



Predicting lake alkalinity and depth
for classifying Irish lakes using the
Water Framework Directive typology.

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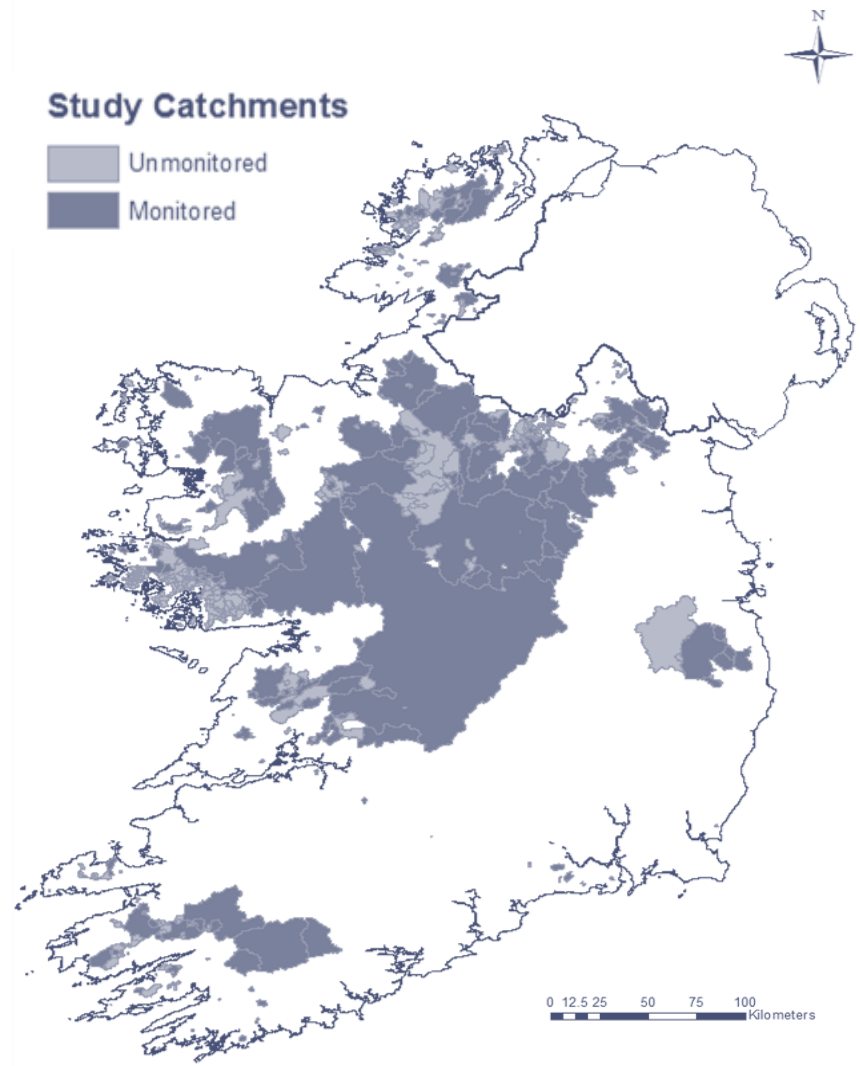
Irish WFD Lake Typology

| Parameters | Boundaries | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Alkalinity (mg L ⁻¹ CaCO ₃) | <20 | | | | 20-100 | | | | ≥100 | | | |
| Depth (m) | ≤4 | | >4 | | ≤4 | | >4 | | ≤4 | | >4 | |
| Area (ha) | <50 | ≥50 | <50 | ≥50 | <50 | ≥50 | <50 | ≥50 | <50 | ≥50 | <50 | ≥50 |
| Type | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |

Note: A provisional type, type 13 has also been proposed to describe high altitude lakes (>200 m).

WFD Monitoring Programme Design

- ▶ 12000+ lakes in Ireland
- ▶ 816 lakes on WFD programme
- ▶ 227 monitored for WFD

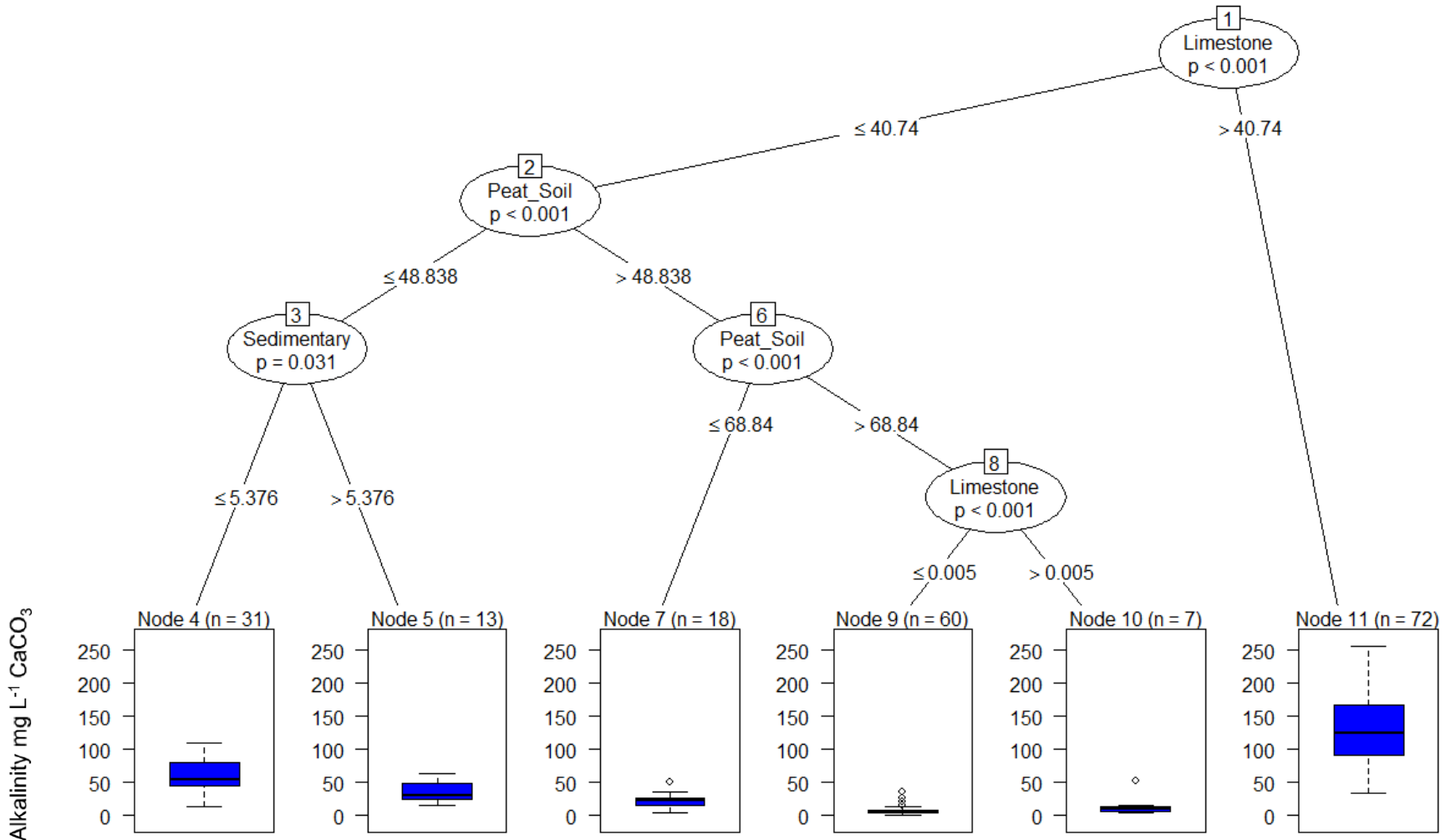


Predicting lake alkalinity

| Geology/Soil Category | Source |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| % Limestone | Expert grouping of Rock Units layer |
| % Sedimentary | Expert grouping of Rock Units layer |
| % Metamorphic | Expert grouping of Rock Units layer |
| % Igneous (Acid) | Expert grouping of Rock Units layer |
| % Igneous (Non-Acid) | Expert grouping of Rock Units layer |
| % Peat Soil | Expert grouping Soils layer |
| % Peat Subsoil | EPA grouping of Subsoil layer |
| % Acid Subsoil | Expert grouping of Subsoil layer |
| % Basic Subsoil | Expert grouping of Subsoil layer |

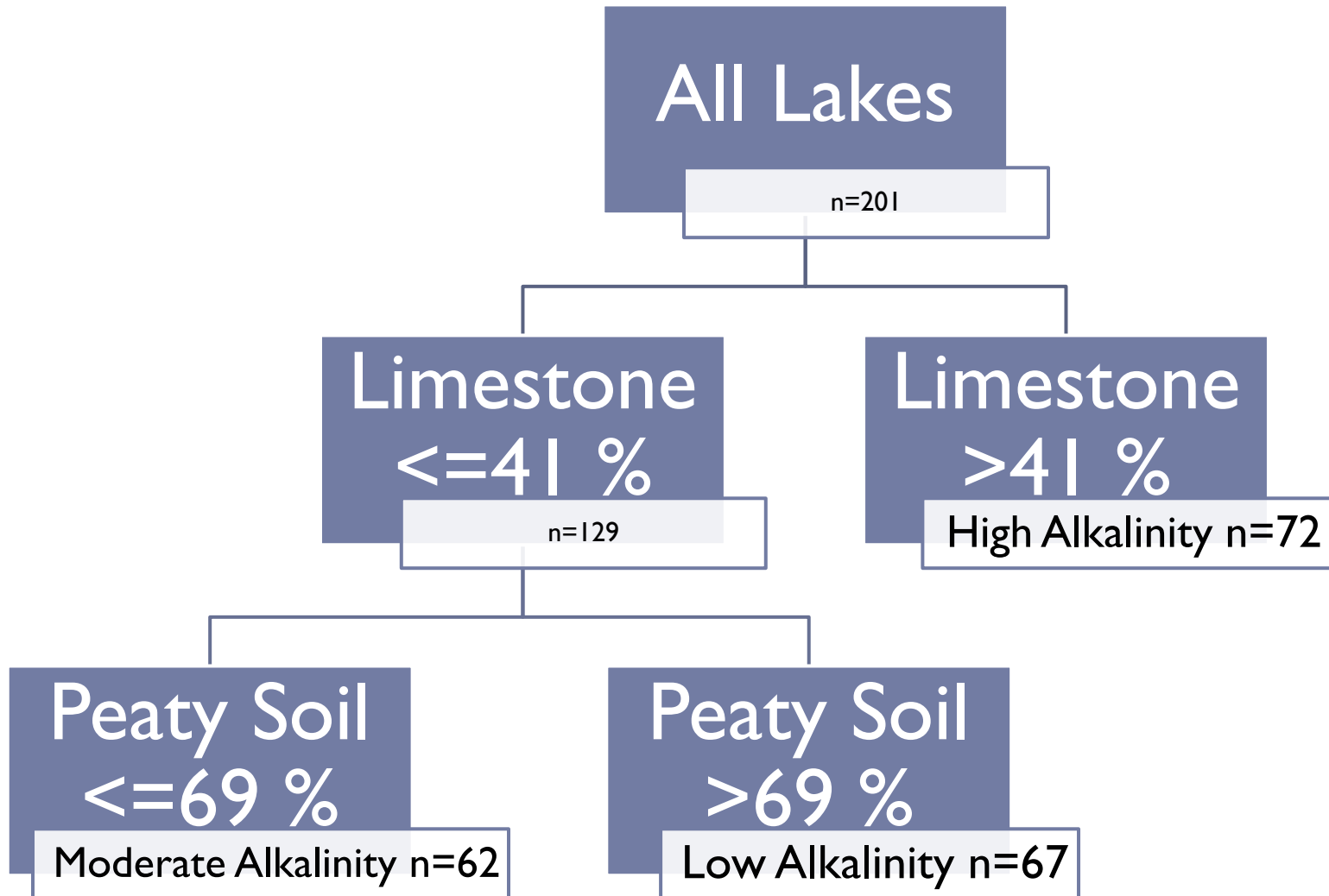
▶ Source: GSI and Teagasc, with assistance from Katie Tedd (GSI) and Anthony Mannix (EPA)

Decision Tree Output for Alkalinity



WFD Typology categories <20, 20-100, >100 mg L⁻¹ CaCO₃

WFD alkalinity prediction model



Correct classification rates (Alkalinity)

| Lake Group | Training | Test |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|
| All lakes | 80 %, n=201 | 87 %, n=62 |
| Low Alkalinity | 95 %, n=67 | 94 %, n=32 |
| Moderate Alkalinity | 77 %, n=62 | 92 %, n=12 |
| High Alkalinity | 74 %, n=72 | 72 %, n=18 |

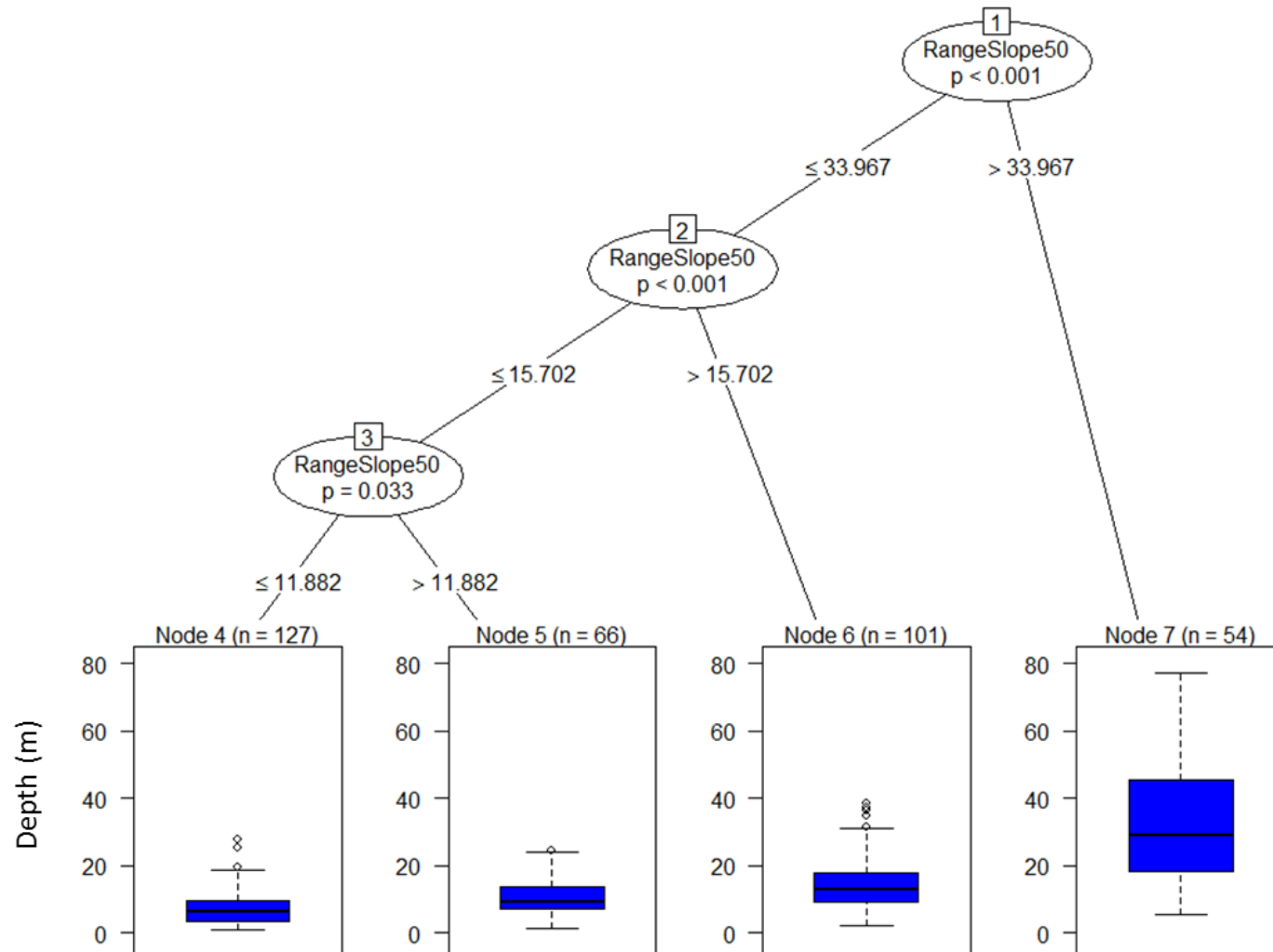


Predicting lake depth

| Predictor | Source |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Mean Catchment Slope (degrees) | 5 m Digital Elevation Model |
| Range in Catchment Slope (degrees) | 5 m Digital Elevation Model |
| Range in Slope within 50 m of lake (degrees) | 5 m Digital Elevation Model |
| Range in Slope within 100 m of lake (degrees) | 5 m Digital Elevation Model |
| Lake Area (km ²) | Lake Water Body Layer |
| Shoreline Development Index | Lake Water Body Layer |
| Longitude (degrees) | Lake Water Body Layer |
| Latitude (degrees) | Lake Water Body Layer |

▶ Source: OSI and EPA from <http://gis.epa.ie/>

Decision Tree Output for Depth



WFD Typology categories $<12, >12$ m

Correct classification rates (Depth)

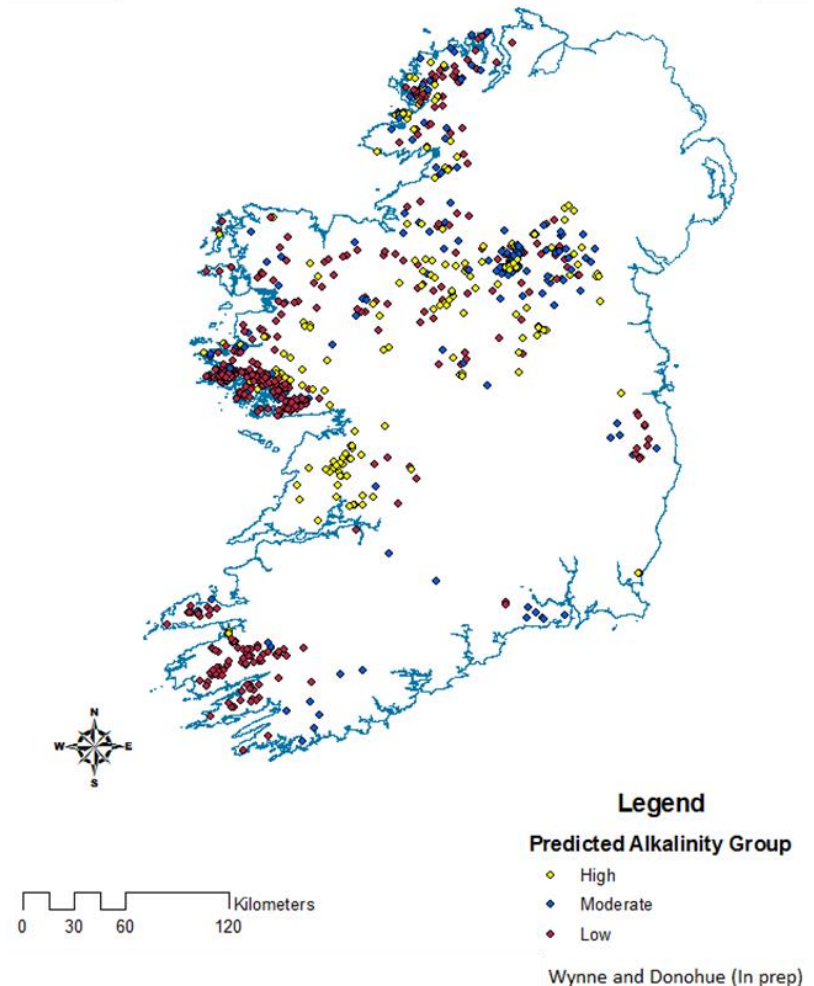
| Lake Group | Training | Test |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| All lakes | 89 %, n=348 | 44 %, n=202 |
| Shallow lakes <12 m | 83 %, n=190 | 25 %, n=96 |
| Deep Lakes >12 m | 61 %, n=158 | 85 %, n=106 |



Conclusions / Applications

- ▶ Correct percentage classification was highest for the low alkalinity category and decreased for moderate and high alkalinity lakes – location of limestone?
- ▶ Potential use in locating hot spots for species of conservation interest e.g. Characeae in high alkalinity lakes.
- ▶ Bathymetric surveys required to assign typology to unmonitored lakes – surveys are underway.
- ▶ Highlights location of deeper lakes, assisting in understanding of nutrient processing for unmonitored lakes.

Predicted Alkalinity Categories for Irish Lakes



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