

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday 9 December 2022 12:43
To: IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Draft Netting - Cork Harbour

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Dear Sir/Madam,

1. I am sending you this email to raise a number of concerns I have about the wasting of our very precious natural resources, the wild Atlantic salmon and Sea trout. Allowing Draft netting for these ever decreasing fish populations is beyond understanding. For many years the comparison between the value of a rod caught salmon and a net caught salmon to the Irish economy has been used. In simple terms, a rod caught salmon is often estimated as being worth over a **thousand euros** to the angling and tourism sector. The same salmon might be worth **one hundred euros** as a food source. Moreover, the sale of the wild Atlantic salmon should not be permitted when this is more than provided for through the controversial fish farming industry. Salmon as a food source can be obtained now in Ireland 52 weeks of the year. A draft net industry based on just several weeks of netting must be seen as a terrible use of a very small resource.

2. The drought of 2022 meant that many rivers around Ireland did not see runs of salmon and sea trout. In this situation, these migratory fish often wait in the harbours and estuaries for a spate (heavy rain) so that they can run upstream. As a result of prolonged waiting in harbours and estuaries the salmon are more vulnerable to being caught in the draft nets. Looking more closely at Cork harbour and the river Lee system, there are several smaller rivers flowing into Cork harbour also. The Owenacurra river that flows through Midleton and into the east side of Cork harbour has been closed for several years to angling. The salmon and sea trout that were meant to be protected could be caught by the draft nets still operating within Cork harbour. It is known that Salmon and sea trout often explore harbours before committing to their chosen river. Cork harbour must be seen as a mixed stock fishery because of the influence of several salmonid rivers flowing into its huge shoreline. Closing the Owenacurra to angling is a token gesture when the very fish we are trying to protect are being caught in draft nets.

3. The wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout are often referred to as indicator species. Their decline can be seen as the broader decline of the entire natural environment. I have purchased a salmon angling rod licence for almost forty years. I have been practicing catch and release since 1990. I have had glimpses of the wonderful potential Ireland has as an angling tourism destination. We must work together and fight for this. The time for action is now. The superficial efforts that have been made in the past will be seen by future generations as a poor reflection on us.

For your information and consideration, please.

Best regards,
[REDACTED]