

24th May 2018

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DESIGNATED SALMONID WATERS BYELAW 2018

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the National Executive of the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland, NCFFI
I submit this objection to the Designated Salmonid Waters Bye-law 2018 for the following reasons;

- Whilst the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland understand the needs of fishery management we object to the unnecessary slaughter of our fish stocks and native wildlife. Already this takes place under the current management of Pike stocks through gill netting and electro fishing on the same waters.
- We are not objecting to the management of these waters. However, a more reasonable and common-sense approach would be to transfer pike live to other waters where they would provide the local community with a recreational resource and economic opportunity.
- It is untenable that a decision is taken to kill more pike to protect depleting trout stocks. Particularly so, as direct intervention on limiting the amount of and size of trout killed would have a more beneficial effect.
- While accepting the management of these waters for the benefit of wild salmonid species, it should be remembered they are also known as top class pike fisheries and are attractive to overseas visitors who provide a source of income to these areas.
- The introduction of this Byelaw on specific fisheries only would increase the difficulty Inland Fisheries already face with fishery protection and would open the door for misinformed anglers to practise catch & kill on all waters.
- This Byelaw represents poor wildlife management particularly when it undermines the Pike Review process currently in place.
- The message this bylaw shares with anglers worldwide, at a time when all organisations are actively promoting catch & release is simply that in Ireland we kill our wildlife something that is not accepted in this day and age.

- The effect of the abuse of the pike population in Ireland has not gone unnoticed overseas and you will remark that no English anglers visits our waters for pike fishing.
- The National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland and its members practise catch & release at all times. The Federation actively promotes this in its presentation of anglers at world championships overseas as well as in our hosting of the championships in Ireland which serve to showcase our waters and respect for and protection of our aquatic biodiversity to anglers worldwide.

We have presented the view of our federation, representing coarse and predator angling on the island of Ireland to Inland Fisheries Ireland, IFI on several occasions as documented here <https://www.ncffi.ie/the-future-of-coarse-angling-in-ireland/> The document includes the need for a policy on fish movement to provide a licensing mechanism to harvest this important angling resource. Where scientific evidence exists to justify culling it should be done under license and the fish relocated to improve other fisheries.

It is time that in Ireland we recognise the importance of all our fish stocks to meet the modern world in its representation of angling; not only as our sport and recreation but in support of the benefits angling tourism can bring.

Yours Sincerely,



Der Casey
On behalf of the National Executive
Chairman NCFFI, National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland

