



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency

Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI)

Public consultation webinar 2026

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/significant-water-management-issues>



An Agency within the
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency wi'in the Depairtment o
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**



SCAN ME

Outline of presentation

- Why a SWMI consultation? What is it for?
- Overview of consultation documents
- How did we identify the pressures?
- Status of water bodies
- Most frequently identified pressures
- How to respond

What is the SWMI consultation for?

The River Basin Planning cycle

River Basin Planning cycle

Prep	1 st	2 nd cycle						3 rd cycle						4 th cycle					
2000 – 2009	2010 – 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033

3 rd cycle					
2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
- Focus on co-ordination of implementation of Programme of Measures - Mid-cycle review			Significant Water Management Issues Consultation	draft River Basin Management Plan consultation (2027-2033)	final River Basin Management Plan

SWMI consultation for 4th cycle RBMP currently open: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/significant-water-management-issues>



Why another consultation?

We already know what is wrong.

Why are you asking us again?



What you are doing is not working. Why are you doing it again?

We want to see actions.

A chance of participating & shaping future policy

Leisure & tourism



Farming



New homes



What
matters to
you?

Food & drink



Preparing for the 4th cycle River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)

SWMI

End of 2025 to June 2026

- Identify problems
- Q: Problems correctly identified?

Draft River Basin Management Plan

End of 2026 to June 2027

- Draft actions (measures)
- Q: Your opinion on draft measures

Final River Basin Management Plan

End of 2027

- Implement RBMP
- Deliver actions

What documents and information are available?

Consultation document

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
www.daera-ni.gov.uk Northern Airlan Environment Agency

Significant Water Management Issues 2025

Consultation document

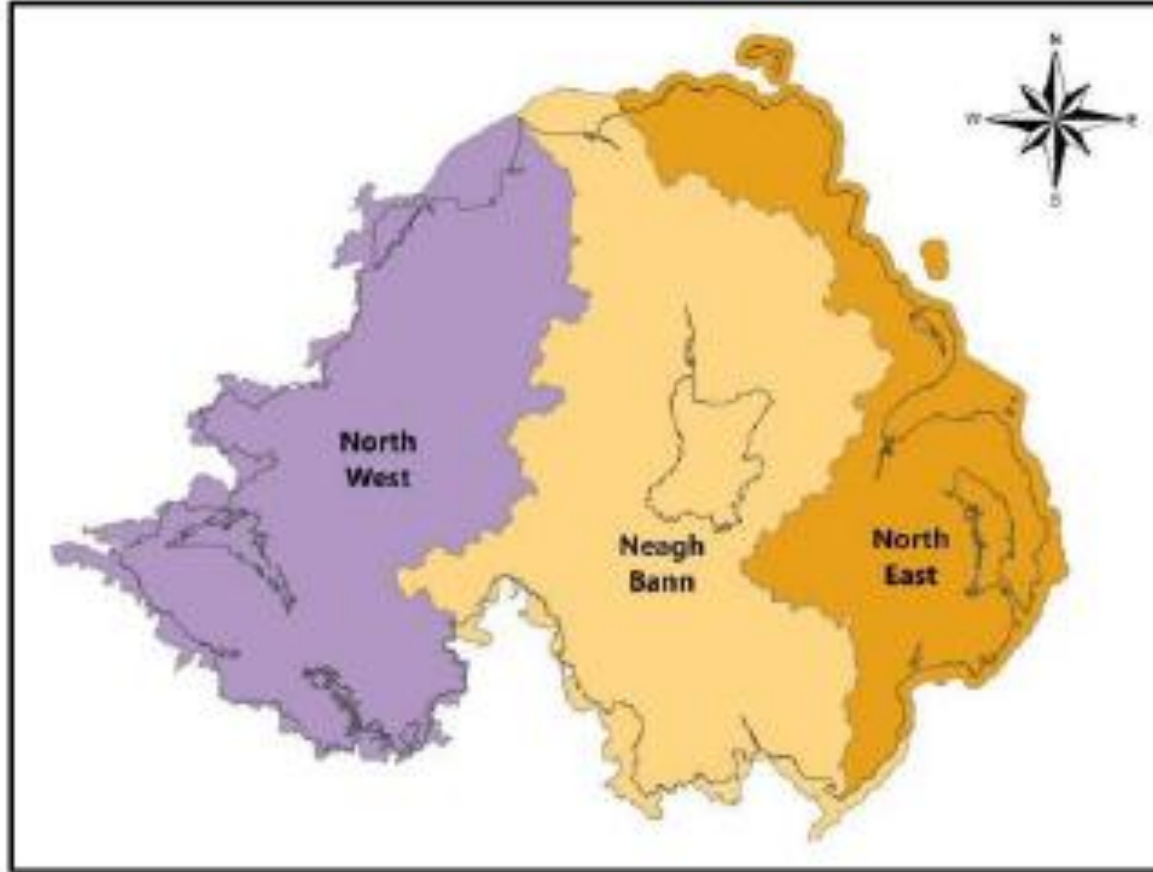
An Agency within the Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

An Agency within the Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/significant-water-management-issues>

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
www.daera-ni.gov.uk Northern Airlan Environment Agency



SCAN ME

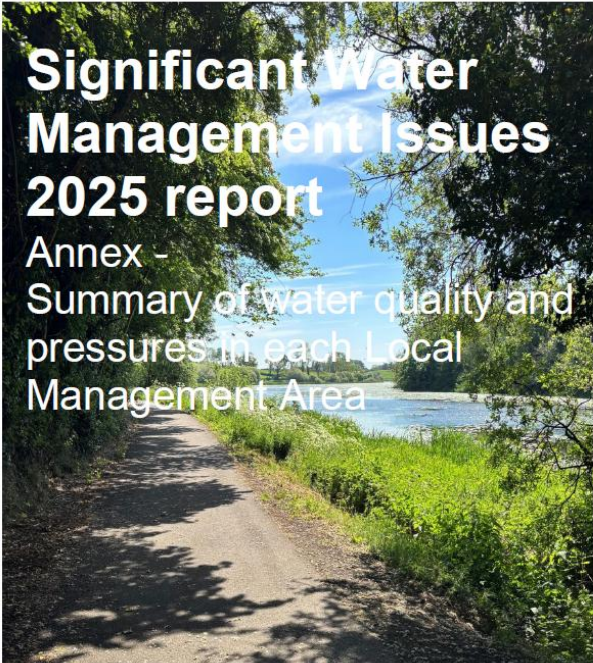
Consultation questions

1. Do you think we have correctly identified the significant issues impacting on water resources in Northern Ireland?
2. Are there other significant issues we have not captured?
3. What interventions would you suggest to tackle these issues under the following four pillars?
 - a) education
 - b) incentivisation and innovation
 - c) regulation
 - d) enforcement
4. Is there anything that you think needs to be considered when carrying out the Equality screening, Rural Needs Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats screening?

Annex – summary at LMA level



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
www.daera-ni.gov.uk | Norlin Airlan Environment Agency



Significant Water Management Issues 2025 report

Annex -
Summary of water quality and pressures in each Local Management Area



An Agency within the Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthai Tuaithe

An Agency within the Department of
Farming, Environment
and Rural Affairs



Easy read version & supporting documents



NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
www.daera-ni.gov.uk Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Significant Water Management Issues 2025

Easy Read Version

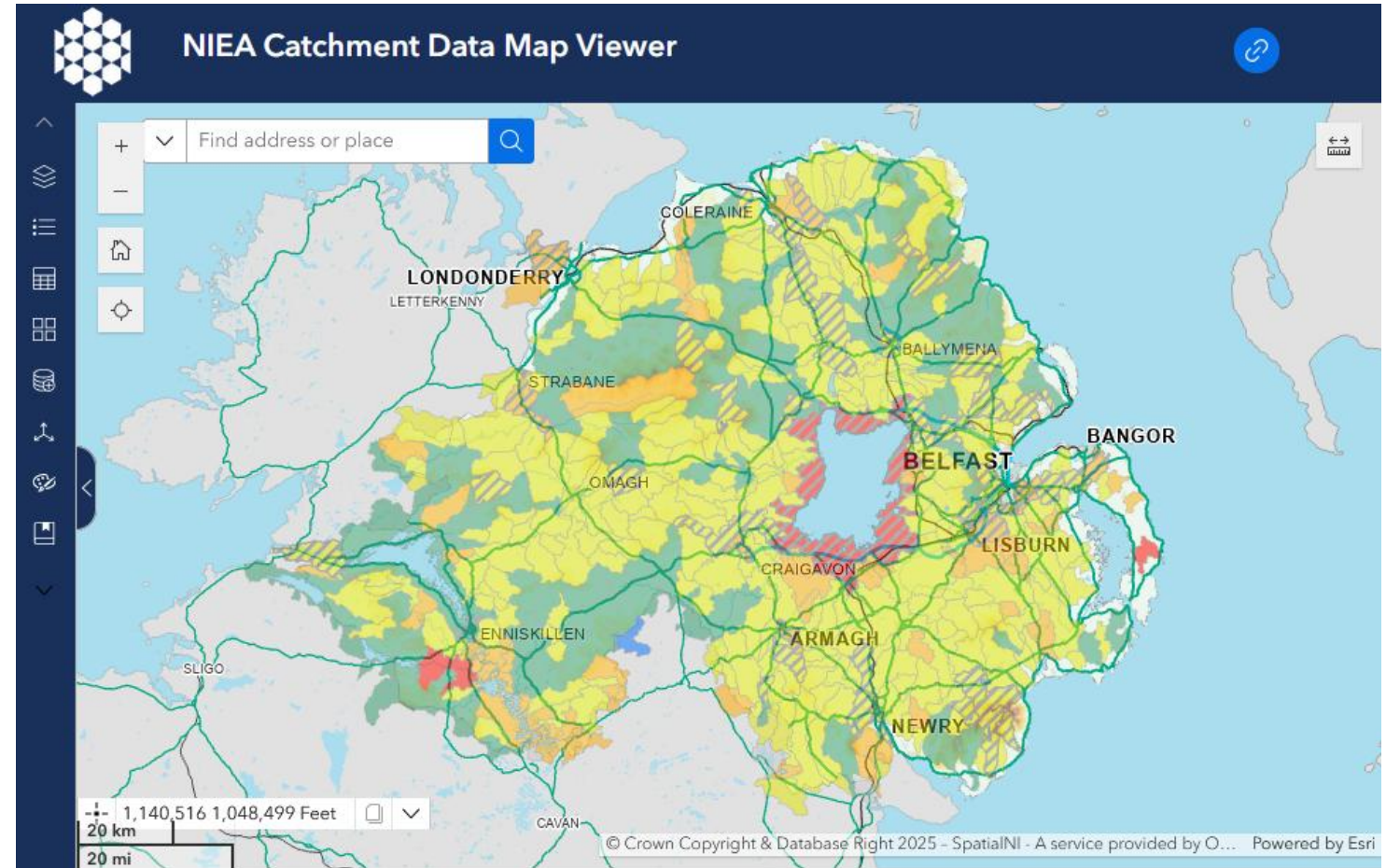


An Agency within the Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

An Agency within the Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
www.daera-ni.gov.uk Northern Ireland Environment Agency



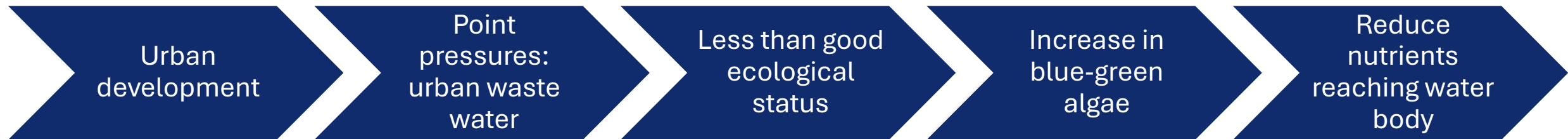
How did we identify the pressures?

How did we capture them?

Driver – Pressure – State – Impact - Response



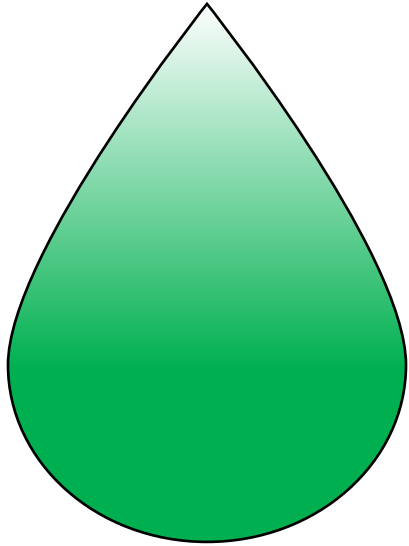
Example



Status of water bodies – high level summary

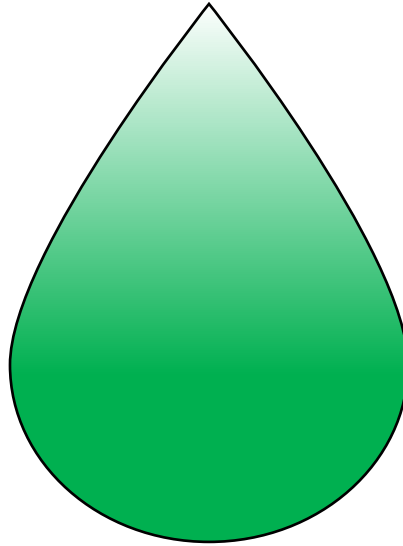
Rivers, Lakes and Marine Ecology (NI)

2015



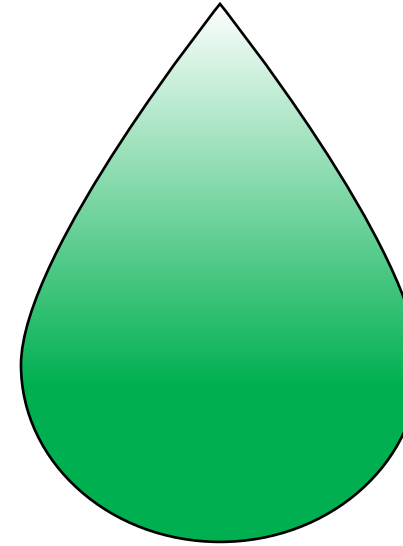
32 %

2021



31 %

2024



29 %

percentage of surface water bodies at 'good or high' ecological status

More detail at:

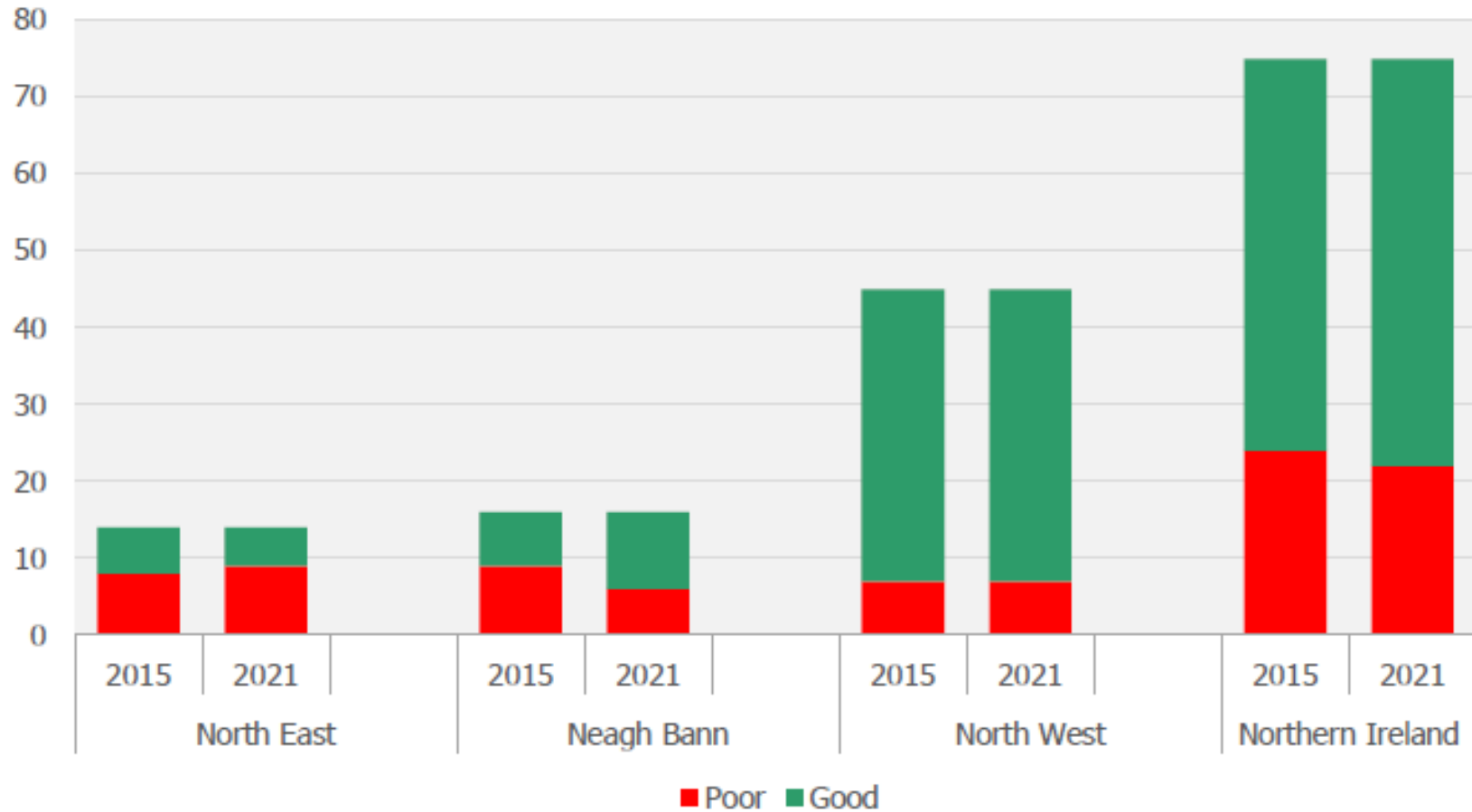
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/water-classification-statistics-northern-ireland-2024-report>



SCAN ME

Groundwater bodies

Groundwater chemical status



More detail at:

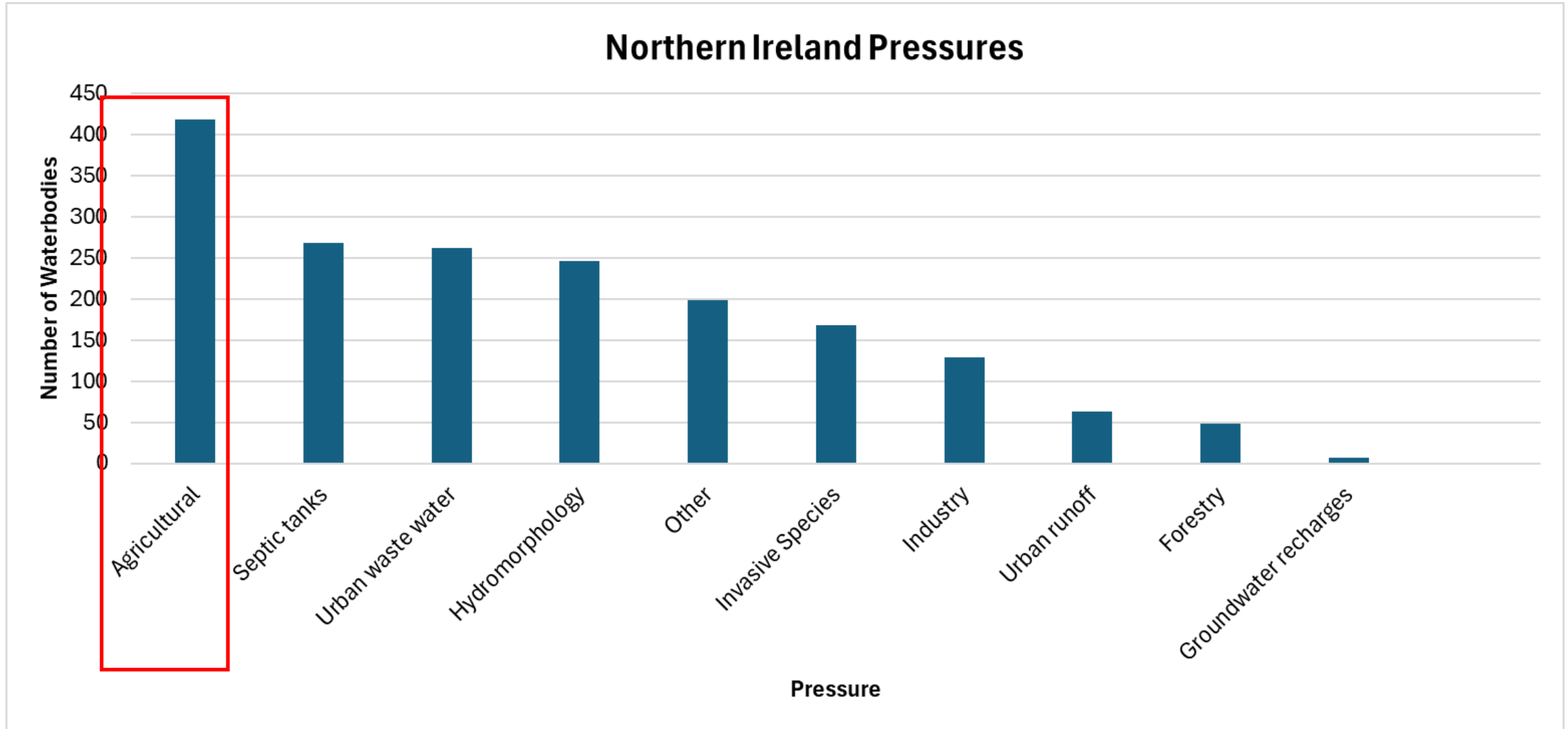
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-water-framework-directive-statistics-report-2021>



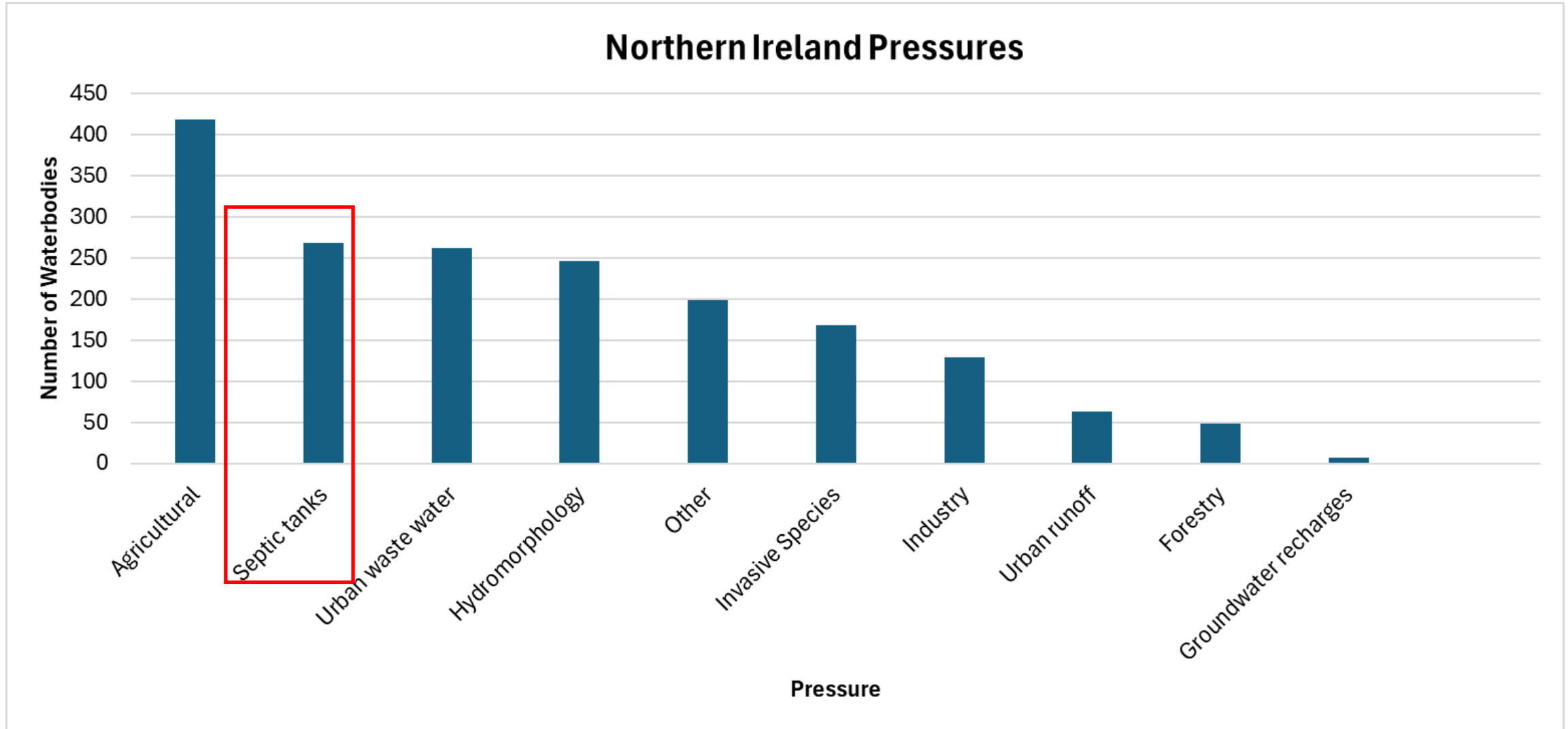
SCAN ME

Most frequently identified pressures (Northern Ireland)

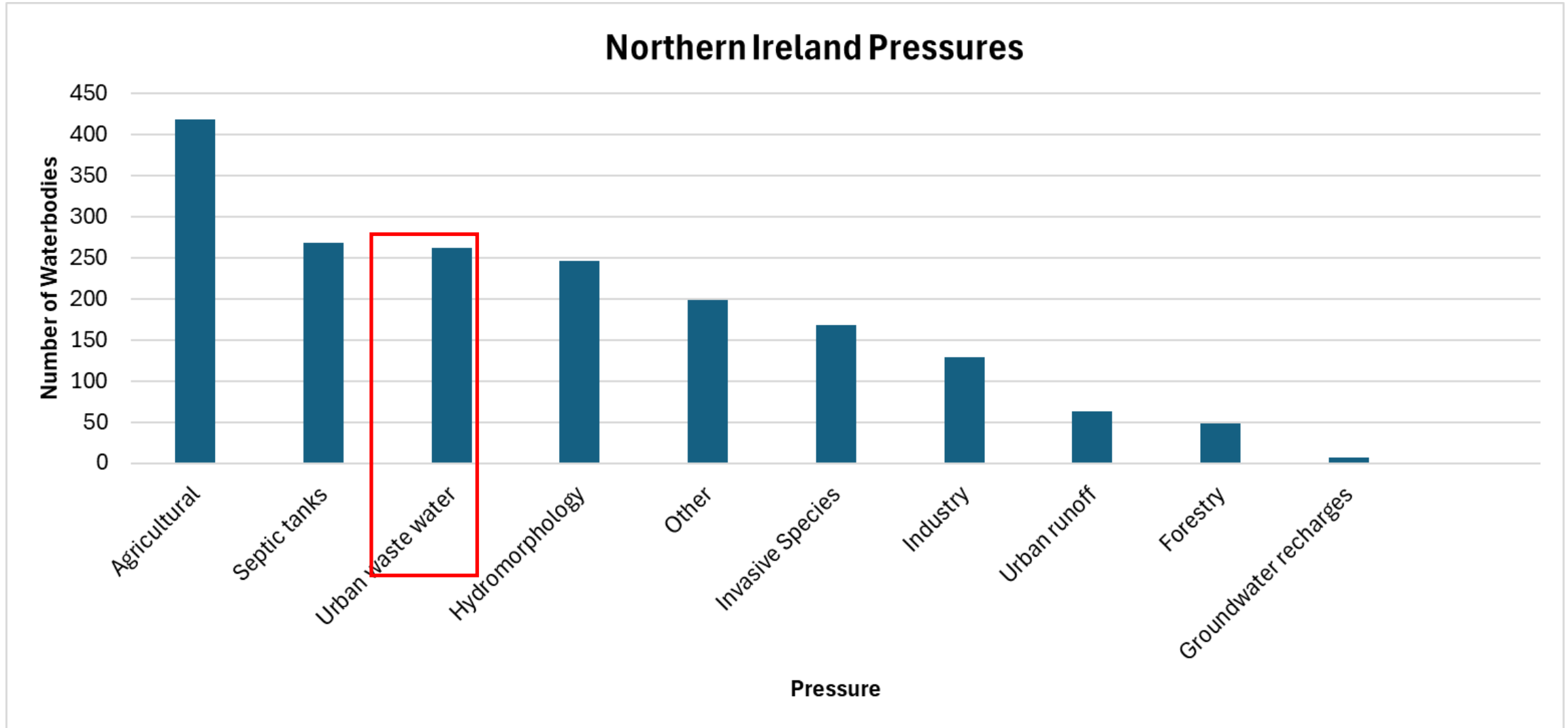
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



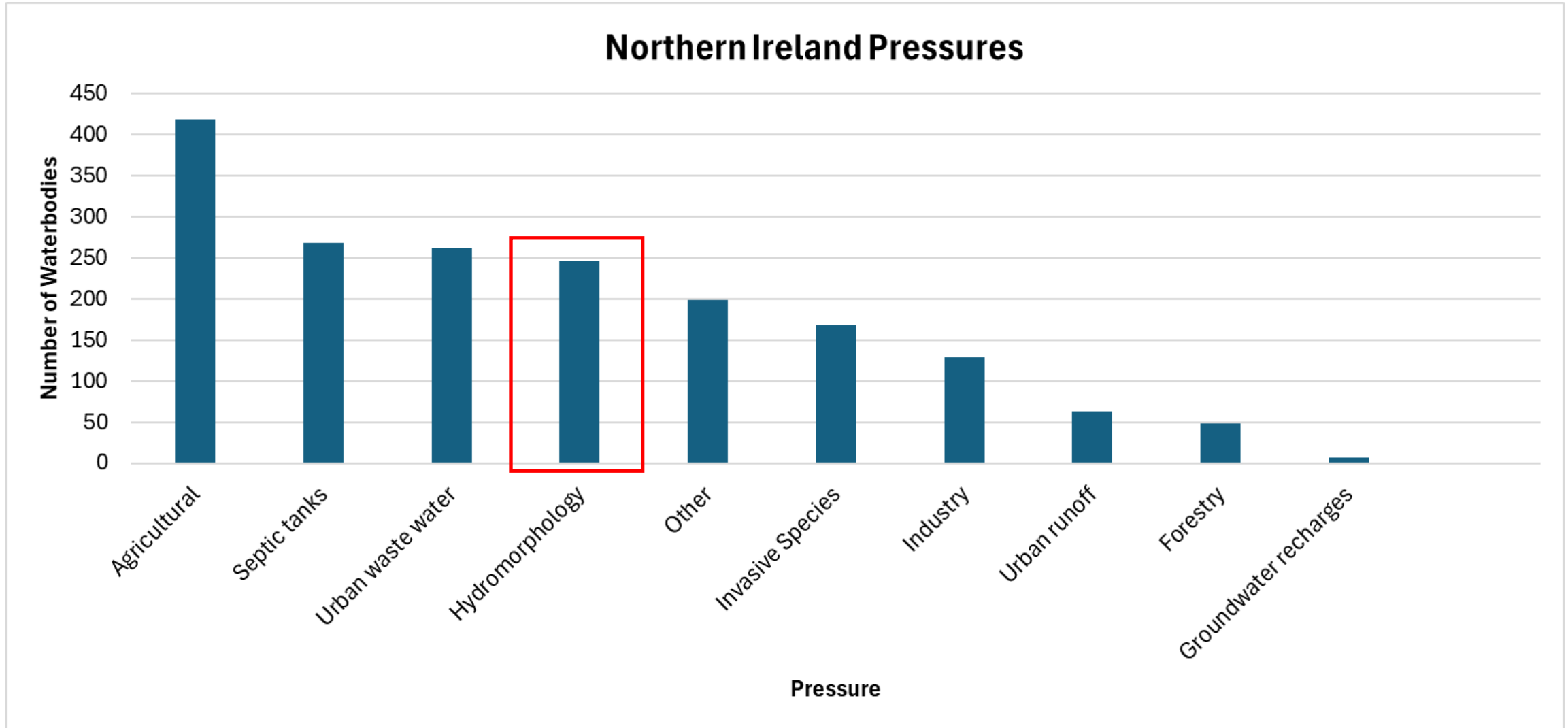
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



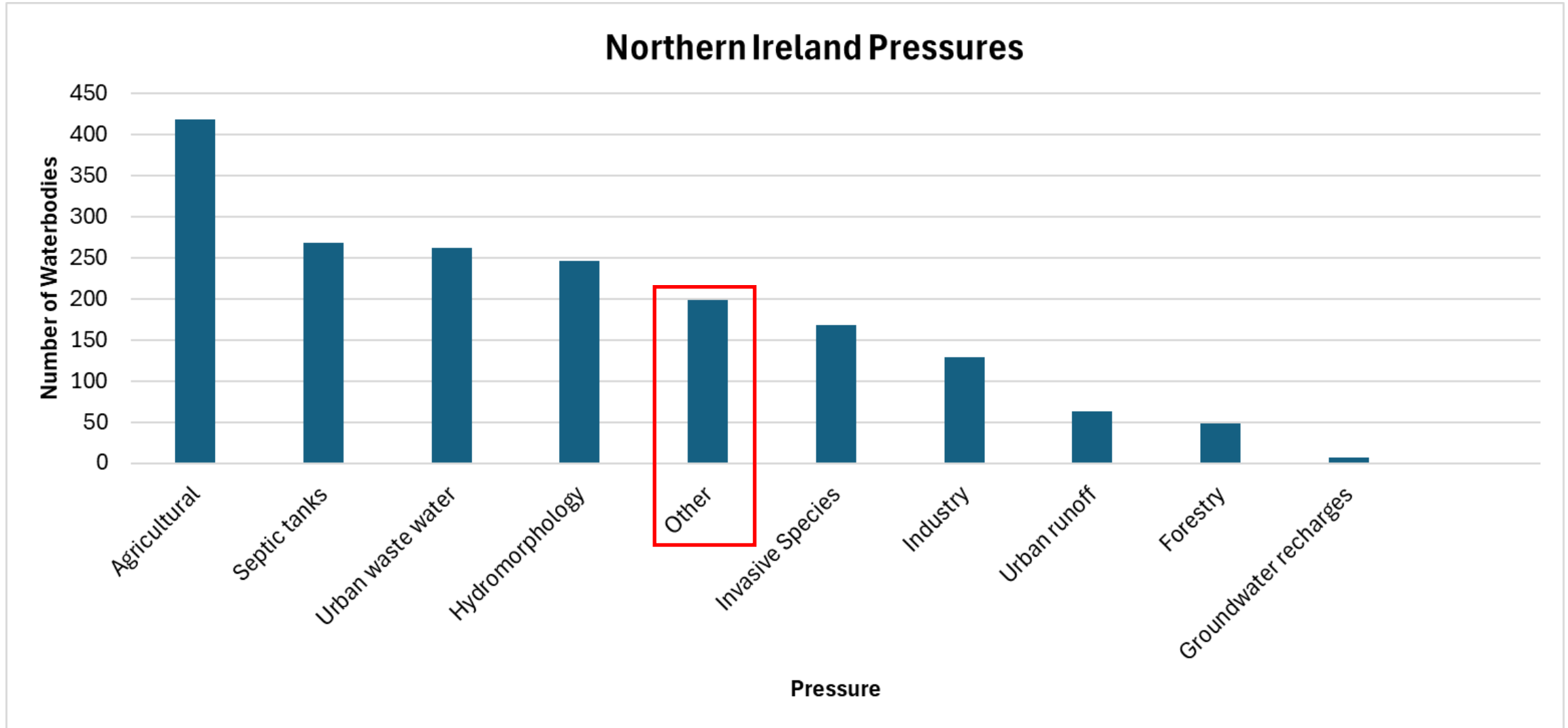
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



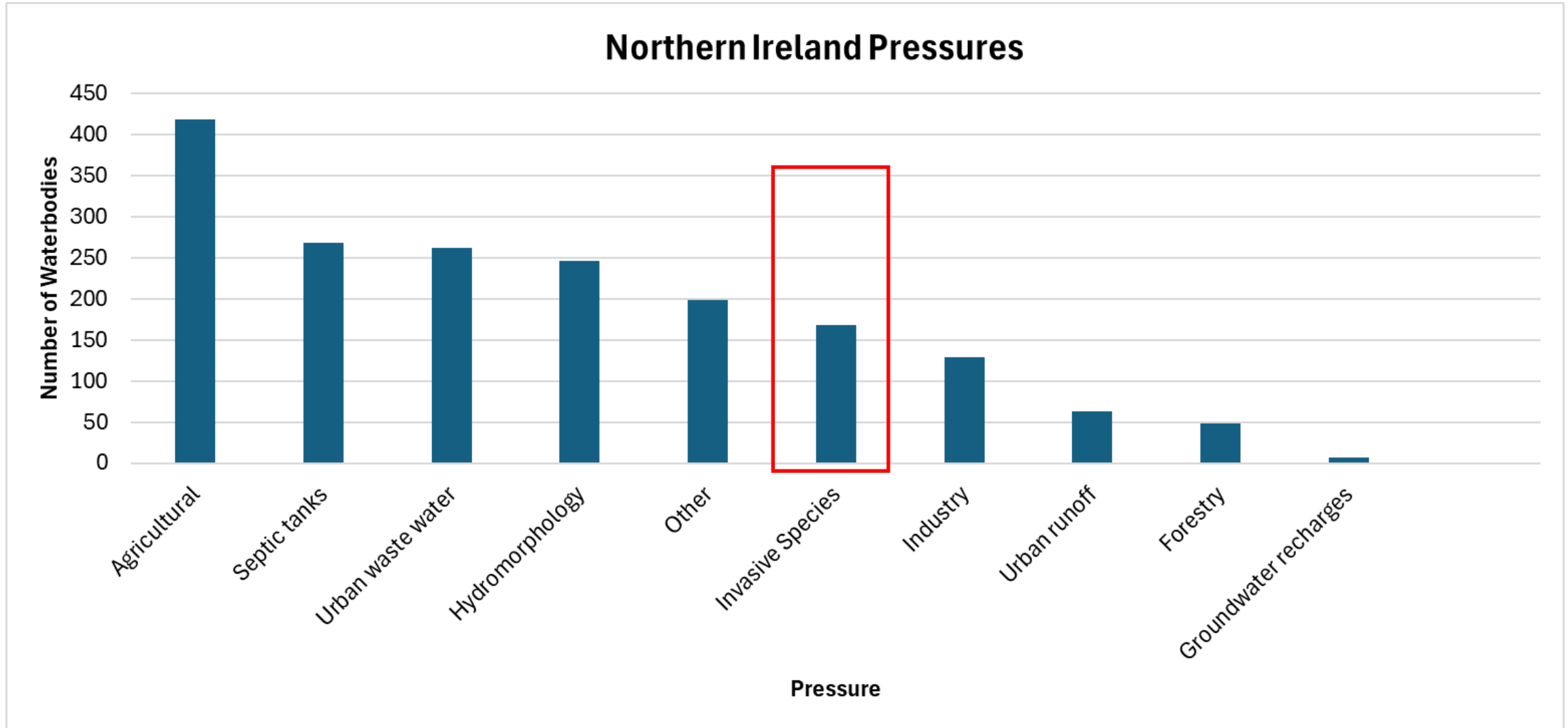
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



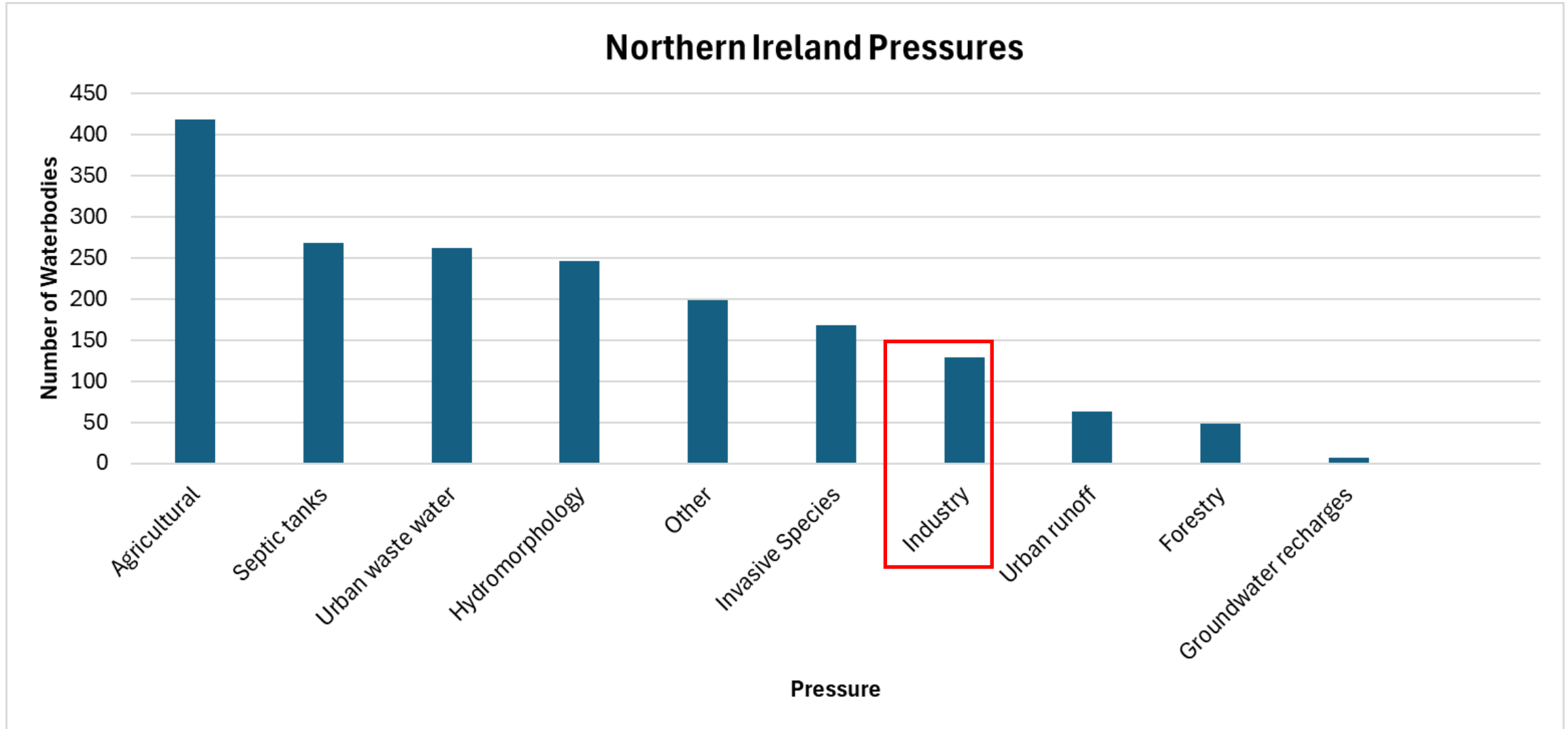
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



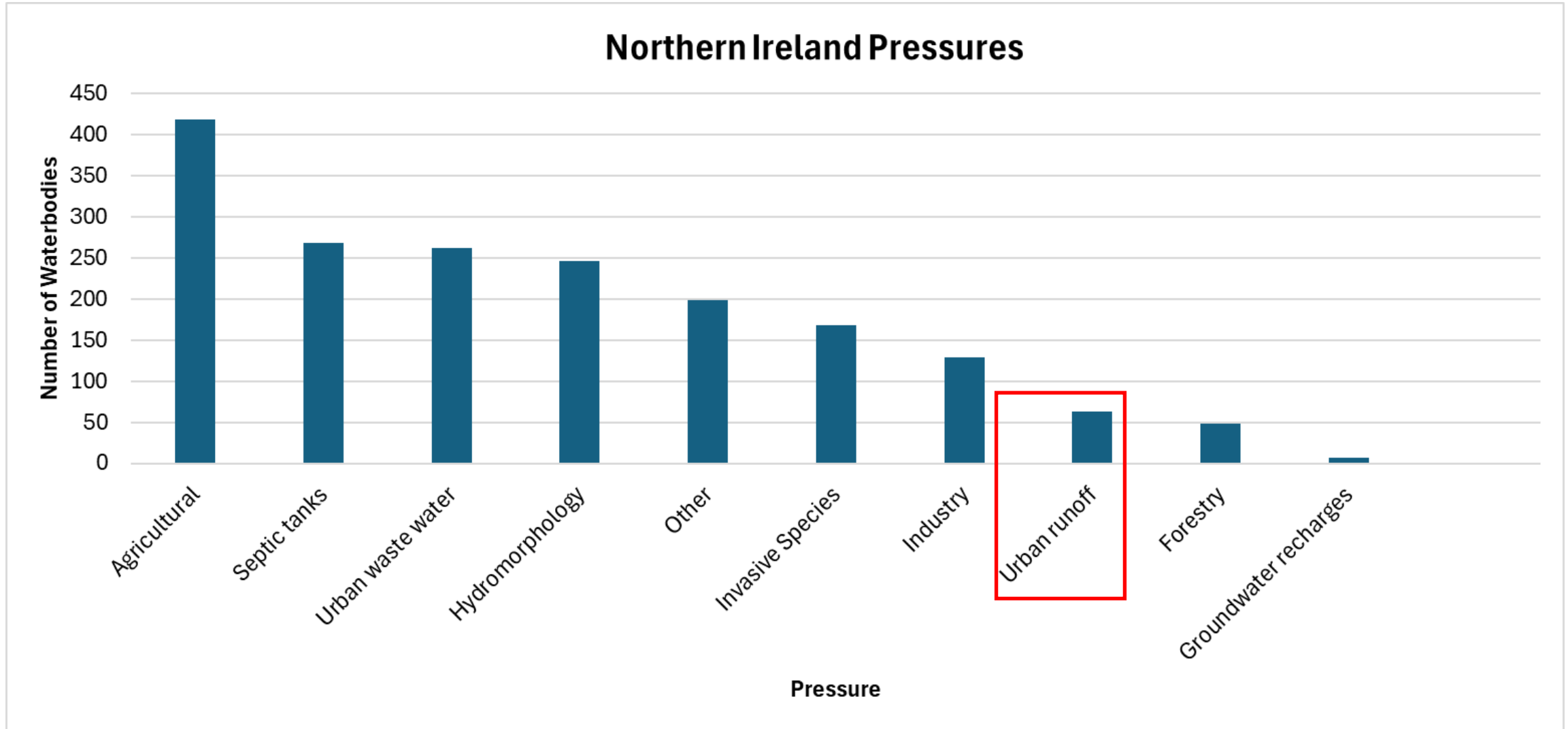
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



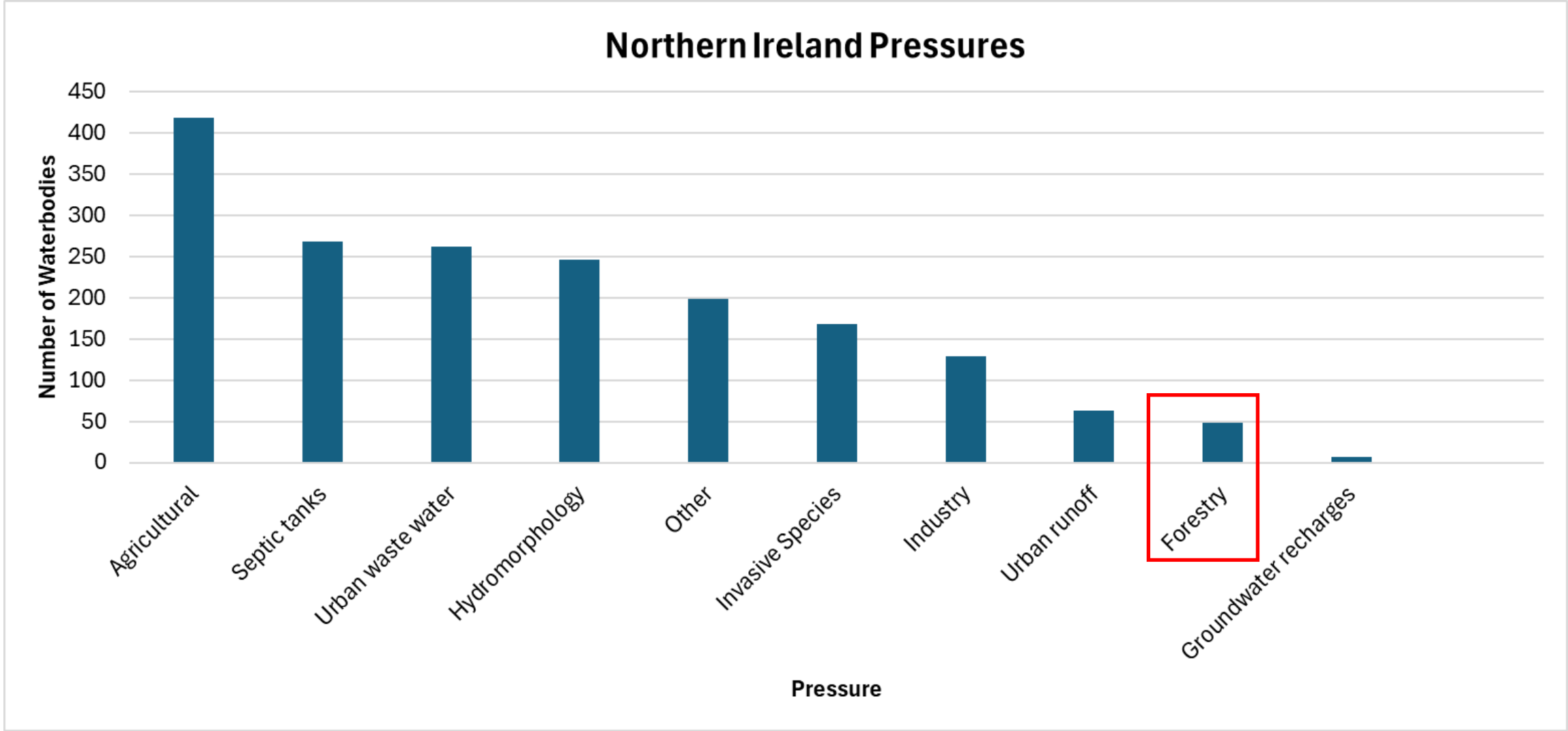
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



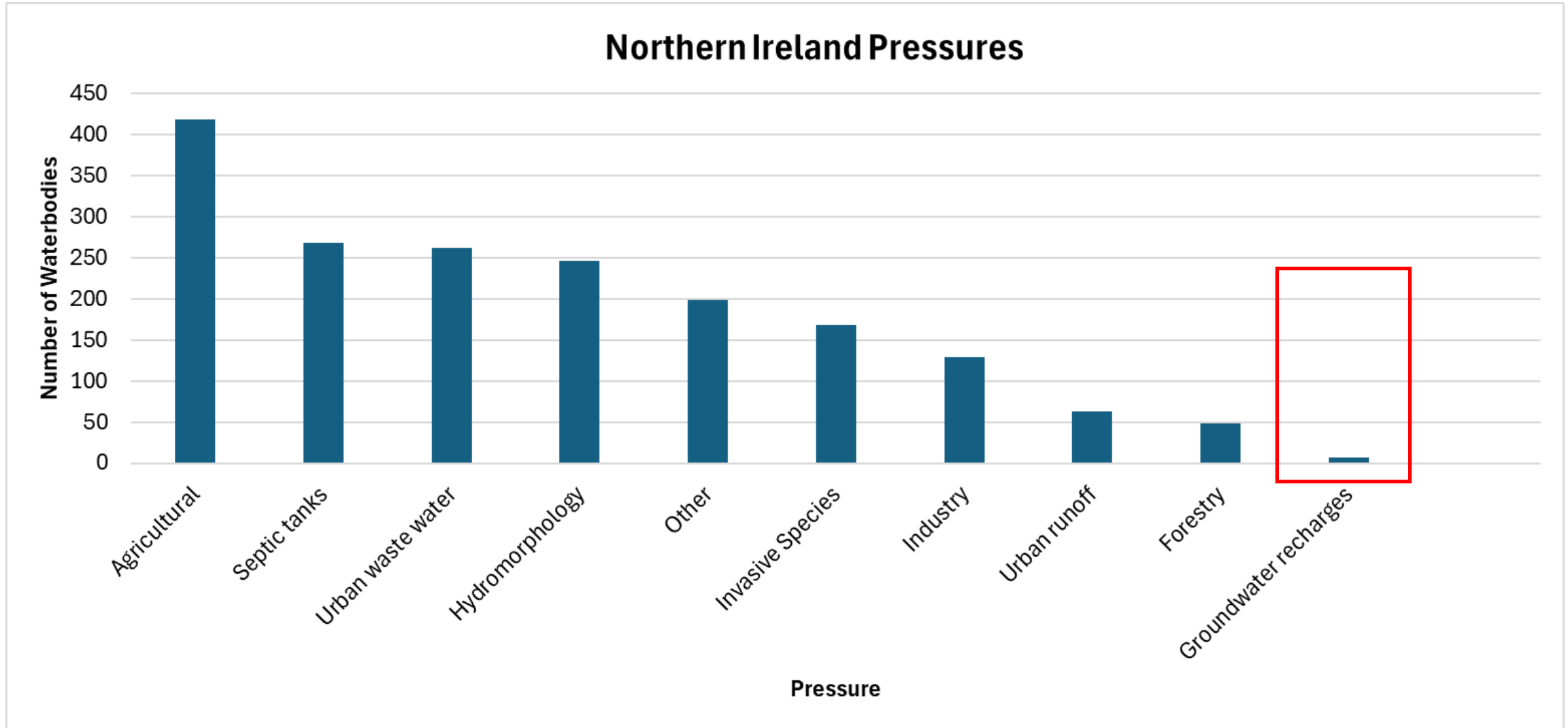
Most frequently identified pressures in NI



Most frequently identified pressures in NI



Most frequently identified pressures in NI



How to respond



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency

Responding to the consultation



Consultation closes on 18 June 2026 at 23:59 h



Citizen Space

Respond online through Citizen Space

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/significant-water-management-issues>



DAERA will use the information to produce the draft fourth cycle River Basin Management Plan



Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann

Norlin Airlan Environment Agency

Thank you.



Respond online through Citizen Space
<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/significant-water-management-issues>



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Norlin Airlan Environment Agency