

Management of Pike in Designated Brown Trout Fisheries Review Group

19 December 2016, Citywest

Attending: Sean Long, Myles Kelly, Josie Mahon, Sam Sheppard, Declan Cooke, Colin Fitzgerald

Apologies: Paul O'Reilly

The Review Group was advised that in addition to the submissions which were received by email a large number were also sent by post. There will be scanned and made available in soft copy at the SharePoint team space.

Those submissions which arrived after the closing date have been accepted.

All submissions will be published online in January.

Those federations and associations which made submissions have been invited to meet with the Review Group. At this time only 2 have confirmed their attendance.

Discussion

The following items were discussed:

- Widening the stakeholder groups that we will meet with to include clubs and service providers
 - Invite the original report authors to present to the Review Group
 - Including 1 representative on behalf of the trout groups and 1 on behalf of the pike groups to join the Review Group
- Current and historic data. The Review Group was informed that the data used to form the current policy is not conclusive. Ongoing analysis and evaluation of reports the current policy is based on suggests the current conclusions and recommendations are not always consistent with the findings.
- Weighting of stakeholder submissions – how will they be used in the formulation of the new policy
 - Distil what is in the submissions
 - Any claims to be measured or assessed against current scientific knowledge
 - The policy will be based on our underlying ethos. The question was asked will this bias the outcome? Following discussion it was accepted that basing our findings and proposals on scientific evidence would avoid bias.
 - Is the group representative of all IFI? Recommended to co-opt a Fisheries Environmental Officer
- Certain fundamental questions were considered as having a formative effect on the new policy
 - Are pike native? What about locally- non-native?

- In the case of known historic introductions at what point should they be considered naturalised
- In the case of known modern/contemporary introductions what invasive species protocols are in place
- Can eDNA offer any insights?
- What Water Framework Directive implications are there?
- What is purpose of managing pike – is it allow a sufficient stock of trout for season long trout fishing. What is the value of season long trout fishing versus all year fishing pike and trout?
- What scientific evidence supports the current policy

Actions

The following actions were assigned:

- Establish status of current policy and progress of recommended bye laws. SL
- Invite a representative of the Environmental Officers to join the Review Group. SL
- Ongoing: DC and JM working on their set of questions
- Ongoing: SS and CF have meeting arranged with Queens University to further the development of an appropriate model and a repository of current research is being put together.