

# Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion Statement

<i>Project Reference</i>	DET-2023-000034
<i>Project Name</i>	Lough Mask Stock management
<i>Project Description</i>	A proposed stock management programme for Lough Mask which borders two counties; Galway and Mayo. The programme will concentrate on the removal of pike ( <i>Esox lucius</i> ) from Lough Mask which contains (amongst other species) stocks of wild brown trout ( <i>Salmo trutta</i> ) and Arctic char ( <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> ). The proposed methods are gill netting and electrofishing on Lough Mask itself and electrofishing the lower sections of selected inflowing river systems, primarily the River Robe. 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_Mask_Stock_Management.docx,
<b>Other Agencies Consulted</b>	
<i>Agency</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<b>European Sites</b>	
<i>Site Name (1)</i>	<b>IE0001774 - Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC</b>
<i>Proximity / Connection to Site</i>	The proposed sites are situated within the Lough Carra/Mask Complex SAC
<i>Qualifying Interest</i>	<p>Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.</p> <p>Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea</p> <p>Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)</p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</p> <p>Alkaline fens</p> <p>Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the Caricion davallianae</p> <p>Limestone pavements</p> <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia)(*important orchid sites)</p> <p>Drepanocladus vernicosus (Slender Green Feather-moss)</p> <p>Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)</p> <p>Lesser Horseshoe Bat (<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>)</p>
<i>Connections</i>	Within
<i>Impact</i>	<i>Potential Impact:</i> No

	<i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>
<i>Site Name (2)</i>	<b>IE0004062 - Lough Mask SPA</b>
<i>Proximity / Connection to Site</i>	Lesser Black-backed gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) Wetland and Waterbirds
<i>Qualifying Interest</i>	Lesser Black-backed gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) A183 Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) A061 Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) A179 Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) A182 Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) A193 Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) A395 Wetland and Waterbirds A999  Lesser Black-backed gull ( <i>Larus fuscus</i> ) A183 Tufted Duck ( <i>Aythya fuligula</i> ) A061 Black-headed Gull ( <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> ) A179 Common Gull ( <i>Larus canus</i> ) A182 Common Tern ( <i>Sterna hirundo</i> ) A193 Greenland White-fronted Goose ( <i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i> ) A395 Wetland and Waterbirds A
<i>Connections</i>	Within
<i>Impact</i>	<i>Potential Impact:</i> No <i>Significant:</i> <i>Reason:</i>

## Assessment & Determination

### *Assessment of likely significance of effects*

to determine the potential effects, if any, of the proposed Lough Mask stock management plan on nearby 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. It has been objectively concluded during the screening process that all the sites within 15km of the plan are not likely to be significantly effected by the proposed Lough Mask stock management plan

### *Assessment Conclusion*

AA not required, project not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or protected species.

### *Determination*

It has been objectively concluded during the screening process that all the sites within 15km of the plan

are not likely to be significantly effected by the proposed Lough Mask stock management plan