

3rd June 2015

Re: Public Consultation on Eel Reports and Plans for the next three years

Dear ,

The European eel stocks are in crisis and the number of juveniles recruiting to freshwater remains critically low although there has been some limited recovery in the last few years. This is against a backdrop of declining juvenile eel runs over many years. Because the eel population is a pan European stock, co-ordinated action across the EU is required by all countries to assist in the stock recovery. In addition, as the species is long lived recovery is anticipated to be slow (i.e. to be accomplished only over a number of eel generations). For this reason the EU Commission introduced a Regulation which required all Member States to prepare Eel Management Plans for the recovery of stocks, these plans were to be in place by 31 December 2008.

The second review of these plans is currently taking place and as a consequence the relevant documents relating to a review of Ireland's EMP are as follows:

- Report on the Implementation of Eel Management Plans for Ireland, including the transboundary NWIRBD 2015
- Report from the independent Standing Scientific Committee on Eel 2015
- Report on IFI's National Eel Monitoring Programme 2012-2014

These reports should be read in conjunction with the original report:

- National Report for Ireland on Eel Stock Recovery Plan
- Including River Basin District Eel Management Plans

All the above documents are available for download from the Inland Fisheries Ireland website <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Fisheries-Management/eel-management-plan.html>. The specific document links are as follows:

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/fisheries-management-1/515-implementation-of-irelands-eel-management-plans-including-the-transboundary-ienorw-eel-management-plan>

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/fisheries-management-1/513-ssce-report-2014-final-report-7-5-2015>

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/fisheries-management-1/514-eel-monitoring-programme-2012-2014>

These reports should be read in conjunction with the original report:

- National Report for Ireland on Eel Stock Recovery Plan
- Including River Basin District Eel Management Plans

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/fisheries-management-1/59-eel-management-plan-1>

These reports include the latest research and management information on eels in Ireland compiled over the last three and six years and update the status of the stocks. The management policy for eels in Ireland over the next three years will be determined from these reports and any relevant submissions received from interested parties.

Any party wishing to make a comment should send their submission to the following address:

IFI email address: eelsubmission2015@fisheriesireland.ie

OR

“Eel Submission” Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24. The consultation period opened on Monday 18th May 2015 and was advertised in the National press, the closing date for receipt of submissions to be considered as part of the review of eel plans for Ireland is 5.00pm on **Wednesday 17th June 2015**.

As part of this process there will be a public consultation meeting which will be held as follows:

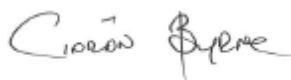
Date: Wednesday June 10th

Venue: Athlone Springs Hotel, Monksland, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

Time: 5.00pm

All relevant stakeholders are invited to attend this meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ciaran Byrne

Chief Executive Officer

Please Note:

Anyone looking to receive a copy of the plans on a CD ROM should contact the following address:

“Eel Submissions”
Inland Fisheries Ireland
3044 Lake Drive
Citywest Business Campus
Dublin 24

Or by email to:

eelsubmission2015@fisheriesireland.ie

Stating that they require the plans as a CD rom (free) or as a printed document – a charge of €30 applies for the printed documents (there are three documents; one of which is nearly 200 pages and another 100 pages).