From:
Sent: Thursday 5 March 2026 15:02
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: Salmon and Seatrout regulations 2026

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Dear Minister,

Following the recent redrafting of the Salmon and Seatrout regulations 2026 and taking into consideration the review consultation process that followed after the release of the 1st draft regulations, I would personally like to make the following submissions concerning the most recent draft proposals.

1.
The complete closure of rivers and systems that were previously heretofore operated on a catch and release basis contributes nothing to the protection of Salmon stocks on such river systems.
This is a classic "knee jerk"reaction that potentially exposes these rivers and systems to illegal poaching.
The argument against completely closing rivers is that with the complete absence of anglers, nefarious poaching will occur unchecked.
The action of the proposal to completely closing the rivers is extremely draconian towards loyal, compliant customers and stakeholders.

2.
There will a loss of revenue to the state from the rates paid on fisheries in the systems affected.
Compounding this loss of revenue stream will be the loss to businesses and communities by way of the absence of well paying anglers in the accommodation and restaurant/food industries that depend on this seasonal revenue stream.
The above can be further extended to ancillary commercial businesses such as fuel stations, tackle shops, small family B&B premises, Publicans, and fishing clubs that would depend on day ticket sales for revenue to keep these businesses and fishing clubs operational.

3.
The destruction and deterioration of valuable assests left unused on river systems that were invested over several years.
The deterioration due to non use of these assets, some of which have been supported financially by private owners and fishing clubs will be wasteful due to the consideration of closing rivers completely.

The closure of rivers completely from fishing, and effectively banning bona fide well paying Salmon Anglers from these rivers and systems that were previously operating on a Catch and Release basis achieves nothing except a classic "own goal" by the State.

Anglers are the eyes and ears for these fisheries.

Previously, following the initial 1st draft regulations there appeared to be a realisation that the information provided to your department was unsound and hence the most recent draft regulations contain some changes that are proposed.

I would further argue that unsound advice is been given again regarding the proposal to completely close rivers and systems to anglers and suggest no fishing whatsoever.
For the reasons outlined above, to put it simply, the proposals to close rivers is myopic, damaging and dangerous. River systems that are proposed to be closed contain some of the historically most well maintained and operated fisheries in the country, with extremely compliant, dutiful and mannerly anglers, stakeholders and visitors who now, as a result of this proposal are effectively, unceremoniously evicted and thrown off from their investments with no consideration.

To add insult to injury, those loyal anglers and stakeholders affected -All have for many years played by the rules regarding catch and release and now will suffer the indignation of no reward for their devotion except been thrown off the river and watch their investments on those fisheries degrade and rot.

The proposals to change rivers from Catch and Release to complete closure is ill founded and suspiciously been proposed by an organisation that many anglers in recent time have lost confidence with also.
While the loss of confidence in the state body responsible for the protection and promotion of angling in Ireland maybe perhaps be separate issue it is inextricably linked to the draft proposal and the feeling by many is that the state body has abandoned and jettisoned completely it's commitment to protect this important asset and is behaving in a churlish, ungracious manner.

Yours sincerely