

Statutory flood risk management operations implement Ireland's national river enhancement programme

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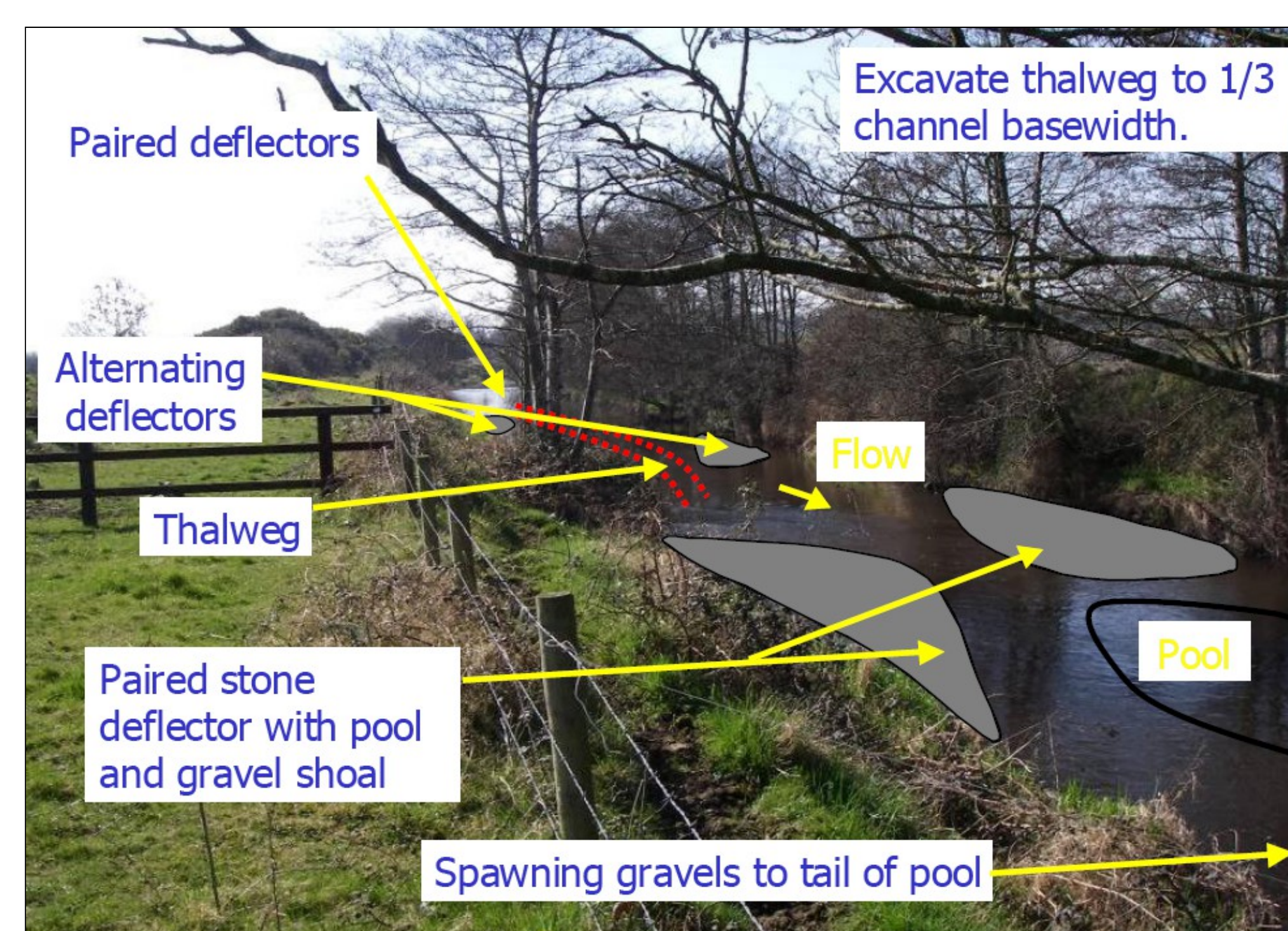
Organisational Capacity

Ireland has developed a capacity for river enhancement works within statutory flood risk management operations, setting a national programme for the next five years 2013-2017. This includes enhancing between 50km to 100km per annum of arterially drained channel and is building on a previous enhancement programme 2008 – 2012.

The works are carried out in combination with statutory drainage maintenance activities and now form standard practice within these operations. The approach is for a long-term proactive environmental programme of river enhancement, integrated with an ongoing statutory flood risk management function. It is managed jointly by two statutory authorities and demonstrates joined-up government, striving for greater efficiencies in delivering services.

Environmental River Enhancement Programme

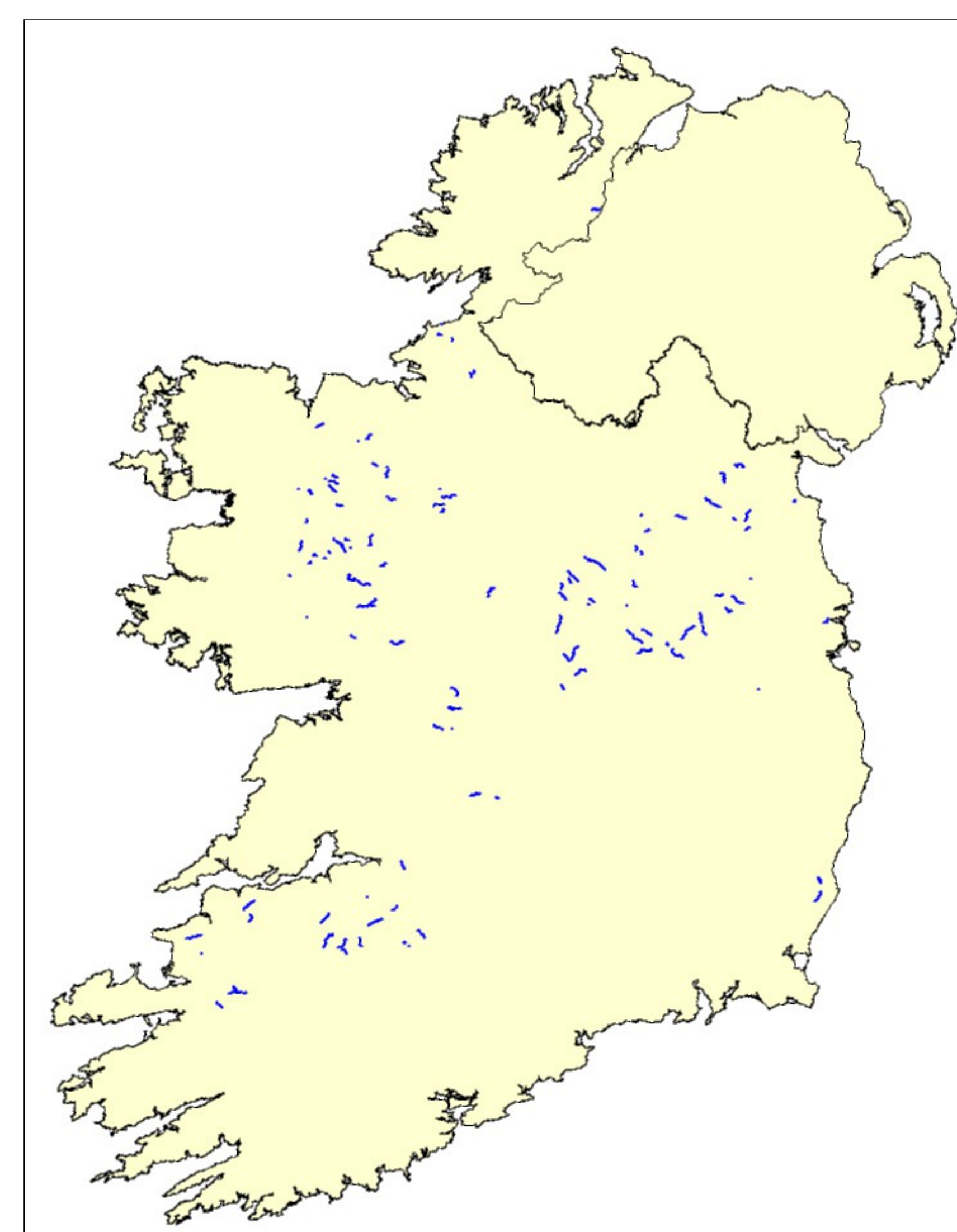
The national Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP) has been established through a joint Service Level Agreement, which has been formally agreed by the two main statutory authorities i.e. OPW and IFI. Works aim to alter the physical instream habitat, facilitating ecological gain while retaining the flood capacity of the channel. They typically involve the construction of low level in-stream structures such as weirs, deflectors, rubble mats, pools, spawning beds and inserting boulders, combined with riparian fencing where appropriate.



Sample enhancement design



Implementing enhancement works



Enhancement works to date



The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead statutory authority in Ireland for flood risk management (www.opw.ie)



Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the lead statutory authority in Ireland for fisheries conservation (www.fisheriesireland.ie)