
From:
Sent: Friday 27 February 2026 03:07
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Proposed 2026 Salmon and Seatrout Regulations

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Dear minister

I'm writing to you today to put in a strong objection to IFI's proposed 2026 salmon and Seatrout angling regulations . I strongly object to the regulations for several reasons but firstly I'd like to point out that the whole basis of these measures is based on a completely flawed system for collecting data . In regards to the moy system where I do most of my fishing IFI are basing the new regulations on a partial fish count from the counters in Ballina , partial logbook returns from anglers and no fry counts done on the river Moy or any of its tributaries in recent years . They simply do not have any facts on the numbers of fish entering the moy system period . These measure are a short sighted knee jerk reaction to the poor angling logbook returns and angling reports in 2024 and 2025 which is mostly due to non compliance with log books returns no ifi presence on the river checking licences and very poor angling effort due to two of the toughest seasons we've had in the past 20 years which was due largely to extreme heat and dry wrather . However despite all of that its reported that big numbers of fish did enter our rivers late season in both 2024 -2025 and angling was for the most part reasonable in the back end despite the brutal conditions early season and that all rivers have reported excellent spawning activity in 24-25 so opinions are extremely divided and conflicted on this matter Minister and I believe it would be extremely irresponsible of you to sign off on these regulations considering that the means in which the data being collected to implement them is completely and utterly flawed and it's soley based on opinion and not a matter of fact . The opinion that the moy system is struggling is a matter of opinion from ifi and not a matter of fact and its totally conflicted to the views of the Angling community along it . I personally had a good year and can report that there was plenty of Salmon in 25 . To implement measures that have far reaching socioeconomic cultural and recreational impacts on the river the angling community and local businesses is ludicrous , it would see the mighty river Moy system the most prolific and well renowned salmon river in Ireland void of Salmon Angling until June 1st bringing it to just a 3 month season . Anglers just will not accept fishing it on a catch and release basis until June 1st and again in September. In the case of the moy it just doesn't suit the bait fishing dynamic that the river is historically renowned for . Again in the case of the moy system and every other system in Ireland If Angling was a critical factor we would be able to justify these measures in the face of conservation but it's simply not true , Angling is not a variable threat under the current 10 tag system , it is in fact the opposite a river void of angling will be poached polluted and abused. Its the clubs and local Angling bodies that for the most part keep things in order on our river basins and removing or restricting angling is a short sighted irresponsible move and not part of any constructive frame work or plan from IFI and there simply is no factual basis for these measures and considering the detrimental affect it will have on Salmon Angling which is in fact the backbone and driving force behind Salmon conservation in Ireland it's imperative that we revert to the 2025 Angling regulations until IFI can provide proper factual data to justify measures that will have such an impact and effectively close down Salmon fishing in a lot of rivers and with a lot of other rivers effectively only operating on a 3 month season .The points I'd like to point out that are imperative to rehabilitating and sustaining Irelands Salmon stocks going forward are

No .1 Robust enforcement of our rivers and coastlines to counteract poaching and illegal fishing with proper financial penalties as a strong deterrent to curb poaching ASAP

No.2 Proper systems in place to collect factual data on migrating fish numbers going forward so we can ascertain when and where measures need to be implemented in real time . [Fish counters]

No.3 Fry counts on all major tributaries and spawning streams of our Salmon rivers .

No.4 Investment in water quality and waste water infrastructure

No.5 Habitual works on spawning sites and migration barrier removal along waterways

No.6 All rivers managed on a case by case basis so a proper framework or plan can be implemented to counteract any negative impacts or circumstances unique to any river .

I thank you for your time in reading my submission on this matter and again I urge the minister not to sign off on these measures on the points I've stressed above .

Kind Regards