

**From:**  
**Sent:** Thursday 5 March 2026 17:04  
**To:** DCEP IFD Public Consultations  
**Subject:**  
**Attachments:** .x

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See Attached for Submission



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S24

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To whom it may Concern

Re: Salmon Regulations 2026 Draft Proposals No 2

Dear Sirs,

Please find our second submission regarding the above. We would like to make the following points.

1. As the regulations have been radically altered, does this mean that the scientific data was incorrectly recorded or has the data been incorrectly interpreted?
2. We, the public are being asked to assess and comment on the originally flawed science. We are not scientists, yet we are being asked to make submissions on false information. What logic supports this request?
3. Lough Corrib is a Special Area of Conservation, SAC, which should be managed on reliable and narrative free science. It seems that our authorities are incapable of applying that logic.
4. Inland Fisheries Ireland, IFI, and the Department are quite happy to interfere with SAC management. Not only do they meddle with the science, they are quite happy to ignore their responsibilities under the EU Water Frameworks Directive and the EU Habitats Directive.
5. North Atlantic Salmon are listed as an Annex 2 species and IFI has failed miserably in their protection:
  - (a) They have failed to protect them in the freshwater environment by not controlling competitive invasive species such as roach, bream, hybrids, tench etc in our SAC's
  - (b) They have failed to control predatory invasive species in our SACs such as pike and perch in order to provide a commercial outlet for a small cohort of anglers specializing in specimen pike and perch angling. The current pike control measures are wholly inadequate and perch control is non-existent.
  - (c) IFI have an abysmal record when it comes to pollution prosecutions. The river Blackwater fiasco spoke volumes of their inability to get things right.
  - (d) The Dept sends IFI staff to NASCO meetings every year to help promote the protection of salmon migration routes at sea. The organisation has been an abject failure. Salmon cages abound along the routes and adult salmon are routinely end up being dumped overboard as bycatch on massive trawlers that don't have a quota for their retention

It just goes on and on...

So, what is the IFI Solution

- 1) Restrict salmon anglers even further and impose the hollow Catch, Photo and Release mantra

God help us!! When are our authorities going to realise that salmon anglers have little or no impact on returning salmon numbers. If the fish aren't there, how can you catch them ?

Catch, Photo and Release is a false narrative. If every individual fish is as valued as the IFI claim they are then why catch an already exhausted fish, pull it around by the nose as it is trying to metamorphose, deplete it of its oxygen, only to lift it out of the water, brain



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damaging it for the sake of a photo and then letting it swim off downstream only for it to die 300m away!

Salmon anglers have noted this scene time and again.

Does the IFI listen? No because it doesn't suit their agenda and because angling magazines peddle politically correct rubbish and traditional anglers are supposed to swallow it.

This is nonsense

If the individual fish are so valuable then leave them alone.

2) The closure of Cong Hatchery

This is certainly one of the most illogical actions that the IFI has taken in some time. The salmon is teetering on the brink and they shut the hatchery on the basis that the salmon are ranched and that this would adversely affect their genetics.

They conveniently ignored the fact that the salmon on Lough Corrib were largely wiped-out decades ago and the then IFI brought in salmon from the Nordic countries to replace them. This meant that the genetic purity was already compromised. They also maintained that the ranched fish were genetically weaker than their wild cousins, but when the adults were being stripped for breeding in Cong, it was standard practice to introduce wild genetic material. Therefore, the stock could not be genetically weaker.

What is even more baffling is that the IFI released 80,000 smolts from the hatchery after its closure. If they were a negative to the SAC, then why were they released?

What gave the IFI the right to break the law? They did not conduct an appropriate assessment to justify and underpin the release of these fish. Why? Because if they did, they would be contradicting their own policy. So, they effectively broke the law but that's ok when it comes to protection of the environment in Ireland.

Are they really to be relied upon as "the appropriate relevant authority" ...?

This submission process is a mockery. It has been a farce from the start. The final outcome will invariably be a farce because it will have little or no scientific standing.

We demand that our SAC's are run as just that special areas of conservation.

We demand proper narrative free science and the application of our EU Directives.

The IFI is no longer an organisation that can be relied upon to deliver on its obligations

We do not trust the IFI or its management team.

We only see the demise of this iconic element of the Irish Environment while Nero fiddles.

The North Atlantic Salmon will be confined to one or two Irish rivers in the hope that it will die out. That is IFI management at its professional best.

We oppose all further legislation until proper science is presented to us that we can believe and trust.

