

Appropriate Assessment Screening Conclusion Statement

<i>Project Reference</i>	DET-2023-000088
<i>Project Name</i>	Western Fisheries Bye Law
<i>Project Description</i>	<p>It is proposed to update the current Western Fisheries Region – Conservation of Trout Bye-law No. 840, 2008 with a new Bye-law - the draft Galway District – Conservation of Trout in the Rivers Clare, Abbert, Dalgan, Grange, and Sinking Bye-law, 2023. This new bye law updates the original bye-law (840-2008) for five rivers - the Rivers Clare, Abbert, Dalgan, Grange, and Sinking. The goal of the proposed new bye-law is to further protect and conserve brown trout stocks in the Rivers Clare, Abbert, Dalgan, Grange, and Sinking, by reducing the daily bag limit for these five rivers from four brown trout per day as currently set out in bye-law 840, 2008, to two brown trout per day.</p> <p>The Rivers Clare, Abbert, Dalgan, Grange, and Sinking flow into Lough Corrib and form part of Lough Corrib is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This SAC is protected under Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The proposed changes to the River Clare Bye Law can be viewed as a plan and therefore the proposed changes must be screened and assessed to determine if these changes have the potential to detrimentally impact on the species and habitats within protected areas in order to comply with Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. If this is the case, a Natura Impact Statement for the works must be prepared and mitigation measures to prevent detrimental effects on protected habitats and species must be incorporated into works.</p>
<i>Accompanying Report</i>	Western_Fisheries_Region_Bye_Law_Change_Appropriate_Assessment_Screening_20231031.pdf,
Consultations	
<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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] 2. Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] 3. Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp. [3140] 4. Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] 5. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) [6210] 6. Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-siltladen soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] 7. Active raised bogs [7110]

	<p>8. Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration [7120]</p> <p>9. Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150]</p> <p>10. Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davalliana [7210]</p> <p>11. Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]</p> <p>12. Alkaline fens [7230]</p> <p>13. Limestone pavements [8240]</p> <p>14. Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]</p> <p>15. Bog woodland [91D0]</p> <p>16. Margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p> <p>17. Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092]</p> <p>18. Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095]</p> <p>19. Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096]</p> <p>20. Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106]</p> <p>21. Rhinolophus hipposideros (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303]</p> <p>22. Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]</p> <p>23. Najas flexilis (Slender Naiad) [1833]</p> <p>24. Hamatocaulis vernicosus (Slender Green Feathermoss) [6216]</p>
<i>Connections</i>	yes
<i>Impact</i>	<p><i>Potential Impact:</i> Yes</p> <p><i>Significant:</i> No</p> <p><i>Reason:</i></p>
Assessment & Determination	
<i>Assessment of likely significance of effects</i>	
<p>Past research indicates that Brown Trout do not compete with Salmon and that an increase in Brown Trout numbers may lead to a decrease in the predation of Clawed Crayfish by Otter as a result of increased prey availability of trout.</p>	
<i>Assessment Conclusion</i>	
AA not required, project not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or protected species.	
<i>Determination</i>	
<p>Native species including Salmon, Brown Trout and White Clawed Crayfish have coexisted for millennia in these river systems and that numbers of brown trout in these rivers were higher in the past. It may be the case that reducing the number of brown trout removed from these rivers through angling is returning the rivers closer to a natural ecosystem.</p> <p>Research indicates that an increase in wild brown trout numbers will not impact on the populations of protected species such as Salmon and White Clawed Crayfish.</p> <p>No impact on qualifying interest species or habitats within Nature 2000 sites is expected as a result of the proposal to update the current Western Fisheries Region – Conservation of Trout Bye-law No. 840, 2008 with a new Bye-law - the draft Galway District – Conservation of Trout in the Rivers Clare, Abbert, Dalgan, Grange, and Sinking Bye-law, 2023 .</p>	