

-----Original Message-----

From: Ciara O'Mahony

Sent: Friday 19 June 2020 17:24

To: [REDACTED] Padraig Comerford <Padraig.Comerford@chg.gov.ie>

Subject: RE: Query re Spraying of Potato crop at [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I acknowledge receipt of this and the second (later) email. A response will issue in due course.

Best wishes,
Ciara O Mahony

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday 19 June 2020 16:39

To: Ciara O'Mahony <Ciara.O'Mahony@chg.gov.ie>; Padraig Comerford

<Padraig.Comerford@chg.gov.ie>

Subject: Query re Spraying of Potato crop at [REDACTED]

To Whom it Concerns,

Once again in confidence I would like to request the opinion of the NPWS about whether the Spraying and/or application of PPPs (Plant Protection Products) immediately adjacent to the River Nore SAC is provided for in law? By that I mean to ask, would such an activity itself need Appropriate Assessment?

Not three weeks ago I observed Crayfish remnants in Otter spraints on the nearby Weir wall, beyond the larger falls. If this activity of growing Potatoes (which must be noted is completely novel for these fields as far as I remember - being a local resident for most of my 45 years is to gauge) - the abstraction of water for which was and currently is not consented to by the NPWS; how can the NPWS not consider the other very real pertinent threat to the biodiversity of the immediate SAC Riverine setting? Surely, use of PPPs in such an area must be Appropriately Assessed as per the Habitats Directive?

The Crayfish being a Qualifying species in this SAC must be protected as they are currently under other invasive threats in other sections of the Catchment.

As an Angler, I am keenly aware of the delicate balance in that stretch of river; from Crayfish, and other invertebrates such as Caddis and Nymph life which is vital in sustaining fish population, which cascades down the food chain to Otters etc.

I respectfully ask the NPWS to actively investigate this and if needs be prevent any use of PPPs in this very delicate riverine environment, as I believe their use without AA would be against the Habitats Directive.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]