

# MACRO MONITORING RESULTS

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## OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYING AND MONITORING FOR THE WILD ATLANTIC WAY OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

**for:**

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# 1 Introduction

This document details the results of the Macro Monitoring Study carried out as part of the Environmental Surveying and Monitoring for the Wild Atlantic Way (WAW) Operational Programme for 2019. It has been undertaken by CAAS Ltd. on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.

The Strategy for Environmental Surveying and Monitoring was carried out as part of Fáilte Ireland's commitments in the WAW Operational Programme 2015 -2019. A copy of the Operational Programme and associated documents are available on the Fáilte Ireland website.

The purpose of the monitoring strategy is to ensure that the effects of the implementation of the WAW Operational Programme are understood and acted upon. This will contribute to avoiding delays in identifying existing or emerging activities that could threaten the environment.

The Strategy for Environmental Surveying and Monitoring for the WAW is intended to describe the existing conditions of sites with a view to:

- Contributing to Visitor Management Strategies;
- Contributing to future editions of Fáilte Ireland's WAW Guidelines;
- Identifying remedial action/works required;
- Assessing the capacity for future loadings; and
- Integrating site management with future European Site Management Plans.

There are three strands of Monitoring including:

- Strand 1: Macro-Monitoring (Concentrates on long-established, high quality, official baselines);
- Strand 2: Visitor Observation (Surveying activities of visitors at designated points along the WAW); and
- Strand 3: Ecological Monitoring (Surveying ecological effects of visitor activities at designated points along the WAW).

This report forms Strand 1 of the monitoring reports. Details of the methodology and results obtained are contained in the following sections. The results of the Macro Monitoring are collated and presented to a Monitoring Group each year along with results of all other WAW monitoring activities.

## 2 Background

Strand One of the monitoring strategy concentrates on long-established, high quality and high-level official baselines. These measures *inter alia* the seasonal variances in environmental loading caused by visitors - such as water quality, road traffic, Blue Flag Beach conditions and Green Coast Awards. There are 7 monitoring sites and 4 control sites selected for the purpose of the macro monitoring.; the 7 sites are:

- Dungloe;
- Bundoran;
- Newport;
- Galway Bay;
- Kilrush;
- Bantry; and
- Cahersiveen.

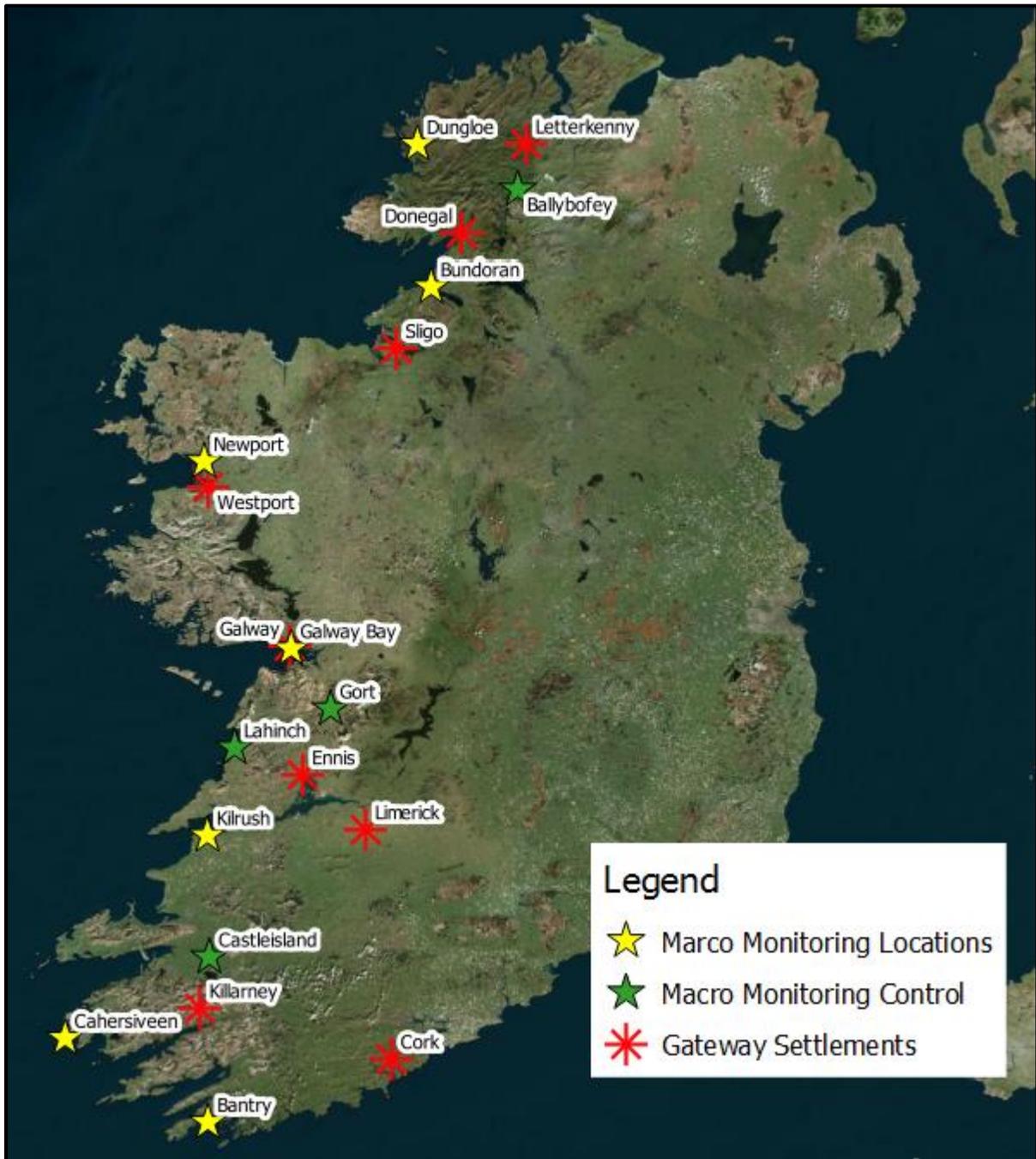
The 4 control points are:

- Ballybofey;
- Gort;
- Castleisland; and
- Lahinch.

A number of gateway locations exist along the WAW, namely Cork, Killarney, Limerick, Kilrush, Ennis, Galway, Westport, Sligo, Donegal and Letterkenny. These gateway locations capture the infiltration of visitors. They also supply the high-level 'input' data for the monitoring before they become dissipated among many smaller destinations and intra-urban settlements.

The sites were selected on the basis that they are primary settlements along the Wild Atlantic Way route which are representative of a range of typical tourism-based settlements and where data is readily available

The purpose of macro monitoring is to identify the state of the environment at these intra-urban settlements such as Bundoran in Co. Donegal, which often accommodate and entertain the bulk of overnight visitors.



**Figure 2.1 Locations of Macro Monitoring sites, the control sites and the gateways settlements**

## 2.1 Methodology for Macro - Monitoring

The initial macro monitoring focuses on the seven aforementioned sites (intra-urban settlements). This monitoring can be expanded to prioritise other areas in order of sensitivity and significance as directed by the monitoring group, sites will be updated and informed by results.

The 4 control sites can also be expanded in order of sensitivity and significance as directed by the monitoring group.

The technical indicators chosen are outlined in Table 2.1 below. Each indicator was chosen based on meeting a specific criterion whereby datasets presently exist for infrastructure. The information collected from the existing datasets will be combined annually to identify trends and changes in the technical indicators identified for each of the 11 monitoring points. The results will be presented to identify which trends and changes to technical indicators are directly attributed to tourism.

1. Traffic Volume;
2. Water Quality;
3. Blue Flag Beaches and Marinas;
4. National Green Coast Award; and
5. Fáilte Ireland visitor numbers.

Other intervening factors such as a technical failure at a wastewater treatment plant which are not attributed to tourism will also be highlighted.

If the results show that visitor activity and/or visitor intensification is predicted or identified to result in a negative way on the environment in particular locations, the recommendations will be made depending on the outcome and as directed by the monitoring group.

**Table 2.1 Macro Monitoring Indicators and data sources**

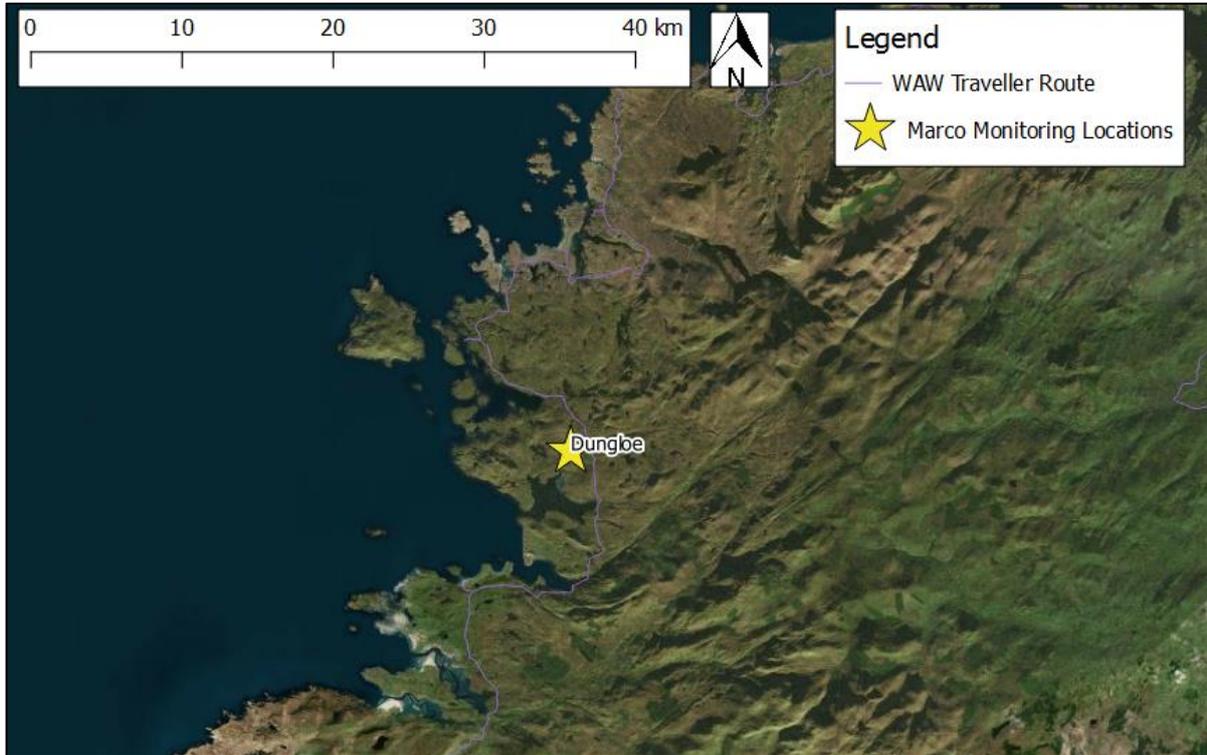
Factor	Technical Indicator	Monitoring	Authority/Source	Frequency
<b>Water Quality</b>	Non-conformities with relevant legislative requirements in Waste Water Treatment data available from licensed facilities (Waste Water Treatment Plants and Agglomerations)	Non-conformances relating to minimum water quality standards and the licenced Population Equivalent (P.E) loading for the WWTP will be examined. Where a non-conformance is identified, the EPA collects and details information on the reason for failure. Persistent effects that is attributable to tourism i.e. overloading of treatment capacity resulting in failure to meet minimum requirements in summer months as a result of high visitor numbers. Non-conformances related to a relevant intervening factor, such as mechanical/technical issues, will be noted.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Annual
	Conformance with legislative requirements at the closest bathing water monitoring site	Non-conformances relating to minimum bathing water quality standards and legislative Coastal Water Quality status will be assessed		
<b>Traffic Volume</b>	Upward/downward trend in traffic volumes during tourist season and shoulder seasons	Assessment of National Roads Authority traffic counters adjacent to chosen sites and along the WAW route where year-round statistics are collected.	National Roads Authority (NRA)	Annual
		Assessment of Local Authority data from intermittent monitoring of regional and local road traffic (where available). Regional and local roads comprise of 75% of the WAW Route.	Local Authorities	
<b>Blue Flag Beaches and Marinas</b>	Upward/downward trend in award/status	Assessment of the number of annual Blue Flag Beach status being retracted/awarded at the closest bathing water.	An Taisce	Annual
<b>National Green Coast Award</b>		Assessment of the number of National Green Coast Awards being retracted/awarded at the closest bathing water.		
<b>EPA Ireland's Environment - An Assessment (2016)</b>	Changes in environmental status along the WAW	The status of this indicator be informed and updated by emerging findings and information sources from this report.	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Every 4 Years
<b>The status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland</b>	Changes in the status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland	The status of this indicator be informed and updated by emerging findings and information sources from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other stakeholders on the status of EU Protected Habitats and Species.	National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)	Occasional
			Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG)	
			Department of Agriculture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG)	
<b>Visitor Numbers</b>	Changes in Fáilte Ireland data on visitor numbers	Upward/downward trends in visitor numbers during the tourist season and shoulder season.	Fáilte Ireland	Annual
<b>Tourism related planning refusals</b>	Refusals of unsuitable tourism related projects by County	Applications to An Bord Pleanála will provide an official high-level indicator as to where pressure points are occurring in Counties along the WAW without the need to capture all planning applications to Local Authorities and or Foreshore Lease/Licence applications to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. A high level of tourism related refusals is a potential indicator pressure on the environmental status of said County. Record trends in tourism related applications.	An Bord Pleanála	Annual

### **3 Presentation and Analysis of Results**

This section of the Report is an account of the Macro Monitoring Indicators at the 7 Monitoring sites and 4 Control sites along the WAW.

# Dungloe (Co. Donegal)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.1 Dungloe

### 3.1.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.1 Dungloe Water Quality**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Dungloe (2018)</b>	D0208-01	Dungloe		Not Available as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020			
<b>Dungloe (2017)</b>	D0208 -01	Dungloe	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017.	n/a	2 complaints, 2 Reported Incidents	2400	New Plant was commissioned in 2017 and is being operated under a DBO.
<b>Dungloe (2016)</b>	D0208 -01	Dungloe	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	n/a	0 complaints, 5 Reported Incidents	2400	The existing septic tank (125m <sup>3</sup> ) is under control of a DBO contract for a new WWTW for Dungloe agglomeration This is currently being commissioned and is expected to be up and running in Q2 of 2017.
<b>Dungloe (2015)</b>	D0208 -01	Dungloe	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	n/a		2400	No capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015.

### 3.1.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.2 Bathing Water Quality at Dungloe**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Donegal	Dungloe	Naran Beach/Carrickfinn	Excellent/Excellent	Excellent/Excellent	Excellent/Excellent	Excellent/Excellent	n/a	0

Naran is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Naran has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018. Carrickfinn is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Carrickfinn has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018.

### 3.1.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume

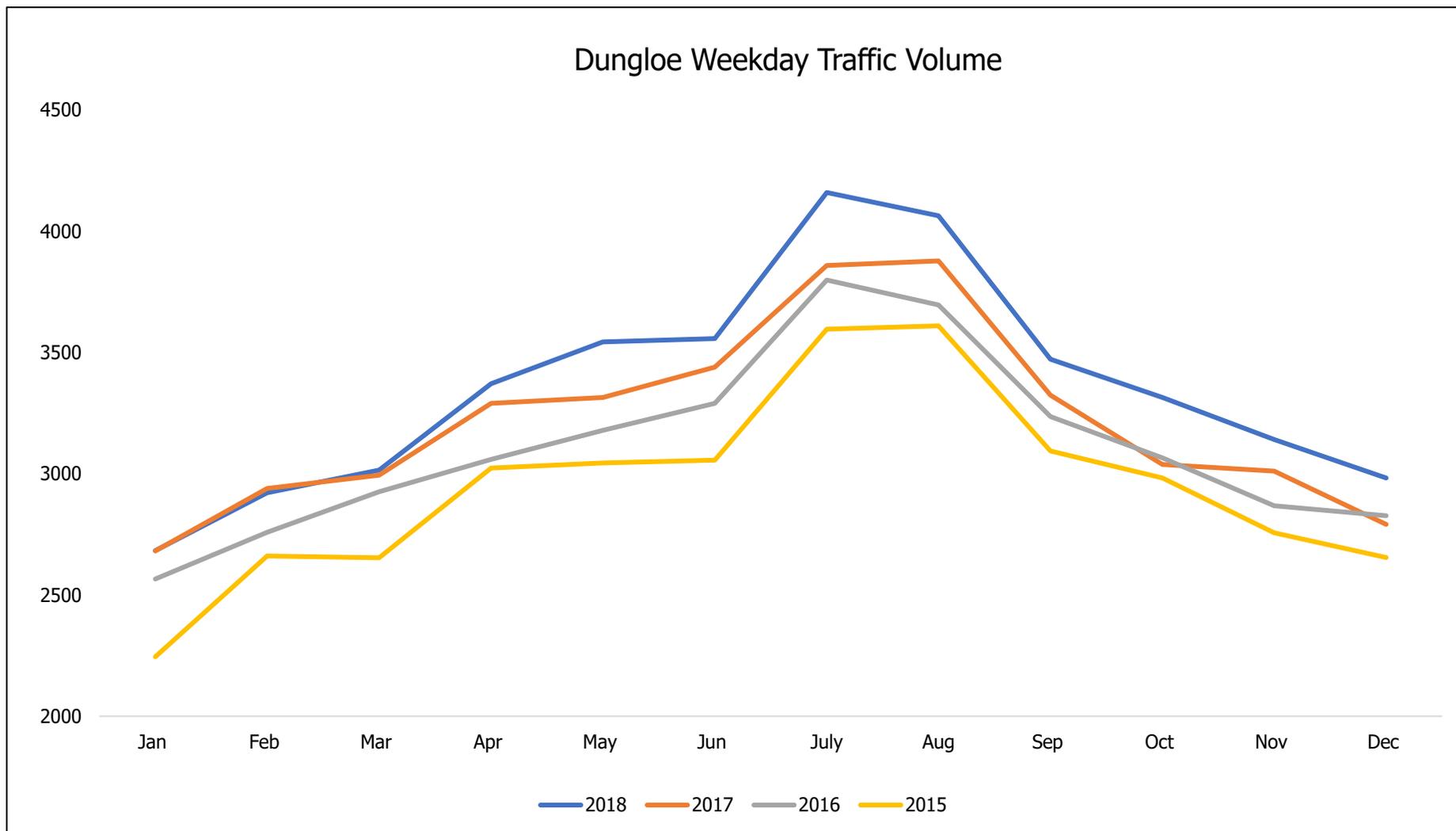
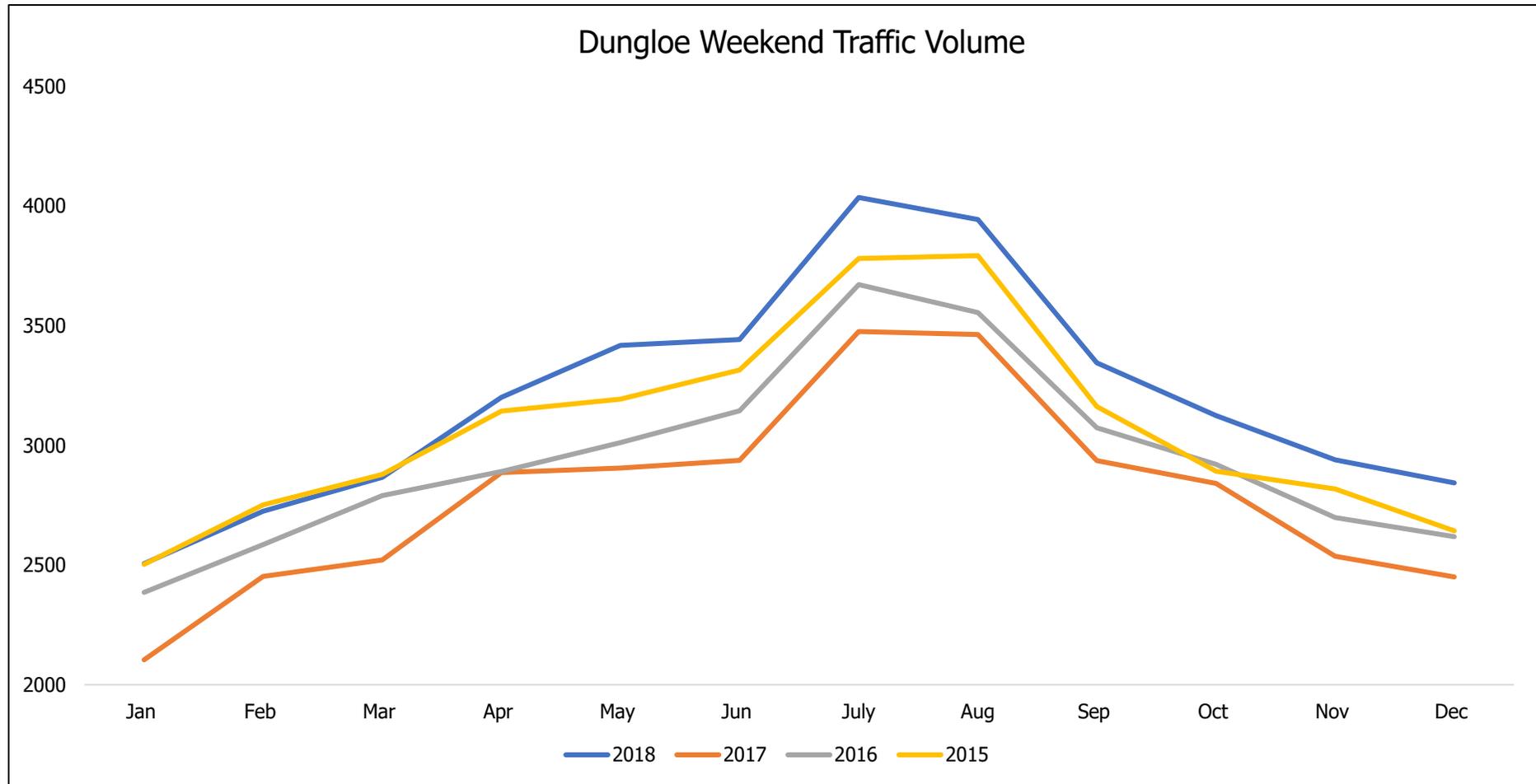


Figure 3.1 Weekday 24 Hour Average Interval traffic at Dungloe from 2015-2018<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Note the Y-axis starts at 2000 and not 0



**Figure 3.2 Weekend 24 Hour Average Interval traffic at Dungloe from 2015-2018<sup>2</sup>**

Results show that there has been a steady increase in interval traffic volumes during weekends and weekdays since 2015. The surge is likely due to the increase of tourists travelling from WAW sites, mainly during summer months.

<sup>2</sup> Note the Y-axis starts at 2000 not 0

### 3.1.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.3 Carrickfinn/Portnoo/Narran Blue Flag Beaches 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015	✓		No change in status between 2015 and 2018.
2016	✓		
2017	✓		
2018	✓		

Carrickfinn/Portnoo and Narran have all been compliant with the specific criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and environmental management.

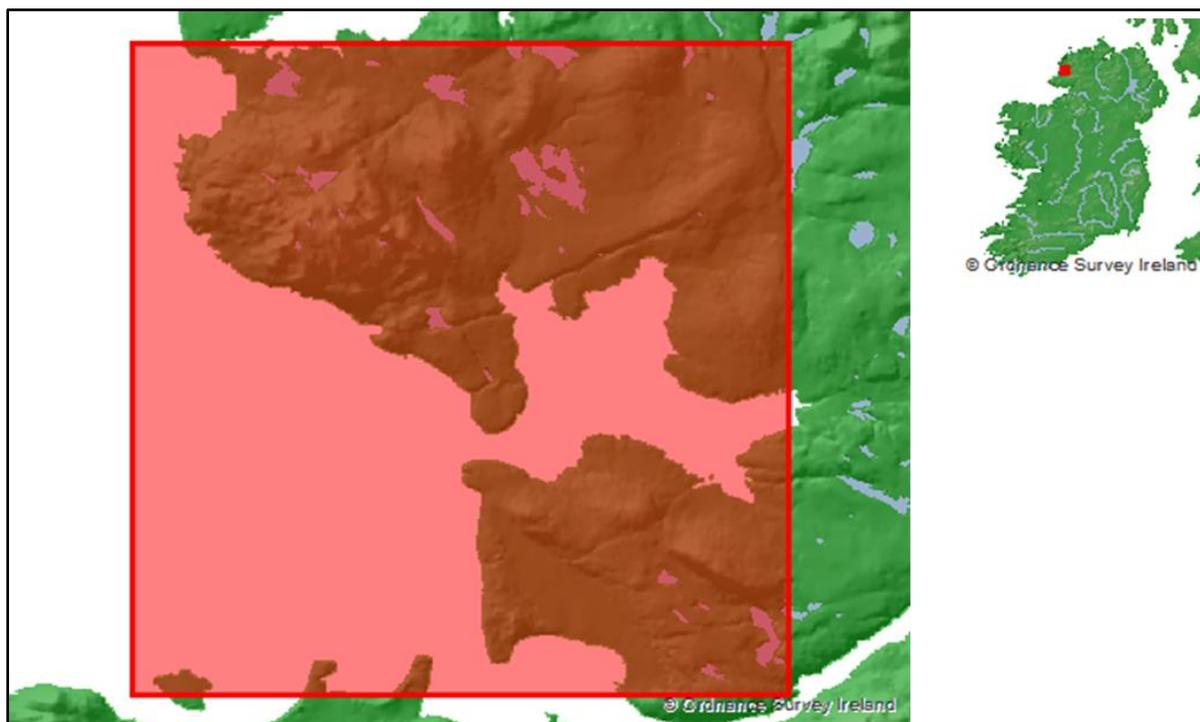
### 3.1.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast

**Table 3.4 Dungloe Green Coasts 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in status between 2015 and 2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Dungloe has not received a green coast award between 2015 and 2018. Dooey beach located 13km from Dungloe received a Green coast award in 2018.

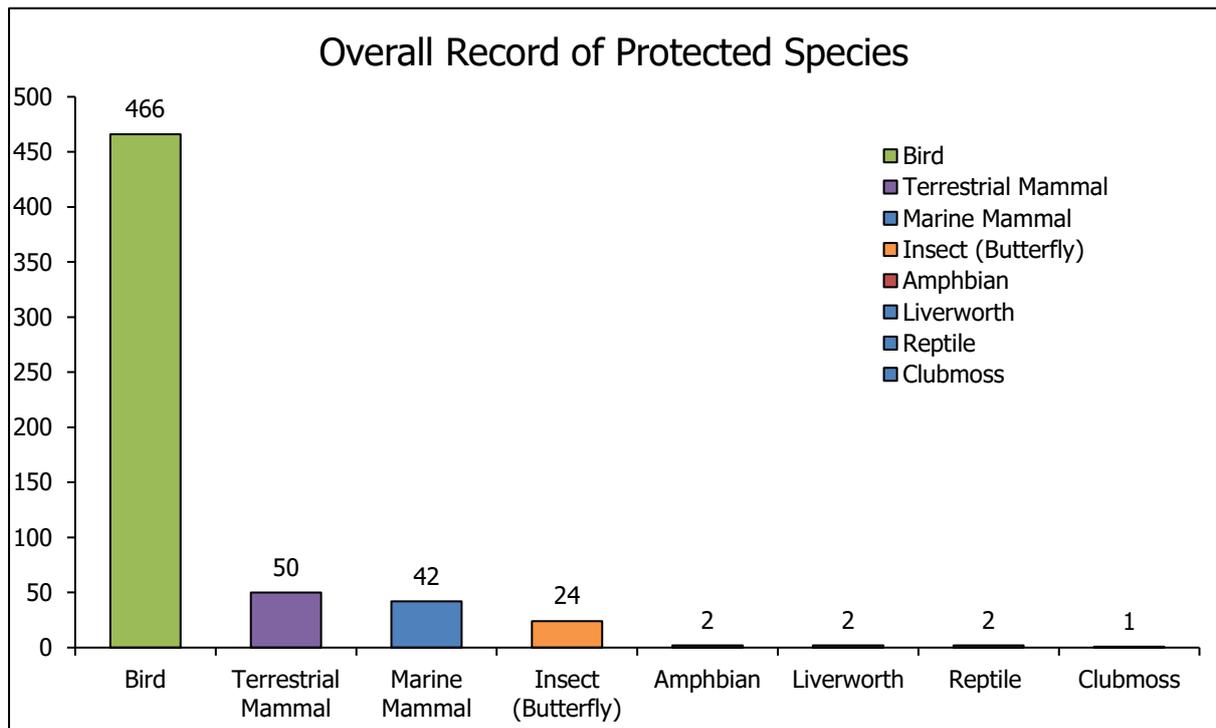
### 3.1.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



**Figure 3.3** Dungloe monitoring site 10x10km tile (B70) from the NBDC dataset

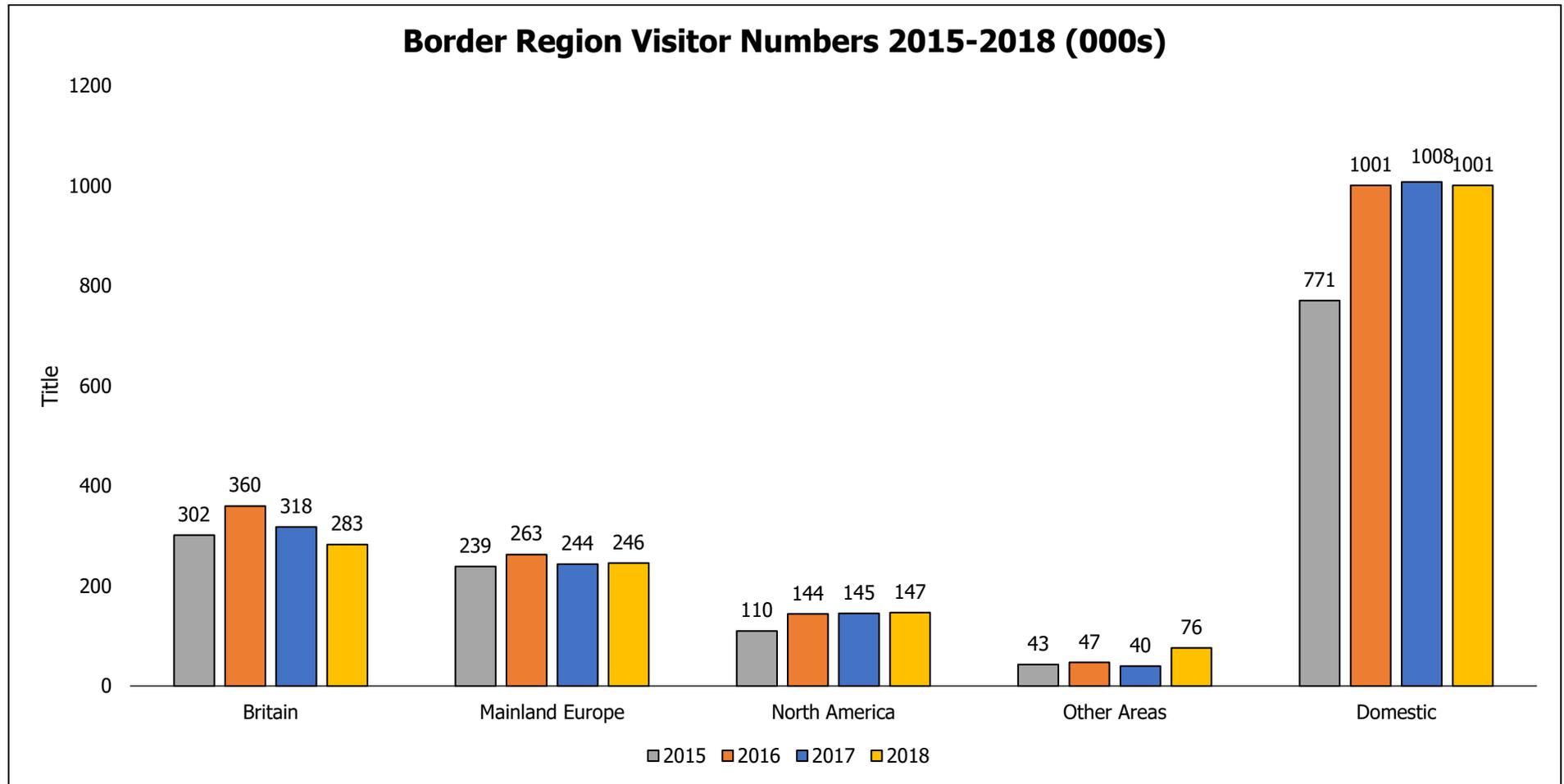
**Table 3.5** Overall list of Invasive Species recorded within 10km of Dungloe

Species Group	Species Name	Impact Level
Flowering plant (Wall Cotoneaster)	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Common Garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins' Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Wrinkled Snail)	<i>Candidula intersepta</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (American Mink)	<i>Mustela Vison</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus Norvegicus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (House Mouse)	<i>Mus Musculus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.4 Record of Protected Species within 10km of Dungloe**

### 3.1.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.5 Comparison of visitor numbers for Border Region 2015 - 2018**

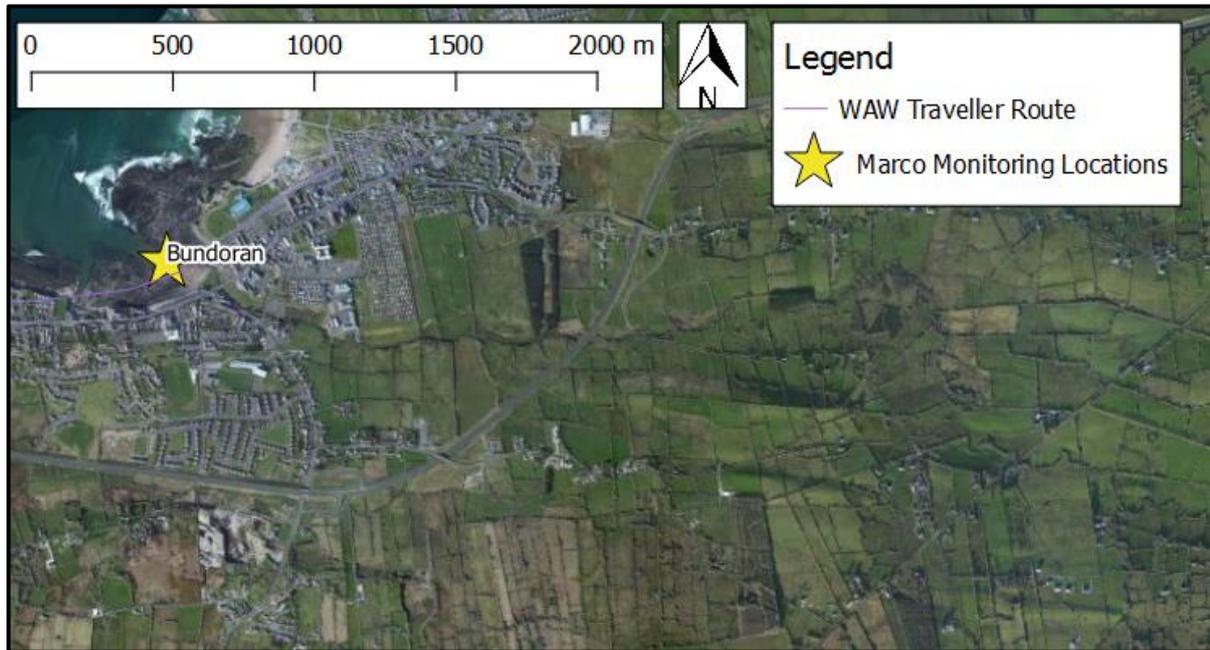
2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017 with a total of 1,755,000.

### **3.1.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Dungloe during 2018.

# Bundoran (Co. Donegal)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.2 Bundoran

### 3.2.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.6 Bundoran Water Quality**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status of conformity	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Bundoran (2018)</b>	D0130-01	Bundoran		Not Available as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020			
<b>Bundoran (2017)</b>	D0130-01	Bundoran	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017.	The following parameters exceeded the emission limit values in 2017: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOD (mg/l)</li> <li>• COD (mg/l)</li> <li>• TSS (mg/l)</li> <li>• Ammonia N (mg/l)</li> </ul>	0 complaints, 10 Reported Incidents	N/A	The following improvement works were undertaken in 2017 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Bundoran (2016)</b>	D0130-01	Bundoran	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	The following parameters exceeded the emission limit values in 2016: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOD</li> <li>• COD</li> <li>• TSS</li> <li>• Ammonia N</li> </ul>	0 complaints, 31 Reported Incidents	0 (Not served by a wastewater treatment plant)	The following improvement works were undertaken in 2016: - New wastewater treatment plant and associated network including pumping stations is under construction during 2017. Expected completion date Q2 2018
<b>Bundoran (2015)</b>	D0130-01	Bundoran	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	The following parameters exceeded the emission limit values in 2015: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cBOD</li> <li>• COD</li> <li>• Suspended solids</li> <li>• Ammonia</li> </ul>	0 complaints, 36 Reported Incidents	N/A	No capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015.

### 3.2.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.7 Bathing Water Quality at Bundoran**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Donegal	Bundoran	Bundoran/Mullaghmore <sup>4</sup>	Good/Sufficient	Excellent/Excellent	Excellent/Excellent	Excellent/Excellent	n/a	0

Bundoran is classified as achieving Good Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Bundoran achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the three consecutive years 2015 to 2017. Mullaghmore Beach is classified as achieving Sufficient Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Mullaghmore Beach achieved a Good Water Quality rating for 2017 and 2016 and achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating in 2015.

<sup>4</sup> There are on-going issues with regard to cattle accessing Mullaghmore beach from commonage adjacent to it. There is a risk of faecal contamination of the bathing water from cattle faeces on the beach. There may be a short-term increase in bacterial numbers in the bathing water resulting for cattle faeces on the beach.

### 3.2.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume

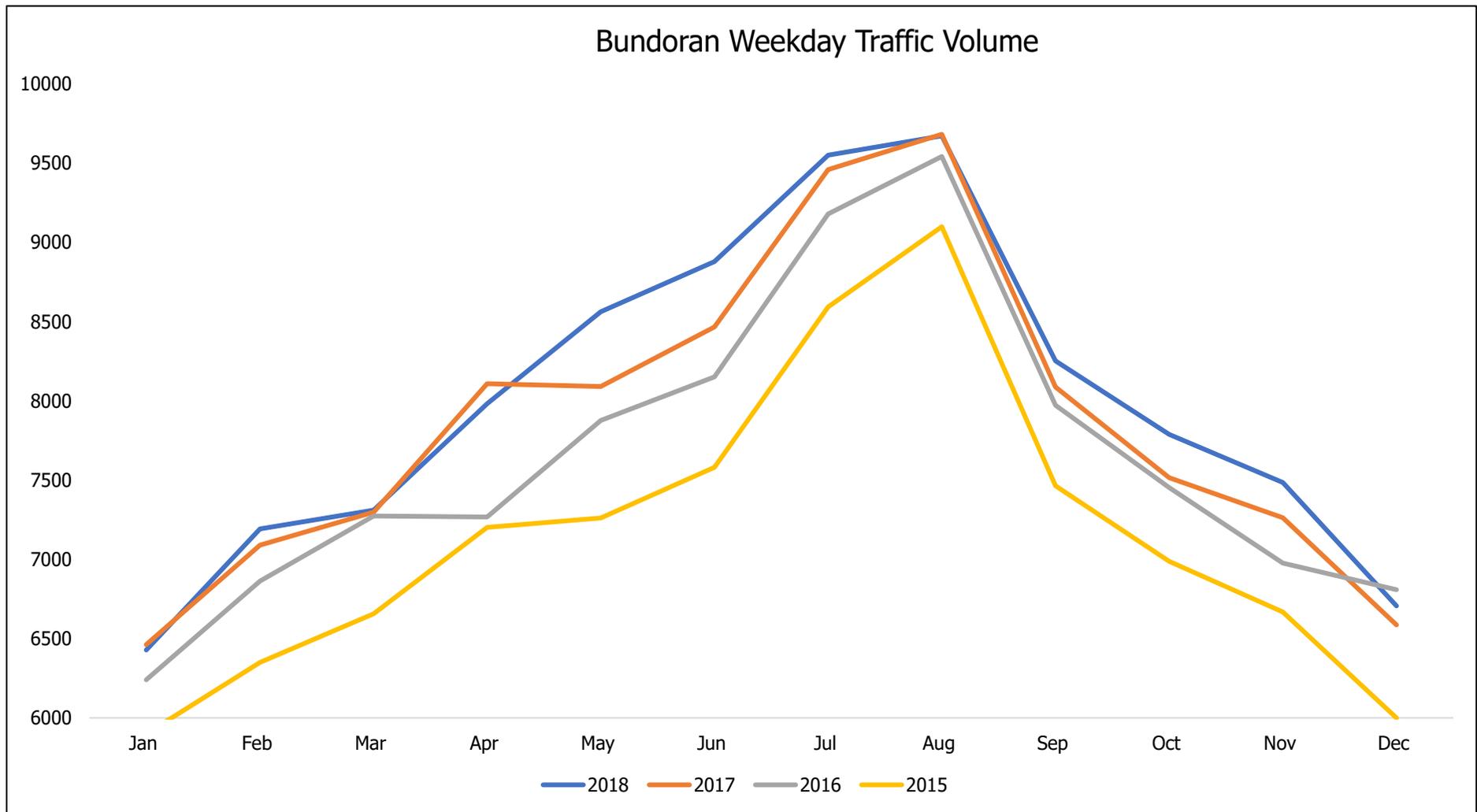
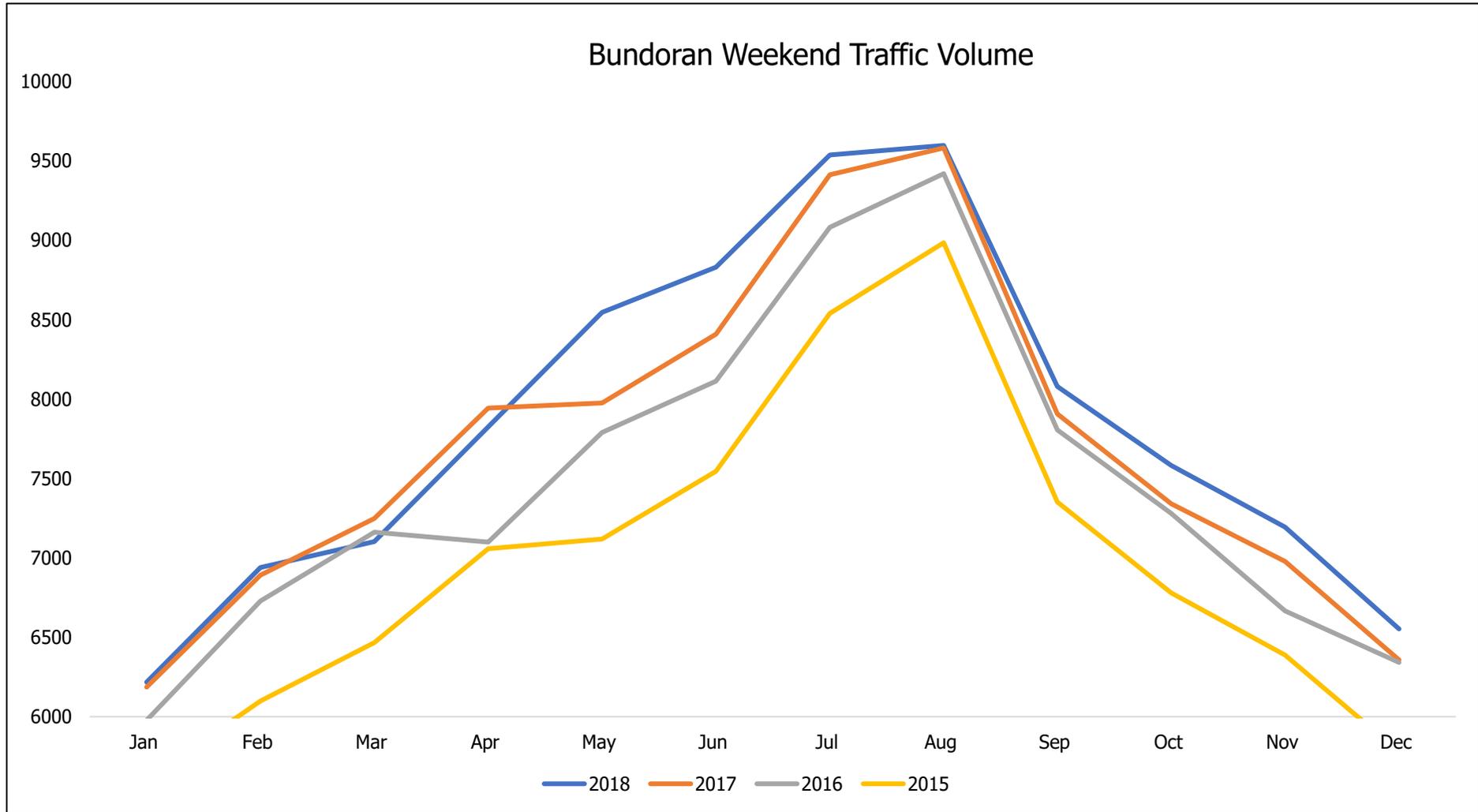


Figure 3.6 Weekday Interval traffic at Bundoran from 2018 -2015<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 6000 and not 0



**Figure 3.7 Weekend Interval traffic at Bundoran in 2018 -2015<sup>6</sup>**

Results show that there has been a steady increase in interval traffic volumes during weekends and weekdays since 2015. The surge is likely due to the increase of tourists travelling from WAW sites, mainly during summer months.

<sup>6</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 6000 and not 0

### 3.2.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.8 Bundoran Blue Flag Beach 2015 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Bundoran did not receive blue flag status during 2015-2018 monitoring.

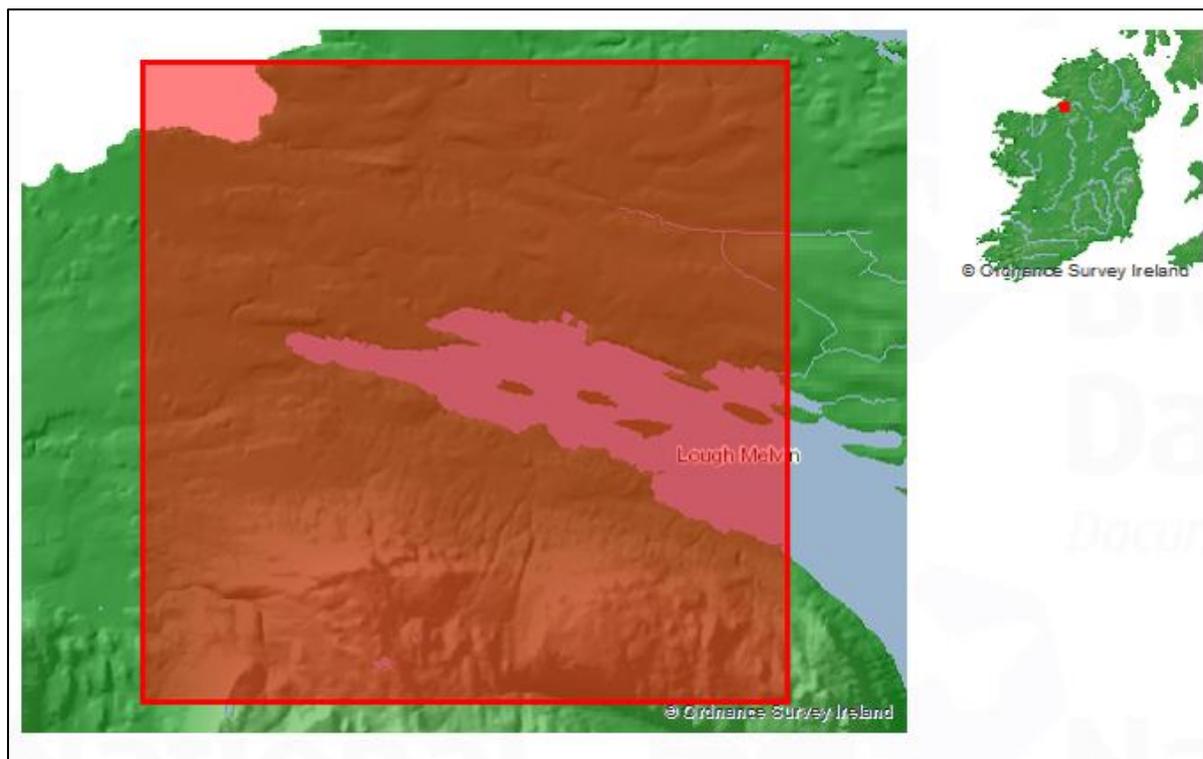
### 3.2.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast

**Table 3.9 Bundoran Green Coast Awards 2015 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green coast award status from 2015 - 2018
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Bundoran did not receive any award for Green Coasts between 2015 and 2018.

### 3.2.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity

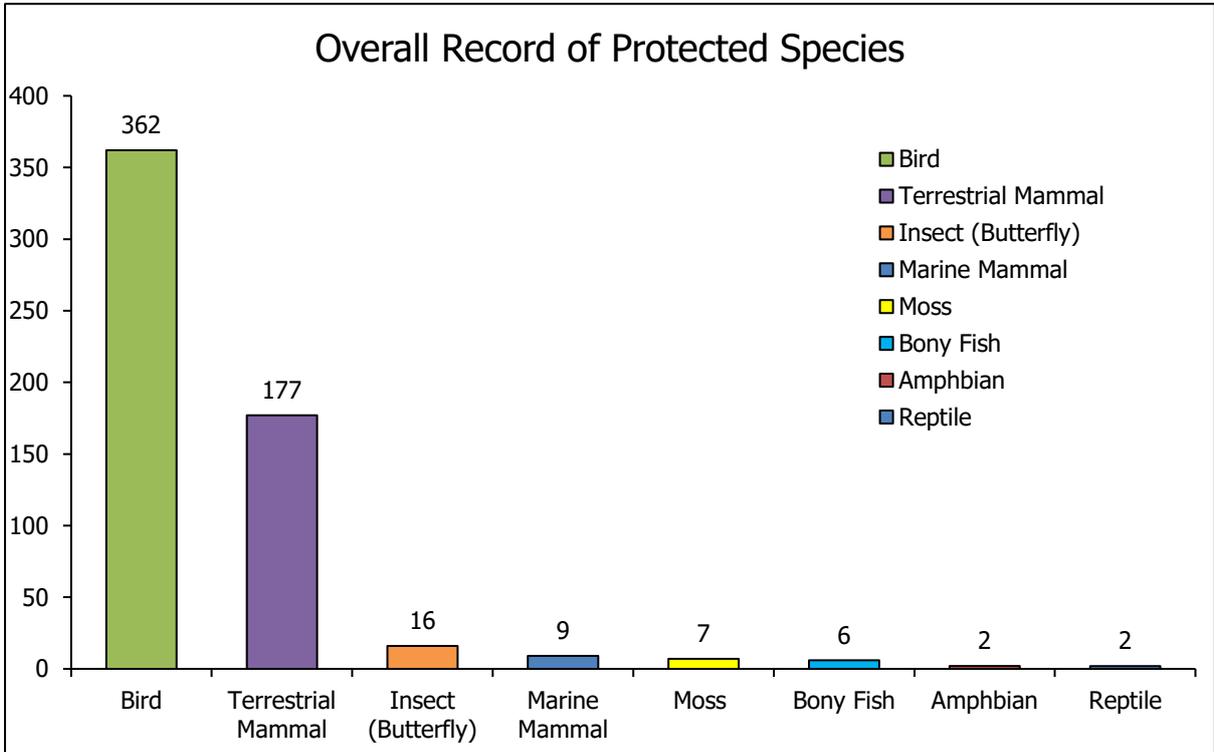


**Figure 3.8 Bundoran monitoring site 10x10km tile (G85) from the NBDC dataset**

**Table 3.10 Overall list of Invasive Species recorded within 10km of Bundoran**

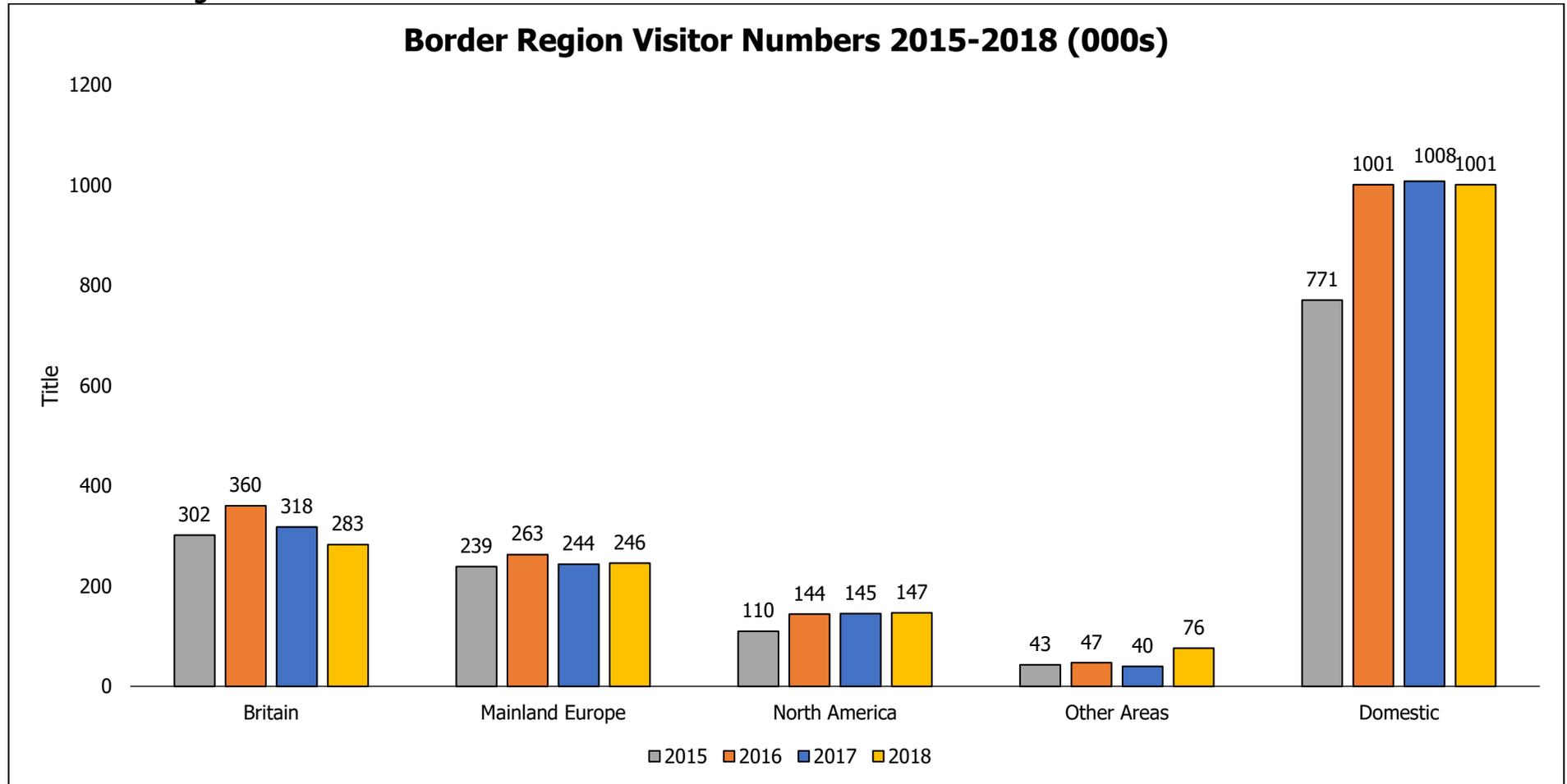
Species group	Species name	Impact Level
Alga Green Sea Fingers	<i>(Codium fragile subsp. tomentosoides)</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant Canadian Waterweed	<i>(Elodea canadensis)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant Cherry Laurel	<i>Cherry Laurel (Prunus laurocerasus)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant Giant-rhubarb	<i>Giant-rhubarb (Gunnera tinctoria)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Indian Balsam)	<i>(Impatiens glandulifera)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>(Fallopia japonica)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Nuttall's Waterweed)	<i>(Elodea nuttallii)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Rhododendron ponticum)	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>(Acer pseudoplatanus)</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Traveller's-joy)	<i>(Clematis vitalba)</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Spire Snail)	<i>(Potamopyrgus antipodarum)</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species

Mollusc (Slug)	<i>(Tandonia sowerbyi)</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (American Mink)	<i>(Mustela vison)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>(Oryctolagus cuniculus)</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (Fallow Deer)	<i>(Dama dama)</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.9 Record of Protected Species within 10km of Bundoran**

**3.2.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers**



**Figure 3.10 Comparison of visitor numbers for Border Region 2015 - 2018**

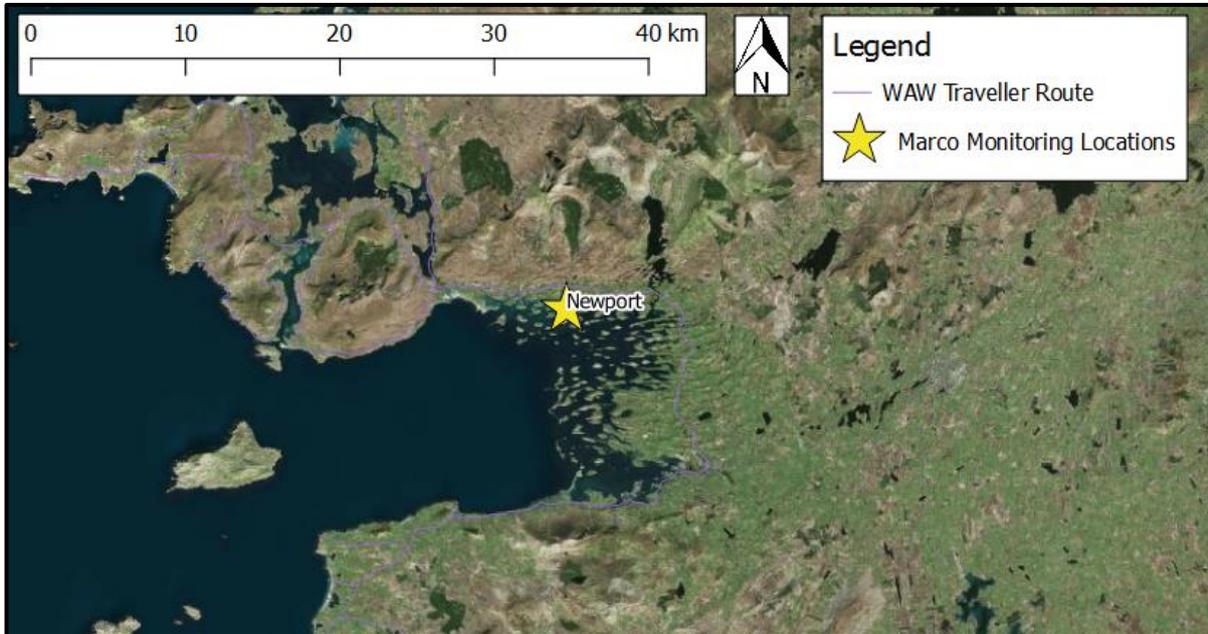
2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017 with a total of 1,755,000.

### **3.2.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Bundoran during 2018.

# Newport (Co. Mayo)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



### 3.3 Newport

#### 3.3.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Newport (2018)</b>	D0224-01	Newport		Not Available as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020			
<b>Newport (2017)</b>	D0224-01	Newport	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017.	N/A	3 complaints, 0 Reported Incidents	1287	No improvement works were undertaken in 2017: Appointing consultants for design of new treatment plant for compliance with Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.
<b>Newport (2016)</b>	D0224-01	Newport	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	The following parameters exceeded the emission limit values in 2016: Ortho P (mg/l)	1 Complaint, 8 Reported Incidents	1900	During 2016, a flume was constructed on plant storm water overflow, and was expected to be completed in Q.1 2107
<b>Newport (2015)</b>	D0224-01	Newport	N/A (applied)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

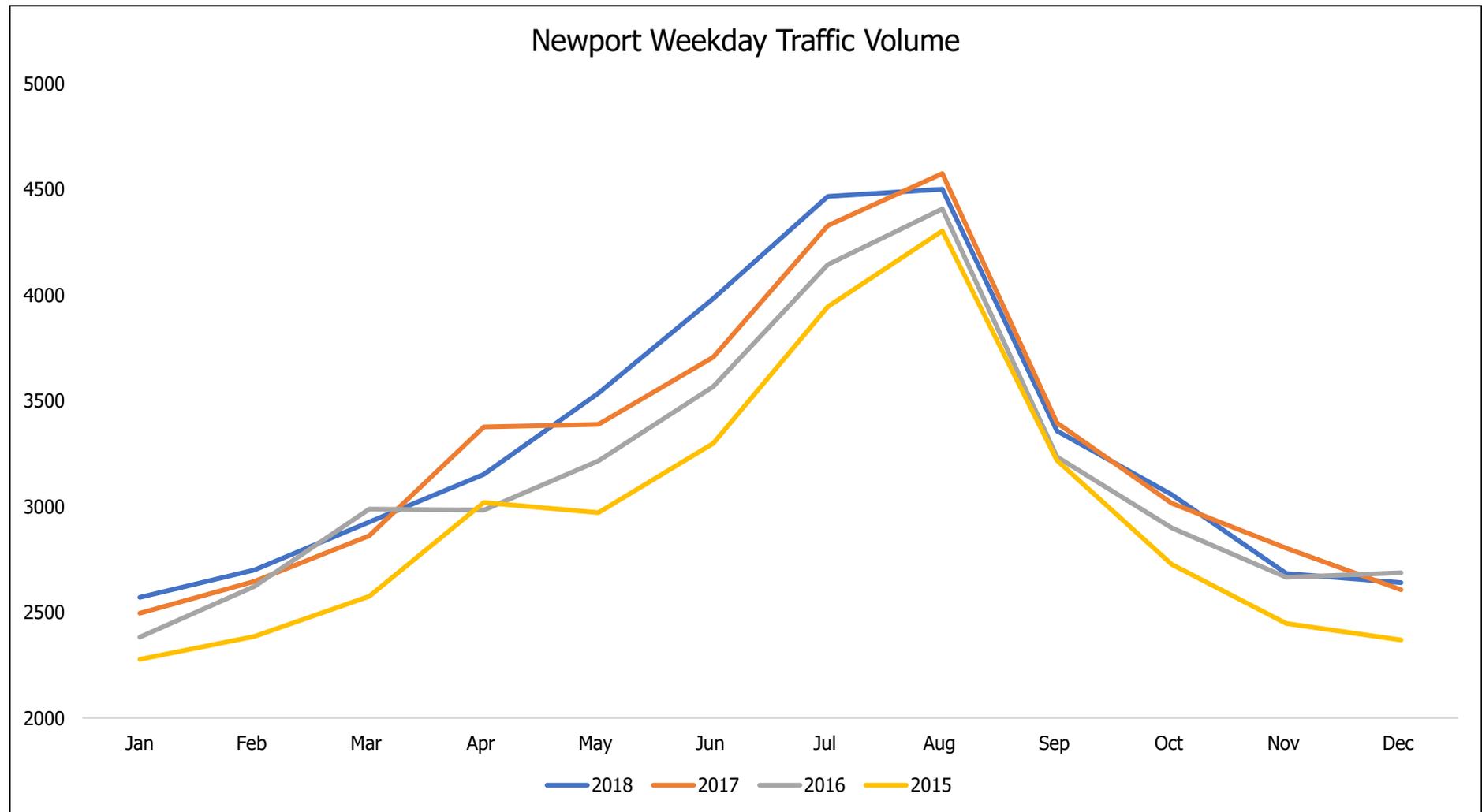
### 3.3.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.11 Bathing Water Quality at Newport**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Mayo	Newport	Mullranny/Clare Island/Bertra	Excellent/Excellent/Good	Excellent/Excellent/Excellent	Excellent/Excellent/Excellent	Excellent/Excellent/Excellent	n/a	0

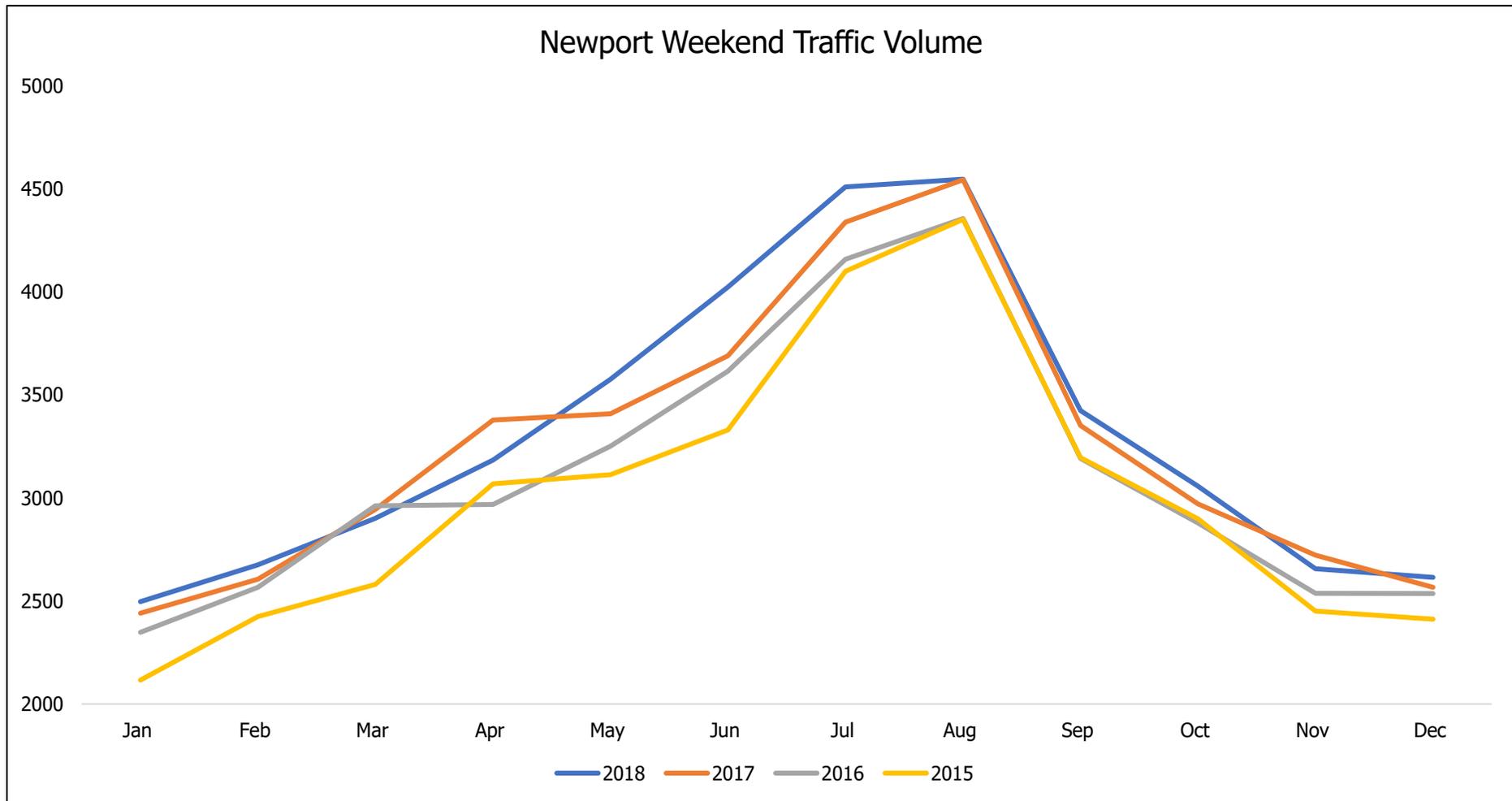
Mullranny Beach and Clare Island are classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Mullranny Beach has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018. Bertra Beach, Murrisk is classified as achieving Good Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Bertra Beach, Murrisk achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the three consecutive years 2015 to 2017.

### 3.3.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume



**Figure 3.11 Weekday Interval Traffic at Newport from 2018 -2015<sup>77</sup>**

<sup>77</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 2000 and not 0



**Figure 3.12 Weekend Interval Traffic at Newport from 2015-2018<sup>8</sup>**

Results show that there has been a steady increase in interval traffic volumes during weekends and weekdays since 2015. The surge is likely due to the increase of tourists travelling from WAW sites, mainly during summer months.

<sup>8</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 2000 and not 0

### 3.3.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue flag Beaches

**Table 3.12 Newport Blue flag beach 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015	✓		No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018.
2016	✓		
2017	✓		
2018	✓		

Results show that Mulranny and Clare Island both held Blue Flag status between 2015 and 2018. Bertra has not received Blue Flag status between 2015-2018.

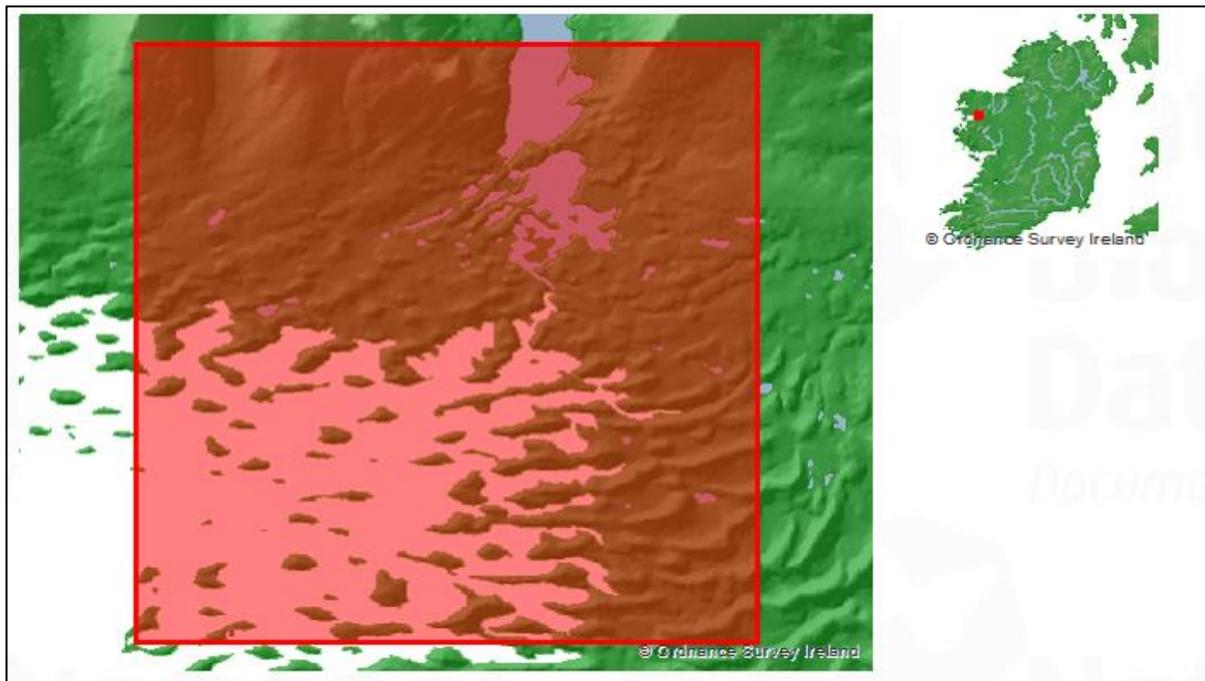
### 3.3.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast

**Table 3.13 Newport Green Coast Awards 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green coast award status from 2015 - 2018
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Results show that since 2015 Newport has not been awarded a Green Coast award.

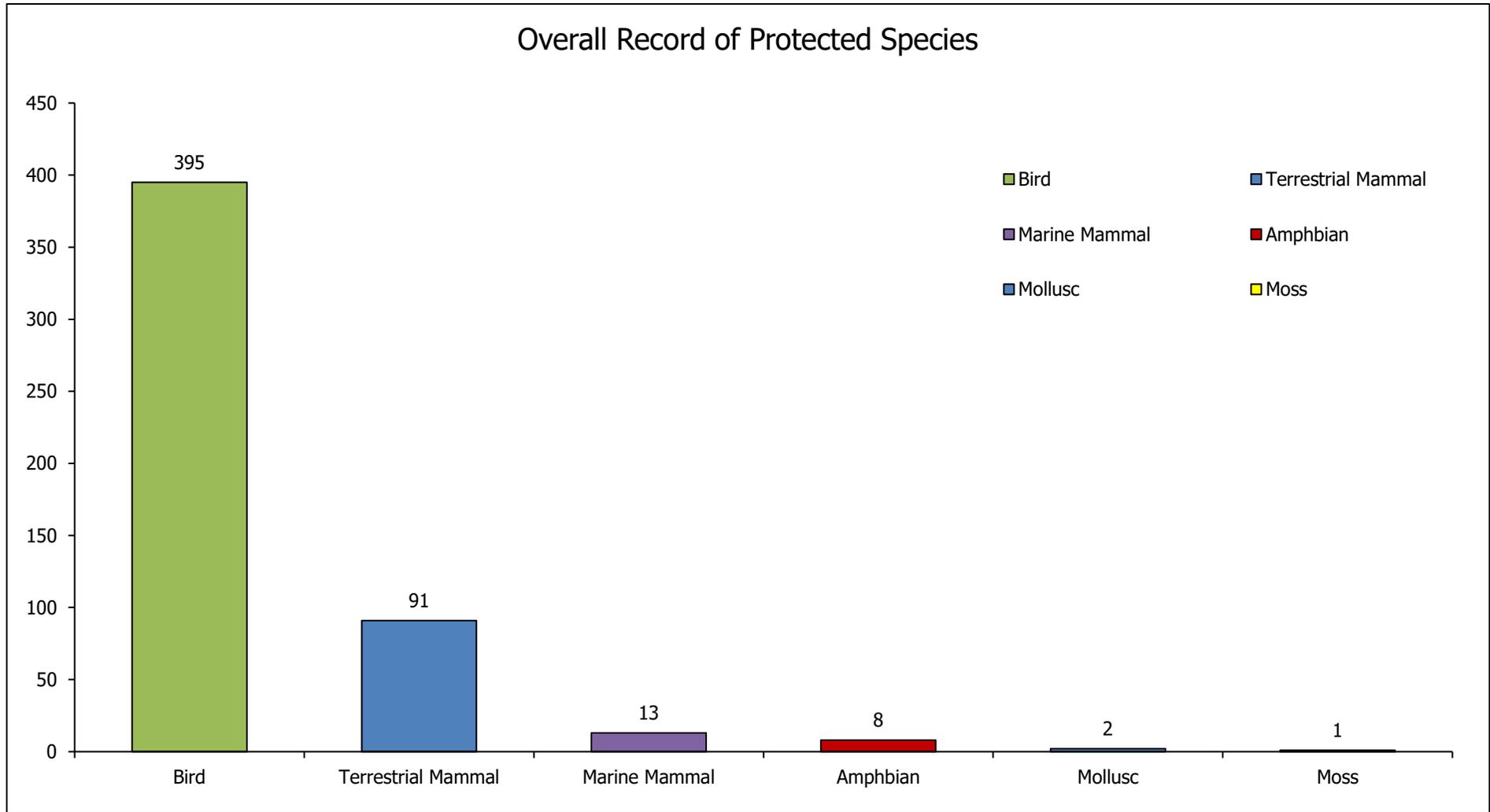
### 3.3.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



**Figure 3.13 Newport monitoring site 10x10km tile (L99) from the NBDC dataset**

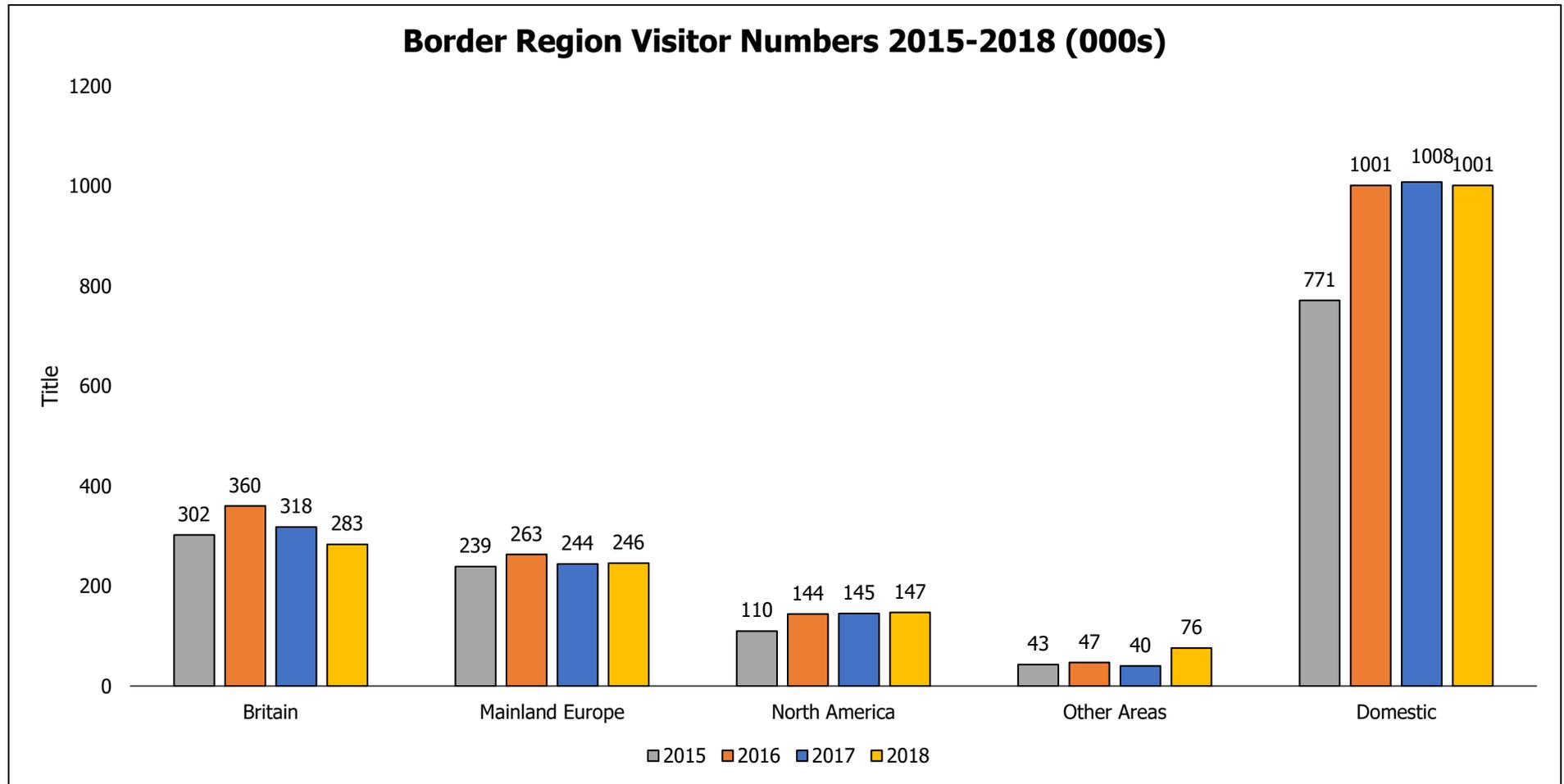
**Table 3.14 Overall Record of Invasive Species within 10km of Newport**

<b>Species group</b>	<b><i>Species name</i></b>	<b>Impact Level</b>
Flowering plant (Butterfly Bush)	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Indian Balsam)	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Three-cornered Garlic)	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Rhododendron ponticum)	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Common garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (American Mink)	<i>Mustela vison</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Feral goat)	<i>Capra hircus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Tunicate (Urochordata)	<i>Didemnum vexillum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.14 Overall Record of Protected Species within 10km of Newport**

### 3.3.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.15 Comparison of visitor numbers for Border Region 2015 - 2018**

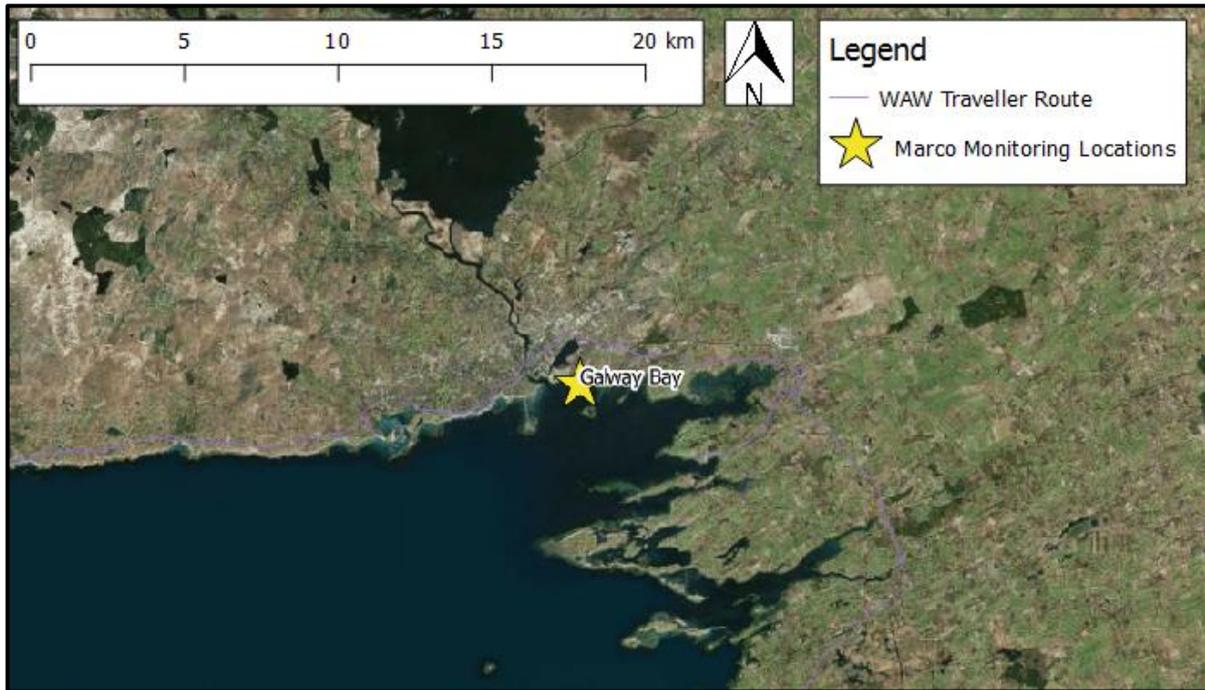
2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017 with a total of 1,755,000.

### **3.3.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Newport during 2018.

# Galway Bay (Co. Galway)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.4 Galway Bay

### 3.4.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

Table 3.15 Galway Water Quality

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Galway (2018)</b>	D0050-01	Galway	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2018.	n/a	1 complaint 2 Reported Incidents	170000	Ensure that appropriate remedial works to the sewer network are completed as soon as possible to ensure that the discharge of contaminated surface water at SW013 is ceased; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out a clean-up of the affected areas, as appropriate;</li> <li>• Consult with complainants in relation to actions taken or planned in relation to clean up; and</li> <li>• Update incident record INCI016245 on a regular basis until all necessary works are completed to address the issues arising from this incident.</li> </ul>
<b>Galway (2017)</b>	D0050-01	Galway	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017.	n/a	104 complaints, 2 Reported Incidents	170000	The Galway Agglomeration Drainage Area Plan (DAP) commenced in Q4 2016. The improvement works required to update the remaining CSOs listed on the WWDL which have not been remediated to date are being assessed and reviewed by Irish Water via the DAP so they can be undertaken on a prioritised basis.
<b>Galway (2016)</b>	D0208 -01	Galway	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	n/a	0 complaints, 5 Reported Incidents	170000	Plant upgrade works to increase the plant capacity from 91,600 PE to 170,000 PE which commenced in September 2014, were completed and commissioning took place in Q1 2016

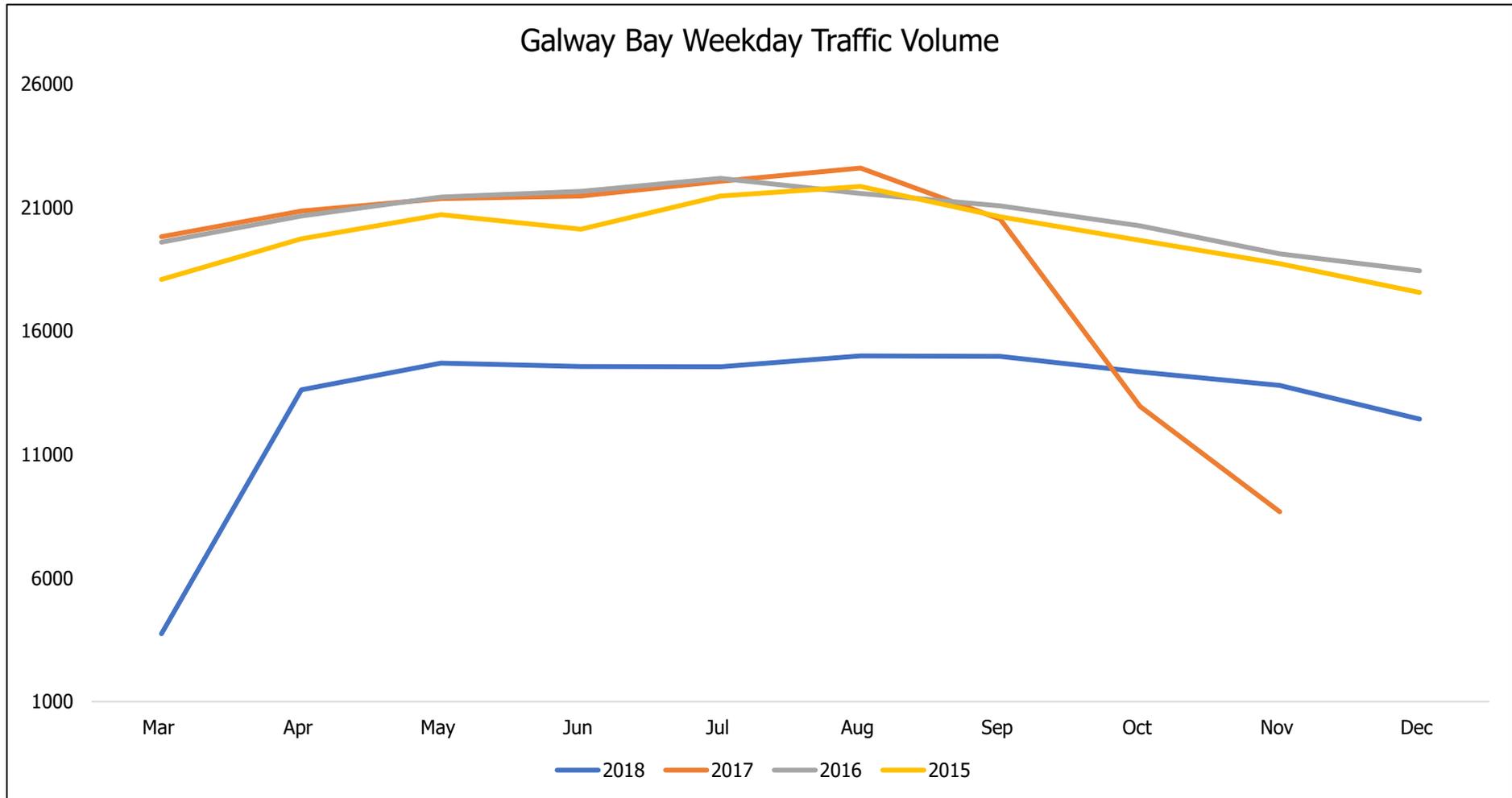
### 3.4.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.16 Galway Bay Bathing Water Quality**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Galway	Galway Bay	Salthill/Grattan Road/Ballyloughane	Excellent/Sufficient/Sufficient	Excellent/Good/Poor	Excellent/Good/Poor	Excellent/Sufficient/Poor	A change in the E. coli and intestinal Enterococci have result in the change to water quality at Grattan Road and Ballyloughane.	Ballyloughane has an advisory bathing restriction in place for the 2018 season due to its 'Poor' classification.

Salthill Beach is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Salthill Beach has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018. Grattan Road Beach is classified as achieving Sufficient Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Grattan Road Beach achieved a Good Water Quality rating in 2017 and 2016 and had a Sufficient Water Quality rating in 2015. Ballyloughane Beach is classified as achieving Sufficient Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Ballyloughane Beach had a Poor Water Quality rating for the three consecutive years 2015 to 2017.

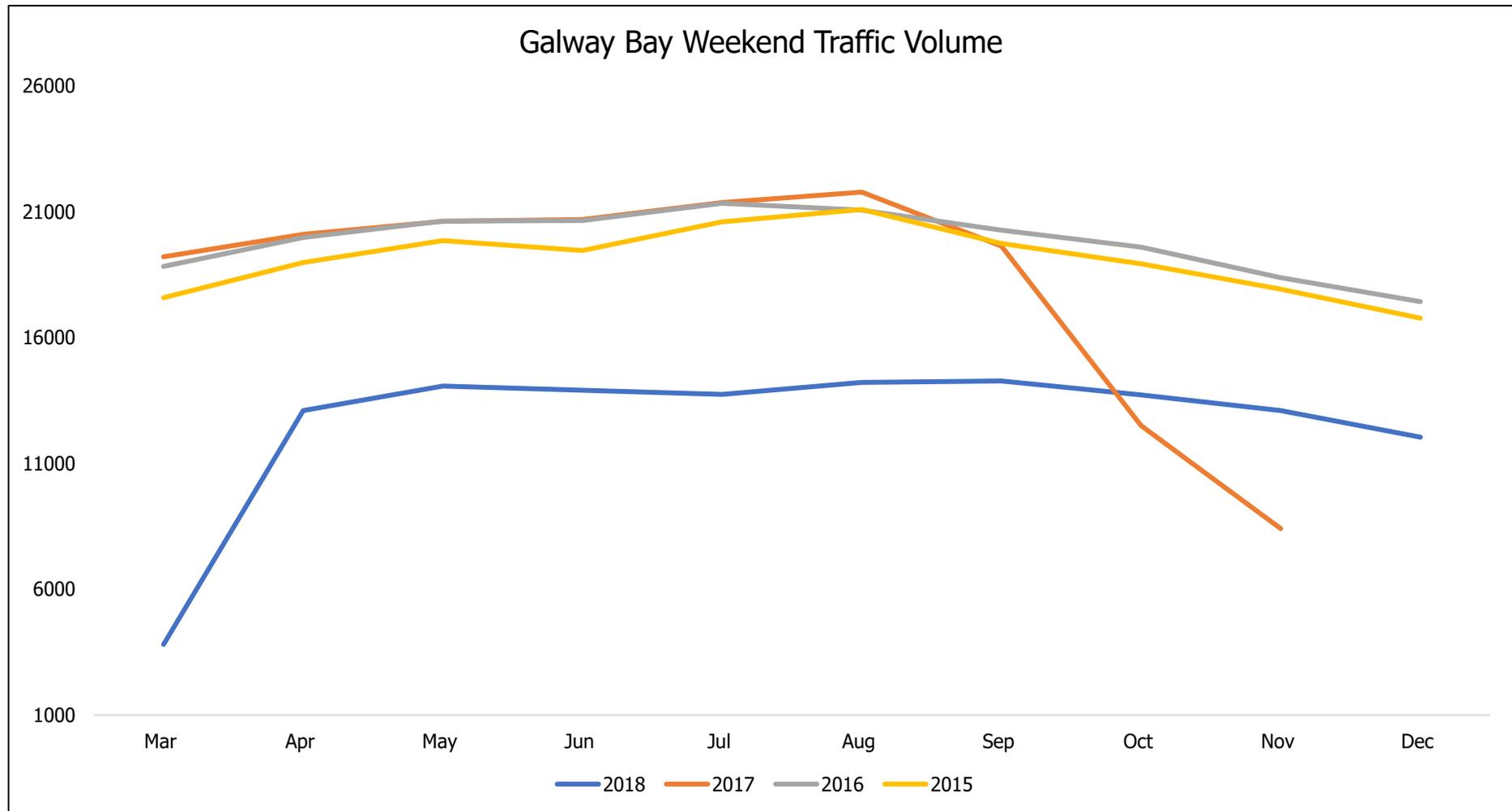
### 3.4.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume



**Figure 3.16 Weekday Interval Traffic at Galway Bay from 2015 -2017<sup>910</sup>**

<sup>9</sup> There is no data for December 2017 as roads works were taking place during this time resulting in road closures.

<sup>10</sup> A national status red warning weather event resulted in no data being available for January or February, this also resulted in low traffic numbers for March.



**Figure 3.17 Weekend Interval Traffic at Galway Bay from 2015 -2017<sup>11</sup>**

There was a rise in weekday traffic during 2017 compared to figures recorded during 2015 and 2016. There is no data for December 2017 as roads works were taking place during this time resulting in road closures.

<sup>11</sup> A national status red warning weather event resulted in no data being available for January and February, this also resulted in low traffic numbers for March.

### 3.4.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.17 Galway Bay Blue Flag Beach 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015	✓ (Salthill)	✓	No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018.
2016	✓ (Salthill)	✓	
2017	✓ (Salthill)	✓	
2018	✓ (Salthill)	✓	

Salthill has received Blue Flag status between 2015 and 2018. Neither Grattan Beach or Ballyloughane have received the award since 2015.

### 3.4.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast

**Table 3.18 Galway Bay Green Coast 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	Salthill received Green Coast status in 2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018	✓ (Salthill)		

Salthill has been dual awarded, achieving the international Blue Flag and Green Coast Award status in 2018.

### 3.4.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity

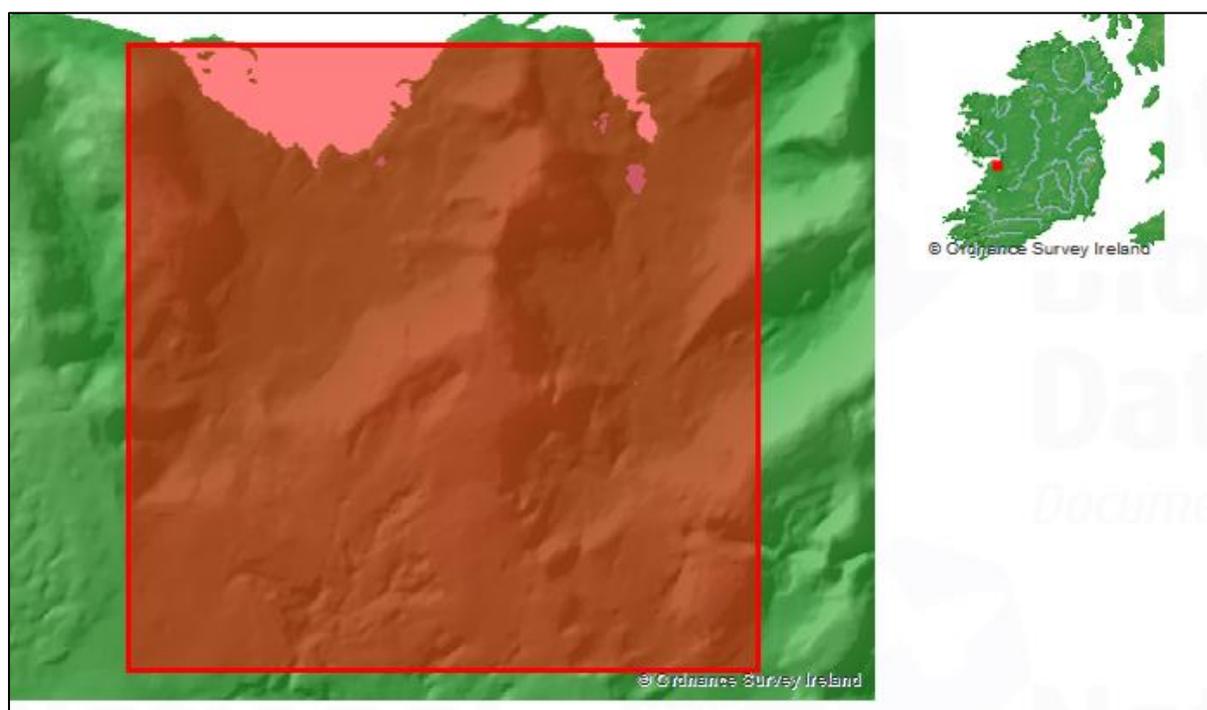
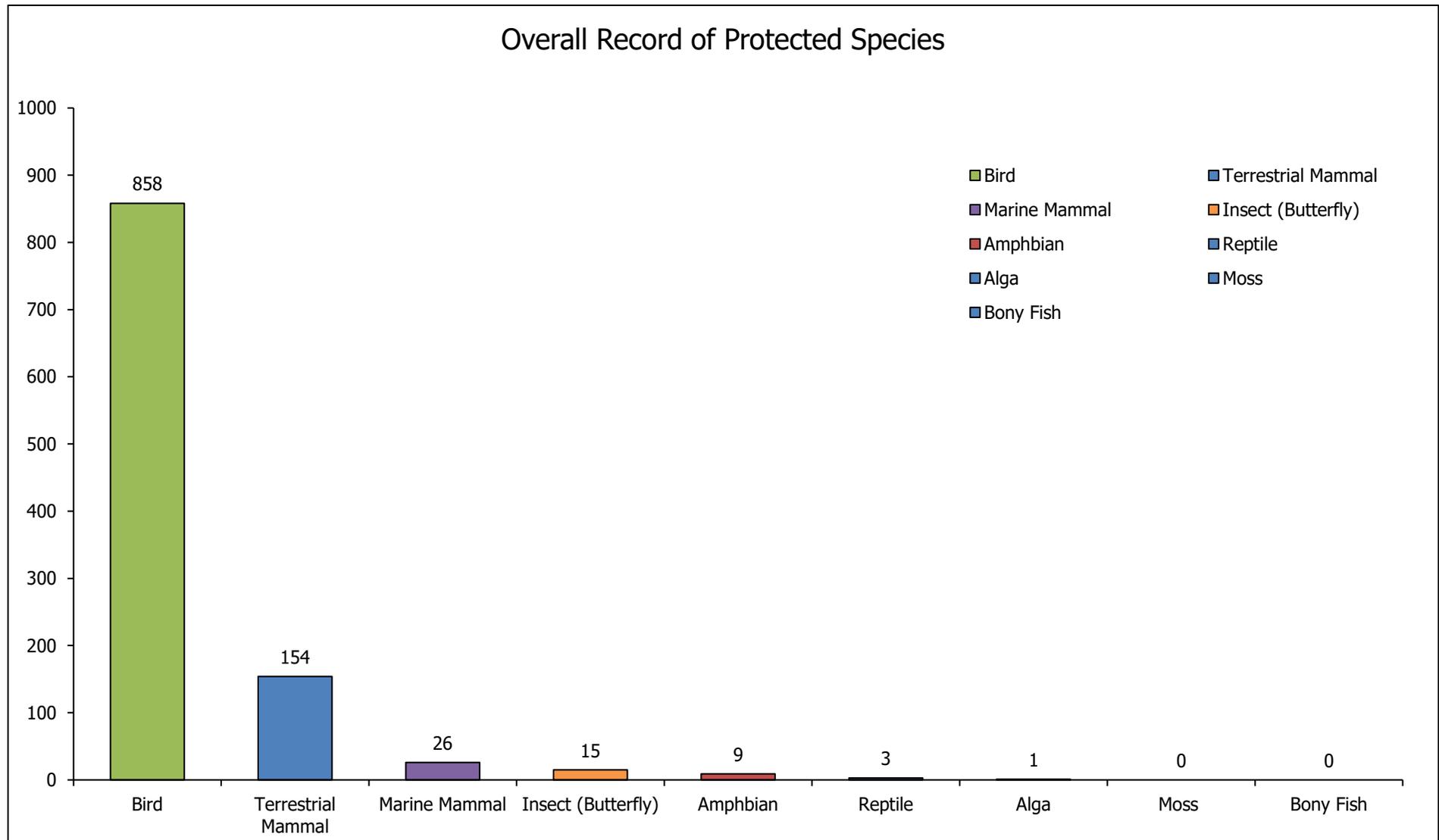


Figure 3.18 Galway Bay monitoring site 10x10km tile (M20) from the NBDC dataset

Table 3.19 Overall list of Invasive Species recorded within 10km of Galway Bay

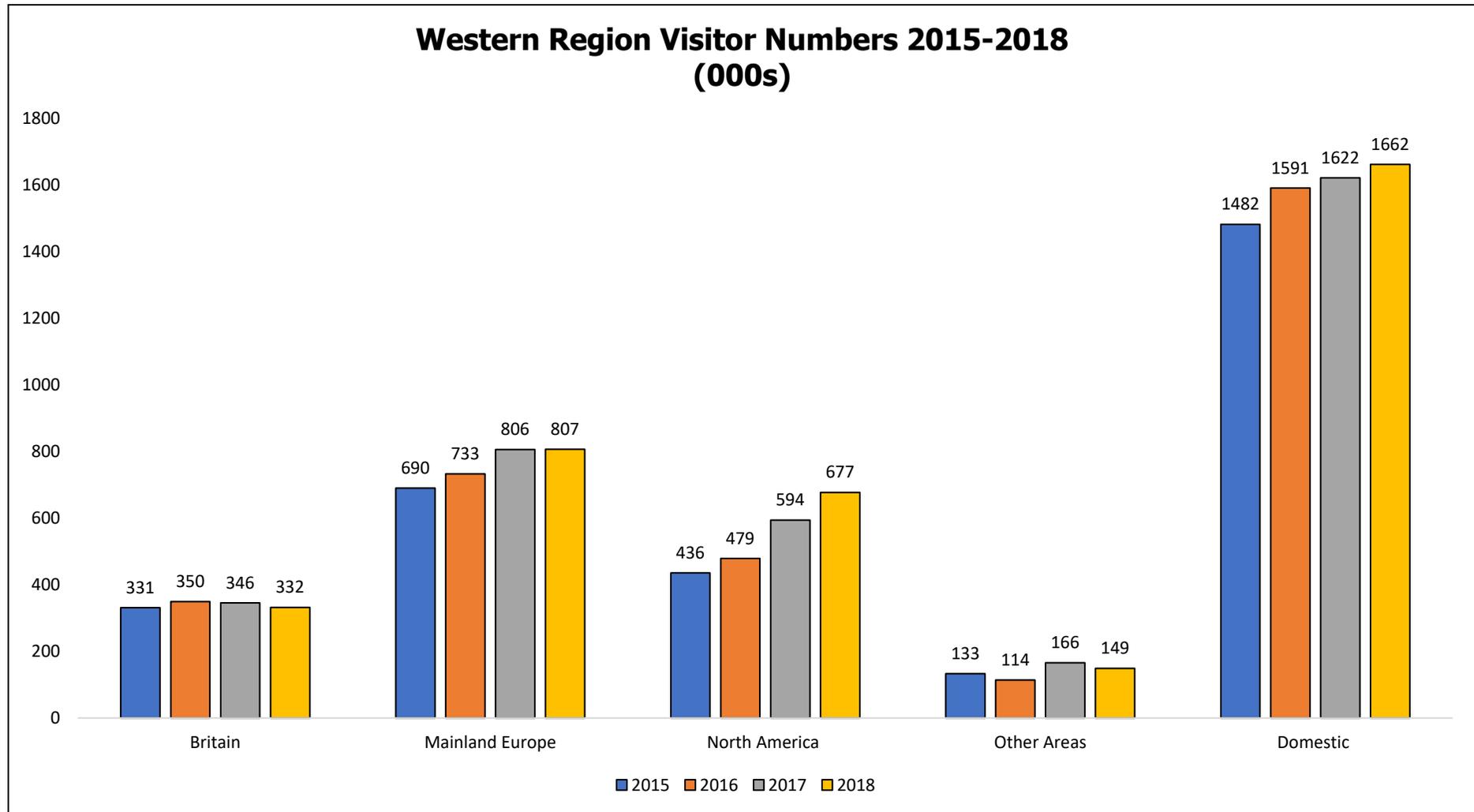
Species group	Species name	Impact Level
flowering plant (Butterfly-bush)	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Spanish Bluebell)	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Invasive Species <sup>12</sup>
flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Three-cornered Garlic)	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc Budapest (Slug)	<i>Tandonia budapestensis</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc Common (Garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (Bank Vole)	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (Feral Goat)	<i>Capra hircus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
terrestrial mammal (House Mouse)	<i>Mus musculus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species

<sup>12</sup> Does not include data on Designation



**Figure 3.19 Record of Protected Species within 10km of Galway Bay**

### 3.4.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.20 West Regional Performance 2015 -2017**

2015 brought the lowest number of visitors to the West region with a total of 3,072,000 overall. There has been a rise of 15% since 2015 with 3,267,000 visitors overall in 2016 and 3,534,000 in 2017. 2018 saw the highest number of visitors with 3,627,000 overall.

### **3.4.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Galway Bay during 2018.

# Kilrush (Co. Clare)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.5 Kilrush

### 3.5.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.20 Kilrush Water Quality**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status of conformity	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Kilrush (2018)</b>	D0075-01	Kilrush		No data available as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020			
<b>Kilrush (2017)</b>	D0075-01	Kilrush	No influent or effluent monitoring is undertaken as no wastewater plant is present.	N/A	None	4000	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Kilrush (2016)</b>	D0075-01	Kilrush	No influent or effluent monitoring is undertaken as no wastewater plant is present.	N/A	N/A	4000	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Kilrush (2015)</b>	D0075-01	Kilrush	N/A (applied)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### 3.5.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.21 Kilrush Bathing Water Quality**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Clare	Kilrush	Cappagh Pier	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	No change from 2015 -2017	0

Cappagh Pier, Kilrush is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Cappagh Pier, Kilrush has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018.

### 3.5.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume

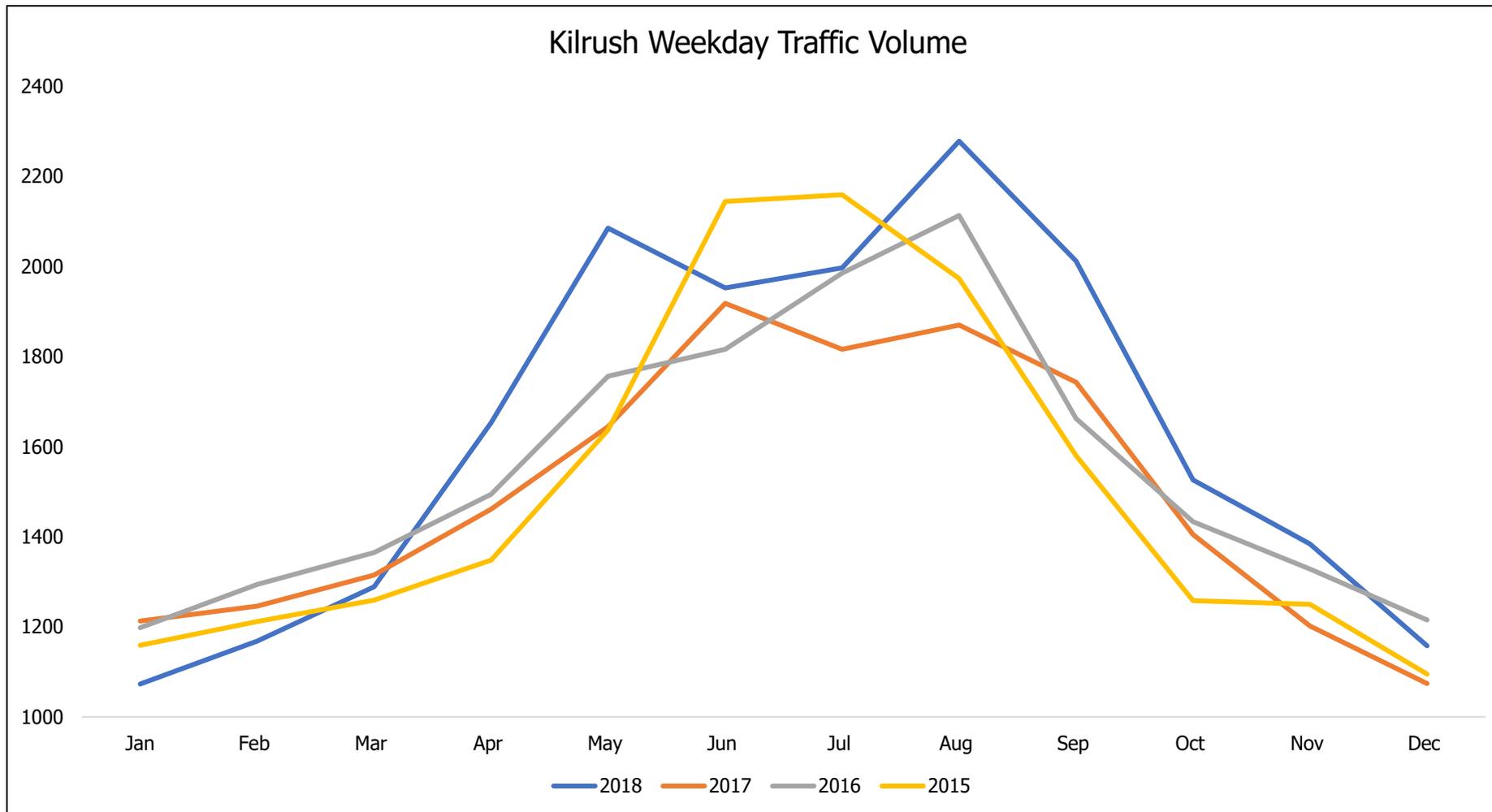
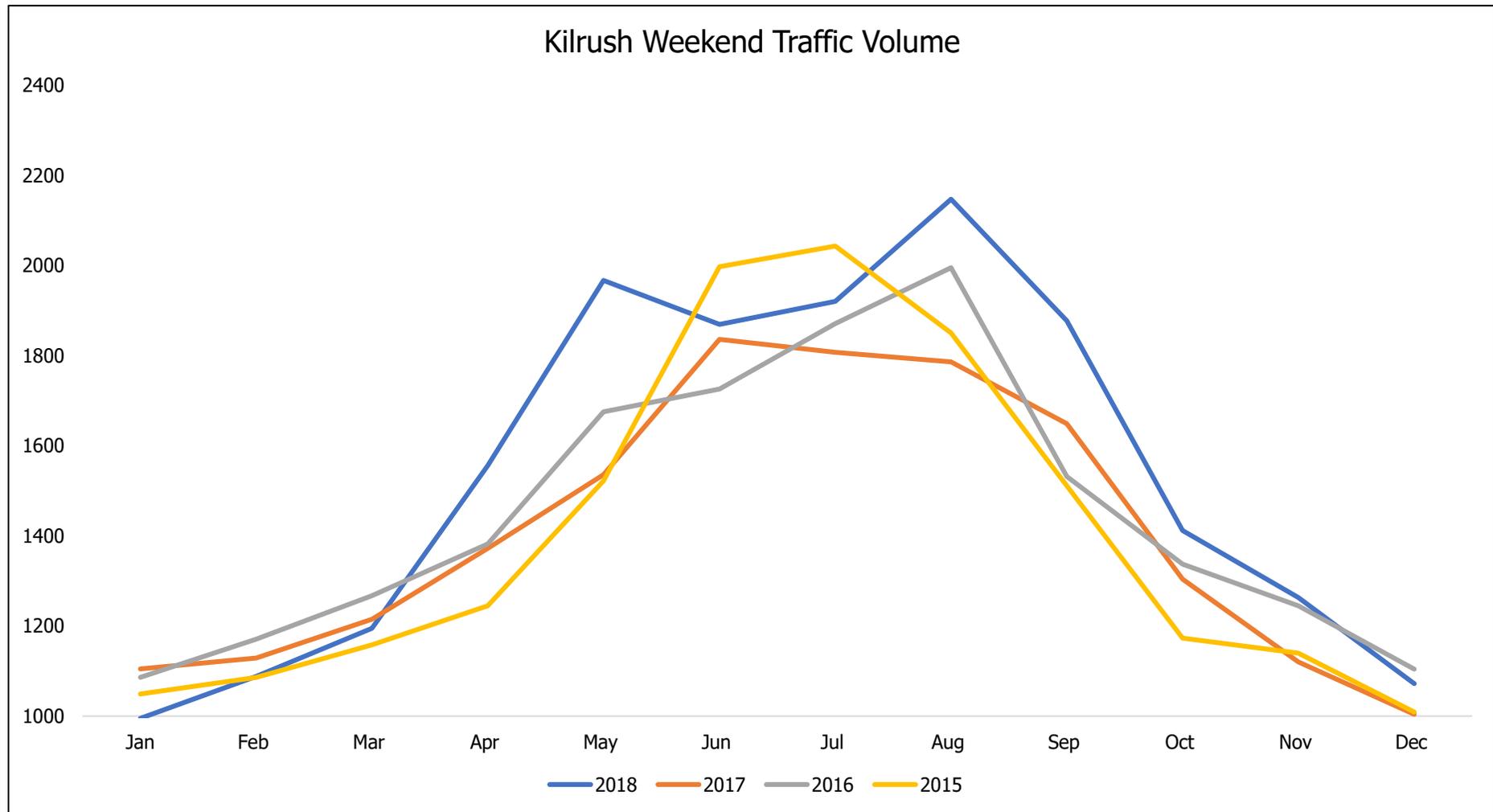


Figure 3.21 Weekday Interval traffic at Kilrush from 2015 -2018<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 1000 and not 0



**Figure 3.22 Weekend Interval Traffic at Kilrush from 2015 -2018<sup>14</sup>**

Both weekday and weekend traffic were reduced in 2017. This may be contributed to the weather conditions seen in Ireland throughout October. Traffic figures peaked during July and August 2018. This rise is most likely due to an increase of tourist to the WAW and the good weather conditions experienced in Ireland that year.

<sup>14</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 1000 and not 0

### 3.5.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.22 Kilrush (Cappagh Pier) Blue Flag Beach Status 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015	✓		No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018.
2016	✓		
2017	✓		
2018	✓		

Cappagh Pier has been compliant with the specific criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and environmental management and has retained its Blue Flag status since 2015.

### 3.5.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast

**Table 3.23 Kilrush Green Coast Status 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green Coast status from 2015 -2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

There has been no changed to the Green coast status of Kilrush (Cappagh Pier) since 2015.

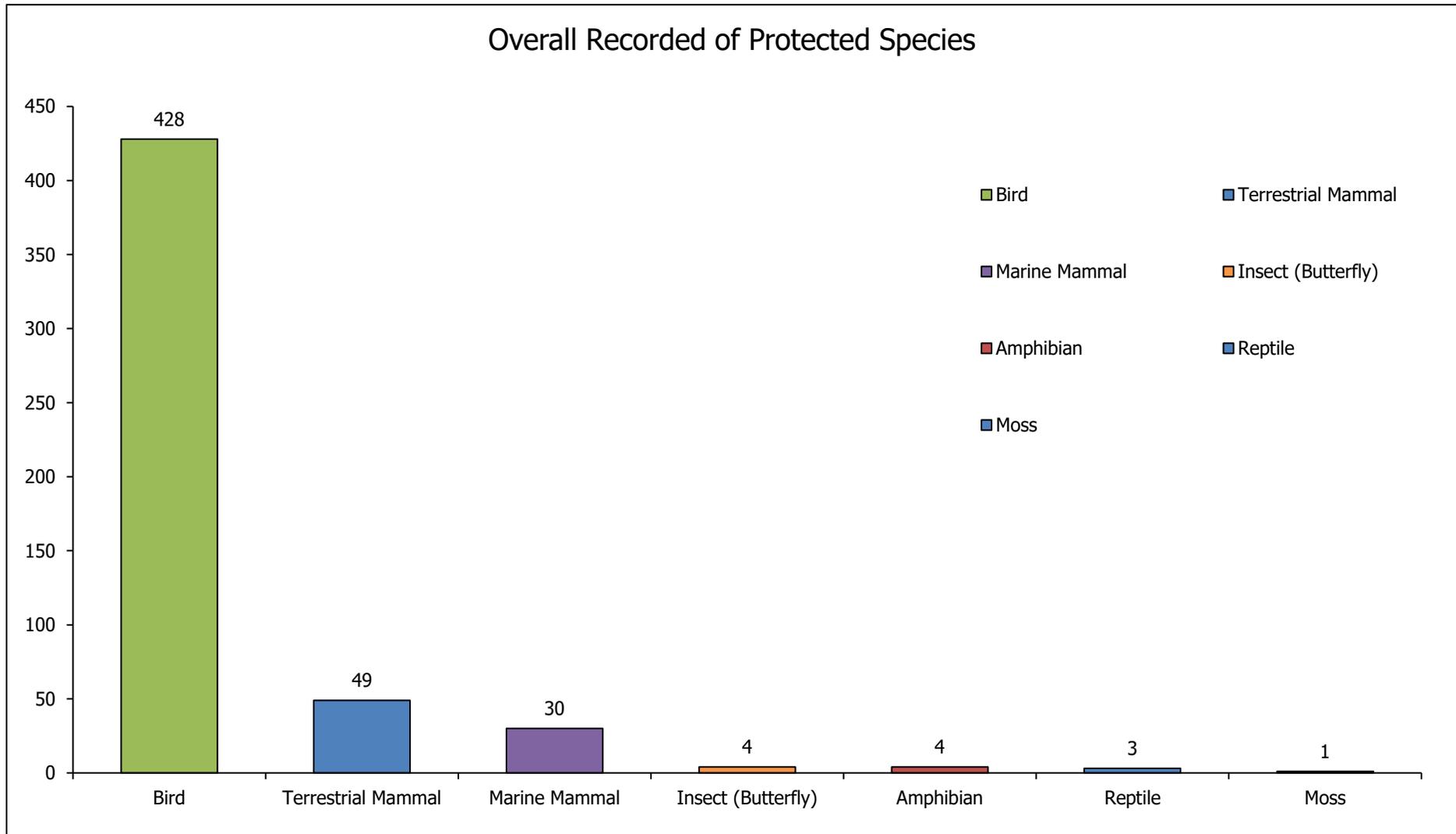
### 3.5.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



**Figure 3.23 Kilrush monitoring site 10x10km tile (Q95) from the NBDC dataset**

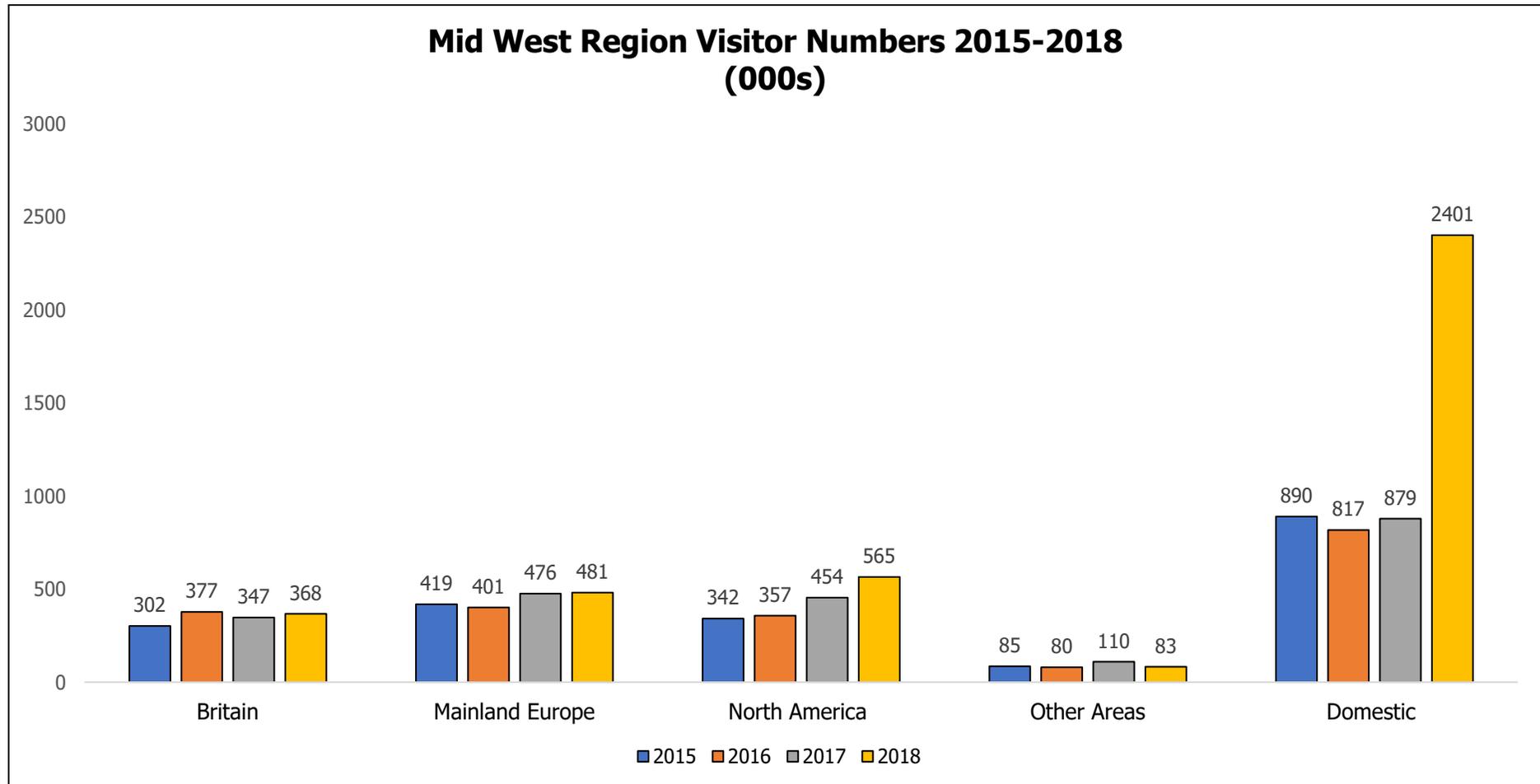
**Table 3.24 Overall Record of Invasive Species recorded within 10km of Kilrush**

Species Group	Species Name	Impact Level
Flowering plant (Common Cord-grass)	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Himalayan Knotweed)	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Russian-vine)	<i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Three-cornered Garlic)	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Common Garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Keeled Slug)	<i>Tandonia sowerbyi</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (American Mink)	<i>Mustela vison</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (House Mouse)	<i>Mus musculus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.24 Overall Protected Species within 10km of Kilrush**

### 3.5.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.25 Mid-West Region Visitor Numbers 2016 -2018**

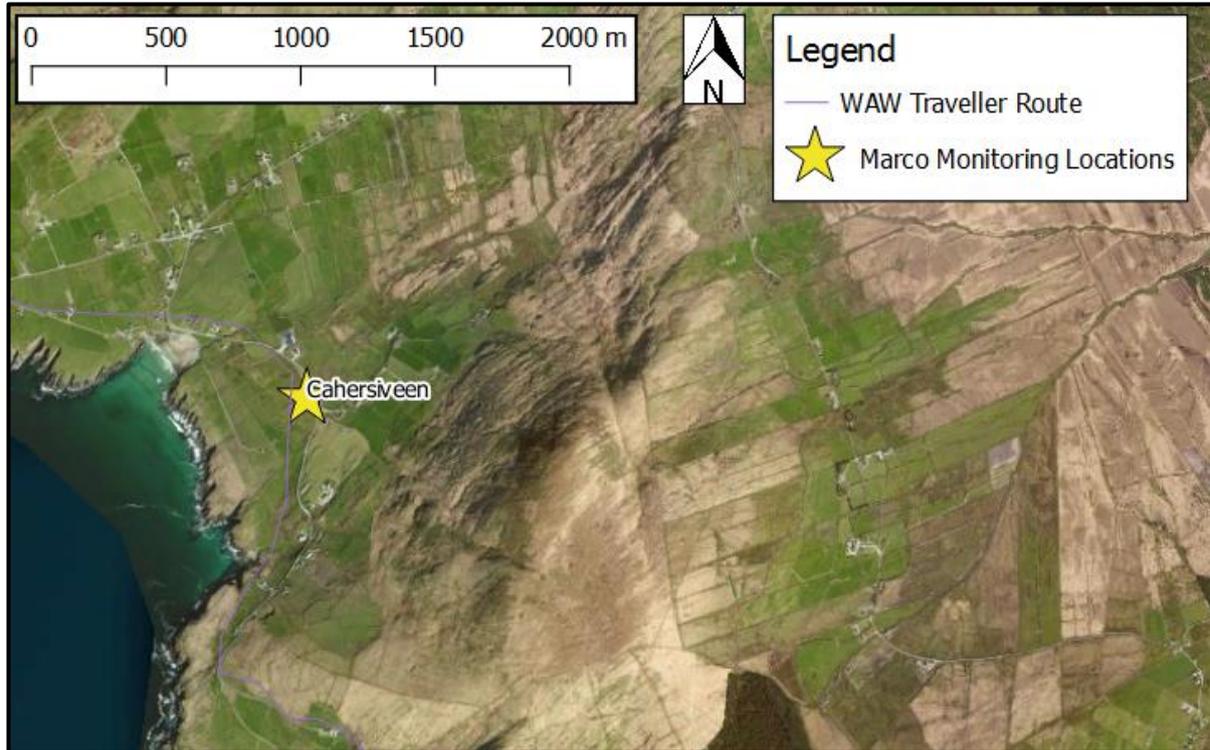
The Mid-West Region saw the highest number of visitors during 2018 with 3,898,000 tourists across all locations. 2,038,000 was the lowest count of visitors in 2015. This shows a rise of 1,051,000 visitors to the Mid-West since 2015.

### **3.5.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Kilrush during 2018.

# Cahersiveen (Co. Kerry)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.6 Cahersiveen

### 3.6.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.40 Cahersiveen Water Quality 2015 -2017**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status of conformity	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Cahersiveen (2018)</b>	D0181-01	Cahersiveen	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2018.	N/A	None	5600	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2018.
<b>Cahersiveen (2017)</b>	D0181-01	Cahersiveen	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017.	N/A	None	5600	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Cahersiveen (2016)</b>	D0181-01	Cahersiveen	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	N/A	None	5600	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Cahersiveen (2015)</b>	D0181-01	Cahersiveen	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	N/A	N/A	5600	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015.

### 3.6.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.25 Cahersiveen Bathing Water Quality**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
<b>Kerry</b>	Cahersiveen	White Strand	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	No change from 2015 -2018	0

White Strand, Cahersiveen is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. White Strand, Cahersiveen has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018.

### 3.6.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume

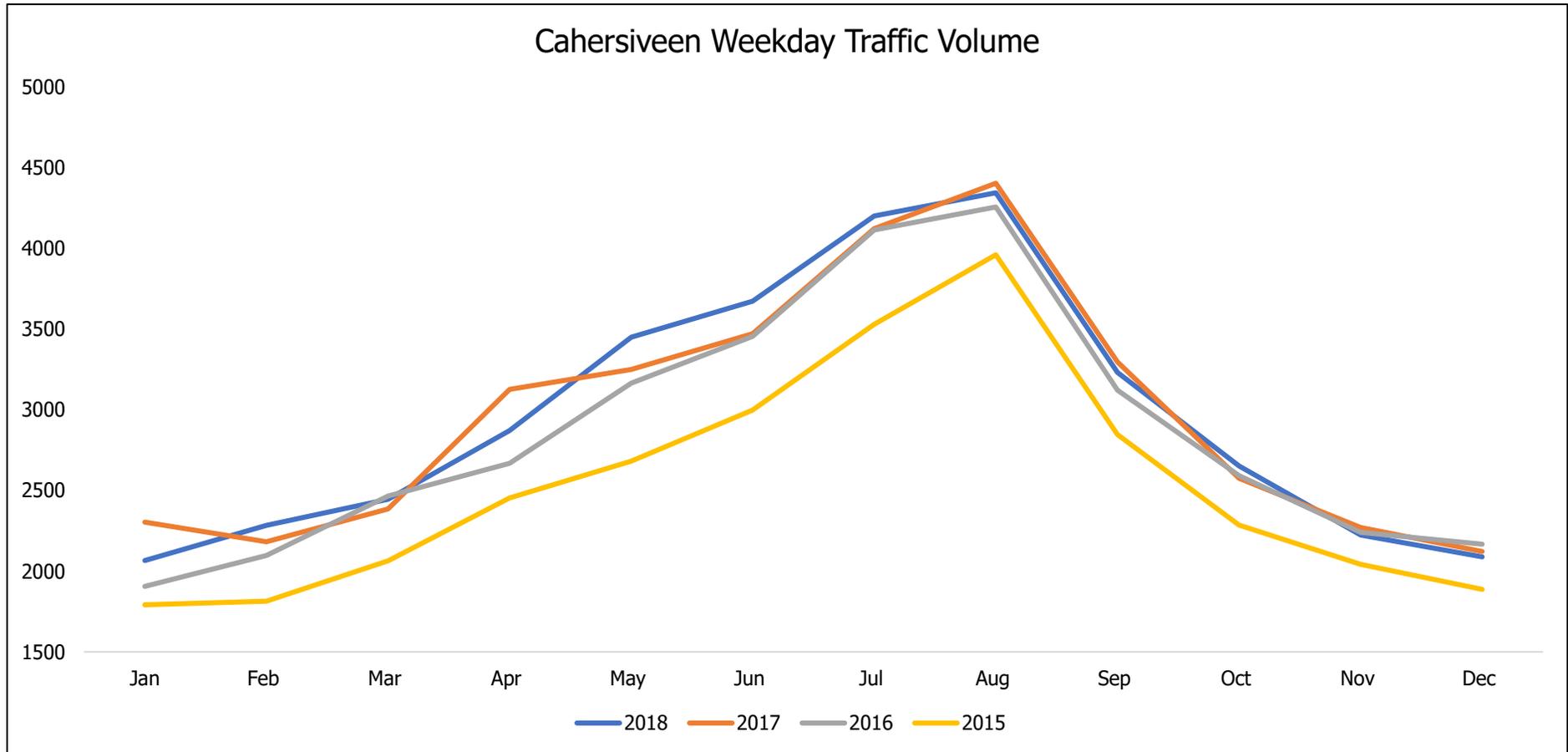


Figure 3.26 Weekday Interval traffic at Cahersiveen from 2015 -2018<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 1500 and not 0

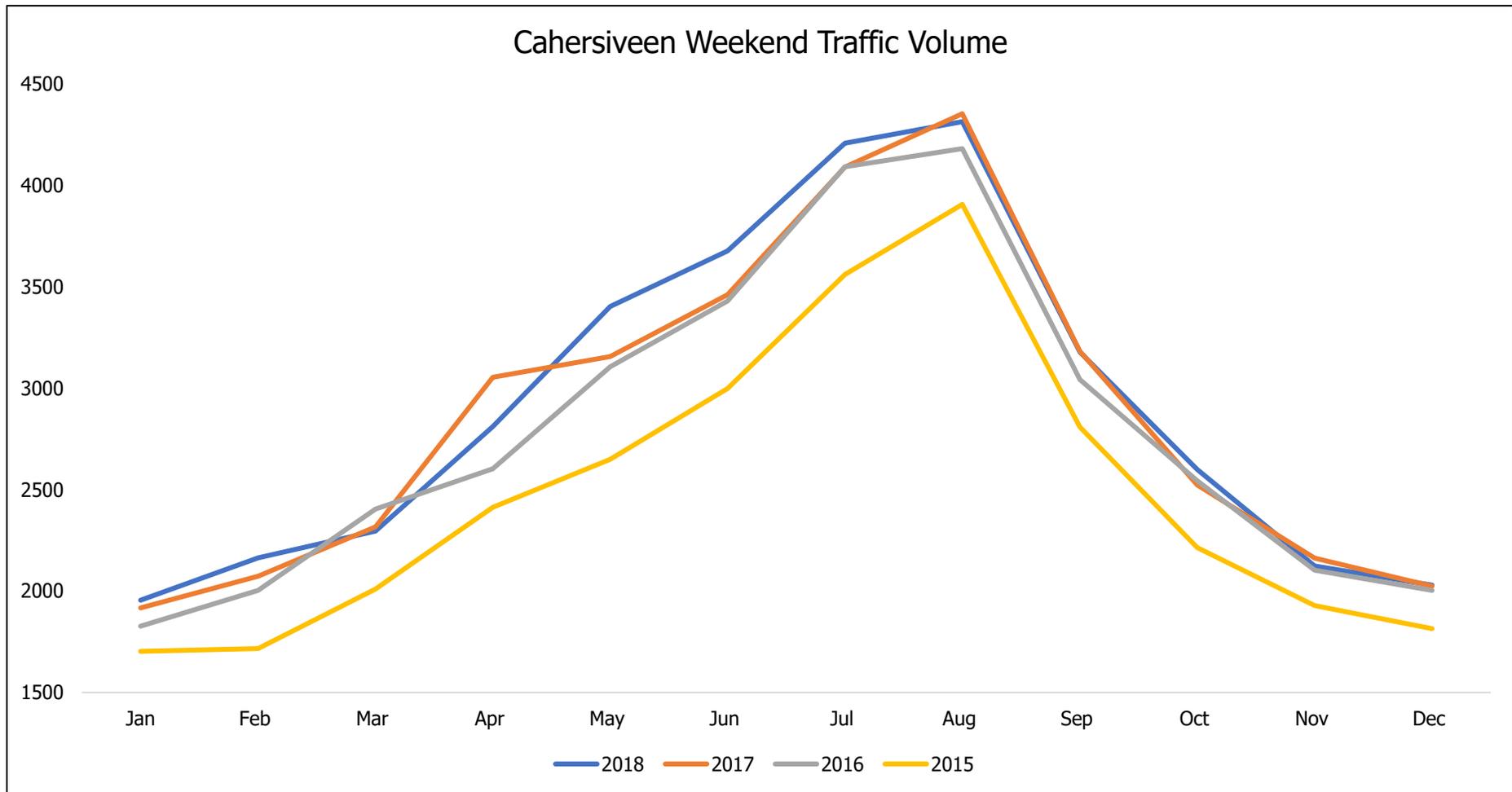


Figure 3.27 Weekend Interval Traffic at Cahersiveen from 2015 -2018<sup>16</sup>

Results show that there has been a steady increase in interval traffic volumes during weekends and weekdays since 2015. The surge is likely due to the increase of tourists travelling from WAW sites, mainly during summer months.

<sup>16</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 1500 and not 0

### 3.6.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.26 Cahersiveen (Whitstrand) Blue Flag Beach Status 2015 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015	✓		No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2017.
2016	✓		
2017	✓		
2018	✓		

Whitstrand has been compliant with the specific criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and environmental management.

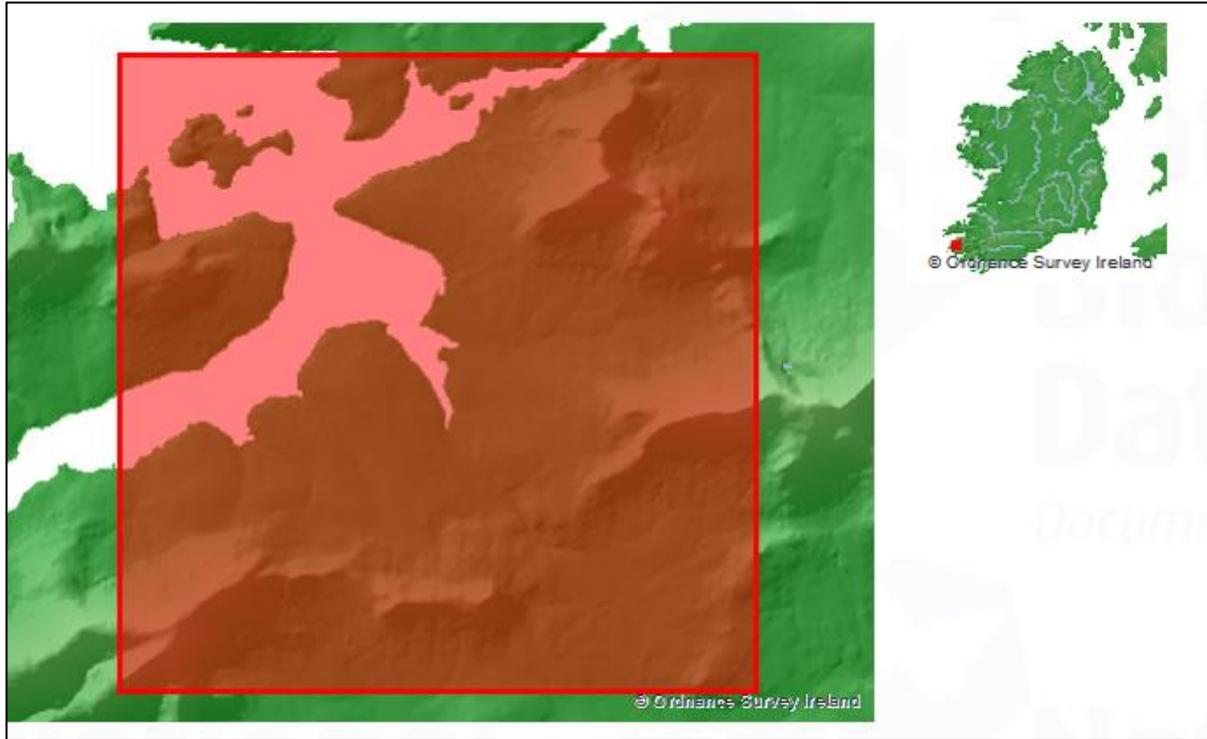
### 3.6.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast

**Table 3.27 Cahersiveen Green Coast Status 2015 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green Coast status from 2015 -2017.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

There has been no change in status of the Green coast award.

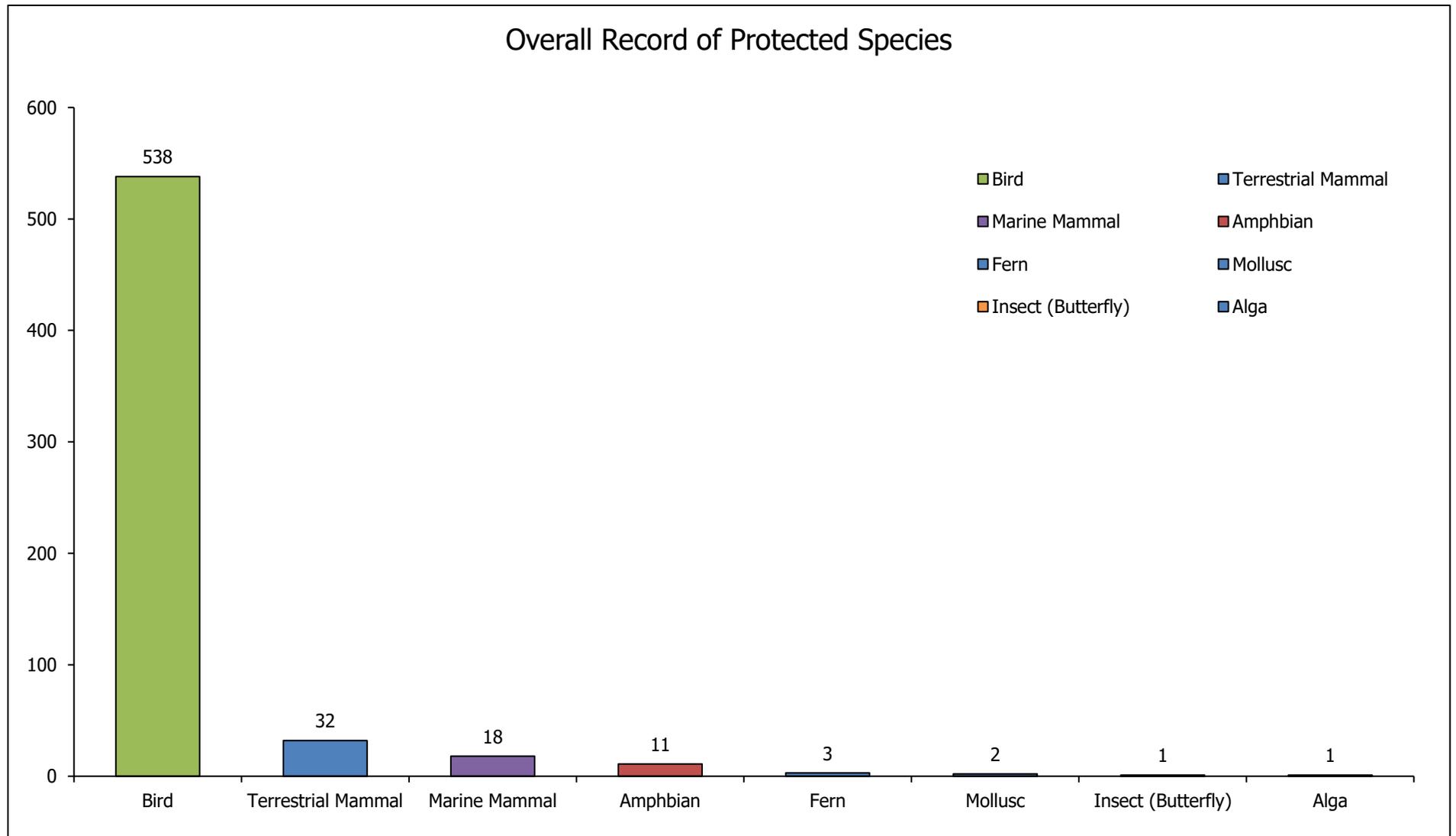
### 3.6.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



**Figure 3.28 Cahersiveen monitoring site 10x10km tile (V47) from the NBDC dataset**

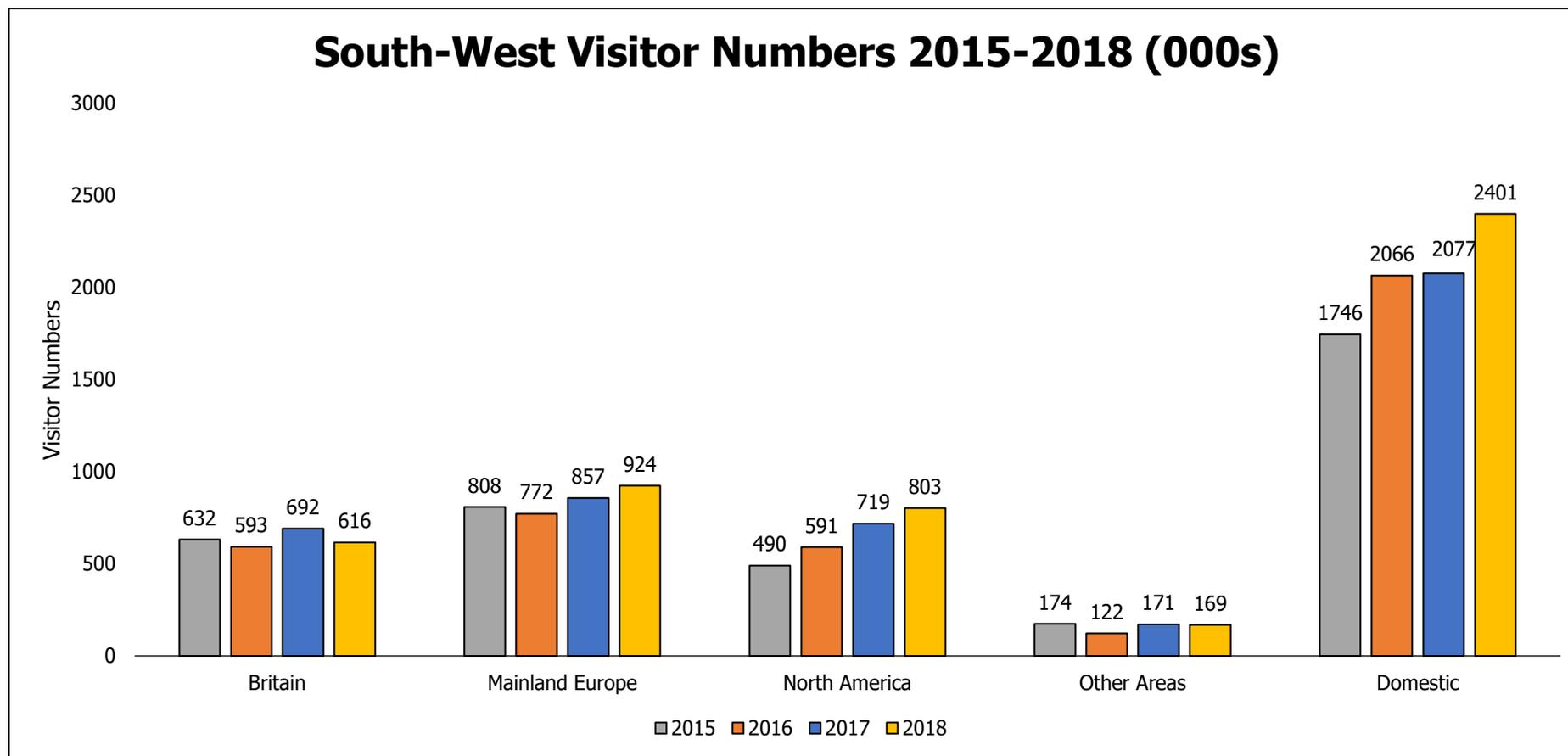
**Table 3.28 Overall Record of Invasive Species recorded within 10km of Cahersiveen**

Species Group	Species Name	Impact Level
Alga (Wireweed)	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Cherry Laurel)	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Butterfly Bus)	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (American Skunk-cabbage)	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Common Cord-grass)	<i>Spartina anglica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Giant-rhubard)	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Himalayan Knotweed)	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Rhododendron pontocum)	<i>Rhododendron pontocum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Three-cornered Garlic)	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Parrot's-Feather)	<i>Yriophyllum aquaticum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Common Garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Keeled Slug)	<i>Tandonia sowerbyi</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (American Mink)	<i>Mustela vison</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (House Mouse)	<i>Mus musculus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Sika Deer)	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.29 Overall Protected Species within 10km of Cahersiveen**

### 3.6.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.30 South West Regional Performance 2015-2018**

Domestic tourism was substantially higher in 2018 than in previous years. Overall the South-West region received the highest level of tourism in 2018 with 4,913,000. 2015 had the lowest record of tourists at 3,850,000. This is a growth of 27% between 2015 and 2018.

### **3.6.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Cahersiveen during 2018.

# Bantry (Co. Cork)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.7 Bantry

### 3.7.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.29 Bantry Water Quality 2015 -2018**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status of conformity	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Bantry (2018)</b>	D0168 -01	Bantry	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.				
<b>Bantry (2017)</b>	D0168 -01	Bantry	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017	N/A	None	6000	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Bantry (2016)</b>	D0168 -01	Bantry	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	N/A	None	6000	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Bantry (2015)</b>	D0168 -01	Bantry	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	N/A	None	6000	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015

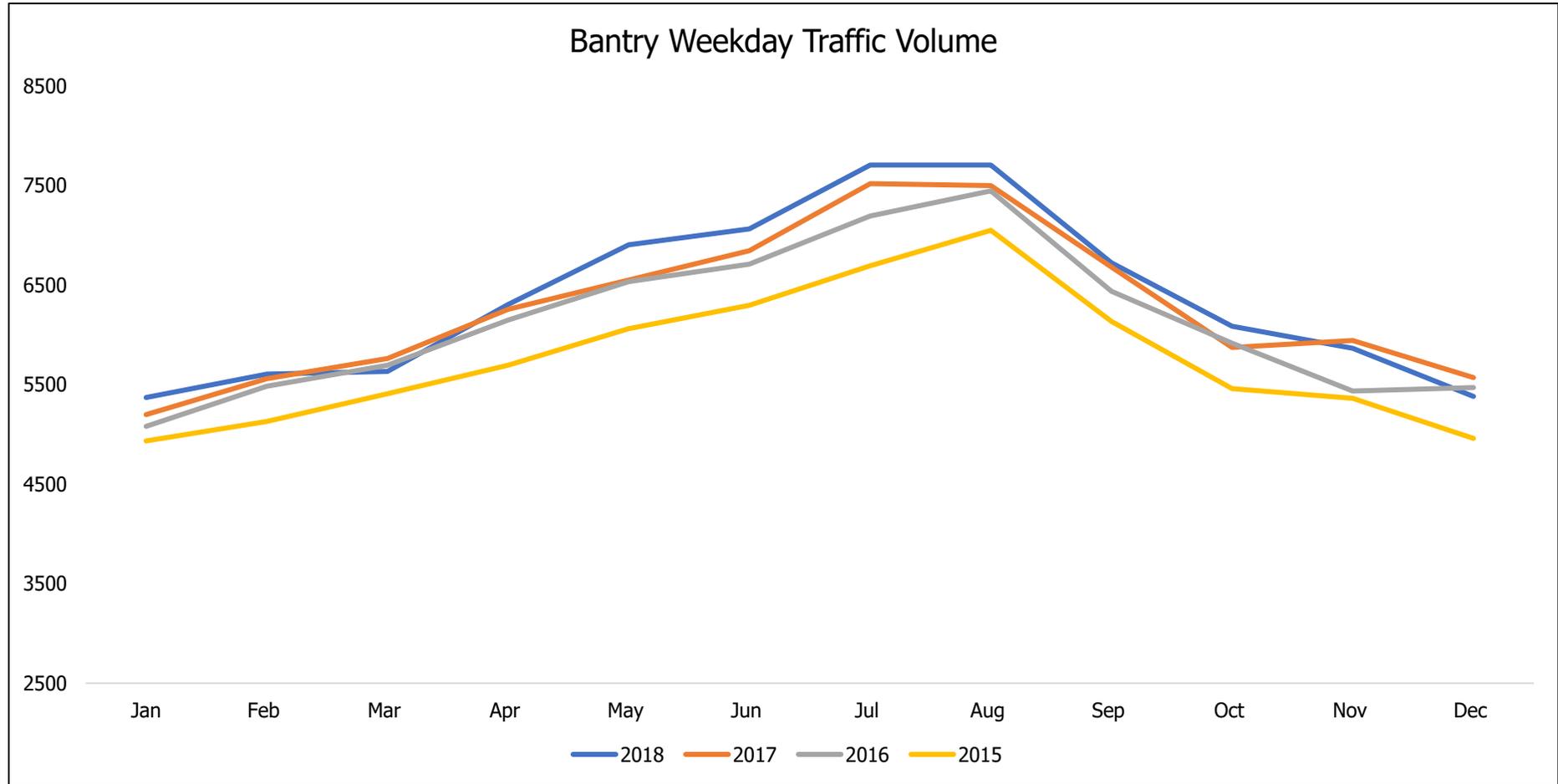
### 3.7.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.30 Bantry Bathing Water Quality**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
<b>Cork</b>	Bantry	Barley Cove	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	No change from 2015 -2017	0

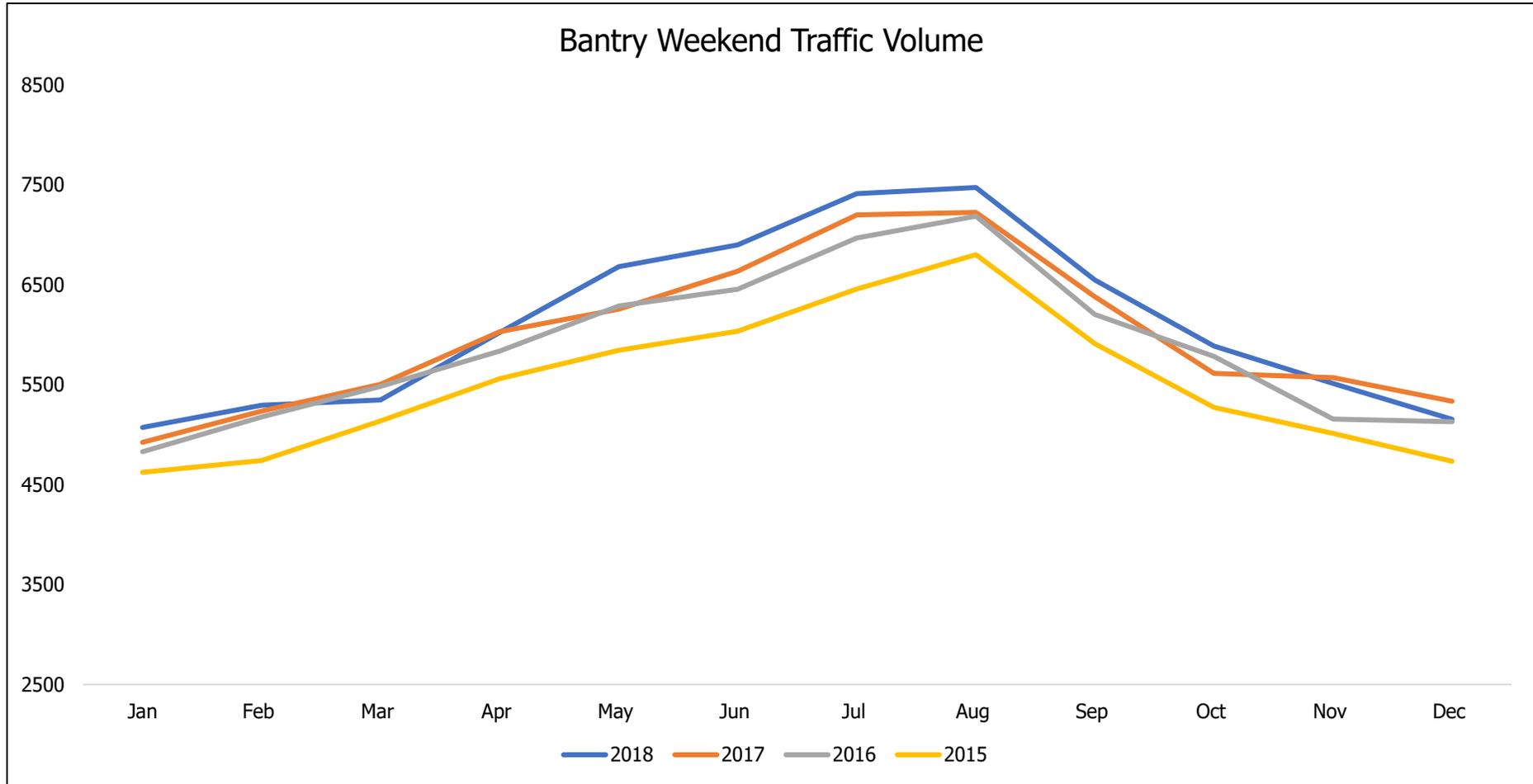
Barley Cove is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Barley Cove has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018.

**3.7.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume**



**Figure 3.31 Weekday Interval traffic at Bantry from 2015 -2018<sup>17</sup>**

<sup>17</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 2500 and not 0



**Figure 3.32 Weekend Interval Traffic at Bantry from 2015-2018<sup>18</sup>**

Results show that there has been a steady increase in interval traffic volumes during weekends and weekdays since 2015. The surge is likely due to the increase of tourists travelling from WAW sites, mainly during summer months

<sup>18</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 2500 and not 0

### 3.7.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.31 Bantry (Barley Cove) Blue Flag Beach Status 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015	✓		No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018.
2016	✓		
2017	✓		
2018	✓		

Barley Cove has been complaint with the specific criteria relating to water quality, information provision, environmental education, safety and environmental management.

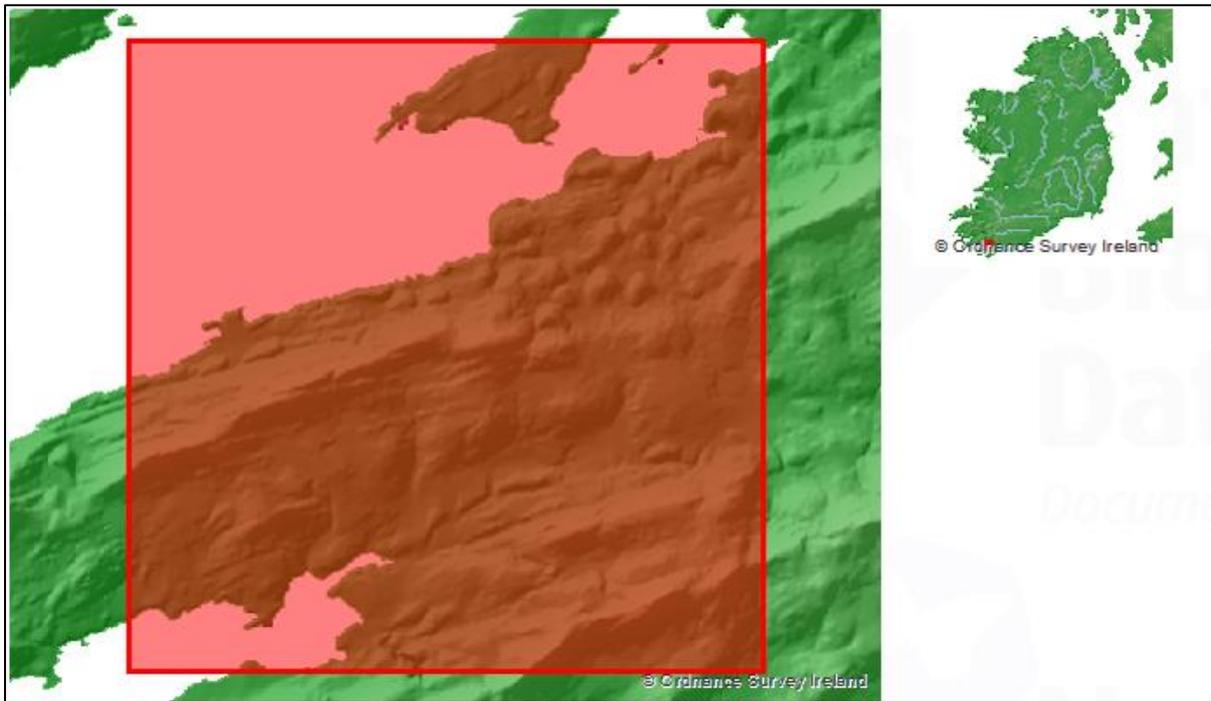
### 3.7.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast Awards

**Table 3.32 Bantry Green Coast Awards 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green Coast status from 2015 -2017.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

There has been no change in the green coast status of the site since 2015.

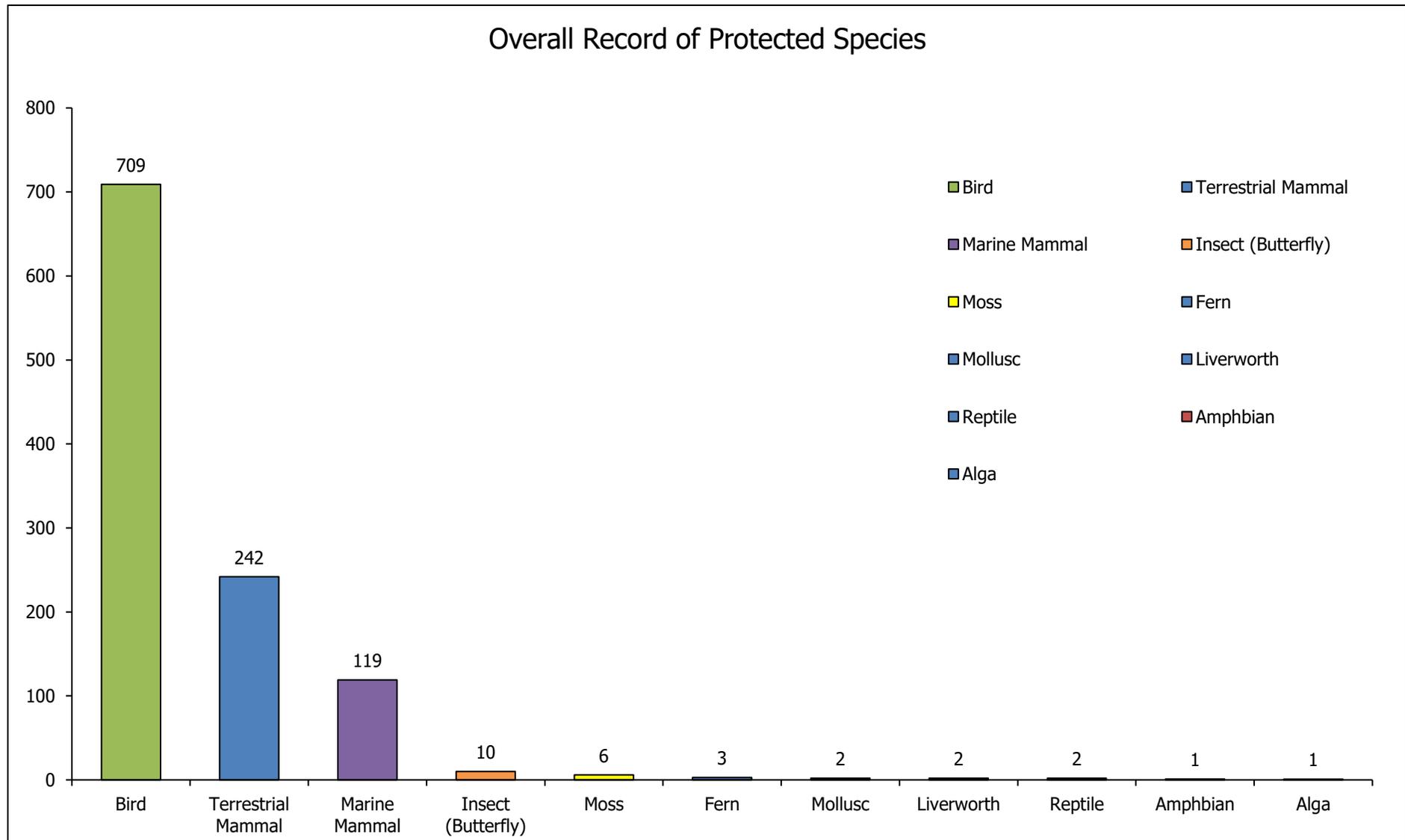
### 3.7.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



**Figure 3.33 Bantry monitoring site 10x10km tile (V94) from the NBDC dataset**

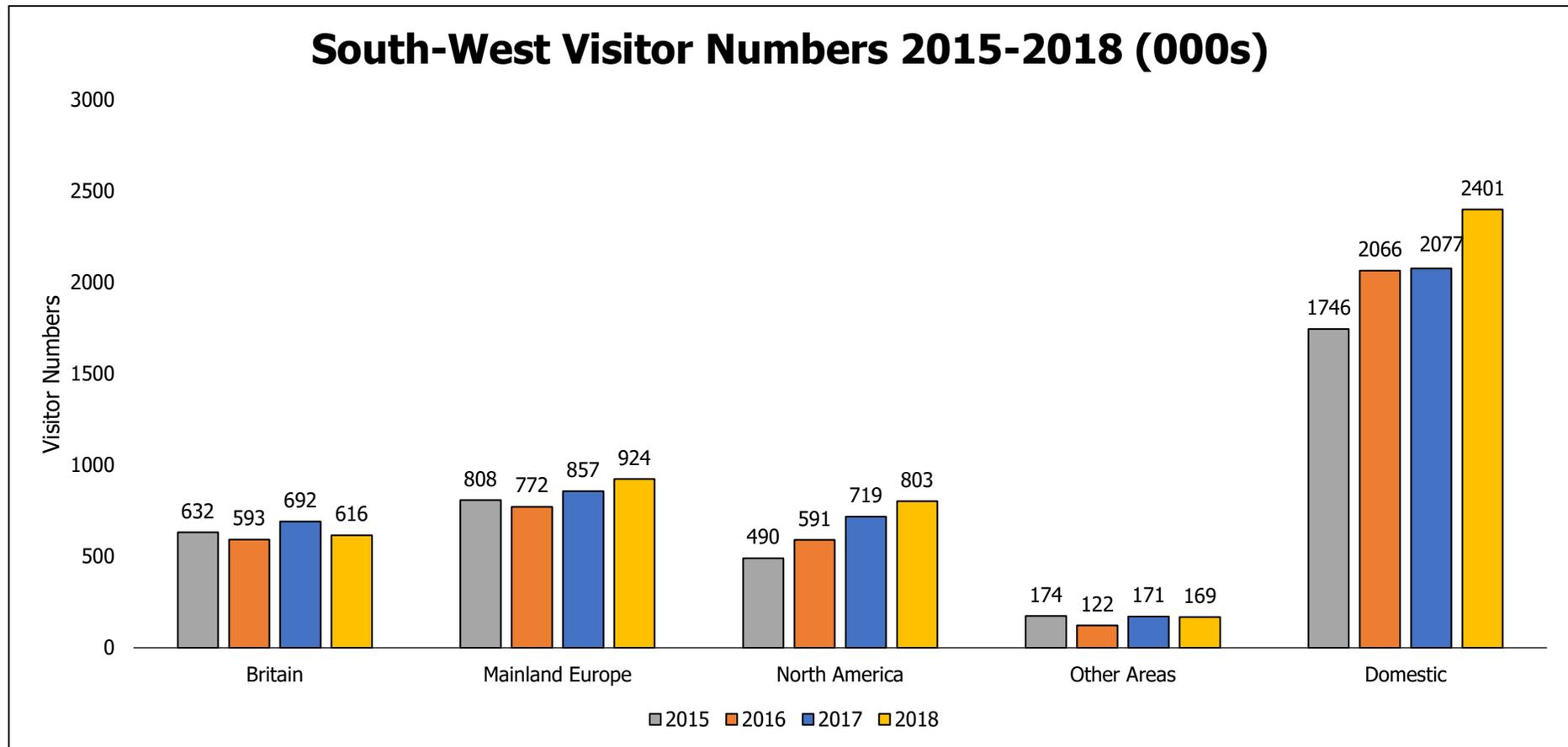
**Table 3.33 Overall Record of Invasive species within 10km of Bantry**

Species Group	Species Name	Impact Level
Alga (Wireweed)	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flatworm (Turbellaria)	<i>Arthurdendyus triangulatus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Cherry Laurel)	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Butterfly Bush)	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Himalayan Honeysuckle)	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Rose)	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Giant-rhubarb)	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Himalayan Knotweed)	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Rhododendron pontocum)	<i>Rhododendron pontocum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Sea-buckthorn)	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
flowering plant (Three-cornered Garlic)	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Nuttall's Waterweed)	<i>Elodea nuttallii</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Common Garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Bank Vole)	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Leathery Sea Squirt)	<i>Styela clava</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Sika Deer)	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.34 Overall Record of Protected Species within 10km of Bantry**

### 3.7.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.35 South West Regional Performance 2015-2018**

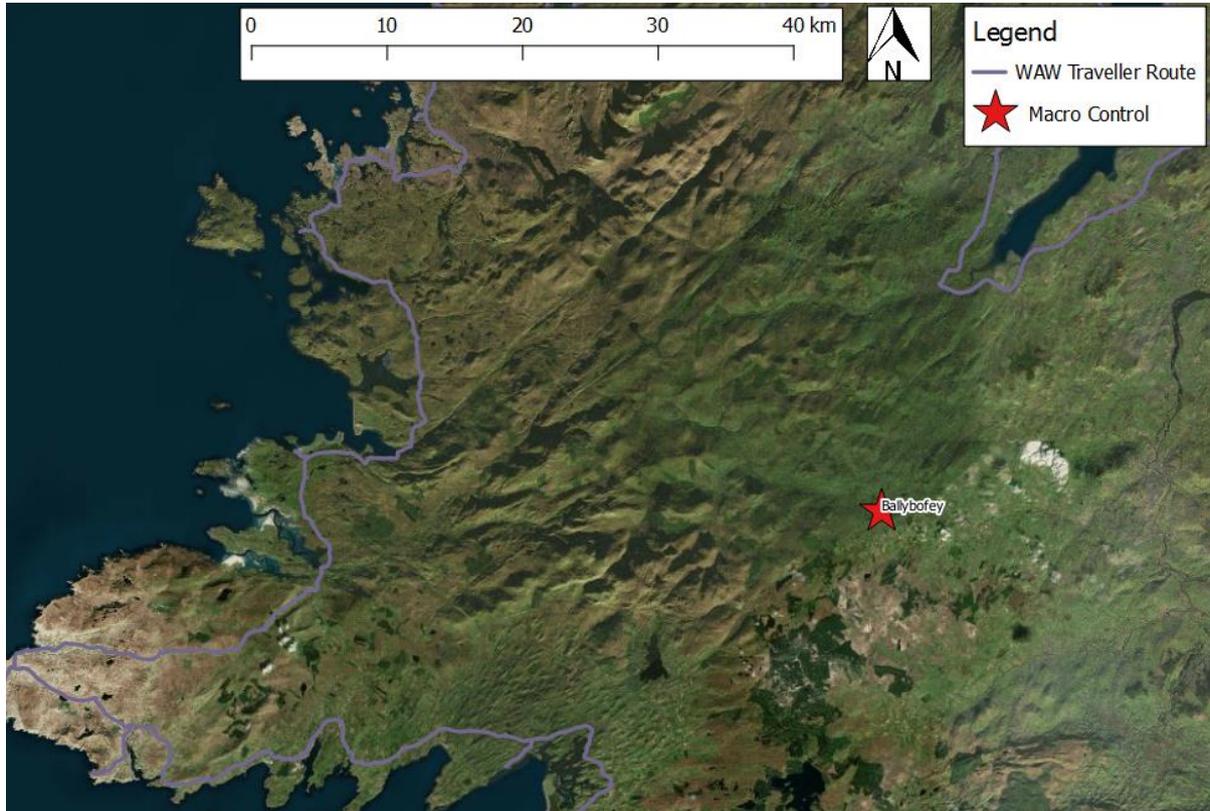
Domestic tourism was substantially higher in 2018 than in previous years. Overall the South-West region received the highest level of tourism in 2018 with 4,913,000. 2015 had the lowest record of tourists at 3,850,000. This is a growth of 27% between 2015 and 2018.

### **3.7.7 Monitoring Indicator 8 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Bantry during 2018.

# Ballybofey (Co. Donegal)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.8 Ballybofey

### 3.8.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.56 Ballybofey Water Quality 2015 -2018**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status of conformity	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Ballybofey (2018)</b>	D0120-01	Ballybofey	No data available as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020				
<b>Ballybofey (2017)</b>	D0120-01	Ballybofey	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017	N/A	None	5600	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Ballybofey (2016)</b>	D0120-01	Ballybofey	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	N/A	None	5600	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>Ballybofey (2015)</b>	D0120-01	Ballybofey	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	N/A	9 complaints, 1 reported incident	4000	There was no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015.

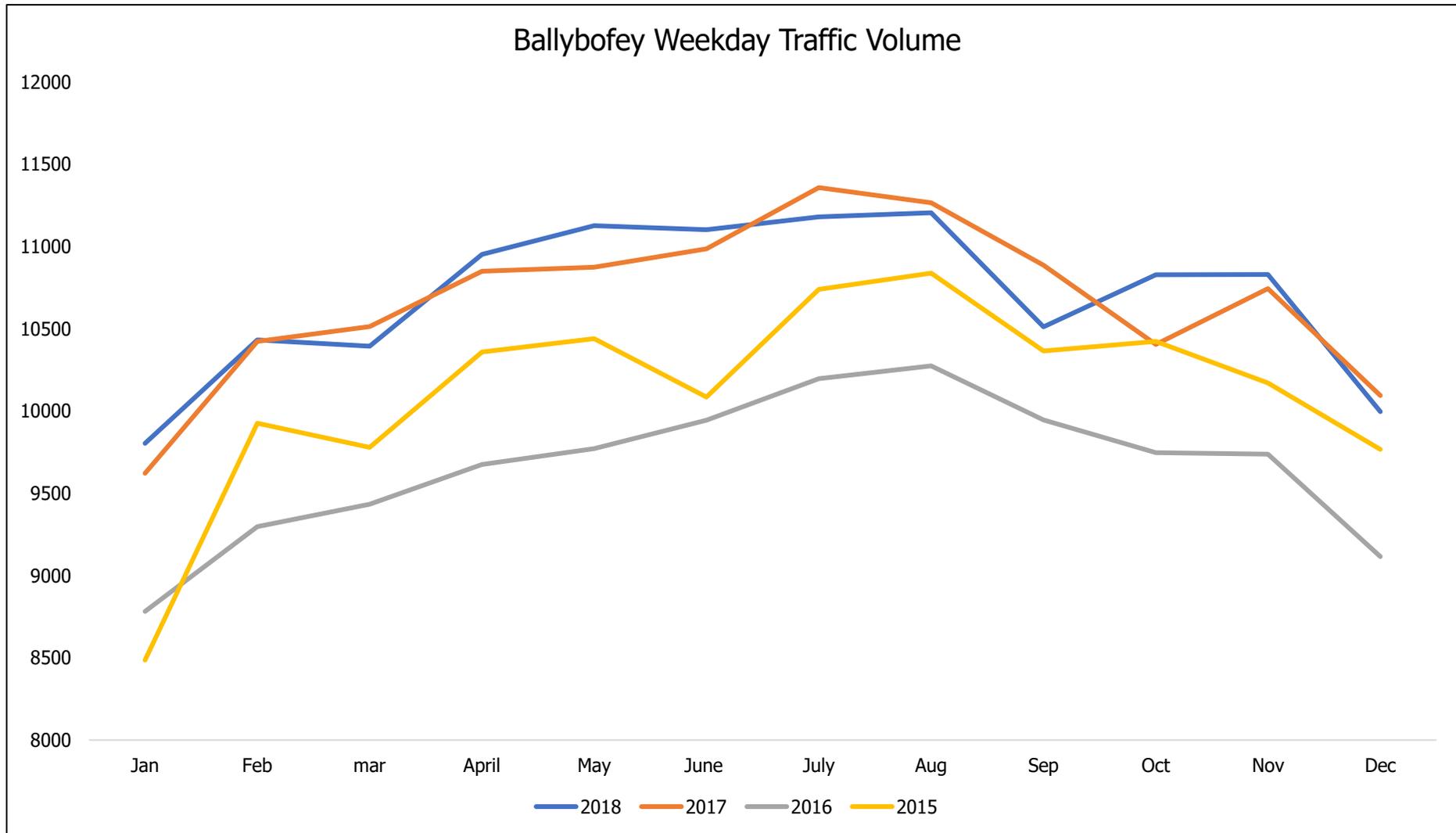
### 3.8.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.34 Ballybofey Bathing Water Quality 2015 -2017**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Donegal	Ballybofey	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No change from 2015 -2018	0

The Water Quality at Ballybofey has been classed as good since 2015. There is no bathing water monitoring point for Ballybofey resulting in no data being gathered.

### 3.8.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume



**Figure 3.36 Weekday Interval Traffic at Ballybofey from 2015 -2018<sup>19</sup>**

<sup>19</sup> Note the axis starts at 8000 and not 0

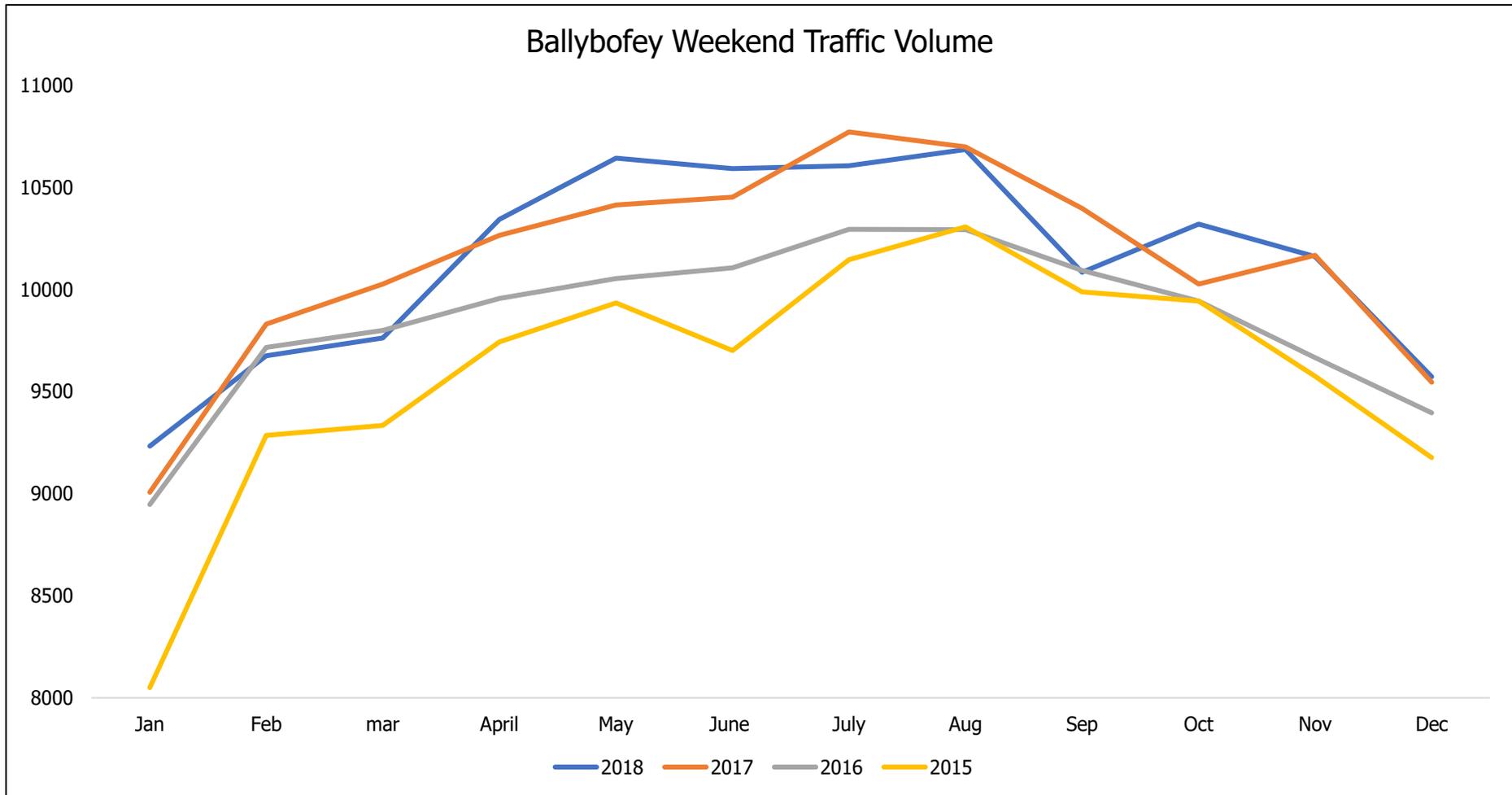


Figure 3.37 Weekend Interval Traffic at Ballybofey from 2015 -2018<sup>20</sup>

Results show varying levels of traffic in Ballybofey across both weekdays and weekends. In both instances there was an increase during summer months most likely due to visitors to the Wild Atlantic Way.

<sup>20</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 8000 and not 0

### 3.8.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.35 Ballybofey Blue Flag Beach Status 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018. <sup>21</sup>
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Ballybofey did not receive Blue Flag status between 2015 and 2018.

### 3.8.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast Awards

**Table 3.36 Ballybofey Green Coast Awards 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green Coast status from 2015 -2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Ballybofey did not receive a Green Coast Award between 2015 and 2017.

<sup>21</sup> It is noted that Ballybofey is an inland monitoring site and therefore will not have any blue flag status

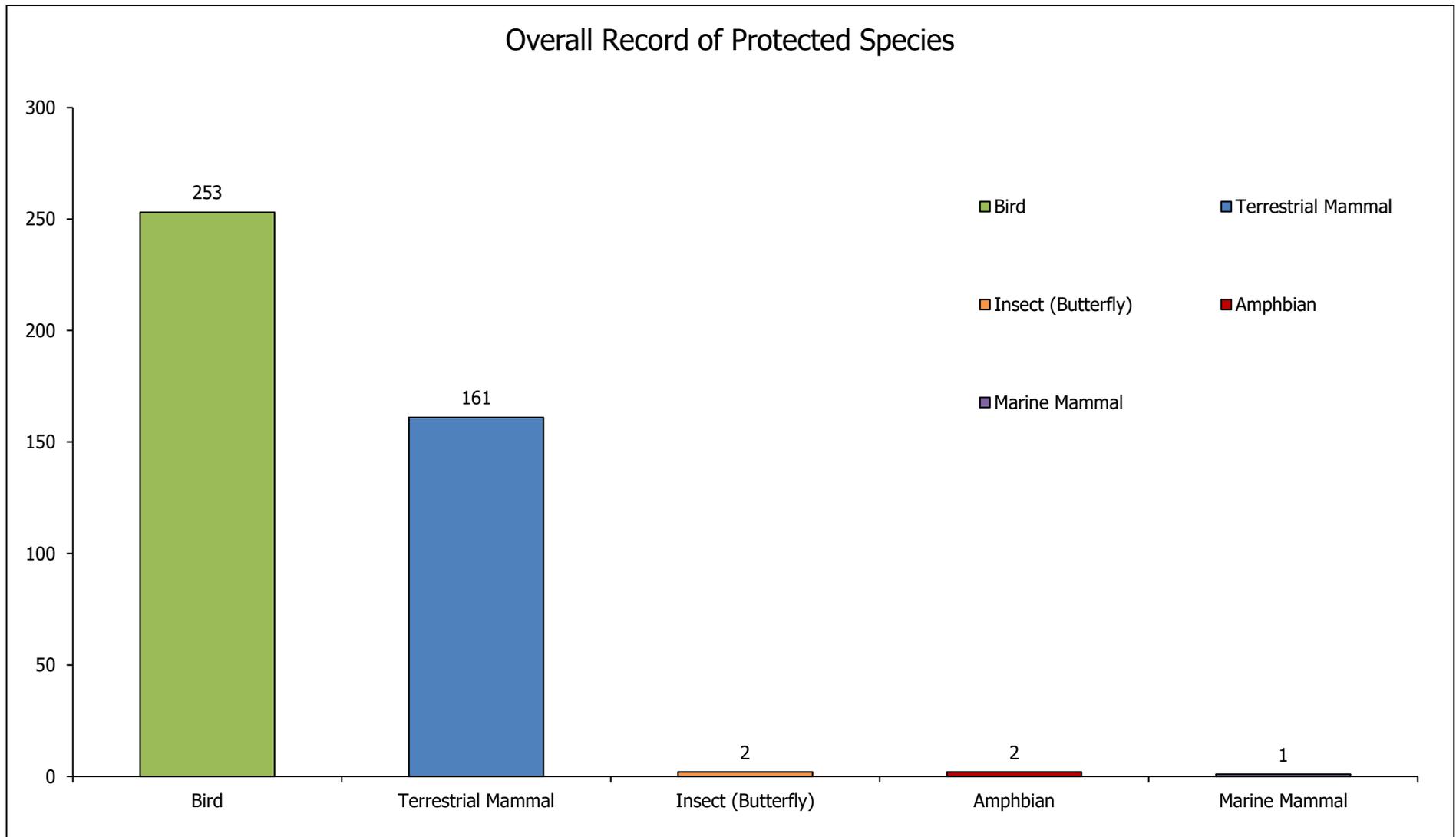
### 3.8.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



**Figure 3.38 Ballybofey Monitoring site 10x10km tile (H19) from the NBDC dataset**

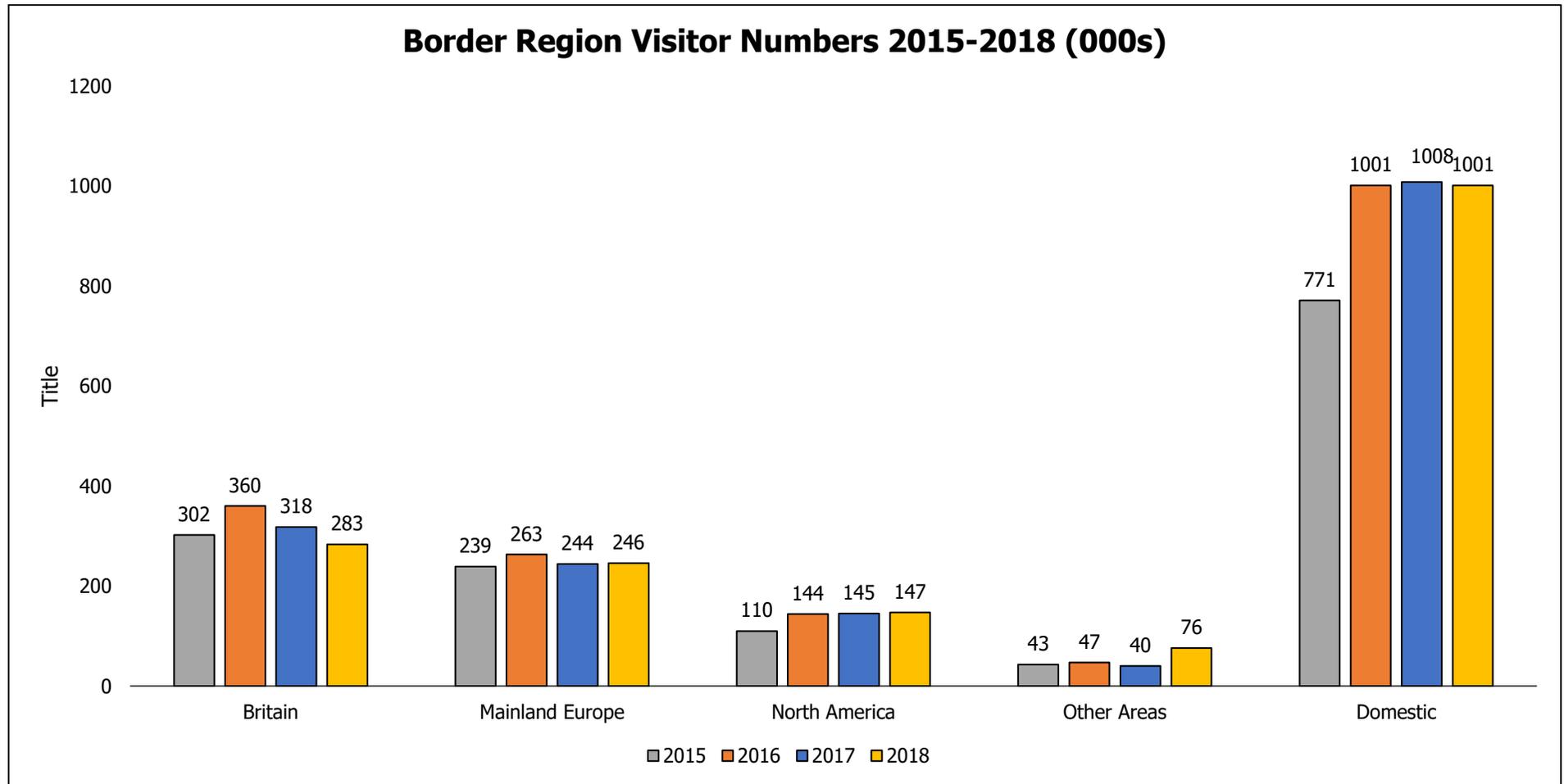
**Table 3.37 Overall Record of Invasive Species within 10km of Ballybofey**

<b>Species Group</b>	<b>Species Name</b>	<b>Impact Level</b>
Alga (Wireweed)	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flatworm (Turbellaria)	<i>Arthurdendyus triangulatus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Canadian Waterweed)	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Indian Balsam)	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Himalayan Knotweed)	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Rhododendron pontocum)	<i>Rhododendron pontocum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins' Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (American Mink)	<i>Mustela vison</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Eastern Grey Squirrel)	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Sika Deer)	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Fallow Deer)	<i>Dama dama</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (House Mouse)	<i>Mus musculus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.39 Overall Record of Protected Species within 10km of Ballybofey**

### 3.8.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.40 Comparison of visitor numbers for Border Region 2015 - 2018**

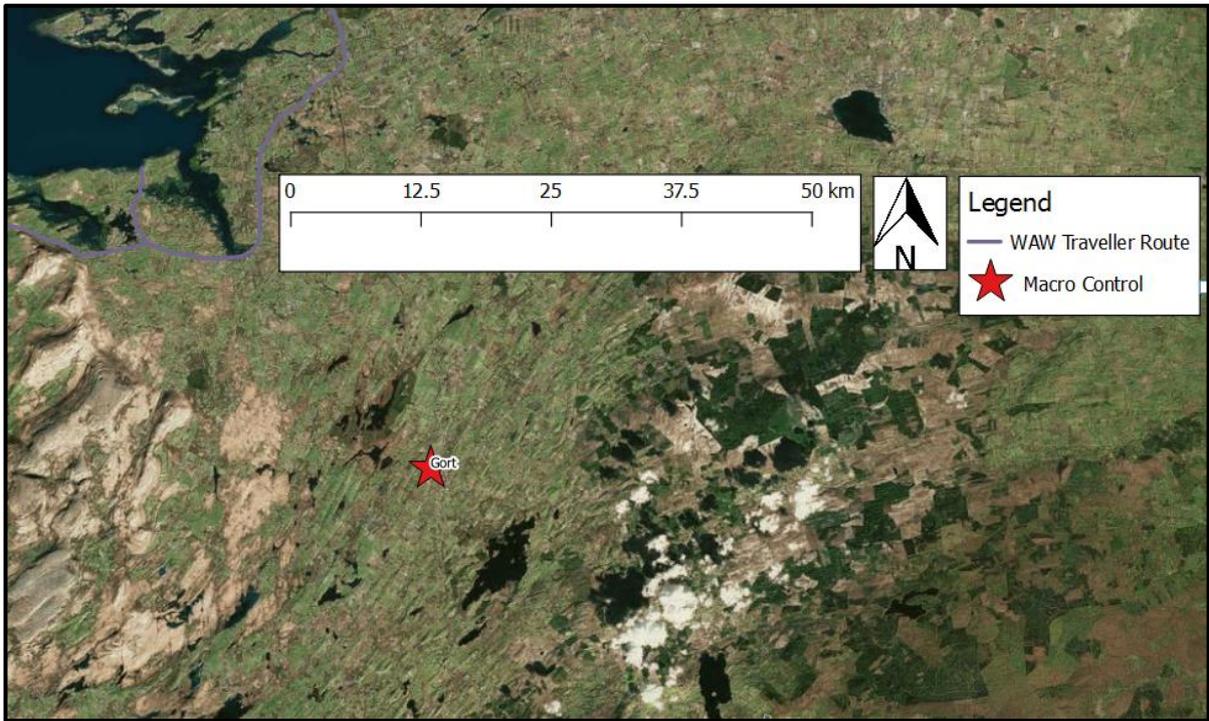
2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017 with a total of 1,755,000.

### **3.8.7 Monitoring Indicator 8 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Ballybofey during 2018.

# Gort (Co. Galway)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.9 Gort

### 3.9.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.64 Gort Water Quality 2015 -2018**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Gort (2018)</b>	D0195-01	Gort	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2018.	There have been several records emission limit value (ELV) breaches for ammonia.	0 complaints 3 incidences	4310	The aeration system was upgraded to a Fine Bubble Diffused Air (FBDA) system in May 2018 with the concentration of ammonia subsequently reducing. Following a period of process review and optimisation the WWTP had been achieving compliance with the ELV for ammonia i.e. for the three months prior to the visit.
<b>Gort (2017)</b>	D0195-01	Gort	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017	The following parameters exceeded the emission limit values in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TSS (mg/l);</li> <li>• Ortho P / MRP (mg/l); and</li> <li>• Ammonia N (mg/l).</li> </ul>	3Complaints; (Investigation of Sewage flooding) 17 Incidents, 2 reported	4310	The following improvement works were undertaken in 2017: Refurbishment of Inlet Screen, Refurbishment of Sludge Dewatering Centrifuge, Manhole covers replaced on network to reduce infiltration of rainwater. Works to be carried out in 2018 are: Replacement of Surface Aeration with FBDA
<b>Gort (2016)</b>	D0195-01	Gort	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was Non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	The following parameter exceeded the emission limit values in 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Ammonia</li> <li>•TSS</li> <li>•COD</li> <li>•BOD</li> </ul>	0 complaints, 19 (4 individual results submitted) reported incident	4310	The following improvement works were undertaken in 2016: Clarifier Scraper blades were replaced in the single clarifier in 2016.
<b>Gort (2015)</b>	D0195-01	Gort	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with one of the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	The following parameter exceeded the emission limit values in 2015: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ammonia</li> </ul>	0 complaints, 1 (11 individual results submitted) reported incident	4310	There was no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015.

### 3.9.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.38 Gort Bathing Water Quality 2015 -2018**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Galway	Gort	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No change from 2015 -2018	0

Water Quality in Gort has been classed as poor. The Waste Water Treatment plant has been non-compliant with Emission Limit Values since 2015. Gort is aiming to get to Good Status by 2021.

### 3.9.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume

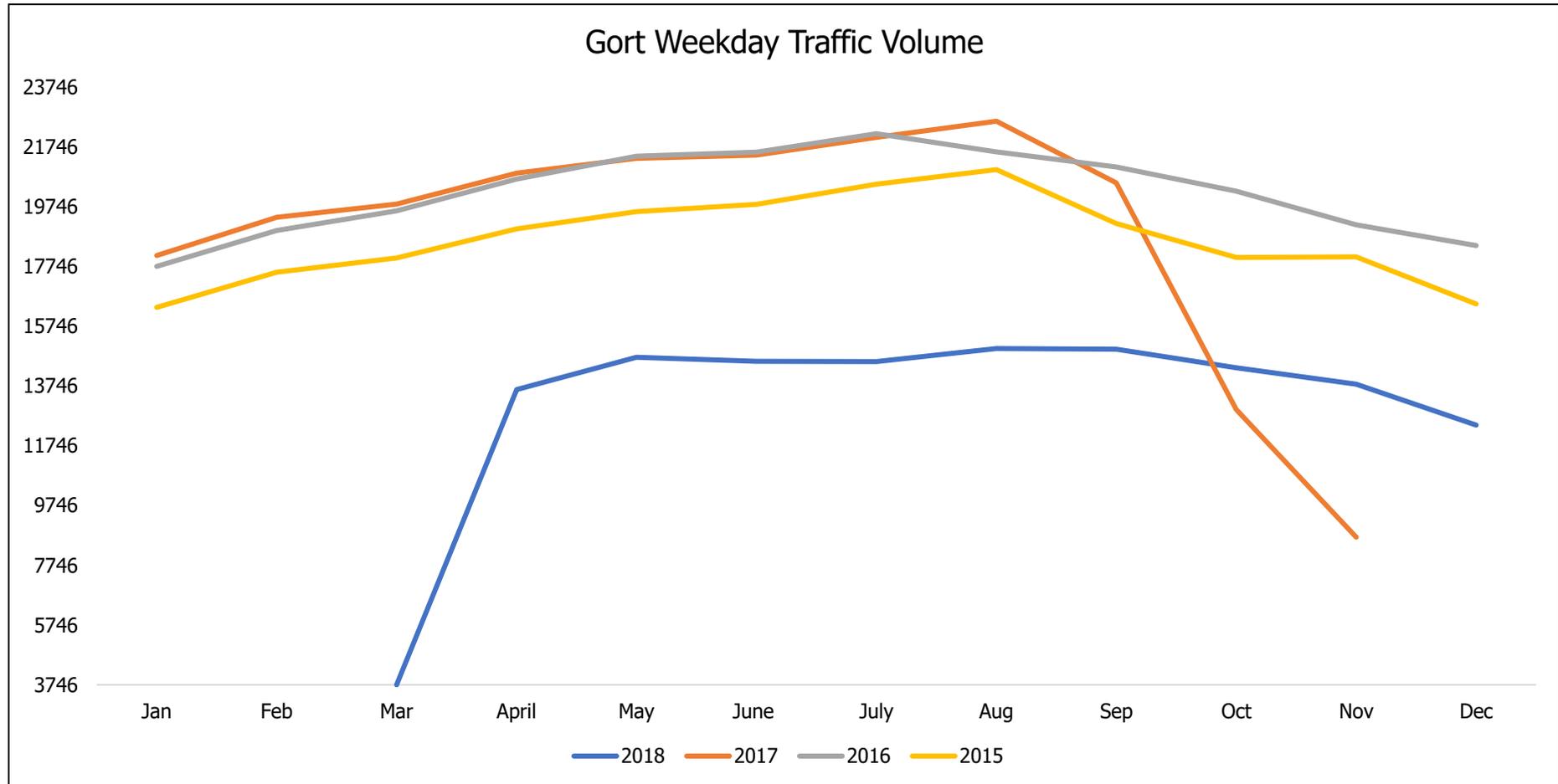
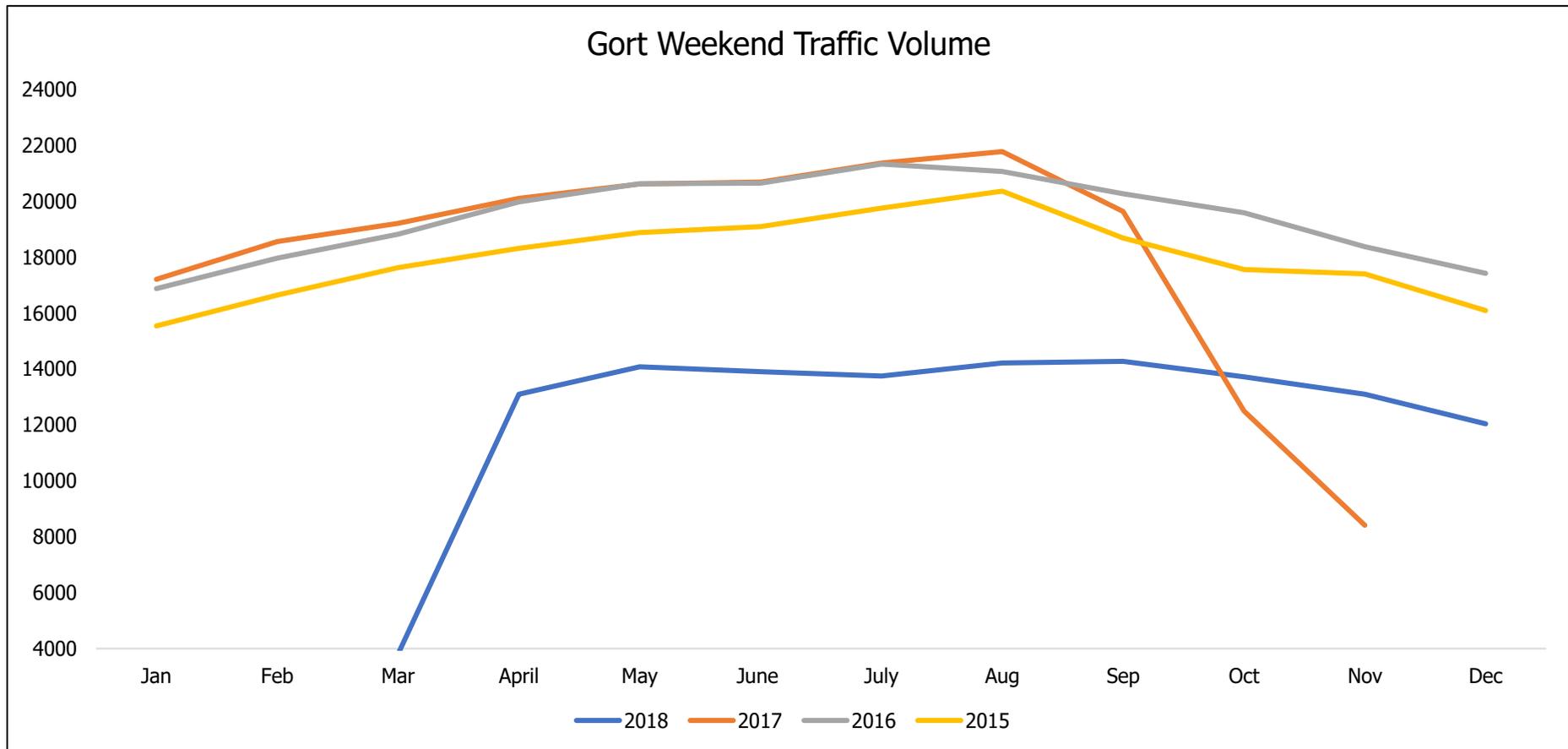


Figure 3.41 Weekday Interval Traffic Data at Gort from 2015 -2018<sup>222324</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 3746 and not 0

<sup>23</sup> The sharp fall in numbers between November and December is a result of road works taking place between 22/11/2017 and 10/12/2017, road closures were in place between these dates so no data was collected.

<sup>24</sup> Road closures due to storms resulted in no available data for January and February.



**Figure 3.42 Weekend Interval Traffic at Gort from 2015 - 2018<sup>2526</sup>**

The sharp fall in numbers between November and December is a result of road works taking place between 22/11/2017 and 10/12/2017, road closures were in place between these dates so no data was collected. Road closure due to storm Emma resulted in no data for January and February.

<sup>25</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 4000 and not 0

<sup>26</sup> Road closures due to storms resulted in no available data for January and February.

### 3.9.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.39 Gort Blue Flag Beaches 2015 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2017.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Gort has not received a Blue Flag award between 2015-2018

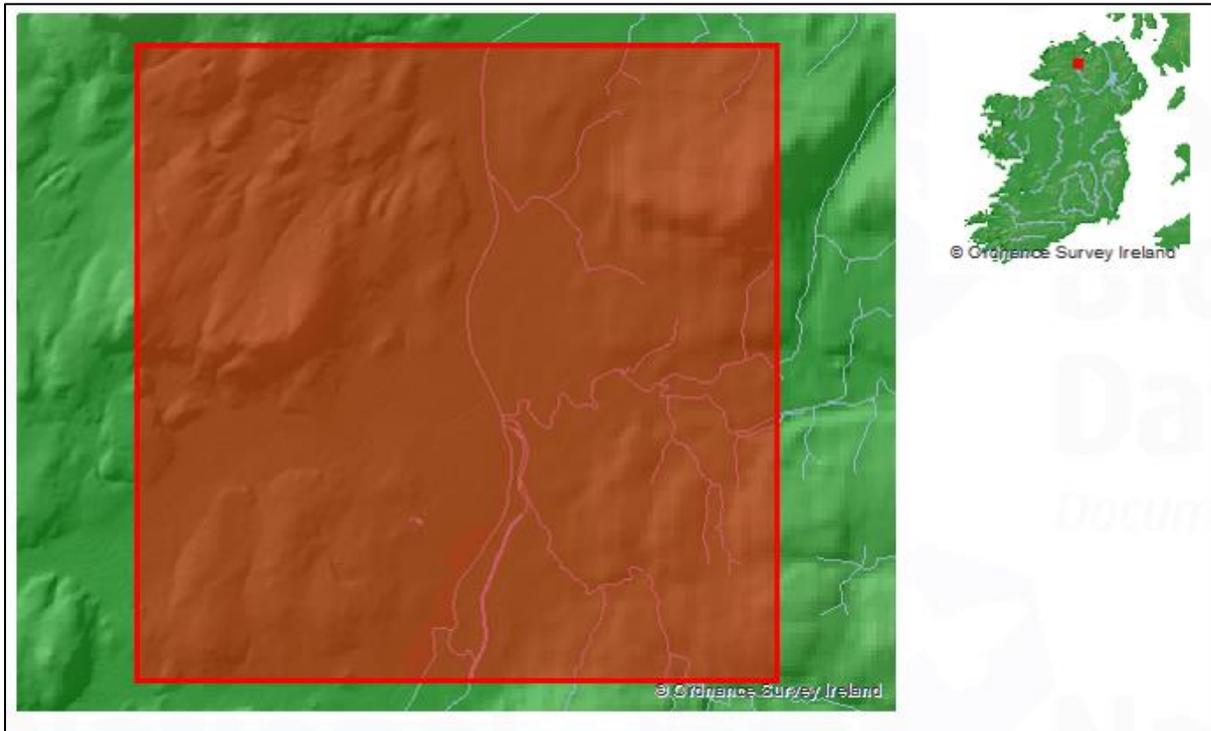
### 3.9.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast Awards

**Table 3.40 Gort Green Coast Awards 2105 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green Coast status from 2015 -2017.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

It is noted that Gort is an inland monitoring site and therefore will not have any Green coast status.

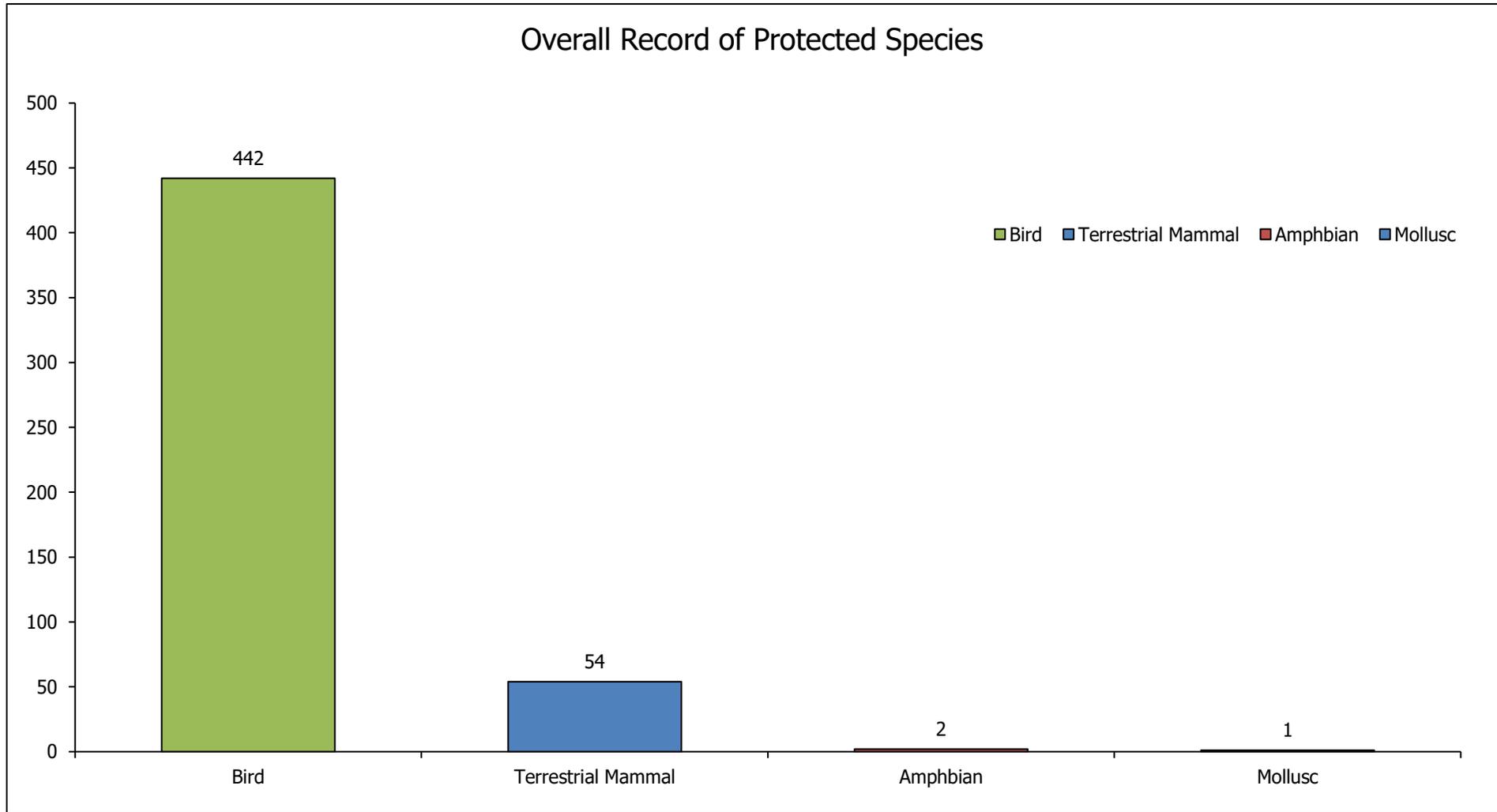
### 3.9.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



**Figure 3.43 Gort Monitoring Site 10x10km tile (C30) from the NBDC dataset**

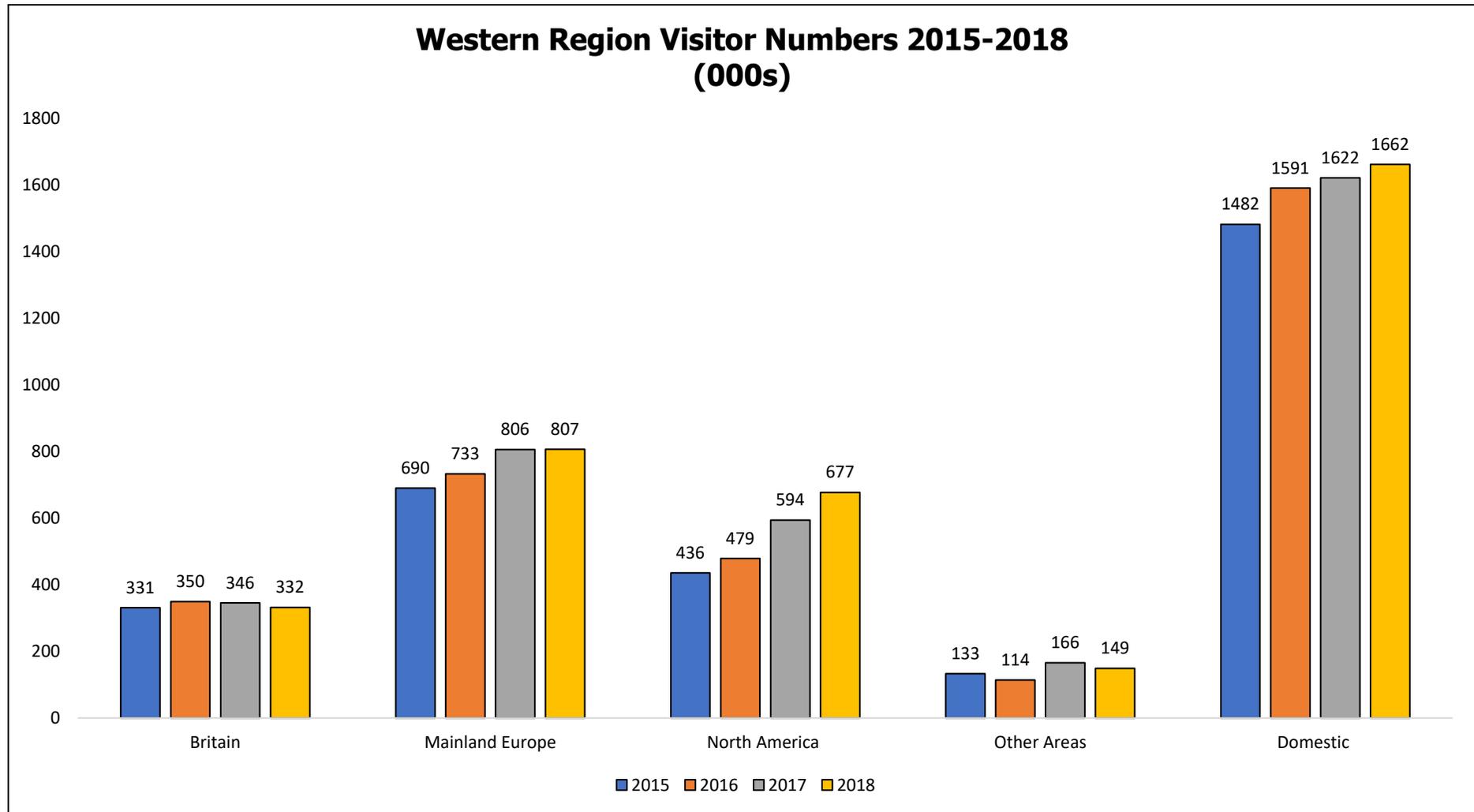
**Table 3.41 Overall Record of Invasive Species within 10km of Gort**

<b>Species Group</b>	<b>Species Name</b>	<b>Impact Level</b>
Alga (Wireweed)	<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flatworm (Turbellaria)	<i>Arthurdendyus triangulatus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Canadian Waterweed)	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Black Current)	<i>Ribes nigrum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Butterfly Bus)	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Giant Hogweed)	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Himalayan Knotweed)	<i>Persicaria wallichii</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Rhododendron pontocum)	<i>Rhododendron pontocum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Japanese Rose)	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Salmonberry)	<i>Rubus spectabilis</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins' Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Keeled Slug)	<i>Tandonia sowerbyi</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (American Mink)	<i>Mustela vison</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Brown Rat)	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Eastern Grey Squirrel)	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Sika Deer)	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Fallow Deer)	<i>Dama dama</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.44 Overall Record of Protected Species within 10km of Gort**

### 3.9.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.45 West Regional Performance 2015 -2017**

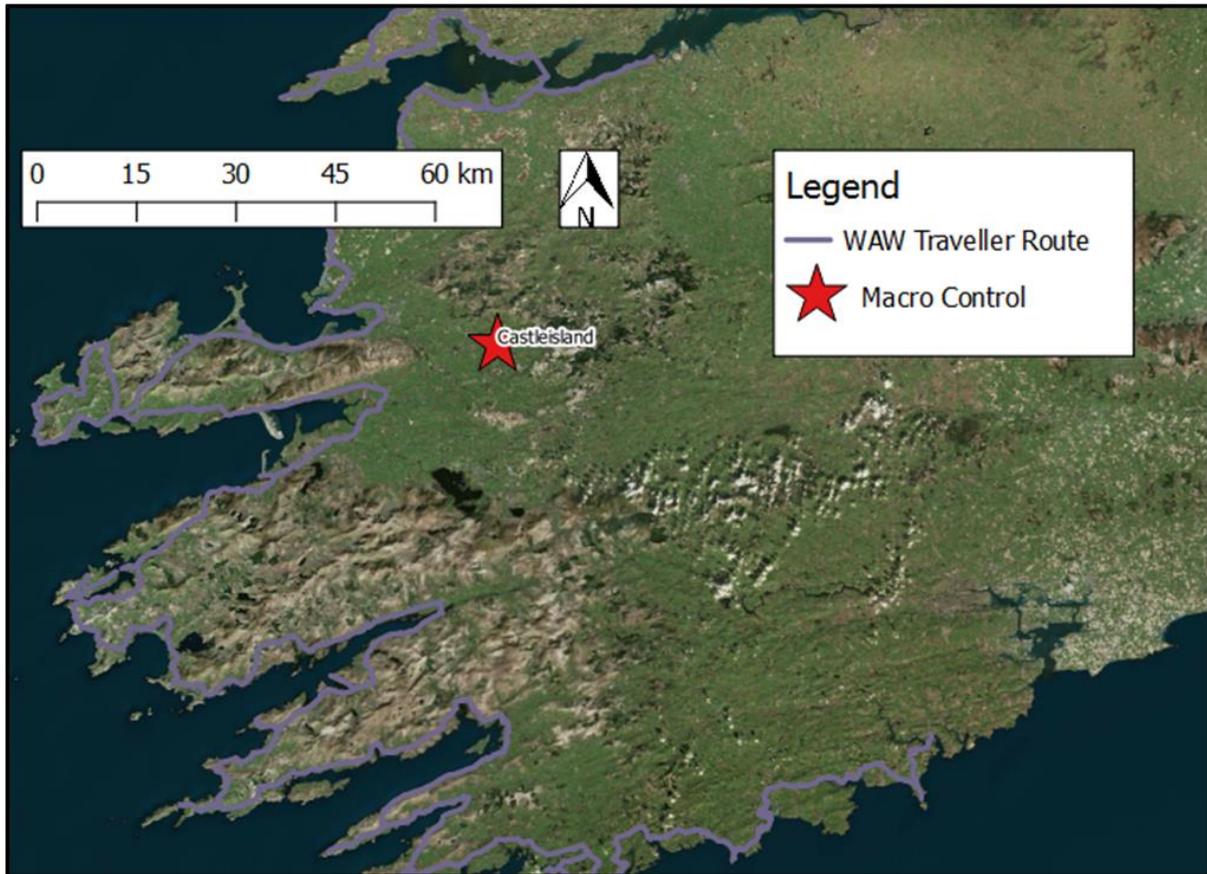
2015 brought the lowest number of visitors to the West region with a total of 3,072,000 overall. There has been a rise of 15% since 2015 with 3,267,000 visitors overall in 2016 and 3,534,000 in 2017. 2018 saw the highest number of visitors with 3,627,000 overall.

### **3.9.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Gort during 2018.

# Castleisland (Co. Kerry)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.10 Castleisland

### 3.10.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 Water Quality

Table 3.42 Castleisland Water Quality 2015 -2017

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status of conformity	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Castleisland (2018)</b>	D01808-01	Castleisland	No data available as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020				
<b>Castleisland (2017)</b>	D01808-01	Castleisland	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017	N/A	4 Complaints (Blocked Sewer)  No reported incidents	6000	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2017. Consulting Engineers have been appointed by Irish Water to assess the loading and capacity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant in Castleisland
<b>Castleisland (2016)</b>	D01808-01	Castleisland	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was Non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	The following parameter exceeded the emission limit values in 2016: • Ortho P (mg/l)	6 complaints, 1 Reported incident	6000	The following improvement works were undertaken in 2016: Clarifier Scraper blades were replaced in the single clarifier in 2016.
<b>Castleisland (2015)</b>	D01808-01	Castleisland	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was compliant with one of the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	N/A	0 complaints, 1 (11 individual results submitted) reported incident	6000	There was no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015.

### 3.10.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.43 Castleisland Bathing Water Quality 2015 -2017**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
<b>Kerry</b>	Castleisland	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No change from 2015 -2017	0

Castleisland's Water Quality has been classed as good since 2015. The Waste Water Treatment Plant has been compliant with emission limit values. There is no bathing water monitoring point for Castleisland resulting in no data being gathered.

### 3.10.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume

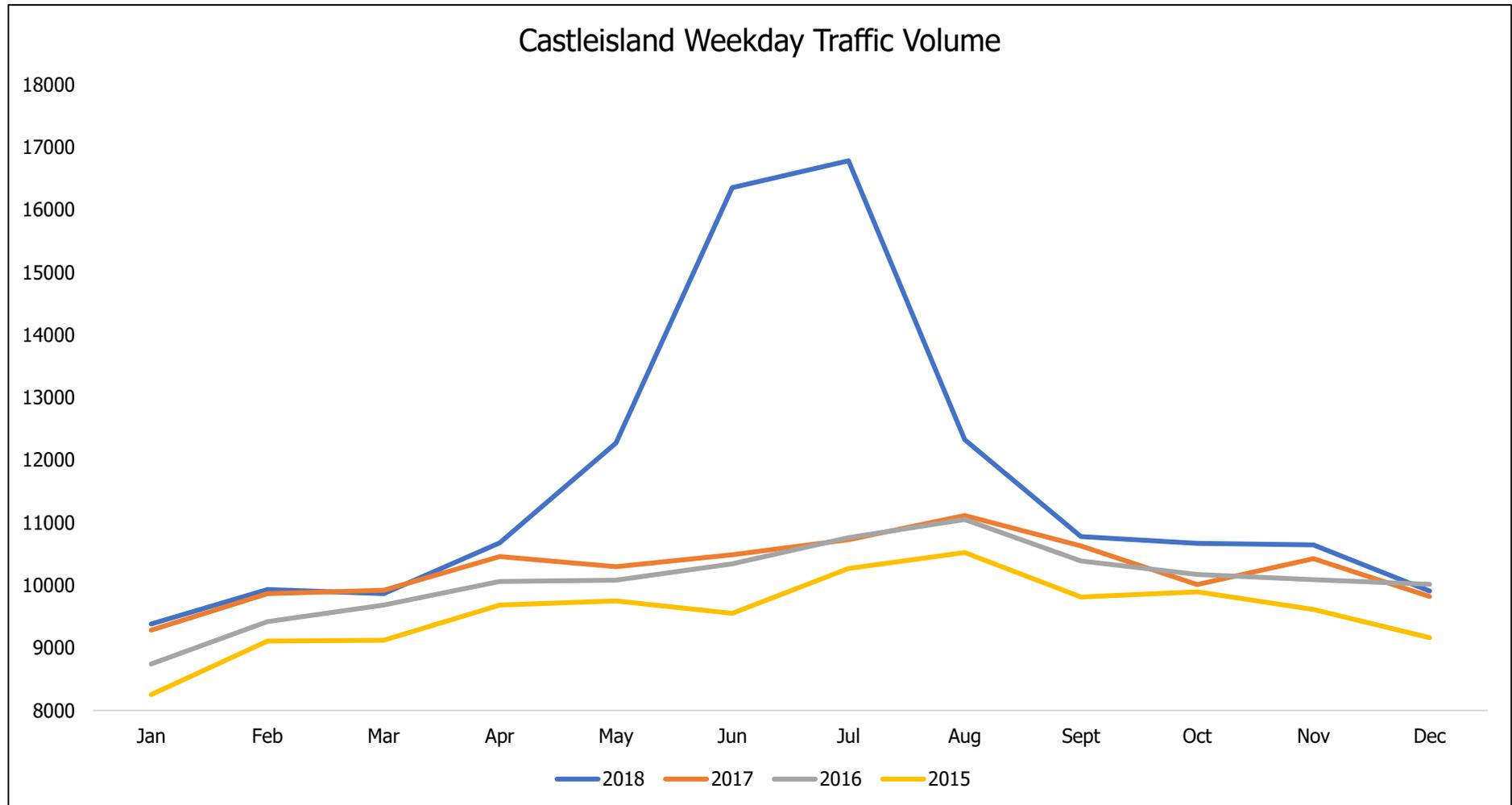
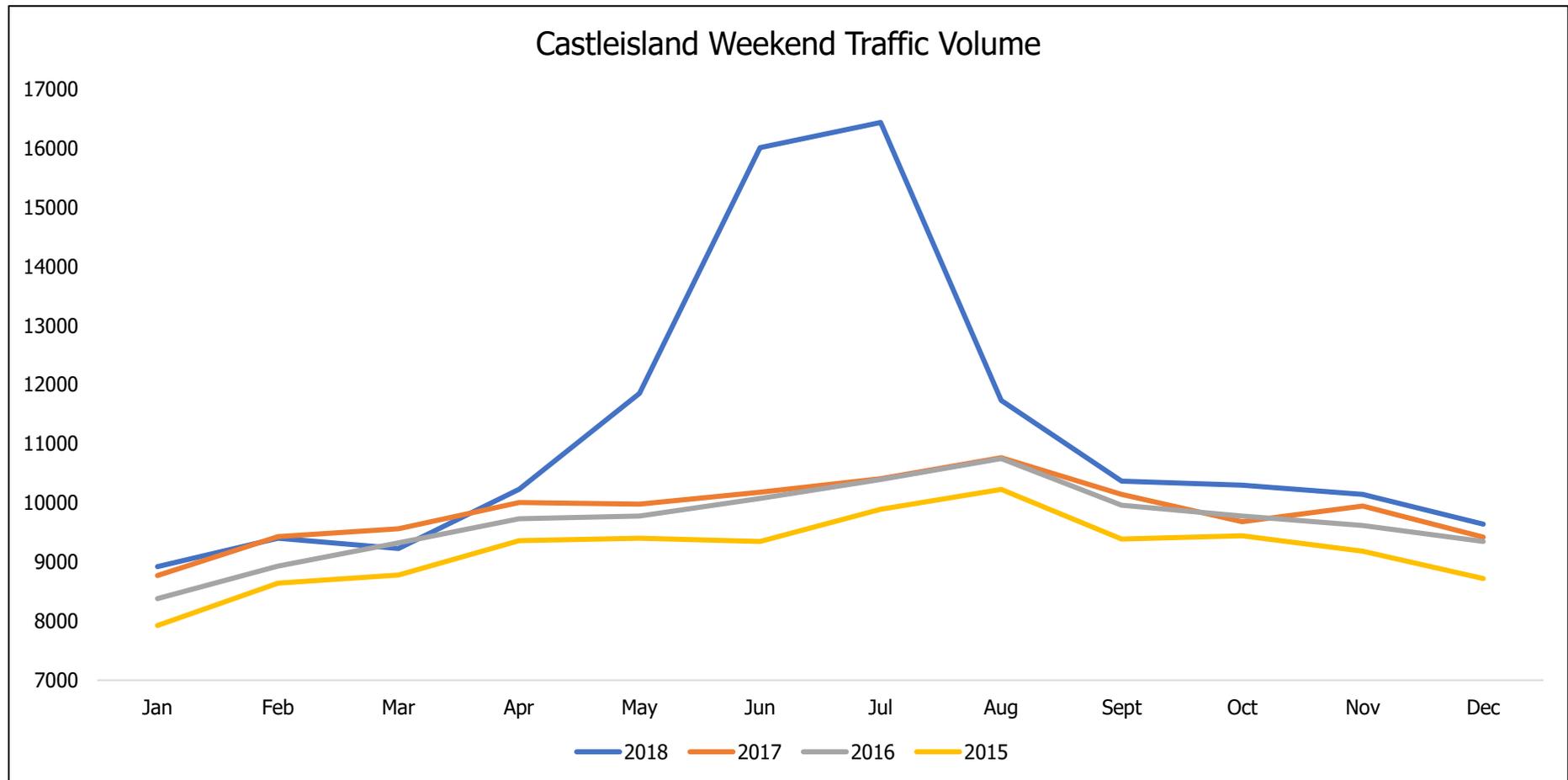


Figure 3.46 Weekday Interval Traffic at Castleisland from 2015 -2017 <sup>27</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 8000 and not 0



**Figure 3.47 Weekend Interval Traffic at Castleisland from 2015 -2018<sup>2829</sup>**

Interval traffic at Castleisland remained at a steady level between 2015 and 2018. A peak in number during the summer months could be contributed towards tourists travelling to the WAW.

<sup>28</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 7600 and not 0

<sup>29</sup> The sharp rise of traffic in 2018 may be contributed to the fact that the Castleisland by-pass was closed, resulting in traffic being diverted through this route.

### 3.10.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.44 Castleisland Blue Flag Beach status 2015 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

There has been no change in Castleisland's Blue Flag status between 2015 and 2018.

### 3.10.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast Awards

**Table 3.45 Castleisland Green Coast Awards 2015 -2017**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green Coast status from 2015 -2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

Castleisland has never been awarded with a Green Coast Award.

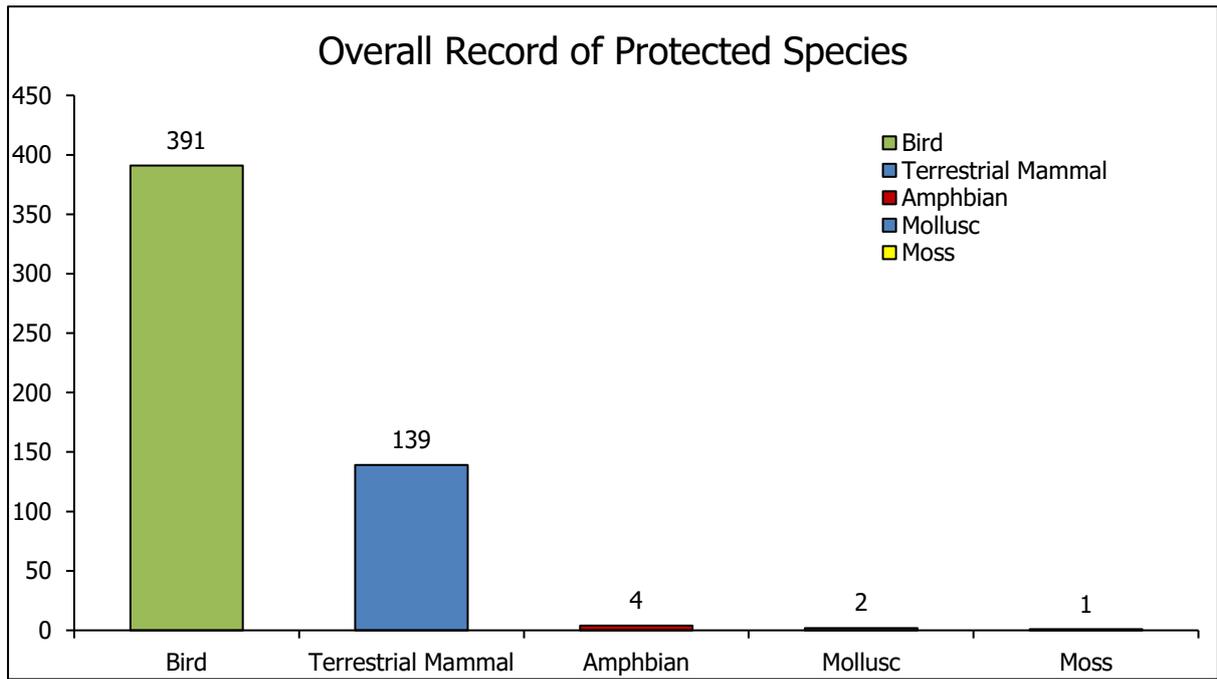
### 3.10.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



Figure 3.48 Castleisland Monitoring Site 10x10km tile (Q90) from the NBDC dataset

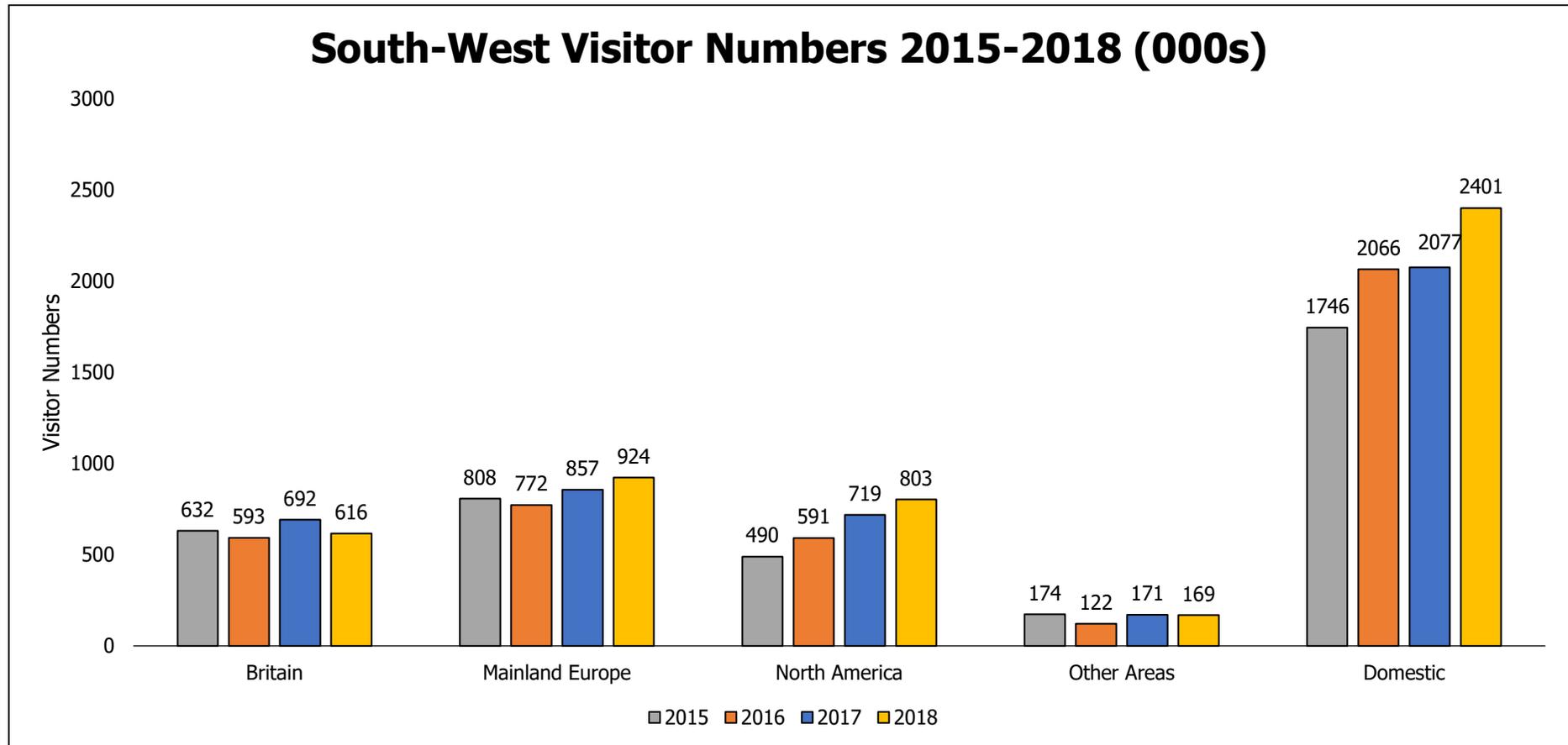
Table 3.46 Overall Record of Invasive Species within 10km of Castleisland

Species Group	Species Name	Impact Level
Flowering Plant (Cherry Laurel)	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering Plant (Indian Balsam)	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Japanese Knotweed)	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Rhododendron ponticum)	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins' Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Budapest Slug)	<i>Tandonia budapestensis</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Common Garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Sika Deer)	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.49 Overall Record of Protected Species within 10km of Castleisland**

### 3.10.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers



**Figure 3.50 South West Regional Performance 2015-2018**

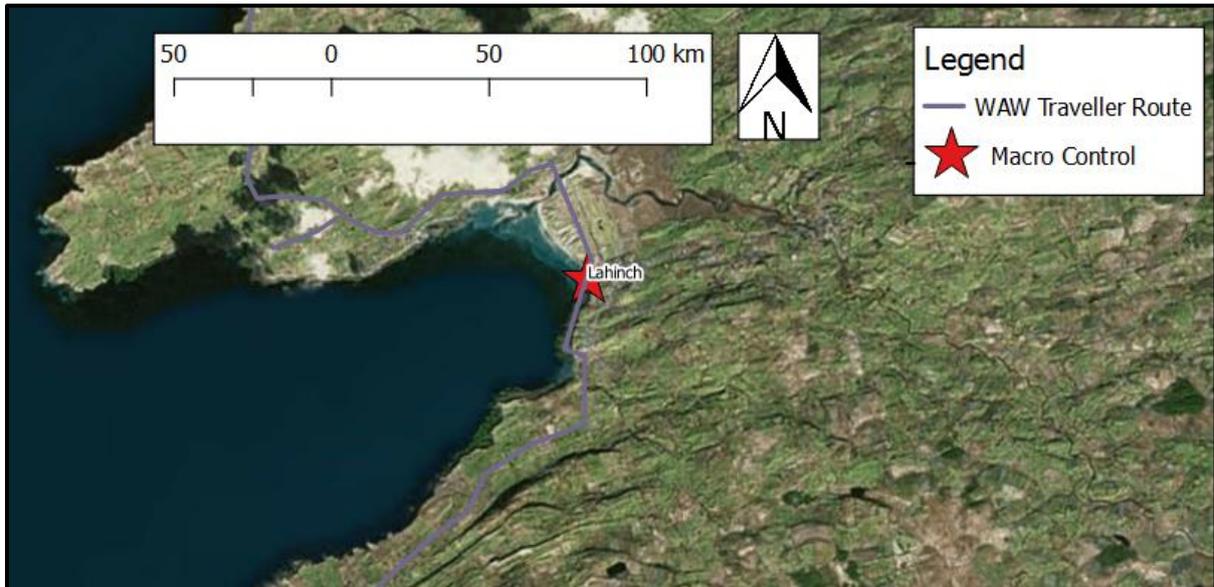
Domestic tourism was substantially higher in 2018 than in previous years. Overall the South-West region received the highest level of tourism in 2018 with 4,913,000. 2015 had the lowest record of tourists at 3,850,000. This is a growth of 27% between 2015 and 2018.

### **3.10.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Castleisland during 2018.

# Lahinch (Co. Clare)

## Macro-Monitoring Results



## 3.11 Lahinch

### 3.11.1 Monitoring Indicator 1 - Water Quality

**Table 3.47 Lahinch Water Quality 2015 -2017**

Monitoring Point	WWTP Licence No.	WWTP/ Agglomeration	Status	Reasons for non-conformity	Complaints and Reported Incidents	Population Equivalent	Improvements
<b>Lahinch (2018)</b>	D0080-01	Lahinch	No data available as at 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020				
<b>Lahinch (2017)</b>	D0080-01	Lahinch	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2017	The following parameters exceeded the emission limit values in 2017: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cBOD</li> <li>• COD</li> <li>• Suspended solids</li> <li>• Ammonia as N</li> <li>• Total Phosphorus</li> </ul>	2 complaints (Sewage flooding from manhole); 1 reported Incident	8400	No major capital or operational changes were undertaken in 2017. Lahinch agglomeration is being reviewed and Lahinch WWTP has been added to the Capital Investment Plan 2017 - 2021.
<b>2016</b>	D0080-01	Lahinch	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was Non-compliant with the Emission Limit Values in 2016.	The following parameter exceeded the emission limit values in 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cBOD</li> <li>• COD</li> <li>• Suspended solids</li> <li>• Total Phosphorus</li> <li>• Total Nitrogen</li> <li>• Ammonia</li> </ul>	0 complaints, 14 reported incident	4310	There were no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2016.
<b>2015</b>	D0080-01	Lahinch	The final effluent from the Primary Discharge Point was non-compliant with one of the Emission Limit Values in 2015.	The following parameter exceeded the emission limit values in 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cBOD</li> <li>• COD</li> <li>• Suspended solids</li> <li>• Total Phosphorus</li> <li>• Total Nitrogen</li> <li>• Ammonia</li> </ul>	1 complaint, 24 reported incidents	8400	There was no major capital or operational changes undertaken in 2015.

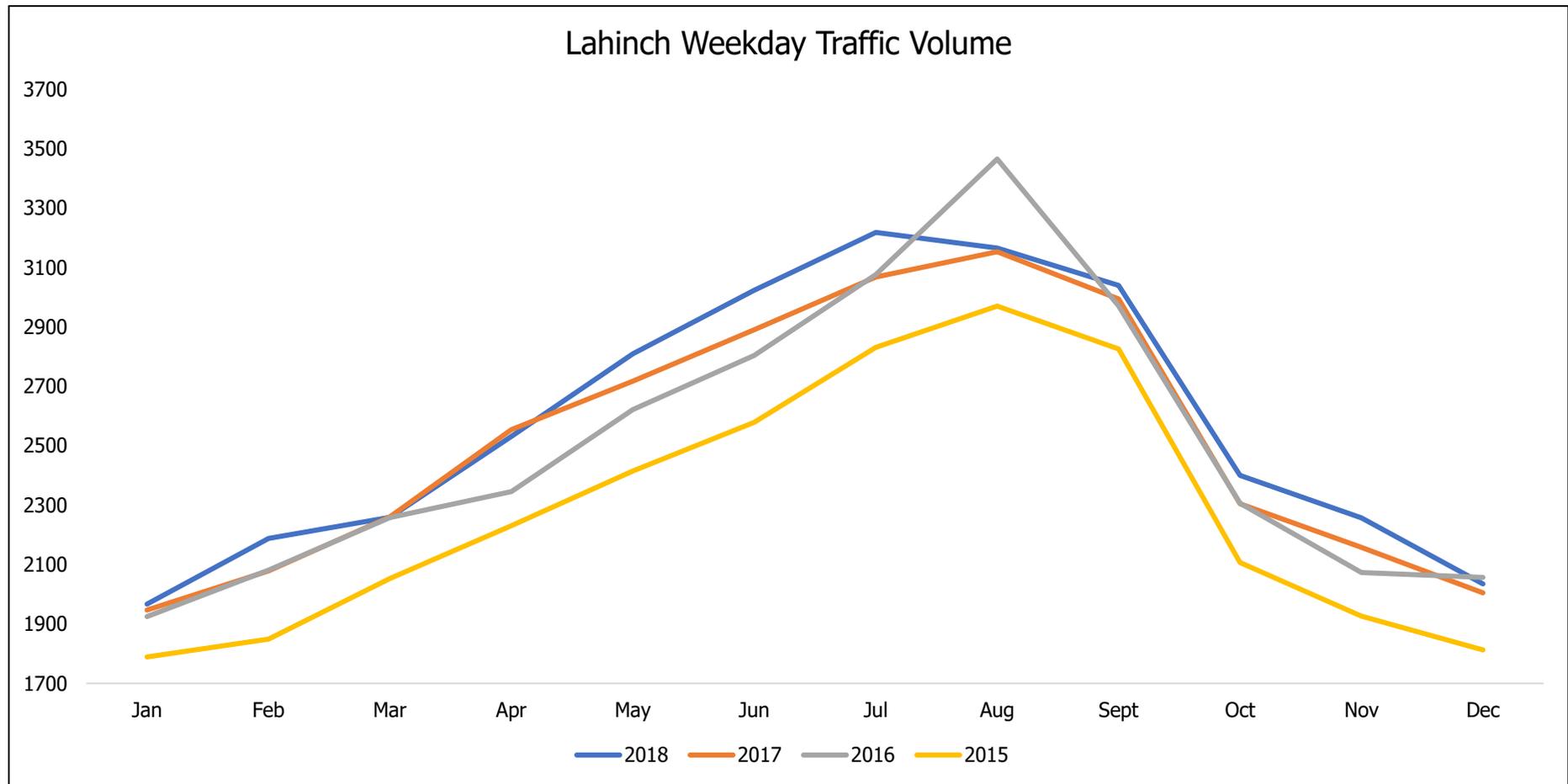
### 3.11.1.1 Bathing Water

**Table 3.48 Lahinch Bathing Water Status 2015 -2017**

County	Monitoring Point	Bathing Water Monitoring Site	Bathing Water Status 2018	Bathing Water Status 2017	Bathing Water Status 2016	Bathing Water Status 2015	Reason for non-conformity or change in condition from previous years	Days restricted by Short term pollution
Clare	Lahinch	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	No change from 2015 -2017	0

Lahinch is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Lahinch has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018.

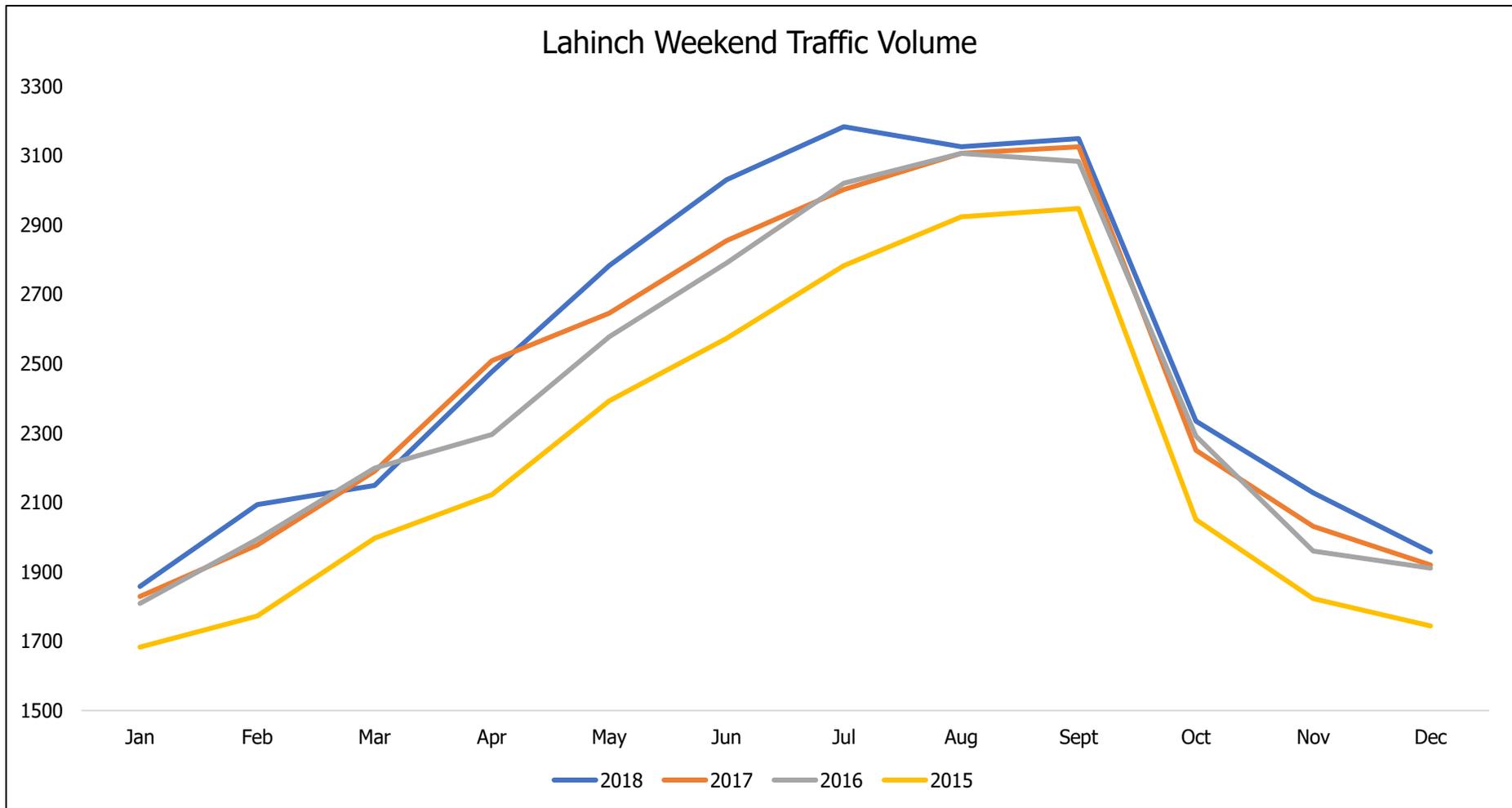
**3.11.2 Monitoring Indicator 2 - Traffic Volume**



**Figure 3.51 Weekday Interval Traffic at Lahinch from 2015 -2018<sup>3031</sup>**

<sup>30</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 1700 and not 0

<sup>31</sup> A rise in traffic in August may be contributed to the fight for climate change event held at Lahinch in 2016, along with the visit of Minister Denis Naughten to the Moneypoint PowerStation.



**Figure 3.52 Weekend Interval Traffic at Lahinch from 2015 -2017<sup>32</sup>**

Interval traffic at Lahinch has remained at a steady level between 2015 and 2018. A peak in number during the summer months could be contributed towards tourists travelling to the WAW.

<sup>32</sup> Note the y-axis starts at 1500 and not 0

### 3.11.3 Monitoring Indicator 3 - Blue Flag Beaches

**Table 3.49 Lahinch Blue Flag Beach Status 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015	✓		No change in Blue Flag status from 2015 -2018.
2016	✓		
2017	✓		
2018	✓		

Lahinch is classified as achieving Excellent Water Quality in 2018 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2015 to 2018. Lahinch has achieved an Excellent Water Quality rating for the four consecutive years 2015 to 2018.

### 3.11.4 Monitoring Indicator 4 - Green Coast Award

**Table 3.50 Lahinch Green Coast Status 2015 -2018**

Year	Y	N	Reason for Change in status
2015		✓	No change in Green Coast status from 2015 -2018.
2016		✓	
2017		✓	
2018		✓	

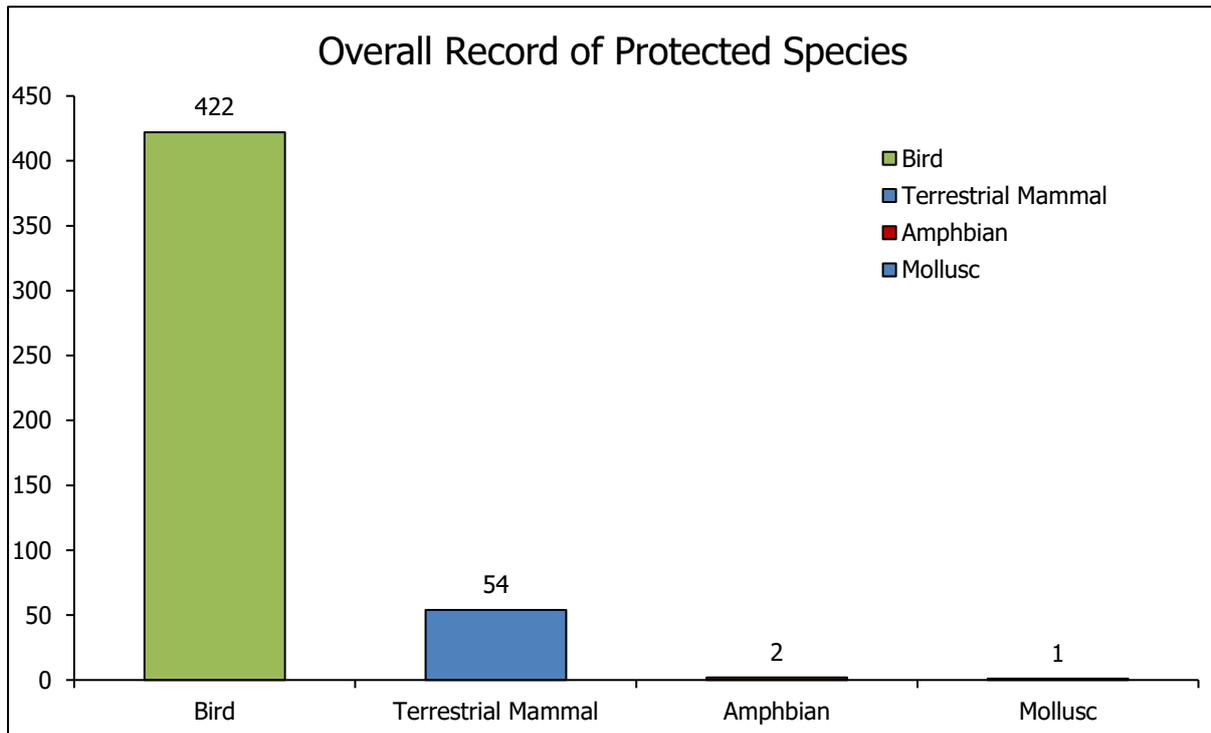
Lahinch has not been awarded a Green Coast award.

### 3.11.5 Monitoring Indicator 5 - State of Knowledge of Irelands Biodiversity



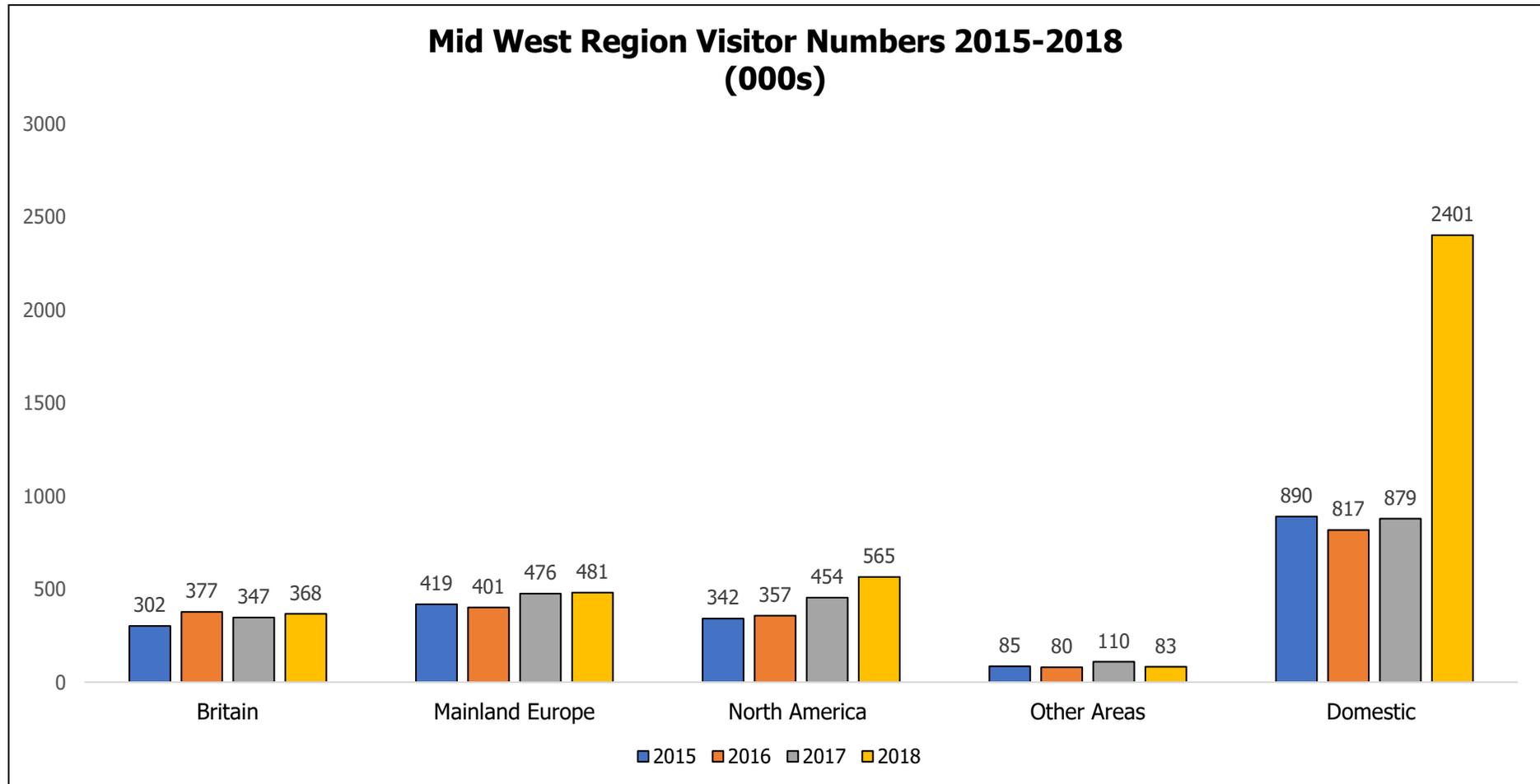
**Figure 3.53 Lahinch Monitoring Site 10x10km tile (R08) from the NBDC dataset**

Species Group	Species Name	Impact Level
Flowering plant (Sycamore)	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Jenkins' Spire Snail)	<i>Potamopyrgus antipodarum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Mollusc (Common Garden Snail)	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (European Rabbit)	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	Medium Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Feral Ferret)	<i>Mustela furo</i>	High Impact Invasive Species
Terrestrial mammal (Raccoon)	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	High Impact Invasive Species



**Figure 3.54 Overall Record of Protected Species within 10km of Lahinch**

**3.11.6 Monitoring Indicator 6 - Visitor Numbers**



**Figure 3.55 Mid-West Region Visitor Numbers 2016 -2018**

The Mid-West Region saw the highest number of visitors during 2018 with 3,898,000 tourists across all locations. 2,038,000 was the lowest count of visitors in 2015. This shows a rise of 1,051,000 visitors to the Mid-West since 2015.

### **3.11.7 Monitoring Indicator 7 - Tourism Related Planning Refusals**

All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals in Castleisland during 2018.

### 3.12 General Indicator for all Sites - Irelands Environment - An Assessment 2016

In Ireland the picture is mixed when considering progress in addressing the four main challenges outlined in the State of the Environment report 2016.

The four key challenges from the EPA's State of the Environment report 2016 are listed in Table (EPA, 2016). The table also provides an indicative high-level summary on progress with these challenges.

**Table 3.51 Summary on Progress with the Four Key Challenges Listed in the State of the Environment Report**

Four Key Challenges	Indicative Summary on Progress across the country
Valuing and protecting our natural environment	Economic value of eco-system services is a concept that has a higher profile but it is not on a routine basis integrated into business decisions and policy making.
Building a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy	Ireland has significant work to do to transition to a low-carbon economy. Fossil fuels dominate our energy system and need to be phased out over the coming decades and our national GHG emissions are projected to increase.
Implementing environmental legislation	Despite progress in several areas, including waste recycling and emissions from industrial facilities, Ireland still faces challenges in implementing a number of regulations and directives that are designed to protect our environment and, by extension, our health. Poor adherence to regulations dealing with litter, waste prevention etc.
Putting the environment at the centre of decision making	Information sources, such as websites with information for the public, data and map layers, have improved but it is more difficult to translate information into action on the ground that results in changes in behaviour. Good progress on Strategic Environmental Assessment of national plans and programmes

### 3.13 Overall Analysis of Macro-Monitoring 2015-2017

Site	Indicator 1	Indicator 2	Indicator 3	Indicator 4	Indicator 5	Indicator 6	Indicator 7
<b>Dungloe</b>	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.	Increase in interval traffic during summer months across all 4 years, likely due to tourists travelling to WAW Sites	Awarded Blue flag beach status 2015,2016,2017,2018.	No Green coast award in Dungloe, Dooley beach 13km from Dungloe received the award in 2018.	Birds were the highest recorded species across all Monitoring and Control sites in 2018.	2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017 with a total of 1,755,000.	All planning applications within 10km of the monitoring point were screened for refusals based on visual and/or amenity as these are considered to be key factors for tourism. This assessment found that there were no Tourism related planning refusals during 2018.
<b>Bundoran</b>	Good water status  Excellent bathing water status 2015-2017, Good in 2018. Mullaghmore had excellent status between 2015-2017 and sufficient in 2018.	Increase in interval traffic during summer months across all 4 years, likely due to tourists travelling to WAW Sites.	Bundoran has not received blue flag status between 2015 and 2018.	Bundoran did not receive any award for Green Coasts between 2015 and 2018.		2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017 with a total of 1,755,000.	
<b>Newport</b>	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.	Increase in interval traffic during summer months across all 4 years, likely due to tourists travelling to WAW Sites	Mulranny and Clare Island both received blue flags from 2015-2018.  Bertra has never received a Blue Flag.	Newport did not receive any award for Green Coasts between 2015 and 2017.		2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017	

						with a total of 1,755,000.
<b>Galway Bay</b>	Good water status in Galway bay between 2015-2017. Bathing water quality in Ballyloughane was poor in 2015 and 2017.	A rise in weekday traffic during June 2017 may be as a result of visitors to the area for a popular triathlon. No data for December 2017 due to road closures.	Galway Bay did not receive blue flag status between 2015-2017.	Galway Bay did not receive any award for Green Coasts between 2015 and 2017.		2015 brought the lowest number of visitors to the West region with a total of 3,072,000 overall. There has been a rise of 15% since 2015 with 3,267,000 visitors overall in 2016 and 3,534,000 in 2017. 2018 saw the highest number of visitors with 3,627,000 overall.
<b>Kilrush</b>	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.	Both weekday and weekend traffic has reduced in 2017. This may be contributed to the weather conditions seen in Ireland throughout October.	Cappagh Pier retained its Blue Flag status from 2015-2017	Kilrush did not receive any award for Green coast between 2015-2017.		The Mid-West Region saw the highest number of visitors during 2018 with 3,898,000 tourists across all locations. 2,038,000 was the lowest count of visitors in 2015. This shows a rise of 1,051,000 visitors to the Mid-West since 2015.
<b>Cahersiveen</b>	Cahersiveen water quality has been classed as good since 2015. The Waste Water Treatment Plant has been complaint with Emission Limit Values. The bathing water quality has been excellent since 2015.	Steady increase in interval traffic volumes during weekends and weekdays since 2015. The surge is likely due to the increase of tourists travelling from WAW sites, mainly during summer months.	Whitestrans has retained its Blue Flag status since 2015.	There has been no change in status of the Green coast award. Cahersiveen is not in partnership with any local community so it cannot be considered for a Green coast award		Domestic tourism was substantially higher in 2018 than in previous years. Overall the South-West region achieved the highest level of tourism in 2018 with 4,913,000. 2015 had the lowest record of tourists at 3,850,000. This is a growth of 27% between 2015 and 2018.

<b>Bantry</b>	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.	Steady increase in interval traffic volumes during weekends and weekdays since 2015. The surge is likely due to the increase of tourists travelling from WAW sites, mainly during summer months.	Barley Cove retained its blue flag status between 2015 and 2017.	There has been no change in the green coast status of the site since 2015.		Domestic tourism was substantially higher in 2018 than in previous years. Overall the South-West region received the highest level of tourism in 2018 with 4,913,000. 2015 had the lowest record of tourists at 3,850,000. This is a growth of 27% between 2015 and 2018.
<b>Ballybofey</b>	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.	There was little change in the level of interval traffic at Ballybofey between 2015 and 2018. Any rise in numbers throughout summer months could be contributed to tourists travelling to the WAW.	It is noted that Ballybofey is an inland monitoring site and therefore will not have any blue flag status	It is noted that Ballybofey is an inland monitoring site and therefore will not eligible to apply for a Green Coast Award		2016 saw the highest number of visitors to the Border Region with 1,815,000 in total from across all locations compared to 1,753,000 for 2018. This was a 23% rise in numbers from 2015 and a 2.3% drop in numbers in 2017 with a total of 1,755,000.
<b>Gort</b>	Water Quality in Gort has been classed as poor. The Waste Water Treatment plant has been non-compliant with Emission Limit Values since 2015. Gort is aiming to get to Good Status by 2021.	There was a sharp fall in numbers between November and December is a result of road works taking place between 22/11/2017 and 10/12/2017, road closures were in place between these dates so no data was collected.	It is noted that Gort is an inland monitoring site and therefore will not have any blue flag status.	As Gort is an inland monitoring site and therefore will not eligible to apply for a Green Coast Award		2015 brought the lowest number of visitors to the West region with a total of 3,072,000 overall. There has been a rise of 15% since 2015 with 3,267,000 visitors overall in 2016 and 3,534,000 in 2017. 2018 saw the highest number of visitors with 3,627,000 overall.

<b>Castleisland</b>	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.	Interval traffic at Castleisland remained at a steady level between 2015 and 2017. A peak in number during the summer months could be contributed towards tourists travelling to the WAW.	No Blue Flag status in Castleisland between 2015-2017	No Green Flag awarded to Castleisland between 2015-2017		Overall the South-West region received the highest level of tourism in 2017 with 4,446,000. 2015 had the lowest record of tourists at 3,850,000. This is a growth of 2.3% between 2015 and 2017.
<b>Lahinch</b>	No data available as at the 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020.	A rise in traffic in August 2016 may be a result of the fight for climate change event held at Lahinch.	Lahinch has received the international blue flag beach award every year since 2015.	Lahinch has not been awarded with a Green Coast award between 2015-2017		The Mid-West Region saw the highest number of visitors during 2018 with 3,898,000 tourists across all locations. 2,038,000 was the lowest count of visitors in 2015. This shows a rise of 1,051,000 visitors to the Mid-West since 2015.