

Dear Nuala

I am in receipt of your documentation regarding the above dated 31st January last.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a Statutory Body established on the 1st July 2010. Under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) *the principal function of IFI is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource.*

Under section 7(3) of the IFI Act it is stated that *without prejudice to subsection (1), IFI shall in the performance of its functions have regard to: (g) the requirements of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) and the need for the sustainable development of the inland fisheries resource (including the conservation of fish and other species of fauna and flora habitats and the biodiversity of inland water ecosystems), (h) as far as possible, ensure that its activities are carried out so as to protect the national heritage (within the meaning of the Heritage Act 1995).*

All the sites are located in the sub-catchment of the Yellow River and its tributary the Mongagh/Castlejordan River. The Yellow River itself is a tributary of the River Boyne (a cSAC). Both rivers contain stocks of salmon and trout. IFI are anxious that stocks would be protected from the negative effects of in-stream works associated with this project (turbines, buildings, cabling, roads, ect) and that an adequate buffer zone would be set around watercourses. Please note that no in-stream works should be carried out in the closed season I.e. October to April.

The main document we want you to adhere to at this stage is our guidelines *Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites* (as attached).

Regards

Noel McGloin

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Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer - Eastern River Basin District

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