

Ballina & Cloghans Angling Club

From: Stephen Browne <stephenbrowne29@icloud.com>
Sent: 01 December 2016 13:40
To: POLICYREVIEW
Subject: Fwd: Pike management in wild brown trout fisheries.

I am club secretary of Ballina & Cloghans angling club based on Loughs Conn & Cullin.

In April 2015, senior management in I.F.I made the decision to cease the Pike control program. This programme is based on sound scientific evidence & is essential to the good management of our trout & salmon fisheries. This decision appears to have been made in conjunction with the pike angling lobby group. The decision appears to have been made without any consultation either with the stakeholders or with the board of I.F.I.

Loughs Conn & Cullin are branded trout fisheries for tourism purposes & the vast majority of anglers come to Loughs Conn & Cullin for trout & salmon angling. There are 15 recognised wild trout fisheries left in Ireland. There are many thousand pike lakes. Pike is a non-native predator of trout & salmon in our western lakes. Up to 200,000 salmon smolts from the Conn, Castlebar & Manulla catchments pass through these waters on their migratory route to sea. If pike are not removed many thousands of these young fish will fall prey to pike which will impact on salmon runs back to the Moy catchment in years to come.

I.F.I must do their utmost to protect these unique wild fisheries. I would ask that the removal of pike from our western lakes & wild trout fisheries be implemented once more with immediate affect. In particular we would like to see electro fishing being carried out to remove juvenile pike that do the most damage to young trout & salmon smolts as this method does not affect other species.

Stephen Browne.
Secretary Ballina & Cloghans
angling club.