

ANGLING REGULATIONS

(Last updated 20 October 2008)

The current situation (at 20 October 2008) with respect to the angling regulations on Lough Carra is as follows:

On 28 July 2008, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources signed into effect the “Western Fisheries Region Conservation of Trout Bye-law No. 840, 2008” under the Fisheries Acts of 1959 to 2006. Although this Bye-law makes no mention of Loughs Carra, Mask and Corrib, and despite the fact that the explanatory note also lacks any mention of these water bodies, the advice from the Western Regional Fisheries Board is that this Bye-law does indeed apply to Lough Carra (and Loughs Mask and Corrib) as well as the specified rivers. The explanation of this from the WRFB is that:

“The legal advice from the Department is clear that once you specify the rivers all lakes and tributaries are included – this is in the definitions in the primary legislation. The department actually removed the reference to the lakes because of this. It also means that the byelaw also applies to Lough Nafooney.

The text of the “Western Fisheries Region Conservation of Trout Bye-law No. 840, 2008” is reproduced below, including the accompanying explanatory note. The Western Regional Fisheries Board has produced an information leaflet explaining the regulations as they were intended and copies may be obtained directly from their offices or from tackle shops.

The open season for Brown trout on Carra runs from 1 March to 30 September, inclusive. The abovementioned Bye-law raises the size limit from 12 (twelve) inches to 13 (thirteen) inches (or 33 cm), and imposes a bag limit of four trout per angler per day. The Bye-law also limits the number of rods that may be used at any one time to one per angler when fly fishing or dapping, and two per angler when trolling, bait fishing or spinning. In addition, it imposes a limit of three rods in use on a boat at any one time when bait fishing, spinning or trolling.

This new Bye-law was drawn up in order to reduce the number of trout killed by anglers and, thus, conserve existing stocks. However, in recent years catches have been so poor on Lough Carra that very few anglers have caught more than a couple of trout in a day’s (or night’s) fishing.

Trout on Carra may be fished for using “any legal method”, i.e. bait fishing, spinning, trolling, fly-fishing or dapping. Fishing is allowed from bank or boat and there are public access points at Brownstown, Moorehall and Castleburke, as well as private slipways at other locations. Although, unfortunately, not a legal requirement, visiting anglers are asked to **NOT** bring their own boats to the Lough. Boats can be hired at Moorehall, Flannelly’s pier and Kilkeeran. The reason for this request is to avoid the risk of invasive alien species reaching the Lough, especially the zebra mussel and curly-leaved pondweed, both of which would damage the ecology of the lake

irreparably if they were introduced and became established (see elsewhere on this website for details of this threat to the Lough's ecology).

There is no close season for the pike, perch or roach that also occur in the Lough. The pike population is flourishing, although kept in check by the Fisheries Board's stock management programme (see the "Angling Data" section of this website). The Lough Carra Trout Anglers' Association hold an annual pike competition in October where all the pike caught are kept alive and translocated by the Fisheries Board to other waters.

The perch population fluctuates considerably and few are caught by anglers. In the past, some large specimens have been recorded but we have not heard of any in recent years.

Little is known of the roach population since they have only recently arrived in the Lough. Unconfirmed reports of roach fry suggest that they have started to breed and, with the ongoing eutrophication of the Lough, conditions have become more favourable for this species.

Under current legislation, one pike per day up to a maximum length of 50cm may be retained, and a maximum of 4 coarse fish up to 25cm may be retained. All other pike and coarse fish caught must be released. Copies of the relevant Bye-laws are reproduced below, including the explanatory notes.

All angling on Lough Carra is free and open to anyone. No licence or permit is needed. However, please note that, apart from the public access points, the lakeshore is privately owned.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

FISHERIES ACTS 1959 TO 2006

WESTERN FISHERIES REGION

CONSERVATION OF TROUT BYE-LAW NO. 840, 2008.

I, Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 9 (as amended by section 3 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1962 (No. 31 of 1962)) of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (No. 14 of 1959), section 33 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1962, the Fisheries (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 1977 (S.I. No. 30 of 1977) (as adapted by the Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2007 (S.I. No. 706 of 2007)) and having complied with the requirements of Regulation 31 of the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997), hereby make the following bye-law:

1. (1) This Bye-law may be cited as the Western Fisheries Region Conservation of Trout Bye-law No. 840, 2008.

(2) This Bye-law comes into operation on the day after the day of its making.

2. In this Bye-law-

“artificial fly” means a fishing hook dressed with fur, feather or other natural or artificial material to resemble either an insect, fish or other prey item that will attract fish;

“bait fishing” means the act of rod fishing from the shore or a boat which is drifting or being rowed or mechanically propelled through water, by leaving

static, retrieving, trailing or towing, on, in, under or through the water, a fishing line with a hook and bait attached;

“dapping” means the act of fishing from a boat, which is drifting on water with a rod (normally a long rod) and hook attached, the hook being either an artificial fly or having one or several insects attached, and presenting the fly on the surface with the assistance of the wind;

“ferox trout” means trout that are genetically distinct from brown trout and are frequently piscivorous and can grow to significant size;

“fly fishing” means the act of rod fishing from the shore, bank or a boat which is drifting or being rowed or mechanically propelled through water, by retrieving, trailing or leaving static, on, in, under or through the water, a fishing line with a number of hooks, made up as artificial flies;

“mounted rod” means a fishing rod which has a reel, line and hook or artificial fly or lure or bait attached;

“specified waters” means the waters of any of the rivers in the No. 9 (1) or Galway District mentioned in the Schedule;

“spinning” means the act of rod fishing from either the shore or a boat, which is drifting, being rowed or mechanically propelled through water, by trailing or towing, on, in, under or through the water, a fishing line with an artificial lure attached;

“trolling” means to fish from a boat, which is being rowed or mechanically propelled through water, by trailing or towing, on in, under or through the water, a fishing line with a hook, bait or lure attached;

“trout” means all fish of the brown trout kind and includes ferox trout.

3. Subject to Article 4, notwithstanding anything contained in any Bye-law prohibiting the taking or having in possession of more than a specified number of trout, a person shall not take on any one day in the specified waters more than 4 trout of which not more than 1 of those fish is greater than 10 lbs (4.54 kg) in weight.

4. A person shall not take in the specified waters any trout of less than 13 inches (33 cm) in length measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Bye-law, it is prohibited for any person to use in the specified waters at any one time—
 - (a) more than 1 rod or more than 4 artificial flies when fly fishing,
 - (b) more than 1 rod when dapping,
 - (c) more than 2 rods or more than 4 artificial flies per rod when trolling, or
 - (d) more than 2 rods when bait fishing or spinning,on or near the specified waters.

6. Notwithstanding Article 5 it is prohibited for more than 1 person to have on board any boat at any one time more than 3 mounted rods when bait fishing, spinning or trolling in the specified waters.

7. Any trout taken inadvertently in contravention of Article 3 or 4 must be handled carefully and returned without avoidable injury to the specified waters from which they have been taken.

Schedule

Rivers in the No. 9 (1) or Galway District.

River Corrib	Clare River	Grange River
Abbert River	Sinking River	Dalgan River
Black River	Lough Kip River	Owenriff River
Drimneen River	Owenwee (Fallamer) River	Bealnabrack River
Joyce's River	Failmore River	Glenlosh River
Cregg River	Cong River	Cong Canal
Cornamona (Dooghta) River	Cross River	Robe River
Bulkaun River	Cloon River	Aille River
Finny River	Owenbrin River	Glensaul River
Srah River (Tourmakeady)	Keel River	Foey River

GIVEN under my Official Seal,
28 July 2008.

Eamon Ryan
Eamon Ryan
Minister for Communications,
Energy and Natural Resources.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This is not part of the Bye-law and does not purport to be a legal interpretation)

This Bye-law provides for the following trout conservation measures in the rivers specified in the bye-law:

- Provides for a daily bag limit of 4 trout of which not more than 1 trout is greater than 10 lbs (4.54 kgs),
- Prohibits the taking of trout less than 13 inches (33 cm),
- Prohibits the use of more than 1 rod or 4 artificial flies when fly fishing,
- Prohibits the use of more than 1 rod when dapping,
- Prohibits the use of more than 2 rods or 4 artificial flies per rod when trolling,
- Prohibits the use of more than 2 rods when bait fishing or spinning,
- Prohibits the having on board a boat more than 3 rods when more than 1 person is bait fishing, spinning or trolling.

FOOTNOTE

Section 11 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act, 1959 provides that any person aggrieved by this Bye-law may within 28 days after its publication in the Iris Oifigiuil, appeal against same to the High Court.

PIKE BYE-LAW

The Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Mr. John Browne TD, signed a new Bye law no 809 on the conservation and protection of Pike in August 2006. This Bye-law contains three wording changes from Bye-law 805 which is revoked. The new Bye-law clarifies several issues that were raised in the previous document by interested parties. It will be noted that the new Bye-law supersedes the Pike conservation Bye-law 667 which was in force since 1990. That Bye-law allowed for the killing of one specimen sized Pike i.e. 20 lbs. in a River and 30 lbs. in a Lake in any one day. This new Bye-law no longer allows this practice and only one Pike under 50 cms. may now be killed in a day. All Pike taken by fair angling, longer than 50 cms. **must** be returned to the water in all cases. Another change in this Bye-law is that 0.75 Kilos. of Pike Flesh may only be retained by an angler instead of 1.5 Kilos. The Bye-law further clarifies that a Pike angler can have in his possession up to 12 coarse fish subject to paragraph 8 (a) and (b). Pike anglers are asked to read carefully the full meaning of these provisions on the use of coarse fish as bait. Pike anglers can have as many other fish baits to Pike fish with e.g. Herrings, Mackerel, Smelt, Joeys, etc. in their possession at any time. The following is the text of the new Bye-law.

CONSERVATION OF PIKE BYE-LAW NO. 809, 2006

I, John Browne, Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 9 (as amended by section 3 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1962 (No. 31 of 1962)) of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (No. 14 of 1959), section 33 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1962, the Fisheries (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 1977 (S.I. No. 30 of 1977) (as adapted by the Marine and Natural Resources (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2002 (S.I. No. 307 of 2002)) and the Marine (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2006 (S.I. No. 82 of 2006), hereby make the following Bye-law:

1. This Bye-law may be cited as the Conservation of Pike Bye-law No. 809, 2006.
2. This Bye-law comes into operation on the day of its making.
3. Subject to Article 4, it is prohibited for any person to take or kill more than one pike on any one day.
4. It is prohibited for a person to take or kill any pike greater than 50 cm in length measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

5. It is prohibited for a person, other than in the circumstances referred to in Article 7, to have in his or her possession or control -

(a) more than one whole pike less than 50 cm in length measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail, or

(b) more than 0.75 kgs of pike flesh or parts whether as fillets, steaks, cutlets, sides or in any other form whatsoever.

6. Any pike taken inadvertently in contravention of this Bye-law must be handled carefully and returned without avoidable injury to the waters from which they have been taken.

7. Article 5 does not apply to a person storing pike or pike parts for another in excess of that permitted under that Article in a premises or vehicle, where -

(a) the premises or vehicle is registered with the regional board for the fisheries region in which it is situated,

(b) the premises or vehicle is owned or leased by the person, and

(c) any whole pike or pike part so stored are separated and labelled as to clearly identify the fish or fish parts belonging to the person for whom they are being stored.

8. (1) It is prohibited for a person to have in his or her possession more than 12 coarse fish for use as bait in fishing for pike.

(2) Where a person has more than 4 coarse fish in his or her possession for use as bait in fishing for pike, the person, in respect of fish in excess of that number and subject to paragraph (1), must have -

(a) obtained the fish from a fish tackle dealer or fish bait supplier registered with the regional board in whose fisheries region the dealer or supplier carries on business, and

(b) obtained and retained a receipt of their purchase.

(3) In this Article “coarse fish” means any fresh water fish other than pike, salmon, trout, eels or minnow.

9. The Conservation of Pike Bye-law No. 805 of 2006 is revoked .

GIVEN under my hand,
3 August 2006.

John Browne
Minister of State at the Department of Communications,
Marine and Natural Resources.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Bye-law and does not purport to be a legal interpretation).

This Bye-law provides for the following conservation measures:

- a bag limit of 1 Pike in any one day,
- prohibits the killing of any pike less than 50 cm in length,
- prohibits the possession by any person of more than 1 whole pike less than 50 cm or more than 0.75 kgs of pike flesh, this provision does not apply to a person storing pike or pike parts subject to conditions,
- prohibits the possession by any person of more than 12 coarse fish for use as bait subject to conditions.

FOOTNOTE

Section 11 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act, 1959 as amended by Section 27 (b) of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 1999 provides that any person aggrieved by this Bye-law may within 28 days after its publication in the Iris Oifigiuil, appeal against same to the High Court.

CONSERVATION OF AND PROHIBITION ON SALE OF COARSE FISH BYE-LAW NO. 806, 2006

I, John Browne, Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 9 (as amended by section 3 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1962 (No. 31 of 1962)) of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959 (No. 14 of 1959), section 33 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1962, the Fisheries (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 1977 (S.I. No. 30 of 1977) (as adapted by the Marine and Natural Resources (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2002 (S.I. No. 307 of 2002)) and the Marine (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2006 (S.I. No. 82 of 2006), hereby make the following bye-law:

1. (1) This Bye-law may be cited as the Conservation and Prohibition on Sale of Coarse Fish Bye-law No. 806, 2006.

(2) This Bye-law comes into operation on the day of its making.

2. In this Bye-law -

“coarse fish” means any fresh water fish other than pike, salmon, trout, eels or minnow;

“Louth Area” has the meaning assigned to it by section 31 of the British –Irish Agreement Act 1999 (No.1 of 1999);

“Moville Area” has the meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952 (No.5 of 1952).

3. Subject to Article 4, a person shall not take and kill by any means more than 4 coarse fish on any one day.

4. A person shall not take and kill by any means any coarse fish greater than 25 cm in length measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

5. Any coarse fish taken inadvertently in contravention of this Bye-law must be handled carefully and returned without avoidable injury to the waters from which they have been taken.

6. Subject to Article 7, it is prohibited for any person, other than in the Louth Area or Moville Area, to sell or offer for sale any coarse fish caught by any means.

7. Article 6 does not apply to fishing tackle dealers or fish bait suppliers registered with the regional board in whose fisheries region the dealer or supplier carries on business.

8. The following are revoked -

(a) the Lough Ree (Netting for Coarse Fish) Bye-law No. 466, 1949, and

(b) the River Shannon (Netting for Coarse Fish) Bye-law No. 467, 1949.

GIVEN under my hand,
20 July 2006.

John Browne

John Browne
Minister of State at the Department of Communications,
Marine and Natural Resources.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Bye-law and does not purport to be a legal interpretation).

This Bye-law provides for the following conservation measures:

- a bag limit of 4 coarse fish in any one day,
- prohibits the killing of any coarse fish greater than 25 cm in length,
- prohibits the sale of any coarse fish in Ireland (excluding NI), this provision will not apply to fishing tackle dealers and fish bait suppliers who have been granted an exemption from their respective Regional Fisheries Board.

FOOTNOTE

Section 11 of the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act, 1959 provides that any person aggrieved by these Bye-laws may within 28 days after their publication in the Irish Oifigiuil, appeal to the High Court