

Pike Angling - The Law

Please note that the following laws were introduced in August 2006 to conserve valuable pike stocks. Breaches of these laws could lead to heavy fines and/or the confiscation of rods, boats and tackle.

It should be noted that The Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs are of the firm opinion that a total 'Catch and Release' policy for pike would serve better to reinstate stocks that appear to have suffered serious depletion in past years by various means. We would welcome your views on the new laws and whether you see an improvement in pike stocks and their protection.

Conservation of Pike Bye-Law

NO.809 2006

- It is prohibited to kill more than 1 pike in any one day.
- It is prohibited to kill any pike greater than 50 cm in length.
- It is prohibited for any person to have in their possession more than 1 whole pike greater than 50cm or more than 0.75 kgs of pike flesh.
- (i) 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.
- 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 the paragraph (i) above 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.

Anglers are advised to note that in fisheries where the owners have introduced a 'Catch and Release' Policy, all fish must be returned alive and healthy to the water.

**PLEASE HANDLE PIKE WITH CARE
PUT THEM BACK SAFELY AND QUICKLY**

The Regional Fisheries Boards

These statutory bodies are responsible for maintaining and improving environmental quality and developing and protecting the fisheries resource in their region. If you witness water pollution or the illegal killing of pike, please immediately ring the Fisheries Board whose region the venue is in. The map below will give you an idea of their boundaries.



The Eastern Regional Fisheries Board	☎ 01 2787022
The Southern Regional Fisheries Board	☎ 052 23624
The South Western Regional Fisheries Board	☎ 026 41221
The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board	☎ 061 300238
The Western Regional Fisheries Board	☎ 091 563118
The North Western Regional Fisheries Board	☎ 096 22623
The Northern Regional Fisheries Board	☎ 071 9851435
	☎ 049 4337174

For further information on pike angling or how to form a pike angling club in your area, contact the Irish Federation of Pike Angling clubs by email ifpac@hotmail.com or log onto our website www.angling-in-ireland.com



IRISH FEDERATION of Pike Angling Clubs

Pike Angling Conservation Leaflet



The Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs has produced this leaflet to help anglers who wish to fish for pike to better appreciate the delicate nature of this special predator; to understand the need for careful handling; to encourage the use of proper equipment and to advise on the current pike angling legislation. We hope the leaflet proves valuable and helps to promote the welfare of pike.

Please keep this leaflet with you in your tackle box as a reference, as part of your pike fishing tackle or pass it on to a young angler so that they might have the opportunity to learn from it

PLEASE HELP TO ADVISE AND EDUCATE OTHERS
www.angling-in-ireland.com Email ifpac@hotmail.com

The Pike - Esox Lucius

The pike has existed for over 30 million years in much the same form as you see it in the photo below. It can be found throughout Europe, parts of Asia and North America and of course in our own Canals, Rivers and Lakes throughout Ireland.



The pike is an efficient predator. It can lie in ambush for its prey or roam the wide expanses of our great Lough's and Rivers following the large shoals of roach, bream and other species on their seasonal movements to spawning grounds or deep water refuges in winter. The largest noted rod caught pike in Ireland was said to have come from Lough Derg in 1862. It weighed 90lb and measured 5ft 8inches in length.

Ireland has produced some enormous pike down the years. In particular, Lough Mask in County Mayo is one Lough that stands out with many fish in the 30lb and 40lb bracket caught. 'The Doomsday Book of Mammoth Pike' by Fred Buller in 1970 and other subsequent books list the many truly massive pike caught on rod and line over the last century and are worth a read to marvel at, if you ever get the chance.

However, for all the pikes ability to survive millions of years unchanged and unchallenged in its environment, it is man and namely us as anglers in general that can negatively impact on the pikes very survival.

As anglers, we need to understand that *the pike is not as hardy as it looks* and needs to be returned in good healthy condition. In most waters there may be only 10lb to 14lb of pike per acre and therefore repeat captures are more frequent than most anglers realise.

PLEASE ASK EXPERIENCED PIKE ANGLERS FOR ADVICE

Pike Tackle, Handling & Unhooking

Of all the species that swim in freshwater, pike present the greatest difficulty to unhook for the novice angler. Poor handling and unhooking through a lack of experience or by not having the correct tackle can result in damage to a pike and possibly death. With a growing number of anglers fishing for pike, proper handling is more important than ever.

The following Tackle items are very important:

- Reel line of minimum 15lb breaking strain
- Braid lines of minimum 30lb breaking strain
- Wire traces of minimum 18inches long and 28lb breaking strain (replace if kinked or frayed)
- Audible bite alarms, drop off indicators, floats
- A large landing net (triangular 36inch arms min.)
- A large unhooking mat (Laying a pike on a hard surface will damage its scales and protective slime)
- A pair of 8 inch long-handled forceps and tight glove
- Bolt cutters to snip the barbs off stubborn hooks



Unhooking Tools
Deadbaiting (left)
Lurefishing (right)



Typical Rod set up with bite indication etc..

Tips for striking and landing pike:

- When deadbaiting, always strike early as soon as you see a bite indication (It is better to loose the odd small pike that to risk deep hooking a large pike)
- Always keep steady pressure on the rod when playing a pike but allow the rod to take the surges.
- Try to land the pike quickly but do not risk breaking the line (pike fight hard in summer and take longer to recover if the fight is allowed to wear the fish out).
- If inexperienced, use your landing net and lift the pike out of the water and directly onto your unhooking mat.



The correct hand hold for unhooking pike
Great care must be taken to avoid holding or damaging the red gill rakers during unhooking

Tips for unhooking a pike:

- Place the pike on its side and kneel astride it (Do not lean on the pike or allow it to jump around)
- Gently insert your hand under the gill flap nearest to you checking where the hooks are and taking care not to touch or damage the red gill rakers
- Hold the pike firmly with the bottom jaw open
- Insert your forceps to remove the hooks by turning them. Hooks to the back of the throat can be gently accessed through the gill cover and carefully turned



Hooks at the front of the mouth are easily removed

IF WEIGHING A PIKE AFTERWARDS ALWAYS PLACE THE PIKE IN A WEIGH SLING OR NET (NEVER WEIGH A PIKE UNDER THE CHIN)

Tips for returning pike safely: When returning your pike, always support the pike upright until it is ready to swim away on its own. It may take time to recover so be prepared to wait until it is ready (Never just throw a pike back)