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From:
Sent: Friday 13 February 2026 13:48
To: DCEE IFD Public Consultations
Subject: IFI Draft Proposals for Salmon Fishing for 2026

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I am writing on behalf of my husband to express his serious concerns about the future of Ireland's angling sector in light of the current Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) draft proposals.

It appears that the feedback given on the earlier draft regulations was largely ignored when preparing the revised 2026 draft. Many anglers had already bought their 2026 licences after being told the regulations would stay the same as in 2025—an instruction given because of major issues with the original draft.

The new proposals still do not reflect the concerns raised by anglers as it is widely felt that the data being used is unreliable. This data now seems to be driving unnecessary restrictions on salmon and sea trout angling. The lack of genuine consultation is worrying and the angler's trust is damaged, especially given the allegations of corruption within IFI.

Bringing in new restrictions based on incorrect information would be unfair and harmful—especially to Ireland's tourism and local economies. Angling tourism is already under pressure, and further river closures or mandatory catch-and-release rules will discourage visitors. Given all of this, I believe the most sensible option for the 2026 season is to keep the 2025 regulations in place. This would give IFI time to resolve internal issues, improve oversight, and rebuild confidence in its data and decision-making.

If the real causes of declining fish stocks are not addressed, placing more restrictions on anglers will achieve nothing. Many anglers already choose to follow conservation practices without needing heavy enforcement but are openly saying they will not accept mandatory catch-and-release until they see real accountability and evidence-based decisions from IFI.

As an angler, my husband feels the following could be acceptable to the angler whilst offering conservation benefits.

- 1 tag for a spring fish
- 5 tags for grilse
- Catch-and-release during September

We all want to protect and restore fish stocks, but this requires fairness, transparency, and trustworthy data. I strongly urge you to maintain the 2025 regulations for 2026 while IFI addresses these serious issues.

Thank you for your time.

On behalf of