

Public consultation – Srahmore River system

Submission of Newport Angling Club in support of bye-law to permit angling for wild salmon and sea trout on Lough Furnace

Newport Angling Club have fished Lough Furnace for sixty-four years. The club holds four competitions annually, (and previously on Lough Feagh), and also has access to fishing on set days and times throughout the season by arrangement with the fishery manager. The club pays a bi-annual rent for these facilities.

Newport Angling Club has practiced and encouraged a catch-and-release policy for wild salmon and sea trout for at least twenty years. The club fully supports the Marine Institute's view that angling should continue on Lough Furnace.

Club members regularly fish into the evening, the presence of whom offer some protection by discouraging poaching and club members have regular communication with the fishery manager regarding this. A closed fishery is open to poaching.

Lough Furnace is an important angling tourism destination in the Newport area and provides vitally important revenue to the community. The loss of angling would have a detrimental effect on both the club and local community generally. The club has currently thirty-five local members and over the years we have lost fishing on the Owengarve river and Lough Feagh due to closures. The loss of Furnace would be catastrophic to the club.

Newport Angling club fully endorses the IFI introducing this bye-law as club angling activity almost exclusively concerns 'ranch' salmon and the club would continue to operate a strict catch-and-release policy regarding wild salmon and sea trout through the use of barbless hooks and good handling techniques.

For and on behalf of Newport Angling Club

David Nevin — Chairman

Martin Hughes — Vice-chairman

John Fitzgerald — Treasurer

Graham Wright — Secretary

Oliver Corcoran — Committee member