

# Rod war peace plan thrown out

BY FRANK KHAN

THE Anti-Rod Licence Campaign last night bluntly rejected a new peace initiative by Marine Minister Brendan Daly to end the bitter year old dispute that has cost the tourist industry at least £6 million.

And at the same time, opponents of the controversial licensing system announced they will be stepping up their campaign next year, with plans that include the cancelling of all angling competitions, and the refusal to put fishing boats on the country's rivers and lakes.

The move is certain to have serious implications for the angling tourism business, and could wreak havoc for Bord Failte's promotional and marketing drives in Britain and Europe. Rejection of the Minister's latest attempt to end the crippling impasse

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came after Mr. Daly unveiled an "improved angling structure for 1989".

The improvements, from January 1, are:

- A reduction in the cost of the composite licence (covering salmon, trout and coarse fishing) from £40 to £25.
- The 21-day licence for salmon angling is reduced from £21 to £10.

- The 21-day licence for trout angling is reduced from £10 to £5.

Mr. Daly said last night they were being introduced following "extensive consultations" with angling groups and on experience with the revised licensing system introduced for 1988. "The changes should facilitate most anglers and especially those who fish for all species and tourist anglers."

Mr. Daly also said the licence revenue this year, which went directly to the

Regional Fisheries Boards to fund protection and development work, was expected to reach £400,000 compared with £169,000 last year, and voluntary registration fees of £21,000.

The Minister said the outcome was "very encouraging".

But last night, Des Nolan, secretary of the Anti-Rod Licence Campaign flatly rejected the Minister's new measures declaring: "As far as we are concerned the campaign goes on. We want the trout and coarse fish licence abolished. It is a bad law and should be dropped."

He also contested the Minister's statement that income from licences totalled £400,000 — claiming it was only £379,000 and far short of the £500,000 the Minister had predicted.

Mr. Nolan said the Campaign was as strong as ever with 90 pc of anglers supporting it in the West and South, in Leinster and Ulster.