

Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion Statement

<i>Project Reference</i>	DET-2023-000032
<i>Project Name</i>	Fisheries Stock Management Plan (2023) For Loughs Conn and Cullen. Co Mayo
<i>Project Description</i>	<p>Inland Fisheries Ireland has prepared this assessment in relation to the management of fish stocks on Loughs Conn and Cullin, which are known to support significant numbers of Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i> L.), one of the key species (Qualifying Interests) for which the site is designated as an SAC. The principal aim of the 2023 management plan is to remove Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i> L.) by electrofishing and gill netting, from the lakes and some of their tributary rivers.</p> <p>One of the principal reasons for this project is the protection of Atlantic salmon (a qualifying interest at the site and a species listed in Annex II and Annex V of the directive) from predation by pike and the project is, therefore, seen as being necessary for the management of the site. However, notwithstanding the necessity for this project, any potential, significant impacts on other species or habitats which could arise as a result of the project activities are fully assessed</p>
<i>Accompanying Report</i>	RevisedConn_Cullin_AA_screening2023.docx,

Other Agencies Consulted

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Observations</i>
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European Sites

<i>Site Name (1)</i>	IE0002298 - River Moy SAC
<i>Proximity / Connection to Site</i>	Within
<i>Qualifying Interest</i>	<p>Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) [1106] White Clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotomobius pallipes</i>) [1902] Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) [1095] Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) [1906] Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) Active raised bogs* [7110] Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120] Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] Alkaline Fens Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0]*</p>
<i>Connections</i>	Within
<i>Impact</i>	<p><i>Potential Impact:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i></p>

<i>Site Name (2)</i>	IE0004228 - Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
<i>Proximity / Connection to Site</i>	The L. Conn & Cullin SPA overlaps with the project site
<i>Qualifying Interest</i>	<p>Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) [A061] Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) [A065] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395]</p>

	Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]
<i>Connections</i>	The L. Conn & Cullin SPA overlaps with the project site
<i>Impact</i>	<i>Potential Impact:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
Assessment & Determination	
<i>Assessment of likely significance of effects</i>	
It is considered unlikely that significant direct impacts will occur in relation to any Natura site either wholly or partially within the zone of influence of this project. The following sub-sections examine the potential for each project activity to impact on the site and describes how significant impacts are unlikely.	
<i>Assessment Conclusion</i>	
AA not required, project directly connected to management of a European Site.	
<i>Determination</i>	
<p>The preceding sub-sections have concluded that the principal activities of this project, (i.e. the removal of pike (<i>Esox lucius</i> L.), by gill-netting and electro-fishing are part of the conservation and management of the site. They also indicate that there will be no significant direct, indirect or in-combination impacts to the Natura habitats or protected species at the site (see sections 4.4.1 – 4.4.6. & 4.3.1. – 4.3.5.). There will be no indirect impacts (e.g. to water quality) within designated sites (see section 5.2.1. & appendix 3) and the carrying out of pike stock management operations will be of benefit to the conservation of Atlantic salmon (see section 4.3.1.), one of the qualifying interests of the River Moy SAC, thereby making the project necessary to the management of the site.</p> <p>Furthermore, considering the conclusions in the preceding subsections and bearing in mind the scope, scale, duration and timing (see table 6.1.) of the proposed project, it is concluded that no significant habitat or species impacts are likely as a result of the proposed project on Lough Conn and Lough Cullin.</p>	