

Management of Pike in Designated Brown Trout Fisheries Review Group

Minutes -13th September 2017 IFI Citywest.

Attending:

IFI: Sean Long, Myles Kelly, Declan Cooke, Sam Sheppard, Colm Fitzgerald, Paul O'Reilly, Catherine Kerins, Paul Byrne, Ian Forde (for David Hamill), John Connolly, Eamon Ross (for Joe Keena)

1. Review progress to date
2. Presentation Dr Philip McGinnity
3. Presentation Dr Roderick O'Sullivan
4. Conclude

Review of progress to date

Currently at Phase 4; assessment and consideration; of the 8 phases outlined below. Following today's presentation we will move to producing an interim report as requested by CEO of IFI. This preliminary report is to contain current inputs while waiting for ongoing research to publish results.

1. Public Consultation
2. Consult representative groups
3. Consult scientific community
4. Assessment of Data and Submissions
5. Prepare and publish interim report
6. Receipt and review of Scientific studies
7. Policy drafting and review
8. Conclusion and policy recommendations

In the interim the management of pike in designated brown trout fisheries will continue as per implementation of the current policy.

Before the presentations commenced Eamon Ross read a statement on behalf of NARA. NARA believes that the current process is flawed and biased. NARA does not believe that the policy can be agreed. NARA believes that there are only 7 wild brown trout fisheries left in the country. NARA believes that IFI is giving into pressure from pro-pike groups who are exerting pressure through online campaigns on social media. NARA further believes that the ESRI studies are biased and have been designed and directed by IFI. Eamon Ross also stated that he believed IFI staff are biased.

Eamon Ross specifically referenced the work carried out by ESRI on angler choice studies and said the Paul O'Reilly was biased against trout/trout anglers and expressed surprise that anyone from IFI with a bias should be on this review group. There followed a short discussion and rebuttals. Paul O'Reilly strongly objected to Mr. Ross' accusation of bias.

Dr Philip McGinnity

Dr. Philip McGinnity, an expert in the areas of population genetics and evolution biology of salmonids, reviewed the Pedreschi papers and as requested by the committee offered his opinion and interpretation of results.

Dr Roderick O'Sullivan

Dr. O'Sullivan stated at the outset that he is a retired dentist with a Masters in Environmental Pollution. Dr O'Sullivan gave a presentation in 3 parts; Contribution of pike to the western world; Review of 2 papers (PhD and Angler Survey); Conclusion and current status.

The discussion following Dr. O'Sullivan's presentation was interrupted by John Connolly, Chairman, TAFI, reading from a list of obscenities and profanities he copied from social media. He was asked by the Chair not to read the comments, however he continued. The Chairman advised him that his behaviour was out of order. Sam Shephard excused himself from the meeting at this point, but before leaving there was a short discussion on the merits of the preceding presentation where Eamon Ross accused Sam of being biased in his opinions.

Some further discussion ensued and the issue of bias was revisited by Eamon Ross and John Connolly.

At this point Sean Long called the proceedings to a close as the meeting had overrun the finish time; Mr. John Connolly requested to read a prepared statement on behalf of TAFI and NARA. He stated that in terms of the outcome of the review TAFI want 'the status quo as a very minimum'- that is, the management of the seven lakes; they would take 'whatever measures were necessary' to protect the lakes and 'did not rule out acts of extremism'. They are prepared to pursue this objective vigorously and will not give in. Mr Connolly stated that 'we (TAFI and NARA members) would react with "extremism" to any outcome unfavourable to them'.

Myles Kelly interrupted the reading of the statement and advised that he was withdrawing from the meeting giving the open threat extremism to those present and IFI staff in general.

Sean Long thanked Dr. O'Sullivan for his presentation and the meeting ended.

Actions

The following actions were assigned:

- S. Long to circulate Interim Report once completed.
- All to review and comment on report.

Next meeting

Group to reconvene on receipt of output from the Scientific Studies

Date of the next meeting will be advised.