
From:
Sent: Monday 2 March 2026 14:37
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Salmon and Sea Trout regulations

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A Chara, I urge you to consult more with the various angling clubs and associations throughout the country before changing any bylaws associated with the above.

I have been angling all my life. I am now 67 years of age. Closing rivers is not the solution to dwindling stocks. Preventing anglers from fishing is not the answer. In fact, encouraging anglers to fish will, inadvertently, protect stocks more. Without genuine anglers on the river banks, poachers will have free rein to do what they do best, catch and kill as many fish as they can. The IFI bailiffs cannot patrol every fishing spot on our rivers. I have seen and reported, numerous instances of poaching to the IFI in my area, the River Lee and the Bandon. The bailiffs do their best but they cannot be everywhere. If you are really serious about protecting the last of our salmon and sea trout stocks then you must immediately introduce a scientifically approved and proven restocking program. Every river in the country should be brought under a scheme whereby the various bodies responsible for each river either has a hatchery or has access to a hatchery in order to restock the river.

We must also look at the damage caused by hydroelectric schemes on the Shannon, the Lee and other impacted rivers. There is no reason why modern technology and a re imagination of design cannot be used in order to facilitate the upstream, and just as importantly, the downstream migration of fish.

We have to address as a matter of urgency, the overfishing of krill, shrimp and sprat at sea. These species are crucial as a food source for sea trout and salmon.

We all want the same thing. Many anglers and angling clubs in general, have been looking after our rivers for decades. They know what is needed based on their experience.

Please consult with them and more importantly, please listen to them with an open mind.

Over the last 14 years I have not been able to fish as much as I would like to. I have been busy with parental duties. However, despite knowing that my opportunities to fish would be very limited, I continued to purchase a license, knowing that I would in some small way, support the work of the IFI.

A lot of fellow anglers that I know do the same.

We will achieve far more if we work together to address this serious issue.

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