

From: Orla E.M. Walsh <orli497@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: 30 November 2016 10:09
To: POLICYREVIEW
Subject: Public consultation – Pike Management in Brown Trout Fisheries
Attachments: =UTF-8bUHVibGljIGNvbnN1bHRhdGlvbiATIFBpa2UgTWFuYWdlbWVudCBp= =UTF-8bbiBCcm93biBUcm91dCAgRmlzaGVyaWVzQ29ubiZDdWxsaW4uZG9jeA===



26/11/2016

To whom it may concern,

The function of this submission is to inform Inland Fisheries Ireland of the wishes and concerns of trout anglers in the Conn/Cullin club and beyond.

Loughs Conn and Cullin are two of the premier lakes in this country and are in the group of designated wild brown trout fisheries. There are only a handful of these lakes left and we feel they have to be protected and managed to the highest standards. From an economic point of view they are massive to the area with tackle shops, local guides and hotels and guest houses benefiting hugely. Trout and salmon anglers make up 95% of all that come to fish the lakes. The practice of pike removal from these lakes has been carried out for over 100 years by fisheries staff and we feel this must continue as it is an essential part of the management of any trout lake.

Research carried out by IFI indicates that predation by pike can have a significant effect on trout and salmon populations particularly at times of smolt migration. Thousands of adult and juvenile trout and salmon migrate through Lough Cullin every year. During the term of the last policy all gill netting was totally suspended on Lough Cullin to the amazement of our members. We feel this decision has to be reversed during the next term. IFI are supposed to work on best scientific advice. Where does this advice stand with salmon stocks in serious decline and smolts having to migrate through pike infested waters? Lough Cullin is a shallow lake making it a perfect hunting ground for pike and in a very short space of time will decimate the stock of trout.

Lough Conn and Cullin Anglers Association have promoted these lakes for over 60 years by running competitions at local, national and international level for anglers from all over the world.

Down through the years our club worked closely with the North Western Regional Fisheries Board contributing more than €25,000 for spawning and rehabilitation works on the streams in the Conn/Cullin catchment. In 2010 we contributed €5000 to IFI to help fund the DNA survey on the lakes and Moy system. Members were excited about the prospect this survey leading to serious rehabilitation works being carried out on streams where needed, thus improving the quality of our trout and salmon fishing. Our members feel totally let down by the actions or non-actions of IFI. There are more than 1000 pike waters in this country and that is huge in comparison to the number of trout lakes. We are asking Inland Fisheries Ireland to increase their effort of predator control which is essential for the management of our wild brown trout fisheries.

Respectfully Yours,

Orla Walsh,
Secretary,
Lough Conn and Cullin Anglers Association.

I would appreciate it if you could acknowledge receipt of the submission, thank you.