

From: Patrick O'Regan <XXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: 16 March 2016 11:31

To: Amanda Mooney

Subject: Lough Sheelin should be open to anglers between 13th October and 1st March

I believe a small group of people are pushing strongly to close this 4,000 acre lake to anglers for almost half the year, every year. As a pike angler I find it disappointing that such a small group of anglers should desire to shut down such a fantastic pike water which would help to strengthen Ireland's reputation as one of the best pike fishing destinations in the world - a reputation which has been badly damaged over the years. As a trout angler I find it difficult to believe that any group of people could make a strong enough argument to simply shut down a lake to anglers for such a long period of time. To suggest that pike angling in the winter would negatively effect trout angling in the summer is simply not a suggestion that stands up. It just isn't the case, just like it isn't the case on any other lake.

Lough Sheelin is a fantastic amenity and a great fishery. Trout, pike and coarse fish thrive in it's waters and have done for hundreds, if not thousands of years. A long, long time ago the decision was made to close it during the winter. We have come on a long way since then.

Lough Sheelin should be open, just like the countless similar lakes across our country are open. Lough Sheelin and it's local guesthouses, pubs, shops, restaurants and angling businesses should all be benefiting from it's fantastic fishing in all seasons.

There is simply no argument strong enough to shut this lake from the 13th October to the 1st of March. There are two outcomes, one which will benefit local businesses, the economy and national and international anglers and then another which will benefit nobody.

Patrick O'Regan

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