

POLICYREVIEW@fisheriesireland.ie

**Subject: Public consultation – Pike Management in Brown Trout Fisheries**

Dear Sir /Madam,

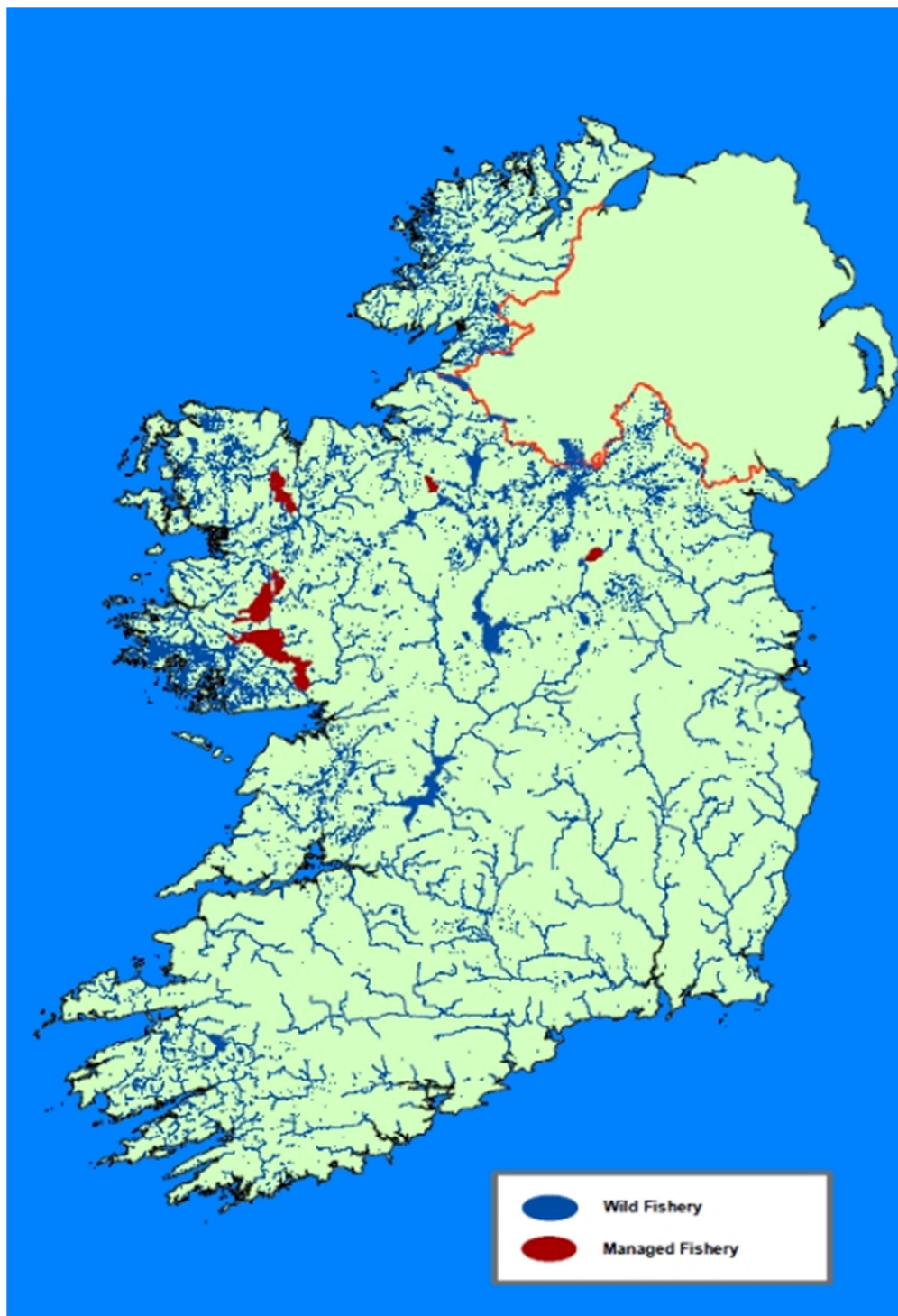
Please consider the following regarding Pike Management in Brown Trout Fisheries:

*“Esox lucius can cause the alteration of fish community species composition, by both predation and competition. As E. lucius is an opportunistic feeder, it is able to adapt to whatever prey fish are present. E. lucius may also hybridise with native fish species, e.g. E. masquinongy in the United States and Canada. (Fuller 2010; Harvey 2009).”*

Reference: <http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1764>

My recommendations:

- 1) That Inland Fisheries Ireland continue all pike control and the support of pike control measures, in all fisheries containing pike and brown trout. There are only 7 lakes in Ireland where pike controls have been implemented. This leaves the vast majority of inland waters for pike to exist without any such work taking place. This graphic from the Inland Fisheries Website puts it in clear perspective. We have a limited number of fine game fisheries in Ireland where pike control helps maintain trout and salmon stocks and we want to keep them.



Reference: <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Fisheries-Management/stock-management.html>

- 3) That Inland Fisheries Ireland continue issuing 'section 59' exemptions for the purpose of taking or killing pike, especially in Loughs Corrib, Mask, Carra, Cullin, Conn, Sheelin and Arrow.
- 4) That Inland Fisheries Ireland protect the world renowned reputation Loughs Corrib, Mask, Carra, Cullin, Conn, Sheelin and Arrow enjoy as game angling tourist destinations. It is a massive tourist draw for so many towns and villages around those lakes and so many people make their living from these visiting anglers, both domestic and international. Consider the

names of pubs, hotels, B&Bs, restaurants around Corrib and Mask in particular and you see "The Lake Hotel", "The Mayfly", "The Anglers Rest" and various island/wetly/dryfly names. It celebrates the lake and its wonderful angling tourism tradition.

5) That adequate funding is immediately made available to Inland Fisheries Ireland to remove pike which were illegally introduced to the important salmonoid nursery/spawning Owenriff System near Oughterard, approximately 10 years ago, and to improve the aquatic habitat for all salmonoid species indigenous to this system

7) That pike fishing be prevented and banned on Lough Corrib during the trout angling closed season

8) That the one fish limit for pike, currently in place on waters presently managed as wild brown trout fisheries, be removed and a 4 fish limit be put in place in its stead.

Finally, I ask you to note the following comment which I saw on IRISH Pike Society Facebook page ( 30/11/16 )

" I'm keeping every trout I get for dead bait or food for my dog or I will just kill them them and fuck them back in for the pike :) "

If this quote is representative of even a fraction of the IPS mindset then I can only conclude that they may be a dangerous and irresponsible group.

Such comments worry me greatly, especially considering the recent environmental vandalism of introduction of coarse fish (pike) to closed game angling systems, that has occurred in certain parts of the west of Ireland in recent years. It has left the Owenriff system devoid of the indigenous "brownies" and one can only presume that the juvenile salmonoids which would come downstream and into the Corrib or go to sea, once mature, are also being devoured. And all in a very short space of time.

Yours,

Brian MacFheargusa