Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programme

As required by Article 5 of the Shellfish Water Directive 2006/113/EC and
Section 6 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations, 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006)

Characterisation Report Number 38A

ROSTELLAN NORTH SHELLFISH AREA
COUNTY CORK

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ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CFB	Central Fisheries Board
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
DED	District Electoral Division
DEHLG	Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
Ha	Hectare
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention Control
Kg	Kilogram
LU	Livestock Units
NACE	European industrial activity classification
MI	Marine Institute
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OSWWTS	On-Site Waste Water Treatment System
P.E.	Population Equivalent
PRP	Pollution Reduction Programme
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFPA	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
SPA	Special Protection Area
SWMC	Shellfish Waters Management Committee
TCE	Tetrachloroethylene
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WSIP	Water Services Investment Programme
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Article 5 of the Shellfish Directive (2006/113/EC) and section 6 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) require the development of Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRPs) for designated shellfish areas in order to support shellfish life and growth and to contribute to the high quality of directly edible shellfish products. Shellfish PRPs relate to bivalve and gastropod molluscs, including oysters, mussels, cockles, scallops and clams. They do not cover shellfish crustaceans such as crabs, crayfish and lobsters.

1.1 Aims and responsibility

The objectives of Shellfish PRPs are to:

- Protect or improve water quality in designated shellfish areas;
- Achieve compliance with water quality parameter values outlined in Annex I of the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) and Schedules 2 and 4 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 268 of 2006);
- Determine the factors responsible for any non-compliances with the water quality parameter values; and
- Ensure that implementation of the Shellfish PRPs does not lead, directly, or indirectly, to increased pollution of coastal and brackish waters.

Under the Regulations, the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources is responsible for the development of Shellfish PRPs. However, this responsibility was transferred to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) on 5th November 2008. An Inter-Departmental /Inter Agency Shellfish Waters Management Committee (SWMC) supports the Department in the development of the Shellfish PRPs.

The Regulations also place an obligation on every public authority to perform its functions in a manner that promotes compliance with the Directive and the Regulations, and to take such actions as are necessary to secure compliance with the Directive and the Regulations and with the Shellfish PRPs.

1.2 Shellfish water quality parameters

Compliance with the directive is measured against achievement of shellfish water quality parameter values outlined in Annex I of the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) and Schedules 2 and 4 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 268 of 2006). Table 1 summarizes these values. Mandatory (I) values must be fully achieved while it must be endeavoured to achieve guideline values (G).

TABLE 1 - Parameters listed in Annex I of the Shellfish Water Directive

Physical	Guideline Values (G)	Mandatory Values (I)
pH (pH units)		7 – 9 pH units
Temperature (°C)	A discharge affecting shellfish waters must not cause the	No mandatory value set in the Directive

	temperature of the waters to exceed by more than 2°C the temperature of waters not so affected	
Colouration (after filtration) (mg Pt/l)		A discharge affecting shellfish waters must not cause the colour of the waters after filtration to deviate by more than 10 mg Pt/l from the colour of unaffected waters
Suspended Solids (mg/l)		A discharge affecting shellfish waters must not cause the suspended solid content of the waters to exceed the content in unaffected waters by more than 30%
Salinity (%)	12 to 38%	≤ 40% A discharge affecting shellfish waters must not cause their salinity to exceed the salinity of unaffected waters by more than 10%
Chemical	**Guideline Value (G)**	**Mandatory Value (I)**
Dissolved oxygen (Saturation %)	≥ 80%	≥ 70% Should an individual measurement indicate a value lower than 70%, measurements shall be repeated An individual measurement may only indicate a value of less than 60% if there are no harmful consequences for the development of shellfish colonies
Petroleum hydrocarbons		Hydrocarbons must not be present in the shellfish water in such quantities as to: - produce a visible film on the surface of the water and/or a deposit on the shellfish - have harmful effects on the shellfish
Organohalogenated substances	The concentration of each substance in shellfish flesh must be so limited that it contributes in accordance with Article 1 (of the Directive), to the high quality of shellfish products	The concentration of each substance in the shellfish water or in shellfish flesh must not reach or exceed a level which has harmful effects on the shellfish larvae
Metals (Ag, As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Hg, Ni, Pb and Zn) (mg/L)	The concentration of each substance in shellfish flesh must be so limited that it contributes in accordance with Article 1 (of the Directive), to the high quality of shellfish products	The concentration of each substance in the shellfish water or in the shellfish flesh must not exceed a level which gives rise to harmful effects on the shellfish and their larvae The synergic effects of these metals must be taken into consideration
Others	**Guideline Value (G)**	**Mandatory Value (I)**
Faecal coliforms (per 100 mL)	≤ 300 per 100 mL in the shellfish flesh and intervalvular liquid	No mandatory value set in the Directive

Substances affecting the taste of shellfish		Concentration lower than liable to impair the taste of the shellfish
Saxitoxin (produced by dinoflagellates)	No limit given	No limit given

1.3 Designated shellfish areas

Fourteen shellfish areas were originally designated in 1994 under the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 200 of 1994, revoked by S.I. No. 268 of 2006). A further 49 areas were subsequently designated in 2009 under the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009 (S.I. No. 55 of 2009). All 63 designated sites are illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Note: Map numbers I to XIV refer to waters originally designated under the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 200 of 1994), while map numbers 1 to 45 refer to waters designated under the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 55 of 2009). The referenced maps can be found in the relevant regulatory documents.

FIGURE 1 - 63 designated shellfish areas

1.4 Development of the Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes

The Directive and Regulations require that any non-compliances with the shellfish water quality parameter values are identified. The Directive and Regulations further require that the factors responsible for such non-compliances are identified.

Information on impacts and pressures has therefore been collated in an individual characterisation report for each shellfish site from available inventories. The likelihood of the pressures to impact on shellfish water quality parameter values in the shellfish areas has been estimated.

Individual site Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRPs) and a supporting toolkit of measures outline the measures which can be used to control pressures where necessary to protect and improve water quality in a specific shellfish area.

The 2009 Shellfish PRPs (including the supporting characterisation reports and toolkit of measures) represent an initial phase of Shellfish PRP development, drawing on available information sources. Their development has been a desk-based exercise and they provide a good indication of the main pressures likely to be impacting on shellfish water quality and the measures that can be used to control those pressures. Ongoing assessment and monitoring of shellfish waters will be used to confirm the effectiveness of these programmes and to refine the programmes where necessary. As the shellfish monitoring database grows, and as programmes are implemented, incremental changes will be made to ensure compliance with the standards and objectives established.

PRPs produced during 2009 supersede Action Programmes which were developed in 2006 for the 14 original shellfish areas.

1.5 Assessment of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Shellfish PRPs and supporting toolkit of measures has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC). SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, all of the possible environmental effects of plans or programmes before they are adopted while giving the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed of decisions and how they were made. The assessment of the PRPs resulted in mitigation of some of the measures contained in the PRPs and toolkit of measures that were identified as likely to lead to adverse effects on other aspects of the environment. The reports associated with the SEA process can be downloaded from www.environ.ie.

An ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of the Shellfish PRPs has been carried out in parallel with the SEA assessment in accordance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Appropriate Assessment is a process for evaluating the implications of plans or programmes for sites which have been designated for the protection and conservation of habitats and species of European importance. The reports associated with the Appropriate Assessment can be downloaded from www.environ.ie.

1.6 Links with the River Basin Management Plans

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) provides a framework for the protection and restoration of the aquatic environment and terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic environment. In accordance with the requirements of the directive, River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) were published in draft form in December 2008 with the final RBMPs published in December 2009. They are the primary plans in place in relation to the water environment for the foreseeable future.

Article 13(5) of the WFD states that 'river basin management plans may be supplemented by the production of more detailed programmes and management plans for sub-basin, sector, issue, or water type, to deal with particular aspects of water management'. Shellfish PRPs are an example of such programmes. In addition, Article 13(4) and Annex VII of the WFD requires that RBMPs include 'a register of any more detailed programmes and management plans for the River Basin District dealing with particular sub-basins, sectors, issues or water types, together with a summary of their contents'. The Shellfish PRPs are included in the registers of each of the River Basin Districts.

Articles 4 (1)(c) and 4 (2) of the WFD specify that, in relation to protected areas, where more than one of set of objectives relate to a given body of water, the most stringent shall apply. Designated shellfish areas are included in the WFD register of protected areas provided for in Articles 6 and 7 of the directive.

The WFD strengthens and consolidates a number of existing environmental directives while repealing others on a phased basis. The Shellfish Directive is due to be repealed by the WFD in 2013. Shellfish PRPs are therefore closely aligned with the RBMPs.

1.7 Layout of the Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes

Characterisation Report

- **Section 1**
  Section 1 is an introductory section which puts the Characterisation Reports in context and outlines their contents.

- **Section 2**
  Section 2 describes the general characteristics of the designated shellfish areas as well as their contributing catchments.

- **Section 3**
  Section 3 describes water quality in the designated shellfish areas.

- **Section 4**
  Section 4 consists of a series of maps illustrating the general characteristics of the shellfish areas and catchments, as well as the marine and land-based pressures in the catchments.

- **Section 5**
  Section 5 provides a series of tables summarising the marine and land-based pressures in the catchments. The likelihood of the pressures to impact on shellfish water quality parameters is discussed. A summary is also provided highlighting the key pressures and potential secondary pressures which are most likely to be impacting on shellfish water quality parameters. The discussions in this section draw on available information including information generated during the WFD implementation process and geographical features of significance. The differing nature of the pressures are also taken into account as pressures vary substantially in terms of how severely they are likely to impact on shellfish water quality parameters.

Pollution Reduction Programmes

- The Pollution Reduction Programmes summarise the specific measures for controlling the key and potential secondary pressures, identified in this characterisation report, which are most likely to be impacting on shellfish water quality in Rostellan North shellfish area. This can be downloaded from www.environ.ie.

Toolkit of Measures

- The supporting toolkit of measures outlines all of the measures available for controlling all of the pressures which can impact on shellfish water quality. Due to the close alignments between the Shellfish PRPs and the RBMPs, the toolkit is drawn from the programme of measures contained within the RBMPs. This strengthens the integration of shellfish management and wider water quality management policy in Ireland. The toolkit can be downloaded from www.environ.ie.

2.0 GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Name	Rostellan North Shellfish Area
Map number	38A
Year of designation	2009
Area	0.2 km^2
River Basin District	South Western RBD
County	Cork
Location of sampling point	51 deg 51.459 min North (Lat) 8 deg 11.776 min West (Long)
Catchment area	234.18 km^2
Adjacent PRP	Rostellan South, Rostellan West, Cork Great Island North Channel

Rostellan North shellfish area is situated in Cork Harbour in the South Western River Basin District (Map 1). Cork Harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world by navigational area and is situated at the mouth of the River Lee. It includes a number of large islands, Fota Island, Great Island and Little Island, which are all connected to the mainland by roads, and a number of smaller islands.

This designated shellfish area itself is 0.2 km^2 in area and is situated in the southeast of Cork Harbour. The Ballynacorra River flows into the harbour in the vicinity of the site. There are three designated shellfish areas in the adjacent tidal waters.

The contributing catchment of the shellfish area is 234.18 km² in area (Map 3) and the Owenacurra River is the principal river.

2.1 Protected areas

The designated shellfish area lies within Cork Great Island North Channel cSAC (Map 11). Cork Harbour is a Ramsar site and an SPA. Nutrient sensitive areas in the catchment include the Lee and Owenacurra estuaries. Drinking water sources include the Owenacurra River.

2.2 Shellfish growing activity

Table 2 summarises the number and area of shellfish licensed areas within the designated shellfish area. Mussel cultivation is predominant in the area (Map 2).

TABLE 2 - Shellfish licensed areas

Shellfish types	Number	Area	% Area
Abalone	0	0	0 %
Clams	0	0	0 %
Cockles	0	0	0 %
Lobsters	0	0	0 %
Scallops	0	0	0 %
Mussels	2	0.2 km^2	100 %
Oysters	0	0	0 %

Shellfish types	Number	Area	% Area
Sea Urchins	0	0	0 %
Periwinkles	0	0	0 %
Seaweed	0	0	0 %
Other	0	0	0 %

3.0 WATER QUALITY IN THE SHELLFISH AREA

Dedicated shellfish monitoring data has been collated and compared with shellfish water quality parameter mandatory and guideline values outlined in Annex I of the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) and Schedule 2 and 4 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (Table 1).

Some of the point source pressures are symbolised according to whether they are 'at risk' or 'not at risk'. These risk designations were developed during the WFD implementation process. Some of the designations date back to the Article V characterisation process in 2004 and 2005 but many of the risk designations were updated in 2008 to feed into the draft RBMPs. The risk designations are based on a variety of information, for example, waste water treatment plants can be designated as 'at risk' because they are serving a larger population then they were designed to cater for or because their discharges are impacting on water quality. Section 5 of this characterisation report provides the detail behind the risk designations for each of the pressures and discusses their likelihood to be impacting on shellfish water quality parameters.

Whilst the risk designations under the WFD provide a useful screening tool for pressures, their relevance in terms of any water quality issues measured in Shellfish Waters has been assessed in further detail to identify key pressures at a particular site. For example the WFD risk may be based on particular impacts to freshwater ecology which are not pertinent to the shellfish water status.

Marine Institute Shellfish Monitoring Programme

The MI carries out shellfish monitoring at designated shellfish areas. This dedicated shellfish monitoring programme involves analysing for general components, metals and organics in both water and biota samples. The results have been compared with the shellfish mandatory and guideline values outlined in Table 1.

For this designated area, one biota samples was available for 2008 but there were no water samples available. The guide values outlined in Table 1 were not breached in the biota sample.

Faecal coliform biota results were also available from the MI from November 2008, February 2009, May 2009 and August 2009. The shellfish guideline value for faecal coliforms in biota outlined in Table 1 was breached in the November 2008 sample.

EPA Marine Monitoring Programme

The EPA Marine Monitoring Programme analyses for general components in water samples at a large number of marine sites around Ireland. However, there was no data available from this programme for the designated shellfish area.

WFD Monitoring Programme

WFD status classifications from the WFD monitoring programme apply at the water body scale and are generally based on several samples/surveys targeting a variety of

parameters including biological, physico-chemical, chemical and hydromorphological elements. The monitoring information on which the marine status classifications are based was collected by the EPA, the MI, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the Central Fisheries Board (CFB) between 2005 and 2008.

The WFD status of the coastal water body within which the shellfish area is situated, is 'moderate' and therefore unsatisfactory, reflecting issues with dissolved inorganic nitrogen and mercury levels in some samples. The North Channel Great Island transitional water body which discharges into the area is 'moderate' and therefore unsatisfactory, reflecting issues with dissolved inorganic nitrogen and dissolved oxygen levels in some of the samples. The Rostellan River which also discharges into the designated area is 'good' and therefore satisfactory. However, this river status has been extrapolated from similar water body types (Map 12).

Shellfish Flesh Monitoring Programme

Shellfish flesh classifications (carried out under the European Communities (Live Bivalve Molluscs) (Health Conditions for Production and Placing on the Market) Regulations, 1996 (S.I. No. 147 of 1996)) indicate faecal contamination in shellfish flesh. Sampling is carried out by the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) on at least a monthly basis.

The licensed area within Rostellan North are classified as Class B meaning that shellfish may be placed on the market for human consumption only after treatment in a purification centre or after relaying so as to meet the health standards for live bivalve molluscs laid down in the EC Regulation on food safety (Regulation (EC) No 853/2004). This indicates faecal contamination in this shellfish area.

Overall Water Quality

The dedicated shellfish samples available for this shellfish area were found to be non-compliant with shellfish guideline values for faecal coliforms in biota outlined in Annex I of the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) and Schedule 4 of the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (Table 1). Ongoing shellfish monitoring will strengthen the assessment of compliance status at this shellfish area.

The results of the WFD monitoring programme indicate that there are water quality issues with dissolved inorganic nitrogen, dissolved oxygen and mercury levels within the area and in some of the waters discharging in the vicinity of this shellfish area. However, the available shellfish samples at this shellfish site are compliant with shellfish standards for these substances.

The shellfish flesh classification indicates faecal contamination in the shellfish area.

4.0 CHARACTERISATION MAPS

The following series of maps illustrate the general characteristics of the designated shellfish area and its contributing catchment, as well as the marine and land-based pressures that could potentially impact on the shellfish area. The pressures are further divided into point source pressures, diffuse source pressures and morphological pressures.

Some of the point source pressures are symbolised according to whether they are 'at risk' or 'not at risk'. These risk designations were developed during the WFD implementation process. Some of the designations date back to the Article V characterisation process in 2004 and 2005 but many of the risk designations were updated in 2008 to feed into the draft RBMPs. The risk designations are based on a variety of information, for example, waste water treatment plants can be designated as 'at risk' because they are serving a larger population then they were designed to cater for or because their discharges are impacting on water quality. Section 5 of this characterisation report provides the detail behind the risk designations for each of the pressures and discusses their likelihood to be impacting on shellfish water quality parameters.

Whilst the risk designations under the WFD provide a useful screening tool for pressures, their relevance in terms of any water quality issues measured in Shellfish Waters has been assessed in further detail to identify key pressures at a particular site. For example the WFD risk may be based on particular impacts to freshwater ecology which are not pertinent to the shellfish water status.

TABLE 3 - List of maps

Map No.	Map Title	Details
General Characteristics Maps		
MAP 1	Designated shellfish area	Designated shellfish area with summary statistics.
MAP 2	Licensed shellfish areas	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food register of licensed shellfish areas within the designated shellfish area.
MAP 3	Contributing catchment	Nested river water bodies and inter-coastal freshwater bodies discharging in the vicinity of the designated shellfish area.
MAP 4	Topography	Topography of the contributing catchment.
MAP 5	Soil wetness	Soil wetness which indicates drainage characteristics
MAP 6	Vulnerability of groundwaters to pathogens from subsoil discharges	Potential risk of pathogens from sub-soils discharges reaching groundwaters. Based on vulnerability, presence of alluvium, mineral content of soils, wetness, aquifer type, subsoil depth and subsoil permeability.

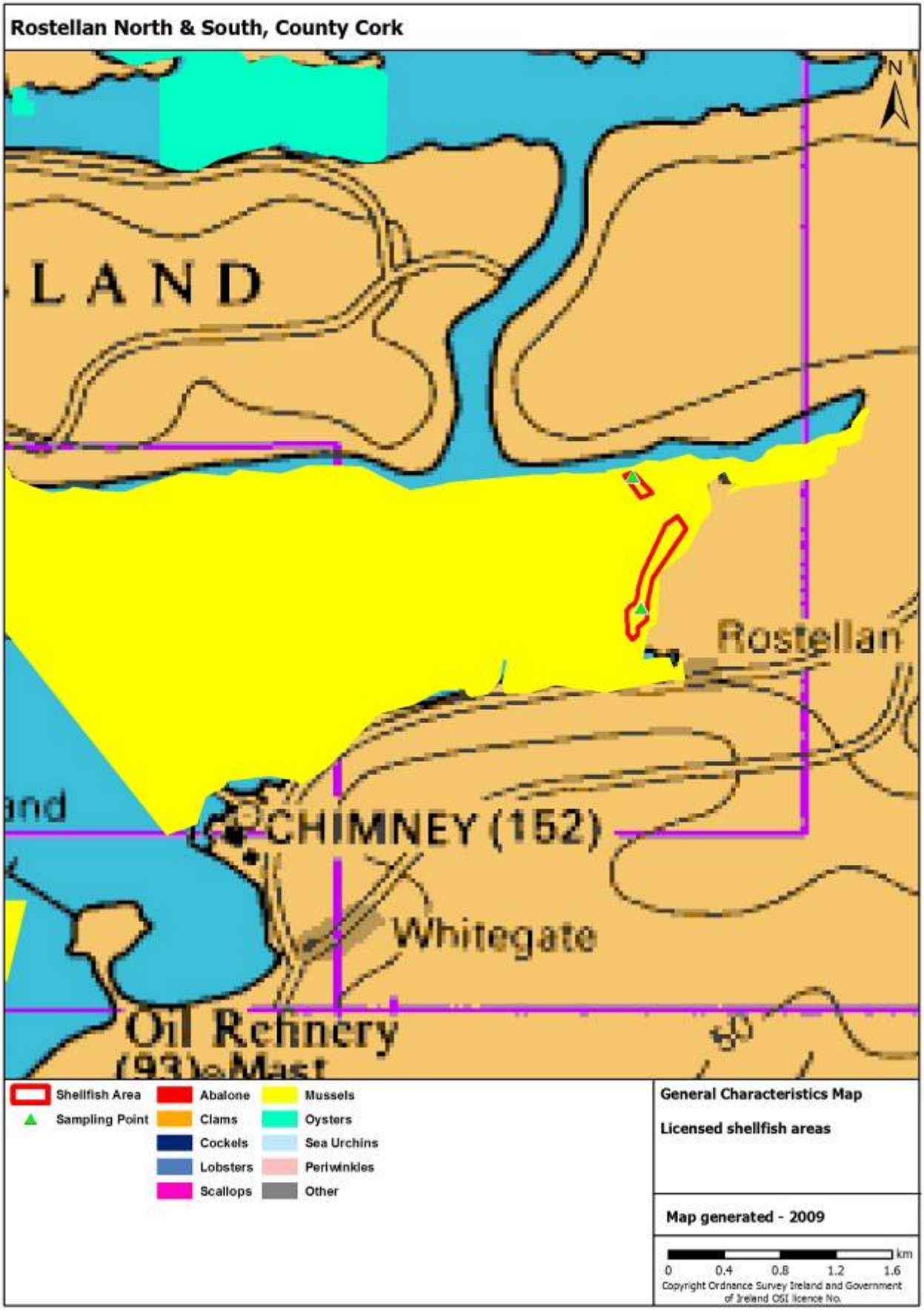
Map No.	Map Title	Details
MAP 7	Vulnerability of groundwaters to phosphorus from subsoil discharges	Potential risk of phosphorus from sub-soils discharges reaching groundwaters. Based on vulnerability, presence of alluvium, mineral content of soils, wetness, aquifer type, subsoil depth and subsoil permeability.
MAP 8	Vulnerability of surface waters to pathogens from subsoil discharges	Potential risk of pathogens from sub-soils discharges reaching surface waters. Based on vulnerability, presence of alluvium, mineral content of soils, wetness, aquifer type, subsoil depth and subsoil permeability.
MAP 9	Vulnerability of surface waters to phosphorus from subsoil discharges	Potential risk of phosphorus from sub-soils discharges reaching surface waters. Based on vulnerability, presence of alluvium, mineral content of soils, wetness, aquifer type, subsoil depth and subsoil permeability.
MAP 10	Likelihood of inadequate percolation in subsoils	Likelihood of inadequate percolation in subsoils. Based on aquifer type, vulnerability and subsoil permeability.
MAP 11	Designated protected areas	SACs, SPAs, freshwater pearl mussel areas, recreational waters, drinking waters, nutrient sensitive areas, water dependant habitats and RAMSAR sites within the contributing catchment.
MAP 12	WFD surface water status	River, lake, transitional and coastal water body status resulting from the WFD monitoring programme.
MAP 13	EPA diffuse risk assessment	Water body based risk to waters from diffuse sources. Based on the percentages of diffuse land cover per water body including peatlands, coniferous forestry, agriculture and urban areas.
Marine Pressures Maps		
Point Source Pressures		
MAP 14	Marine finfish farms	Marine finfish farms in the vicinity of the designated shellfish area. Taken from the Marine Atlas.
Morphology Pressures		
MAP 15	Fishing gear activity	Fishing gear activity in the vicinity of the designated shellfish area. Taken from the Marine Atlas.
MAP 16	Structures	Marine morphology structures such as bridges and causeways

Map No.	Map Title	Details
MAP 17	Physical modifications	Physical modifications such as shoreline reinforcement, embankments, reclaimed land, capital and maintenance dredging, aggregate removal, dumping at sea and heavily modified waters within the designated shellfish area.
Land-based Pressures Maps		
Point Source Pressures		
MAP 18	Municipal waste water systems	Urban waste water treatment plants and combined sewer overflows within the contributing catchment. These are symbolized based on their risk designations.
MAP 19	Agricultural and aquacultural point source pressures	Pig units, and freshwater fish farms within the contributing catchment.
MAP 20	Industrial point source pressures	Industrial IPPCs, Section 4s, water treatment plants, abstractions, mines, quarries, landfills and contaminated sites within the contributing catchment. These are symbolized based on their risk designations.
Diffuse Source Pressures		
MAP 21	On-site waste water systems	On-site waste water treatment plants within the contributing catchment.
MAP 22	Dairy and drystock livestock units	Dairy and drystock livestock units per hectare of farmed land within each DED in the contributing catchment.
MAP 23	Nitrogen fertiliser usage	Nitrogen fertiliser usage per hectare of farmed land within each DED in the contributing catchment.
MAP 24	Phosphorus fertiliser usage	Phosphorus fertiliser usage per hectare of farmed land within each DED in the contributing catchment.
MAP 25	Forestry types with acidification risk areas	Forest cover in the contributing catchment with areas identified as being at risk from acidification.
MAP 26	Forestry types with eutrophication risk areas	Forest cover in the contributing catchment with areas identified as being at risk from eutrophication.
MAP 27	Forestry types with sedimentation risk areas	Forest cover in the contributing catchment with areas identified as being at risk from sedimentation.
Morphology Pressures		

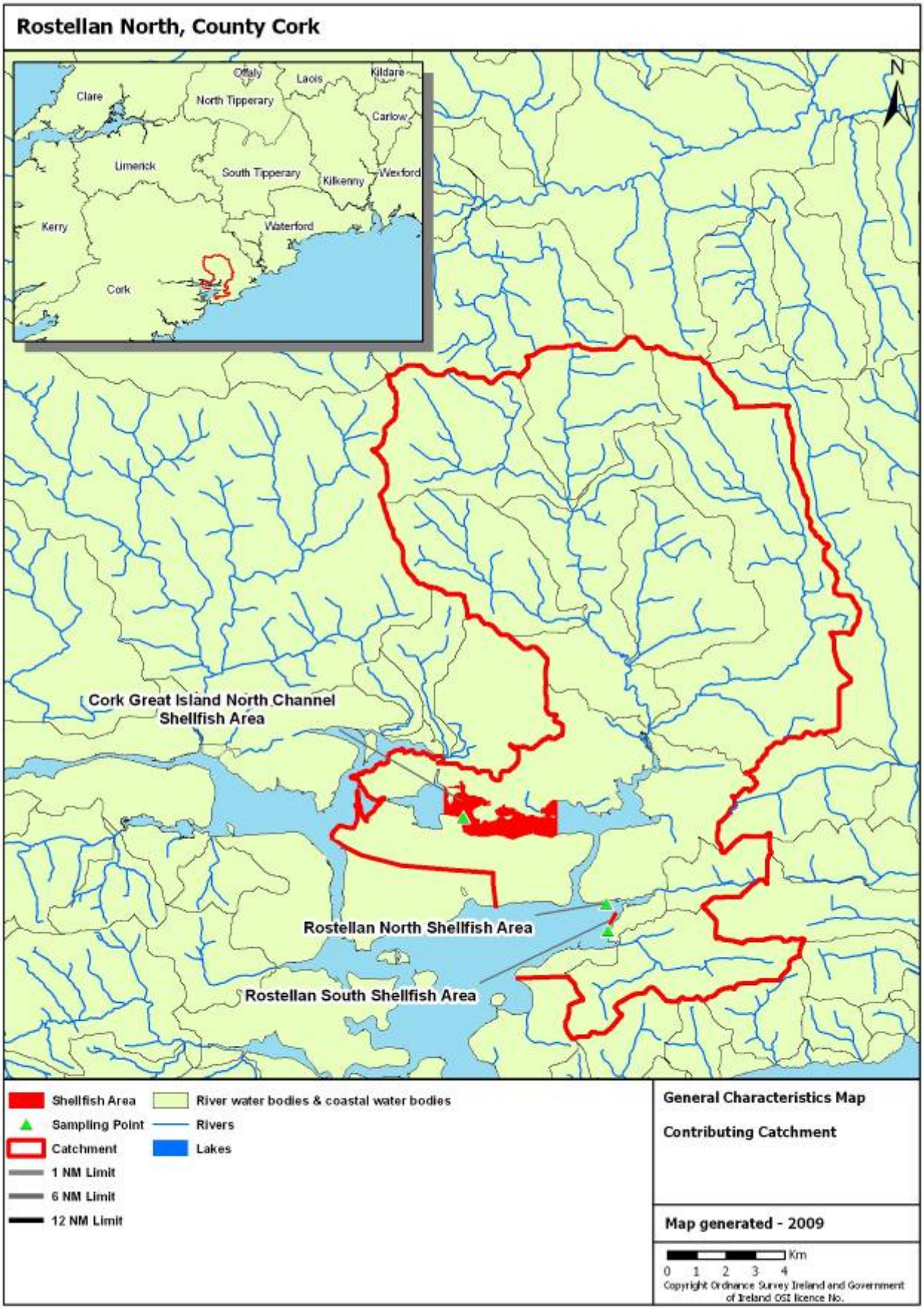
Map No.	Map Title	Details
MAP 28	Structures	Barriers to migration, both natural and man-made in the contributing catchment.
MAP 29	Physical modifications	Channelisation, heavily modified and artificial water bodies in the contributing catchment.

MAP 1 - Designated shellfish area

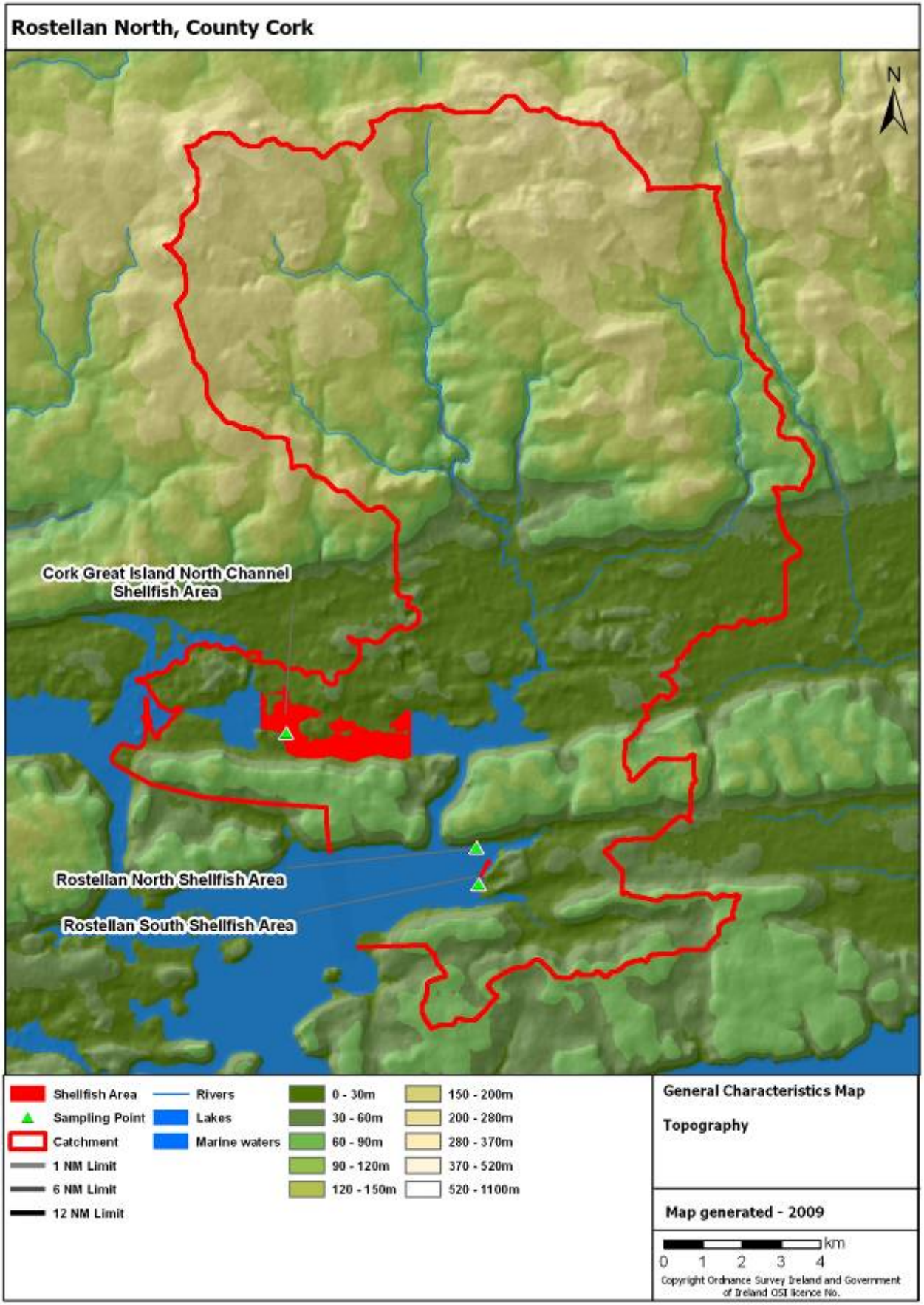
MAP 2 - Licensed shellfish areas



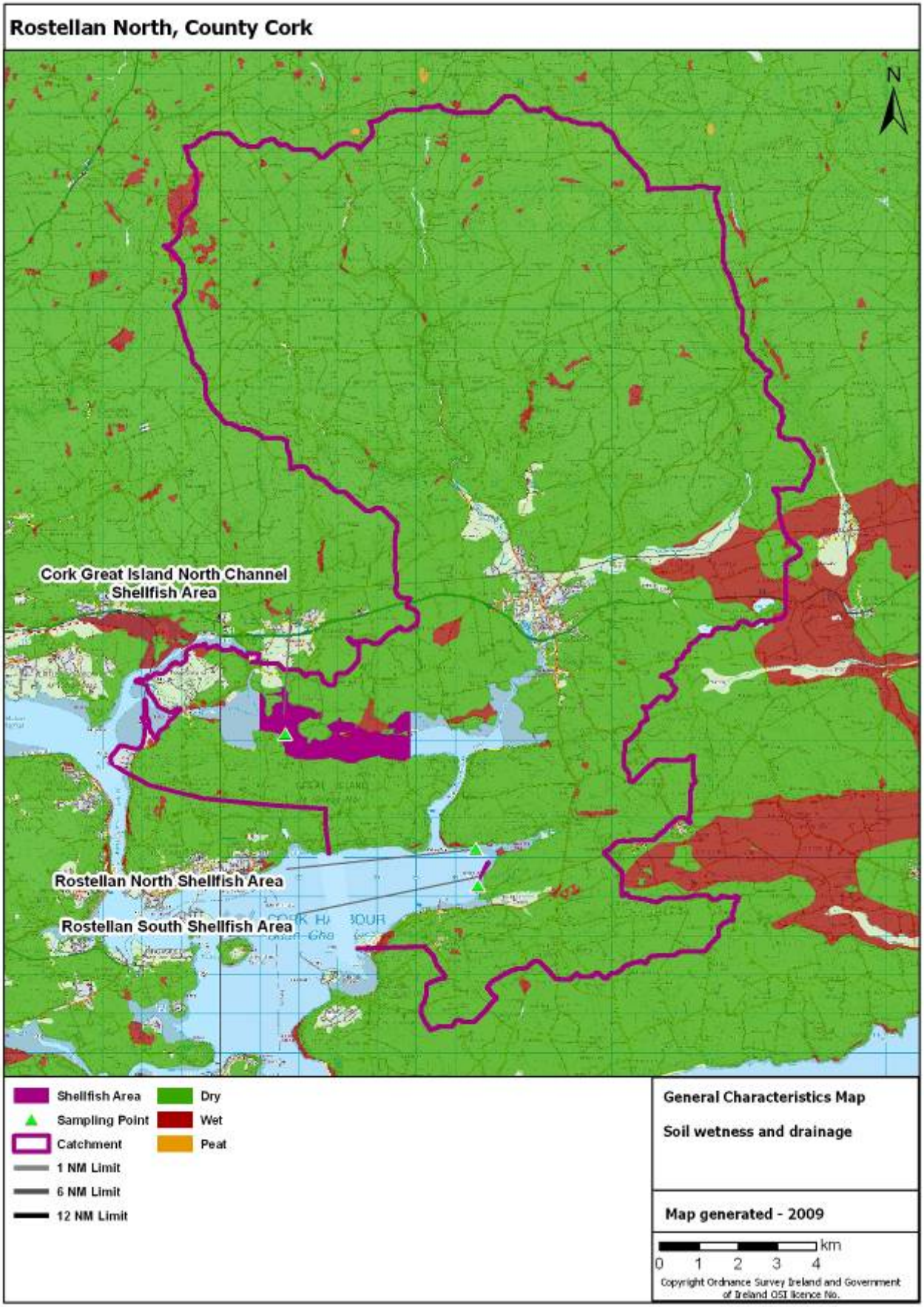
MAP 3 - Contributing catchment



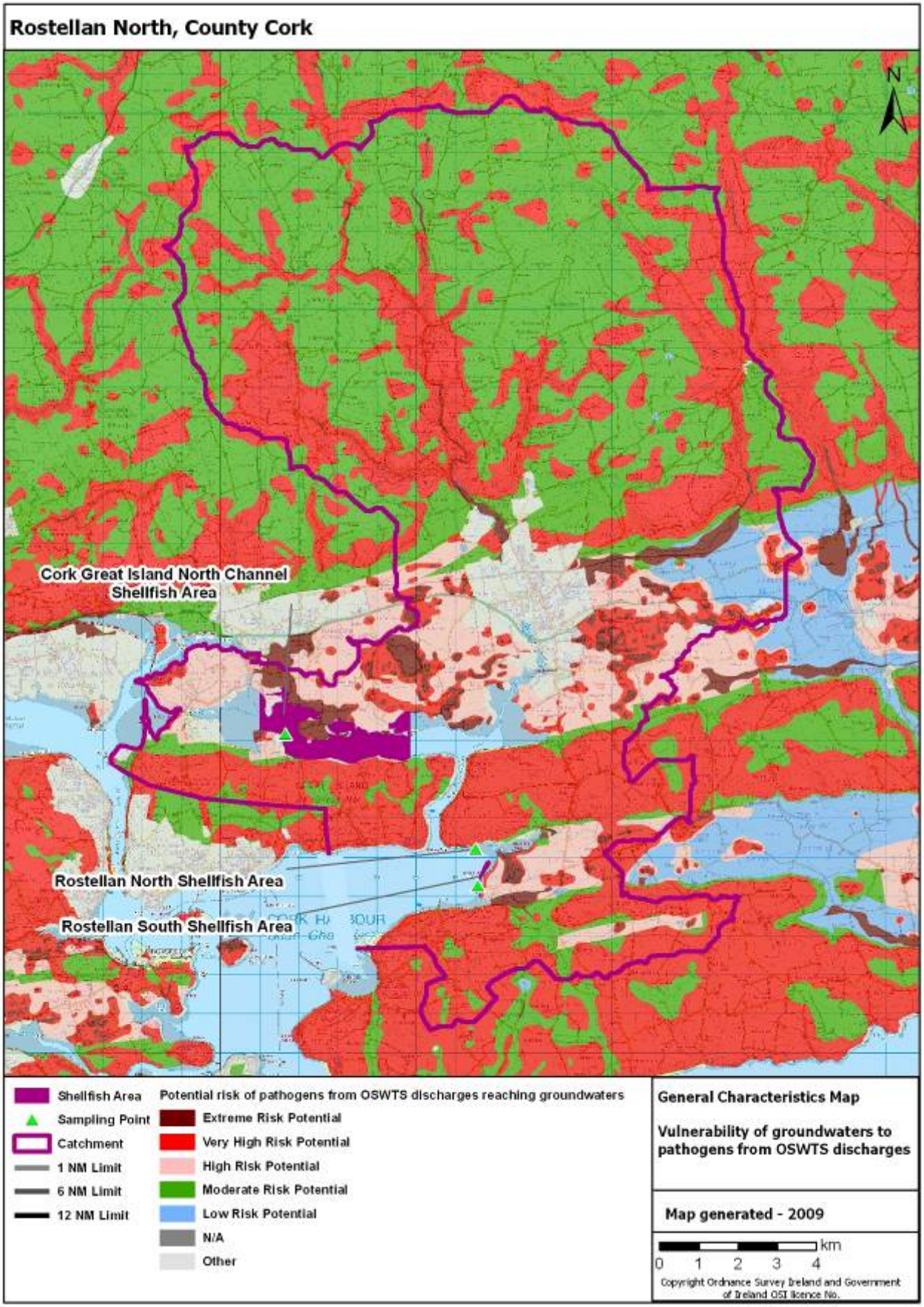
MAP 4 – Topography



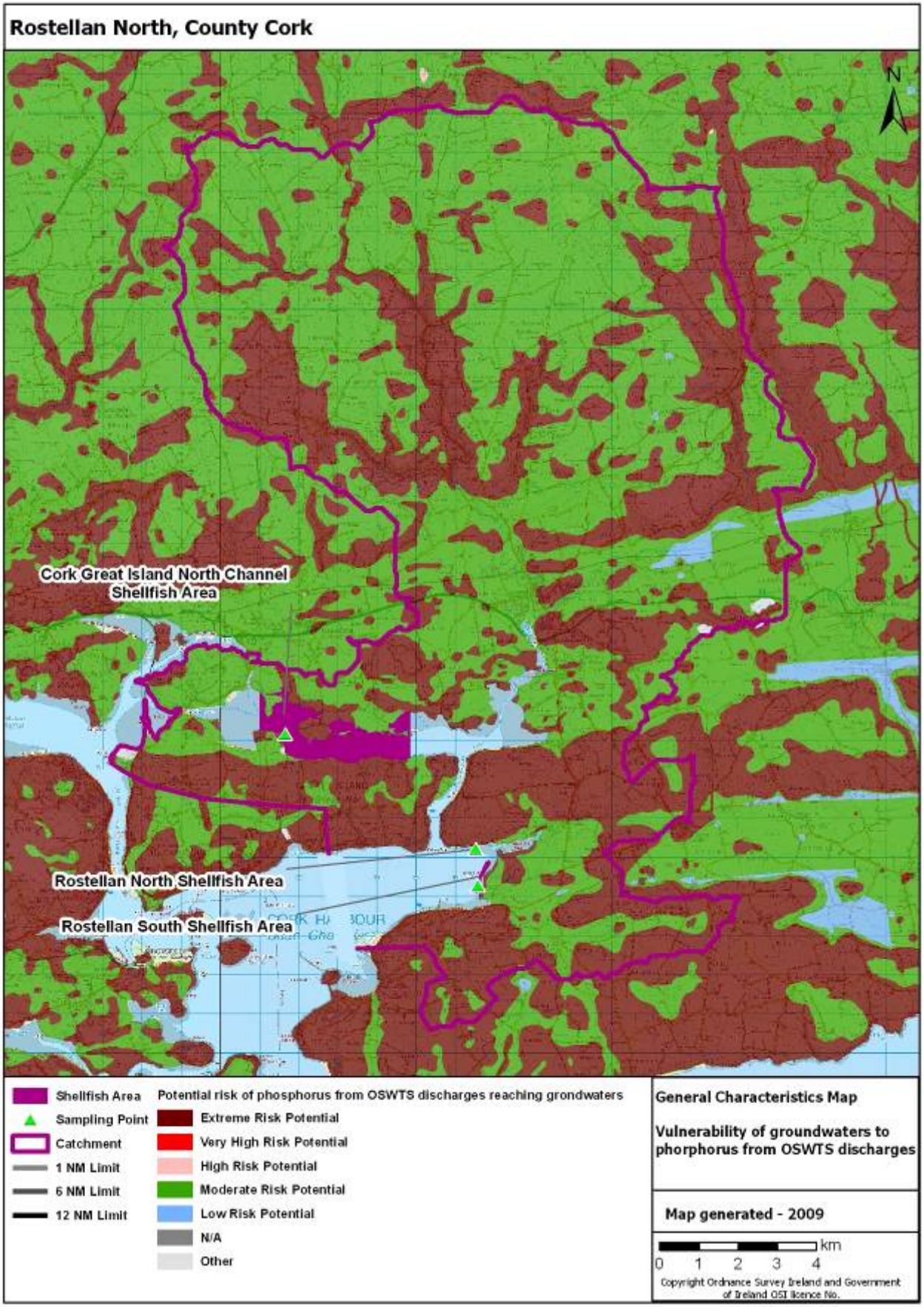
MAP 5 - Soil wetness



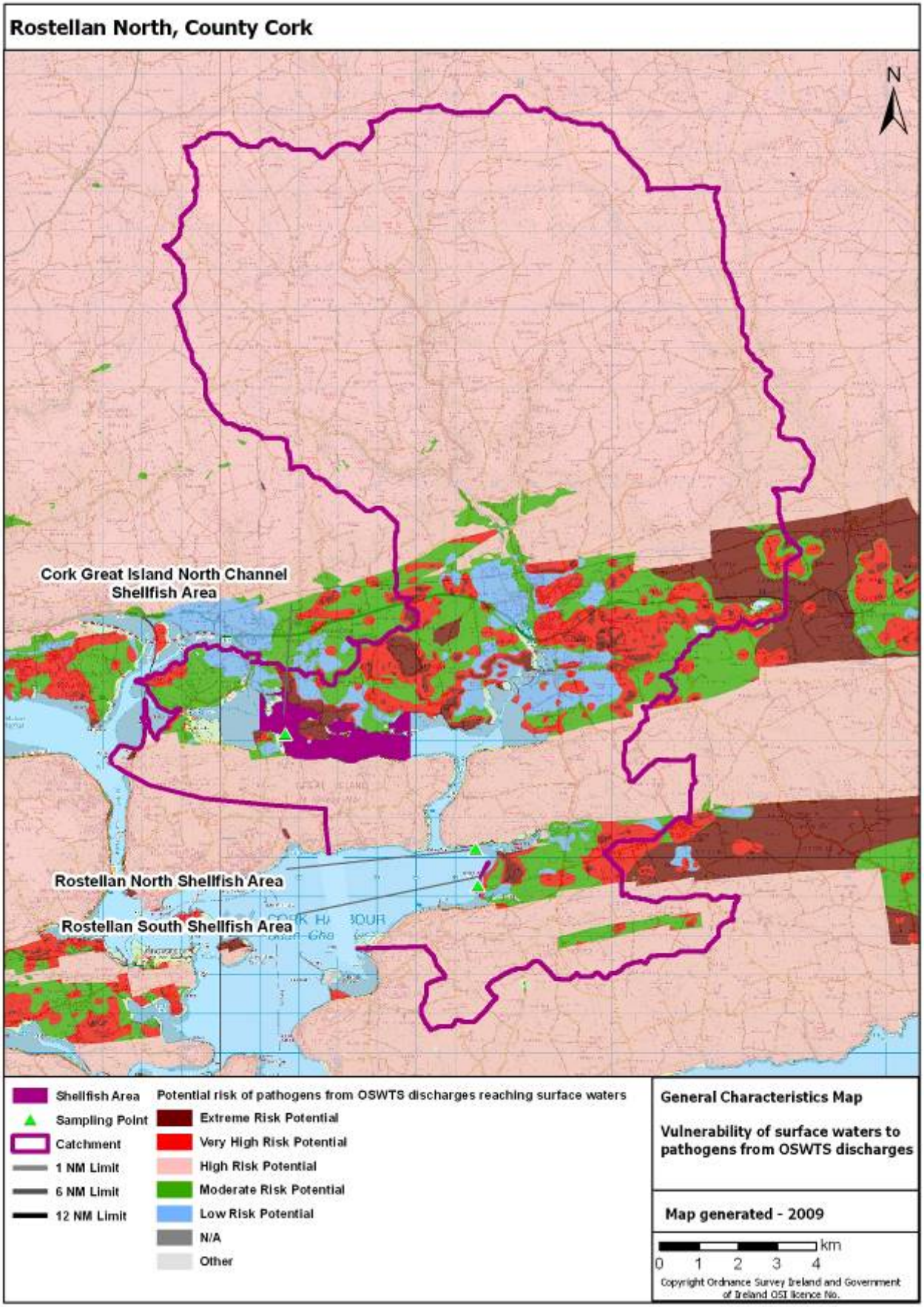
MAP 6 - Vulnerability of groundwater to pathogens from subsoil discharges



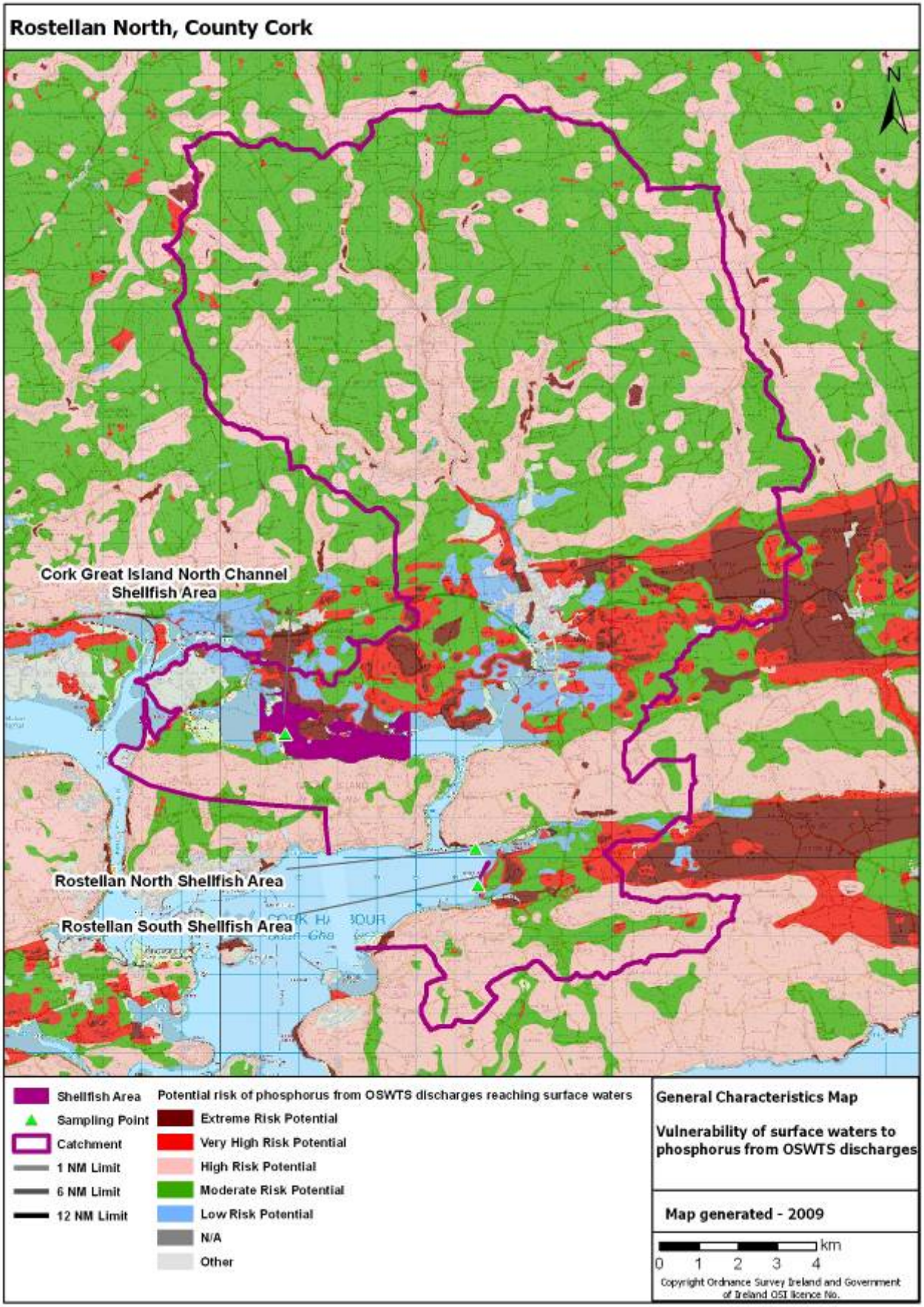
MAP 7 - Vulnerability of groundwater to phosphorus from subsoil discharges



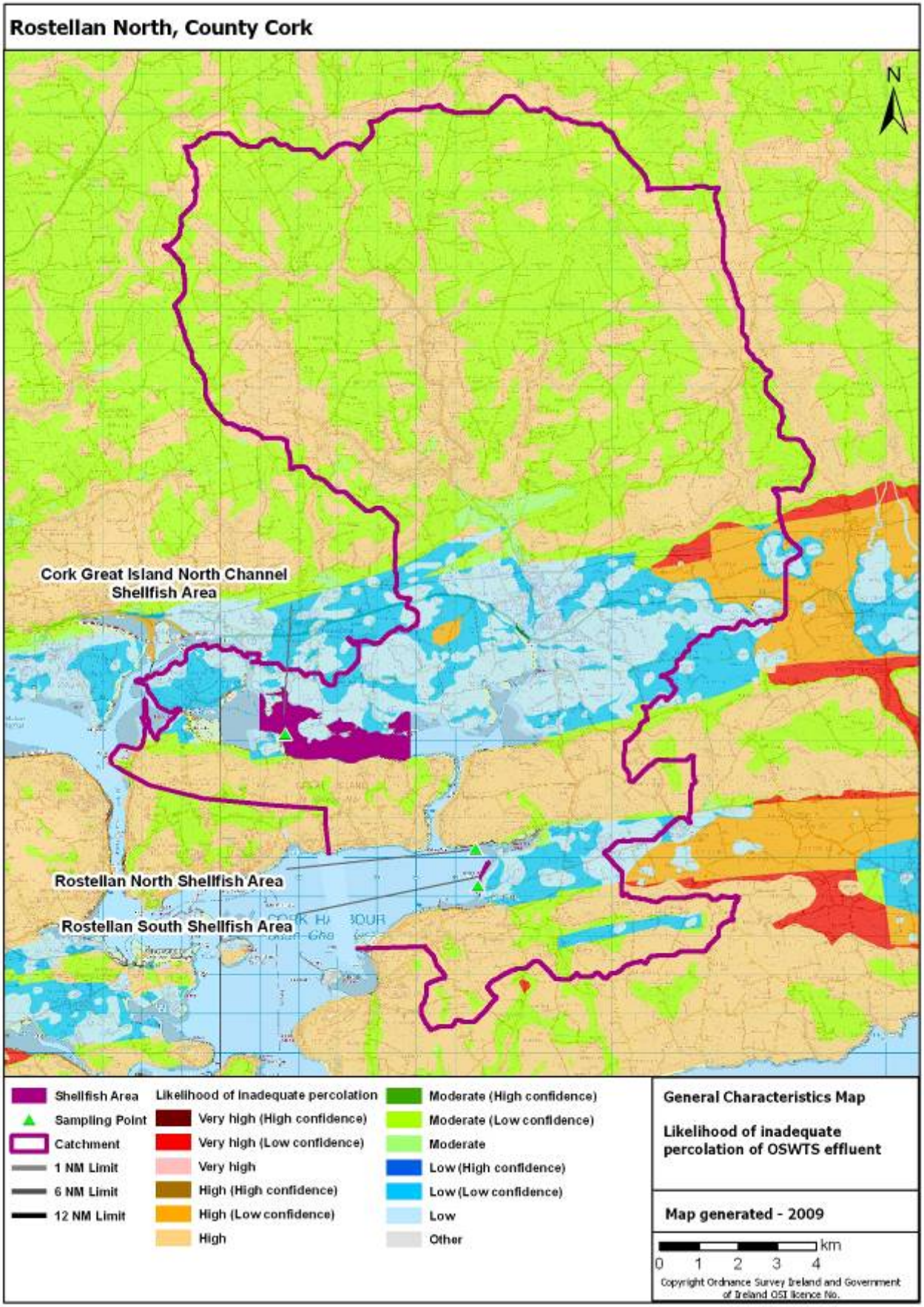
MAP 8 - Vulnerability of surface waters to pathogens from subsoil discharges



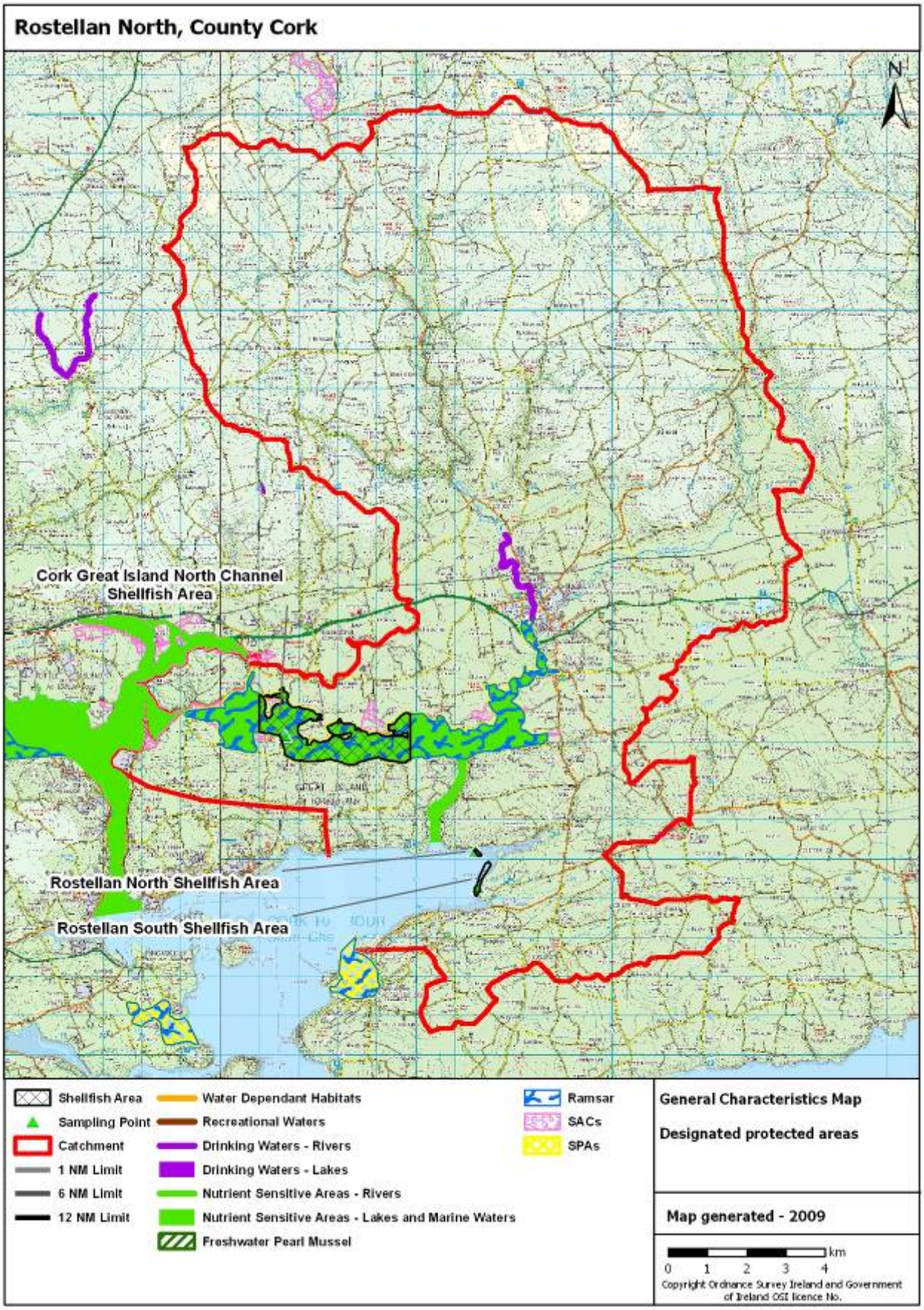
MAP 9 - Vulnerability of surface waters to phosphorus from subsoil discharges



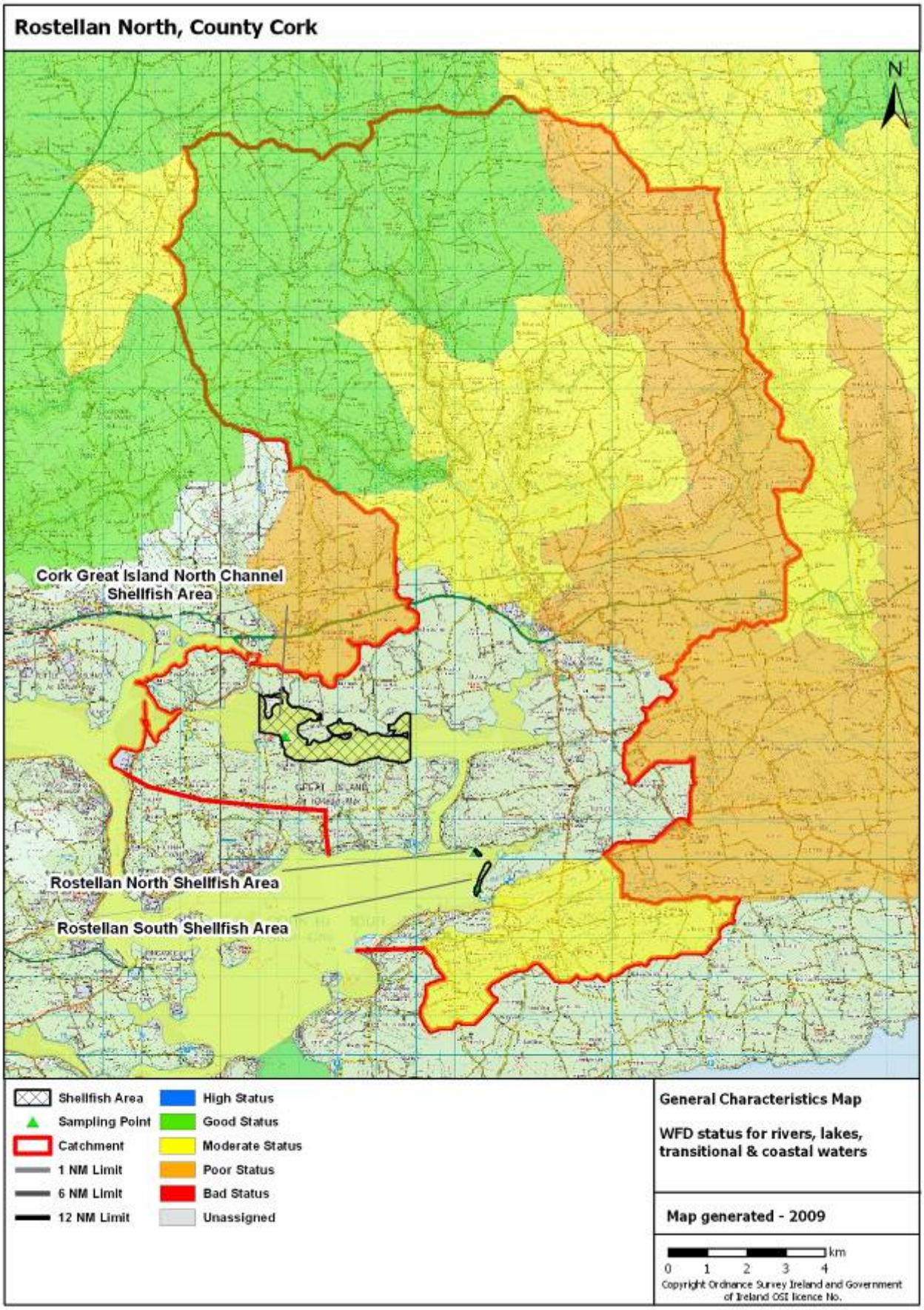
MAP 10 - Likelihood of inadequate percolation in sub-soils



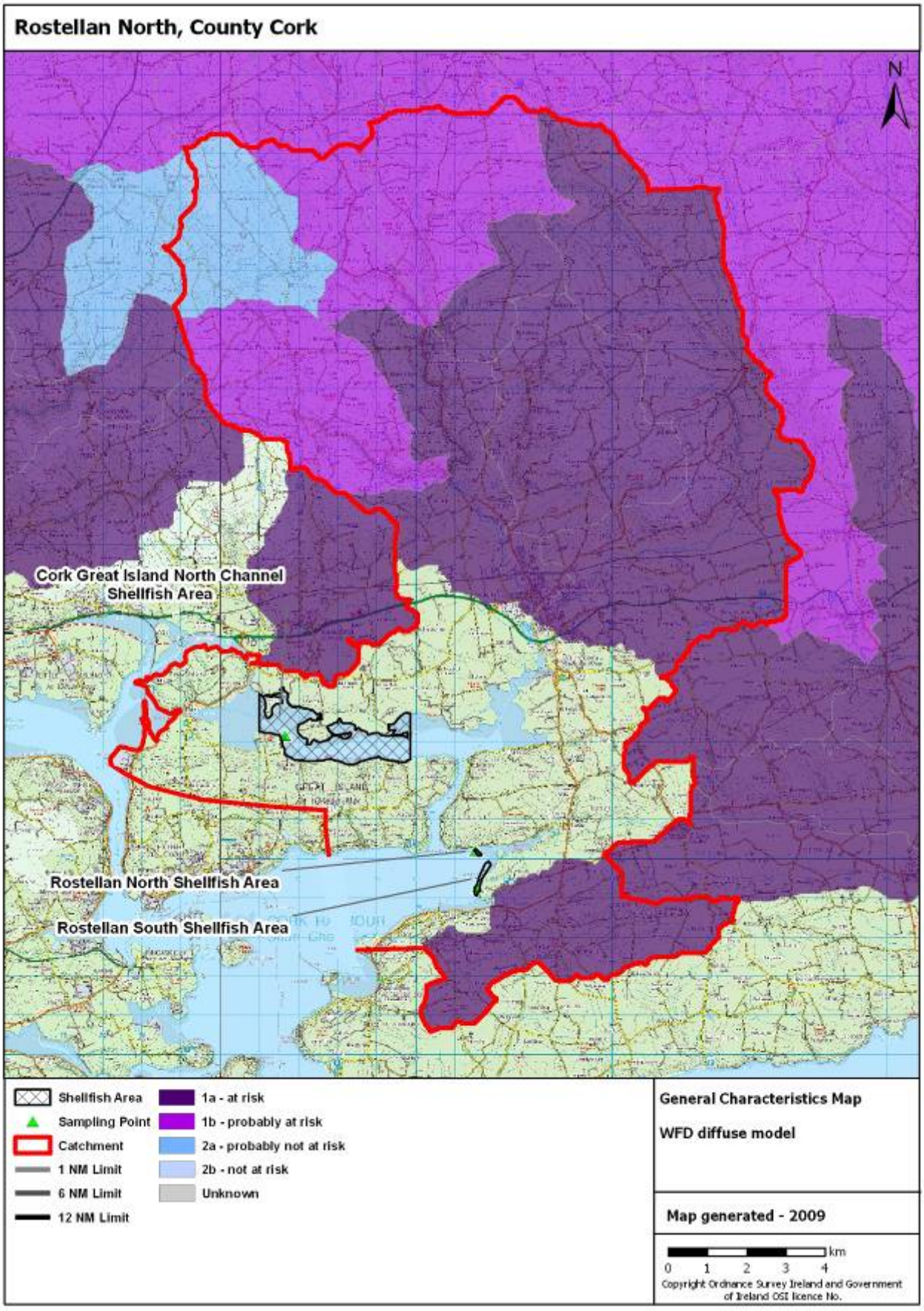
MAP 11 - Designated protected areas



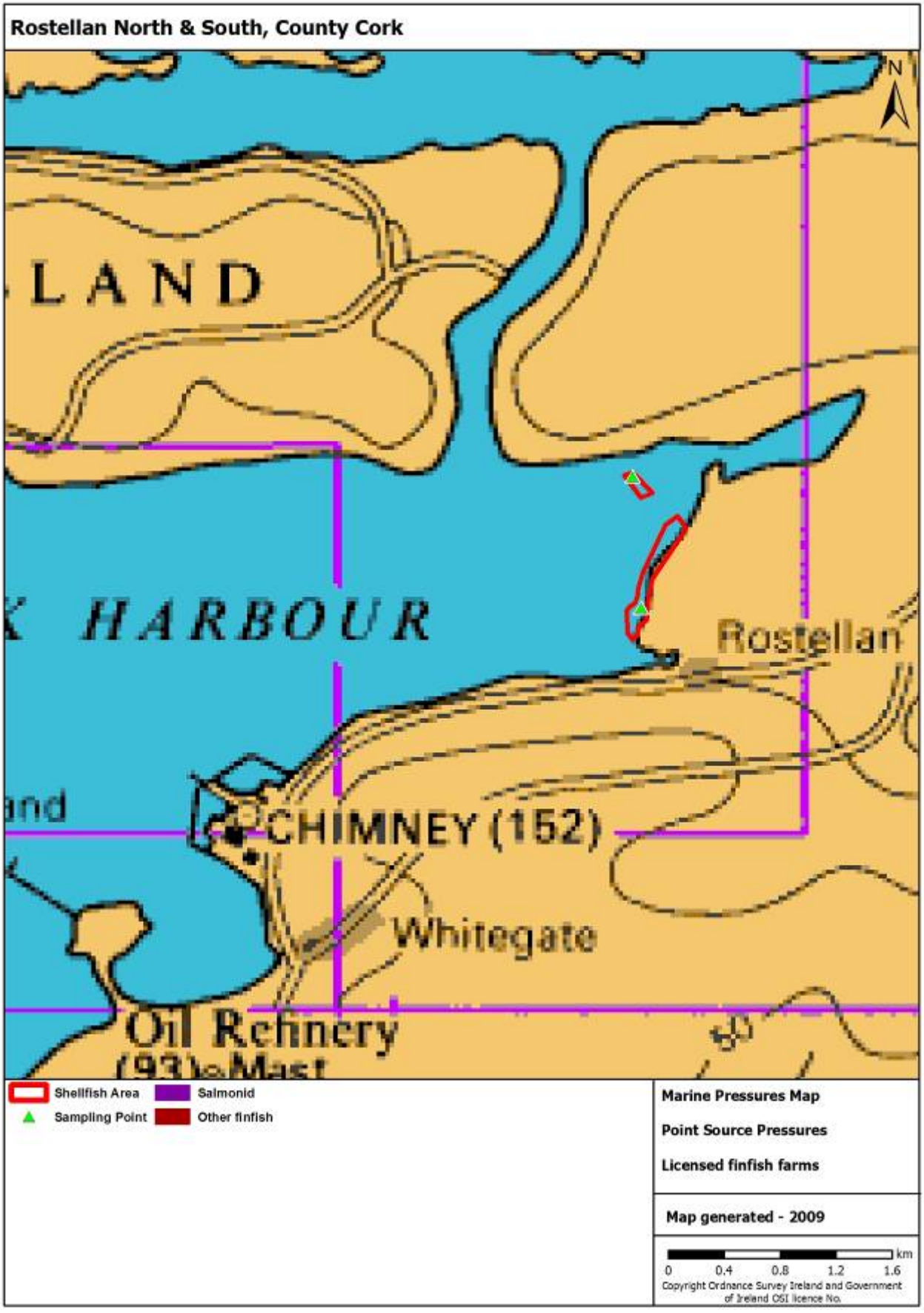
MAP 12 - WFD surface water status



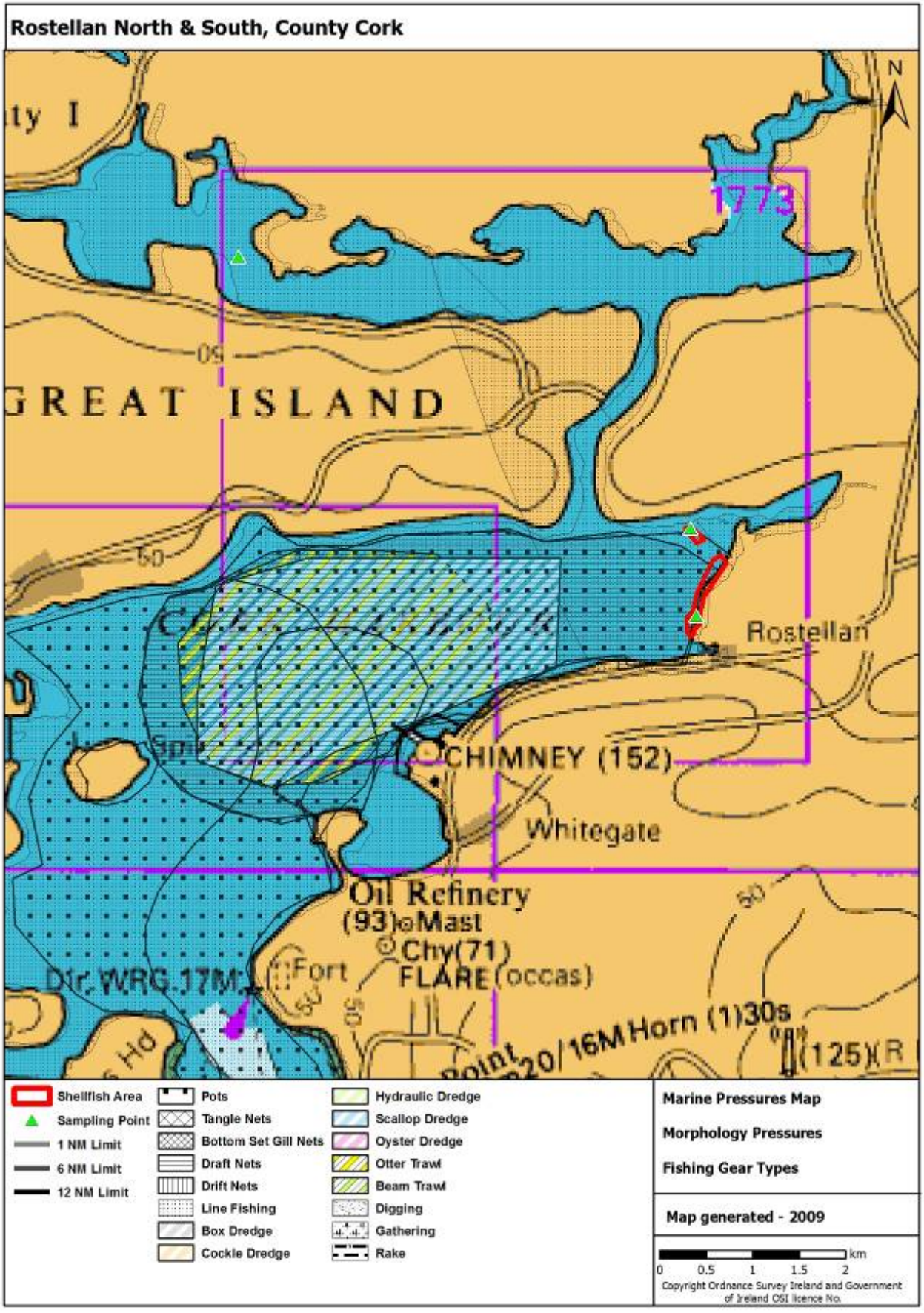
MAP 13 - Diffuse risk assessment



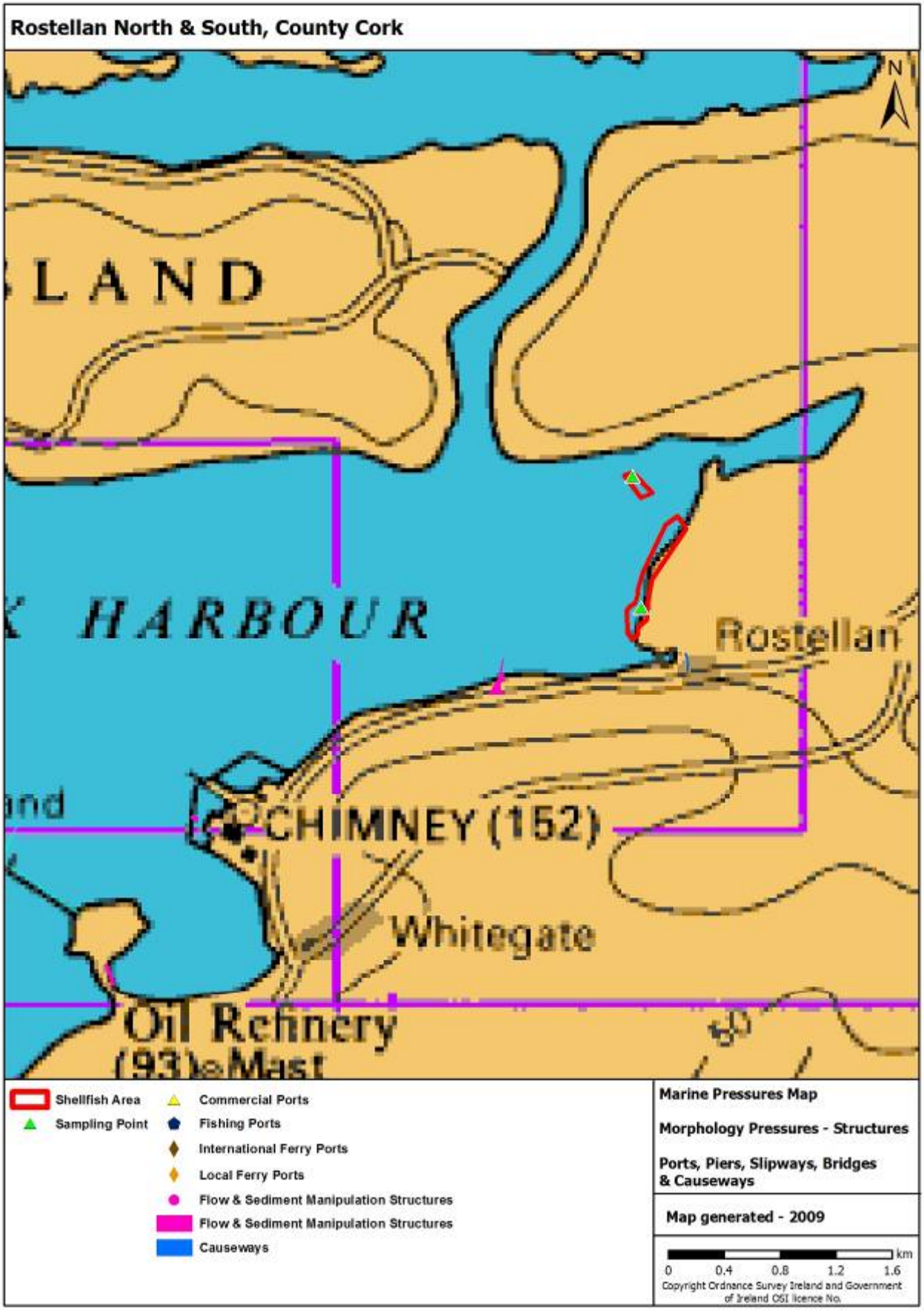
MAP 14 - Licensed finfish areas (None in the vicinity of this shellfish area)



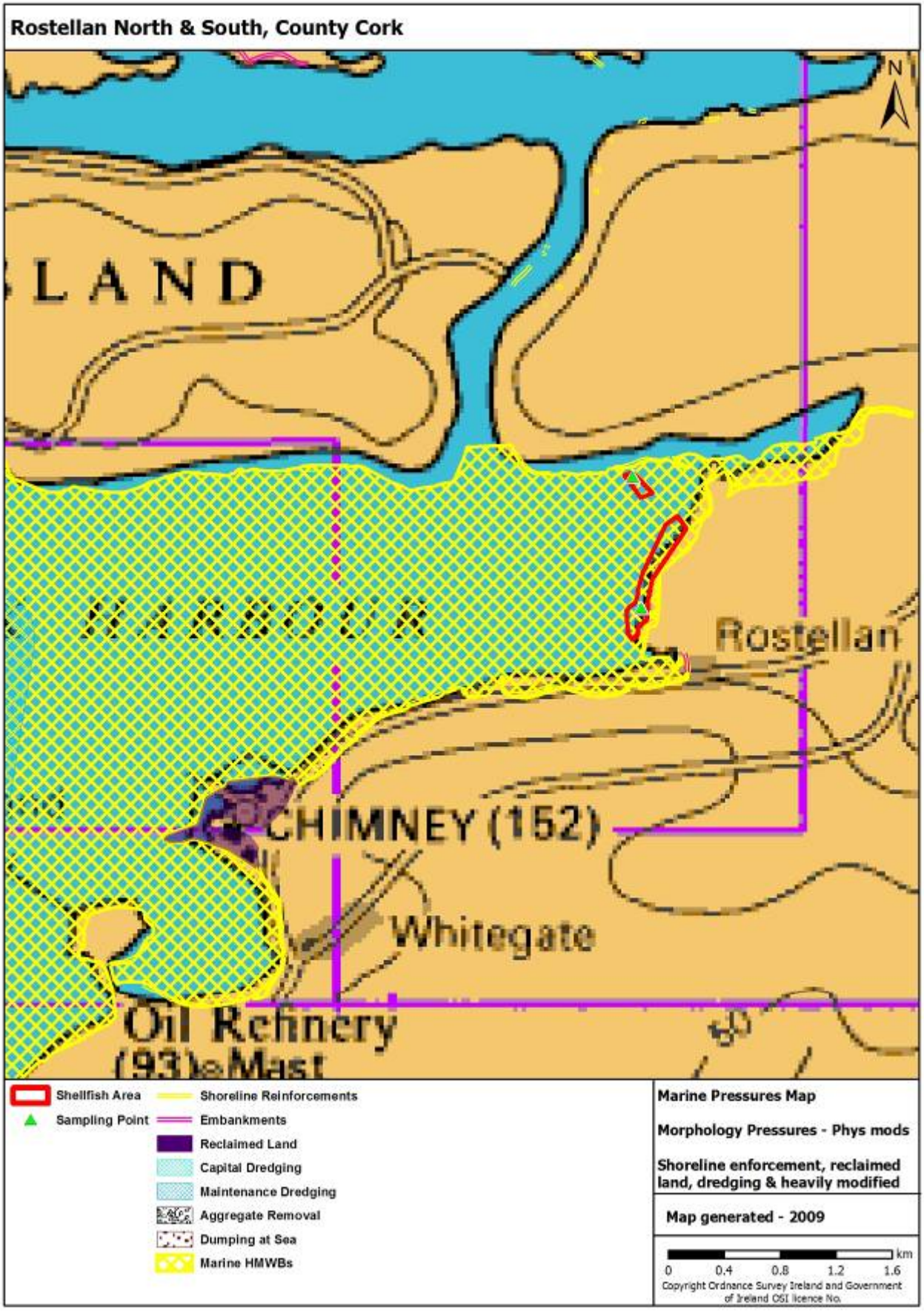
MAP 15 - Fishing gear activity



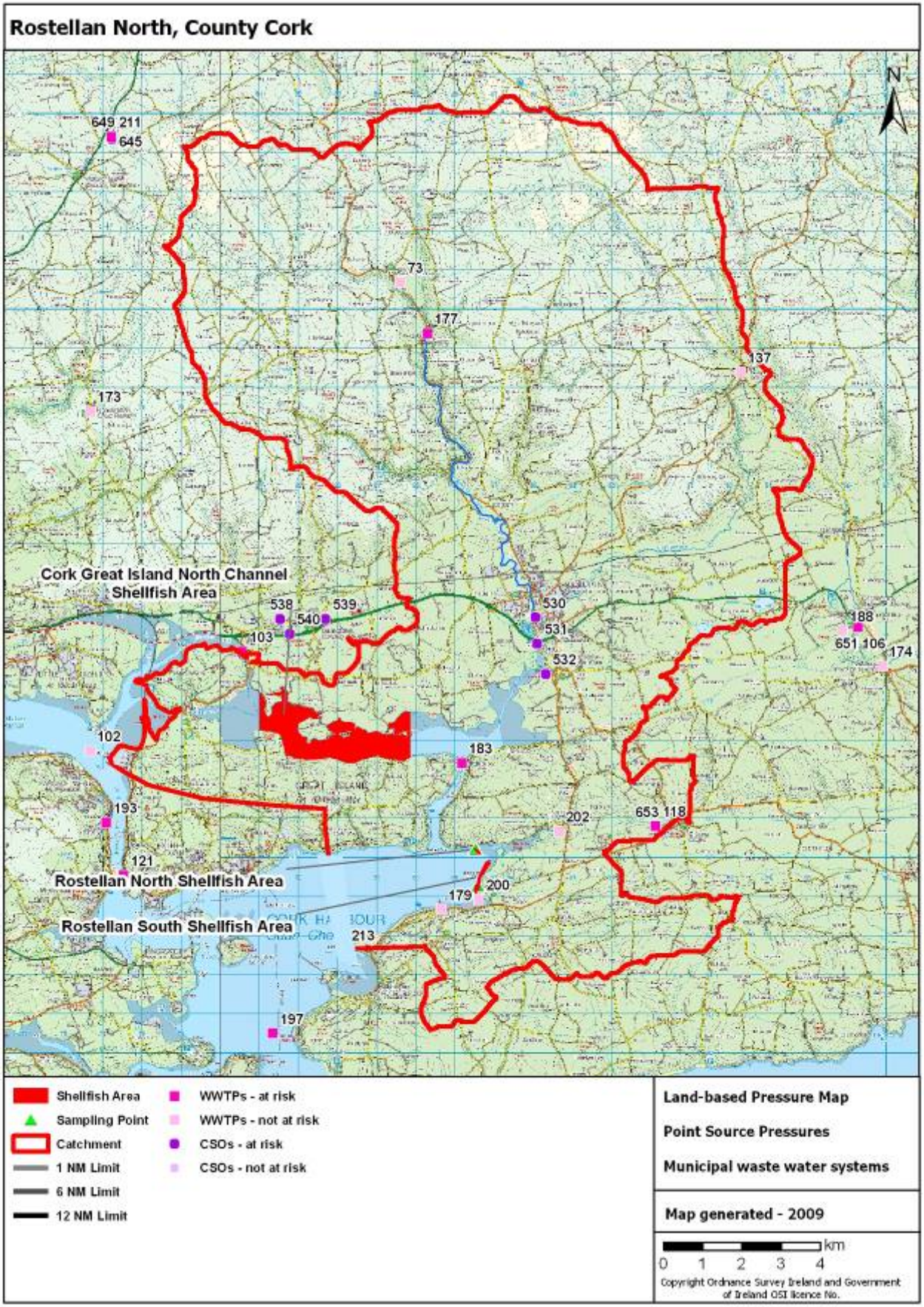
MAP 16 - Marine structures



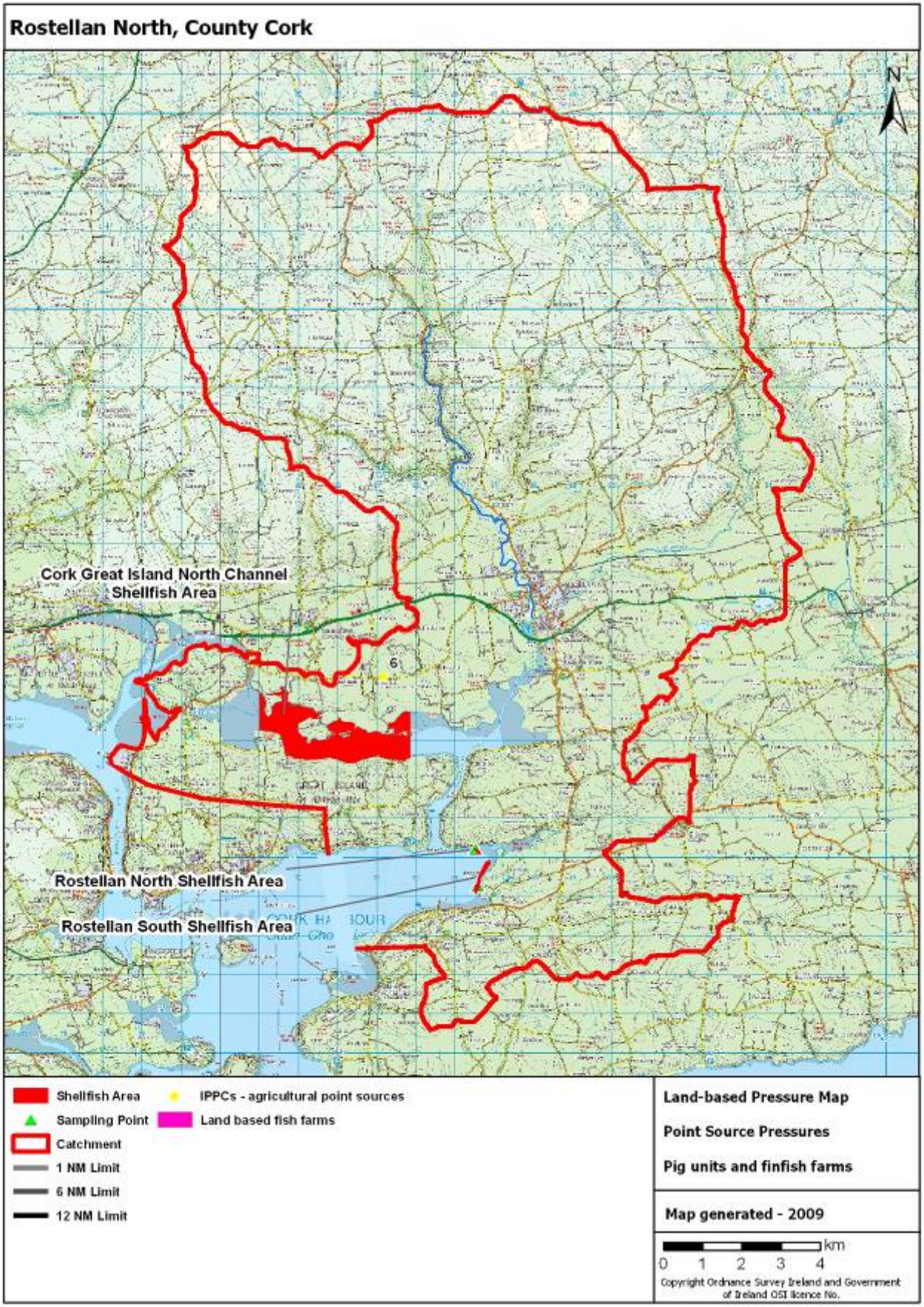
MAP 17 - Marine physical modifications



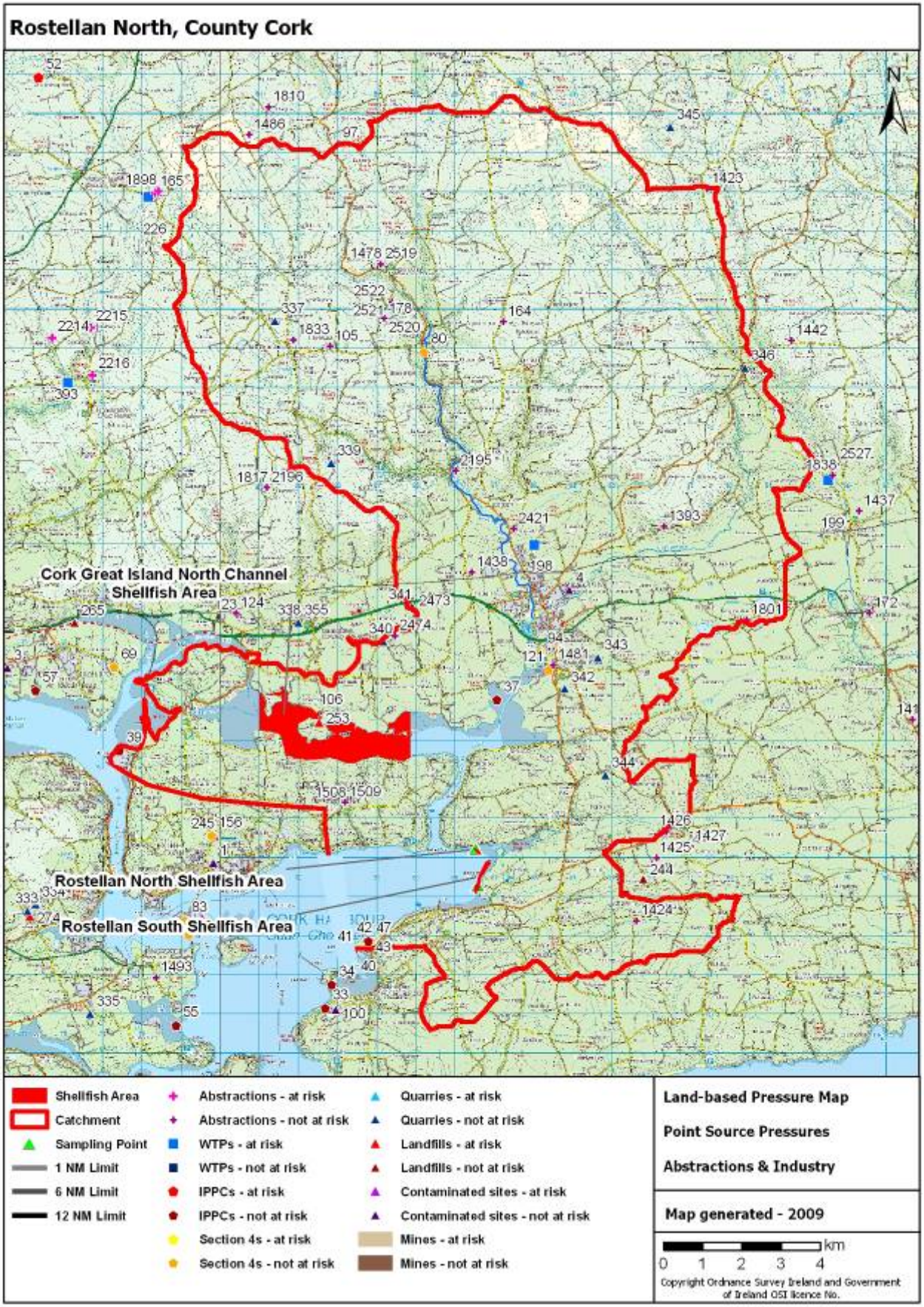
MAP 18 - Municipal waste water systems



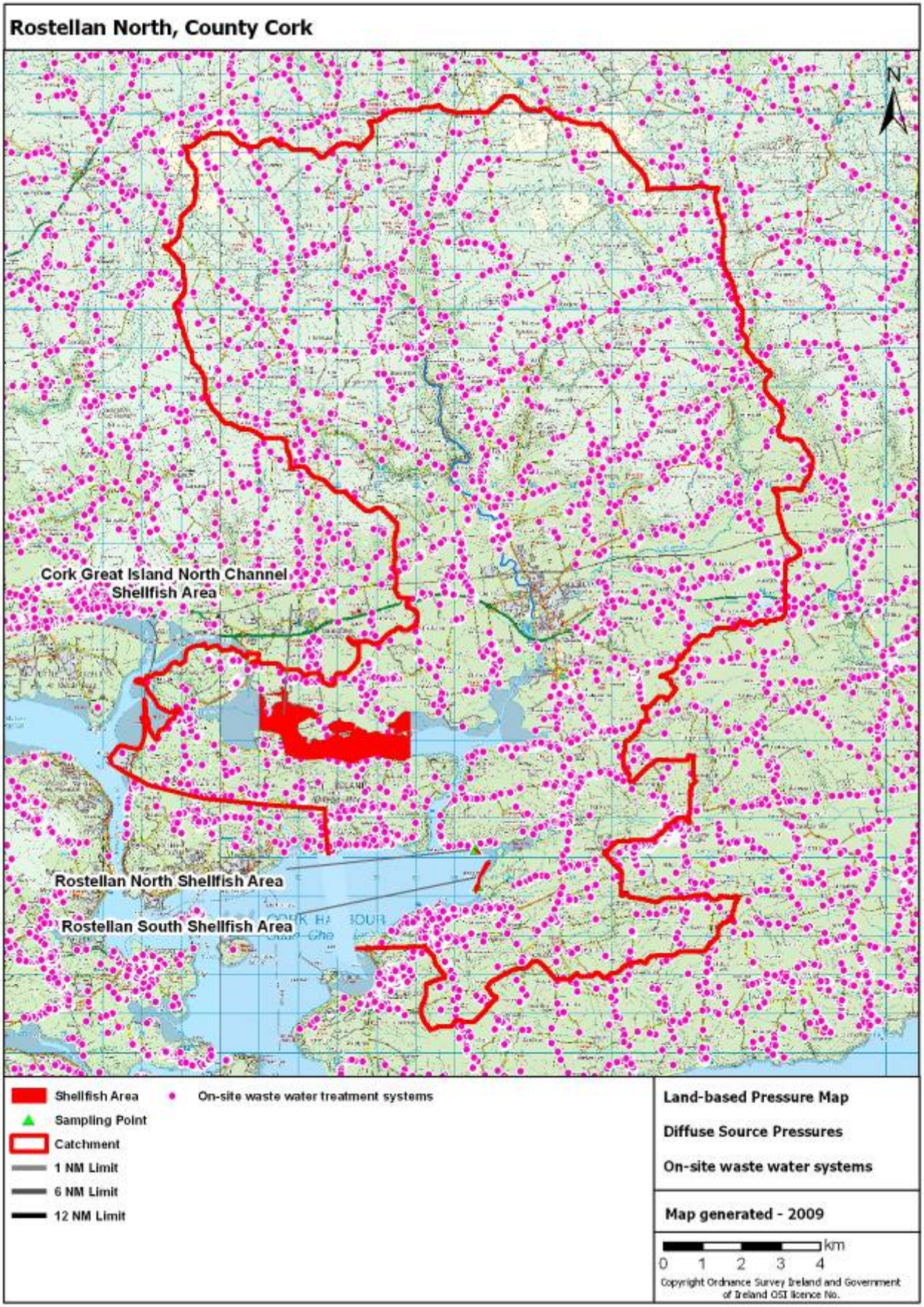
MAP 19 - Pig units and finfish farms



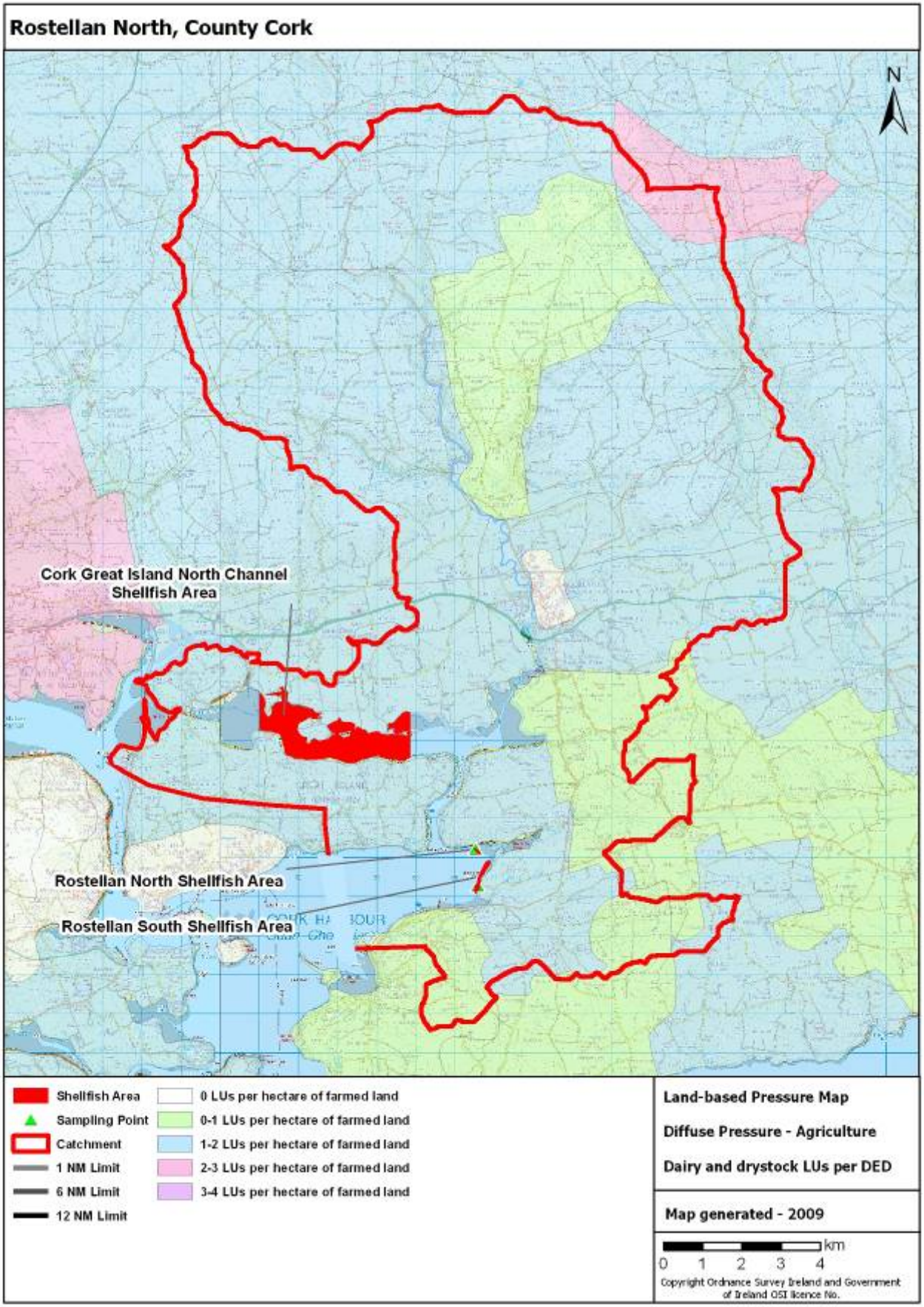
MAP 20 - Industrial point source pressures



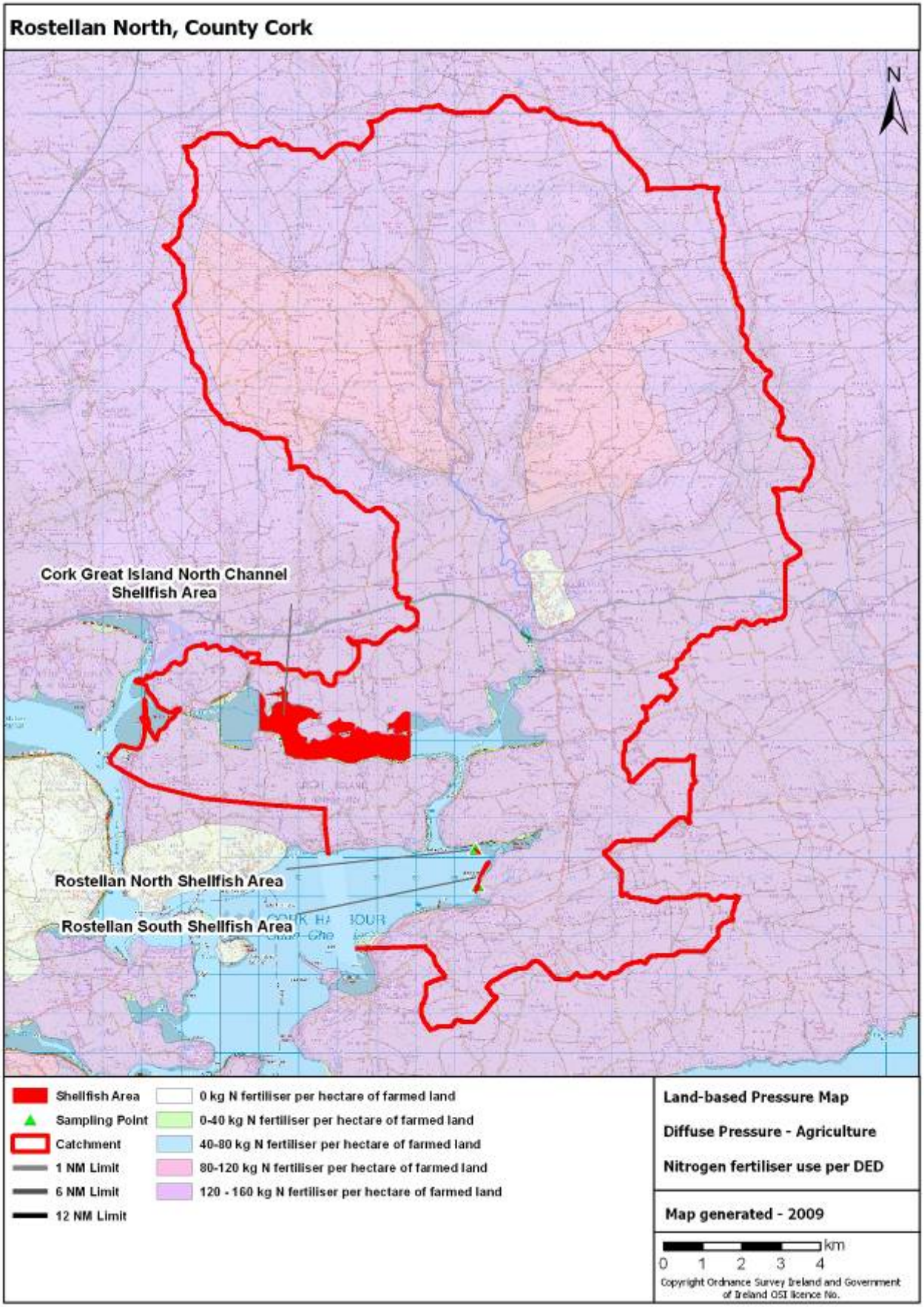
MAP 21 - On-site waste water systems



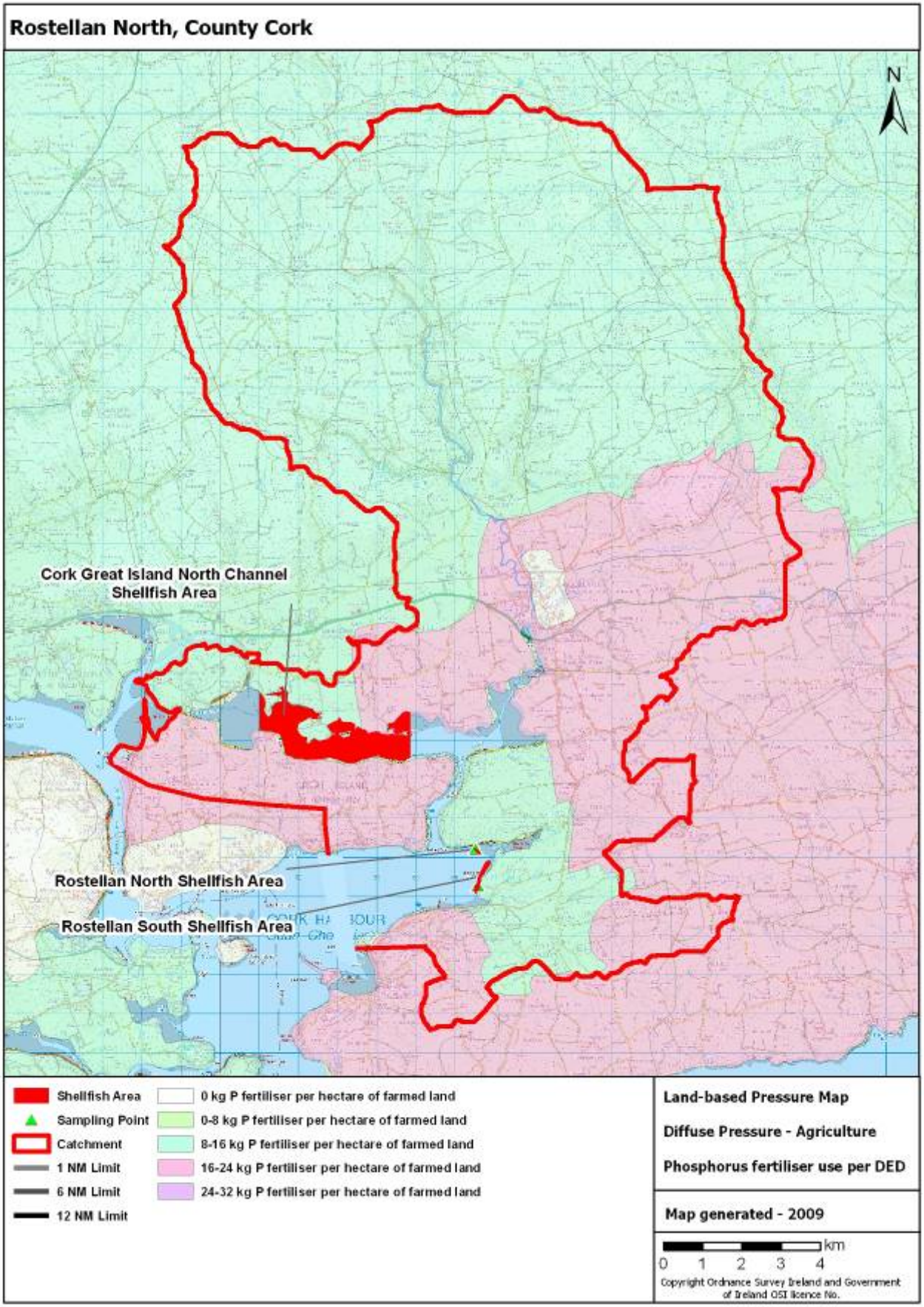
MAP 22 - Dairy and drystock livestock units



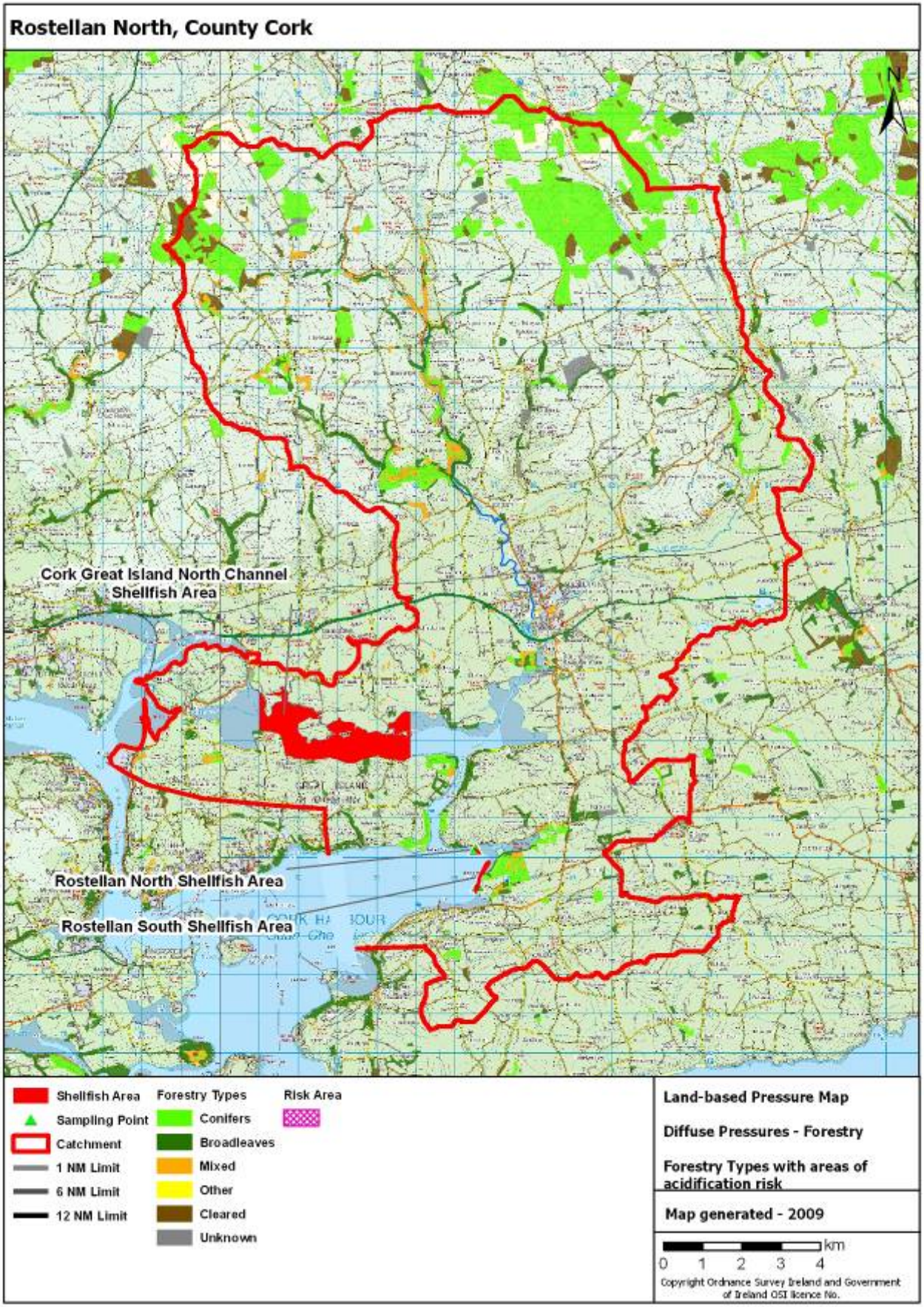
MAP 23 - Nitrogen fertiliser usage



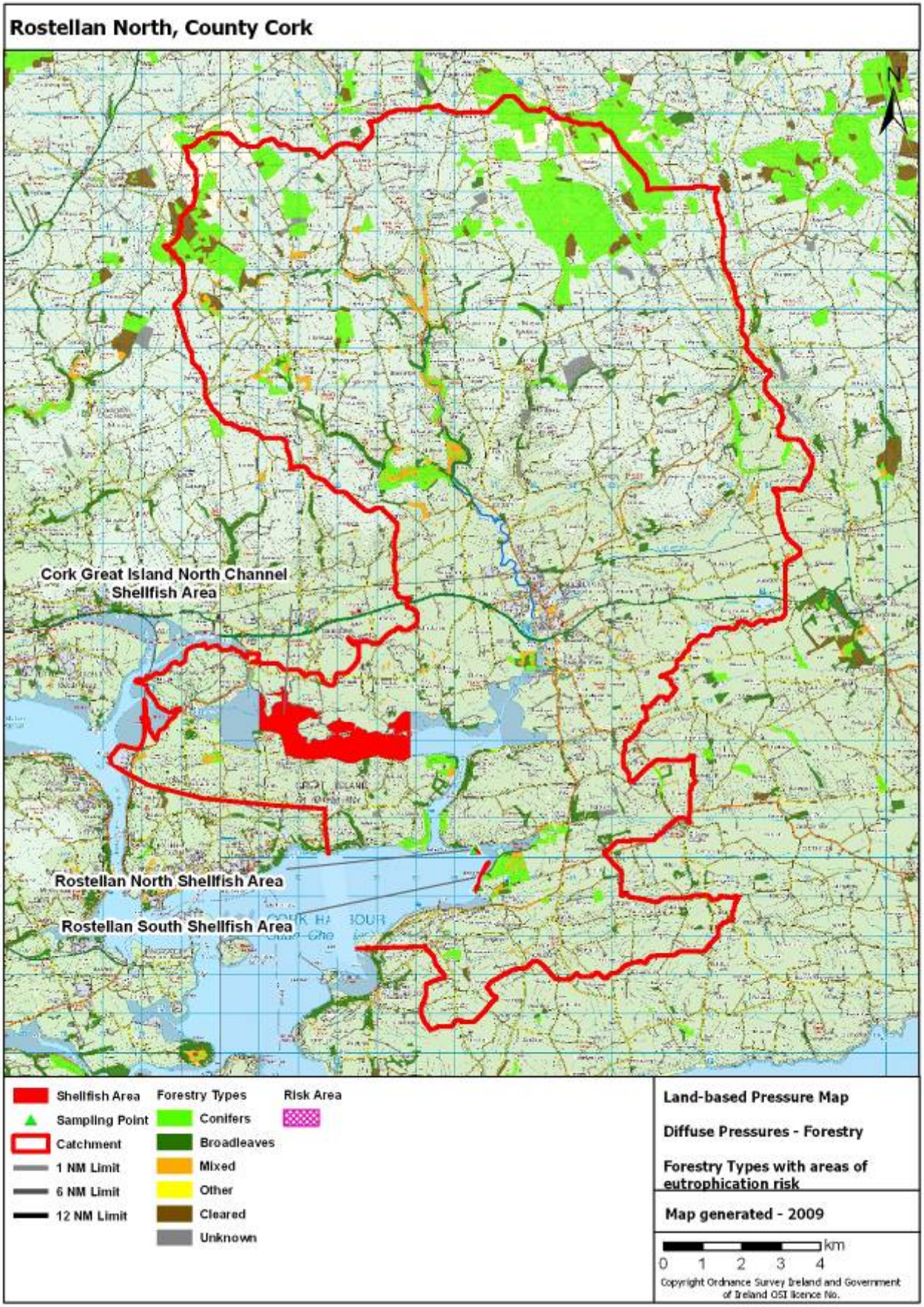
MAP 24 - Phosphorus fertiliser usage



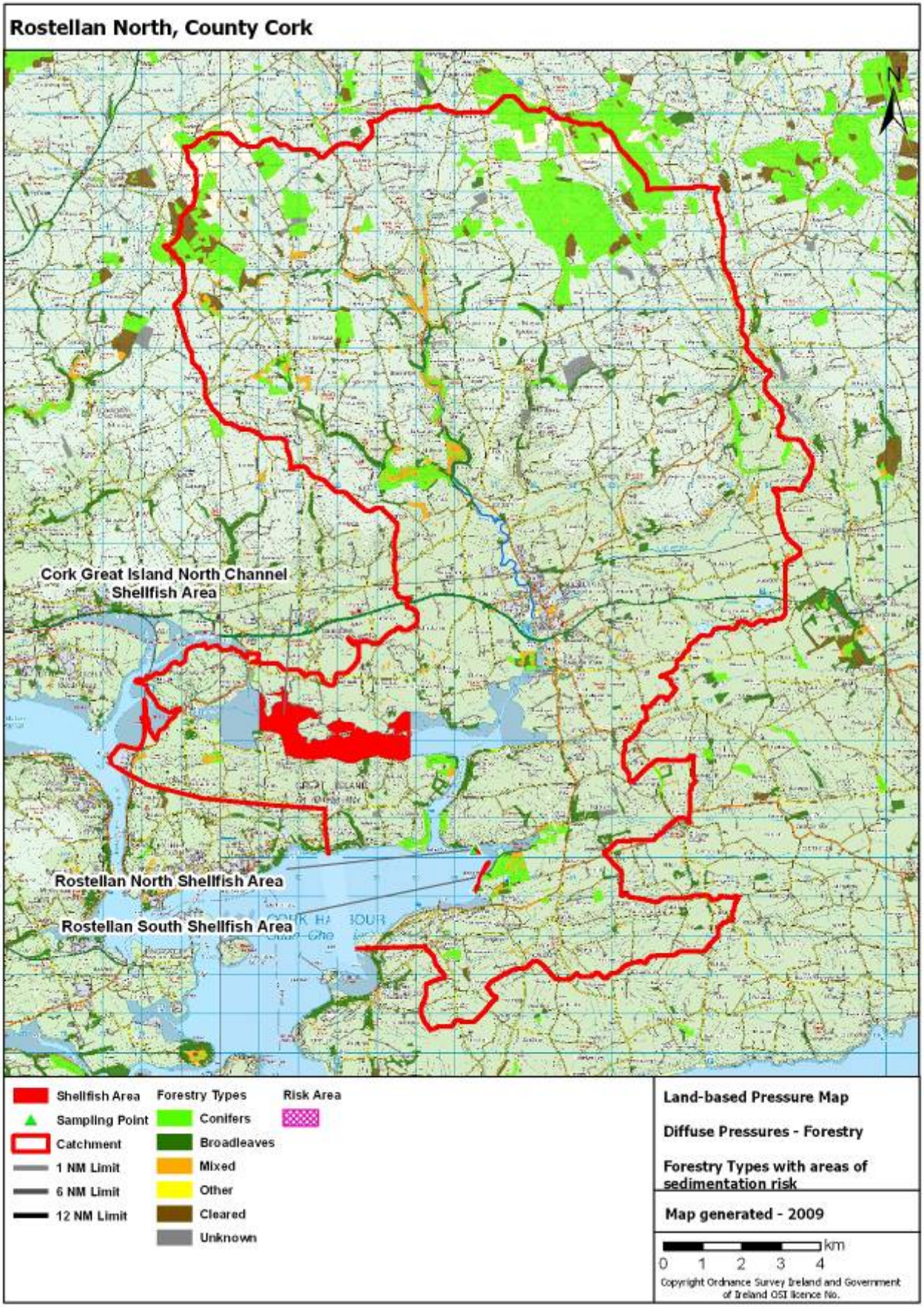
MAP 25 - Forestry types with acidification risk areas



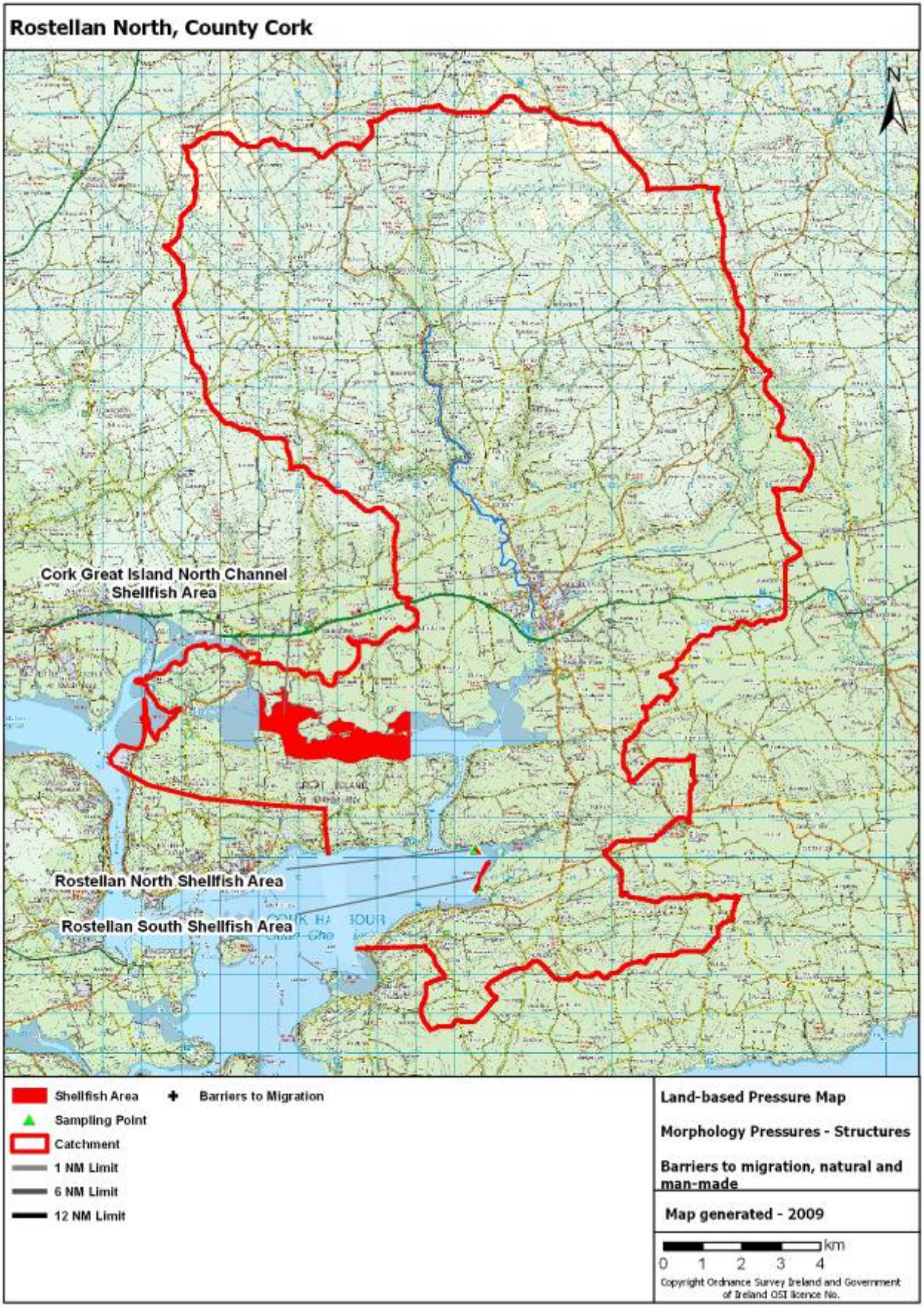
MAP 26 - Forestry types with eutrophication risk areas



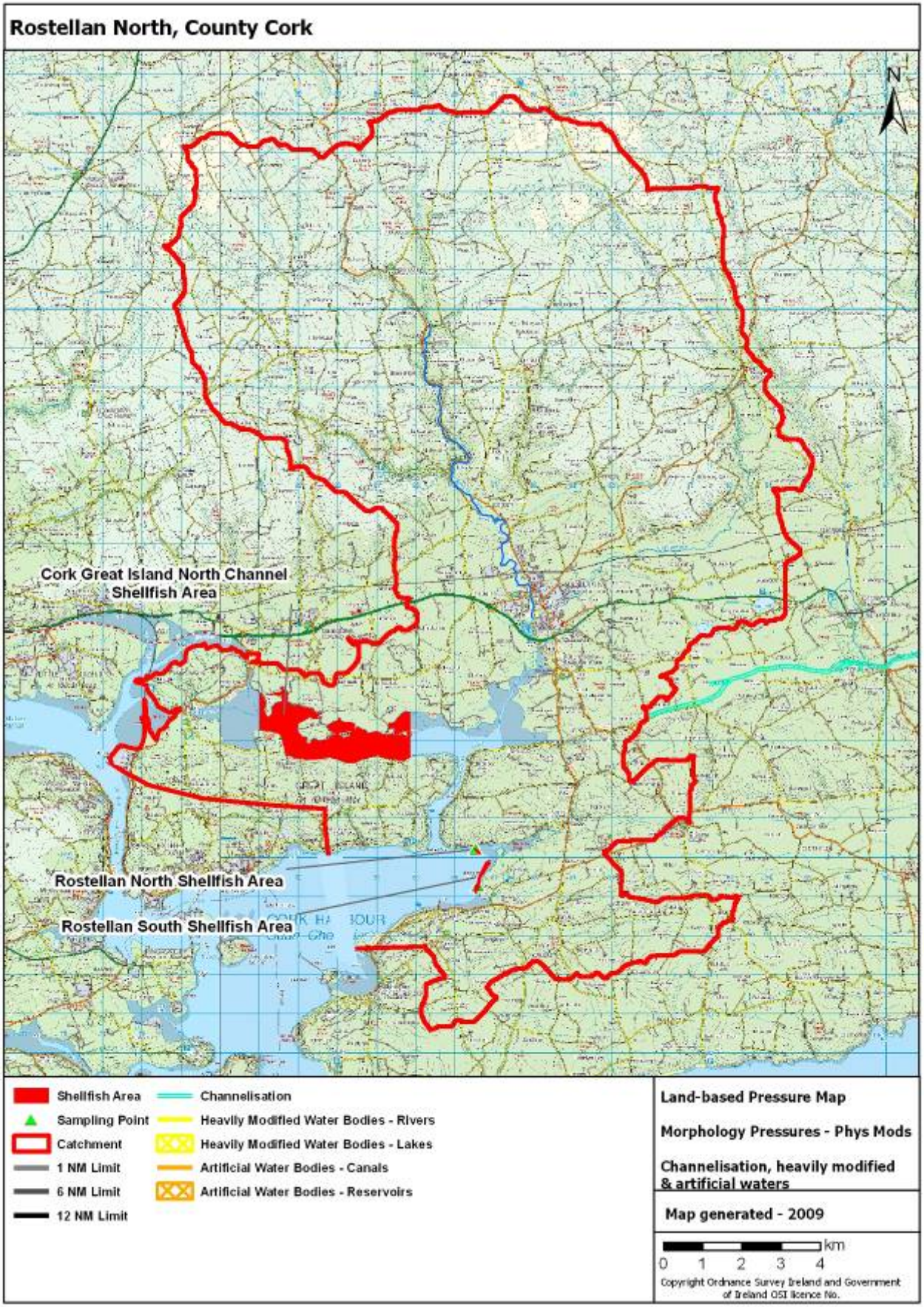
MAP 27 - Forestry types with sedimentation risk areas



MAP 28 - Freshwater structures (None in this catchment)



MAP 29 - Freshwater physical modifications (None in this catchment)



5.0 PRESSURES

This section of the characterisation report provides a tabular overview and inventory of the marine and land-based pressures in the vicinity of the designated shellfish area and within the contributing catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the shellfish area. The pressure data has been derived from existing inventories. The pressures considered most likely to be related to any measured impacts on shellfish water quality parameters in this shellfish area have been estimated in order to focus management efforts towards the protection and improvement of the water quality in this shellfish area.

The available information considered when determining the likelihood of the pressures to cause impacts includes:

- pressure type

The pressure types, be it marine or land-based, point, diffuse or morphological, vary in terms of: their likelihood to impact on shellfish water quality; the water quality parameters they are likely to affect; and the severity of the impacts. The results of monitoring can therefore provide an indication of which pressure types are likely to be causing impacts.

- pressure magnitude

The magnitude of the pressures acting on a shellfish area can affect the overall potential impact. For marine pressures, the magnitude depends on the number and scale of the pressures but also on the exposure of the shellfish area to the pressures which in turn depends on how open or sheltered the shellfish area is and on water circulation. For land-based pressures, the magnitude depends on the number and scale of the pressures but also on the remoteness of the pressures from the shellfish areas which in turn depends on the distance of the pressures from the shellfish area, the topography of the catchment and the presence of lakes downstream of pressures which can act as pollution sinks.

- WFD risk designations

A series of risk assessments relating to the main pressures on waters were carried out during the WFD implementation process to identify pressures ‘at risk’ of impacting the surrounding water environment. These were originally carried out in 2004 and 2005 in accordance with Article V of the directive but many of them were subsequently updated in 2008 to feed into draft River Basin Management Plans. A lot of information about the pressures was collected to undertake these assessments and some of that information is summarised in this section where it is useful in screening which pressures are most likely to impact on shellfish water quality. In all cases, the most up-to-date risk assessment information available was used. Full details of the WFD risk assessments can be found at www.wfdireland.ie.

Whilst the risk designations under the WFD provide a useful screening tool for pressures, their relevance in terms of any water quality issues measured in Shellfish Waters has to be assessed in further detail to identify key pressures at a particular site.

Table 4 lists all of the pressures considered in the development of the characterisation report and indicates their presence or absence within the shellfish area, within the marine waters in the vicinity of the shellfish area or within the contributing catchment. Those pressures that are present are discussed later in this section.

TABLE 4 - Summary of pressures

Pressure type	Pressure type	Pressures	Present
Marine	Point	Marine finfish farms	No
	Morphology	**Fishing gear activity**	**Yes**
		Structures and associated activities	
		Ports	No
		Flow/Sediment manipulation structures	**Yes**
		Piled structures	**Yes**
		Causeways	**Yes**
		Physical modifications	
		Shoreline reinforcement	**Yes**
		Embankments	**Yes**
		Reclaimed Land	**Yes**
		Capital dredging	No
		Maintenance dredging	**Yes**
		Aggregate removal	No
		Disposal at sea	No
		Marine heavily modified waters	**Yes**
Land-based	Point	Municipal waste water systems	
		Urban wastewater systems	**Yes**
		Combined sewer overflows	**Yes**
		Agricultural and aquacultural point sources	
		Pig units	**Yes**
		Freshwater finfish farms	No
		Industrial point sources	
		Abstractions	**Yes**
		Water treatment plants	**Yes**
		IPPCs	**Yes**
		Section 4s	**Yes**
		Quarries	**Yes**
		Landfills	**Yes**
		Mines	No
		Contaminated lands	**Yes**
		Other	No
	Diffuse	**On-site waste water treatment systems**	**Yes**
		Agriculture	
		Livestock density	**Yes**
		Nitrogen fertiliser usage	**Yes**
		Phosphorus fertiliser usage	**Yes**
		Forestry	**Yes**
	Morphology	Structures	
		Barriers to migration	No
		Physical Modifications	
		Channelisation	No
		Heavily modified waters	No
		Artificial waters	No

5.1 Marine Pressures

Marine pressures are considered up to a distance of 5 kilometres from the shellfish area. Marine pressures situated further away or in adjacent waterbodies are also mentioned if they are considered significant. Marine pressure types include point source pressures (marine finfish farms) and morphological pressures including fishing gear activity, structures (ports, bridges, piers, slipways etc) and physical modifications (shoreline reinforcement, embankments, dredging etc). The potential impacts associated with these pressures are as follows:

- Point source pressures

Marine finfish farms can be associated with increased nutrient levels in waters, arising from fish excretion and excess feed input.

- Morphological pressures

Fishing activity can be associated with increased suspended sediment levels arising from disturbance of the seabed. The potential severity of the impacts varies depending on the type of fishing gear used and the extent, frequency and duration of the activity. The impact of boats is dealt with in association with marine structures below.

Structures (such as ports, harbours, bridges, slipways and piers) alter natural processes such as flow and silt movement and can therefore affect levels of suspended sediment in marine waters. The activities associated with these structures, for example shipping and boating, are associated with effects on the levels of general physico-chemical parameters, faecal coliforms, metals and chemicals.

Physical modifications (such as shoreline reinforcement, embankments and dredging) can alter natural processes such as flow and silt movement and can therefore affect levels of suspended sediment. However, once these modifications are established or the activities have ceased, the surrounding environment can acclimatise and impacts do not necessarily continue.

The following tables summarise the nature and extent of marine pressures up to a distance of 5 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. The likelihood for these pressures to impact on shellfish water quality parameters is discussed. The potential severity of the impacts of marine pressures is most closely associated with the activity type, magnitude and proximity and therefore the discussions in this section focus on these factors.

5.1.1 Point source pressures

There are no marine point source pressures in the vicinity of this designated shellfish area.

5.1.2 Morphology pressures

An assessment of the risk posed to marine waters from marine morphology pressures was carried out during the WFD implementation process. The results of this assessment show that the marine waters in and around this shellfish area are considered to be 'at risk' from morphological pressures.

Fishing gear activity

TABLE 5 - Fishing gears

Fishing gear types	Type	Present	Comment
Pots	Static	Yes	Widespread throughout the area
Tangle Nets	Static	No	NA
Bottom Set Gill Nets	Static	No	NA
Draft Nets	Static	Yes	Large area within and adjacent to shellfish area
Drift Nets	Static	No	NA
Line Fishing	Static	Yes	Widespread throughout the area
Box Dredge	Mobile	No	NA
Cockle Dredge	Mobile	No	NA
Hydraulic Dredge	Mobile	No	NA
Scallop Dredge	Mobile	Yes	Large area adjacent to the shellfish area
Oyster Dredge	Mobile	No	NA
Otter Trawl	Mobile	No	NA
Beam Trawl	Mobile	No	NA
Digging	NA	No	NA
Gathering	NA	No	NA
Rake	NA	No	NA

Table 5 provides a summary of the fishing gear activity occurring within 5 kilometres of the designated shellfish area. Map 15 illustrates these pressures. Boat movements are dealt with below in association with marine structures such as ports and piers.

Static fishing gear types generally would not be expected to impact on shellfish water quality. Mobile fishing gears however disturb the seabed and can therefore affect the levels of suspended sediments in marine waters with the severity of the impacts depending on the frequency, intensity and extent of the fishing activity.

Static fishing gear activity in the area includes widespread line fishing (lines set on the seabed with bated hooks at intervals); widespread use of pots (bated traps set on the seabed targeting crustaceans) and the use of draft nets within and adjacent to the shellfish area (curtain of net hanging from the surface and hauled to shore targeting salmon in estuaries).

Mobile fishing gear activity includes the use of scallop dredges (metals blades which dig into the seabed targeting shellfish) in a large area to the west of the shellfish area. Monitoring in the areas does not indicates any water quality issues which are likely to arise from the use of fishing gears and, even though the WFD assessment deems the area to be 'at risk' from marine morphological pressures, the WFD morphological status of the water body within which the activity is taking place is 'good'. Therefore, fishing activity is unlikely to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Structures and associated activities

TABLE 6 - Marine morphology structures

Marine morphology structures	Direct	0-5km	Comment
Ports	0	0	NA
Flow and sediment manipulation	0	3	Piers
Piled structures	0	2	NA
Causeways	0	1	NA

Table 6 provides a summary of the marine morphology structures located within 5 kilometres of the designated shellfish area. Map 16 illustrates these pressures. Flow and sediment manipulation structures include piers, breakwaters, groynes, flow deflectors and training walls. Piled structures include bridge and pier supports and wind turbines. Causeways include roads and railway lines. These structures affect flow and sediment movement and can therefore impact on levels of suspended sediments, though these impacts can settle down once the structures are well established in an area. The activities associated with marine structures, including shipping and boating, can affect a wide range of water quality parameters including general physico-chemical parameters such as suspended sediment, dissolved oxygen and nutrient levels. Faecal coliform levels can also be affected as well as the levels of harmful substances such as metals and pesticides. Boat movements can lead to erosion and sedimentation effects as well as pollution from fuels.

There are 3 pier structures, 2 piled structures and 1 causeway within 5 kilometres of the shellfish area. Monitoring in the area does not indicate any water quality issues likely to arise from these structures or their associated activities (such as fishing and boating) and, even though the WFD assessment deems the area to be 'at risk' from marine morphological pressures, the WFD morphological status of the water body within which the activity is taking place is 'good'. Therefore, the structures themselves and their associated activities are unlikely to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Physical modifications

TABLE 7 - Physical modifications

Physical modifications	Direct	0-5 km	Comment
Shoreline reinforcement	0	59	Sea walls, revetments
Embankments	0	3	NA
Reclaimed land	0	1	Cork Harbour
Capital dredging	0	0	NA
Maintenance dredging	0	1	Shipping Channels
Aggregate removal	0	0	NA
Dumping at sea	0	0	NA

Table 7 provides a summary of the physical modifications occurring within 5 kilometres of the designated shellfish area. Map 17 illustrates these pressures.

There are no physical modifications in the direct vicinity of this shellfish area but there are 59 instances of shoreline reinforcement, 3 embankments, 1 area of reclaimed land and 1 area where maintenance dredging occurs within 5 kilometres of the shellfish area. Monitoring in the area does not indicate any water quality issues which are likely to arise from these modifications and, even though the WFD assessment deems the area to be 'at risk' from marine morphological pressures, the WFD morphological status of the water body within which the activity is taking place is 'good'. Therefore, it is unlikely that these modifications are affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

TABLE 8 - Heavily modified waters

HMWB name	Distance	Comment
Cork Harbour	direct	

Table 8 lists the heavily modified marine waters located within 5 kilometres of the designated shellfish area. Map 17 illustrates these pressures. Such modifications can affect flow and sediment movements but the effects can cease once the modifications are established.

This shellfish area is located within the 'Cork Harbour' heavily modified water body. Monitoring in the area does not indicate any water quality issues which are likely to arise from this modification and, even though the WFD assessment deems the area to be 'at risk' from marine morphological pressures, the WFD morphological status of the water body within which the modification is located is 'good'. Therefore, it is unlikely that this modification is affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

5.2 Land-based Pressures

The contributing catchment is used to identify the land-based pressures that could potentially be impacting on shellfish water quality and therefore the size of the contributing catchment can be important in determining the magnitude of the pressures. Contributing catchment sizes vary considerably; however, pressures are only considered up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the shellfish area and are, where appropriate, divided into four zones: direct, 0 to 5 kilometres, 5 to 10 kilometres and 10 to 20 kilometres. Pressures within the catchment, but further than 20 kilometres from the shellfish area, are also included if they are considered significant. In addition significant land-based pressures acting in adjacent waterbodies which may have an impact due to tidal influences are also considered where relevant.

Land-based pressure types include point source pressures, diffuse source pressures and morphology pressures. The shellfish water quality parameters potentially impacted by these pressures are as follows:

- Point source pressures can affect the whole suite of shellfish water quality parameters. For example, waste water treatment plants, CSOs and agricultural point sources can impact on the levels of faecal coliforms, nutrients, bacteria and other harmful substances in receiving waters while IPPC licensed industries, mines, quarries and landfills can impact on the levels of polluting substances in receiving waters such as petroleum hydrocarbons, organohalogenated substances and metals. Abstractions are included under this heading and can impact on salinity levels, though not to an extent likely to lead to non-compliances with shellfish water salinity standards, as well as reducing the dilution available for polluting discharges.

- Diffuse source pressures affect many of the shellfish water quality parameters. Agricultural activity and on-site waste water treatment systems (OSWTS) can impact on faecal coliform levels as well as general physico-chemical parameters such as the levels of suspended sediments and dissolved oxygen. Forestry activity can impact on the pH of receiving waters as well as on the levels of suspended solids and nutrients and it is also associated with the use of pesticides which can contain organohalogenated substances.

- Land-based morphology pressures, and associated activities, are not generally associated with impacts on water quality in marine areas. Their impacts are usually associated with the loss of natural freshwater features and habitats and changes to the behaviour of freshwater systems including sediment movement. Channelisation activities however, if occurring close to shellfish areas, can impact on shellfish water quality, particularly the levels of suspended sediment.

The following tables summarise the nature and extent of land based pressures within the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. The likelihood for these pressures to impact on shellfish water quality parameters is discussed. All of the factors discussed at the beginning of this chapter can affect the likelihood for land-based pressures to impact on shellfish waters.

5.2.1 Point Source Pressures

Urban Wastewater Systems

Table 9 lists the urban waste water treatment plants in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the shellfish area. Map 18 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. The information in the table was compiled by the WFD Municipal and Industrial Regulation Study in 2008 and includes:

- the distance of the plants from the shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water body within which the plants are located
- the level of treatment available at the plants
- whether the plants are included in the current Water Services Investment Programme 07-09
- the design capacity (in terms of population equivalents (P.E.)) of the plants
- the percentage at which the plants are operating above or below their design capacity currently
- the percentage at which the plants are likely to be operating above or below their design capacity in 2015 based on population projections
- the WFD risk designations associated with the plants and the reasons behind the risk designations

The WFD risk assessment in relation to urban waste water treatment plants was updated in 2008 to feed into the draft RBMPs with a further update currently underway (due for completion by November 2009). The plants were designated as 'at risk' for a variety of reasons including:

- A Insufficient WWTP capacity – existing load
- B Insufficient WWTP capacity – future load
- C Insufficient assimilative capacity for BOD – existing load
- D Insufficient assimilative capacity for BOD – future load
- E Insufficient assimilative capacity for nutrients – existing load
- F Insufficient assimilative capacity for nutrients – future load
- G Historical deterioration in downstream Q value where the Q station is within 3 kilometres of the outfall
- H Downstream Q value is less than 4 where the Q station is within 3 kilometres of the outfall
- I Deterioration in upstream to downstream Q value were the distance between Q stations is less then 3 kilometres
- J Exceedance of bathing water quality within 1 kilometre of the outfall
- K Exceedance of shellfish water quality within 1 kilometre of the outfall
- L Expert opinion

Waste water discharges from waste water treatment plants can contain a wide range of potentially polluting components originating from households, industry and urban areas. These discharges can affect the levels of faecal coliforms, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, suspended sediment, organic wastes and harmful chemicals in receiving waters.

The 2008 risk assessment identified 8 urban waste water treatment plant within the catchment and 2 of them are 'at risk' due to insufficient plant capacity for current and projected future loads. The WFD risk assessment was reviewed by experts in September 2009 with regard to Water Services Investment Programme and waste water licensing actions. The most significant plants were identified on the basis of proximity, plant performance, population equivalent and level of treatment. Whitegate/Upper Aghada and Saleen were identified as the key plants in this catchment.

Midleton is the largest plant in the catchment with a design capacity of 10,000 P.E. This plant is currently working at 30% above its design capacity. It incorporates secondart treatment with UV disinfection and it is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme. Remediation work on the collection system is ongoing to address infiltration leading to excessive overflow discharge. Further expansion of the plant to 15,000 P.E. is being procured (at tender stage). A licence application made by Cork County Council, in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge Authorisation Regulations 2007, is currently under assessment by the EPA. Any licences that might issue will take account of the requirements of the Shellfish Regulations.

The plant at Cloyne has a design capacity of 1,400 P.E. This plant is currently operating within its design capacity. Discharges from this plant undergo secondary treatment but the plant is not included in the current Water Services Investment Programme. A licence application was made by Cork County Council in February 2009 (registration number DC0298-01) pursuant to the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007.

The primary treatment plant at Saleen has a design capacity of 440 P.E. and is working within its design capacity. It is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme. An application for a certificate of authorisation will be made by Cork County Council by December 2009 pursuant to the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007.

The agglomeration of Whitegate/Aghada has a discharge of 1,500 P.E. An application for a certificate of authorisation will be made by Cork County Council by December 2009 pursuant to the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007. Applications for certificates of authorisation in relation to the other plants in the catchment will also be made by Cork County Council by December 2009 pursuant to the requirements of the Regulations.

In addition, the agglomerations of Passage West, Cobh (including North Cobh), Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Crosshaven and Carrigaline are considered as key pressures due to their potential tidal influence via adjacent waterbodies. These pressures also influence the Rostellan South and West and Cork Great Island North Channel shellfish areas and are addressed in the respective PRPs for these areas. A scheme is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme to provide collection systems and a combined waste water treatment plant for these agglomerations (Cork Lower Harbour Sewerage Scheme).

TABLE 9 – Urban waste water treatment plants

Name	Map Ref	Dist	Status	Treatment level	WSIP 07-09	Capacity PE	% surplus existing	% surplus future	At Risk
Ballincurrig	73	10-20	Good	Primary	No	125	20 %	20 %	No
Cloyne	118	0-5	nd	Secondary	No	1,400	14 %	-	No
Dungourney	137	10-20	Poor	Primary	No	100	nd	nd	No
Lisgould	177	5-10	Moderate	Secondary	No	500	840 %	-	No
Lower Aghada	179	0-5	nd	nd	No	nd	nd	nd	No
Midleton	183	0-5	Moderate	Secondary – UV disinfection	Yes	10,000	-30 %	-	Yes – A
Whitegate/Aghada	-	-	nd	No treatment	No	1,500	-18 %	-	Yes – A/B
Saleen	202	0-5	nd	Primary	Yes	440	30 %	30 %	No

NOTE: A minus figure in the percentage surplus columns means that the plant is working above its design capacity, nd denotes ‘no data’

Table 10 lists the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. Map 18 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. Information provided in the table in relation to the CSOs includes:

- the distance of the CSOs from the shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water body within which the CSOs are located

TABLE 10 – Combined Sewer Overflows

CSO Name	Map Ref	Distance	Status
Midleton	530	0-5	Moderate
Midleton	531	0-5	Moderate
Midleton	532	0-5	Moderate
Cloyne	653	0-5	nd

NOTE: nd denotes 'no data' where CSOs are located in areas with no WFD status information

Discharges from CSOs can contain a wide range of potentially polluting components originating from households, industry and urban areas. These discharges, which receive no treatment, can affect the levels of faecal coliforms, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, suspended sediment, organic wastes and harmful chemicals in receiving waters.

The inventory of CSOs compiled during the WFD characterisation process shows that there are 4 known significant CSOs within the catchment and all of them are located within 5 kilometres of the shellfish area. As these are a possible source of the faecal contamination indicated by shellfish monitoring and the elevated nutrient levels indicated by WFD monitoring, CSOs could possibly be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Agricultural IPPCs and land-based finfish farms

TABLE 11 – Agricultural IPPCs and land-based finfish farms

License No.	Map Ref	Distance	Status	Nature	Note
P0316-01	6	0-5	nd		1,100 sows, 17km spreading radius

NOTE: nd denotes 'no data' where operations are located in areas with no WFD status information

Table 11 lists the agricultural IPPCs and finfish farms in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. Map 19 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. Information provided in the table in relation to the agricultural IPPCs and land-based finfish farms includes:

- the distance of the units from the designated shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water bodies within which the units are located.
- Any available additional information e.g. the spreading radius for spreading of slurry

Slurry from pig farms is usually landspread and can affect levels of faecal coliforms, nutrients, dissolved oxygen and organic wastes if it is lost to waters. Land-based finfish farms can be associated with elevated nutrient levels due to fish excretion and excess feed input.

There is 1 pig farm within the catchment and it is situated within 5 kilometres of the shellfish area. Having regard to the scale of the facility it is considered unlikely that it is affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Abstractions

TABLE 12 – Abstractions

Name	Map Ref	Type	Distance	Status	Abs Rate m^3 day^{-1}	At Risk (Ratio)
Ballyroberts	97	Groundwater	10-20	Good	3	No
Clash Leamlara	105	Groundwater	5-10	Good	10	No
Walshstown Beg	164	Groundwater	10-20	Good	10	No
Ballincurrig	178	Groundwater	5-10	Moderate	50	No
Bilberry	1393	Groundwater	5-10	Poor	5	No
Clonmult	1423	Groundwater	10-20	Poor	65	No
Cloyne	1424	Groundwater	0-5	Moderate	350	No
Dawn Meats	1438	Groundwater	0-5	Moderate	421	No
Lisgoold	1477	Groundwater	10-20	Good	40	No
Lisgoold	1478	Groundwater	10-20	Good	0	No
Maltings	1481	Groundwater	0-5	nd	0.95	No
Borehole	1508	Groundwater	0-5	nd	73	No
Walterstown	1509	Groundwater	0-5	nd	100	No
Leamlara	1833	Groundwater	5-10	Good	3	No
Owenacurra	2195	River	5-10	Moderate	0	No
Owenacurra	2421	River	5-10	Moderate	2,500	No
John A. Wood	2474	Groundwater	0-5	nd	24.545	No
Ballincurrig	2519	Groundwater	10-20	Good	50	No
Corbally 1	2520	Groundwater	5-10	Moderate	0	No
Corbally 2	2521	Groundwater	5-10	Moderate	0	No
Lisgoold	2522	Groundwater	5-10	Moderate	50	No

NOTE: nd denotes 'no data' where abstractions are located in areas with no WFD status information

Table 12 lists the abstractions in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. Map 20 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. Information provided in the table in relation to abstractions includes:

- the type of abstraction (river, lake or groundwater)
- the distance of the abstraction from the designated shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water body within which the abstraction is located
- the abstraction rate, expressed in cubic metres per day
- the WFD risk designations associated with the abstractions and the reasons behind the designations

The WFD risk assessment in relation to abstractions was updated in 2008 to feed into the draft RBMPs. Abstractions are deemed to be 'at risk' if they account for a significant proportion (>10%) of the resource. For river abstractions, the net

abstraction is expressed as a proportion of the Q95 flow (i.e. the flow that is exceeded 95% of the time). For lake abstractions, the net abstraction is expressed as a proportion of the Q50 inflow to the lake (i.e. the long term median inflow). For groundwater abstractions, the net abstraction is expressed as a proportion of recharge volume (i.e. long term average recharge across the groundwater bodies).

Generally it is very unlikely that abstractions would lead to non-compliances with the shellfish standards for salinity in shellfish areas. Abstractions that represent a large proportion of their corresponding resources can decrease available dilution capacity but this is also unlikely to affect shellfish areas.

There are 21 abstractions in the catchment. All but 2 are groundwater abstractions and none of them are 'at risk'. As these abstractions don't represent a significant proportion of their corresponding resources, they are unlikely to affect any aspect of shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Water Treatment Plants

TABLE 13 - Water treatment plants

Name	Map Ref	Distance	Status	Risk	Risk
Midleton	198	5-10	Moderate	Yes	expert judgement

Table 13 lists the water treatment plants in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. Map 20 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. Information provided in the table in relation to the water treatment plants includes:

- the distance of the plants from the designated shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water bodies within which the plants are located
- the WFD risk designations associated with the plants and the reasoning behind the designations

The WFD risk assessment for water treatment plants dates back to the Article V characterisation process which was undertaken in 2004 and 2005. At that time expert opinion within the Local Authorities was used to indicate whether plants were 'at risk' of impacting on their surrounding water environment.

Discharges from Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) can affect the levels of suspended solids, algae and pathogens in receiving waters. Aluminium can also be present from the treatment process.

There is 1 water treatment plant in the catchment and it has been designated as 'at risk' of impacting its surrounding water environment. This plant is an unlikely source of the water quality issues indicated by shellfish and WFD monitoring and therefore it is unlikely to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Industries

TABLE 14 - Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Licenses

Name	Map Ref	Distance	Status	Risk

Name	Map Ref	Distance	Status	Risk
Dawn Meats (Midleton) Ltd	37	0-5	nd	No
Dynea Ireland Ltd	39	0-5	nd	No

NOTE: nd denotes 'no data' where industries are located in areas with no WFD status information

Table 14 lists the IPPC licensed industries in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. Map 20 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. Information provided in the table in relation to the licensed industries includes:

- the distance of the industries from the designated shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water bodies within which the industries are located
- the WFD risk designations associated with the industries and the reasoning behind the designations

The WFD risk assessment in relation to IPPC licensed industries was updated in 2008 to feed into the draft RBMPs. The industries were designated as 'at risk' for a variety of reasons which are outlined on page 58.

Discharges from IPPC licensed industries are diverse and can affect the levels of faecal coliforms, nutrients, suspended sediments, dissolved oxygen as well as a wide range of chemicals in receiving waters.

There are 2 IPPC licensed industries within the catchment and neither of them has been designated as 'at risk'. They are therefore unlikely to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Section 4 Licensed Industries

TABLE 15 - Section 4 Licenses

Name	Map Ref	Distance	Status	Risk
Dave O'Brien & John Wiggans	80	5-10 km	Moderate	No
Fitzgerald Bros Ltd	94	0-5 km	nd	No
Irish Asphalt Ltd	106	direct	nd	No
M/S J.H. Bennett & Co. Ltd	121	0-5 km	nd	No

NOTE: nd denotes 'no data' where industries are located in areas with no WFD status information

Table 15 lists the Section 4 licensed industries in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. Map 20 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. Information provided in the table in relation to the industries includes:

- the distance of the industries from the designated shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water bodies within which the industries are located
- the WFD risk designations associated with the industries and the reasoning behind the designations

The WFD risk assessment in relation to Section 4 licensed industries was updated in 2008 to feed into the draft RBMPs. The industries were designated as 'at risk' for a variety of reasons which are outlined on page 58.

Discharges from Section 4 licensed industries are diverse and can affect the levels of faecal coliforms, nutrients, suspended sediments, dissolved oxygen as well as a wide range of chemicals in receiving waters.

There are 4 Section 4 licensed industries in the catchment but none of them have been deemed to be 'at risk'. They are therefore unlikely to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Quarries, mines, landfills and contaminated lands

TABLE 16 - Quarries, mines, landfills and contaminated lands

Name	Map Ref	Distance	Status	Risk	Notes
Michael Broderick	337	5-10	Good	No	Quarry
Whelans Quarries	339	5-10	Good	No	Quarry
John A. Wood Ltd	340	0-5	nd	No	Quarry
Milsbush Quarry	341	0-5	nd	No	Quarry
Cappagh Sand & Gravel Ltd	342	0-5	nd	No	Quarry
Coppingerstown Quarry	343	0-5	nd	No	Quarry
Scariff Plant Hire Ltd	344	0-5	nd	No	Quarry
Moymur Quarries	346	10-20	Poor	No	Quarry
East Cork Landfill	253	direct	nd	Yes	Lined
Midleton Distilleries	4	5-10	Poor	No	Contaminated site

NOTE: nd denotes 'no data' where operations are located in areas with no WFD status information

Table 16 lists the quarries, mines, landfills and contaminated lands in the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area. Map 20 illustrates these pressures and map references link the map and table. Information provided in the table in relation to the plants includes:

- the distance of the industries from the designated shellfish area
- the WFD status of the water bodies within which the plants are located
- the WFD risk designations associated with the industries

Some of the WFD risk assessments in relation to these point sources were updated in 2008 to feed into the draft RBMPs but some of the assessments date back to the WFD characterisation process in 2004 and 2005. Expert opinion within Local Authorities was used to assign risk designations to quarries and landfills but monitoring data was used for mines and contaminated lands.

Mining and quarrying operations can impact on levels of suspended solids and metals in receiving waters whilst landfills and contaminated sites can be more diverse and impact on the levels of nutrients, suspended sediments and oxygen levels as well as metals and other chemicals.

There are 8 quarries, 1 landfill and 1 contaminated site within the catchment. The landfill alone has been designated as 'at risk' of impacting its surrounding water environment and is located directly adjacent to the shellfish area. However, monitoring in this shellfish area does not indicate any water quality issues which are

likely to be associated with this landfill and therefore it is unlikely to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

5.2.2 Diffuse Source Pressures

On-site waste water treatment systems

TABLE 17 - On-site waste water treatment systems

Risk	Number	% of total
Total number	3,913	-
Number per km^2 in the catchment	15.58	-
Number per km^2 nationally	1.4	-
Number that are high risk to surface waters from pathogens	3,138	80.19%
Number that are high risk to groundwaters from pathogens	2,848	72.78%
Number that are high risk to surface waters from phosphorus	2,269	57.98%
Number that are high risk to groundwaters from phosphorus	2,255	57.62%
High likelihood of inadequate percolation of leachate	1,928	49.27%

Table 17 summarises the numbers of on-site waste water treatment systems (OSWWTS) within the catchment up to a distance of 20 kilometres from the designated shellfish area and outlines how many of them are located in areas of high risk to surface and groundwaters from pathogens and phosphorus and how many of them are located in areas where the likelihood of inadequate percolation of leachate is high. Map 21 illustrates the locations of the OSWWTSs while Maps 6 to 10 illustrate the risk to surface and groundwaters and the likelihood of inadequate percolation, all of which is based on soil, sub-soil and geological characteristics. Generally, systems located in areas where effluent cannot get away underground pose a risk to surface waters while systems located in areas where the effluent moves too quickly through the subsoil pose a risk to groundwaters. OSWWTS effluent can impact on the levels of faecal coliforms, suspended sediments, nutrients and dissolved oxygen in receiving waters. In addition, the use of household cleaning products can introduce a range of harmful chemicals to the water environment.

There are 3,913 systems in the catchment (including settlements at Lower Aghada and Rostellan) and their density is much higher than the national average. The risk to surface waters and groundwaters from pathogens and phosphorus is high throughout the catchment. Many of these systems are therefore located in hydrologically unsuitable conditions. Many are located in coastal regions, in the vicinity of the shellfish area. Other factors which affect the likelihood of these systems to impact surface and groundwaters are whether suitable types of systems are selected, whether they are installed correctly, whether they are properly maintained and whether they are situated close to the designated shellfish area or to ditches, drains, watercourses, wells or boreholes. It is therefore likely that a substantially smaller number than the total number of systems in the catchment are posing a risk to surface and groundwaters. Shellfish monitoring indicates faecal contamination in this shellfish area which could be arising from this source. These systems therefore could possibly be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Agriculture

TABLE 18 - Livestock units and chemical fertiliser usage

Indicator	Catchment (per ha of farmed land)	National Average (per ha of farmed land)
Livestock units	1.26 LU	1.20 LU

Indicator	Catchment (per ha of farmed land)	National Average (per ha of farmed land)
Nitrogen fertiliser usage	137.89 kg	92.09 kg
Phosphorus fertiliser usage	13.96 kg	9.74

Nitrates Directive limit = 170 kg N per hectare = approx. 2 LU per hectare
Nitrates Directive derogation = 250 kg N per hectare = approx. 3 LU per hectare.

Table 18 provides an estimate of the average number of dairy and drystock livestock units and the average loadings of nitrogen and phosphorus chemical fertiliser per hectare of farmed land within the contributing catchment area. Maps 22, 23 and 24 illustrate this. The figures beneath the table express the nitrate limit (and Ireland's derogation) under the Nitrates Directive in terms of livestock densities. Discharges related to agriculture can affect the levels of faecal coliforms, suspended sediments, nutrients and dissolved oxygen in receiving waters. In addition, the use of pesticides and herbicides can introduce a range of harmful chemicals to the water environment.

Approximately 75% of the area of this catchment is farmed land and the estimate of livestock density is equal to the national averages whereas the estimates of fertiliser usage are higher than the national averages. The EPA's diffuse model risk assessment, which investigates the relationship between catchment attributes (percentages of diffuse land cover including agriculture), water chemistry and ecological status, identifies several diffuse risk areas in the catchment (Map 13). However, the soils in the catchment are predominantly dry (Map 5) and the low lying nature of the catchment (Map 4) means that the risk of runoff from agricultural land is low. Agriculture is a possible source of the faecal contamination indicated by shellfish monitoring and, therefore, agriculture could possibly be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

Forestry

TABLE 19 - Forestry types

Type	Area	Percentage of area
Conifers	16.9 km^2	6.7 %
Broadleaves	4.72 km^2	1.9 %
Mixed	2.14 km^2	0.85 %
Other	0 km^2	0 %
Cleared	1.99 km^2	0.8 %
Unknown	1.11 km^2	0.4 %
Total	26.9 km^2	10.7 %
Nationally	6,795 km^2	10.0 %

Table 19 presents the area and percentage area of the catchment under the various types of forest cover. Maps 25, 26 and 27 illustrate this. Forestry activity can impact on the pH of receiving waters as well as on the levels of suspended solids and nutrients. It is also associated with the use of pesticides which can introduce harmful chemicals to the water environment.

There is over 26.9 km^2 of forested land in this catchment and the area under forest cover is slightly higher than the national average. Unlike agriculture, the location of forestry activity is known and forestry activity occurs in close proximity to the

shellfish area, including areas of coniferous forest. The EPA's diffuse model risk assessment, which investigates the relationship between catchment attributes (percentages of diffuse land cover including forestry), water chemistry and ecological status, identifies several diffuse risk areas in the catchment (Map 13) but the more recent risk assessment, undertaken by the WFD Forest and Water study, does not highlight any risk areas in the catchment. Forestry is therefore unlikely to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

5.2.3 Morphology Pressures

There are no freshwater morphology pressures in the catchment.

5.3 Summary of Key Pressures

Information from existing data sources has been used to identify all of the pressures acting on the shellfish area and to assess their likelihood to be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

The status at this site is impacted by faecal coliforms which are indicative of sewage related key pressures. Dissolved inorganic nitrogen and mercury status issues are also identified in the general area by WFD monitoring. However, the shellfish samples available for this shellfish area are compliant with shellfish standards for these substances.

This summary section highlights:

- **key pressures**

The key pressures are those identified as most likely to be affecting shellfish water quality. The final PRP will confirm and focus on these key pressures.

- **potential secondary pressures**

These pressures are identified as possibly affecting shellfish water quality. The final PRP will either confirm them as key pressures or eliminate them from further consideration.

5.3.1 Key Pressures

1. Urban wastewater systems

The 2008 risk assessment identified 8 urban waste water treatment plant within the catchment and 2 of them are 'at risk' due to insufficient plant capacity for current and projected future loads. The WFD risk assessment was reviewed by experts in September 2009 with regard to Water Services Investment Programme and waste water licensing actions. The most significant plants were identified on the basis of proximity, plant performance, population equivalent and level of treatment. Whitegate/Upper Aghada and Saleen were identified as the key plants in this catchment.

Midleton is the largest plant in the catchment with a design capacity of 10,000 P.E. This plant is currently working at 30% above its design capacity. It incorporates secondart treatment with UV disinfection and it is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme. Remediation work on the collection system is ongoing to address infiltration leading to excessive overflow discharge. Further expansion of the plant to 15,000 P.E. is being procured (at tender stage). A licence application made by Cork County Council, in accordance with the Waste Water Discharge Authorisation Regulations 2007, is currently under assessment by the EPA. Any licences that might issue will take account of the requirements of the Shellfish Regulations.

The plant at Cloyne has a design capacity of 1,400 P.E. This plant is currently operating within its design capacity. Discharges from this plant undergo secondary treatment but the plant is not included in the current Water Services Investment Programme. A licence application was made by Cork County Council in February 2009 (registration number DC0298-01) pursuant to the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007.

The primary treatment plant at Saleen has a design capacity of 440 P.E. and is working within its design capacity. It is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme. An application for a certificate of authorisation will be made by Cork County Council by December 2009 pursuant to the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007.

The agglomeration of Whitegate/Aghada has a discharge of 1,500 P.E. An application for a certificate of authorisation will be made by Cork County Council by December 2009 pursuant to the requirements of the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, 2007. Applications for certificates of authorisation in relation to the other plants in the catchment will also be made by Cork County Council by December 2009 pursuant to the requirements of the Regulations.

In addition, the agglomerations of Passage West, Cobh (including North Cobh), Monkstown, Ringaskiddy, Crosshaven and Carrigaline are considered as key pressures due to their potential tidal influence via adjacent waterbodies. These pressures also influence the Rostellan South and West and Cork Great Island North Channel shellfish areas and are addressed in the respective PRPs for these areas. A scheme is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme to provide collection systems and a combined waste water treatment plant for these agglomerations (Cork Lower Harbour Sewerage Scheme).

The inventory of CSOs compiled during the WFD characterisation process shows that there are 4 known significant CSOs within the catchment and all of them are located within 5 kilometres of the shellfish area. As these are a possible source of the faecal contamination indicated by shellfish monitoring and the elevated nutrient levels indicated by WFD monitoring, CSOs could possibly be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

2. On-site waste water treatment plants

There are 3,913 systems in the catchment (including settlements at Lower Aghada and Rostellan) and their density is much higher than the national average. The risk to surface waters and groundwaters from pathogens and phosphorus is high throughout the catchment. Many of these systems are therefore located in hydrologically unsuitable conditions. Many are located in coastal regions, in the vicinity of the shellfish area. Other factors which affect the likelihood of these systems to impact surface and groundwaters are whether suitable types of systems are selected, whether they are installed correctly, whether they are properly maintained and whether they are situated close to the designated shellfish area or to ditches, drains, watercourses, wells or boreholes. It is therefore likely that a substantially smaller number than the total number of systems in the catchment are posing a risk to surface and groundwaters. Shellfish monitoring indicates faecal contamination in this shellfish

area which could be arising from this source. These systems therefore could possibly be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.

5.3.2 Potential Secondary Pressures

3. Agriculture

Approximately 75% of the area of this catchment is farmed land and the estimate of livestock density is equal to the national averages whereas the estimates of fertiliser usage are higher than the national averages. The EPA's diffuse model risk assessment, which is based on percentages of diffuse land cover including agriculture, identifies several diffuse risk areas in the catchment (Map 13). However, the soils in the catchment are predominantly dry (Map 5) and the low lying nature of the catchment (Map 4) means that the risk of runoff from agricultural land is low. Agriculture is a possible source of the faecal contamination indicated by shellfish monitoring and, therefore, agriculture could possibly be affecting shellfish water quality in this shellfish area.