

Felling Section
Forest Service
Department of Agriculture & Food

21st July 2022

FLP Application Reference- WW02-FL0112

Harvest Block Area- 11.13

County- Wicklow

Townland- Deerpark

Dear Sir/Madam

The proposed clear felling refers to lands in the catchment of the river Dargle_020 which has a current WFD status of Good and which must be maintained.

This Dargle river is an important salmonid system supporting populations of Atlantic salmon, Sea trout and Brown trout and is a designated in accordance with **Salmonid River Regs (S.I. 293)** affording the river extra protection in law.

It represents a valuable resource both in terms of local natural heritage (biological diversity value) and particularly from a native fisheries perspective.

The clear-felling raises concerns about suspended solids and nutrients entering watercourses resulting from forestry harvesting activities, posing a significant environmental threat to water quality.

Poor water quality will impact upon fish, benthic invertebrates, and aquatic flora and these are the primary biological elements used in the classification of waters in the context of the WFD.

IFI request that:

- Strict adherence to The **Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines** and **The Code Of Best Forest Practice** in order to protect the ecological integrity of surface water in the area.
- Sedimentation traps should be constructed at appropriate locations in advance of the felling operations and are maintained throughout the operation. A buffer zone at aquatic features of at least 10m should be preserved at all times.
- IFI personnel (matthew.carroll@fisheriesireland.ie) should be notified by the applicant/contractor at least two weeks in advance of the commencement date.
- Ground stability should be kept under constant review. The felling operation must not create unstable ground conditions or result in post harvesting ground instability.

- It is important that the applicant demonstrates that their proposed clear-felling does not contribute to a deterioration in downstream water quality.

Matthew Carroll

Fisheries Environmental Officer

Inland Fisheries Ireland - Dublin

Iascach Intire Eireann

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Telephone: +353 (0) 1 8842651

EMail: matthew.carroll@fisheriesireland.ie

Address: 3044 Lake Drive, City West, Dublin 24, IRELAND.