

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 August 2021 11:12
To: IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Designated Salmonid Waters Bye Law

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Dear Sirs,

The current programme for government committed to designate the Great Western Lakes in Ireland to preserve and protect salmonids. This reflects ecological thinking by the government and an acknowledgment that Ireland is facing a biodiversity crisis. The great Western Lakes of Ireland are the last remaining brown trout fisheries left in Europe and I believe their designations as salmonid fisheries is critical to save them for future generations.

I welcome all efforts to protect these truly unique and special lakes

However, I am concerned that is unclear from the proposed bye-law. It lacks clarity on conservation measures to be undertaken on these designated lakes. It also is unclear that although being designated as Salmonid Fisheries that salmonids will take precedence in terms of conservation and protection measures. These lakes have failed to be protected to date with invasive species such as roach, Bream and dace now widespread and destructive to the salmonid species survival and ecosystems.

Under this proposed Bye Law, pike and coarse fish are being given precedence. The proposed bye law removes inland fisheries Ireland's ability to manage any future management plan in a coherent and scientific way as the minister can change or alter or stop any aspect of fisheries management into the future.

The great Western lakes are under increasing and constant pressure as a result of human activities and the continued rewarding of intensive farming practices in these unique and finely balanced lake and river ecosystems. We have already seen a catastrophic demise in the biodiversity of Lough Carra a recognized SAC under European legislation. Our government and its politicians need to act now to save these natural wonders.

The proposed Bye Law lacks clarity, disempowers IFI and fails to state any conservation objectives for the salmonid species. An order of priority needs to be in place in terms of species with our native and pressured salmonid species taking complete primacy.

Regards

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