



Ballindiff Bay Angling Club

LUIMNACH, CORRANDULLA, CO. GALWAY.

See us on Facebook: Ballindiff Bay Angling Club

ifdpublicconsultations@decc.gov.ie

20.08.2021

To whom it may concern,

Our club, Ballindiff Bay Angling Club wish to lodge our strongest objection to the current draft of this ridiculous and insulting piece of legislation.

The proposal to designate the Great Western Lakes as salmonid was included in the programme for government. There is no mention in that proposal of some sort of ridiculous watering down of the designation i.e., "primarily".

Please be clear, our lake, Lough Corrib, has been managed as a salmonid lake since 1850. It is recognised as an SAC and as such under the Natur 2000, supporting documentation to the Habitats Directive, the salmon found there in effectively recognizes the SAC as being salmonid. There is no such thing as a "primarily salmonid SAC", it doesn't exist in law. European law doesn't recognize such a classification and neither does Irish law.

Lough Corrib will be managed as a solely salmonid fishery whether the DOELC likes it or not. Bye laws 806 and 809 which protect cyprinid species and northern pike respectively, are both flawed and will fail when challenged in court. Whether that is in the District court or in the High Court, the result will be the same, these idiotic bye laws will become dead letters. We do not accept that the McCloone Report has any relevance on Corrib neither do the I.F.I.

The constant and persistent attempts within the DOECC to dismantle our fishery is nothing short of a disgrace. There is not logic in the destruction of a fishery that raises millions of revenue for the government and retains employment in Rural Ireland. Pike and coarse angling do not come even close to the revenue stream erected by trout and salmon angling.

We totally object to the wording of this document which attempts to by pass the opinion of the I.F.I. in dealing with stock management on our system. The DOECC is totally disconnected with the reality of angling on Corrib and has been for years.

Their distrust of trout anglers manifested itself in the insistence of a divisive prerequisite of an MOU to distribute funds that simply weren't available to angling. Shady meetings in private homes suffered any opportunity for co-operation. We also strenuously object to the DOECC having anything to do with trout as one of their offices recently stated that all salmonids would be gone in 25/30 years. This attitude speaks volumes of the position of the DOECC in relation to salmonids. The DOECC is not an effective vessel to be given the responsibility of managing anything, that is the responsibility of the I.F.I. who understand the systems and manage them appropriately. The DOECC should only concern themselves with the procurement of relevant and co-operative legislation. With the greatest respect to the minister, he knows absolutely nothing about Lough Corrib, dragging him

in the rubber stamp peer decisions by the DOECC is only going to lead to him being made a mockery of and potentially losing his seat.

Lough Corrib does not need any more interference from the DOECC, the more this meddlesome attribute continues, the more hardened our positions will become.

None of our members believe that this Public Consultation Process has any credence. It is a mockery of what the process should be about. The DOECC has an extremely poor record on Public Consultation and inclusion. Only recently an attempt was made by the DOECC to exclude trout and salmon angling representatives from the recently established ACCI. Can we really expect the DOECC to carefully consider our submission? Letters to Santa Claus would probably achieve more.

We intend to seek a formal external review of this process should we feel that trout and salmon anglers have been ignored despite their submissions.

Please note that should this legislation be passed; it will be challenged legally and politically. Please also note that you are making a member that will not go easily back to its lair.

Regards,

Michael McGrath

Secretary Ballindiff Bay Angling Club

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