



Submission Document
from
Headford & Corrib Angling Club
on
Lough Corrib Brown Trout & Pike Policy

Club Objectives:

- 1/ **P**rotect the environment and our waters.
- 2/ **D**evelop the natural habitat and spawning grounds
- 3/ **P**romote angling in the area for the enjoyment of all.

Summary:

Headford & Corrib Anglers (HACA) directly represent anglers from the greater Headford area plus a great many non-local anglers. The club also indirectly represents all angling stakeholders in the local area be they hotels, guesthouses, tackle shops, ghillies, etc. and our policy position is clear and unambiguous:

For the past 120 years (approx.) Lough Corrib has been designated and managed as a trout fishery, we strongly recommend that Lough Corrib continues to be designated as a salmonid water and maintained accordingly.

Socio-economic Environment:

- All angling clubs around Lough Corrib are trout angling clubs, there are no pike clubs in west Galway and possibly none in the county.
- Lough Corrib is renowned as a world-famous salmonids lake, with many trout angling tourist visiting the area on a regular basis.
- The local catchment is resourced and is dependent upon these trout angling tourists.
- The indigenous local communities who fish the lake on a recreational basis would be completely disenfranchised should the lake structure change.

Requirements:

We request that the following be considered and implemented:

- Continue pike population management in accordance with best practices
- Strategic gill-netting of pike should be enhanced and expanded.
- All pike should be removed from the Owenriff river to facilitate trout and salmon spawning which allows the important pearl mussel the ability to reproduce in its natural environment.
- There are many pike fisheries in Ireland these should be more than adequate to facilitate the pike angling community.
- We encourage and support the removal of rod and line catch limits on pike in Lough Corrib.
- Lough Corrib should be designated in law as a salmonid fishery

Impact of Lough Corrib becoming a Pike fishery:

Utter devastation for our heritage, our people and our economic livelihood.

Do NOT let this happen!