

Annacotty Weir Update

02 February 2025

Please find link to Annacotty Weir Information Page



Public Consultation Questionnaire



Salmon Watch Ireland-Annacotty Weir

Salmon Watch Ireland attended a public consultation exhibition on the 29th of January in Limerick concerning the ongoing Annacotty Weir project.

While the project is taking an inordinate amount of time to break ground it was encouraging to see the details of the project laid out in a very user friendly and illuminating fashion.

There may be many obstacles in the planning process when it becomes live but each of the eight options as outlined were well presented.

It is the strongly held view of Salmon Watch Ireland that the principal and indeed only consideration should involve the safe passage of all fish species past this obstacle.

The many options considered were outlined by the project team and we as our policy document on barriers states, especially barriers which are not functioning, barriers should be removed not mitigated.

It is encouraging that the option of removing the weir does not cause a flooding issue upstream or downstream and as such this is our preferred option.

Also, more importantly this option releases the impounded water upstream which will automatically substantially improve juvenile salmonid density through a process of allowing the river upstream to return to a natural state and improve its ecological functionality.

The partial removal of the weir may also be of benefit but in all probability would not be as ecologically positive downstream of the remaining structure as our preferred option.

We do not believe that the fish passage functionality would be improved sufficiently by the other options presented and thus our recommendation would be to remove the weir.

We have included the consultation documents from Inland Fisheries Ireland, and these should be read carefully. You should fill out the public consultation questionnaire and give your views.

It is imperative that fish passage is the overriding factor to be considered, and we feel our recommendation is the best option for returning this area to a natural state and enhancing the ecological status of this area.

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The following options were presented:

 An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a lush, green landscape. A weir is visible on the right side of the river, and a large stone building is situated on the bank. The water appears to be flowing over the weir.

Options

Option A – Partial Removal of the Weir
 Remove the eastern part of the weir, including the existing fish ladder. Restore the river channel with a gradient of 1:200. Abutment works to end of retained weir. Retain the Mill Sluice structure, with a new upstream wall to extend Mill Race. Previous Example: Ballyclough Weir, River Mulkear

Option B – Complete Removal of the Weir
 Full removal of obstruction of fish. Significantly reduces upstream flood levels, with no impact on downstream flood levels. Restoration of river channel to a more natural state which improves hydro-morphology and ecological diversity. Leave and include a new upstream wall to extend the Mill Race, original historic features in place adjacent to the protected mill.

Option C – Refurbishment of Existing Fish Ladder
 Retain the entire weir, including the existing fish ladder. Retain the Mill Sluice structure. Refurbished fish ladder, moderately improving gradient and placement of baffles. The extent of refurbishment is constrained by existing geometry.

Option D – Lowering of the Existing Weir in conjunction with a fish pass
 Retain the existing weir, lower the crest level by 1m. Remove the existing fish ladder. Install new fish pass (downstream rock ramp). Retain the Mill Sluice structure, with a new upstream wall to extend the Mill Race. Previous Example: Ballinacarrig, Carlow

