

# CHRIS HUXLEY

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30 November 2016

Policy Review  
Inland Fisheries Ireland  
Sunnyside House  
Macroom  
Co. Cork

Dear Sir,

Re:Public Consultation – National Policy Review – Management of Pike in Designated Wild Brown Trout Fisheries

With respect to your consultation process regarding the management of pike in wild brown trout fisheries, I have the following comments to make about Lough Carra specifically:

- Lough Carra is a Natura 2000 protected area and an NHA and its ecology should, therefore, be maintained in as intact a condition as possible, bearing in mind that this should not preclude the continued use of the lough for various recreational purposes.
- The scientific evidence now available indicates that the pike population of the lough has existed since before any intervention by humans, i.e. pike is a native species in this context and was **not** introduced by people. Therefore, any management intervention designed to reduce or eliminate the pike population is contrary to the conservation objectives of the site's protective designation.
- The aquatic ecology of the lough has been modified substantially as a result of human activities, especially over the last twenty or thirty years, and any further action in this direction should be avoided if possible.

- Roach have been present in the lough for at least several years and the presence of a healthy pike population **might** assist in maintaining some control over the now established population of this alien species.

In view of these points, it is my view that all management activities designed to reduce or control the pike population should cease. However, I would also point out that management of the lough should be undertaken within the “active, adaptive management” concept, i.e. when any management intervention is modified, intensive monitoring should be undertaken to determine the effect so that management may be further modified to take into account the results.

One final point that I believe needs to be clarified is the relationship between IFI and NPWS with respect to decisions about management of the lough. In principle, because the lough is designated as a Natura 2000 site, no management should be undertaken that might be contrary to the conservation objectives unless NPWS has agreed.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Huxley.