

Management of Pike in Designated Brown Trout Fisheries Review Group

23 February 2016, Citywest

Attending: Sean Long, Myles Kelly, Declan Cooke, Colm Fitzgerald, Paul O'Reilly

Apologies: Josie Mahon, Sam Sheppard

1. Minutes of last meeting
2. Stakeholder meetings
3. Actions to be completed from last meeting
4. Broadening membership of the review group
5. AOB

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were adopted.

Stakeholder meetings

In January presentations were made to the review group by IFPAC and IPS, NCFFI, IAA, NARA, ITFFA, Connaught Angling Council and TAFI. Supporting material submitted by some of the reps. at these meetings was subsequently published online.

Each group was advised that the Review Group would be seeking 2 new members to represent the view of trout and pike anglers. The Connaught Angling Council advised that they would not be willing to take part in the process.

Actions from last meeting

- SL is following up on progress on bye-laws recommended by current Policy
- CF advises that progress on model is ongoing. Preliminary results of dietary study should be available soon.
- DC and JM circulated a draft paper on their set of questions. Now on Sharepoint.

Membership

It was agreed to invite the following new members to join the Review Group

- Ian Forde
- Joe Keena
- Catherine Kerins (IFI Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer)

Discussion

It was suggested that the current procedures do not comply with the existing policy. This was put down to Marine Survey Office constraints on carrying water barrel or other container onboard the

stock operation boats. It was not clear how it came about that the procedure could override the policy objectives.

Assuming a solution would be found to this problem it was agreed to re-examine the lists of donor water based on WFD survey results and feedback from pike angling clubs.

The native/non-native issue was again discussed. Novel eDNA methodologies were suggested as a means to establish when pike became established in various catchments based on core samples.

It was suggested that where IFI can definitely say that pike are a recent introduction, there could be concentrated stock management - invasive species removal. This could require focus to shift from the designated wild brown trout fisheries, to the waters where pike introductions are proven to pose a greater risk. Sets of water should be identified for ongoing management/cessation.

Following contact with Scottish Heritage it emerged that they no longer manage pike on Lough Leven and they have stopped stocking out trout. The feedback is that the trout fishing has improved since these measures were abandoned.

The review group will be looking for input from fisheries biologists and managers who can provide further insight into the current policy and help to shape the review process and the following short list (not definitive) was drawn up:

Name	Organisation
Dr. Willie Roche	IFI / Irish Specimen Fish Committee
Dr. Robert Rossell	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (NI)
Dr. Brian Hayden	Canadian Rivers Institute
Debbi Pedreschi	IMI
Dr. Karen Delanty	IFI R&D Dept.
Dr. Paddy Gargan	IFI R&D Dept.
Dr. Martin O'Grady	IFI R & D Dept. (Retired)
John Curtis	ESRI
Paul McLoone	IFI R&D Dept.
Dr. Joe Caffrey	IFI R & D Dept. (Retired)
Ken Whelan	Private Consultant

AOB

- A submission from the Irish Trout Fly Fishing Association made in February was not accepted as the deadline had been exceeded. ITFFA were no in a position to make a submission prior to this as they did not have a mandate at that time.

Actions

The following actions were assigned:

- SL to see if any part of stock management operations might fall under the Animal Health and Welfare Act
- SL to set the headings of the draft Review paper