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**From:**  
**Sent:** Sunday 8 February 2026 11:26  
**To:** DCEE IFD Public Consultations  
**Subject:** Revised Draft Proposals for 2026 Salmon/Sea trout season

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you with deep concern for the future of Ireland's angling sector in light of the current Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) draft proposals. The ongoing allegations of corruption within IFI are extremely troubling and have significantly damaged trust among anglers. Many feel that the proposals being put forward are based on inaccurate or misleading data, and that this data is being used to justify immediate restrictions on salmon and sea trout angling.

It has become increasingly evident that the previous responses to the draft regulation proposals were largely disregarded during the preparation of the revised 2026 draft. Many anglers, having already purchased their 2026 season licence, did so based on official instruction that the regulations would remain consistent with the 2025 season—an instruction made necessary due to the significant flaws in the original draft.

The newly revised draft does not adequately reflect the feedback provided, nor does it acknowledge the concerns raised by the angling community. This disconnect between consultation and outcome is deeply concerning and risks further eroding trust in the regulatory process.

Given these circumstances, I strongly believe that the most responsible and balanced approach for the 2026 season would be to maintain the existing regulations from the 2025 season. This would allow IFI the necessary time to address internal issues, implement proper oversight, and restore confidence in the integrity of its management and data reporting.

The data currently being relied upon is widely viewed by anglers as unreliable. Implementing new restrictions based on incorrect information would not only be unfair but would also have serious consequences for Ireland's economy and tourism sector. Our angling tourism is already under pressure, and further river closures and mandatory catch-and-release policies will deter many visitors. From my own experience fishing a catch-and-release river for 15 years, I have not seen any improvement in stock levels. Many anglers also voluntarily practice conservation methods already, without the need for heavy-handed enforcement or conflict.

If the real underlying issues affecting fish stocks are not addressed first, punishing the angling community will not solve the problem. I can tell you that many anglers are openly expressing that they will not comply with mandatory catch-and-release until they see genuine accountability and evidence-based decision-making from IFI.

Looking ahead, I would like to put forward a constructive proposal for the 2027 season:

- 1 tag for a spring fish,

- **4 tags for grilse, and**
- **Catch-and-release for the month of September.**

This approach provides a balanced conservation measure while still allowing older generations of anglers to continue their traditional passion for worm fishing during the spring months.

Minister, we all share the goal of protecting and restoring our fish stocks. But this can only be achieved through fair, transparent, and credible processes. I sincerely urge you to consider maintaining the 2025 regulations for the 2026 season while IFI addresses the significant issues that have now come to light.

**Note:** The Full Closure of any River that is currently C/R also shows the incompetence levels within the IFI (Inland Fishery Ireland).

Thank you for your time and attention.

Yours sincerely,