

Damion Wolverson

From: damionwolverson < >  
Sent: 01 December 2016 14:49  
To: POLICYREVIEW  
Subject: Public consultation - pike management in brown trout fisheries

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to provide my views in relation to the revision of the pike management policy. First off I'd like to offer that these fish are native species as proven by Debbi Pedreschi in her paper and acknowledged by your own Dr.Gallagher back in 2013 and as a result the invasive species argument offered to justify the slaughter of these animals is completely invalid. Pike are an integral part of a balanced eco system and the removal of such is in fact detrimental to a fisheries rather than beneficial as was the old school thinking viewing these fine fish as indiscriminate eating machines. A number of factors have been the root or perceived decline in western Lough's including water quality issues the catch and kill mantra of a lot of game anglers and the clubs in Ireland but without doubt the biggest issue is the lowly cyprinid family member the roach. A water body of any size can only sustain a certain biomass as I'm sure your well aware so with simple calculation it's evident that the explosion of roach numbers on the western Lough's would have a negative effect even perhaps detrimental to the game fishing in these fisheries. In stages of their life cycle the game species competes, is eaten and eats these roach. And what is the biggest predator of these roach shoals on the western lakes.....esox Lucius. For this reason the indiscriminate slaughter of these fish seems completely insane. Its in fact damaging to the fishery, completely uneconomical as proven by your own figures and economically damaging to many rural communities who in fact could benefit hugely in the tourist trade if these fisheries were promoted for their multi species values especially in winter months when pike fishing comes into its own. Why we do not try and develop this in these times of austerity is beyond me. Another failing is the issuing of section 59's to game clubs this does nothing to help the growing void between organisations such as NARA and IFPAC and in general game anglers and pike/coarse anglers. Section 59 seems to give these clubs the view they can break the bye laws as they seem fit and broadcast this publicly without the risk of prosecution. These were supposed to have been stopped being issued yet these clubs continue to slaughter fish and

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broadcast it on  
social media outlets without fear of prosecution and blatant disregard .A greater  
representation of  
independent pike and coarse anglers is required in any consultation meetings moving  
forward  
as the current view is the current hierarchy within your own organisation is too closely  
affiliated  
to game angling clubs and hence is biased towards their ways and views.You must agree  
public  
views of your organisation is at an all time low and in your own interest you would wish to  
improve this.  
This can be achieved by listening to the public you can hear the voice of the people when  
we say  
gill netting has to stop!! understand it's hard to please all the people all of the time but you  
have  
to recognise the consensus of the majority and to fail to this will only escalate this issue  
further  
damaging your own organisation more and more.  
A plethora of issues need to be addressed and reconciled(including the introduction of a  
national  
rod licence which I strongly support) which I could never cover in this single email but I  
hope  
for the future of fishing in this country,conserving our natural resources which these  
Lough's all  
our concerned parties can work together and truly hear the views of the people for a great  
future  
in our sport.  
Yours Sincerely  
Damion Wolverson