

Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion Statement

<i>Project Reference</i>	DET-2023-000033
<i>Project Name</i>	Lough Corrib Stock Management
<i>Project Description</i>	A proposed stock management programme for Lough Corrib which borders two counties, Galway and Mayo. The programme will concentrate on the removal of pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) from Lough Corrib which contains (amongst other species) stocks of wild brown trout (<i>Salmo trutta</i>) and Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>). The proposed methods are gill netting and electrofishing on Lough Corrib itself and electrofishing the lower sections of selected inflowing river systems. This programme has been carried out since the 1950s by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and the predecessors to IFI; the Western Regional Fisheries Board (WRFB) and the Inland Fisheries Trust (IFT).
<i>Accompanying Report</i>	2023_AA_Screening_Lough_Corrib_Stock_Management.docx,
Other Agencies Consulted	
<i>Agency</i>	<i>Observations</i>
European Sites	
<i>Site Name (1)</i>	IE0000297 - Lough Corrib SAC
<i>Proximity / Connection to Site</i>	Yes
<i>Qualifying Interest</i>	<p>Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or <i>Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</i></p> <p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)</p> <p><i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>Active raised bogs</p> <p>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in British Isles</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i></p> <p>Limestone pavements</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco Brometalia</i>)(*important orchid sites)</p> <p>Bog woodland</p> <p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</p>

	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) Slender Naiad (<i>Najas flexilis</i>) Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) Freshwater Pearl-mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>) Sea Lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>) Brook Lamprey (<i>Lampetra planeri</i>) Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>) White-clawed Crayfish (<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>) Shining Sickle-moss (<i>Drepanocladus vernicosus</i>)
<i>Connections</i>	Within the SAC
<i>Impact</i>	<i>Potential Impact:</i> Yes <i>Significant:</i> No <i>Reason:</i>
<i>Site Name (2)</i>	IE0004042 - Lough Corrib SPA
<i>Proximity / Connection to Site</i>	Yes
<i>Qualifying Interest</i>	Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) Wetland and Waterbirds
<i>Connections</i>	Yes
<i>Impact</i>	<i>Potential Impact:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>

Assessment & Determination

Assessment of likely significance of effects

It is considered that some Natura sites are outside the zone of significant impact influence of the proposed Lough Corrib stock management plan, due to the size, scale and location of the proposed works and because the ecology of the species and/or the habitats in question is neither structurally nor functionally linked to the proposal works. Therefore, the conditions required to initiate a potential 'source-pathway-target' vector connecting the proposal site to these designated sites will not be created. It is further considered that no potential impact pathway connects these designated sites to the location of the proposed works and, therefore, it is concluded that no significant impact on these sites is reasonably foreseeable as a result of the proposed Lough Corrib stock management plan. A test is now carried out to check if the sites listed in Table 2 above, are within the significant impact influence of the

proposed stock management plan. These sites are listed in Table 6 below, along with an outline rationale for their exclusion, and will not be considered further in this document. These sites have been screened out according to guidance outlined by the NPWS.

Assessment Conclusion

AA not required, project directly connected to management of a European Site.

Determination

In conclusion, this stock management plan is necessary for the management of Lough Corrib SAC. To determine the potential effects, if any, of the proposed stock management plan on Natura 2000 sites, a screening process for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken. No potential biodiversity corridor links to sites >15km have been identified. The proposed development is within 15km of 15 Natura 2000 sites. No significant effects are likely on features of interest of the SACs or SPAs.