

Statement of Evidence: Carl Owens, Fisheries Officer, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin District.

I am an authorised officer as defined with the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 and the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977.

Declaration – “I hereby declare that this statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence. I will be liable to prosecution if I state in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.”

Watercourse: Aughrim River, County Wicklow.

On Tuesday, 30th of July 2024, I conducted an electrofishing survey on the Aughrim River, assisted by Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer, Michaela Kirrane. This survey was conducted to assess the extent of the fish kill that occurred on the river. I surveyed the river in four locations which is detailed in my electrofishing report.

I received information from Fisheries Environmental Officer Matthew Carroll, outlining that there was evidence that a recent incident had occurred on the premises of Woodfab Timber Ltd. I attended the premises of Woodfab Timber Ltd, accompanied by Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer Michaela Kirrane and spoke with [REDACTED], Environmental Officer for Woodfab Timber Ltd. [REDACTED] stated that he had discovered evidence of a spillage from one of their wood treatment units. He stated that the discharge had entered the Surface water drainage system, which is discharged to ground. [REDACTED] showed me the wood treatment unit and I could see where a dark coloured liquid had sprayed onto the wall from a manual pressure release valve on the pressure vessel. [REDACTED] stated that the chemical contained was Tanalith E 8000. I witnessed Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer, Michaela Kirrane caution [REDACTED]. The liquid that was released from the pressure vessel, entered the surface water drainage system at SW4 and [REDACTED] stated that it is then discharged to groundwater. I walked down a steep wooded bank to access the edge of the Aughrim River adjacent to SW4, to see if I could locate the discharge to groundwater and the river, I was unable to identify a discharge to the river. I did note a dead Lamprey on the bank of the river in that location. I returned to the Woodfab Timber Ltd. office where I was joined by Fisheries Environmental Officer, Matthew Carroll. I witnessed Officer Carroll remind [REDACTED] that he was still under caution. [REDACTED] admitted that there was an incident on the premises on Saturday the 27th of July 2024 at approximately 15:00pm which was the last run of the day of one of their wood treatment unit, which resulted in an unknown quantity of tanalising chemical being discharged to groundwater.

Carl Owens

Fisheries Officer

Inland Fisheries Ireland