



Appropriate Assessment Stage 1 Screening for Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law, 2021.

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Prepared by: INVAS Biosecurity
44 Lakelands Avenue, Stillorgan, County Dublin.
Tel: +353874175925
Email: wearle@invas.ie
Web: www.invasbiosecurity.ie



Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
0	Feb 2021	Stage 1 AA	Dr. William Earle	Tom Donovan (Director)	Prof Joe Caffrey (Director)

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1. INTRODUCTION

Atlantic salmon populations are listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and their conservation in freshwater is mandated in European countries. Sea Trout are not protected by the EU Habitats Directive. The protection and conservation of salmon internationally is managed through North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) with which Ireland is aligned through the European Union. Following advice from ICES and NASCO, Irish salmon stocks have been managed on a river-by-river basis since 2007 with biological reference points (BRPs) or Conservation Limits (CL) based on maximum sustainable yield (MSY) (J. White et. al. 2016). The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 585 of 2018) provides protection to both of these species in Ireland.

The decline in wild Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) is an international issue manifesting in rivers in all countries around the North Atlantic with scientific analysis from International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) estimating that marine survival of migrating salmon has been at or below 5% in the North Atlantic for more than a decade. Marine survival is considered to have the biggest influence on return, from far North Atlantic feeding grounds in the waters surrounding the Faroe Islands, Norwegian Sea and western Greenland, to all rivers on Atlantic coasts. There is evidence that heavy sea-lice infestation from salmon farming has resulted in additional mortality in respect of migratory North Atlantic salmon generally (O. Torrissen et. al. 2013). In freshwater, water quality and a range of pressures such as afforestation, drainage, effluent discharge, siltation and agricultural enrichment can all have a negative impact on juvenile salmon survival. The ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management has advised that both Southern European 1Sea Winter and Multiple Sea Winter stocks are considered to be at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity and has recommended, inter alia, that: “reductions in exploitation are required for as many wild salmon stocks as possible to increase the probability of the complex meeting conservation limits. Furthermore, due to the different status of individual stocks within the stock complex, mixed stock fisheries present particular threats to stock status.”

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the statutory body with the responsibility for the protection, development and management of the inland fishery resource within the Irish State. As part of their responsibility for protecting Salmon (*Salmo salar*) and Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta* L.), Inland Fisheries Ireland advise the Minister for State at the Department of Communications, Climate

Action and Environment in drafting angling and commercial fishing regulations, as well as byelaws directed at the conservation of wild salmonid (salmon and sea trout) stocks.

IFI is supported in its management role by the independent Standing Scientific Committee (SSC), comprising scientists from a range of organisations. Scientific and management assessments of each of the distinct stocks are carried out annually with IFI engaged in extensive stock monitoring which feeds into the SSC's annual reviews. The SSC uses catch returns to individual rivers (rod catch, catch and release and any commercial catch) to estimate the total salmon returns in each of the previous five years. The use of a five-year average ensures that a good or bad year does not have a disproportionate impact on the stock assessment in any single year.

Each river has an individual CL which is the number of adult salmon required to maintain a healthy population of wild Atlantic Salmon on that watercourse. Rivers exceeding 100% of CL are open for salmon angling with a total allowable catch (TAC) in place. In the absence of a surplus on a river, Catch and Release (C&R) options are set for rivers meeting between 50% - 100% of their Conservation Limit. Adhering to the CL of each river permits recreational angling and some commercial licence fishing, while having a negligible impact on vulnerable fish stocks. This also encourages the shared responsibility to contribute to conservation and the potential rebuilding of these stocks. Rivers meeting below 50% of CL were Closed unless Catchment Wide Electro-Fishing surveys showing an average number of fry caught in 5 minutes of 15.0 or greater warranted the opening of rivers on C&R only basis.

The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 585 of 2018) was introduced to protect fish stocks of both species in Ireland. The goal of the regulations is to protect and conserve salmon and sea trout stocks (above 40cm). All aspects of Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations (S.I.585 2018) must be adhered to by all recreational or commercial licence holders (Appendix 1). As part of IFI's responsibility for protecting Salmon and Sea Trout, Inland Fisheries Ireland advise the Minister for State at the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in drafting angling and commercial fishing regulations directed at the conservation of wild salmonid (salmon and sea trout) stocks. Each year the IFI reviews the predicted abundance, based on sound scientific principles, of salmon stocks and identifies rivers closed to exploitation, opened under Catch and Release angling and provides a harvestable surplus in catchments where salmon returns are estimated to exceed conservation limits. In 2019, an amendment to the 2018 Regulations was introduced in the

form of The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 669 of 2019). Following consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland and using sound scientific principles, Schedule 2 of S.I. No. 585 of 2018 was amended to provide an updated list of those angling and commercial fishing districts that were closed, partially open or open. Following consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) in 2020, The Minister of State at the Department of Environment, Communications, and Climate again made changes to The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 585 of 2018). These Regulations may be cited as the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2020 and came into operation on 1 January 2021. The amendment involved the substitution of Schedule 2 for an updated list of TAC within the river waters of fishery districts in Ireland. Based on established CL for each river and sound scientific principles this amended schedule will outline date restricted fishing on some rivers, as well as river closures, catch and release systems and TAC to be harvested from open rivers (Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2020). It will define the maximum number of tags that may be issued in respect of taking wild salmon or sea trout from each river. The amendment also involved the substitution of Schedule 4 for an updated list of Fishery Districts and rivers to which brown tags apply.



Plate 2.1: Snap net fishing in County Kilkenny (photo credit: Ireland's National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage website).



Plate 2.2 & 2.3: Draft net fishing (2.2) and an Atlantic salmon with tags (2.3) (photo credit: Inland Fisheries Ireland website).

The management proposal on when a commercial fishery can be open is based on the TAC. This requires a surplus greater than 10% of the CL and or more than ten tags for each potentially available commercial fishing licence - as outlined in the CFSO when the last fishery opened and private commercial licences. It is also proposed that where a surplus is not available where a commercial fishery exists the rod and line fishery should only remain open on a catch and release basis. In 2002 Ireland introduced an annual quota for the angling & commercial salmon fishery and reduced that quota progressively on an annual basis from 219,000 salmon in 2002 to 62,000 in 2007. In order to align fully with ICES and NASCO advice, the Irish Government has closed mixed stock fisheries in 2007. Harvest fisheries are now only allowed on stocks which are shown to have a surplus of fish over the CL. Fisheries in estuaries are only permitted provided the stocks from individual rivers entering the estuaries are meeting conservation limits. A hardship scheme for drift net fishermen including all other commercial fishermen wishing to exit the fishery was introduced in 2007 providing a financial package for affected fishermen. The 2008 allowable harvest has shown an increase to 86,000 salmon which includes both a commercial and angling harvest and is distributed on an individual river basis. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota will be split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Atlantic Salmon may be caught commercially from waters defined in the Schedule of the “Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law” using Snap nets (Part 1) or Draft nets (Part 2). Draft and Snap netting for Atlantic salmon is a manual activity that has been carried out in Ireland for over 1000 years. The practice of this manually intensive type of fishing for Atlantic salmon significantly pre-dates The Habitats Directive. The Three Sister Rivers (Barrow, Nore & Suir) is the only region in Ireland where snap-net fishing is practised. Snap net and Draft net fishing is confined to the summer months and is

practiced on a part-time basis only (Plate 2.1). Draft nets are used in littoral areas and consist of a net fixed to a bank at one point while a boat carries out a crescent shaped manoeuvre across a river back to the fixed point before hauling in the net to assess the catch (Plate 2.2). Snap net includes a single wall of netting attached to a head rope and a weighted ground rope, designed to suspend between two boats and into which the catch is drawn, for the purpose of taking or fishing, or attempting to take or to fish, for salmon or sea trout. Licences for commercial netting will be issued to both public and private individuals upon the completion of an application through the “Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2021” (Appendix 1). A small number of licence holders are exempt from the application process. These licence holders are guaranteed a licence in certain watercourses but are not guaranteed that the watercourse will have a harvestable surplus of Atlantic Salmon for the year. The number of commercial licences issued in 2021 is outlined in Schedule 1 of the “Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2021”.

1.1. INVAS Biosecurity Company Background

INVAS Biosecurity Ltd. is an Irish company that uses the most up-to-date applied research and science to inform its environmental consultancy and contracting services. The team includes experienced contractors and world-renowned scientists. The company specialises in the control and management of harmful invasive species on land and in water, and on developing materials and methods to conduct and promote best biosecurity practice by all. Clients include State and semi-State organisations, cross-border bodies, Local Authorities, Consultants, Contractors, among others. Staff are currently involved with a number of national and multi-national European projects, all with a primary focus on the judicious management of invasive species.

Prof Joe Caffrey (Company Director), who joined INVAS in January 2015, having been a Senior Research Officer (SRO) with IFI since 1976. While working with IFI and its predecessor organisations, Joe was the SRO-in-charge of the Invasive Species Section within Research. Joe is also a biosecurity specialist who has prepared protocols for national bodies and targeted stakeholders and has developed new and innovative biosecurity products for broad-scale use. He has a broad range of experience with invasive terrestrial and aquatic plant sampling, identification, control and management, as well as habitat restoration post-traumatic events (e.g. biological invasions). Since the year 2000, he has been involved in several major national and international projects, mostly dealing with invasive species management, including;

- Life+ CAISIE from 2009 to 2013 – project leader

- Interreg IVA CIRB from 2010 to 2014 – project partner
- Life+ Mulkear from 2009 to 2014 – technical advisor
- EPA 3-year project on ‘Prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species’ (2016 –2020), where INVAS is project partner with IT Sligo and QUB
- River Suck peat siltation project, monitoring salmonid stocks in the River Suck tributaries 1980 – 1984.

With a specialist skillset including;

- Netting for fish using all net types (e.g. braided / multimesh gill, fyke, seine, trawl) in streams, rivers, canals, lakes and estuaries
- Electrofishing in small streams and from boats in large rivers/lake littorals, using 240v and 600v pulsed electricity
- Stream/river rehabilitation techniques
- Habitat restoration post-traumatic events (e.g. biological invasions, dredging)
- Lake fishery creation (including design, planting, fish stocking) in cutaway bogs
- Biosecurity specialist who has prepared protocols for targeted stakeholders (e.g. anglers, boaters, paddle sports, divers, field staff, etc.) and has developed new and innovative biosecurity products for broad-scale use.

Dr. William Earle has a Ph.D. in invasive species management and is working full-time as a biosecurity manager with INVAS since 2016. His Ph.D. focused on *Lagarosiphon major*, an aquatic invasive weed that can severely impacts on salmonids, particularly in Lough Corrib. William is responsible for Invasive Alien Species (IAS), macrophyte and ecological field surveys using drone and GPS technology. He is in charge of GIS mapping and map production in INVAS, as well as site survey reports and Appropriate Assessment preparation. William has produced AA Screening reports for IFI on the management of Natura sites and their conservation objectives in the west of Ireland. He has developed and implemented site-specific Management Plans for several invasive terrestrial and aquatic plant species at sites throughout Ireland. He prepared the AA Stage 1 Screening for Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations in 2020 for IFI.

1.2. Legislative context of Appropriate Assessment

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) provide a legal framework for Europe's nature conservation policies. In Ireland, both Directives have combined to establish an ecological network of protected areas, known as Natura 2000 sites, which require special consideration when planning projects or developments. The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest. The network consists of Special Protection Areas (SPA), for the protection of Annex I birds, regular migratory birds and their habitats and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) for the protection of Annex I habitats and Annex II flora and fauna, other than birds. Also included as part of the network are candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC) and proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPA).

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain habitats and species in the Natura 2000 network at favourable conservation condition. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites. A site-specific conservation objective aims to define favourable conservation condition for a particular habitat or species at that site. The maintenance of habitats and species within Natura 2000 sites at favourable conservation condition will contribute to the overall maintenance of favourable conservation status of those habitats and species at a national level.

Article 6 (3) of The Habitats Directive sets out the requirement for Appropriate Assessment (AA) in relation to Natura 2000 sites for any plan or project that is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a Natura 2000 site. An Appropriate Assessment is an evaluation of the potential effects of the proposed plans, on their own or in combination with other projects, on the habitat types and species protected by the Natura 2000 network.

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of

the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Article 6 (4) of The Habitats Directive forms part of the procedure of assessment and possible authorisation, by the competent national authorities, of plans and projects likely to affect a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protected Area (SPA) or a Site of Community Importance (SCI).

‘If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest’.

Each stage of the appropriate assessment method is a source of origin for the next stage. Each decision made will influence the outcome of the assessment, so a careful approach to the documentation of the results at each stage is needed for sufficient traceability and transparency of each decision. The AA will provide a detailed investigation into the possible risks that a proposed plan or project may have on a Natura 2000 site, with respect to its objectives for conservation. The aim of an AA is not to prohibit a project, plan or activities. An AA is to address any concern for possible threats that a project or plan may have to Natura 2000 sites, with Article 6(3) at the forefront of each decision in each stage, this includes any decision relating to funding and other supports.

1.3. Stages

The European Commission’s methodological guidance promotes a four-stage process, as set out below, to complete an Appropriate Assessment:

Stage One:

Screening — the process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 site of a project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these effects are likely to be significant;

Stage Two:

Natura Impact Statement (NIS) — the consideration of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts;

Stage Three:

Assessment of alternative solutions — the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site;

Stage Four:

Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain — an assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan should proceed (it is important to note that this guidance does not deal with the assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest).

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1. Background

In 2020, a total of 78 Atlantic Salmon commercial public draft fishing licences were issued in 5 Fishery Districts including Cork (16), Kerry (14), Ballinakill (14), Bangor (24) and Letterkenny (10) (Appendix 2). These licences were issued to applicants through the “Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2020” and regulated by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Commercial fishing was permitted in catchments with a surplus above the CL for each watercourse. Commercial Draft and Snap net catch totalled 5,743 Atlantic salmon in 2020 (table 2.2), representing 12.3% of the national Atlantic salmon TAC for 2020.

2.2. Description of the proposed project

The preparation of the 2021 Byelaw could be interpreted as the preparation of a national Plan as defined by the Habitats Directive. For this reason, IFI wish to carry out an AA for the preparation of the Byelaw in reference to the Habitats Directive. The purpose of the AA Screening is to determine the likely significant effects of permitting the commercial harvesting of Atlantic salmon from specific rivers, either on its own, or in combination with other plans and projects, upon Natura 2000 sites and consider whether, on the basis of objective scientific evidence, it can be concluded, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the relevant European sites, that there are not likely to be significant effects on any European site. The Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) aims to protect all of the 500 wild bird species naturally occurring in the European Union. This stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening (AAS) will focus specifically on SAC sites where Atlantic Salmon are designated as Features of Interest as there is no potential for significant effects on the conservation objectives of SPA’s. The Conservation Objectives of SPA sites in general are to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for the SPA. Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when: its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and; the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and; the conservation status of its typical species is favourable. The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when: population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and; the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and; there is, and will

probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis. SPA's often protect migratory wintering birds that will not be impacted by netting that is only allowed in summer. Netting is done manually using small motorised or non-motorised craft that will represent little disturbance of wildlife within the SPA's. Other bird species protected by the Directive will generally avoid anthropogenic activity and have the ability to migrate locally in order to avoid any short-term disturbances caused by netting.

Those rivers that are to be closed to commercial fishing for 2021 are not included in the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law on the basis that Salmon will not be subject to any commercial fishing pressures due to the failure of the watercourse to reach the CL. The closure of these rivers is in an effort to preserve the Salmon stocks that are present with a goal to reaching or exceeding the CL in the future. If the recovery of Salmon stocks in a river is sufficient and the CL is sufficiently exceeded, this in turn could allow the partial or full reopening of these watercourses to commercial fishing in the future, following the input of an AAS for the opening of rivers each year. Those rivers with no hydrological connection to a Natura 2000 site where Atlantic salmon are designated as a feature of interest, will be screened out of the AAS. These sites will be excluded from this AAS as Salmon rivers are known to have their own genetically unique stock (Aas, Ø et al. 2011). This AAS will focus on the possibility for significant effects on Natura 2000 sites where Salmon are a feature of interest and those Natura sites where Salmon are not designated features of interest will not be included. The harvesting of Atlantic salmon from these rivers will be managed by IFI as defined by the CL. To regulate the TAC the number of tags available for each river will match the TAC. The number defined in table 2.1 represent the total TAC for each river to be split between angling and commercial fishing (The commercial to be further split between draft net and snap nets where snap nets apply). Once the commercial TAC is agreed by the Fishery District Committee, that is the most number of tags that can be allocated to the commercial fishery.

A provisional screening for each fishery district with the river status relating to commercial fishing for 2021 is presented in table 2.1. In relation to commercial fishing, the following SAC are designated for the protection of wild Atlantic Salmon (1106). Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (IE0002170) (Figure 2.1). Castlemaine Harbour SAC (IE0000343) and Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC (IE0000365) (Figure 2.2). Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC (IE0001932) and The

Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC (IE0002031) (Figure 2.3). Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC (IE0000500), Newport River SAC (IE0002144) and Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC (IE0000534) (Figure 2.4). Unshin River SAC (IE0001898) (Figure 2.5). Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC (IE0002047) and West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC (IE0000197) (Figure 2.6). A modified table is provided (table 2.2) from the collection of commercial fishing data by IFI and presented in the Report of the Technical Expert Group on Salmon to the North-South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries (Appendix IV River Stock Specific Information used in the salmon catch advice process for 2020 advice) from 2014 to 2020.

Table 2.1: Provisional screening for each fishery district with the river status relating to commercial fishing for 2021. Details are included pertaining to the maximum number of tags that may be issued for each watercourse and the presence of a hydrological link to an SAC where Salmon is a qualifying interest.

Fishery District	Waters of the River	River status for 2021 relating to commercial fishing	Maximum number of tags that may be issued for Salmon angling and commercial (snap & draft nets) combined	Hydrological link to an SAC with Salmon as a Qualifying Interest Yes/No	Screened In/Out*
Part 1 - Snap Net					
Lismore	Blackwater (Munster) including Glenshelane and Finisk	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	6,420	Yes	In
Part 2 – Draft Net					
Lismore	Blackwater (Munster) including Glenshelane and Finisk	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	6,420	Yes	In
Cork	Lower Lee	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	755	No	Out
	Bandon	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	568	No	Out

	Ilen	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	1061 (755 1SW + 306 2SW)	No	Out
	Mealagh	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	191	No	Out
	Coomhola	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	151	No	Out
	Glengarriff	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	332	No	Out
	Owvane	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	562	No	Out
Kerry	Roughy	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	415	No	Out
	Sneem	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	695	Yes	In
	Waterville	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	276 (237 1SW + 39 2SW)	Yes	In
	Caragh	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	549	Yes	In
	Laune including Cottoners	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	3,664	Yes	In
	Maine	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	319	Yes	In
	Owenmore	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	210	No	Out
	Croanshagh	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	254	No	Out
	Sheen	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	1,236	No	Out
	Ferta	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	140	Yes	In
	Castlemaine Harbour	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	674	Yes	In
Ballinakill	Erriff	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	155	Yes	In
	Bundorragha	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	95 (71 1SW + 24 2SW)	Yes	In
	Common estuary	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	227	Yes	In
	Owenglin (Clifden)	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	37	Yes	In
	Dawros	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	589	Yes	In
	Culfin	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	232	Yes	In

Bangor	Owenduff	Open	750 (538 1SW + 212 2SW)	Yes	In
	Owenmore	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	224	Yes	In
	Glenamoy	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	129	Yes	In
	Newport River	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	400 (355 1SW + 45 2SW)	Yes	In
	Common Estuary Owenmore	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	252	Yes	In
Sligo	Ballysadare	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	2,587	Yes	In
Letterkenny	Owenea and Owentocker	Open July 1 st to July 21 st	199	Yes	In
	Gweebarra	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	316 (284 1SW + 32 2SW)	Yes	In
	Tullaghobegly	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	121	Yes	In
	Crana	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	187	No	Out
	Lackagh	Open May 12 th to July 31 st	154	Yes	In

*Screened in, in this case, refers to whether a river catchment has a direct hydrological link to an SAC with Atlantic salmon as a designated Feature of Interest.

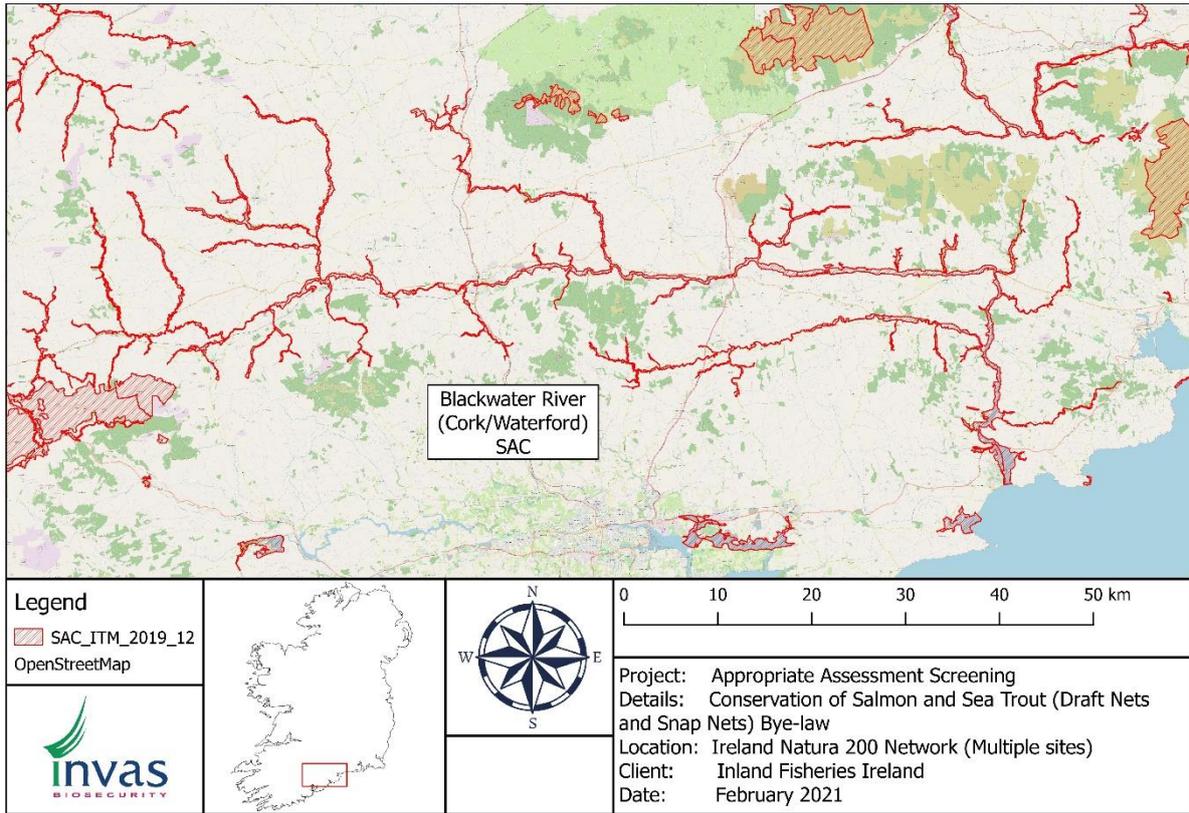


Figure 2.1 A map of the Munster Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC where Salmon are a qualifying interest and to be assessed as part of the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law 2021.

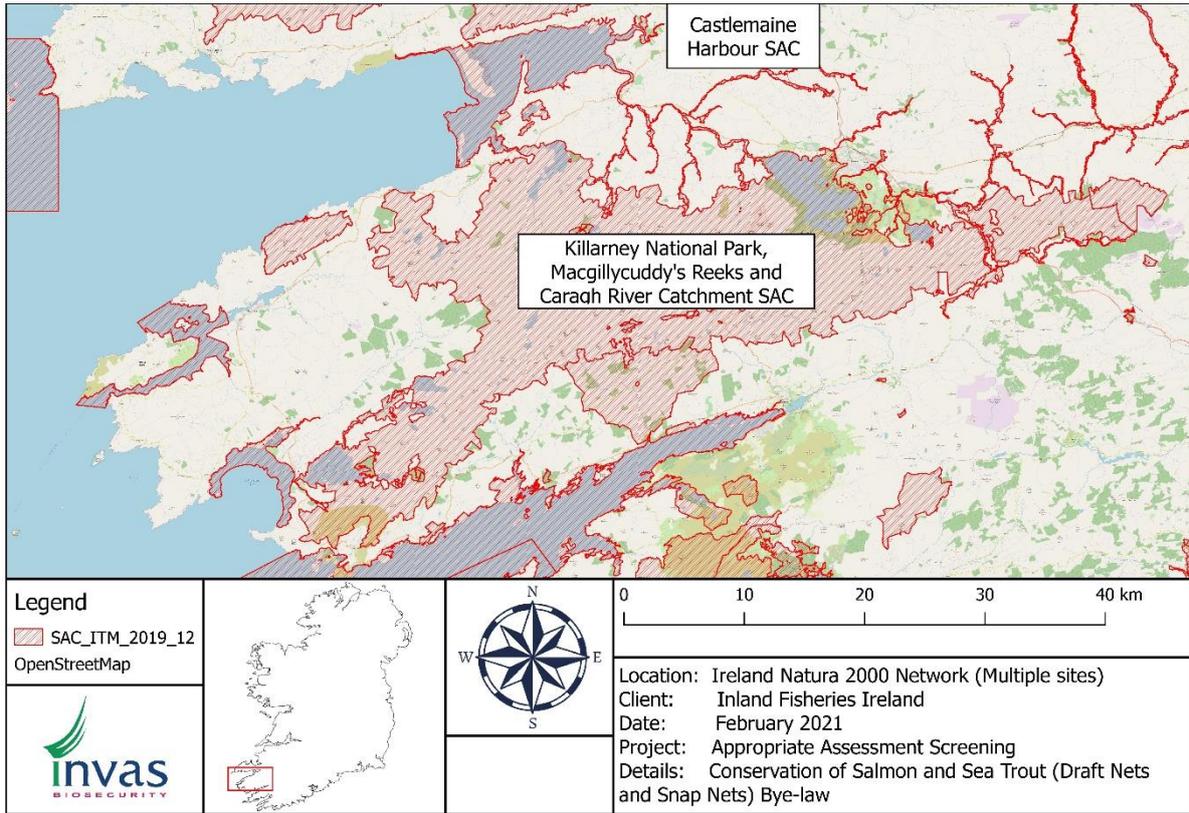


Figure 2.2 A map of the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddys Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC and Castlemaine Harbour SAC where Salmon are a qualifying interest and to be assessed as part of the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law 2021.

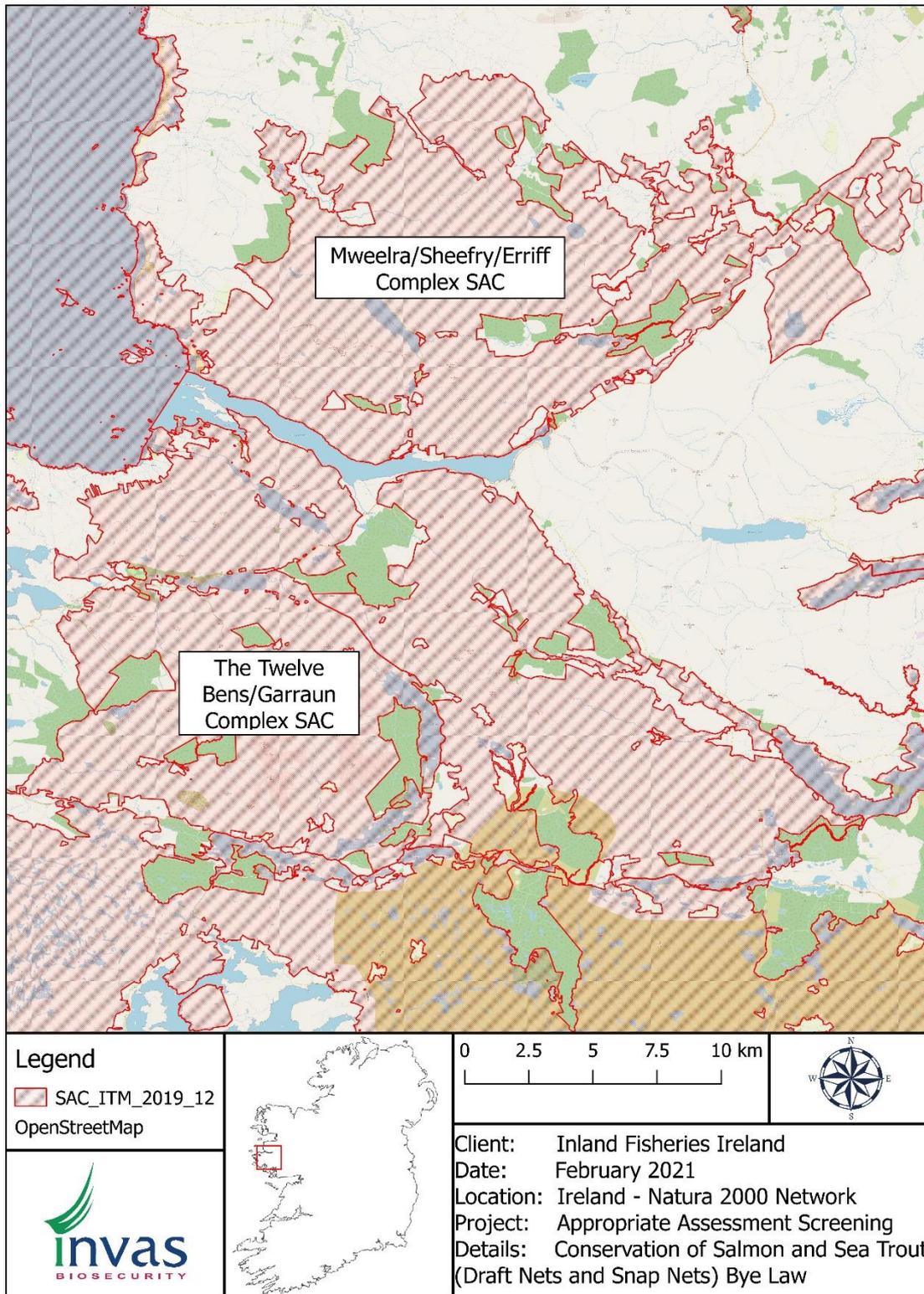


Figure 2.3 A map of The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC and Mweelra/Sheefry/Erriff Complex SAC where Salmon are a qualifying interest and to be assessed as part of the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law 2021.

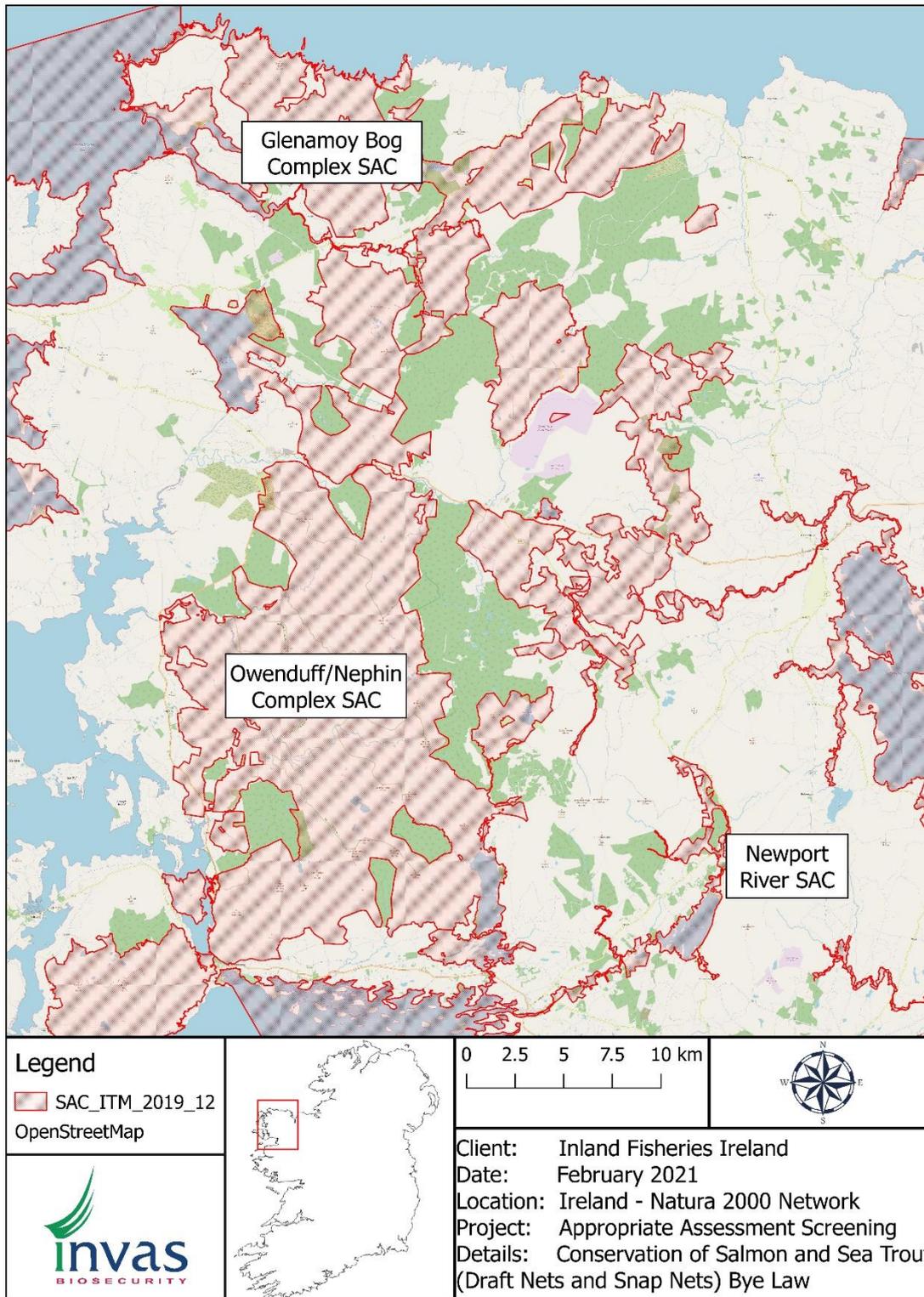


Figure 2.4: A map of the Newport River SAC, Owenduff/Nephin SAC and Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC where Salmon are a qualifying interest and to be assessed as part of the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law 2021.

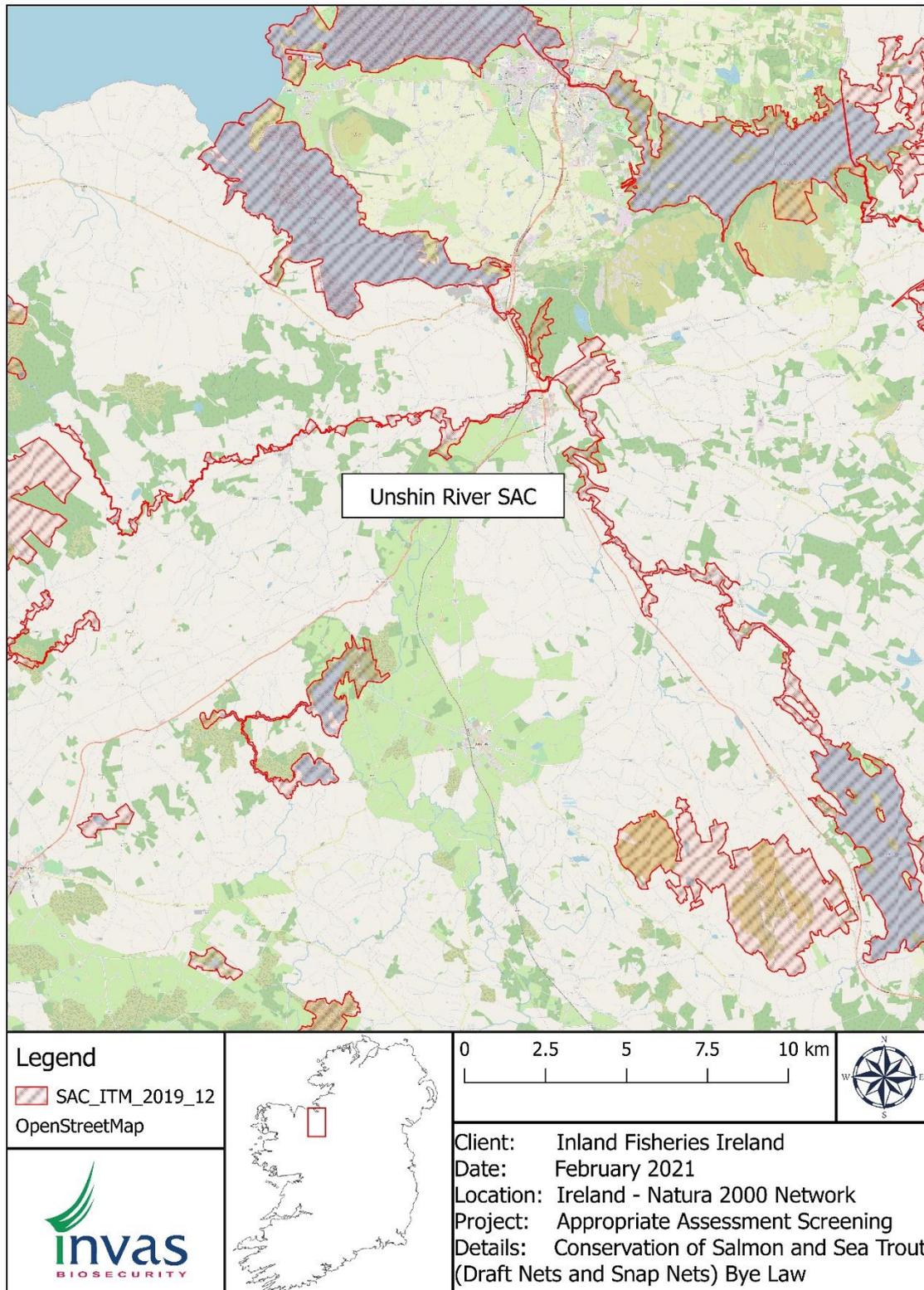


Figure 2.5: A map of the Unshin River SAC where Salmon are a qualifying interest and to be assessed as part of the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law 2021.

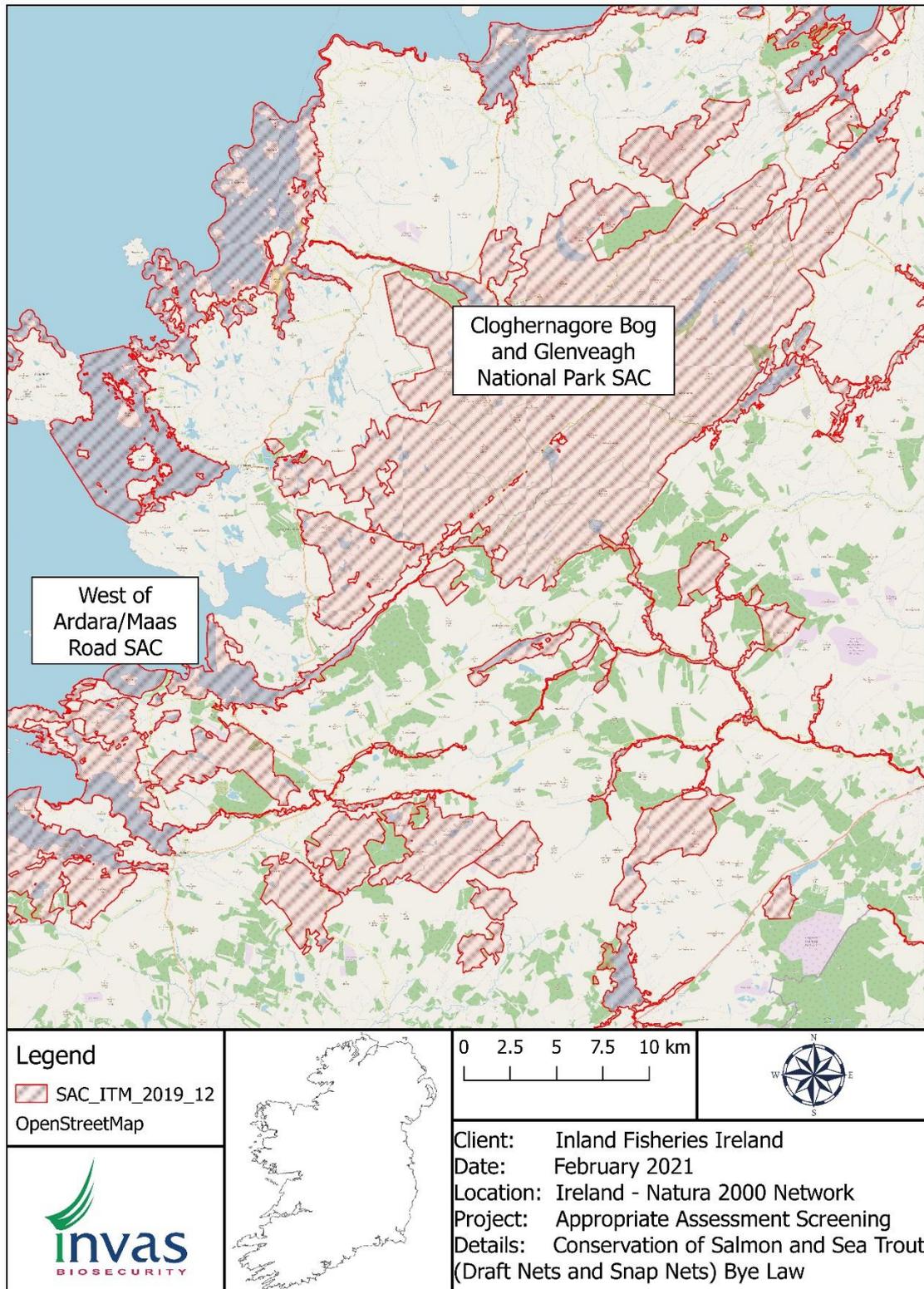


Figure 2.6: A map of the West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC and Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC where Salmon are a qualifying interest and to be assessed as part of the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law 2021.

Table 2.2: A modified table from the collection of commercial fishing data by IFI and presented in the Report of the Technical Expert Group on Salmon to the North-South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries (Appendix IV River Stock Specific Information used in the salmon catch advice process for 2020 advice) from 2014 to 2020.

River	Method	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Nore 1SW	Draft	768	0	0	0	0	0	-
Nore MSW	Draft	192	0	0	0	0	0	-
Suir, Clodiagh, Lingaun	Snap	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blackwater, Glenshelane, Finisk 1SW	Draft/Snap	1886	1564	999	1539	1261	1907	1481
Owenacurra	Draft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Lee 1SW	Draft	798	395	412	377	247	394	328
Lower Lee MSW	Draft	200	99	103	94	62	98	82
Bandon 1SW	Draft	0	5	31	11	6	0	0
Bandon MSW	Draft	0	2	14	5	3	0	0
Ilen 1SW	Draft	0	0	0	24	0	0	0
Ilen MSW	Draft	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Roughly	Draft	0	0	0	0	0	69	140
Sneem	Draft	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inny	Draft	39	15	25	17	0	0	0
Caragh (includes proportion of Castlemaine)								
Caragh 1SW	Draft	85	72	71	52	51	51	55
Caragh MSW	Draft	21	18	18	13	13	13	14
Laune and Cottoners (includes proportion of Castlemaine)								
Laune and Cottoners 1SW	Draft	1769	2038	2030	1630	1649	1501	2131
Laune and Cottoners 2SW	Draft	442	509	508	407	412	375	533
Maine (includes proportion of Castlemaine)								
Maine	Draft	281	209	203	162	157	148	158
Owenmore	Draft	164	164	115	159	142	154	164
Feale, Galey and Brick 1SW	Draft	805	953	738	439	338	0	0
Feale, Galey and Brick MSW	Draft	201	238	185	110	84	0	0
Owenglin	Draft	34	31	20	12	13	0	0
Dawros	Draft	4	9	0	139	30	20	24
Culfin	Draft	60	42	10	11	46	47	38
Erriff	Draft	171	174	52	37	66	46	72
Bundorragh 1SW	Draft	11	11	3	2	4	3	5
Bundorragh MSW	Draft	9	10	3	2	4	3	4
Owenee (Belclare)	Draft	16	1	0	0	0	0	0
Newport River (Lough Beltra) 1SW	Draft	9	4	19	0	22	0	17
Newport River (Lough Beltra) MSW	Draft	2	1	5	0	6	0	4
Owenduff (Glenamong) 1SW	Draft	424	174	266	285	311	262	311
Owenduff (Glenamong) MSW	Draft	106	43	66	71	78	65	78
Owenmore (includes proportion of the Tullaghan bay)								
Owenmore	Draft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrowmore Lake (includes proportion of the Tullaghan bay)								
Carrowmore Lake 1SW	Draft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carrowmore Lake MSW	Draft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glenamoy	Draft	0	0	21	0	9	0	16
Eany (water)	Draft	60	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oily	Draft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Owenea/Owentocker	Draft	432	241	266	143	0	0	0
Gweebarra 1SW	Draft	79	19	34	72	96	73	70
Gweebarra 2SW	Draft	20	5	8	18	24	18	18

3. STAGE 1 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT SCREENING OF NATURA 2000 SITES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED AND THE BYE-LAWS

Following the guidance provided in DEHLG (2010) and the precautionary principle, all rivers where a harvestable surplus has been obtained are included as part of the AA Screening (Table 3.1). Where a TAC has been allocated to each river this is quantified and presented in table 3.1. Those rivers with a hydrological connection to a SAC where Salmon are designated as Features of Interest are also included. Table 3.1 identifies the conservation objectives, potential impact and in-combination effects of the Byelaw in relation to the Salmon and Sea Trout tagging Regulations on each Natura 2000 site. A CL is defined by NASCO as “the spawning stock level that produces long-term average maximum sustainable yield as derived from the adult to adult stock and recruitment relationship”. The target is based on the SSCS annual model output of CL attainment levels. Attainment of CL estimates are derived from direct counts of adults (rod catch, fish counter) or indirectly by fry abundance counts.

Table 3.1: A list of NATURA 2000 sites with a direct hydrological link to waterbodies where commercial fishing using Snap nets and Draft nets for wild Atlantic Salmon will be allowed in 2021.

Site name	River	Potential impacts on Natura 2000 site	In combination effects
Part 1 – Snap Nets			
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC IE0002170	Blackwater Including Glenshelane and Finisk (Open) 12 th of May to 31 st of July	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Blackwater (including Glenshelane and Finisk) River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 6,420 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Blackwater (including Glenshelane and Finisk) catchment. This surplus will be shared with the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) and River Finisk. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am</p>	<p>Shared surplus between River Blackwater, River Finisk and River Glenshelane.</p> <p>Blackwater (Munster) including Glenshelane and Finnisk” means: any portion of the Blackwater (Munster) River north of an imaginary line drawn</p>

		<p>Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea, Brook and River Lamprey, Twaite Shad, White clawed crayfish and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. White clawed crayfish, Lamprey and Twaite Shad species are smaller than Atlantic salmon and would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any White clawed crayfish, Lamprey or Twaite Shad hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and must be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of snap nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	<p>from the north bank of the mouth of the Bride River, at mean high water mark, in the townland of Camphire, Lismore, Co. Waterford, across the Munster Blackwater River in an easterly direction to a point on the riverbank in the townland of Dromore, Aghlish, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford and; upstream to the uppermost tidal limit of the Munster Blackwater, which is a straight line drawn due North across the river at the townland boundary between the townlands of Ballynelligan Glebe on the West, and Ballyea West on the East, all in the parish of Lismore and Moycollop;</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
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Part 2 - Draft Nets

<p>Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC IE0002170</p>	<p>Blackwater Including Glenshelane and Finisk (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Blackwater (including Glenshelane and Finisk) River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 6,420 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Blackwater (including Glenshelane and Finisk) catchment. This surplus will be shared with the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) and River Finisk. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea, Brook and River Lamprey, Twaite Shad, White clawed crayfish and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. White clawed crayfish, Lamprey and Twaite Shad species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any White clawed crayfish, Lamprey or Twaite Shad hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they</p>	<p>Shared surplus between River Blackwater, River Finisk and River Glenshelane.</p> <p>Blackwater (Munster) including Glenshelane and Finnisk” means: any portion of the Blackwater (Munster) River north of an imaginary line drawn from the north bank of the mouth of the Bride River, at mean high water mark, in the townland of Camphire, Lismore, Co. Waterford, across the Munster Blackwater River in an easterly direction to a point on the riverbank in the townland of Dromore, AGLISH, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford and; upstream to the uppermost tidal limit of the Munster Blackwater, which is a straight line drawn due North across the river at the townland boundary between the</p>
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		<p>will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	<p>townlands of Ballynelligan Glebe on the West, and Ballyea West on the East, all in the parish of Lismore and Moycollop;</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
<p>Killarney National Park, Macgillicuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC IE0000365</p>	<p>Sneem (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Sneem River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 695 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Sneem catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea, Brook and River Lamprey, Killarney Shad and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Lamprey and Shad species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any lamprey or Shad hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the</p>	<p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Waterville (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Waterville River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 276 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Waterville catchment. This number will be divided as 237 for 1SW and 39 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within</p>	<p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea, Brook and River Lamprey, Killarney Shad and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Lamprey and Shad species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any lamprey or Shad hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Caragh (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Caragh River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 549 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Caragh catchment. This number will be divided as 349 for 1SW and 128 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea, Brook and River Lamprey, Killarney Shad and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Lamprey and Shad species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any lamprey or Shad hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Ferta (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Ferta River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 140 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Waterville area. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea, Brook and River Lamprey, Killarney Shad and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Lamprey and Shad species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any lamprey or Shad hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
<p>Castlemaine Harbour SAC IE0000343</p>	<p>Laune Including Cottoners (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Laune and Cottoners River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 3,664 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Laune catchment. This number will be divided as 2,242 for 1SW and 959 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of</p>	<p>Shared surplus between Cottoners and Laune River.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea and River Lamprey and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Lamprey species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any lamprey hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Maine (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Maine River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>means a TAC of 264 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Maine catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea and River Lamprey and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Lamprey species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any lamprey hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
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	<p>Castlemaine Harbour (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Castlemaine Harbour will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 674 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Castlemaine Harbour catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Sea and River Lamprey and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Lamprey species would most likely pass through the nets and escape. Any lamprey hauled in on the nets would be unwanted bycatch and would be returned to the watercourse immediately. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the</p>	<p>“Castlemaine Harbour” means that part of the sea - east of an imaginary line drawn from Lack Point in the townland of Lack and running in a south-westerly direction through Cromane Point, in the townland of Cromane Lower, to Black Point in the townland of Dooghs, and west or seaward of the defined mouth of the River Laune defined as an imaginary straight line drawn in a southerly direction from Pointantirrig, in the townland of Callanafersy West, to a point in the townland of Reen and that part west or seaward of the defined mouth of the River Maine defined as an imaginary straight line drawn in a north-easterly direction from Rosculien Point, in the townland of Callanafersy West, to Laghtacallow Point in</p>
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		<p>watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	<p>the townland of Laghtacallow,</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
<p>Mweelrea/Sheeffry/Erriff Complex SAC IE0001932</p>	<p>Erriff (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Erriff River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 155 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Erriff catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Bundorragha (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Bundorragha River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 95 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Bundorragha catchment. This number will be divided as 71 for 1SW and 24 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they</p>	<p>Brown tags with the designated code (L4) will be an additional requirement on the Bundorragha.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
<p>The Twelve Bens/Garraun Complex SAC IE0002031</p>	<p>Common estuary (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Common Estuary will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 227 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Common Estuary. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Owenglin (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Owenglin River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 37 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Owenglin catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the</p>	<p>Brown tags with the designated code C3 will be an additional requirement on the Owenglin.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Dawros (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Dawros River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 589 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Dawros catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Culfin (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Culfin River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 232 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Culfin catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
<p>Owenduff/Nephin Complex SAC IE0000534</p>	<p>Owenduff (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Owenduff River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 750 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Owenduff catchment. This number will be divided as 538 for 1SW and 212 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Owenmore (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Owenmore River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 224 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Owenmore catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC Otter are unlikely</p>	<p>Brown tags with the designated code D3 will be an additional requirement on the Owenmore.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Common Estuary Owenmore (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Waterville River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 252 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Waterville catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this</p>	<p>In the event that draft net fishing takes place in the Common Estuary Owenmore, the combined TAC of the Owenmore (224) and 1SW Carrowmore (258) is reduced to reflect the higher risk associated with meeting the individual river conservation limits simultaneously. The combined TAC for the 3 fisheries, Owenmore, 1SW Carrowmore and Common Estuary Owenmore must not exceed 252 fish. This figure of 252 to be</p>

		<p>feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	<p>divided between angling and commercial licence holders.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
<p>Newport River SAC IE0002144</p>	<p>Newport (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Newport River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 400 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Newport catchment. This number will be divided as 355 for 1SW and 45 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season, it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close</p>	<p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are not protected by Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive, but they are protected by Annex 4. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
Glenamoy Bog Complex SAC IE0000500	Glenamoy (Open) 12 th of May to 31 st of July	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Glenamoy River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 129 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Glenamoy catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are not protected by Annex 2 of the Habitats Directive, but they are protected by Annex 4. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
<p>Unshin River SAC IE0001898</p>	<p>Ballysadare (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Ballysadare River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 2,587 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Ballysadare catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
<p>West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC IE0000197</p>	<p>Owenea/Owentocker (Open) 1st of July to 21st of July.</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Owenea/Owentocker River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 199 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Owenea/Owentocker catchment. This number will be divided as 237 for 1SW and 39 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers</p>	<p>This surplus will be shared with the Owenea and Owentocker Rivers.</p> <p>The dates will run for a shorter period than all other commercial fisheries from the 1st of July to 21st of July.</p> <p>Brown tags with the designated code K4 will be an additional</p>

		<p>to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Harbour Seal and Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Harbour seal and Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	<p>requirement on the Owenea/Owentocker.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>
<p>Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park SAC IE0002047</p>	<p>Gweebarra (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Gweebarra River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 316 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Gweebarra catchment. This number will be divided as 284 for 1SW and 32 for 2SW. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the</p>	<p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Tullaghobegly (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Tullaghobegly River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 121 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Tullaghobegly catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
	<p>Lackagh (Open) 12th of May to 31st of July</p>	<p>Conservation Objectives - To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>As the predicted abundance of salmon stocks exceeded the CL proportion required, the Lackagh River will be fully opened for commercial fishing in 2021. A harvestable surplus means a TAC of 154 Atlantic Salmon over 40cm in length may be taken from the Lackagh catchment. As the removal of Salmon from the watercourse is limited to the surplus number of fish above the CL of this watercourse, angling activity and commercial fishing will have a negligible impact on Salmon stocks. During the commercial fishing open season it is prohibited to carry out commercially snap net or draft net from 6am Saturday to 6am</p>	<p>Brown tags with the designated code B4 will be an additional requirement on the Lackagh River.</p> <p>No likely significant effect.</p>

		<p>Monday, and in the month of July from 6am Saturday to 6am Tuesday. Where commercial fisheries are in operation the quota designated to commercial activity will be decided and split accordingly by the Fishery District Committee. Fisheries Officers regularly patrol rivers to enforce the Regulations and byelaws to ensure Salmon stocks are protected. All Salmon caught on this watercourse must be tagged and logged to maintain a record of the numbers of Salmon being removed from the population. The limit on removal of fish from the watercourse will contribute to the maintenance of the Salmon population on this watercourse while allowing commercial fishing and increasing the involvement and awareness of local stakeholders. The close management of the surplus will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. Other features of interest in this SAC including Otter are unlikely to be impacted by the commercial nets. Otter are territorial but are also shy and for the most part avoid anthropogenic activity where possible. Otter would most likely temporarily leave the area during commercial fishing activity and are unlikely to become entangled in supervised draft and snap nets. The use of draft and snap nets involves the placement and manual hauling of a net over a short period of time under the supervision of a commercial fisherman. As other fish species, crayfish and mammals are not the target of the commercial fishing effort they will be avoided where possible and returned to the watercourse if encountered in nets. The manual hauling of draft nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream, as well as species such as Pearl mussel. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.</p> <p>No likely significant effect. No further Assessment required.</p>	
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4. COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITY AND IN-COMBINATION ASSESSMENT

4.1. Noise Assessment

The noise pollution generated will not be likely to be excessive and will be limited to both motorised and non-motorised boats accessing rivers and lakes, perhaps through the use of lake boats with small outboard engines. Birds, invertebrates, fish and mammals designated as features of interest already in the area will be accustomed to anthropogenic activity such as boat/adjacent road traffic and have the ability to seek refuge or temporarily migrate away from the area during the short-term fishing activity. Sessile bottom dwelling species such as freshwater Pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) will have the ability to close their shells in response to the disturbance. The effects will be short-term and only for the duration of the commercial fishing effort, with no medium- or long-term impacts. No significant effects are foreseen at Natura 2000 sites. No impacts are foreseen on features of interest or conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites from noise generated.

4.2. Source/Pathway/Receptor Assessment

4.2.1. Source

The proposed commercial fishing activities will take place within, upstream/downstream of or in close proximity to several Natura 2000 sites. This includes both SAC and SPA designated areas. The commercial fishing activities will involve the use of nets and will generate minimal disturbance beyond the activities. There will be minimal instream disturbance and disturbance to riparian vegetation. The minute quantities of silt may be generated during launching of boats and drawing/hauling of nets but will have no foreseeable impact on water quality.

4.2.2. Pathway

There is a 'direct' pathway for the minor silt disturbance from the proposed commercial netting activity to Natura 2000 sites. The minor quantities of silt generated during the instream activity mentioned will be negligible. The tiny quantities generated by these manual works will be diluted and attenuated in the flowing waters of the streams and rivers.

4.2.3. Receptor

The Natura 2000 site receptors of these activities in the list mentioned in section 2.2. The manual hauling of snap nets is unlikely to generate any silt. The manual hauling of draft nets

may generate minor amounts of silt in a localised area of the littoral zone. The commercial netting activity is not likely to impact negatively on the current water quality classification of the watercourses and waterbodies downstream. Any silt disturbance will be minor and will dissipate and settle further downstream.

4.3. In-Combination Effects

No significant in-combination effects are envisaged that are likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The proposed Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Draft Nets and Snap Nets) Bye-law for 2021 has taken into account the most up to date scientific evidence and advice providing predicted abundances of Atlantic Salmon stocks in Irish rivers. Using the aforementioned systems to ascertain the CL of each river and predictive data provided in the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2020 TAC quotas have been assigned to Atlantic salmon rivers across Ireland. Where the CL has not been achieved the watercourses have been closed to all forms of commercial Salmon and Sea trout fishing in 2021 to preserve populations and attempt to restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salmon. Where the predicted abundance of Salmon stocks exceeded the specific CL proportion required, a river was then declared fully opened for angling and in some cases commercial netting in 2021. A TAC specific to the watercourse was calculated using the most up to date scientific information available in relation to Atlantic salmon stocks. The careful management of the surplus stock will preserve salmon numbers above the CL and contribute to the maintenance of the favourable conservation condition for this feature of interest within the SAC. This is done through a licencing system and using blue and brown tag systems for all caught Salmon. All caught Salmon must be logged, tagged and their sale is allowed under the commercial licences issued. The use of a logging and tagging system, as well as surveillance by IFI protects Atlantic salmon populations against illegal operations such as poaching.

The proposed Regulation is not likely to have a significant impact on Atlantic Salmon or their conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites or Natura 2000 sites with a hydrological link to the watercourse as it uses sound scientific evidence in the decision-making process when allowing the opening of a waterbody to commercial fishing. It takes into account the number of individual Salmon required to maintain a sustainable population. If the numbers recorded are below the CL the taking of Salmon from each individual watercourse is not permitted by closing the river to commercial and recreational fishing altogether. The full opening of some rivers based on the latest scientific information is not likely to impact on the conservation objectives for Salmon as a feature of interest in Natura 2000 sites.

Following the Salmons juvenile stages, they will leave their freshwater refuges and move into the marine environment. Salmon that return to freshwater to spawn after spending 2/3 winters at sea are referred to as 'Multi-Sea Winter Salmon' and generally return in the early springtime. Those that return after just one winter at sea are referred to as '1 Sea Winter Salmon', and

usually arrive in Irish freshwaters between June and early August. Female Springers (8-20 lbs) are often larger than Grilse and can be more successful spawners. The timing of the open dates primarily from mid-May (12th) to the end of July (31st) will allow Springers the opportunity to pass upstream into freshwater spawning grounds without the pressures of commercial fishing practices. This will allow Atlantic Salmon with the highest reproductive capabilities the opportunity to spawn without being impacted by commercial fishing activity. The restriction on the number of licences being issued for commercial fishing and the limited numbers of tags being distributed to licence holders based on the CL of each watercourse, will further mitigate the impact of commercial fishing to an acceptable level ensuring that conservation objectives for Salmon as a feature of interest in Natura 2000 sites are maintained.

No significant effects on Natura 2000 sites are likely. Based on the above AA Screening a Natura Impact Statement is not required. The proposed Regulation is likely to maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon in Natura 2000 sites where they have been designated as a feature of interest.

6. REFERENCE MATERIAL

European Communities (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission.

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NPWS (2010) Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular Letter NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.

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Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2020 and Draft Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2021.

Report of the Technical Expert Group on Salmon to the North-South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries - Appendix IV River Stock Specific Information used in the salmon catch advice process for 2019 advice.pdf
<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/extranet/fisheries-management-1/salmon/1591-appendix-iv-river-stock-specific-information-used-in-the-salmon-catch-advice-process-for-2018-advice/file.html>

Report of the Technical Expert Group on Salmon to the North-South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries - Appendix IV River Stock Specific Information used in the salmon catch advice process for 2020 advice.pdf
<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/extranet/fisheries-management-1/salmon/1732-appendix-iv-river-stock-specific-information-used-in-the-salmon-catch-advice-process-for-2020-advice/file.html>

Report of the Technical Expert Group on Salmon to the North-South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries - Appendix IV River Stock Specific Information used in the salmon catch advice process for 2021 advice.pdf
<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/extranet/fisheries-management-1/salmon/1782-appendix-iv-river-stock-specific-information-used-in-the-salmon-catch-advice-process-for-2021-advice/file.html>

Each conservation objectives document for all SAC's Screened in this AAS (Accessed from 15th February to 24th of February 2021. <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac>).

Appendices

Appendix 1: The application form for a commercial Salmon fishing licence contained in Schedule 2 of the Control of Fishing For Salmon Order 2021.

Article 11.

CONTROL OF FISHING FOR SALMON ORDER 2021

APPLICATION FOR A SALMON FISHING LICENCE (OTHER THAN ROD AND LINE)

IN THE _____ FISHERY DISTRICT

Part 1

Name of applicant: _____ Date of birth: _____

Home address: _____

Tel: _____

1. Details of number of fish caught in last 3 salmon fishing seasons

(a) If you held a salmon net fishing licence for any of the last 3 salmon fishing seasons, indicate in the table below the year or years in which you held the licence and the numbers of fish caught. Alternatively, you may tick the box at the top of the table for the number of fish caught and IFI will enter these details onto the form from your logbook returns during those years.

(b) If you have not held a salmon net fishing licence for any of the last 3 salmon fishing seasons, but were authorised and named on a licence held by another person, complete the table below giving appropriate details of the licence holder and the number of fish caught.

Table

		Please tick if you wish these details to be taken from your logbook returns ()	
Year	Licence holder or authorised person (please state which)	Number of salmon caught	Number of sea trout over 40cm caught
1			
2			
3			



Declaration

2.

(a) I have/have not held a salmon licence issued by the Foyle Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission during the last 3 years (If so give particulars).

(b) I hereby apply for a salmon fishing licence to operate a _____ (state type of net etc.) during the _____ season in the _____ fishery district.

(c) I wish to have the following person authorised and named to operate the licence in my absence during the _____ season in accordance with the Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2021 .

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Part 2

CERTIFICATE

This certificate must be completed in every application

I, _____ certify that Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

who is known to me, is ordinarily resident in the address stated in Part I and signed this form in my presence.

Signature: _____

Official Stamp of _____

*Position: _____

Witness* _____

Address: _____

**Note:* The signature of the applicant for a fishing licence must be witnessed by either a Peace Commissioner, Clergyman, Fishery Officer, or a member of the Garda Síochána in whose fishery district the applicant resides. The latest date for receipt of completed application forms is 31st March at 5:00 p.m. Completed application forms should be sent to:



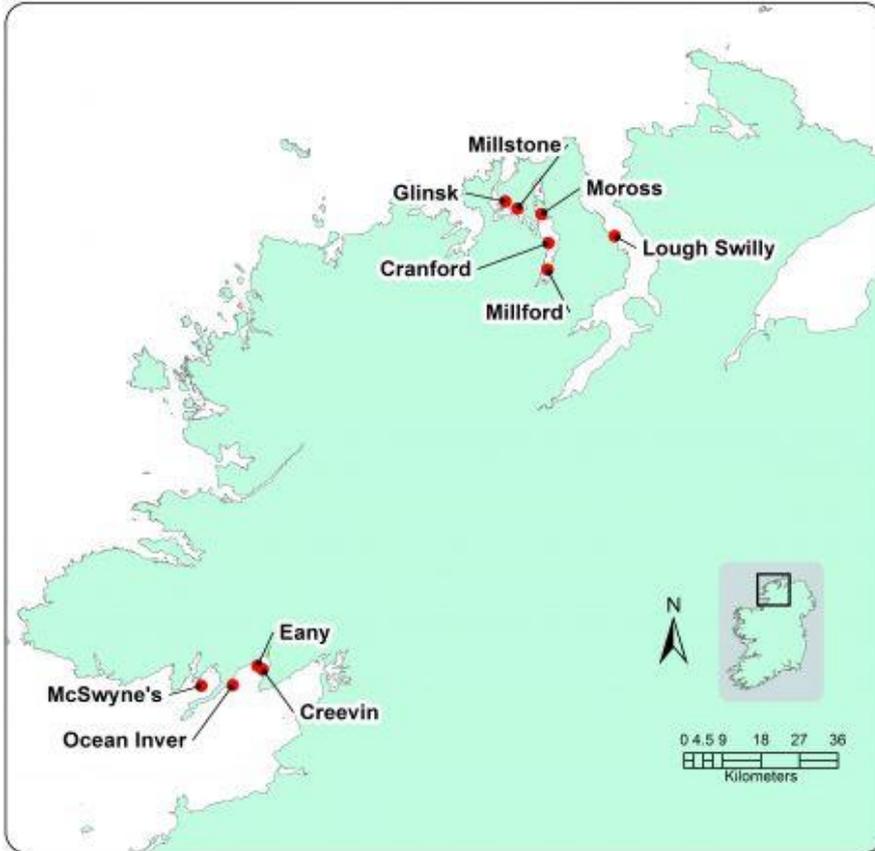
River Basin District Director,
Inland Fisheries Ireland

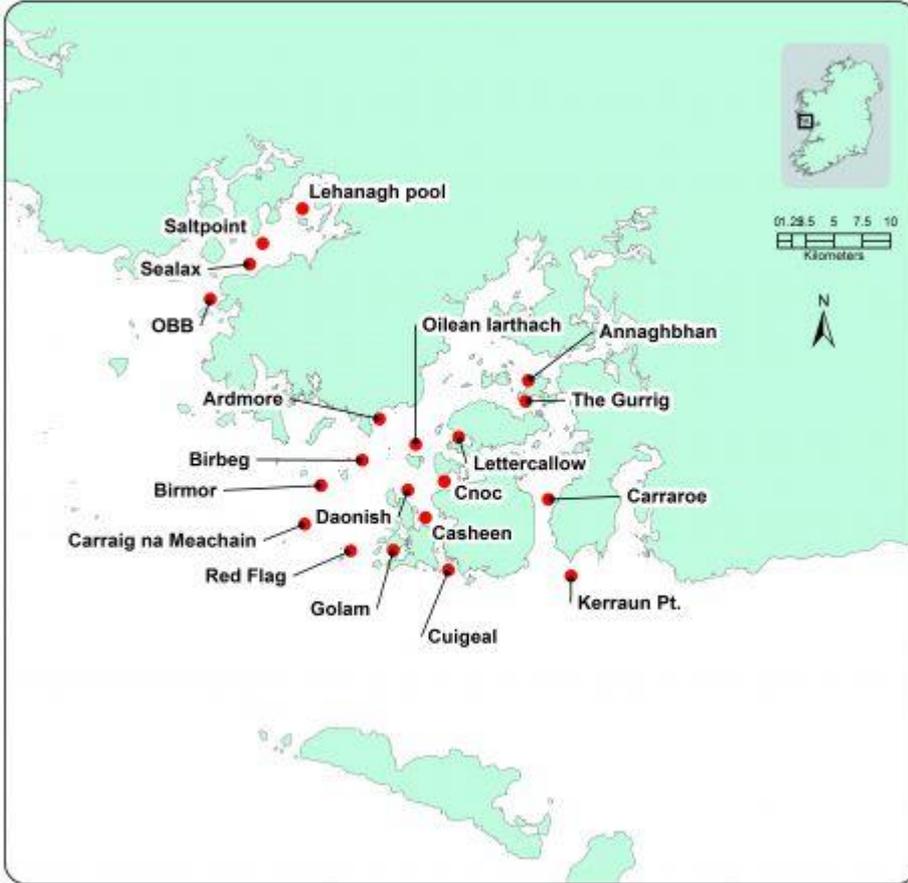
PARTS 1 AND 2 OF THIS APPLICATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE FORM IS RETURNED TO THE APPROPRIATE IFI OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS INDICATED IN PART 3. PLEASE ATTACH BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF APPLICANT AND IF APPLICABLE, OF PERSON AUTHORISED TO OPERATE THE LICENCE.

Appendix 2: Fishing Licences issued in Schedule 1 of the Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2020.

(1) Fishery District	(2) Fishing Engine	(3) Maximum number of fishing licences
No. 17(2) or Dundalk District	Draft net	0
No. 17(1) or Drogheda District	Draft net	0
No. 1 or Dublin District	Draft net	0
No. 2 or Wexford District	Draft net	0
No. 3 or Waterford District	Snap net	0
No. 4 or Lismore District	Draft net	0
No. 5 or Cork District	Draft net	16
No. 7 or Kerry District	Draft net	14
No. 8 or Limerick District	Draft net	0
No. 9(1) or Galway District	Draft net	0
No. 9(2) or Connemara District	Draft net	0
No. 10 ¹ or Ballinakill District	Draft net	14
No. 10 ² or Bangor District	Draft net (special tidal waters)	23
	Draft net	1
No. 11 or Ballina District	Draft net	0
No. 12 or Sligo District	Draft net	0
No. 13 or Ballyshannon District	Draft net	0
No. 14 ¹ or Letterkenny District	Draft net (special tidal waters)	8
	Draft net	2

Appendix 3: Locations of salmonid fish farms along the coast of Ireland (Marine Institute).







INVAS Biosecurity
44 Lakelands Avenue, Stillorgan, County Dublin.
Tel: +353874175925
Email: wearle@invas.ie
Web: www.invasbiosecurity.ie

Company Registration Number: 509929
VAT Number: IE 98205960