

Terms of reference (ToR) for the review of Pike Management in Designated Wild Brown Trout Fisheries

Background

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a national authority established under the Inland Fisheries Act 2010. Under Section 7.1 (b) & (c) of this act IFI is tasked with advising the Minister on policy and national strategies relating to inland fisheries including sea angling.

In 2014 IFI developed policies on the management of Wild Brown Trout, Pike and Bass. These policies were scheduled to be reviewed in 2017, however recognising the concerns of some stakeholders in relation to elements of the pike and wild brown trout policies, the Board of IFI have decided to bring forward the review period for these policies and commence the process in 2016. They are going to focus initially on the element of greatest concern, which is the management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries. Given the interrelationship between pike and wild brown trout and the experiences from the initial policy development groups, it was decided that this element of the review process should be conducted first and with a joint working group.

Composition of Review Group

The review group for the management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries is comprised of a range of representatives from all disciplines within IFI. The IFI representatives on the group are;

Mr Sean Long –Director, South Western River Basin District (Chairman)

Dr Sam Sheppard – Population Modeler, IFI Research & Development

Mr Declan Cooke – Inspector, Western River Basin District

Ms Josie Mahon – Inspector, Eastern River Basin District

Mr Paul O' Reilly – Economic Research & Angling Advisor, Business Development Division

Mr Myles Kelly – Secretariat to Group, IFI

Terms of Reference

In reviewing the management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries the group shall have regard to the following:

- (a) Best practice in the management of both species internationally;
- (b) Obligations on IFI under international and European legislative measures (e.g. Convention on Biodiversity, Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, Fish Health Directive);
- (c) Obligations on IFI under national legislation including, but not limited to the Health & Safety Act 2015, Animal Health & Welfare Act 2013, Maritime Safety Act 2005;
- (d) Government policies and the legislative, budgetary and financial circumstances of IFI;
- (e) Relevant generally accepted scientific studies on the inter relationship of the two species – pike and trout;
- (f) The distribution of the angling resource and whether specific geographic/demographic options are necessary in distinct regional areas.
- (g) The concerns of the wider angling sector and service providers relying on angling;
- (h) Corporate and other governance obligations relevant to the sector;

The revised management practices will follow the best precautionary principles while being cognisant of enhancing and conserving the environment for all species. The group is requested to confine its work to a review of the management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries; the implementation of any revised management practices will be considered by IFI at a later stage.

IFI will provide a secretariat to the group. All documents, minutes, presentations, submissions relating to the work of the group will be made publicly available on the IFI website. The Chairman of the review group will be able to request any external experts or interested party to advise, present or join the group, as he deems appropriate, subject to budgetary and financial constraints.