

30 November 2016

Re: - Submission of Public Consultation Process- Management of Pike in Designated Wild Brown Trout Fisheries

In response to the public consultation process by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) on the management of pike in designated wild brown trout waters I wish to make the following submission.

I am an avid fisherman from County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. I regularly fish for both trout and pike. Lough Sheelin is a lake I spend a lot of time on and it's trout fishing potential is second to none. I regularly travel across the border to fish there. The quality and numbers of trout there is a credit to all involved in maintaining it as a wild trout fishery.

However I am very concerned about the public consultation that is taking place at present. The management of pike in a trout fishery is essential, it has been proven scientifically that in order for quality trout fishing to flourish, pike numbers must be controlled. I have seen this first hand on Lough Erne where a friend gave me two jack pike for the table that had been caught by himself and a fellow angler. These were feeding exclusively on young wild brown trout as can be seen in attached photos. I would have to worry the damage pike would inflict on a relatively small wild trout fishery like lough Sheelin if their numbers where not controlled. I for one will not be traveling to Lough Sheelin in the future if pike numbers here are not controlled. I will not be spending my money in B&Bs, hotels, shops or contributing to this areas economy who I believe relies on this trout fishery to prosper. This not only applies to me but the many anglers form Northern Ireland who travel to county Cavan to fish on this trout fishery. It would be a crying shame that this trout fishery that is 1 of only 14 in the whole of Europe, would be lost for good if pike control was not maintained. Pike fishing is a sport and hobby that is enjoyable and popular with nearly all lakes on the island of Ireland holding them. I have fished for pike for many years and I do not have to travel for quality pike fishing. The same cannot be said for trout fishing as the indigenous wild brown trout is under severe pressure on the island of Ireland due to pollution, lack of natural spawning grounds and also predators such as pike. I would have to ask Inland Fisheries why this is even being considered and plead that the management of pike in this particular lake is maintained.

Regards,
Paul Lunney





