

Connaught Angling Council Trout & Pike Submission

The Connaught Angling Council wish to open this debate with a quote from a book written in 1684 by Roderic O'Flaherty "**The Territory West or H _ iar Connaught**". On page 11 he states "**There was never a pike or bream as yet engendered in all this country nor in the adjacent parts of Mayo or Galway counteys**"

- This proves emphatically that pike are not native and indeed are an **invasive** species and should be treated as such.
- Pike are predators. They are no different to predators that roam the lands or fly: they are killers and opportunists from the moment they emerge with an insatiable appetite and their favourite food is trout and salmon. Pike should be eradicated from salmonid systems due to the vulnerability of the salmon species.
- A pike will produce 30,000 ova per kg while a trout will produce 1,200. Pike would become the dominant biomass in any system in a short space of time if left unchecked.
- Migrating salmonids are constantly ambushed by pike as they move to and from their spawning grounds. Pike are regarded as the barracudas of the Shannon and with good reason.
- The Connaught Angling Council fully supports the culling of pike to continue as heretofore. This is vital to our managed wild brown fisheries. These fisheries are renowned worldwide. The restrictions on the culling of pike by rod and line in salmonid waters **must** be lifted
- Our wild brown fisheries are **unique** and world famous. It's in our national interest that these waters are afforded full protection for the future.
- These waters have been and are the lifeblood of the trout angling communities that live along its shores. They are rural fishing communities and have been for generations etching a living from these waters. Visiting anglers make a huge contribution to the local economy and its sustainability.
- What do you think of when you hear duck fly, mayfly, olives? You hardly think of pike!

- Forty years ago the west of Ireland was famous all over the globe for salmon, seatrout and brown trout fishing. Today our salmon fishing is virtually nonexistent, our seatrout fishing has collapsed due to the explosion in sea lice from salmon cages on their inward and outward migration. They have turned into “ maybe fisheries”, you might catch a sea trout or salmon!. This leaves us with the brown trout still in good shape. Failure to control pike in these waters will lead to their demise and face the same fate as our sea trout and salmon.
- These waters are not playgrounds for trophy hunters. They are the vital cog in the wheel of local fishing communities and they will defend their key interests.
- There are ample waters available for pike fishing, in Ireland, without trying to turn our wild brown fisheries into an Irish version of “ River Monsters ”
- Right across the Northern Hemisphere, from Canada to Russia pike are recognized as a destroyer of rivers and lakes.
- Some interesting extracts from a 2012 survey on Lough Corrib by Dr.Martin O’ Grady and Karen Delanty PhD.
 - (a) The pike (*Esox Lucius L.*) in Ireland is regarded as an introduced species. (Went 1957).
 - (b) An uncontrolled pike stock in Corrib needs a maintenance ration of 116 tonnes of trout! Probably circa 50% of the trout stock.
- The Connaught Angling Council fully support the submission made by the Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association.