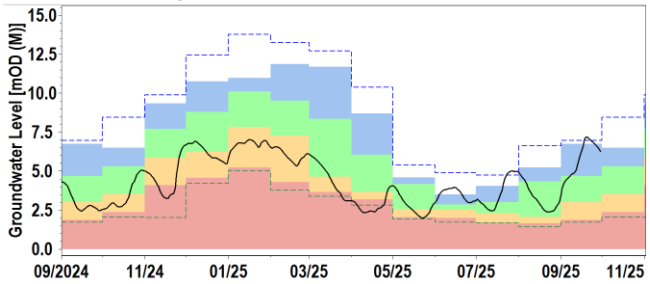
3. MAYO ABBEY (Mayo)



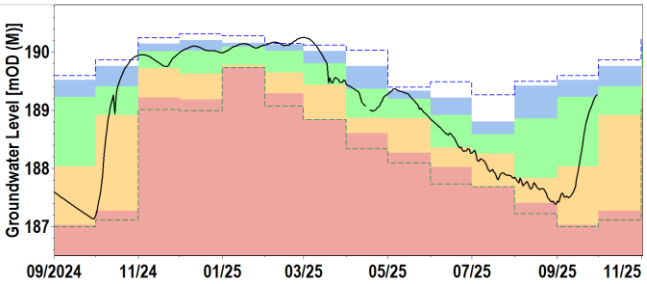
4. RW1 - DEEP (Meath)



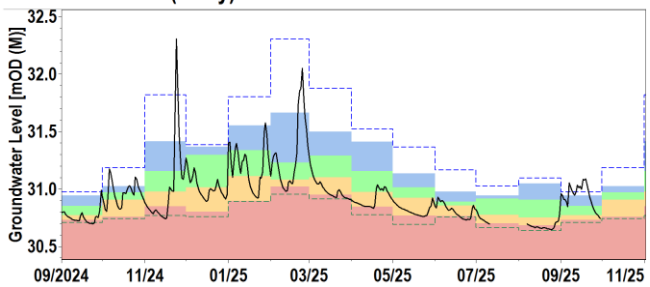
5. KILLINY (Galway)



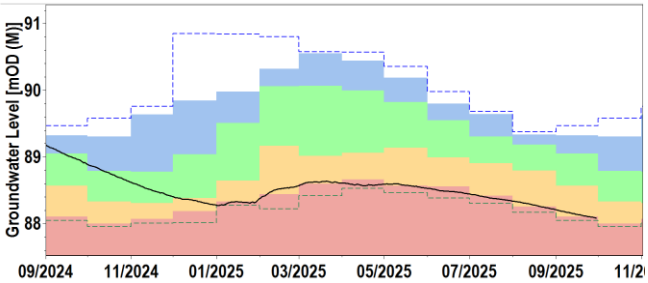
6. DR1 Deep Upper Site (Cork)



7. FBH9 - FLESK (Kerry)



8. POLLARDSTOWN FEN - MB 30 (Kildare)



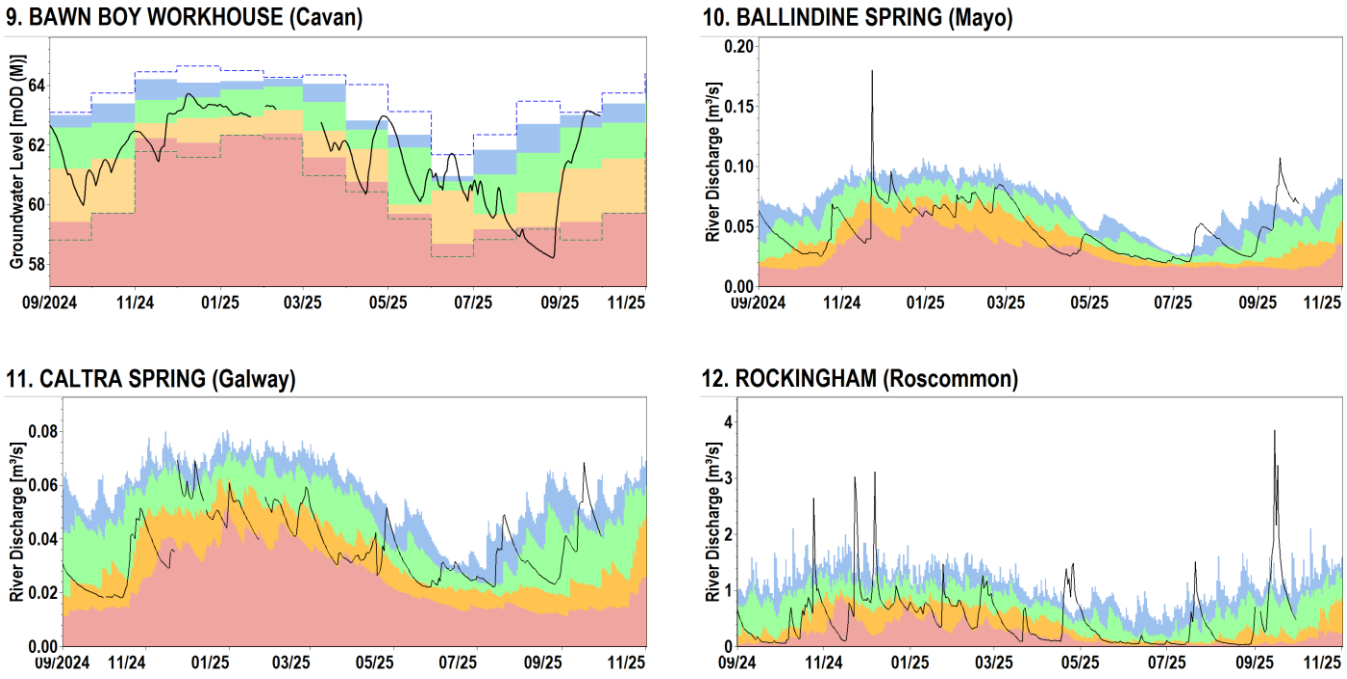


Figure 12: Daily mean groundwater levels (black trace) measured in meters above ordnance datum compared to the 10%tile, 30%tile, 70%tile and 95%tile for each month for the period of record and long-term maximum and minimum levels. All data are provisional and may be subject to revision ***(Source: EPA)****.*

Explanation - Classes							
Particularly Low **<95%tile monthly average level**	**Below Normal** **>95%tile <70%tile monthly average level**	**Normal** **>70 %tile <30%tile monthly average level**	**Above Normal** **>30%tile <10%tile monthly average level**	**Particularly High** **>10%tile monthly average level**	**Daily Mean Level mOD**	**Highest Month Mean Level mOD**	**Lowest Month Mean Level mOD**

Glossary of terms

Aquifer Type	An aquifer is an underground body of water bearing rock or unconsolidated materials (gravel or sand) from which groundwater can be extracted in useful amounts. For the purposes of this report, they have been grouped into four aquifer categories as follows: ➢ Karstic (Rk and Lk) aquifers; ➢ Gravel (Rg and Lg) aquifers; ➢ Productive fractured bedrock (Rf and Lm) aquifers; ➢ Poorly productive bedrock (Ll, Pl and Pu) aquifers.
Long term average (LTA)	The arithmetic mean calculated from historic record. For rainfall, the period 1981 to 2010 is used. For other parameters, such as groundwater levels, lake levels and river flow the period may vary according to data availability.
mOD (M or P)	Groundwater levels or lake levels above ordnance datum. In most cases this is relative to mean sea level at Malin (M) but in some cases is relative to Poolbeg (P).
Long-term monthly average	The arithmetic mean calculated from historic record of all monthly averages.
Percentile Level/Flow	Level or flow that is equalled or exceeded the stated percent of the time, e.g. 30%tile is the level or flow that is equalled or exceeded 30 percent of the time.
Very Wet Days	A very wet day is a day with 10.0 mm or more of rainfall.
Wet Days	A wet day is a day with 1.0 mm or more of rainfall.
Absolute Drought	An absolute drought is a period of 15 or more consecutive days to none of which is credited 0.2 mm or more of precipitation.
Partial Drought	A partial drought is a period of at least 29 consecutive days, the mean daily rainfall of which does not exceed 0.2 mm
Dry spell	A dry spell is a period of 15 or more consecutive days to none of which is credited 1.0mm or more of precipitation (i.e. daily tot < 1.0mm).

Description of flow and level percentile classifications

Particularly High	>10%tile exceedance	Monthly level or flow that can occur 10% of the time
Above Normal	>30%tile <10%tile exceedance	Monthly level or flow that can occur 20% of the time
Normal	>70%tile <30%tile exceedance	Monthly level or flow that can occur 40% of the time
Below Normal	>95%tile <70%tile exceedance	Monthly level or flow that can occur 25% of the time
Particularly Low	<95%tile exceedance	Monthly level or flow that can occur 5% of the time

Useful links

Access to EPA/LA Hydrometric data on HydroNet

Access to provisional water level only data from OPW hydrometric stations on waterlevel.ie/

Access to archived water level and flow data from OPW hydrometric stations on waterlevel.ie/hydro-data

Access to turlough and borehole level data from GSI hydrometric stations on gwlevel.ie

Access to this month's Met Éireann and historic weather statements.