

LOUGH OWEL TROUT PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Founded 1886. Affiliated to ITFFA and NARA.

President:
J. Doolan.

Chairman:
Andy Boyle.

Hon. Treasurer:
C. McKeon.

Hon. Secretary:
Stan McKeon.
Ashton House,
Irish town,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath.
044-9342792/ 086 8317728

1st December 2016

Re: Public Consultation re Pike management in Brown Trout waters.

To whom it may concern

Lough Owel is one of the most intensively managed Trout Fisheries in Ireland.

The Lake enjoys a mixture of Wild Brown trout and Stocked brown trout and due to this fact the Lake has become the most popular Brown Trout fishery in the Leinster area. Trout are stocked into the lake at all stages of growth, i.e. unfed fry, fingerling, one year old and 2 plus years old. The younger and leaved advanced stages are most vulnerable to Pike predation at all times of the season.

Back a number of years ago culling or removing of Pike to more suitable waters was curtailed by IFI. The Association feels that this curtailment was more of a cost saving exercise than any reason based on scientific evidence.

In recent years there has been a noted increase in Pike angling by pike angling clubs from all over Leinster. This one fact is an indication that there is an increase in Pike numbers in the Lake.

LOTPA calls on IFI to establish a study to ascertain the level of pike stocks in the Lake, and if the population of pike is excessive, the practice of trapping and removal of pike should recommence, as part of an established Pike management programme to conserve Brown Trout in our managed Brown Trout Fishery.

Yours Faithfully,

On behalf of all the Committee and Members of Lough Owel TPA.

Stanley McKeon

Stanley McKeon Hon.Secretary.LOTPA.