

Management of Pike in Designated Wild brown Trout Fisheries.

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Draft

Mon, Nov 14, 2016 at 1:14 PM

EMYLAKE, EMYVALE, Co. MONAGHAN.
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My submission is as a Lake shore resident and landowner of which some encompasses a part of the Lake shore.

As a youngster growing up i vividly recall the then Inland Fisheries Trust, arriving on our Farnyard.

This was in the 1950s, when the Fisheries Trust had successfully negotiated and took ownership of the Water Rights from the Leslie Family, Glaslough, Co. Monaghan. This was a 99 year Lease agreement.

The Lease was on the understanding that the Lake would become a Wild Trout game angling facility.

This was also by written consent of all Landowners, with Land on the perimeter of the Lake.

It was also envisaged and agreed that with help of the Fisheries Trust, the local angling Club and local voluntary anglers all existing Predatory fish stock, ie Pike, Perch and Eels would be removed.

Prior to this the Lake had always been recognized as a Course Fishing facility, most popular with Eel anglers at the time.

All this came about with pressure from Council officials from Monaghan to have a Game angling facility in the County.

The County had already and continues to have an abundant number of small Course fishing Lakes..

It was also recognized at the time that the Bragan Mountain stream, water feed to the Lake via Emyvale village would be a source/supply of Wild brown Trout.

Unfortunately at the time the Fisheries Trust did not take ownership of this vitality important facility/amenity.

Over the years that followed with a lot of hard work from both the fisheries Board and local volunteers and my late Father Pat Owen as water Bailiff the Lake became very popular and indeed was recognized as one of the best in Ireland for game fishing.

It is important to stress that the Government at the time were keen in developing Game angling as a tourist attraction and indeed this proved successful and became an important Cross Border link with Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland anglers have been keen supporters over the years and still continue to fish the Lake in large numbers.

In most recent years our decline in Wild Trout from the feed stream has severely impacted on the numbers in the lake. This is as a result of faulty repair work on one of the Weirs, the one up stream from the Village, which requires a properly designed Fish Path.

For the future, the Lake needs to be re-designated a Wild Brown Trout fishery as per the Lease Terms.

To further enhance/develop the fishing potential, serious consideration be given to ownership of the Mountain Stream.

Urgent repair work to be carried out on the Mountain Stream, ie all Weirs, Fish Paths and a control method of Water control into and out of the Lake.

For continued success and development of the Fishery, serious discussion and local management control of Predatory Fish removal under guidance and required protocols.

A part-time Water Bailiff be appointed and along with the Fishery protection Officers carry out spot checks on bag limits and fishing methods.

Our local angling club, Emy & District Anglers are lucky to have some very enthusiastic members and in particular Enda Fields has worked tirelessly in promoting Game Angling among the youth in the area.

In more recent years the club have appointed a number of members to help develop, encourage and help youth to learn the art of Fly fishing and fishing in general.

A brief of some of the activities;

2010 The IFI Inland Fisheries Ireland and club organized a something fishery open day for the youths on the Lake.

2013 The club hosted the World Youth Fly Fishing Championship on the Lake.

Annually adult and youth members litter clean/collection around the Lake and Mountain stream area.

2013 with help from the IFI some Trout spawning gravel installed in the stream on entrance to the Lake.

2014/2015 club members were involved in a Cross Border youth Fly fishing peace initiative and visited other Fisheries and hatcheries in Ireland.

Yearly, club members host casting and fly tying classes on the Lake and in the local Leisure Centre.

Yearly, adult club members take youth on outings to other lakes and Fisheries where they meet new friends and learn about Habitats on other Lakes etc.

In the late 1950s a Boat building class was undertaken in the Village Technical School where 7 mahogany Boats were built and subsequently launched on the Lake by the then President Erskine Childers.

The Lake also featured on the popular TV.show, Lessor Spotted Ulster by Joe Mahon.

The Blackwater Catchment Trust are currently attempting to access money along with the IFI. to further develop/enhance Fishing and Water conditions on the Mountain Stream.

We in Monaghan are very proud of this wonderful Lake and its facilities within our community and this has been further enhanced with the completion of a WALKWAY around the Lake, which has benefited our shore anglers and is now used by literally hundreds of daily pedestrians.

Finally this submission on behalf of Enda and myself may be a bit long winded, but i hope it helps the Committee/Board members realize how passionate we are in Monaghan on retaining this facility and we all must remember the hard work over the years by the Inland Fisheries Trust, Monaghan Council Officials the local angling club and especially all the voluntary work by various groups and Individuals.
LeoMcMahon.

PS. On behalf of Ends and Myself this submission is on a independent basis and not representative of any other party.

But would confirm that we both are members of the local angling club.

The Emy & District Angling Club/Committee may submit their own submission/views.

Thank you.

Leo McMahon
15/01/2016