



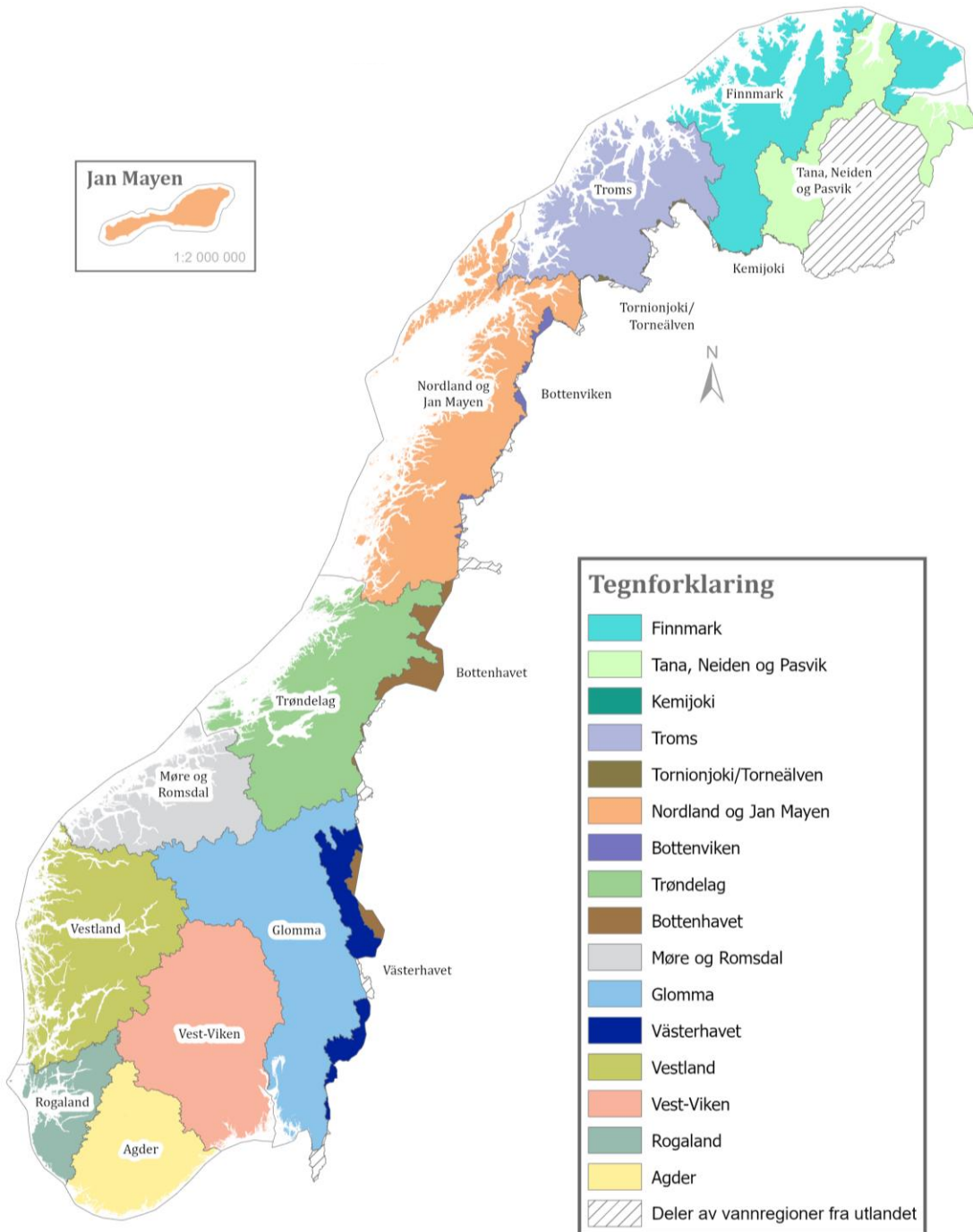
Norwegian Ministry  
of Climate and Environment

# WFD progress in Norway 2024

Vilde Wiik Terum, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment

Nordic WFD Conference,  
Gothenburg, Sweden  
25th September 2024





# Administrative setup

## 16 River Basin Districts (RBDs)

- 5 Norwegian RBDs
- 11 iRBDs (with Sweden/Finland)

## 105 Catchments

- A catchment = several municipalities
- Coordinators in 97 catchments
- 67 people working as coordinators

## 33.850 Water Bodies

- 23.350 river WB
- 6.800 lake WB
- 2.300 coastal WB
- 1.400 groundwater WB

# Multilevel governance

*integration across authorities and levels of government*



## Committee of Ministries

Water regulation, national guidelines, approval of RBMPs

## Committee of Agencies

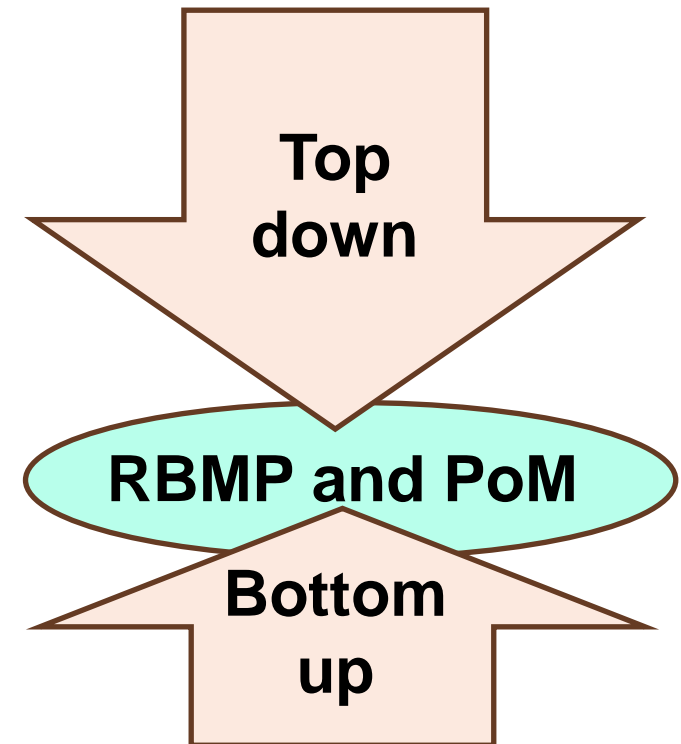
Guidance for RBDs, Information Syst., advice to ministries, reference group

## River Basin District Board

County Council (planning), County Governor (environment), other authorities

## Cathment Water Board

Municipalities, local public participation, coordinators



# Catchment coordinators

- Joint resource and expertise for the municipalities in the catchment.
- Assist the municipalities with their water-related responsibilities and duties:
  - ✓ Wastewater
  - ✓ Agriculture
  - ✓ Storm water
  - ✓ Water in land use planning
  - ✓ Drinking and bathing waters
- Contribute to local participation and information.

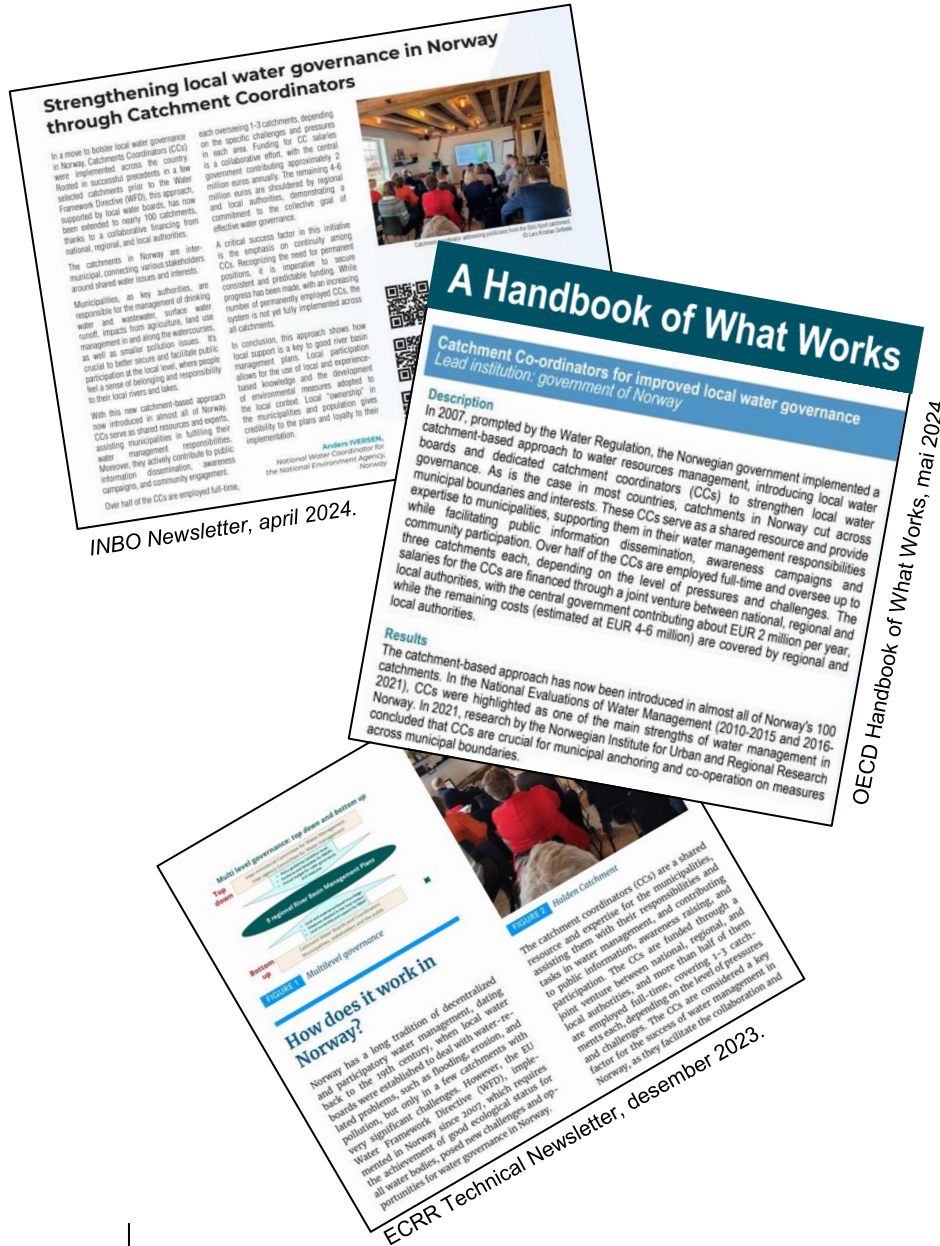


Photo: Lars Kristian Selbekk

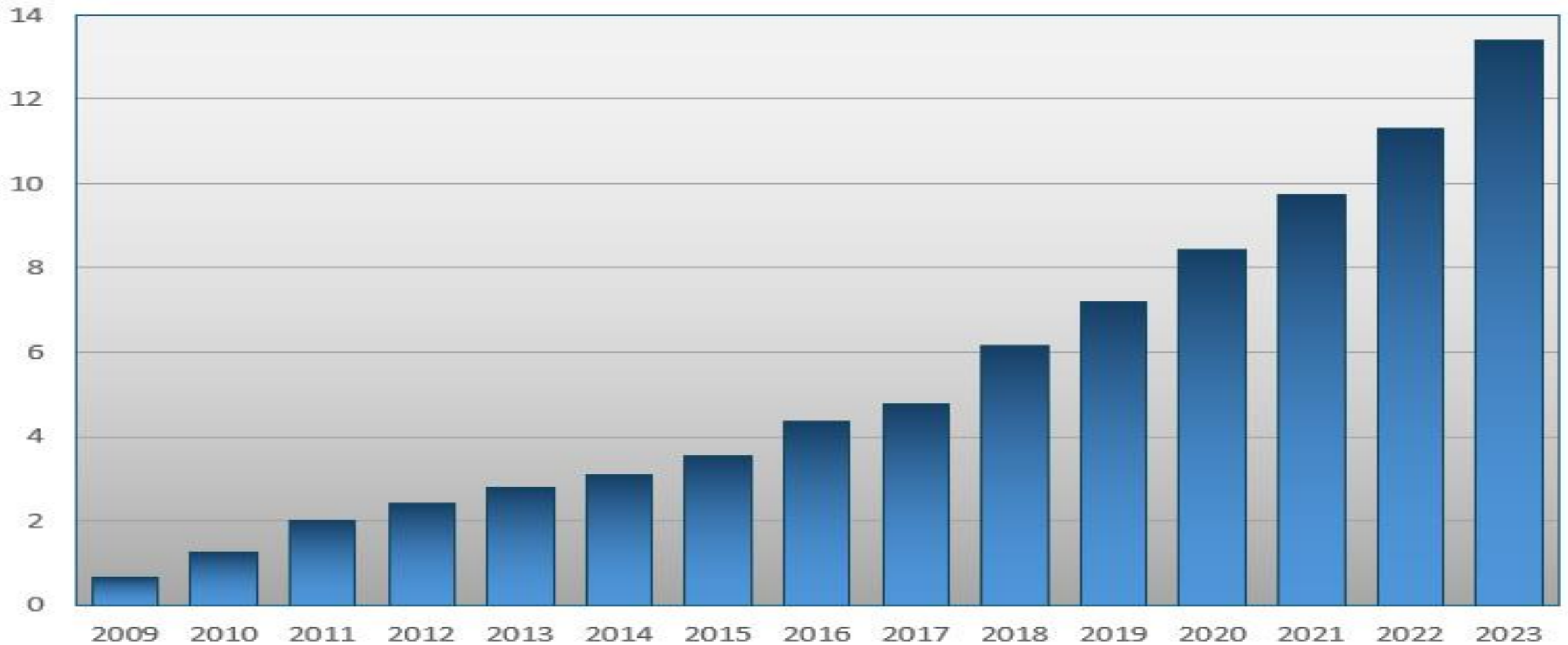


Photo: vannområde Randsfjorden



# Knowledge base for RBMPs and PoMs

*number of monitoring data entries in national water database 'Vannmiljø' (millions)*





# Most significant pressures

*the five most significant pressures – number of affected river and lake Water Bodies*

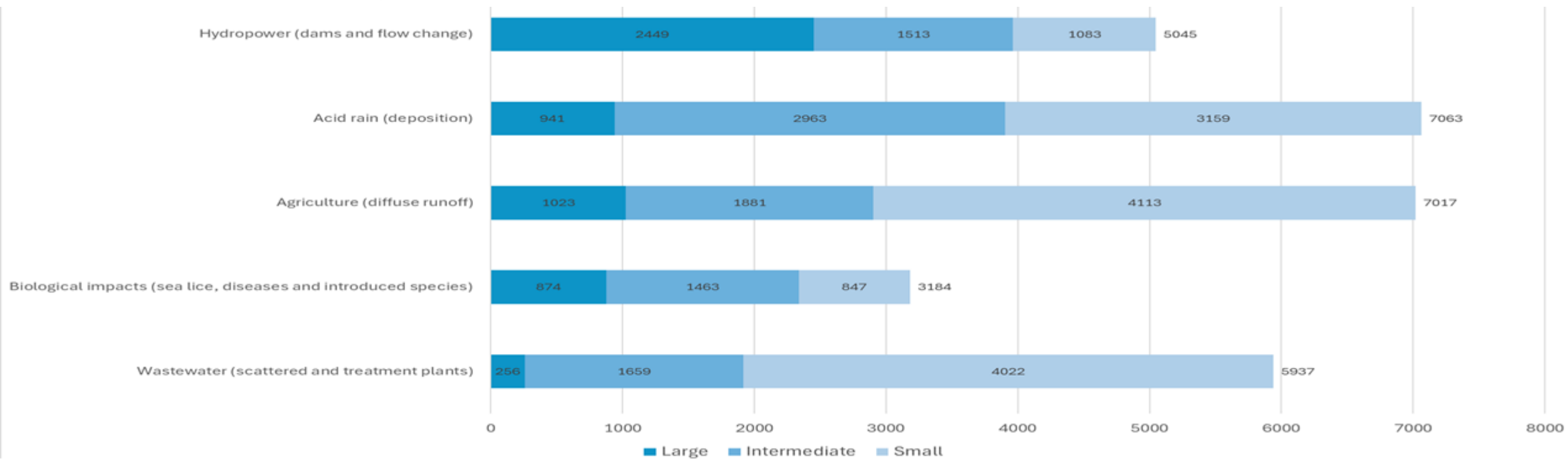


Photo: Jo Halvard Halleraker.

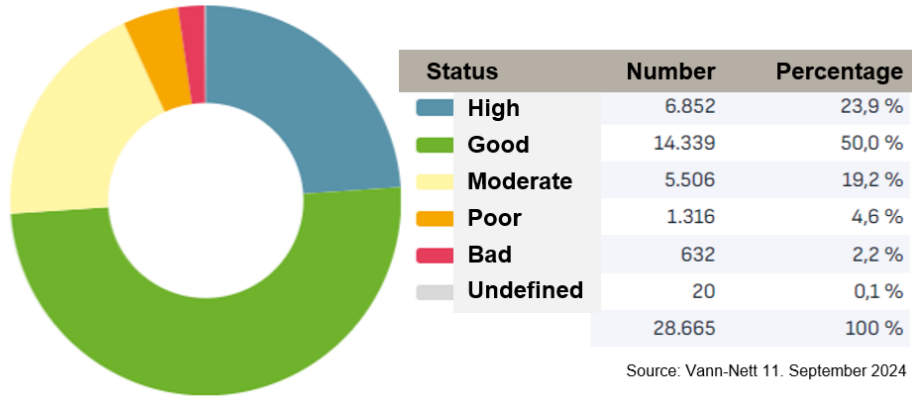


Photo Lars Selbekk

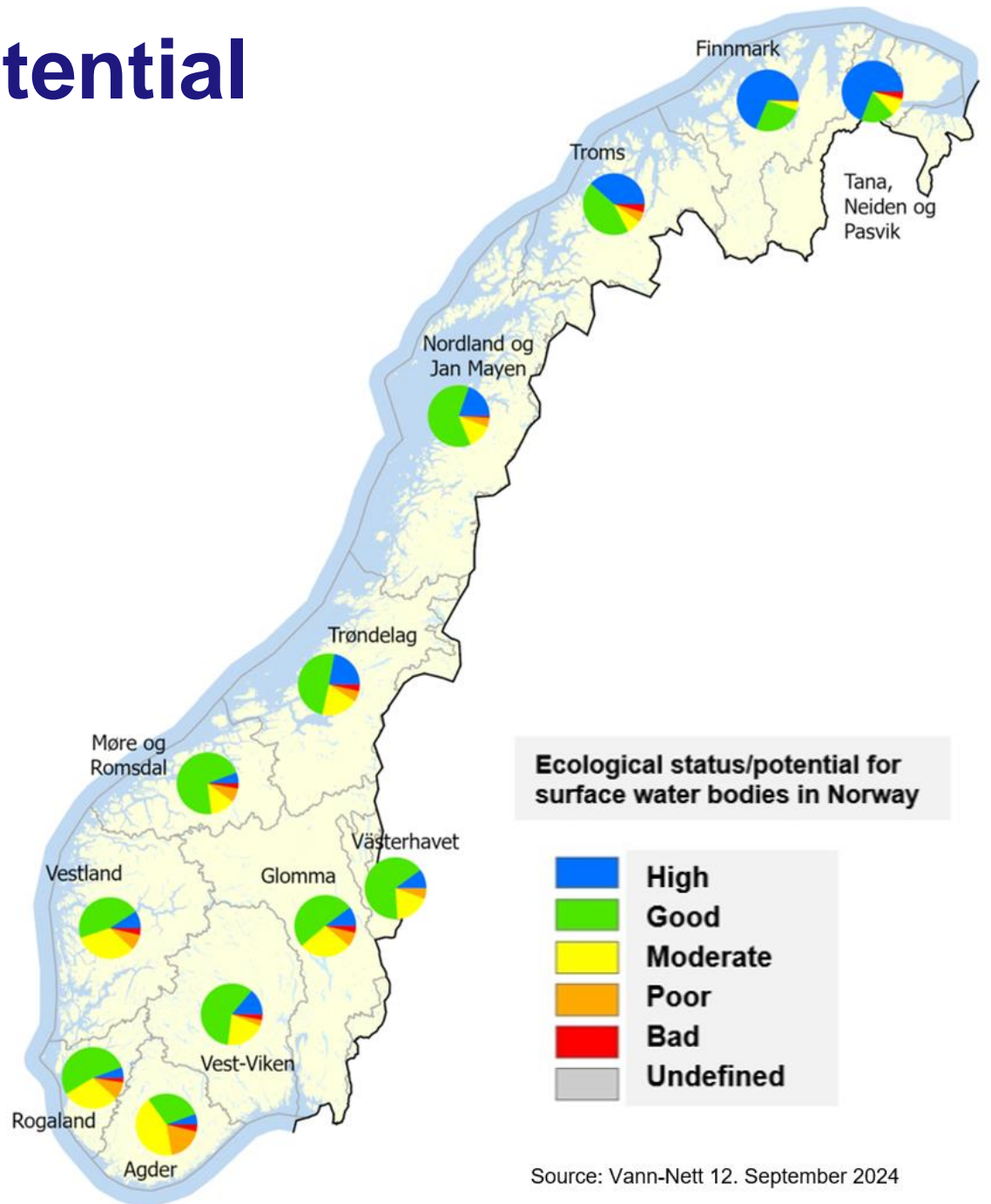
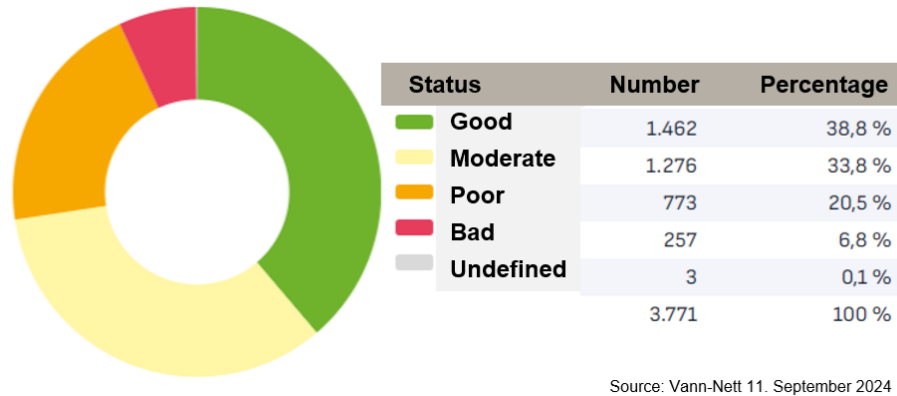


# Ecological status and potential

## Ecological status, natural water bodies in Norway



## Ecological potential, heavily modified w.b. in Norway

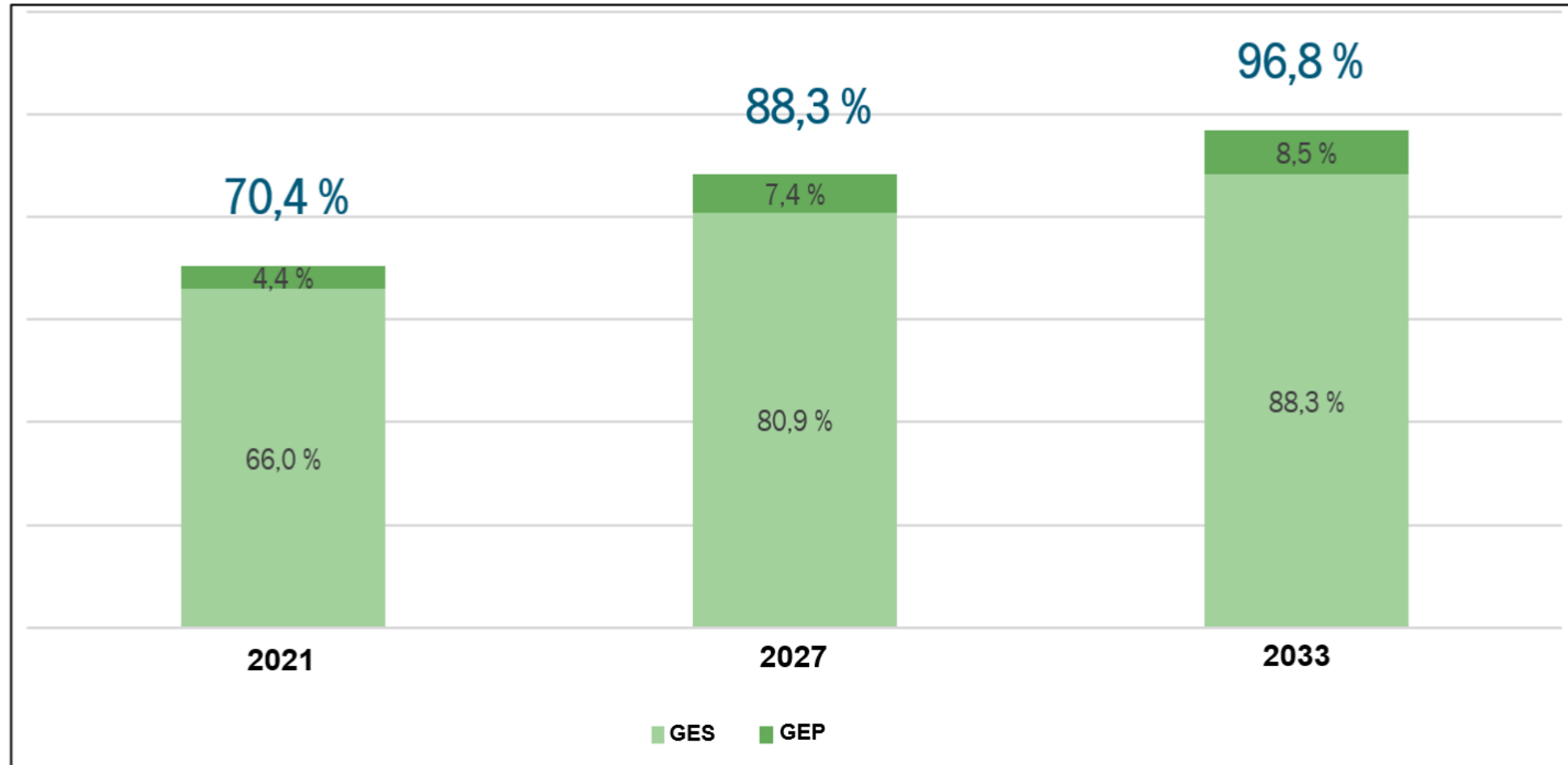


Source: Vann-Nett 12. September 2024



# Objectives in the RBMPs and PoMs 2022 – 2027

*percentage of Water Bodies reaching GES or GEP*








Source: River Basin Management Plans 2022 – 2027.



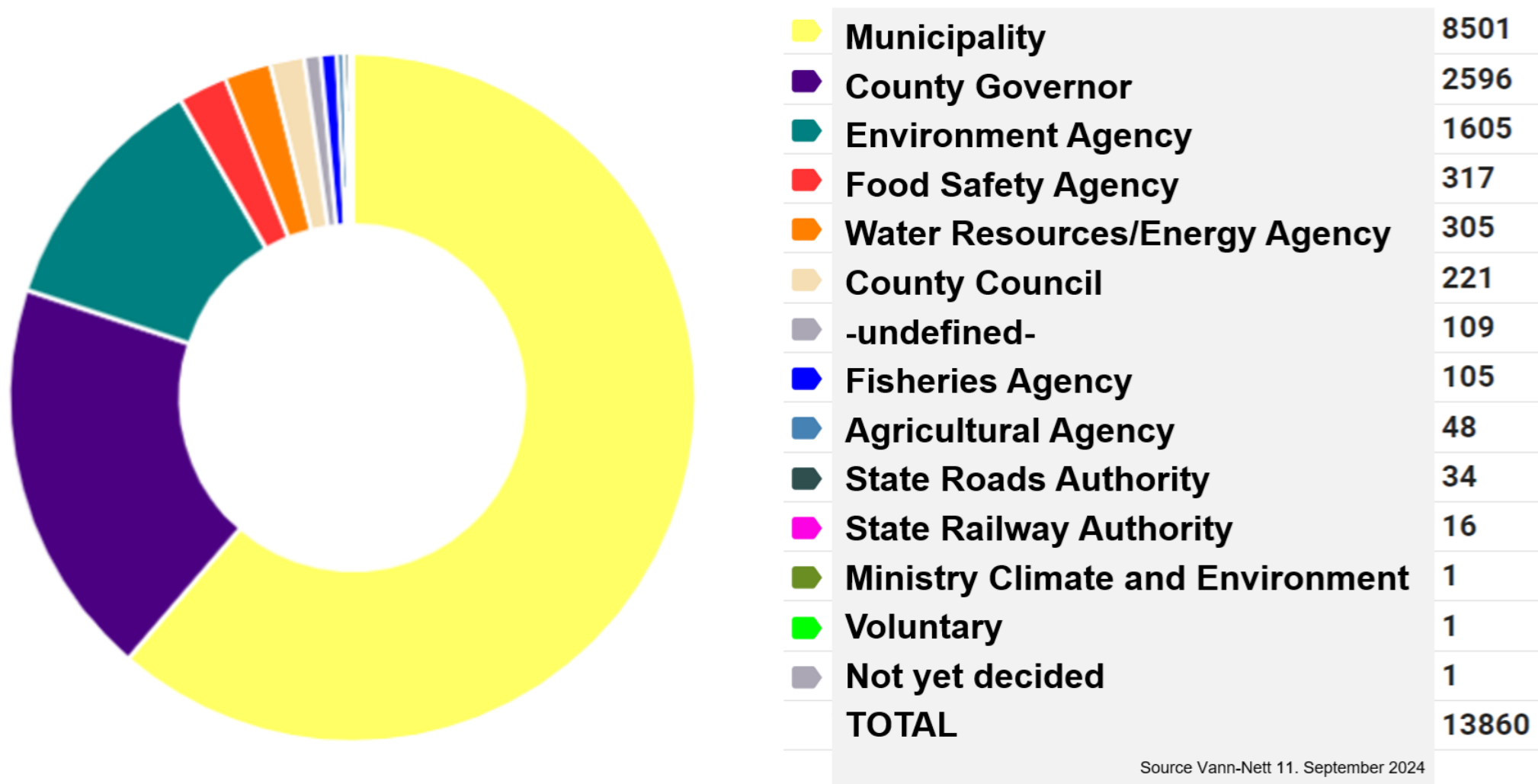


# Measures in the RBMPs and PoMs 2022 - 2027

Pressure	Measures	Examples of measures
<b>AGRICULTURE</b> 	3380	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced autumn ploughing.</li> <li>• Hydrotechnical improvements.</li> <li>• Better handling of livestock manure.</li> </ul>
<b>WASTEWATER</b> 	2530	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved wastewater treatment plants.</li> <li>• Rehabilitated wastewater collection network.</li> <li>• Improved treatment of dispersed wastewater.</li> </ul>
<b>HYDROPOWER AND OTHER HYMO</b> 	1470	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved ecological flow.</li> <li>• Improve ecological continuity and fish migration.</li> <li>• Improve other physical conditions/habitats.</li> </ul>
<b>ACID RAIN</b> 	1130	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International agreements.</li> <li>• Liming of lakes.</li> <li>• Liming of rivers.</li> </ul>
<b>CHEMICALS</b> 	328	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remediation of contaminated soil.</li> <li>• Remediation of contaminated sediments.</li> <li>• Reduce pollution from industry and mining.</li> </ul>

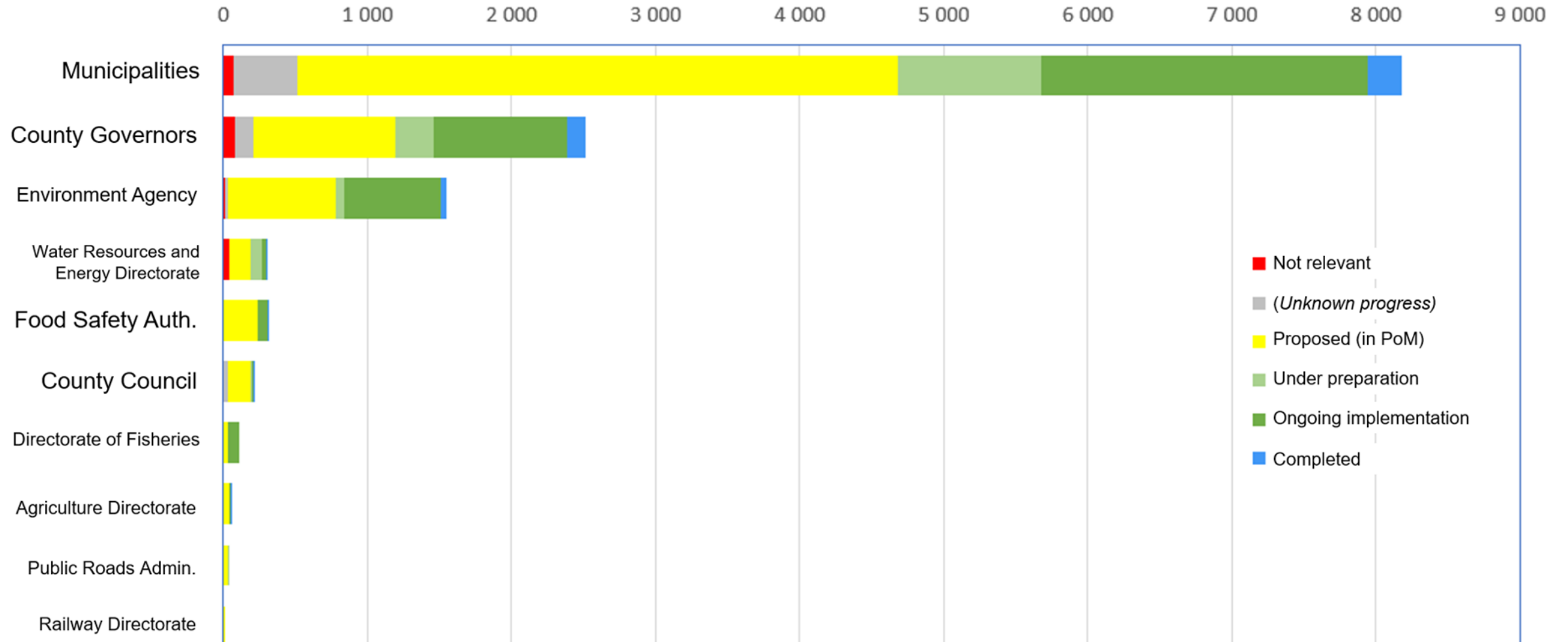
Source: Vann-Nett October 2022

# Measures: who are responsible





## Progress in implementation of measures (number) for each responsible authority



# Some remaining challenges

*reasons why not all objectives will be met by 2033*

Need for new legal tools and increased use of existing tools:

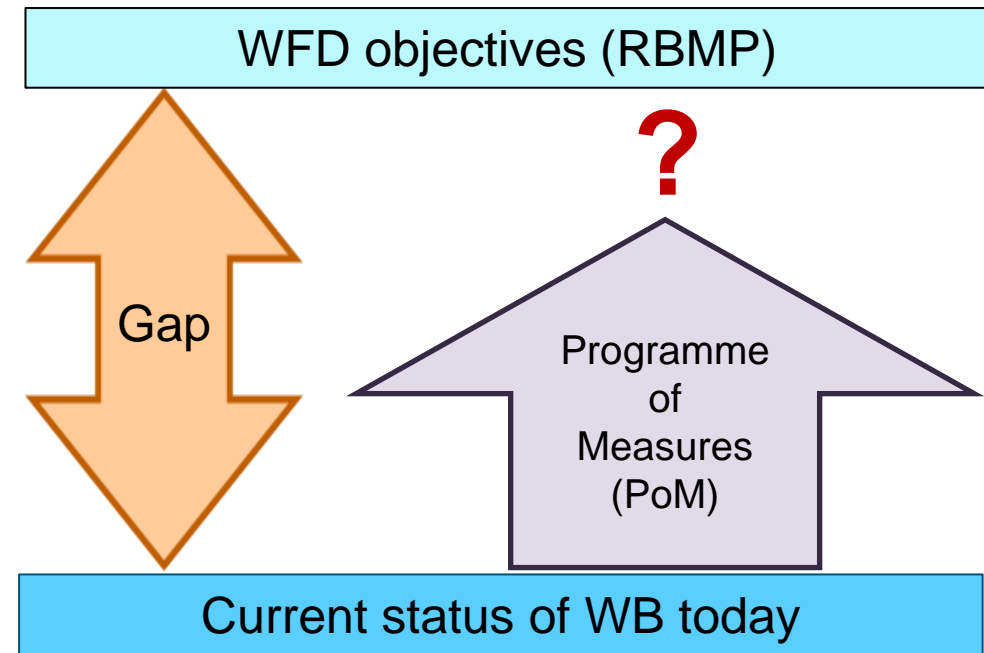
- Hydropower
- Agriculture
- Aquaculture

Need for municipalities to intensify measures in:

- Wastewater treatment
- Agriculture
- Protection of drinking water sources
- Protection of the water in land use planning

Need for increased funding:

- Monitoring
- Measures/restoration
- Catchment coordinators





# New tools in the national toolbox

## HYDROPOWER



- Review of older licenses: 2016-2021 (11), 2022-2027 (26), 2028-2033 (30).
- A new regulation environmental requirements can be introduced to older licenses (pre-1992) in watercourses with environmental concerns.

## AQUACULTURE



- Assess present regulatory system vs. env. objectives for Atlantic salmon.
- Assess if site structure can change to protect vulnerable A. salmon stocks.
- Develop more effective system for monitoring/catching escaped farm fish.
- Prepare to include protection of sea-trout in the regulatory system.

## AGRICULTURE



- New regulation (2020) allows for stricter requirements where necessary.
- Increased funding for regional and local water protection measures.
- New and stricter regulations for manure/fertilizers has been prepared.

# Questions from EFTA Surveillance Authority

*May 2024*

Incorrect application of extended deadlines (Article 4(4))

- Allows deadline extensions due to administrative capacity.
- Does not sufficiently explain the reasons for deadline extensions

Environmental controls

- Lack of periodic review of relevant controls (Article 11(3))
- Reassessment of permits, if monitoring indicates that objectives might not be met, is too slow (Article 11(5))





# Increased attention to river restoration

## *including ecological continuity and barrier removal*



### National strategy for river restoration 2021-2030:

- Restore minimum 15 % of deteriorated rivers and bend the curve to restore more than what is deteriorated by 2030.
- Actions to improve coordination, synergy, knowledge and dissemination.
- National action plan under development.
- Annual national restoration seminar 22-23. October 2024. [LINK](#)

### Updated guidance on fish passable road culverts:

- Constructing new culverts correctly.
- Adjusting existing culverts where necessary.
- National kick-off seminar/webinar on 23. april 2024. [LINK](#)



# Evaluation and improvements

## *aiming for better RBMPs and PoMs for 2028-2033*



### Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (2021):

- Objectives are being met, and water status is improving.
- Responsibilities are clarified, and sector integration has improved.
- Organisational and financial stability is still a challenge.

### Committee of Agencies (2023) – based on extensive evaluation:

- We are moving towards the objectives, and we are better coordinated.
- Second RBMPs and PoMs were better than in the first cycle.
- Suggested more than 30 issues for improvement – ongoing work.



Thank you for your attention!

Photo: Tor Simon Pedersen