

Ardfinnan/Ballybacon/Grange/Newcastle



Gun Club

Founded in 1969

Submission Re: S.I. No. 254/1986 - European Communities (Wildlife Act, 1976) (Amendment) Regulations, 1986. Control of Certain Wild Bird Species

Executive Summary

ABGN Gun Club, located in South Tipperary, are a large hunting and conservation club with nearly 100 members and a very active vermin control program. ABGN gun Club are involved in a number of conservation projects and activities within the local community in which the continuation of the EU Birds Directive Article 9 Derogations, are an important element.

Crop protection

Club members routinely provide crop protection services to farmers from woodpigeon. Pigeons are breeding throughout the year including the open season period and can have a huge impact on both the tillage farming and vegetable farming sector, with their food supply available all year round. The control of pigeons by shooting is the only proven method of controlling the damage as it maintains a healthy population and protects crops from potential damage. Pigeons use stubble fields to feed and gather in large concentrations, they will then attack standing crops in the surrounding areas with little or no notice. It is of vital importance that birds are controlled while on these fields, as it is one of the most sustainable ways of controlling the wild pigeon population.

Livestock protection

Club members also help sheep farmers in the area during lambing season when ewes and lambs are particularly vulnerable to attack by gray crows.

Conservation projects

ABGN Gun Club have a Red grouse conservation project on the Knockmealdown Mountains. This project consists of heather regeneration via burning or cutting and also vermin control. Red grouse fledglings are particularly vulnerable to Gray Crow and Rook attacks and so their control on the mountain is of utmost importance.

Every year ABGN gun club releases hundreds of reared pheasants and ducks into the local surroundings to help maintain and supplement the local population which is under increasing pressure from the lack of available habitat due to current farming practices. This change in habitat, less shelter, wide open fields with little to no trees or hedgerows, leaves chicks and ducklings, and also many other garden bird species, are vulnerable to the attacks of gray Crow, Rook and Magpies.

ABGN Gun Club have also transformed their duck ponds at Kildanogue into a public conservation area and take great care to protect the wild bird and duck species that use this important habitat by controlling the covid species and magpies.

Vermin Control program

ABGN Gun Club carry out vermin control activities year round. For vermin bird species listed under this derogation, the primary method is the use of larsen traps. Every year a vermin count is held to quantify the efforts of its members. Through this activity, it is obvious that the numbers of vermin being taken, mainly gray crows and magpies, are increasing year on year and continue to be a major risk, not just to game bird species in which the gun club have particular interest in, but also to all other wild and garden bird species.

Summary

Due to the damage caused by pigeons to crops, it is important that their control continues to be available all year round. For magpies, rooks, and gray crows, their risk to livestock, wild bird populations and the conservation efforts for Red grouse, means it is critical that control of these species continues to take place, preferably year round via the use of larsen traps.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday 14 March 2022 12:57
To: Housing WildBirdDeclarations
Subject: EU Birds Directive Article 9 Derogations
Attachments: Submission for control of wild birds act March 2022.pdf

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached proposals for changes to the existing Declarations in the next iteration from 1 May 2022 from the Ardfinnan, Ballybacon, Grange and Newcastle Gun Club, Co. Tipperary.

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Regards,

[REDACTED]

ABGN Gun Club Hon. Secretary

[REDACTED]