

Our Case Number: ACP-323898-25



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Inland Fisheries Ireland
C/o Eoghan Cross
BallyShannon
Station Road
Ballyshannon
Co. Donegal
F94 WV76

Date: 23 January 2026

Re: Development works at Port Pier
Port Pier, Inver, Co. Donegal

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

Please note that the proposed development shall not be carried out unless the Commission has approved it with or without modifications.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at laps@pleanala.ie

Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Aisling Reilly
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737131

AA02

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Aisling Reilly

Subject: FW: ACP Case Reference: 323898 (DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT PORT PIER).
Attachments: 323898 - Donegal Co Co - Port Pier - Inver Bay - 23.12.25.pdf

From: Eoghan Cross <Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 23 December 2025 11:46
To: Appeals2 <appeals@pleanala.ie>
Subject: ACP Case Reference: 323898 (DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT PORT PIER).

You don't often get email from eoghan.cross@fisheriesireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Good morning,

Please see attached observations from IFI in relation to ACP case ref.: 323898.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Best wishes,

Eoghan Cross

Eoghan Cross
Fisheries Environmental Officer

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IFI Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

beolíne / hotline
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Oscailte 24 uair an lá / 7 lá in aghaidh na seachtaine
Open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

Help us protect Ireland's rivers, lakes and coastlines by reporting illegal fishing, water pollution or invasive species. Our confidential phone number is 0818 34 74 24, which is open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

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23rd December 2025

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
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Iascach Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Issued via email to: appeals@pleanala.ie

RE: Section 177AE (4)(b); ACP Case Reference: 323898 (DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT PORT PIER, INVER, CO. DONEGAL).

Dear Sir/Madam,

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a statutory body established on the 1st of 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.

On review of the planning application, the following observations are of relevance in relation to the above project:

The application site is on the shore of Inver Bay, which is within 1.4 km of Eany Water Estuary.

The Eany Water catchment is considered an important ecosystem within the Ballyshannon fisheries district as it provides habitat for various species of fish, including:

- Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*), listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC),
- Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) and,
- European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*), which is protected under Evaluation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007, as well as the Conservation of Eel Fishing Bye-Law No. C.S. 335, 2024.

The overall ecological status of Inver Bay (European Code: IE_NW_060_0000) and Eany Water Estuary (European Code: IE_NW_060_0100) have been determined as "High", whilst Eany Water_020 (European Code: IE_NW_37E030350) has been categorised as "Good" in the most recent EPA report. It is imperative that water quality, habitat and species diversity are protected within these waterbodies during any development or construction projects.

Pile driving can impact upon salmon hearing and behaviour, and impede migration. Atlantic salmon migrate through Inver Bay; smolts from Irish rivers enter the estuarine environment during April and May. Adult Atlantic salmon return to the Eany between June and December. Atlantic salmon do not exclusively migrate nocturnally, as such piling must only take place between 1st January and 31st March.

The following recommendations and guidance must be followed and adhered to throughout the entirety of the plan:

1. Piling associated with this project must only take place between 1st January and 31st March. Mitigation measures including ramp up procedures and the use of a vibrating hammer and bubbler curtains should be employed during piling activities as detailed in the Natura Impact Statement (dated 29th April 2024).

2. Prior to dewatering any works area, it will be necessary to temporarily remove fish from the area involved using electrofishing equipment. The electro-fishing must only be carried out by nominated personnel with training and experience in such operations, and with Section 14 authorisation from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/services/apply-for-a-section-14-authorisation/>).
3. IFI must be notified in a timely manner before works commence, and also before electrofishing takes place.
4. A biosecurity protocol must be implemented to manage invasive alien species where they are found on-site, and to prevent the introduction of such species. The plan should indicate how the contractor will treat machinery, workwear etc that may potentially become a vector for transporting invasive alien species to or from the site.
5. The applicant/contractor should employ a suitably qualified person to be on site for the duration of works to ensure all mitigation measures identified are implemented appropriately and effectively prior to and during the construction phase.
6. A final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be submitted for approval prior to works commencing. The CEMP must adopt the mitigation measures and procedures outlined in the submitted Natura Impact Statement (dated 24th April 2024), specific to protecting water quality, as well as the above referenced points specific to protecting fisheries. Such measures must be implemented and strictly enforced to ensure that no negative impact occurs on the adjacent water environments.
7. This proposal should be undertaken in accordance with the relevant sections of the following publications:
 - "A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate / Flood Risk and Recreational Planning":
<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/migrated/docman/IFIUrbanWatercoursesPlanningGuide.pdf>
 - "Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries During Construction Works in and Adjacent to Waters":
<https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/migrated/docman/2016/Guidelines%20Report%202016.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

E Cross

Eoghan Cross
Fisheries Environmental Officer, Ballyshannon District,
North Western River Basin District, Inland Fisheries Ireland.