

24th July 2018

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: COARSE FISH REGULATIONS

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the National Executive of the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland, NCCFI I submit our support for the proposed changes to the Byelaw 806, 2006 – Conservation and prohibition on sale of coarse fish.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide the following input to your review;

- Whilst it is obvious that the 4-fish rule will still apply to some species the NCCFI acknowledges this is a huge step forward bringing us closer to a no-kill policy and full protection of our wildlife.
- We are however disappointed that Rudd are not being afforded the same protection. Inland Fisheries' own experts have identified Rudd as under threat and we request that they be afforded the same protection as Bream and Tench.
- Happily, there is no intent to prohibit keep nets as these are all important for our sport and our tourism. We practise Catch & Release always, reminding our members to fish responsibly; abiding by minimum keep net sizes and limiting the amount of time fish are held out of the water. The Federation actively promotes fish welfare both internationally at world championships overseas as well as in our hosting of the championships in Ireland. This serves to showcase our waters and respect for and protection of our aquatic biodiversity worldwide.
- We welcome the efforts to control the transfer of fish between water bodies. The events earlier this year in relation to the Lough in Cork are a grim reminder of how things can go horribly wrong. We constantly remind our members of their role in the prevention of the spread of disease and we implement bio-security processes at all our events.

We have presented the views 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 requirement for full catch and release measures first suggested by the federation many years ago and we would welcome your acknowledgement for our role in this.

We welcome these bye laws as another step towards the full recognition of the equal importance of all our fish stocks. This benefits not only our sport and recreation but also supports the development of angling tourism.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Der Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

