



Southern Regional Fisheries Board

Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Deiscirt



Fisheries Ireland

Our Natural Heritage

Press Statement

KILLEEN CIVIL ENGINEERING PROSECUTED FOLLOWING FISH KILL

At a sitting of the District Court held at Portlaoise on the 10th of July 2008, Killeen Civil Engineering (trading as Park Plant Hire), were prosecuted by the Southern Regional Fisheries Board following investigations into a fish kill on the River Triogue which took place on the 22nd of October 2007. Mr David Mc Inerney, Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer with the Board told Judge Anderson that he investigated a building site adjacent to the River Triogue, just upstream of Portlaoise, when he saw heavy machinery working alongside the river. In reply to questions Mr. Mc Inerney said that the river had been dried out by over-pumping for a 55 metre stretch leaving fish and all aquatic life in this section of river stranded without water. There were dead and stranded Trout, juvenile Salmon, Lamprey, Crayfish, Minnow and Eels in the dried out river section.

The contractor was in the process of building a road crossing over the river and had used very poor construction practice which had no consideration for the river and had not contacted the Southern Regional Fisheries Board about the works. The road project was part of a large commercial development and involved a significant number of parties including the developer, consulting and project engineers. On the day of the incident the contractor co-operated fully with instructions from Mr. Mc Inerney in returning the river water to its normal channel. The road crossing was subsequently completed following consultation and agreement with the Southern Regional Fisheries Board on a suitable work methodology.

A representative for Killeen Civil Engineering (trading as Park Plant Hire) pleaded guilty to the charge. Judge Anderson described the work of Killeen Civil Engineering (trading as Park Plant Hire) as wreckless and fined them the maximum fine of €1500 for three counts under Section 173 of the Fisheries Consolidation Act, 1959. The Board was awarded costs of and expenses.

Ends.

For further information contact Mr. David Mc Inerney, Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

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