



**OFFICE OF CLIMATE,
LICENSING & RESOURCE USE.**

**INSPECTORS REPORT ON A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORISATION APPLICATION**

To:	Frank Clinton, Programme Manager, ELP	
From:	Loretta Joyce	Environmental Licensing Programme
Date:	20/04/2015	
Re:	Application for a Waste Water Discharge Certificate of Authorisation from Irish Water for the Coolea near Macroom agglomeration, County Cork, Reg. No. A0523-01.	

Application Details	
Schedule of Discharge Authorised:	Discharges from agglomerations with a population equivalent less than 500
Certificate of Authorisation Application Received:	21/08/2012
Submission(s) Received:	None

This application relates to the Coolea near Macroom agglomeration in County Cork. The application was originally made by Cork County Council and subsequently transferred to Irish Water on 1st January 2014 under the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013.

This application relates to the Coolea near Macroom agglomeration in County Cork. The agglomeration currently has a population equivalent (p.e.) of 200. The agglomeration is serviced by a septic tank (primary treatment only). The design capacity of the septic tank has not been provided by the applicant. The WWTP discharges to the Sullane River. The Sullane River has been assigned 'Good' status 2007-2009.

The applicant states that removal of BOD in the septic tank is not significant. The Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (RCoA) states that within twelve months the authorisation holder shall identify appropriate improvements to the wastewater works, including a waste water treatment system necessary to ensure all discharge(s) from the agglomeration contribute towards achieving at least good status in accordance with the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, as amended and/or the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, as amended.

The agglomeration is discharging upstream of an area known for the presence of the pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). The pearl mussel sites are approximately 3.3km downstream.

The Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (RCoA) states that the certificate of authorisation holder shall, within six months, carry out an ecological assessment of the impact of the discharge(s) from the waste water works on *Margaritifera margaritifera* (the freshwater pearl mussel) in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Having regard to the results of the assessment the certificate of authorisation holder, shall within six months thereafter, implement the recommendations in the assessment report.

There is a drinking water abstraction point located within 10 km of the discharge from the agglomeration. The Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (RCoA) includes a condition whereby the Certificate of Authorisation holder shall immediately notify the organisation responsible for drinking water abstraction points of any incidents in the agglomeration. The RCoA also specifies that the Authorisation holder shall prepare a risk assessment for the protection of drinking water abstraction points within 12 months of the date of grant of the Certificate of Authorisation, the risk assessment shall address as a minimum the identification and minimisation of risks. The measures identified shall be implemented within twelve months thereafter.

A screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site(s). In this context, particular attention was paid to the European site(s) at St. Gobnet's Wood SAC (Site Code: 000106). The Agency considered, for the reasons set out below, that the activity is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European site and that it can be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the activity individually or in combination with other plans or projects will have a significant effect on a European site, and accordingly the Agency determined that an Appropriate Assessment of the activity was not required.

It has been determined that the activity does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site due to the volume of the discharge and distance to a European Site.

The discharge(s) from the agglomeration are considered not likely to have a significant impact on the receiving waterbody subject to the Certificate of Authorisation Holder complying with the conditions of the RCoA.

Submissions

No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Recommendation

I recommend that a Final Certificate of Authorisation be issued subject to the conditions and for the reasons as set out in the attached Recommended Certificate of Authorisation.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loretta Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Loretta Joyce
Inspector
Environmental Licensing Programme
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use