

Paul Donnellan

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Ireland

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Policy Review

Public Consultation

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Sunnyside House

Macroom

Co Cork

15th November 2016

Dear Sirs,

Re: Public Consultation – Pike Management in Brown Trout Fishery.

I am writing the following submission with the aim of preservation and protection of Lough Corrib and its tributary systems as the finest Brown Trout and Salmonoid Fishery in the world.

I am a resident in Oughterard, Co Galway and a keen fisherman with a long family history stemming back over 150 years on the Corrib and its tributary systems, therefore having a wealth of knowledge in the Lough Corrib system.

In my opinion the Pike management policy needs to have a two pronged approach as follows:-

1. Removal of illegally stocked Pike in the Lough Corrib Tributary systems. My reason for this is that the brown trout have been decimated in these areas and will be further decimated in the future if urgent action is not taken.
2. The current management system of the Pike in Lough Corrib has been successful at maintaining the Corrib as the finest Brown Trout fishery in the world. There is many other lakes in Ireland for example Ross Lake which was a solely Brown Trout lake and is now

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Pike only. It is the responsibility of The Board of Inland Fisheries Ireland to protect and preserve such a valuable asset like "Lough Corrib". Pike are a naturally aggressive species

which trout simply cannot compete against. It seems to me that the Corrib needs to be separately managed from any other fishery in Ireland and maintained for its current unique successful status worldwide.

Although the current gill netting system has been successful since 1898 at keeping Pike numbers at a manageable level, I would not be averse to looking at other ways for them to be managed. However, if there is no other successful alternative to gill netting then this MUST BE maintained in order to protect such a valuable asset as the Corrib.

I feel that the current bag limit of 1 Pike per day is not sufficient and could be raised to 4 per day as a trial in order to see if there is actually the demand to keep the Pike. It is from experience and talking to International and local Pike anglers that this would be a positive measure for trial purposes. They feel that they would keep more of their catch therefore reducing Pike stocks.

Regards

Paul Donnellan