

**Attachments:**

320024 - Rossinver WWTP - Melvin - 25.07.25.pdf

**From:** Eoghan Cross <[Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 25 July 2025 16:23  
**To:** LAPS <[laps@pleanala.ie](mailto:laps@pleanala.ie)>  
**Cc:** Aisling Reilly <[A.Reilly@pleanala.ie](mailto:A.Reilly@pleanala.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Case number: 320024

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached observation from Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to Significant Additional Information submitted in support of Case number 320024. I'd be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email.

Best wishes,

Eoghan Cross

**Eoghan Cross**  
**Fisheries Environmental Officer**

 [Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie) •  +353 (0) 71 9851435 •  [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie) •  F94 WV76



The banner features the Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) logo on the left, which consists of a stylized fish shape with the letters 'ifi' inside. To the right of the logo, the text 'Iascach Intíre Éireann' and 'Inland Fisheries Ireland' is displayed. Further right is a circular inset image of a woman talking on a mobile phone. On the far right, the text 'beolín / hotline' is above the large number '0818 34 74 24'. Below this number, it says 'Oscailte 24 uair an lá / 7 lá in aghaidh na seachtaine' and '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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**From:** Aisling Reilly <[A.Reilly@pleanala.ie](mailto:A.Reilly@pleanala.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 4 November 2024 10:08  
**To:** Eoghan Cross <[Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Case number: 320024

Dear Eoghan,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email.

Kind regards,  
Aisling

**From:** Eoghan Cross <[Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 25, 2024 5:16 PM  
**To:** LAPS <[laps@pleanala.ie](mailto:laps@pleanala.ie)>  
**Subject:** Case number: 320024





**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 evening,

Please find attached submission from Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to Case number 320024. I'd be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email.

Best wishes,

Eoghan Cross  
**Eoghan Cross**  
**Fisheries Environmental Officer**

 [Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:Eoghan.Cross@fisheriesireland.ie) •  +353 (0) 71 9851435 •  •  F94 WV76



The banner features the Inland Fisheries Ireland logo on the left, which is a stylized fish inside a triangle. To the right of the logo is the text "Iascach Intíre Éireann" and "Inland Fisheries Ireland". In the center is a circular inset photo of a woman talking on a phone. On the right side of the banner, the text "beolín / hotline" is above the large number "0818 34 74 24". Below this number, it says "Oscailte 24 uair an lá / 7 lá in aghaidh na seachtaine" and "Open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week".

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**Iascach Intíre Éireann**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

25<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Local Authority Projects,  
An Coimisiún Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
D01 V902

Issued via email to: [laps@pleanala.ie](mailto:laps@pleanala.ie)

**RE: Section 177AE Planning Application: ABP-320024-24: Proposed Development of Rossinver Wastewater Treatment Plant and Ancillary Works, County Leitrim.**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Inland Fisheries Ireland is the statutory authority tasked under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) with responsibility for 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 proposed development is bound to the west by Ballagh River (EPA Name/Code: Ballagh 35/35B01). This section of Ballagh River is within Lough Melvin SAC (Site Code: 000428).

The Ballagh River is an inflowing tributary within the Lough Melvin catchment, which is considered an important riverine ecosystem within the Ballyshannon fisheries district, as it supports a unique and internationally important assemblage of fish species, including:

- Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*),
- Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*), listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), and
- Three distinct species of trout: gillaroo (*Salmo stomachius*), sonaghan (*Salmo nigripinnis*), and ferox (*Salmo ferox*).

In addition, perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*), 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], tench (*Tinca tinca*) and minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*) also occur along with threespined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) and nine-spined stickleback (*Pungitius pungitius*).

The Ballagh River provides spawning and nursery habitats for both Atlantic salmon and trout species. The overall ecological status of the Ballagh River has been determined as "Good" in the most recent EPA report. It is imperative that water quality, habitat and species diversity are protected within this catchment during any development or construction projects.

Drawing No. 11896-2011 (dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025, appended to a letter from TOBIN Consulting Engineers (dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025)) details that the site lies partially within both the 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 fluvial floodplains, but that the site levels will be raised such that the WwTP and reed bed will be elevated above flood levels.

The aforementioned letter from A letter from TOBIN Consulting Engineers states: "In the scenario where the reed bed is inundated, this would not affect the operation and performance of the WwTP. The reed bed was included as a polishing filter for phosphorus. The WwTP however also includes chemical phosphorus removal (eg. ferric sulphate dosing) and the chemical dose rate can be increased during such events to achieve the same level of phosphorus removal that is achieved with the reed bed in operation as a polishing filter...."

In an extreme flood event (1 in 1000 year MRFS flood), the treated effluent outfall to the river would be inundated and would not operate. In this scenario it is proposed to provide an automated overpumping facility. Treated effluent would gravitate to the treated effluent sump / overpumping chamber (location shown on Drawing 11896-2011) and would be pumped from there to the river."

The Amended Natura Impact Statement (dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, appended to the aforementioned letter) states: "Runoff from the internal roads on the site will connect to surface water drainage pipes which will connect to a Hydrocarbon / silt interceptor. The discharge from this interceptor will connect to the proposed flood storage basin to the north of the site. There will be no piped outlet from this to any watercourse and water will simply percolate through the base of this basin."

Another letter from TOBIN Consulting Engineers (dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024) states: "Leitrim County Council have already consulted Uisce Éireann in respect of the proposed WwTP and Uisce Éireann have stated that they are not in a position to take over the WwTP at this time....In order to provide for the possible adoption of the WwTP by Uisce Éireann at some future date, the WwTP has been designed to Uisce Éireann technical specifications."

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

1. With regards to the construction of the headwall and associated outfall pipework on the bank of the Ballagh River, prior to dewatering any works area, it will be necessary to temporarily remove fish from the area involved using electrofishing equipment. The electrofishing 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/>).
2. All instream works associated with the construction of the headwall must be completed between July and September. Upon completion of the headwall construction, the riverbed must be sensitively restored and flow diversions removed immediately, where feasible within 48 hours of the instalment of the associated flow diversion.
3. IFI must be notified in a timely manner before works adjacent to/within watercourses commence, and also before electrofishing takes place.

4. There must be no run-off of fuels, oils, concrete or from stockpiles of materials from the site. Stockpiles should be a minimum of ten metres from any surface water channels as well as floodplains, and battened back to a maximum angle of 45 degrees.
5. A final CEMP should be submitted prior to works commencing; the document must adopt mitigation measures and procedures outlined in the submitted Natura Impact Statement (Amended 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025), the Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix A of Planning Statement, dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024), 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 Ballagh River.
6. A biosecurity protocol must be implemented to manage invasive alien species where they are found on-site, and to prevent the introduction of new 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.
7. Regard should be given to the extent of hard/paved surfaces in the area. Hard surfaces can result in increased surface runoff, and can have significant adverse effects on fish, fish habitat and fisheries.

Water attenuation systems, including silt-traps and oil interceptors, should be employed to ameliorate such discharges. Such infrastructure should be regularly inspected and maintained to ensure efficiency. SuDS principles should be incorporated into surface water management plans to attenuate any run-off of suspended solids or other deleterious matter from the site.

8. Non return valves must be installed on the outflow pipe to prevent flood waters entering the WwTP system.
9. In relation to wastewater accumulated at the site, the planning authority should ensure that EPA guidelines are adhered to and that the cumulative impact of the new development does not have the potential to negatively impact on ground or surface waters in the vicinity. This will facilitate the potential adoption of the plant by Uisce Éireann at a later date.
10. Competent and suitably qualified staff must carry out the operation, management and maintenance of the facility. All plant, particularly automated plant and equipment relied upon during flood events (such as chemical dosage and overpumping), must be covered by an appropriate maintenance contract where possible.
11. Until such times that Uisce Éireann has adopted the plant, all discharges, including those during flood events, must comply with the conditions of a licence secured in accordance with Section 4 and Section 16 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 as amended by the Local Government (Water Pollution) Amendment Act 1990.
12. Upon adoption by Uisce Éireann, all discharges, including those during flood events, must comply with the conditions of a waste water discharge licence or certificate of authorisation from the EPA.