

30th November 2016

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: PIKE MANAGEMENT IN BROWN TROUT FISHERIES

Please find the following submission from the Executive of the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland. We reference the NCCFI Coarse Angling Policy Document submitted to the board in January 2015 and to the NSAD in respect of Game Fishery Management.

The NCCFI aims to promote, develop and grow Coarse and Predator Angling Sport, both competitive and recreational, in Ireland. Tourist anglers play an important part in helping achieve this aim and we present to them at all levels a full catch & release initiative improving conditions in competition using measures to record fish length allowing them to be returned immediately to the water.

As hosts of world championship and international predator angling competitions along with those held by our member clubs we are committed to the promotion of angling tourism in Ireland. However, this promotion is damaged by the current fishery management process in place which has a direct impact on the number of visiting anglers from Great Britain.

Long regarded as vermin by game anglers, coarse fish and predators continue to be slaughtered in the name of fishery management. This activity continues despite the legal protection afforded these fish with the use of Section exemptions. A full and comprehensive policy on fish movement would provide a licensing mechanism to harvest this important angling resource and re-home the fish in reserves of active fisheries. Registered clubs and members would be only too willing to assist.

Other areas of recommendation for Inland Fisheries Ireland to show their commitment to this native fish would be to fund a leading project like our colleagues in Sweden, Sporfiskarna, supported where in the name of fish conservation pools were created in a protected habitat to allow a relaxed and safe environment for reproduction managed by the anglers. In addition, the use of Lip Grippers or Boga Grips to hold larger species such as Pike has become a source of concern for Irish predator anglers. Research suggests these items are damaging to the fish and we would welcome the introduction of a ban on the use of this item.

We look forward to our invitation for input to the review.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Der Casey'.

Der Casey
Chairman NCCFI, National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland