



BALLINDIFF BAY ANGLING CLUB Recommendation for Trout and Pike Management 2017

Firstly the Committee and Members of Ballindiff Bay Angling Club wish to outline the objectives of our Club.

Objective

- A. To promote Trout angling in the area of Ballindiff Bay and Lough Corrib
- B. To acquire, develop and maintain facilities to be used for the purposes of Trout angling.
- C. To defend the preservation and conservation of Trout fishing grounds and spawning streams.
- D. To conduct angling competitions.
- E. To establish and maintain funds to be used for the development of the lake and club.

Objective A

We encourage our youth to take up the sport by taking part in Fly Tying and Trout Angling Competitions held locally. By having a good days sport and catching a few Trout it greatly encourages the young angler to return and try for more.

There exists a nonsensical and illogical by-law which puts a 1 fish limit on pike against a four fish limit on trout. This has been implemented as a result of excessive political pressure by the P.A.C resulting in more protection for pike than trout on the Corrib system which is designated a Salmonid fishery, one of only a few in the whole of Europe.

The lobby of only around 1200 Irish pike anglers have influenced this situation by political pressure on IFI as opposed to over 20,000 trout anglers.

Objective B

Our Club has worked hard with Local Groups to maintain a Clean and Easily accessible slip way and Moorings at Luimnagh Pier. No funds or voluntary Labour was used from any Pike Organisation or Club even though Pike Anglers use the slipway. It should be noted that Professional Boatmen who provide a Pike Angling Service also use the slipway yet are not a member of any Club or Organisation which has contributed to Lough Corrib. We are not aware of any financial contribution for conservation or development on the Corrib System by any Pike Club.

Objective C

Ballinduff Bay Angling Club have worked closely with local IFI Staff to promote and encourage all Anglers not just Club members but also visiting Anglers to contribute to Cairde loch Corribe. We have worked with Annaghdown Angling Club and Kilbeg Anglers on the Kilroe River to enhance the spawning redds and the general well being of the Kilroe River. We were the first club to get involved with the Clydagh Foundation in the establishment of the Cairde loch Corribe. Working with neighbouring Clubs and Local IFI staff ensures a wealth of knowledge and experience is used to its best advantage in maintaining and improving the spawning rivers of the Corrib System. It should be noted that the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel on the Owenriff system is of international importance and a protected species. Pike were illegally introduced to the upper lakes of the Owenriff an act of environmental sabotage. It should also be noted that other invasive species ie. roach have been introduced to Lough Corrib as a direct result of pike angling.

Objective D

The Club hosts three Trout Angling Competitions and one Pike Competition each year. The predominance of Pike in our waters is evident in the number of Pike being caught outnumbering the number of Trout in our Competitions. Pike are the top of the Food Chain and are the Apex predator with no natural predator other than man. If left uncontrolled the Pike Stocks will increase exponentially and the Trout Stocks diminish. One Female trout will have between 2000 and 3000 eggs per kg where as the Pike can have up to 30000. Trout must have good spawning habitat in our spawning streams. Pike spawn attaching their eggs to weeds in the lake. Greater number of eggs and a less demanding spawning habitat gives the Pike a greater advantage in ensuring greater number. With no other species predating on Pike it is up to the Local Clubs and IFI to keep management of Pike numbers under control.

The utopian concept that pike can co-exist with wild brown trout is a complete myth created by observations within a heavily managed UK style fisheries, which bears little relation to a pristine wild brown trout environment such as Lough Corrib.

Objective E

The Club will continue to raise funds to ensure the development of trout angling and further promote the sale of Cairde loch Coirribe tickets to raise funds to further enhance our streams and rivers.

Recommendations

The Club makes the following recommendations.

- That Lough Corrib and its rivers and Streams be designated a Salmonid System and be protected to maintain and improve its status as such.
- That all Rivers and Streams be closed to all forms of fishing from the 1st of October to the 15th of February the following year. This closed season is extended to all forms of fishing including Coarse Fishing.
- That the closed Season on the Lake be extended to include all coarse species.
- That the existing bag limit of 4 Trout be maintained and that the unbalanced by-laws for the protection of pike be re-addressed in Lough Corrib, its tributaries and all other designated salmonid fisheries.

- That the Local Councils along with National Parks and Wildlife put in place a comprehensive plan to control the invasion of invasive species, Weed and Zebra Mussel. There should also be a plan put in place for the safe guard of the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel.
- That all coarse species be removed from the Owenriff System and a policing of the waters be put in place to stop any further transfer of Pike or other Coarse Species to Brown Trout Lakes.
- It should be pointed out that there are only 11 fisheries in the whole of Ireland which are Designated Wild Brown Trout and Salmon Fisheries all other Fisheries are mixed Fisheries.

Conclusion:

The great western lakes including Lough Corrib are internationally recognised as one of the few pristine wild brown trout fisheries remaining in Europe. This prestigious status must be preserved and maintained at all cost.