

Catriona Brady

From: Oughterard Anglers Conservation Section <conservation@oughterardanglers.com>
Sent: 25 May 2018 16:03
To: Inland Fisheries
Subject: Proposed Salmonid Bye-Law
Attachments: Public Edition - OABA Submission to SI Public Consultation .pdf

Importance: High

Categories:

To whom it may concern,
Please find attached as a PDF file a submission by the Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association to the public consultation process on the proposed salmonid bye-law.

Yours Sincerely,
Oughterard Anglers Conservation Section



Founded 1852

**POSITION PAPER ON THE DRAFT SALMONID WATERS
BYE-LAW 2018**

**SUBMISSION MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMUNICATIONS, CLIMATE ACTION AND
ENVIRONMENT**

MAY 25th 2018

Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association, The Boat House, Camp Street, Oughterard, Co. Galway.

www.oughterardanglers.com

1.1 BACKGROUND - 1997 TO 2010

Over the last twenty odd years Irish domestic pike angling representative groups driven and directed by a vociferous and fundamentalist UK pike angling lobby have had a disproportionate and nefarious influence on shaping game angling policy in Ireland and in particular on the Great Western Lakes.

The majority of trouble that surrounds pike management policy in Ireland today has its origins in [redacted] (the then secretary of the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain - PACGB) overt and obnoxious interference in to the activities of the Western Regional Fisheries Board (WRFB) in 1997. In a letter dated January 11th 1997, [redacted] demanded that PACGB representatives be allowed to monitor WRFB activities on Irish Loughs. Furthermore, he demanded that PACGB be part of a monitoring committee for Irish Loughs especially Lough Corrib and he also demanded that the WRFB give guarantees in writing to the PACGB in relation to pike management. All these demands were coming from a foreign based organisation that had absolutely no mandate at any level to interfere with Irish domestic fisheries policy. This interference occurred without the support or agreement of the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs (IFPAC), which was in existence at that time. Unfortunately, both the Central Fisheries Board (CFB) and the Western Regional Fisheries Board (WRFB) capitulated to this improper and groundless harassment by meeting PACGB representatives in Dublin on January 27th 1997. Department of the Marine and Marine Institute officials also attended this meeting concerning the "Corrib System Development Programme". However, nobody from any Lough Corrib angling club or the Lough Corrib Angling Federation were invited to attend. In the minutes of this meeting seen by Oughterard club members, PACGB demanded the following with no discourse involving riparian stakeholders: (i) that all pike over 90cm should be released from gill nets, (ii) that WRFB cooperate with PACGB on tagging pike, (iii) that WRFB/CFB promote Lough Corrib as a "*pike venue*", (iv) that all reports from the Corrib Monitoring and Advisory Group be made available to PACGB and (v) that WRFB take note of PACGB proposals regarding amendments to the current bye-law regulating pike angling - **APPENDIX 1**.

Further interference by PACGB continued in 1997 with a press release dated May 21st. In this press release PACGB denounced the WRFB after they "*had been monitoring activities of the boards on the Loughs*". They also demanded that pike anglers write to their "MPs" concerning the activities of the WRFB - **APPENDIX 2**.

On August 8th 1997, [redacted] CFB CEO, wrote to [redacted] WRFB Manager, putting pressure on him to acquiesce to the demands of PACGB - **APPENDIX 3**.

In 1998, there was even more intrusion from PACGB when [redacted] of the CFB received an odious fax on February 18th from [redacted] (PACGB Secretary) who rejected all pike management proposals in Ireland that were accepted by IFPAC - **APPENDIX 4**. As the new millennium appeared, we believe that PACGB decided to change tack in their continual interference in Irish affairs and resolved to take a leaf out of American and Russian foreign policy by creating a proxy organisation to do their bidding. This proxy group was named the Irish Pike Society (IPS) was incorporated on February 5th 2000. From the outset, this new group continued to dance to the tune of their puppet masters in Britain while the PACGB removed any public associations with Ireland in correspondence.

The inaugural meeting of the Irish Pike Society took place in Co. Roscommon and the society was formed in a bid to address what they saw as *"the increasing problem of pike culling on the Great Western Lakes of Lough Corrib and Mask in Counties Galway and Mayo"*. It is interesting to note that the IPS were not interested in developing or promoting recognised pike fisheries in Ireland. While the IPS were busy trying to undermine the status of the Great Western Lakes², the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs (IFPAC) founded in 1988 were busy promoting and developing pike angling as per their national mandate.

By 2005, the IPS under the stewardship of the late [redacted] launched a campaign to interfere with fisheries policy on the designated trout waters. On January 18th 2005, [redacted] sent three letters to [redacted] (CEO of the North Western Regional Fisheries Board - NWRFB), [redacted] (Acting CEO of the Western Regional Fisheries Board - WRFB) and [redacted] (CEO of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board - SRFB) demanding that the use of gill nets for pike control cease on named trout fisheries - **APPENDIX 5**. This demand was supported by the document "Report on the Review of the Current Policy and Strategy for the Management of Pike and Pike Angling in Ireland", which was produced by the Central Fisheries Board in 2003 contrary to the existing stated wild brown trout conservation and development policy practiced by regional boards at that time.

On August 3rd 2006, the then Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, [redacted] signed in to the law the current Pike Conservation Bye-Law (809) 2006 after years of harassment by the PACGB/IPS. The Bye-Law stipulated that an angler can only take one pike per day and that pike cannot exceed 50cm in length. This bye-law never had the consent of the Lough Corrib Angling

¹ <http://homepage.eircom.net/~sheelin/IPSFormation.html>

² Loughs Corrib, Mask, Carra, Conn, Cullin & Arrow

Federation or the riparian stakeholders around Lough Corrib, as a result it should never have been applicable to Lough Corrib or any of the other designated wild trout fisheries. However, in 2003 there was an agreement between the CFB and the regional boards that the length of pike should be set at 75cm in any future bye-laws but this was reneged on by persons unknown.

In December 2006, [redacted] and [redacted] two leading members of the PACGB were arrested, charged and convicted by a Welsh magistrates court of trying to smuggle live fish in to Ireland via a car ferry. UK customs officers found over 100 live fish concealed in a large tank in the boot of William's car - **APPENDIX 6**. How many other illegal transfers of live fish in to Ireland by UK pike anglers occurred without being detected? Other illegal introductions of pike were noted by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) within the UK particularly in Scotland - **APPENDIX 7**.

On February 23rd 2009, the PACGB issued a statement delegitimising the authority and mandate of IFPAC within the Irish jurisdiction; *"The present geographic remit of the Pike Anglers Club does not currently encompass the Irish Republic. The Club was formerly known as the Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain and Ireland but this changed with the formation of the Irish Pike Society. The current position of the PAC is not to reincorporate the Irish Republic into the club. We are aware of the potential formation of a Conservation Orientated organisation there with similar objectives and principles to PAC. Clearly the existing organisation representing pike anglers in the Republic namely the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs has shown itself to be more concerned with running pike matches than in pike care and conservation per se and hence do not fulfil the necessary role that PAC fulfils in the UK. We hope in time to see the emergence of an Irish led pike welfare organisation in the Irish Republic and will both watch and support developments to that end closely. In the event this does not transpire the National Committee will review matters"* - **APPENDIX 8**. The IPS under David Overy fulfilled the niche required by PACGB prior to 2009 but the organisation became dormant after his passing in 2006.

By mid 2009, the CFB realised the folly of the Pike Conservation Bye-law (809) and were proposing to raise the legal size limit of pike that may be taken from 50cm to 75cm. Nevertheless, PACGB exercised their new found veto and quashed any attempts to amend the bye-law. The arrogance and hubris of PACGB shone through in the statement by their then president, *"As the representative body for the UK's pike anglers, we are voicing our objection to any move to raise the size limit for pike from 50cm to 75cm. We are fundamentally opposed to the promotion of taking pike for food as we believe that*

the pike is a sport fish to be enjoyed by many as opposed to being consumed by the few”³
- **APPENDIX 9.**

By the second decade of the new millennium, issues with pike policy in Ireland had somewhat settled down and the overt interference by PACGB had diminished. Nonetheless, with the creation of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) under the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 to replace the CFB and regional boards, the blue touch paper was lit again.

³ <http://pacnews.blogspot.co.uk/2009/>

1.2 BACKGROUND - 2010 TO PRESENT

In 2011, Inland Fisheries Ireland created two policy review groups to formulate policies for brown trout and pike. These policy review groups were comprised of IFI employees and interested stakeholders. However, IFPAC had representation on both groups but the Trout Anglers' Federation of Ireland (TAFI) had only representation on the trout group. The groups met four times between 2011 and 2012 before they were stood down. The following year, on October 15th 2013, [redacted] from IFI issued a press statement stating that pike were native to Ireland based on the research of a then PhD student,

This was a gross misrepresentation of Pedreschi's work and the researcher in question called the incident "unfortunate" at a meeting of the current IFI pike/trout policy group with stakeholders on May 8th 2017. It must also be noted that IFPAC sponsored [redacted] project to the tune of €5,000.

On August 22nd 2014 in Citywest Dublin with all relevant stakeholders present, IFI finally launched its new pike and trout policies following the 2011 and 2012 consultations - **FIGURE 1**. Section 5.4 of this new pike policy, acknowledged Loughs Corrib, Mask, Carra, Conn, Cullin, Arrow and Sheelin as designated wild brown trout fisheries and enshrined pike management as per scientific advice. Section 5.5 of the same policy recommended legislative change to the Conservation of Pike Bye-law No. 809 (2006) on designated managed wild brown trout fisheries.



FIGURE 1. IFPAC Delegates holding up printed copies of the 2014 Pike Policy on August 22nd 2014.

⁴ <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/new-study-reveals-pike-native-to-ireland.html>

The day before the pike policy launch on August 22nd, (IFPAC delegate) revealed on an online British pike angling forum (www.the-pikers-pit.co.uk) that there had been a covert meeting on August 20th 2014 between pike angling representatives and unknown IFI officials to broker a deal that was completely at odds with the forthcoming stated and printed policy. stated on August 21st 2014 at 2.25pm that IFI told him that they had decided *"to cease gill netting as a method of pike management on wild brown trout fisheries"* even though the *"review was ongoing some decisions had been made"*. On the day of the launch of the pike and trout policies (August 22nd), made another comment on the UK Pikers Pit forum at 6:49pm, whereby he stated, *"IFI boss did say that he 100% hopes that they will never have to use gill nets again"* - **APPENDIX 10**.

If what alleged in the public domain is true, how could the CEO of IFI make such a bold statement that was at complete variance to publicly stated IFI policy. Was one of the IFI officials that met on August 20th? How could be photographed holding a printed policy document that he or IFI had no intention of implementing?

Again, no salmonid or trout representative group were privy or had any knowledge of this chicanery concerning their fisheries until this year (2018).

By early 2016, IFI still hadn't implemented the 2014 pike policy or the recommended legislative changes as stated. On March 24th 2016, the Leinster Pike Angling Club in conjunction with IFPAC, IPS, PACGB and the Irish Angling Alliance (IAA) organised a protest against pike management outside the new offices of IFI in Citywest Dublin. This protest flew in the face of the 2014 pike policy that IFPAC had helped formulate. IFPAC even sponsored protest placards to the tune of €1000 - **FIGURE 2**. During the protest, a petition was handed in to the IFI office reception by Dave Moody of the Leinster Pike Angling Club containing just over 22,000 signatures but only 1,032 were actually from Irish pike anglers⁵ - **FIGURE 3**. Nevertheless, in the lead up to the protest pike anglers openly discussed manipulating the e-petition (www.thepetitionsite.com) on the British Pikers Pit forum to boost numbers and even suggestions that PETA (militant US animal rights group) could get involved in the campaign - **FIGURES 4,5 & 6**.

⁵ <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Press-releases/ifi-undertaking-review-of-bass-pike-and-trout-policies.html>



FIGURE 2. Protest placards sponsored by IFPAC.



FIGURE 3. PACGB General Secretary [redacted] a far left & IFPAC Chairman [redacted] far right protesting outside IFI HQ on March 24th 2016.

Re: Gill net protest 24th March

by Paddy_R • Fri Mar 11 2016 15:07

! 66

That's very helpful PJ...
My 15 brothers and sisters wanted to sign but were having problems on my laptop.

Hide Quote

Similar sized family to my own it seems Bill!

And if it's a case that they're not very computer literate and don't have their own email addresses then they might have to use a service such as <http://www.throwawaymail.com> for the email address. Or if they just want to avoid spam or whatever the case may be. Valid emails are required.

A wise man once said nothing



Paddy_R
Captain
Posts: 767
Joined: Mon Sep 10 2012 05:00
Location: Eire

Re: Gill net protest 24th March

16 10:26

! 66

All of my immediate family have signed, most of my cousins aunts and uncles. Special mention of my [redacted] a from his grave to do it so was his determination!

Not even a simple Irish girl would call her son Stewingstake. Kevin Day
"Mama, move your fa se teeth, papa wanna scratch your gams."



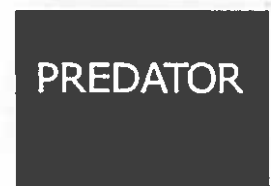
Stu Winstake
Major
Posts: 1265
Joined: Mon Aug 29 2011 05:00
Location: surrey

Re: Gill Netting Petition - Ireland

by [redacted] • Sun Mar 06 2016 19:41

! 66

It sounds unlikely but there might be short term games if PETA got involved though it would be a bit like getting into bed with satan.....



Neville Pickling
Brigadier
Posts: 6612
Joined: Wed Feb 01 2012 06:00
Location: gainsborough
Contact: [redacted]

FIGURES 4, 5 & 6. Evidence of the manipulation of the 2016 protest petition.

Shortly after the protests outside their HQ, IFI announced on April 8th 2016 that they would be reviewing the pike and trout policies launched in August 2014. It was absolutely unprecedented that IFI would review a pike policy that was never implemented. On July 4th 2016, IFI announced an indicative timetable for the review of the pike and trout policies including details for submissions by stakeholders. It must be noted that IFI have changed the indicative timetable on at least three occasions and not one deadline has been met by them. As it currently stands, the review process has spanned three calendar years with no conclusion in sight. On July 5th 2016, the pike lobby held a second protest rally outside the Dáil on Kildare Street. On October 22nd 2016, the Oughterard Anglers launched a draft of our submission to the trout policy review at a town hall meeting held in The Boat Inn. A consensus was reached from the floor that everybody was satisfied with the stance being taken by the club. A strategy was also put in to place to engage with local representatives to ensure the future of Lough Corrib as a wild salmonid fishery. On November 2nd 2016, IFI decided to change the terms of reference for the policy review. Instead of it being a review of two separate policies (trout and pike), the review was now of the "management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries". On November 3rd 2016, IFI publicly announced the change in terms of reference. This was the quote given on the IFI website for the abrupt change⁶:

"Inland Fisheries Ireland recognised the concerns of some stakeholders in relation to the pike and wild brown trout policies and the interrelationship between pike and wild brown trout. As there are many more issues than just the areas where they overlap, it was decided to separate the policy reviews and initially focus on the management of pike in designated wild brown trout fisheries. The other policy reviews will be dealt with subsequently".

On November 29th 2016, the Oughterard club lodged our completed submission of 71 pages to the IFI via registered post and email. The IFI Macroom office acknowledged receipt of the submission via email. On December 21st 2016, [redacted] (IFI Review Panel Chairman) was sent an official letter from our club via email outlining our concerns about the pike lobby making it known through social media that they were going to present an 80 page submission on January 16th to the IFI panel, nearly one and half months post the December 1st deadline. On December 23rd 2016, the club received a return letter from [redacted] confirming to us that no submissions would be accepted from any party post the deadline. On January 17th 2017, a Connacht Angling Council (CAC) delegation met with the IFI review panel at 2:00pm in Citywest HQ. The meeting was very constructive

⁶ <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Pike-Policy-review/why-has-inland-fisheries-ireland-changed-the-terms-of-reference.html>

2. OUGHTERARD CLUB POSITION ON PROPOSED BYE-LAW

- The Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association fully support the designation of Lough Corrib as a salmonid fishery with respect to clause no. 3 within the proposed bye-law. Lough Corrib has been a designated trout lake under CFB/IFI policy for a considerable time. It is only fitting that this is transcribed in to Irish law. Lough Corrib was designated a Ramsar site (international wetlands treaty) on June 16th, 1996. It has also been designated a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive.
- The Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association fully support clause no. 4 within the bye-law whereby Lough Corrib will be managed for the benefit of salmonid species. This will enshrine in law, the mechanical control of invasive pike.
- The Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association fully support clause no. 5. However, we are of the view that custodial sentences must be considered to prevent the deliberate spread of invasive pike and other invasive fish species to watercourses where they don't belong. We have suffered the consequences of such in our own locality, namely the Owenriff Catchment. The Ballintra System in Donegal and Cavetown Lake near Boyle Co. Roscommon are further victims of recent deliberate pike introductions.
- The Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association fully support clause no. 6. Recommended legislative change to the Pike Conservation Bye-law (809) 2006 for the seven designated trout lakes is part of the the current IFI Pike Policy published in 2014. Since IFI never implemented this agreed policy due to pressure from the UK/Irish pike lobby, it is fundamentally right that this bye-law should be introduced. The Oughterard club would like to see a greater liberalisation of catch limits for pike within the bye-law considering that pike are a destructive aquatic nuisance species (ANS). Pike are also listed as invasive species to Ireland by the Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) that is managed by the IUCN Species Survival Commission. Under the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring programme, pike are classified as non-native non-benign (Kelly et al., 2008; King et al., 2011).
- Lough Corrib and the Corrib Catchment is the primary concern of the Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association, we are of the opinion that this proposed bye-law should encompass all twelve ecologically significant Irish trout lakes as classified by the EU.

Signed,

Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association Committee 2018.



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We need YOUR help again please

by [JChambers](#) • Fri May 04 2018 15:43

MOST IMPORTANT - BYE LAW INCREASE TO 4 DEAD PIKE IN IRELAND

There is a proposed increase in the number of pike an "angler" can kill from 1 to 4 on a number of "designated wild brown trout lakes". THIS MUST BE OPPOSED AS THE INCREASE TO 4 COULD SOON SPREAD TO ALL LAKES. WHAT HAPPENS IF IFI CATCH AN "AN ANGLER" IN COUNTY CAVAN WITH 4 DEAD PIKE - ALL HE HAS TO SAY IS THAT HE CAUGHT THEM IN LOUGH SHEELIN AND NOTHING CAN BE DONE. THIS BYE LAW IS ALSO PREEMPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IFI REVIEW OF THE MANAGEMENT OF PIKE IN WILD BROWN TROUT FISHERIES THIS REPORT IS DUE OUT IN A FEW MONTHS. THIS PROPOSED PIKE BYE LAW MUST BE STOPPED. Read about it below and email your objection to the Dept at inland.fisheries@dcaae.gov.ie
<https://www.dcaae.gov.ie/en-/e/natural-...-2018.aspx>

! 66

[JChambers](#)
Sergeant

Posts: 216
Joined: Sat Nov 05 2011 09:00

Figure 8. [JChambers](#) (IFPAC Chairman) encouraging the interference of the PACGB in to Irish fisheries policy.

and the IFI Review Panel were told many home truths in an honest and forthright manner. The meeting lasted one and a half hours and the CAC delegation made it clear that Lough Corrib and the designated lakes in Connacht would not be sold out to pike angling interests. In the days post the January 17th meeting in Citywest, it became known to the Connacht Angling Council that [redacted] did accept a late submission from IPS/IFPAC on January 16th. Since the submission deadline passed on December 1st 2016 and in the subsequent eighteen months since, there has been a highly organised and vicious social media and YouTube campaign orchestrated by the 'Irish/UK Pike Lobby' (IPS/IFPAC/IAA/PACGB) to intimidate, bully, harass, subdue, cow and abuse game anglers particularly those who fish Lough Corrib - **APPENDIX 11**. This vitriolic campaign reached a crescendo on the night of January 22nd 2017 when a named pike angler disclosed on the Irish Pike Society Facebook page, details of a conspiracy by Irish and UK pike anglers to plant the famous Connacht salmonid fisheries with invasive fish species as retribution for game anglers speaking up and defending their waters - **FIGURE 7**. This highly obnoxious and offensive post was only taken down when various game anglers threatened the Irish Pike Society with legal action. Nevertheless, evidence of this threat was recorded. Subsequently, this threat was investigated by An Garda Síochána, Customs and IFI personnel based in Ballina, Co. Mayo.

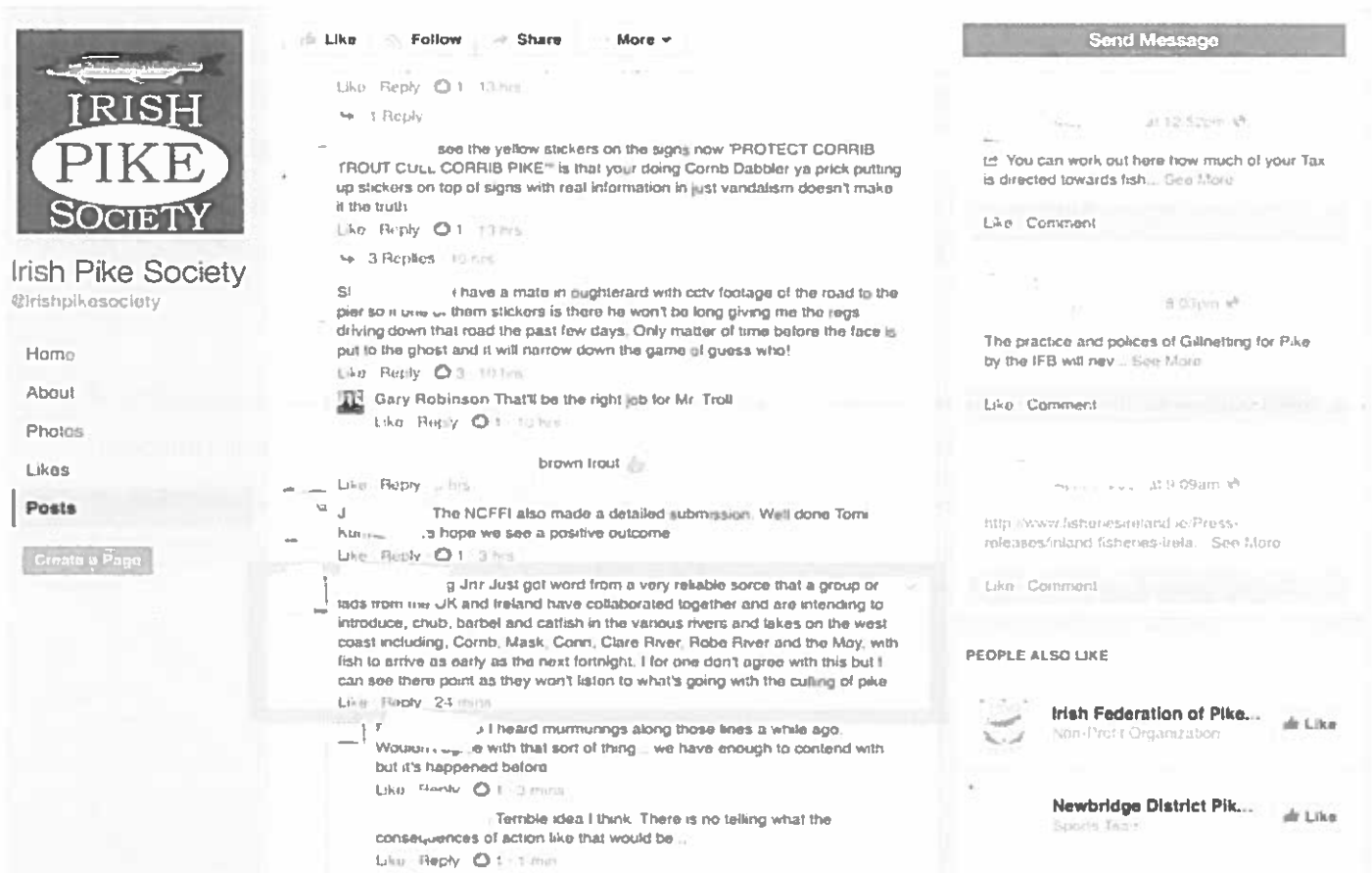


FIGURE 7. Specific online threat made against Connacht's salmonid waters.

To date multiple abusive comments have been made online and the IPS, IFPAC and IAA Facebook pages have provided a safe haven for a multitude of disaffected and disgruntled pike anglers to vent their ire at game anglers and IFI personnel. Due to the on going campaign by pike anglers to provoke trouble coupled with other incidents that won't be elaborated on here, both the National Anglers Representative Association (NARA) and the Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland (TAFI) withdrew from the current policy review process.

Considering all the incidents that have occurred both online and on the ground, it is only right that Minister Seán Kyne has decided to act decisively and put an end to this constant sniping at our trout fisheries by pike anglers and their lobby. We must also note that elements within the old Central Fisheries Board (CFB) and the current IFI have been complicit in creating this Frankenstein's monster. If the old CFB showed some backbone and didn't indulge the first incursions by PACGB in 1997, we wouldn't be in this ridiculous situation of having to constantly defend our lakes from attack over the last twenty one years. The Oughterard Anglers & Boatmen Association or for that matter any other trout fishing representative body have never tried to interfere with recognised pike fisheries either at home or abroad.

Finally, on May 5th 2018, when the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment issued the public notice for submissions on the proposed new Salmonid Bye-law, the first action of [redacted] (IFPAC Chairman & Delegate) was to enlist the help of British pike anglers and their representatives - **FIGURE 8**. He did so by issuing a call to arms under the heading "*We need YOUR help again please*" on the internet based UK Pikers Pit forum.

Should we as custodians and riparian stakeholders of Lough Corrib tolerate anymore of this behaviour by quislings primarily based in Leinster who make absolutely no contribution towards Lough Corrib either financially through contributions to Cáirde Loch Coiribe or volunteering their time towards labour intensive stream enhancement projects and Federation hatchery work?

APPENDIX 1

**Documents contained in Appendices 1-5 have been obtained from a legacy IRISH
PIKE SOCIETY website**

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~mwas/IPSWESTERN2.htm>

&

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~sheelin/index.htm>

**Fiske Anglers' Club
Of
Great
Britain & Ireland**



January 11th 1987

Dear,

Further to my conversations with yourself and Ellen Poche, and your meeting with David Overy, there follow the essential points that the PAC, and our European colleagues, would need met if we are to work together to our mutual benefit in the future.

No doubt Ellen advised you as to the reason for my succession of telephone calls just prior to Xmas, namely the fact that I received an anonymous threatening telephone call with racist overtones. I have to say that I am appalled that the 'debate' has sunk to such a level and remain committed to my stance and certainly intend to visit Ireland again despite threats that I "stay away - as an Englishman". Even the threat is incorrect - I am Welsh!

I am also aware that a disinformation campaign continues where it is claimed that the PAC are calling for a boycott, have opposed the funding initiative in it's entirety, etc., etc., all of which, as you know, are untrue. Suffice to say that I will resist the temptation to 'catalogue' all of the 'antics' that I have encountered as I share your desire to 'move forward' rather than expend more effort in 'exchanging broadsides' with those of a different opinion. This is not to say that we, as a lobby, have been idle - far from it! We have continued to amass information in support of our stance, have enlisted the help of various influential advocates, and are prepared to take our case further should it prove necessary.

I must briefly 'touch upon' just one major point of debate: It is only recently that I have gained access to various documents including the T.D.I. cost benefit analysis and I have to point out an obvious anomaly in the 'thinking' behind the proposed project. For the first time I discovered that one intention is to double the number of visiting trout anglers over a five year period. Paradoxically, the report clearly identifies the main perceived cause of the decline in trout fishing as - over fishing! Yet, the intention is to double the number of rods. Ironically the one area where such progress could be made is pike fishing as pike anglers do not 'predate' on their quarry as 'catch and release' is the norm.

If sanity prevails the PAC will be delighted to promote International events during the winter months thus achieving the aims of the Tourism Angling Measure, to the full, without depleting the resource.

I remain hopeful that common sense will prevail and a environmentally sound compromise can be found. The elements of such a compromise are as follows:

- (i) Rotenone is not an acceptable part of any pike management plan.
- (ii) Gill nets are not an acceptable part of any pike management plan.
- (iii) Fyke nets must be fitted with otter grids to prevent the ingress of otters, diving birds and large pike/trout. Such nets can be baited and equipped with large in-scales for efficacy but must be checked regularly.
- (iv) 90cm (maximum) is not an acceptable size limit for pike removal. Our information is that 75cm would be more appropriate.
- (v) Pike under this weight must be carefully removed alive and transferred to other waters.
- (vi) Fisheries Board staff must be trained in safe handling techniques and the boats from which they operate must be suitably equipped as must transfer vehicles.
- (vii) Fyke law amendments in respect of pike removal are only acceptable if applied to fish under the 75cm size limit. Emphasis must be put on the safe return of larger fish.
- (viii) All fish > 75cm that are captured in Fyke nets to be tagged prior to safe return. The PAC will undertake to implement a complimentary tagging programme ~~at PAC expense~~ to further enhance knowledge of fish stocks (Such a programme is currently underway on Loch Lomond in conjunction with Pitlochry University).
- (ix) PAC representatives to have free access to monitor W.R.F.B. activities, in relation to pike, on the Loughs.
- (x) Any pike removal programme to be subject to a cost benefit analysis after an agreed period (12 months?).
- (xi) PAC to be included on the Monitoring Committee for the Loughs.
- (xii) Fisheries Boards to actively promote pike angling on the Loughs, as in the past, (as a guarantee of their commitment) and to enhance the objectives of the Tourism Angling Measure.
- (xiii) All agreed initiatives to be guaranteed in writing for all three Loughs and to be enshrined in the next W.R.F.B. development plan.

and I will be happy to meet with you if a way forward can be found and I await your response with interest.

Assuring you of my best attention.

Yours sincerely,

Dublin 27 January 1997

Following a full discussion and exchange of views between representatives of the Department of Marine, Marine Institute, Central Fisheries Board, the Western Regional Fisheries Board and the PAC on the Western Regional Fisheries Board project "Corrib System Development Programme" (aka the Western Lakes Project), the parties arrived at a position of broad agreement on the following points:

1. Status of Western Lakes

The unique status of Lough Corrib as a European habitat for native brown trout has been recognized by the designation of EU salmonid status in 1990. The Irish fisheries authorities have a formal responsibility to manage and conserve the large salmonid ecosystem of Lough Corrib, in addition to Loughs Mask and Carra.

2. Trout Stocks in Western Lakes

The Spring 1996 stock survey and previous research based on redd counts, juvenile stock densities and angling catch records show a consistent, long term decline in the adult brown trout stocks in Loughs Corrib and Mask.

3. Pike / Trout Relationship

Scientific research since the mid 1950s in Lough Corrib, Lough Mask and in other Irish lakes has shown that trout are a major component of the diet of pike. It is also known that large pike may consume smaller pike.

4. Management Policy on Western Lakes

The restoration of Brown Trout stocks on the Western Lakes as an international angling resource will require a major development programme. This will encompass large scale instream enhancement and water quality assessment, as well as the selective removal of younger pike stocks in the Western Lakes as a principal predator of the trout.

5. Specimen Pike

Loughs Corrib, Mask and Carra are known to contain large pike (90 cm and over), which are highly valued by Irish and overseas pike anglers. One of the management aims of the Western Lakes Project will be to seek to return all large pike over 90 cms.

6. Transfer of Pike

The live transfer of pike will be an integral feature of the Western Lakes Project. Nine lakes have already been surveyed by the Western Regional Fisheries Board and several have been deemed suitable for pike transfer.

7. Tagging of Pike

Western Lakes Project team aim to tag and release ^{up to} at least 2,500 pike initially. The tagging programme aims to provide accurate information on the pike population, age structure and movement. The PAC wish to submit a proposal to the Steering Group that PAC members would cooperate with the Western Regional Fisheries Board in tagging and returning large pike, as an ongoing component of the Western Lakes project.

8. Staff Training

Western Lakes Project staff will be adequately equipped and trained in safe pike handling techniques, including the tagging and returning of large pike.

9. Promotion

Ireland West Tourism and the Fisheries Boards will promote coarse angling (including specimen pike) in the Western region, as an off-season supplement to their primary game angling focus. PAC and its European colleagues will support the Western lakes angling industry by promoting specimen pike angling in the Autumn & Winter months.

10. Stock Control Methods

While Irish scientific advice is that gill nets are currently the most effective method of pike removal, the Western Lakes Project team will continue to investigate and test other possible methods including fyke nets, drum nets and Canadian traps, with a view to substituting these methods for gill nets if they are proven to be as effective.

Multifilament nylon gill nets will be used to minimize damage to captured fish. The Western Lakes Project team must be adequately equipped with boats and safety gear to allow daily servicing of all nets, even in stormy weather. Due regard will be paid to weather forecasting to ensure that nets can be serviced during every 24 hour period.

Fyke nets should be fitted with otter grids, as far as is practicable, to prevent the ingress of otters, diving birds and large trout or pike. Rotenone is not to be used as part of the EU-funded Western Lakes project.

gill

11. Scientific Monitoring.

The Western Lakes Project is monitored by the Corrib Monitoring and Advisory Group, which gives advice to the Western Regional Fisheries Board and to the Department of Marine on all aspects of the project. Arrangements will be made that reports of the Corrib Monitoring and Advisory Group will be made available to PAC.

12. Western Lakes Byelaw

PAC will submit specific proposals to the Western Regional Fisheries Board regarding amendments to the current byelaw regulating pike angling.

APPENDIX 2

**Pike Anglers' Club
OF
Great
Britain & Ireland**



PRESS RELEASE
May 21st 1997

There follows evidence about the culling situation in Ireland and I enclose some horrific photographs as evidence of same. It should be noted that the WRFB staff pictured are all wearing brand new dry suits and are in new boats all purchased with EU funding under the Tourism Angling Measure (Their superiors are now driving new four wheel drive vehicles similarly funded). This proving beyond doubt that the evidence was collected since the below agreements were reached. Sworn affidavits are available from the photographers/witnesses.

"WE ARE PAYING FOR THIS SLAUGHTER" (as title perhaps?)

As reported in the angling press: On January 27th, in Dublin, the PAC met with the Department Of The Marine together with the Central and Western Regional Fisheries Boards to "arrive at a position of broad agreement" in relation to the pike culling debate that has raged in relation to the "Western Lakes Project" funded under "The Angling Tourism Measure" with European Union money. Our Money!

The PAC participated in the meeting in good faith so that some progress could be made in relation to the laudable elements of the initiative such as stream enhancement and water quality issues. They remained totally opposed to the practice of gill netting, claiming that it is not "in harmony with the environment" and, as such, is in breach of the conditions applied to E.U. funding.

After long debate various items of broad agreement were reached, the WRFB/CFB agreeing that:

- 1/ All pike over 90cms to be returned unharmed
- 2/ 'Lesser' fish to be transferred unharmed to other venues
- 3/ "Western Lakes Project staff will be adequately equipped and trained in safe pike handling techniques, including the tagging and returning of large pike".
- 4/ "Ireland West Tourism and the Fisheries Boards will promote coarse angling (including specimen pike) in the Western region". The PAC to assist in this regard.

Various other agreements were also reached including: the abolition of the use of Rotenone (a poison originally intended to cull immature pike but know to kill every living organism!). Every effort be made to utilise humane Fyke nets, fitted with otter grids, as opposed to gill nets. The Boards claimed that it is impossible to use Fyke nets in deep water, the PAC acknowledged this on the basis that the converse is also true and that there is no justification for using gill nets in shallow water.

It was agreed that further discussion should take place to ensure 'best practice' and to liaise in relation to promoting specimen pike fishing on the lakes, in line with the overall objective of increasing angling tourism. PAC also undertook not to generate adverse publicity until the document detailing these broad points of agreement was published via the angling press.

The document was finally published a few weeks ago and the PAC is now free to reveal the truth about what the WRFB/CFB have been doing in the interim.

The first cause for concern was that as soon as PAC attempted to clarify procedures by letter (as agreed at the previous meeting), they met with a total snub via an abrasive response from Gregory Forde of the WRFB. Mr Forde also completely ignored PAC's request for cooperation in promoting an International pike event in the Autumn of 1997. Hardly consistent with the aims of promoting angling tourism and totally at odds with the published agreement!

But worse was to follow, much worse. During the protracted delay in the publishing of the 'agreement', PAC representatives had been monitoring the activities of the Boards on the Loughs which amounted to....pike slaughter!

The enclosed photographs clearly show LIVE pike, up to 29lbs, being lifted by their eye sockets to be dumped into DRY loft tanks to gasp their lives away! The fisheries staff stated that they had instructions not to dispatch the fish with a blow to the head as they must be unmarked. (The disembowelled pike was attacked by diving birds or otters whilst trapped in the murderous gill nets) **THIS IS CORRUPTION AND DECEIT OF THE WORST KIND AND WE, AS E.U. TAX PAYERS, ARE FUNDING IT.** One can only speculate as to the eventual 'resting place' of these poor creatures.....

It is said that "a picture paints a thousand words", words are inadequate for the cruelty and environmental vandalism that is being perpetrated by the Fisheries Boards. The photographs prove conclusively that they cannot be trusted, are lying to the PAC, the public at large and their European paymasters.

Whilst this carnage is taking place, trout anglers are taking their case to Europe, complaining that the Boards are doing little or nothing to address the real problems of declining water quality, why? because they are too busy spending our money (hundreds of thousands of pounds of it) slaughtering pike for their own mysterious reasons. This whole situation is an obscenity and must be stopped before the entire ecosystem is irreparably damaged, the WRFB/CFB must not be allowed to get away with the deception and covert slaughter that is taking place.

Only last week it was revealed that even more E.U. money is to go to Ireland for angling initiatives, three new Euro funded carp waters are to be opened at a cost of £360,000. Mr Paul Harris of Bord Fáilte (Irish Tourist Board) was quoted as saying "As a tourist facility, this has no potential in Ireland. Why will people go to Ireland (for carp) when they can catch bigger ones in Britain?" Why indeed, yet arguably the best pike fishing in the world is being destroyed, a tourist facility that people are prepared to travel to Ireland to enjoy. Even more bizarre is the fact that pike are being culled amidst claims from the Fisheries Boards that they are not indigenous, a statement that has no justification in fact and that the PAC hotly disputes. Yet, those same Boards are to finance non indigenous carp fisheries. There is absolutely no rationale behind the Boards activities, they have simply grasped at the Euro funding and are inventing a, so called, strategy as they go along. All this with OUR money!

On May 26th on BBC2 at 9.30pm, as part of the acclaimed Natural History series "Tales From The Riverbank", the magnificent pike of Loughs Corrib and Mask are 'the stars'. How sad that the Boards have not seized upon this positive media exposure to promote these fisheries as they have promised. Worse, the very fish featured could well be the unfortunate creatures suffering a lingering death at the hands of the Boards in the accompanying photographs. If these creatures were dolphins or whales there would be an international outcry, and rightly so!

Across Europe there are calls for a boycott of Ireland, PAC has resisted these calls but we only have so much patience. The PAC would call upon ALL anglers to use any means at their disposal to stop this obscenity being perpetrated with OUR money. Write to your MP, MEP or to the Ministers for State and for Tourism in Ireland.

PLEASE ACT NOW TO SAVE THESE MAGNIFICENT FISH FROM THE HORRIFIC FATES ILLUSTRATED IN THESE DISGRACEFUL PHOTOGRAPHS.

APPENDIX 3



Central Fisheries Board

An Pionnán-Bhord Iascaigh
Bainagowan, Moonk Boreen, Glasnevin, Dublin 9.
Phone: (01) 8373200/778
Fax No.: (01) 8360050

8th August 1997

Re: Tourism Angling Measure Project 94-WR-008/9 Development Programme Loughs Corrib, Mask and Carra

Dear

The Tourism Angling Measure (TAM) Management Committee met last week to discuss progress on the stock management element of the above project. As you are aware there are a number of sensitive issues relating to this element of the project. Following detailed negotiations in 1996/7, a formula was agreed by which this project could advance with the continued support of the various interests.

Since then concern has been expressed that progress on the various elements of the agreement has fallen short of expectations. The Committee is now gravely concerned that failure to address this immediately could have serious implications, not only for this project, but for the TAM as whole.

The Committee decided that a number of immediate steps should be taken aimed at restoring confidence in the stock management programme and asked that they be put to the CFB for endorsement.

- That the CFB values the agreement reached between the WRFB, The Federation of Pike Angling Clubs (in Ireland) and international pike angling interests to facilitate the stock management element of the project, and the CFB wishes to restore full confidence in that agreement.
- Events reported in recent angling press articles are being investigated by the Western Board and the outcome of this investigation is eagerly awaited.
- A review of the stock management element will take place to ensure that the necessary systems and strategies are in place to successfully undertake the programme.

- All stock management work on this project has been suspended pending the outcome of this review.
- An early meeting will be held between the CFB, WRFB, DOM&NR and angling interests.

I have no doubt that the recently reported difficulties can be sorted out and that the project will be a success. I look forward to working with your Board to achieve this.

Yours sincerely

Lough Corrib and Mask

Gill Netting and Pike Tagging Programme 1998

During the spring of 1998 gill netting is proposed as follows:

Lough Mask:

Four crews (boats); each boat can reasonably operate 25 nets of around 50m long. (It should be noted some nets are 30m long and others 50m. These are normally fished in gangs of several different sized meshes in sequence).

Lough Corrib:

A maximum of 6 crews (boats) each boat can reasonably operate 25 nets each of around 50m long. (It should be noted some nets are 30m long and others 50m. These are normally fished in gangs of several different sized meshes in sequence).

In certain locations alternative methods will be employed in conjunction with gill nets and their relative efficiencies will be assessed. The scope, extent and locations for the alternative methods will be based on the advice of the scientists and the consultants.

The alternatives to be used will be as follows:

- a Pike Traps
- b Fyke nets (both 22 inch high and 1m high with varying lead nets).
- c Dutch trap nets
- d Longlines

The number of these to be used will depend on the suitability of locations and the efficiency of staff operating new equipment.

APPENDIX 4



The Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain & Ireland

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 19th February 1998	TIME: 10.55am
TO:	COMPANY: Central Fisheries Board
SUBJECT: Meeting between P.A.C. and IFB in Dublin on the 11th of February 1998.	

MESSAGE:

Dear :

Following careful consideration of the proposals made in Dublin on the 11th of February 1998 by the Irish Fisheries Board representatives, to the Executive Committee of the Pike Anglers' Club, we would take this opportunity to relay our decision.

Our mission statement is that 'The Pike Anglers' Club of GB & Ireland will work to establish an environment in which pike are valued, both as sporting fish and a necessary part of the management and ecology of fresh waters'. Whilst the Pike Anglers' Club fully supports the many positive aspects of the Tourism Angling Measure project we regret to inform you that we both reject and will strongly oppose the proposals made under the auspices of 'Gill Netting and Pike Tagging Programme 1998'.

Number of pages including this one: Page 1 of 5	FROM:
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APPENDIX

In addition to the Agreement with the PAC dated the 27/1/97, the following will apply in 1998.

The Great Western Lakes Project is to resume and the Stock Management element of the project will be adjusted as follows:

- The Board will investigate the effectiveness of pike capture methods other than gill nets on Loughs Corrib and Mask in 1998. The procedures, which will be used on a trial basis, include traps, fyke nets, drumnets and lung lines. Each procedure will be tested in different lake ecotypes in selected locations and in parallel with gill net sites, and their merits as practical management tools in the selected environments evaluated scientifically. The Board will avail of the expertise of an internationally acknowledged expert to look at alternative methods.
- There will be increased investment in equipment to ensure that the project is undertaken successfully.
- The priority in 1998 will be to concentrate on a tagging and release programme to facilitate pike stock estimates. There will be no deliberate pike culling on Loughs Mask and Corrib in 1998 and every effort will be made to keep pike mortalities at a minimum.
- New management arrangements are being put in place for the project. An appropriate staff training programme will be undertaken.
- Holding nets will be sited where possible adjacent to netting sites. Live pike will be transferred to these nets. Specialist staff in specially equipped larger craft will service each holding net on a rota basis. It is intended that pike will not be retained in these holding nets for more than 5 days weather conditions permitting. The Board will as far as possible keep holding nets under regular observation.
- All gill nets will be serviced daily, weather conditions permitting. Strict attention will be paid to weather forecasts to avoid where possible any possibility of nets not being serviced and as a priority to ensuring staff safety.
- The Board will hold a briefing session on the Wednesday of each week during the stock management period to advise all interested parties of the result of the previous week's operations.
- Scientific data obtained during the project will be made available.

Whilst there was a great deal of discussion surrounding the many issues involved in the project I will focus upon the key points in relation to our rejection of the proposals.

These begin with the Boards proposal to move away from the relocation aspect of the agreement in an effort to concentrate on a tag and release programme to facilitate pike stock estimates'.

The Pike Anglers' Club supported this proposal in principle. Part of our objection to the 'predator control' aspect of the project has always been the lack of genuine empirical evidence presented to support the suggestion that there was indeed 'a pike problem' on the Great Western Loughs. However, in the interest of seeking a suitable resolve to the situation the Pike Anglers' Club demonstrated a willingness to accept the suppositions put forward by Dr O'Grady in order that a compromise could be reached and this led to our original agreement of January 1997. It was pleasing to see that, at long last, the Irish Fisheries Board were now accepting that a genuine scientific study of pike stocks was required.

However, it was with extreme disappointment that we were informed that the new 'tag and release project for 1998' involved the redeployment of gill nets and this led to another key point in our meeting of the 11th of February 1998.

Dr O'Grady stated that he did not envisage any more than a 20% pike mortality rate during the employment of gill nets in the tag and release project 1998.

Alastair Smith asked if the pike mortalities exceeded 20-30% of fish being caught would the tag and release programme be stopped?

Dr O'Grady answered 'no'.

Frank Gibbons: asked Dr O'Grady what would be the ceiling figure, placed on pike mortalities, that he would judge to be unacceptable in relation to the proposed tag and release programme?

Dr O'Grady stated 80-90% pike mortalities might be unacceptable to the Irish Fisheries Board.

It is absolute nonsense to attempt to justify such actions under the auspices of a scientific study based on a tag and release project. On the 5th of May 1997, Michael Kennedy stated in his summary in relation to 'Investigating into allegations/complaints about pike control measures and pike handling' re: gill nets 'It is basically a fishing engine designed to capture fish for the purpose of killing them'.

Mr Kennedy's statement was confirmed in practice by the WRFB in 1997 when the pike mortality rate exceeded 90% of fish captured. Indeed, it defies reason that the Irish Fisheries Board are suggesting that the exact same shameful scenario as occurred in 1997 could be repeated in 1998. The difference being that the pike are being killed as part of a pseudo 'tag and release programme' as opposed to a

pseudo 'relocation programme'.

Once again we are reassured that the staff will be trained in handling and tagging pike humanely and competently. However, there has been no indication of the time scale or content of such a training programme. It was indicated at the meeting on the 11th of February 1998 that nets are likely to be put in place within the next few weeks and it would appear that the training programme will therefore be carried out in haste.

It should be recorded that the Pike Anglers' Club has been commended by [redacted] and the Loch Awe Improvement Association, for their participation in bona-fide tag and release studies to facilitate pike estimates on Loch Awe. Similarly, our work with Dr [redacted] Glasgow University, in estimating pike populations on Loch Lomond has also been commended. In both studies it would be inconceivable to both game and pike anglers alike that gill nets would ever be adopted.

Another key point, on the 11th of February 1998, lay in [redacted] statement that he would give no undertaking that the proposed tag and release study would be continued following 1999 when EU funding for this netting project would cease. This can only be seen as a reflection of the cynicism demonstrated by the Irish Fisheries Board in attempting to portray the gill netting of pike as a meaningful scientific study.

However, perhaps the lowest aspect of these proposals is that of the inclusion of long lining as an alternative method to gill netting. The introduction of this 'alternative method' was not mentioned at the meeting on the 11th of February 1998. Possibly due to the fact that it will achieve a 100% mortality rate in all species of fish unfortunate enough to be subjected to such barbaric practice. This is a practice that will be universally condemned by all anglers! Its inclusion in such a project is a backward act of bloody-mindedness, by those who propose to take Ireland's angling into the new millennium, employing knowledge that belongs to the early part of the 20th century and methods from the late 19th century.

It was notable at our meeting that the 'tourism aspect' of this project was raised only by P.A.C. representatives. The Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain and Ireland are deeply disappointed that the Irish Fisheries Board has not made any genuine effort to seek a common sense resolve that would meet the demands of both trout and pike anglers wishing to visit the Western Loughs. Good pike fishing and good brown trout fishing are not mutually exclusive. It is very sad that a project that demands as part of its essential criteria, that it is in harmony with the environment, is subject to two of the most barbaric methods of destruction of fish life. The employment of gill nets and long lines has and will continue to be condemned by the vast majority of predator, conservation and game angling groups in the UK and Europe.

I have no doubt that the barbaric aspects of the project that P.A.C. have highlighted will be the single most damaging factor in losing angling tourism to the Western Loughs of Ireland for many years to come.

I would suggest that even with the most honourable intent it would be impossible, in deploying four crews (boats) on Lough Mask and six crews (boats) on Lough Corrib, each boat operating 25 nets of around 50m. long, to expect these crews to physically ensure that a predicted mortality rate could be met. In addition to this, alternative methods, pike traps, fyke nets and Dutch trap nets would also require attention. Whilst fish unfortunate enough to be tethered from long lines would require to be dispatched upon capture.

P.A.C. entered an agreement, in good faith, that was not adhered to by the Western Regional Fisheries Board. The breach of this agreement subsequently led to the suspension of funding for the project. I would give notice that our agreement of January 1997, entered into by my predecessors, will no longer stand due to your actions in breaking this agreement in the spring of that year.

Therefore the P.A.C. feels that we have come full circle and require a full evaluation of the whole issue in order to restore confidence and trust in clearly determining the detail any future agreement.

Whilst the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain and Ireland would welcome any opportunity to find a suitable resolve, similar to those of game/predator angling partnerships existing throughout the UK and Europe. It is felt that either through ignorance or apathy there has been no genuine indication from the Irish Fisheries Board to assist a partnership process that would be utilitarian in attracting both predator and game anglers to the Western Loughs of Ireland. President of P.A.C., has travelled to the Western Loughs for 10 years to fish for brown trout. I mention this as it is extremely parochial to assume that a game angler and a predator angler are two separate entities in modern angling society outside of the West of Ireland.

The message from the UK and Europe is clear. Predator, game and conservation bodies have recognised that you have a wonderful resource in both Loughs Corrib and Mask. It is difficult to understand why you continue to ignore the views of these groups in order to justify managing the Loughs in a manner that appeals only to the Irish Fisheries Board and a few local trout angling clubs. This is particularly ironic when the demands of the majority of angling tourism is superseded by an insular determination to stick with tradition that leads you to call these loughs 'unique' and helps justify adopting a fishery management approach that contradicts modern scientific evidence. [redacted] accepted that there was scientific evidence to show that gill netting increased the overall tonnage of pike, leading to increased predation due to the removal of large pike that have been identified and accepted as effective controllers of the numbers of small pike. [redacted] answered this anomaly by stating that he accepted the authenticity of the scientific evidence 'but the Western Loughs were unique in that only large pike predated on brown trout'.

Whilst it is perfectly acceptable that the Irish Fisheries Board manage the loughs as

they see fit. It is fundamentally wrong that European Union funding is utilised under the Operational Tourism Measure when clearly the demand of potential tourism is being consistently ignored.

The Pike Anglers' Club can only reiterate our rejection and opposition of the proposals put forward on the 11th of February 1998. We would welcome any further constructive dialogue that could assist all anglers as European Union members to utilise the Great Western Loughs in partnership and within the spirit of that union.

your sincerely



Shannon Regional Fisheries Board

Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Sionainne



Fisheries Ireland
Our Natural Heritage

16 February 2005

Re: Board Policy on Pike

Dear

Further to your recent correspondence, the Board shares your frustration at the lack of action on the implementation of the Fisheries Boards Pike Review.

In the absence of any direction on the Review, the Board is implementing the recommendations as far as they can within its resources. During 2005, the Board will maintain the same regime as in 2004. We also intend to carry out additional promotion of Pike Angling of the Region and we would look forward to your assistance in this matter.

The Board will be reviewing its Pike policies and programmes in the Autumn in preparation for 2006 season and hopes by then that progress will be made by the review.

Yours sincerely

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APPENDIX 5



March 7, 2005

RE: Board Policy on Pike

*e-mail: irishpikesociety@eircom.net
website: <http://homepage.eircom.net/~devo>*

Dear

Many thanks for your letter of the 16th February. We are delighted to hear that the Board is implementing the recommendations of the Pike Review and welcome the fact that, for the second year in a row, gill nets will not be employed on the Board's Managed Trout Fisheries for the purpose of pike removal.

It would be extremely helpful to us if you could provide us with some commentary and results from last season's removal by other means. In order to ensure the support of pike groups for the compromise that are in the Review Recommendations it is vital that the Board communicate the results, expectations and plans for pike control. It has been a highly emotive issue and one in which we are anxious to work with the Board to ensure this new departure is a success.

In respect of the further promotion and development of the pike angling product we are happy to be involved and look forward to hearing from you as to how we can assist.

Sincerely,



Western Regional Fisheries Board

Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Iarthair



17th February 2005.

Re: Board Policy on Pike.

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of the 18th January 2005 seeking the current policy of the Board in relation to pike.

As you know the policy of the Board in relation to pike is to encourage fishing for pike on suitably designated pike waters in the region and for the management and protection of the pike in these waters. The Board remains committed to the management of the Great Western Lakes as wild brown trout fisheries and to the selective management of these waters for trout. Predator and competitor species are removed by several methods including, in recent years, large boat electro-fishing techniques. These boat electro-fishing techniques are still being refined as there is a learning curve in relation to best practice and optimal areas of operation.

At its meeting of the 2nd December 2003 the Board discussed the report entitled "Report of the Review of the Current Policy and Strategy for the Management of Pike and Pike Angling in Ireland." In relation to a "pilot programme" in the report proposed for several lakes including Lough Corrib - the Board noted that this proposal was contrary to the existing stated wild brown trout conservation and development policy and therefore the Board was not in a position to support the document in so far as it related to Lough Corrib.

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The following is the current Coarse Fishing Policy of the Board for your information.

COARSE FISHING:

Excellent coarse angling facilities have already been developed by the Board principally near Moycullen and Irishtown, and at other locations. In addition, substantial transfers of pike have been made to selected lakes. There are currently approximately 40 pike angling lakes in the region.

While these facilities have been used to good effect during the period of the Board's previous development programme, utilisation still falls short of capacity.

The Board will:

- Maintain existing coarse fishing facilities and designated pike fishing lakes.
- Promote the greater utilisation of the coarse fishing facilities in the region.
- Promote the use of facilities already provided based on a quality product and with the involvement of local tourist angling interests.
- Develop further facilities both lake and bank fishing if there is a demonstrable need to do so.
- Survey suitable waters for coarse fishing development where warranted.
- Survey and if possible develop a major match angling stretch in the region.



March 4, 2005

RE: Board Policy on Pike

e-mail: irishpikesociety@eircom.net
website: <http://homepage.eircom.net/~devo>

Dear

Thank you for your letter of 17th February. We appreciate the candour in relation to the Board's attitude to the Pike Review conducted by the Central Fisheries Board.

Whilst we are disappointed that the Board has not taken this opportunity to alter its attitude to pike in the Great Western Loughs we are not entirely surprised given previous pronouncements. This is particularly so given the fact that your former CEO, Michael Kennedy, was part of the committee making the recommendations.

One aspect to all of this that we would ask you to further comment is the WRFB responsibilities under the TAM sponsored Corrib System Development Plan. I have documents in my possession giving undertakings by the WRFB to preserve large pike, tag and release specimen pike and work with pike angling interests to promote piking on the Corrib System. I further understand that the undertakings by the Board in relation to TAM were to extend for a period of 10 years beyond the funding period. We would welcome sight of any supporting documentation to show how this agreement has been adhered to.

It seems strange in the extreme to us that no mention is made in your letter of 17th February of this undertaking. Given that the granting of the EU Funding under TAM was, in part, dependant on this undertaking we feel this is something that should be clarified before we meet with the Dept. again to take up the Pike Review process.

Yours truly,



North Western Regional Fisheries Board

Bord Iascaigh Réigiúnach an Iarthuaiscirt



Fisheries Ireland
Our Natural Heritage

DV/11/1

2 Mar, 2005

Re: **Board Policy on Pike**

Dear Mr.

I refer to your letter of 18 January, 2005 in relation to the above and I regret the delay in replying.

This Board's policy in relation to management of the fisheries in this region is set out in its Strategic Development Plan 2002-2006 a copy of which I enclose herewith for your information. The Board is continuing to implement the plan including control of pike stocks on major lakes that are managed as trout and salmon fisheries. However, in accordance with the plan, the Board is also stocking pike into various lakes that are managed and promoted as pike fisheries. For example, over the past month, approximately half of the pike removed from Loughs Conn and Cullin have been stocked into Carrowmore and Derryhick Loughs which are both in the Moy catchment.

As regards the Report on the Review of Current Policy and Strategy for the Management of Pike and Pike Angling in Ireland, the Board considered that report at its meeting on 27 January, 2004 but could not support the report's findings and recommendations. The Board's response to the report is set out in the enclosed document which was submitted to the Central Fisheries Board on 30 January, 2004.

I hope this clarifies this Board's position in relation to management of pike.

Yours sincerely

ds-pike35

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Screen 1 of 2

IRISH PIKE SOCIETY

July 14, 2005

Dear

Thank you for your letter of the 9th June. You may well be shocked at the views stated in my message of 5th April but I ask you again to consider what you expect us to think? In the years since the TAM project commenced neither IPS, PAC or the Federation Of Pike Angling Clubs have been given any information what so ever of the ongoing culling of specimen pike on the Corrib System. This despite the fact that you and your board had undertaken to do so. You implore us to regard the adversarial approach as a thing of the past; I put it to you that all the WRFB have done is ignore pike angling interests and hope we go away! Why have you not provided the information long promised on the culling programme as demanded by TAM? I ask again: the figures of all pike netted, killed, and released as part of the TAM assisted Corrib System Development Plan since commencement be provided as a matter of urgency. Forgive our scepticism Greg but we have no concrete evidence of your activities despite been told, as recently as this correspondence, that you are standing by your promised activity.

We share your enthusiasm to foster better relations with all interest groups. You ask that we acknowledge the major importance of the Corrib System as Wild Brown Trout fisheries. Let us make that absolutely clear Greg once and for all (and I can show you dozens of letters to CRB, WRFB and others to this effect): that the IPS has no issues with the Corrib System being managed primarily as a Wild Brown Trout fishery. Many of our members are trout men and we all recognise the importance of the resource. We want to see the ending of the use of gill nets for pike removal, we want to see the recognition that large pike are a small but valuable resource on trout waters that deserve to be protected and promoted, and we want any removal of smaller pike to be by humane methods. Our requirements are as simple as that!

You can see in the recommendations of the Pike Review Group how this type of regime can end any antagonism between pike anglers and the Fisheries Services. We are already working closely with the SHRFB who have decided to work the terms of the review despite it's not being implemented as policy as yet. We will continue to do so with any Board who are keen to find a new spirit of compromise to end this saga once and for all.

The initiative to develop the Angling Ireland West is to be commended and IPS believes we can help the body achieve its aims. We would be happy to meet with you and the relevant staff and we have absolutely no doubt that we can help the Board increase off shoulder pike angling tourism. To do however our constituency need to see some response. At the very least the Board have to be able to see that Pike Anglers, from both home and abroad, will not come en masse to waters where the very quarry they are targeting are being systematically destroyed.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet as you suggest. I can be contacted at 057-2224422 if your office would care to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Screen 2 of 2

I too apologise for the delay in responding. I am getting treatment at present which may well curtail my travel for a while but I will discuss that with your office when they call.

Yours Sincerely,

THE NORTH WESTERN REGIONAL FISHERIES BOARD

Re: Report on the Review of the Current Policy and Strategy for the Management of Pike and Pike Angling in Ireland

1. Overall Position

The document was considered at a meeting of the Board held on 27 January, 2004. The Board decided that it could not support the policy document for the reasons set out hereunder.

2. Adherence to Terms of Reference

The terms of reference relate to management of "Ireland's Pike Fishery Resource". In the Board's view, the review should, therefore, have confined itself to pike fisheries i.e. fisheries where pike fishing is practised.

3. Impact of Pike Control on Angling Tourist Numbers

The suggestion that "Pike culling in a small number of Irish lakes, particularly using gill nets, impacts on the attractiveness of these lakes as pike angling destinations" is completely incorrect insofar as Loughs Conn, Cullin and Arrow are concerned as these lakes have never been regarded as pike fisheries and virtually no pike fishing is carried out on them. There is, therefore, no valid basis for the recommendations put forward insofar as they relate to Loughs Conn and Cullin.

4. Proposed Strategy

The Board cannot support the proposed pilot project for the following reasons:

- (a) No case has been made in the document for the selection of Loughs Conn and Cullin for participation in the pilot project. There was no participation in this regard with the North Western Regional Fisheries Board which is responsible for management of these lakes.
- (b) The proposal to confine pike removal to fish of less than 80cms makes no sense as the bigger pike will, in fact, prey more heavily on trout and salmon smolts. If it is accepted that pike should be controlled in these lakes, as a conservation measure, then there is no logic to allowing the bigger pike to remain in the lakes, particularly when these lakes are not regarded as pike fisheries or fished regularly for pike.
- (c) There is no basis or justification for the proposal that gill nets should not be used to capture pike for management purposes for a period of five years on those lakes. If it is accepted that pike should be controlled on these waters, it should be a matter for the Regional Board, as the statutory authority, to determine the most effective way of doing this. In this region, both methods are used depending on water levels, time of year, availability of staff resources etc. Given the need to achieve maximum efficiencies in deployment of scarce resources, it would make no sense to limit the Board's ability to carry out its statutory remit in relation to protection of those lakes.

- (d) Stocks of trout are at very low levels on Loughs Conn and Cullin in accordance with the latest CFB stock surveys on those lakes. Numbers of spawning trout and salmon on the River Deel have also declined dramatically in recent years. It is vital, therefore, that all possible steps are taken to continue to conserve trout and juvenile salmon on Loughs Conn and Cullin and the Board considers it essential that its existing pike control measures be at least maintained if not extended.
- (e) The report fails completely to recognise the value to trout and salmon stocks in Loughs Conn and Cullin/Moy system and how the proposed changes might impact on these highly valuable resources. While the report refers to the decline in pike angling tourist numbers, it ignores the fact that there has been a massive increase in numbers of salmon anglers visiting this region over the past twenty years. For example, sales of salmon angling licences have increased from less than 3,000 in 1981 to more than 10,000 in 2002 with the vast majority of these coming to fish the Moy. The Board believes that this massive increase in visitor numbers confirms that the Board has adopted the correct management strategy in relation to the Moy system whereas the policy document under review fails completely to justify a change in this policy.
- (f) The document fails to recognise that larger pike removed from trout lakes in this region are regularly stocked to other lakes which are being developed and managed as pike fisheries. The Board believes that this is the most sensible way to conserve large pike while, at the same time, developing and promoting pike angling.

5. Funding

Insofar as this region is concerned, the Board could not support expenditure of an additional €1m per year for five years on implementation of this policy. The Board is satisfied that it is pursuing the correct strategy in relation to management of fisheries in this area and is prepared to continue with this strategy based on its existing level of funding. It would suggest that, in the present climate, any increased costs arising in other Boards should be similarly absorbed. Furthermore, it is not at all clear, from sections 1.3 and 2.3, that increased expenditure of €1m per annum for five years would "provide excellent value for money" as stated in the report. In fact, the report is singularly short on any specific results, economic or otherwise, which might flow from the proposed strategy.

6. Board's Position

For the reasons set out above, the Board cannot support the policy document. In general, the document is based on false assumptions, fails to justify the proposed strategic actions insofar as the pilot project is concerned, does not justify the proposed increase in expenditure of €5m over five years and does not set out any projected results from the proposed policy and strategy.

1

Chief Executive Officer

27 January, 2004

APPENDIX 6

British angler fined for trying to export fish to disease-free Ireland

© Fri, Nov 17, 2006, 00:00

A television angler and his friend have been accused of risking the spread of a virus in Ireland and jeopardising the growing angling tourism industry.

Angling writer ' (48), known as the "the pike ace" because of his prowess shown on television, and ' (37) were stopped at Holyhead ferry port in Anglesey, Wales, on their way to Ireland last May.

Wolverhampton, was yesterday fined £800 (€1,185) by magistrates at Holyhead and ordered to pay £500 (€741) costs. He admitted exporting 86 roach, 15 carp, three bream hybrids and a goldfish without a health certificate. The court heard tests on a sample showed they were disease-free but the fish were slaughtered.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs prosecutor ' said it might seem trivial for it to bring the case that had cost it £5,000 (€7,408), but there were several reasons that it was important.

Britain had a duty to ensure anything exported was certified disease-free and would not contaminate fresh waters in other countries. Unlike Ireland, Britain was not free of the disease spring viraemia of carp. "Attempting to export fish to a jurisdiction which is disease-free potentially risks the disease-free status of Ireland," Mr Smith said.

"The Irish authorities are watching with anticipation to see how Wales is dealing with this prosecution. It risks the angling industry in Ireland, which is a growing industry. . . If we are not seen to take these cases seriously, it potentially opens the floodgates for many other people to attempt similar offences in the future."

Mr ' said ' had been stopped by a customs officer at the port. In the back of his car was a tank of fish.

"Mr stated he was going to kill the fish before they were used. The prosecution case is that was very unlikely. Experts from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science say if live bait is used then larger fish can be caught."

Defence solicitor [redacted] said [redacted] married father of two, worked in the electrical trade and was a small recreational angler who was going to Ireland on an annual trip.

"My fear is this case has been brought for window-dressing to try and make an example of this man," Mr [redacted] said. "He had no idea he was committing any kind of offence. What Mr [redacted] was doing was taking some live fish with him in order to kill and use as fresh bait in Ireland where he was going to fish. Fish prefer fresh bait."

Mr [redacted] told the court he was very sorry for what he had done.

Chairwoman [redacted] said: "You tried to deceive the authorities at the port of Holyhead. What you did could have had far-reaching implications in the Republic of Ireland as it is a disease-free fishing country for this particular fish . . . The environmental impact could have been catastrophic."

[redacted] pleaded guilty by letter but his case was adjourned until next month for him to attend court. He wrote that the fish were to be used as dead bait.

He deeply regretted his actions that had caused embarrassment to fellow anglers. "I have had to resign as a member of the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain."

In an anglers' magazine column, he had told how he was returning to Ireland with three friends and "we are wondering what is going to go wrong this time".



APPENDIX 7

THE SCOTSMAN

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Rogue anglers threatening fish stocks with pike

Published: 01:00
Updated: 02:44
Sunday 16 May 2004

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IT HAS been described as the freshwater equivalent of the great white shark: a ferocious predator that can weigh more than 50lbs, armed with rows of razor-sharp teeth, and which devours its own.

Now evidence is growing that thrill-seeking anglers are deliberately introducing the fearsome pike to some of Scotland's most prized trout and salmon waters.

Wildlife groups say the voracious fish threatens to wipe out native species in some of the country's most celebrated lochs and rivers.

Pike fishing is a sport which attracts growing numbers of anglers, who pursue their quarry with a grim determination and will travel hundreds of miles to catch a record-sized fish.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Scotland claims there is hard evidence that anglers are deliberately releasing adult pike into Scottish waterways purely for sport, even though they are not native to northern waters.

The fear of the WWF and other groups is that pike will devastate native brown trout stocks and pose a danger to already dwindling numbers of char, a game fish of the salmon-trout family.

The information has been provided to the WWF by the Spey River Board and local anglers. Loch Ness is another famous waterway into which pike have been introduced for sporting purposes.

John Galt, of WWF Scotland, said: "We have a group of selfish and irresponsible pike anglers who see it as their duty to move pike around and populate more rivers and lochs to suit themselves.

"My main concern is that they will feast on brown trout and char. But worse than that, there are many lochs where there are no fish and they have a rather unique ecosystem where the top predator is a newt, and if pike end up in there they will eat everything and it will be a complete ecological disaster."

Rogue anglers are also alleged to have released pike bait - including perch, rudd, roach and carp - into waterways where they may not previously have existed, posing a disease risk to native species.

said: "Pike are ferocious and very hungry. They continue feeding way past being full - they just keep eating. Females are often found stuffed-full because they are highly opportunistic and lay even more eggs the bigger they are. So you could go and catch a load of pike, but if you miss a few big females then they are there to stay."

The Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain claims the fish has existed in Scottish waters for at least 10,000 years.

This is contested by many Scottish experts who believe the pike found in Highland rivers and lochs are only there because they were artificially introduced.

One of Scotland's top fish biology experts, Ron Greer, believes that pike is not native to the Highlands.

He said: "Moving a pike to the Highlands is like moving rats to the South Seas. We worry about grey squirrels replacing the red squirrel but we should regard pike in the Highlands as an underwater grey squirrel or underwater mink."

"This clandestine movement of pike to new unnatural environments is causing a terrible effect. The responsible pike anglers don't do that, but they are not the danger. As usual, it is an irresponsible small band of misfits that are providing these dangers."

Greer's views were echoed by leading fishing writer and journalist Bruce Sandison. He said: "I have no knowledge of any indigenous species of pike in our northern lochs, but they have definitely spread. There are now pike to be found in Loch Garry, Loch Loyne and waters in Wester Ross - all placed there by anglers."

"It would concern me greatly if anybody maliciously introduced pike into these waters, because it does irreparable damage to the natural environment."

"There is no law in Scotland that prevents people from introducing other species, although there is in England and Wales. That seems to me to be very remiss on the part of the Scottish Executive not to address this issue."

 , director of the Association of Salmon Fisheries Board, admitted that coarse angling was "extremely important" to Scotland's economy as it generates around 130m every year.

However, he added: "It is essential that at some point in the future some form of control or regulation of these transfers is brought into effect."

Last night, , general secretary of the Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain, said: "We condemn 100% any angler who illegally introduces a new species of fish to a water and interferes with a balanced environment."

But he said predators were "essential" to a balanced natural environment and to help maintain a healthy stock of prey fish by removing the old, weak and diseased fish from the water.

"The best controller of the pike population in a water is the pike itself - large pike eat lots of small pike, maintaining a balanced predator population that is not overrun with small jack pike," he added.

A Scottish Executive spokesman said they would be looking at the transfer of species between waterways as part of a review of freshwater fishing.

Underwater predator

PIKE can live for up to 50 years. The markings on adult pike are as individual as fingerprints and hardly change during their lifespan, enabling anglers and researchers to identify individual fish.

Most pike heavier than 10lb are female, with male pike larger than 12lb being rare. The female pike can produce around 200,000 eggs.

Females carry eggs for most of the year, with egg development beginning in the summer following the springtime spawn. In winter and spring the eggs mature and swell by absorbing water.

Pike tend to live on a diet of

whatever fish is available in their waters, such as perch, salmon and trout.

According to the Pike Anglers' Club of Great Britain, the largest pike caught on rod and line in Scotland weighed in at 47lb 11oz.

The fish was caught by _____ on Loch Lomond in 1945.

APPENDIX 8

pacnews.blogspot.com

Monday, February 23, 2009

PAC National Committee Statement re Ireland

The National Committee has read with interest the various views being expressed on internet forums and elsewhere regarding matters pertaining to pike and pike fishing in Ireland. This statement has been prepared reflecting the position of the National Committee.

The Irish Republic

The present geographic remit of the Pike Anglers Club does not currently encompass the Irish Republic. The Club was formerly known as the Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain and Ireland but this changed with the formation of the Irish Pike Society in 1993. Sadly the IPS was adversely affected by the untimely death of the IPS Chairman David Overy.

The current position of the PAC is not to reincorporate the Irish Republic into the club. We are aware of the potential formation of a Conservation Orientated organisation there with similar objectives and principles to PAC. Clearly the existing organisation representing pike anglers in the Republic namely the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs has shown itself to be more concerned with running pike matches than in pike care and conservation per se and hence do not fulfil the necessary role that PAC fulfils in the UK.

We hope in time to see the emergence of an Irish led pike welfare organisation in the Irish Republic and will both watch and support developments to that end closely. In the event this does not transpire the National Committee will review matters in conjunction with its membership in Ireland and also represent the interests of the many GB based pike anglers who fish in Ireland.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is well served by PAC members with circa 100 members of the club residing there. This level of activity to our mind reflects both the level of interest in pike fishing in this part of the UK as well as the threats increasingly posed to it from various sources.

Originally there was a single PAC Region in Northern Ireland but following the 2008 AGM of Region 43 this region has since closed and a new Region 111 started up.

The PAC's officers in Northern Ireland are George Higgins as Liaison Officer and Robbie Marsh as Regional Organiser RA 111. We have confidence and faith in these two members to look after PAC interests in the North and are in regular contact with them.

No other individuals are authorised by the National Committee to deal with authorities and other bodies on behalf of the PAC in Northern Ireland.

For avoidance of doubt the PAC do not support the Erne Classic Pike event.

Furthermore we have appointed two members of the National Committee to deal with related matters in Ireland these being John Cahill for the North and Phil Wakeford for the Republic. They will of course work closely together.

Barrels

The strong following for pike matches throughout the island of Ireland has resulted in the perceived need to retain live pike for later "weighing in" and verification of the catch by "permitted methods" by match officials to prevent false claims being made. This is particularly relevant when considering the large value prizes that some of the open matches offer.

Sunday, June 07, 2009

PAC opposes Irish size limit review

Britain's leading predator angling club has added its voice to the groundswell of protest against proposals to raise the legal size limit of pike which may be killed for the table in Ireland.

The Central Fisheries Board is considering asking Irish fishery authorities to increase the size of pike which may be killed from 50 to 75cm.

It claims it is under pressure to do so, after complaints from visiting European anglers. But pike anglers using freedom of information laws have found just two Swiss anglers and seven visiting Germans have complained, along with two individual guides, who say their customers want to be allowed to kill larger fish.

[PAC](#) president of the Pike Anglers Club, said: "As the representative body for the UK's pike anglers, we are voicing our objection to any move to raise the size limit for pike from 50cm to 75cm.

"We are fundamentally opposed to the promotion of taking pike for food as we believe that the pike is a sport fish to be enjoyed by many as opposed to being consumed by the few.

"UK pike anglers make up the majority of the pike fishing tourists travelling to Eire every year and the lost income from increasingly pike unfriendly policies will surely have a far greater impact than allowing a few anglers from the wider continent to kill larger fish."

Landmark conservation bylaws to protect Ireland's pike were agreed in 2006, after a long battle by anglers on both sides of the Irish Sea.

To add your voice and oppose any move to see the size limits increase, e-mail the [Central Fisheries Board's](#) director of marketing [at](#)

Posted by [Pike Anglers Club of Great Britain](#) at 6:07 pm 

Labels: [Ireland](#)

APPENDIX 9

pacnews.blogspot.com

APPENDIX 10

www.the-pikers-pit.co.uk

24

Inland Fisheries Ireland to cease using gill nets for pike r

Report | Quote

By jkchambers • Thu Aug 21 2014 14:25

Inland Fisheries Ireland to cease using gill nets for pike removal

For decades pike have been removed from a number of lakes which have been managed as wild brown trout fisheries. These lakes include Corrib, Mask, Carra, Conn, Cullin, Arrow and Sheelin. Ten years ago the list of lakes where pike were removed was almost twice what it is now. Gill nets have been used to remove larger pike and electro fishing used to remove juvenile pike. The use of indiscriminate gill nets has always been a major issue among pike anglers. The Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs (I.F.P.A.C.) has campaigned against the use of gill nets since its establishment in 1988.

Last March an I.F.P.A.C. delegation was invited to make a presentation on the establishment of a National Angling Development Plan to the Development Sub Committee of the Board of Inland Fisheries Ireland. A wide range of topics were discussed with the 2 main issues being the use of gill nets to remove pike from managed wild brown trout fisheries and the marketing of the pike angling product on these lakes. A very full and frank discussion took place on every aspect of these important issues. The members of the Sub Committee reported back to their Board at their next meeting and a decision to review their pike management programme and practice and how they promote and develop pike angling was made.

Yesterday there was another meeting between the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs and Inland Fisheries Ireland. Once again a wide range of issues were discussed.

I.F.P.A.C. were told that while the review of pike management on managed wild brown trout fisheries was ongoing some decisions had been made

1. It is Inland Fisheries Ireland's aim to cease gill netting as a method of pike management on the managed wild brown trout fisheries. This is a process which will take a period of time to implement and IFI has already invested in alternative technologies to expedite this process and will continue to do so.

2. Electro fishing is to be used to remove juvenile pike from managed wild brown trout fisheries. Past experience has shown that 95% of pike caught by this method are under 20cms

3. There is no intention to remove all pike from these waters as a good stock of pike will be needed to maintain a proper ecological balance and provide a pike angling resource

4. IFI's aim to cease gill netting as a method of pike removal and focus on electro fishing of juvenile pike however should this process not succeed IFI reserves the right to re-commence gill netting any water to maintain the required balance

5. While the emphasis will be on promoting these lakes as managed wild brown trout fisheries pike angling will also be promoted

Other important issues discussed included

- Development of pike waters
- Funding within the Inland Fisheries resource
- Biosecurity and safety of anglers on the water
- Pike angling tourism

I.F.P.A.C. welcomes the decision to cease the practice of gill netting and congratulates the Board on its timely policy review.

Re: Inland Fisheries Ireland to cease using gill nets for pi

By jkchambers • Fri Aug 22 2014 18:49

! 66

jkchambers
Sergeant

Posts: 217
Joined: Sat Nov 05 2011 05:00

66 Hide Quote

Have to agree with Phil about this. Yesterday when I heard the netting was to stop, I thought it was brilliant and still do but we are a long way from Irish piking returning to it's former glory. There are a number of things that worry me.

1. Why does netting have to be "phased out" Why can't it just stop?
2. The sentence in paragraph 4 which says the IFI reserve the right to go back to gill netting if electro fishing does not work. What do they class as "not working"? Big pike being caught and not enough trout being landed?
3. Why does electro fishing of "juvenile pike" need to be carried out at all? Surely this is tampering with nature again. Why not leave the pike alone and see if the pike cull themselves as should happen?

It's still good news that the boards are starting to listen but it is still sickening that after all the research by their own scientist that proved pike were native to Ireland, they still see the need to remove pike. Pike and pike anglers are still being treated as second class to the trout boys. Still, it's a big step forward. Only time will tell if it's enough.

We do need to have more meetings with IFI to establish lots of ground rules.

1. I don't think that we will have gill netting next year
2. No, they now want a good number of big pike present. That clause is there because any civil servant will try to protect their backside. IFI boss Dr Ciaran Byrne did say that he 100% hopes that they will never have to use gill nets again.
3. Of course it is tampering with nature. That said it is their policy to manage these waters as wild brown trout fisheries and their scientists insist that pike numbers must be kept in line. We will have to try to establish what pike stocks are their ideal in each of these lakes.

APPENDIX 11

www.facebook.com



THEIR SCUM AND THATS THAT WE WILL SEE WHEN
THERE IS NOT A TROUT LEFT IM GONNA KILL EVERY TROUT I GET
AND POST THEM TO THEIR PAGE

Like · Reply · 24 mins



No nets for pike in Irish waters

Like · Reply · 23 mins

Fuck your brown trout 🍑

Like · Reply · 1 hr

mson fuck the IFI and fuck the trout clubs. bunch of thick cunts

Like · Reply · January 13 at 9:10pm

All those stuck up posh wankers who are not only happy slaughtering their own target species, but decide to kill other proper anglers target fish. No respect for nature or the balance that has existed for thousands maybe millions of years. Mr personally if I see anyone killing a pike the fucker il be going for a swim gear an all included

👍 1 · 30 November 2016 at 00:42



Done...all d pike anglers in ireland shud start killing trout to give d game anglers a taste of there own medicine why shud we stand bye and let this carry on any longer... a quick photo and release is d way forward... only thing is us pike anglers have more respect so we wont but if i ever see anybody kill a pike im personally goin to smash there head in watever nationality they are fucking cavemen... 🍑

👍 3 · 29 November 2016 at 17:33 · Edited

Sick of these cunts! 🤢

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · 19 January at 15:43

Common practice for these people.

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · 19 January at 15:46

If its right its madness. Desecration of tourist attraction. And for what 😞

Like · Reply · 19 January at 16:09 · Edited

Fuckers

Like · Reply · 19 January at 18:15

... We must have the most backwards fisheries department in the world. Shower of cunts!!

Like · Reply · 👍 3 · 19 January at 18:36

Full of trout fuckers from the dark ages

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · 19 January at 20:00

I'm keeping every trout I get for dead bait or food for my dog or I will just kill them them and fuck them back in for the pike 😊

30 November 2016 at 01:11

Fuckin cave man that's barbaric no excuse at all would love to slap the prick 😡😡😡😡

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · 4 hrs



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... [www.irishpikesociety.org](#)

uff Sack the minister ffs!!!!!!!

Like Reply · 16h

al Kyne's fucking Clown

Like Reply · 16h

nglers killing all before them ,there worse than ... morant

Like Reply · 16h

hen you say "trout anglers", do you mean all or just they few you know ? Seriously stupid comment

Like Reply · 15h

90% of trout anglers simply kill their catch numpity... and then have the gaul to blame the pike for declining stocks fools ..take out the pike and the roach population explodes , this is already happening idiot, the trout are now feeding off roach fry , not interested in your fry idiot , your as bad as the rest .. LEAVE THE PIKE ALONE ITS BEEN HERE LONGER THAN ALL OF US .. now put ya fekin head back into the sand

Like Reply · 7h

Send Message

[www.irishpikesociety.org](#)

Charity

Suggest Edits

Team Members

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@irishpikesociety

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Horrible bastard that Minister

Like Reply · 8h

Jonathon Morrison

Like Reply · 8h

R Sean Kyne TD!! Are you THING to kill or pike angling in this country?! What next?! Culling bream, roach, rudd, etc.?!

Marcella Corcoran Kennedy TD, Barry Cowen TD, and Carol Nolan; if you want ANY chance of having my vote, you will oppose this woefully misguided intervention by your Dáil colleague...

Like Reply · 7h Edited

Send Message

Team Members

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19 January at 19:25 · YouTube

Absolutely disgusting so much for your cordial Talks lads , think you's might have been coned



IFI Electro fishing Lough corrib
,clare river

IFI 19.01.2017

WWW.YOUTUBE.COM

Like Comment Share

15

complete madness, this looks like 50 years ago. In the Netherlands we kill these people!

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 January at 23:32

for someone just honestly doing their job they took off fast when the guy approached them. Clearly up to no good

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 January at 23:57

hey never followed 1 sop

Like · Reply · 1 · 24 January at 09:39

Spot being reasonable with unreasonable people

Burn every net

Sink every boat

Like · Reply · 1 · 25 January at 23:58 · Edited



Founded 1852

Inland Fisheries Division
Department of Communications
Climate Action and Environment
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
H12 A8H7

23/5/2018

A Chara,

It is now the month of May 2018, a time of renewal, growth and vibrancy here around the Great Western Lakes. It is the season of the Mayfly.

A fly that attracts thousands of anglers from home and abroad to our local communities to fish for our world famous brown trout.

This allure has been sustained by generations of anglers. Wild Brown Trout are the attraction.

Without this native indigenous species those people would not come and there would be no Mayfly season or the banter and crack that is part of the Mayfly season.

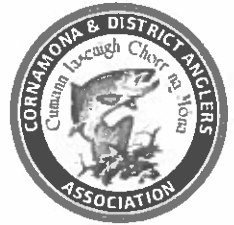
This is why the Designated Salmonid Waters Bye-law 2018 is so important in that it aims to protect the native brown trout and all it entails around the Great Western Lakes even down to children picking mayflies and making a few euro.

The loss of these waters is unthinkable and I fully support the Minister Sean Kyne's intention to make the Designated Salmonid Waters Bye-Law.

Mise le meas,



Cumann Iascaigh Chorr na Móna Cornamona & District Anglers Association



Cornamona, Galway. (via Claremorris)

Inland Fisheries Division
Department of Communications
Climate Action and Environment
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
H12 A8H7

15/5/2018

A Chara,

I support the Designated Salmonid Waters Bye -Law 2018 as proposed by Minister Sean Kyne T.D.

Legislation is needed to protect the Great Western Lakes as Wild Brown Fisheries and also to protect the Wild Atlantic Salmon, an endangered species.

Without proper protection both of these species will disappear in a short space of time.

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Pike are predator of both species and without adequate and proper control will decimate both populations.

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Climate Action and Environment
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
H12 A8H7

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Cornamona, Galway. (via Claremorris)

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This is why the Designated Salmonid Waters Bye-law 2018 is so important in that it aims to protect the native brown trout and all it entails around the Great Western Lakes even down to children picking mayflies and making a few euro.

The loss of these waters is unthinkable and I fully support the Minister Sean Kyne's intention to make the Designated Salmonid Waters Bye-Law.

Mise le meas,



Cumann Iascaigh Chorr na Móna Cornamona & District Anglers Association



Cornamona, Galway. (via Claremorris)

Full support for new legislation regarding designation of the great western lakes as wild brown trout fisheries.

Att Inland Fisheries Ireland and Minister Sean Kyne,

I, the undersigned do hereby wish to give my full support to The Minister, Mr. Sean Kyne in signing into law upcoming legislation regarding the management of pike on designated wild Salmonid fisheries. Without this legislation our wild brown trout and thus our angling tourism would be in serious trouble. There are only a handful of these fisheries left in Europe... it is imperative that they be protected for future generations. Invasive pike, if left unchecked will wipe out our native wild brown trout and salmon stocks.

Thank You

Signed

[Redacted Signature]

Date

[Redacted Date]

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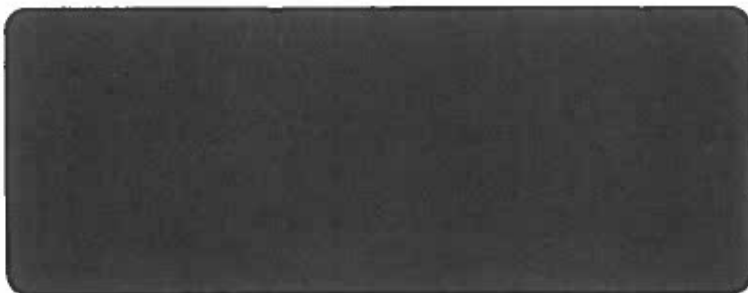
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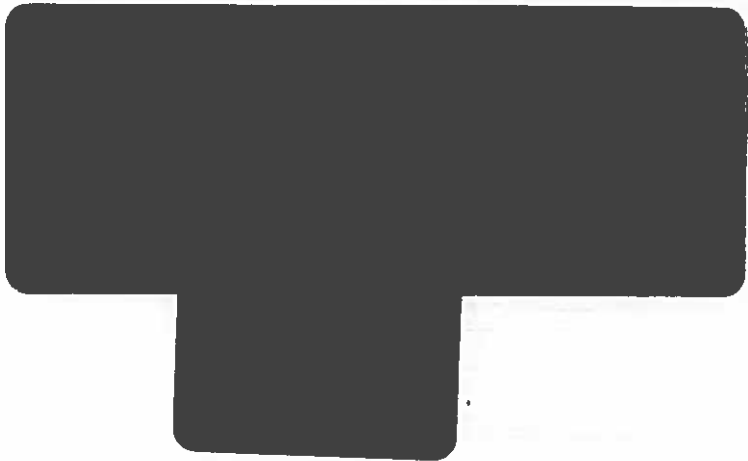
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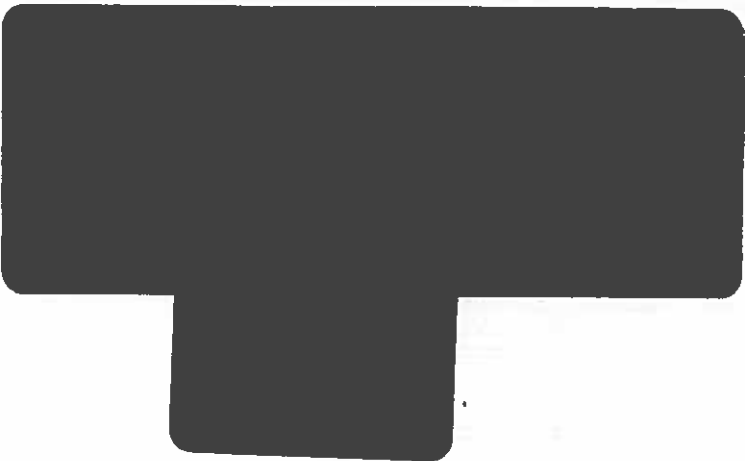
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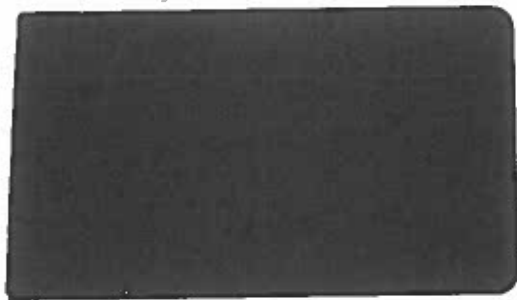
Dear Nym, J D

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Yours Sincerely

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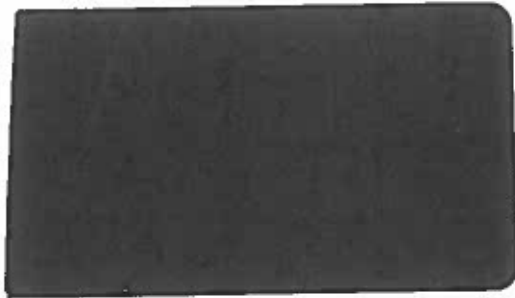
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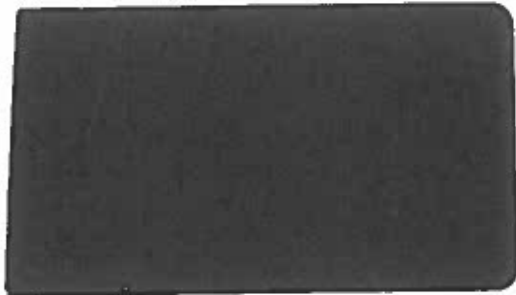
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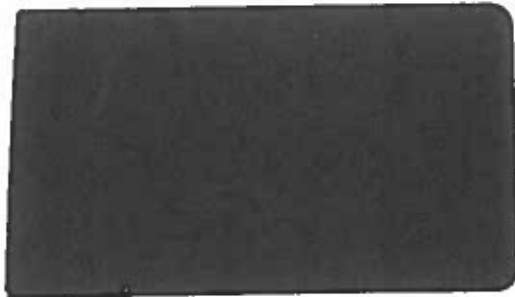
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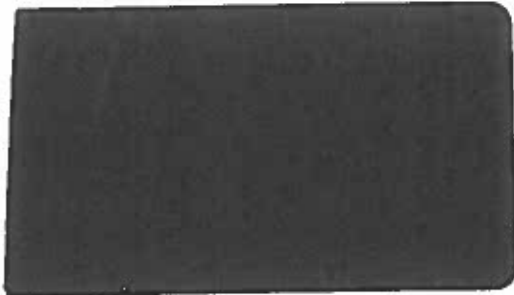
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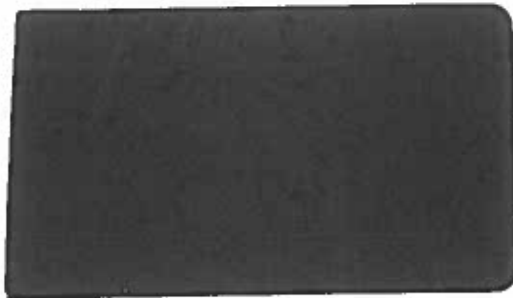
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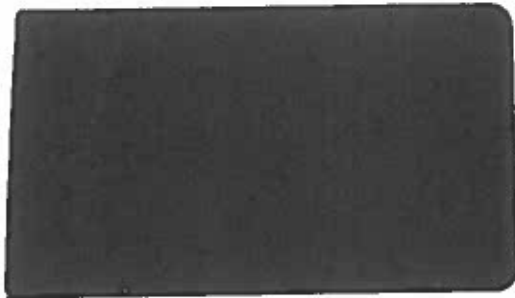
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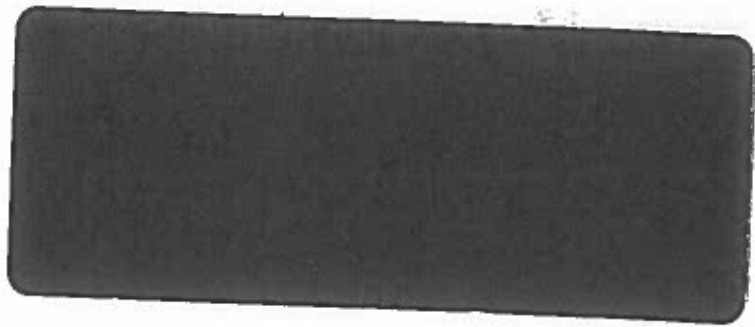
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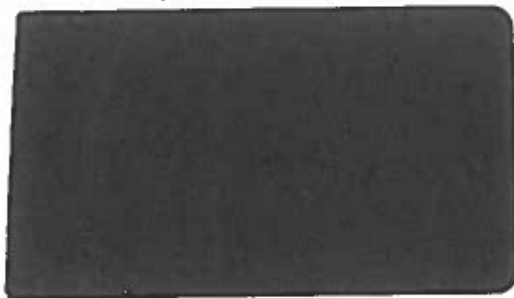


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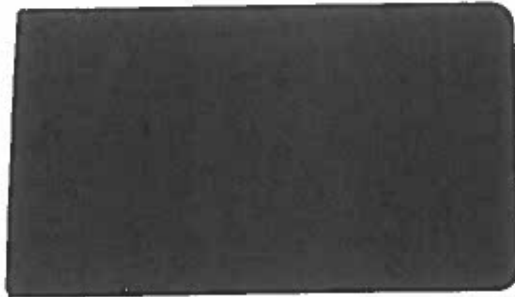
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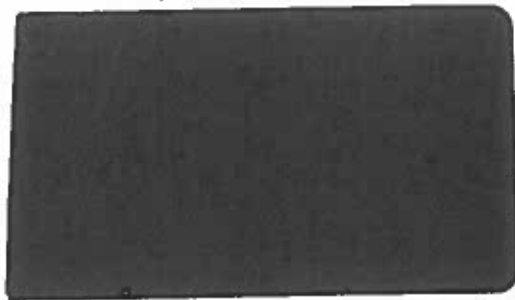
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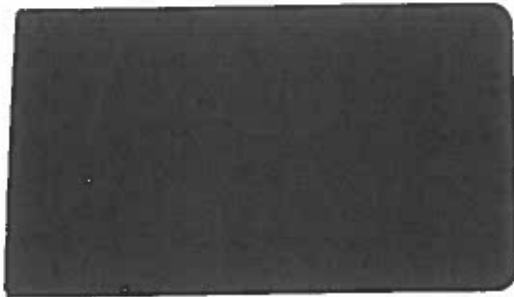
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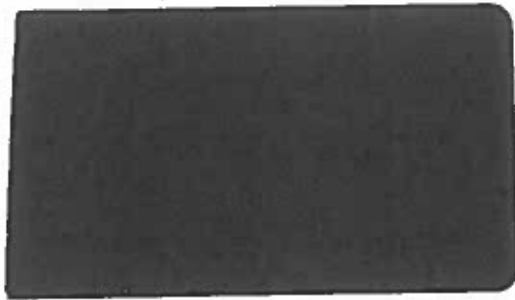
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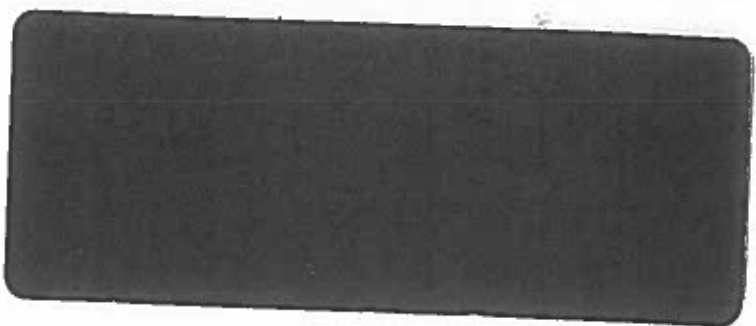
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[Redacted Signature]

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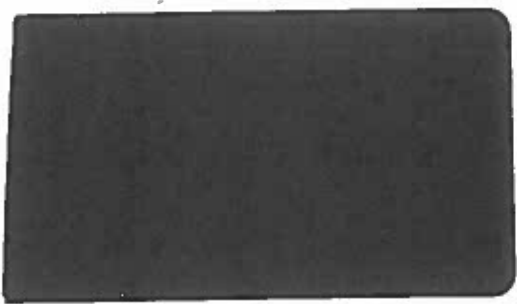


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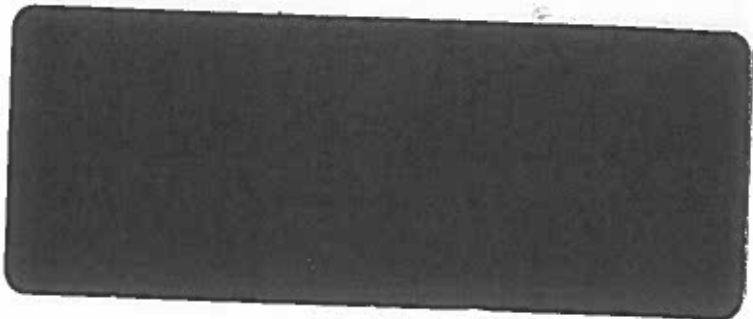
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Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Sean Kyne, TD

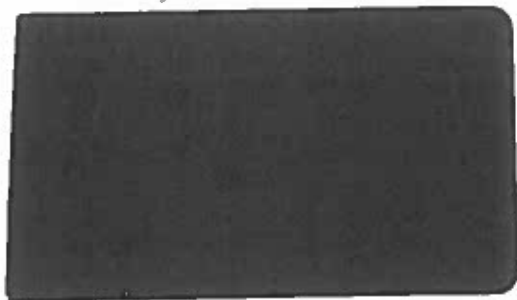



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Inland Fisheries Division
Department of Communications
Climate Action and Environment
Elm House
Earlsvale Road
Cavan Town
H12 A8H7

20/5/2018

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This piece of legislation is paramount in the protection of the Great Western Lakes as Wild Brown Fisheries and also the protection of the Wild Atlantic Salmon, an endangered species.

Without proper protection both of these species will disappear in a short space of time.

Pike are the apex predator of both species and without adequate and proper control will decimate both populations.

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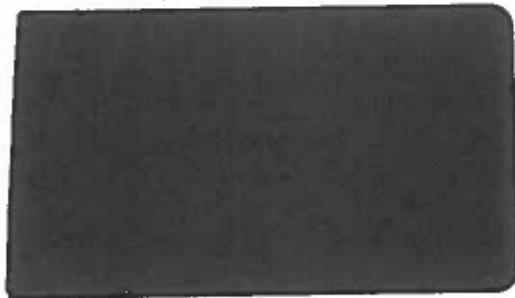
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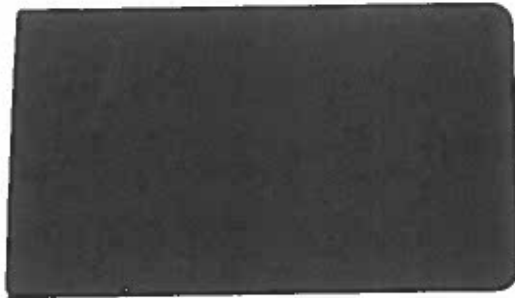
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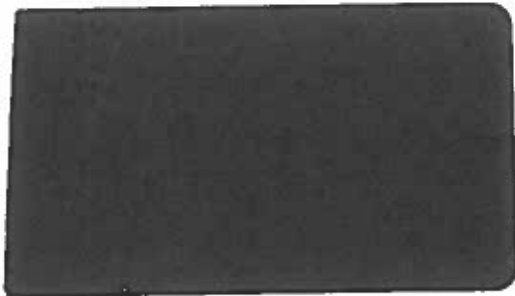
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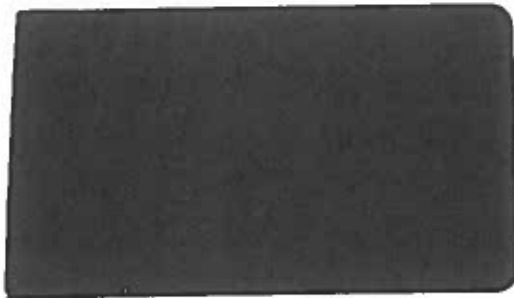
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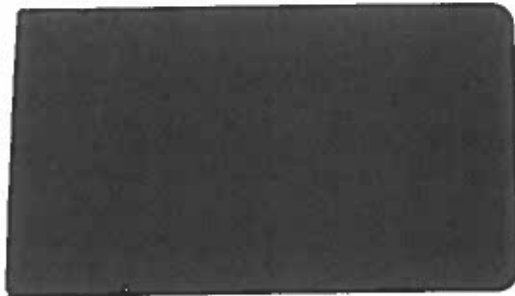
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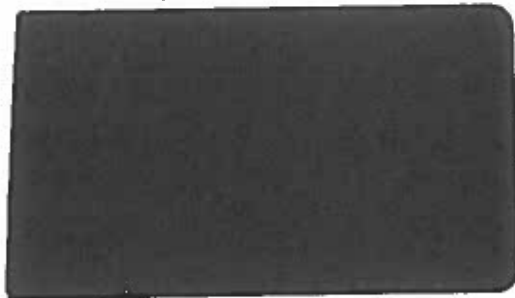
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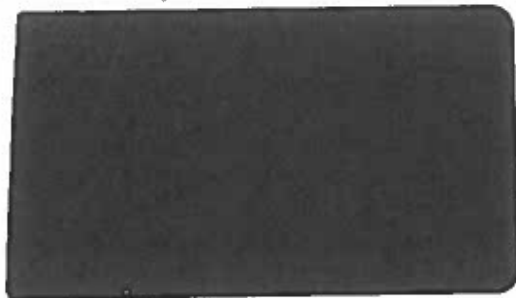
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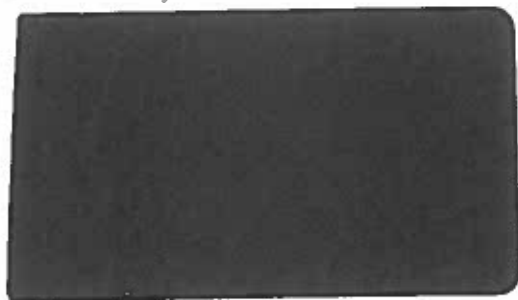
Frank King, M.P.

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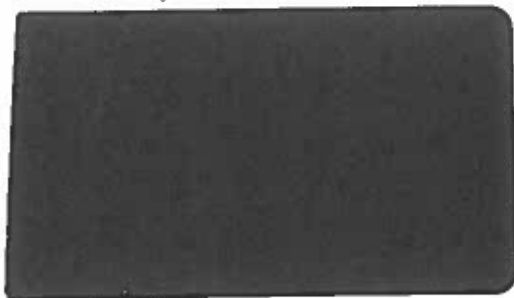
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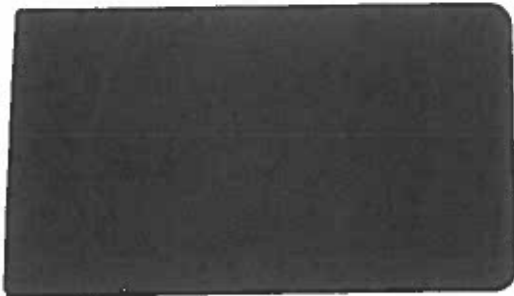
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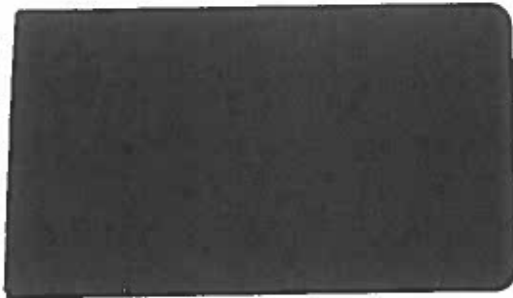
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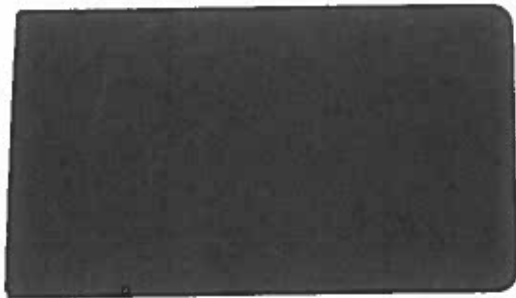
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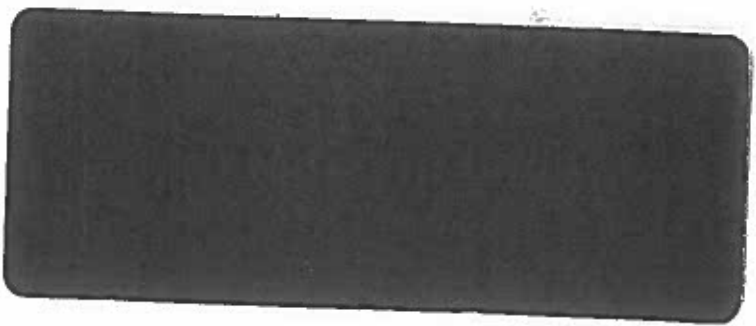
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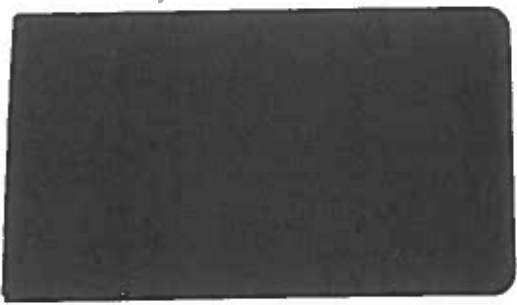


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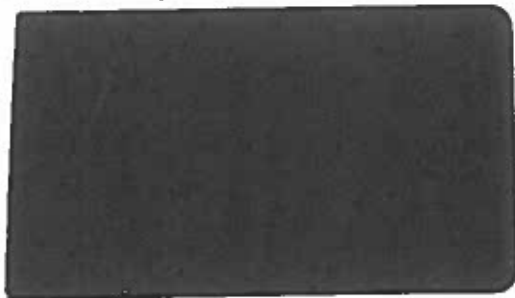
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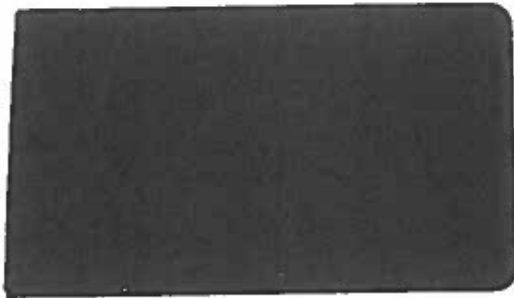
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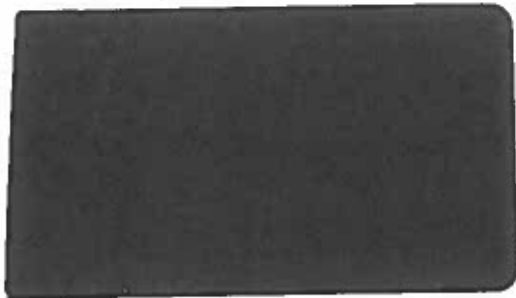
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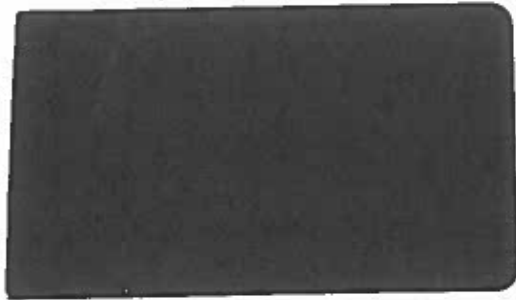
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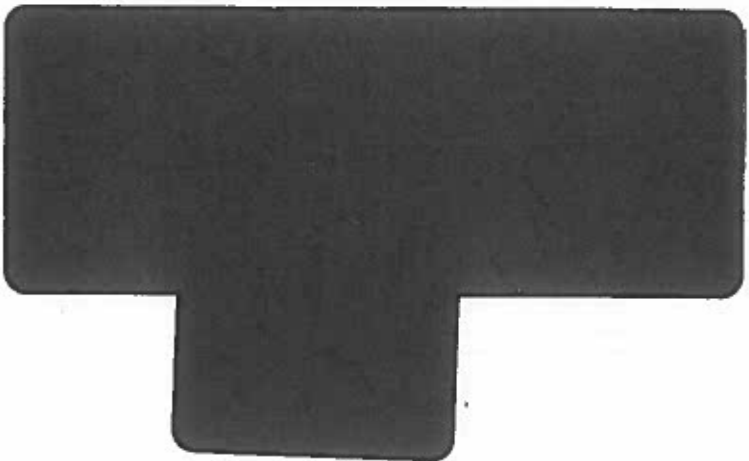
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