

Your Essential Guide to Pike Angling In Ireland

- > From the tranquillity of its small, secluded lakes to the vast expanses of its great lochs, Ireland has a huge variety of locations to suit the pike angler.
- > If you've ever dreamt about visiting Ireland and wondered how to turn that dream into a reality, the answers regarding it, your fingertips! This easy-to-use guide will help you start planning the trip of a lifetime, with advice on the best fishing locations, handy local tips and most successful methods.
- > Then go on-line using the website below to get the latest up-to-date information on recent catches, bait and tackle shops, maps, boat hire, regulations and a whole lot more. With the wealth of detail this easy to use website offers, you'll have your visit planned from start to finish in no time.
- > For all the other travel essential visit the Discover Ireland website for information on flights and ferries, hotels, B&Bs, self-catering accommodation and specialist angling tour operators as well as entertainment, activities and must-see sights and attractions.
- > Once you've gathered all the information you need to ensure your trip runs smoothly you can then concentrate on the most important part of your holiday – hooking that fish of a lifetime!

For all your angling requirements
www.fishinginireland.info
 For all aspects of holidaying in Ireland
www.discoverireland.com

Shannon District

Counties Clare, Galway, Offaly, Longford and Roscommon

Corofin, Co. Clare
 Ballycullinan & Dromore Lakes
 Good pike fishing on the big network of lakes on the upper River Fergus. Some of the lakes are unexplored with difficult access. Very good pike fishing reported particularly on the Dromore Lakes and at Ballycullinan Lake.

Tulla, Co. Clare
 Doon Lake & Cullaun Lakes
 There is a huge network of small lakes providing good pike fishing in this area. Boat fishing can be productive on some of the bigger lakes. Good bank fishing and fishing from stands on many of the lakes.

Limerick, Co. Limerick & O'Brien's Bridge & Killaloe, Co. Clare
 River Shannon & Lower Lough Derg
 Very good pike fishing both on the river and on the lough with specimen fish to over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) reported annually. The famous European Pike Challenge competition is held here annually on the lough. Good shore and boat fishing with excellent local boat hire and guiding service.

Portunna, Co. Galway
 River Shannon & Upper Lough Derg
 Very good pike fishing on river and lake with good boat hire and guiding service available. There is good bank fishing on many stretches of the river above and below the town. The river is very deep here with good coarse fishing match stretches all the way to Meelick Weir.

Banagher, (including Shannon Harbour) & Shannonbridge, Co. Offaly
 River Shannon, River Brosna & Grand Canal
 Very good pike fishing with local boat hire and guiding service available. There are many backwaters

In the area both upstream and downstream of Banagher. In the late spring and early summer, these backwaters are major spawning sites for the huge bream and roach shoals. Big pike are always present at these periods in the backwaters. The lower sections of River Brosna and the nearby Grand Canal also provide some good pike fishing.

Athlone, Co. Westmeath and Lanesborough Co. Longford
 Lough Ree and the River Shannon
 Very good pike fishing with pike over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) recorded. Bank fishing on the river below Athlone can be good but to get the best from Lough Ree a boat is required. There are numerous slipways around the lough as well as marinas that can produce a lot of boat traffic in the summer. Notable areas include Lanesborough (both shore and boat), Inny Bay, Hudson's Bay, Portunna Bay and around the many islands.

Tarmonbarry, Co. Roscommon
 River Shannon & Loughs Forbes & Boderg
 Very good pike fishing above and below the town where the weir and navigation lock are the main features. Fishing for pike in the nearby loughs is best tackled from a boat although there are some excellent shorelines for bank fishing.

Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
 Lough na Blahy, Cloonaheeh & Kilgass Lakes
 Good pike fishing with pike to over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) reported on a regular basis. Huge network of small to large lakes with many of the fisheries having fishing stands. Boat fishing is available on some of the lakes.

Eastern District

Counties Cavan and Wicklow

Virginia & Bailieboro, Co. Cavan
 Lough Ramor, Drunkary Lake, Skeagh Lake, Locken Lakes, Castle Lake & Galloncurra Lake
 This productive area has very good pike fishing with several pike over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) reported annually. The variety and sizes of the lakes here offer the pike angler a huge range of water to try in all weather conditions. There are boat slipways on Loughs Ramor, Castle and Skeagh. Many of the smaller lakes in the Bailieboro area have good banks and stands to fish from.

Blessington, Co. Wicklow
 Blessington Lake
 Good pike fishing with some 20 to 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) fish recorded annually on this large lake. There is a very long shoreline with good access points all around the lake. The fishery is closed for the month of October. The fishery is owned by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and an ESB permit is required and is available locally.



South Eastern District

Counties Carlow and Kilkenny

Monasterevin & Athy, Co. Kildare, Leighlinbridge & Bagenalstown (Muine Bheag), Co. Carlow, Goresbridge & Graigueanamagh, Co. Kilkenny
 River Barrow
 There is very good pike fishing on this big river with specimens to over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) recorded annually. The river pike record of 42 lbs. (19.05 Kg.) comes from here. There are a number of navigational canal channels, which were built to bypass the various weirs and these can fish well in flood conditions.

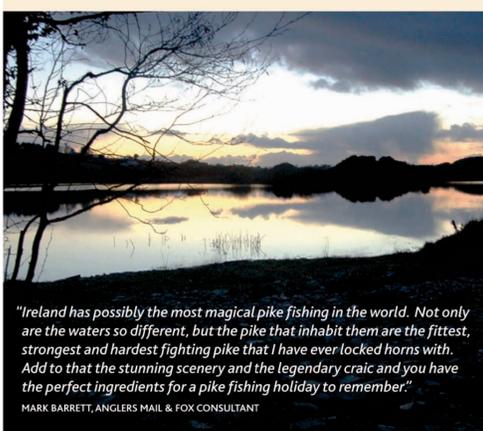


South Western District

County Cork

Macroom & Coachford, Co. Cork
 Inniscarra Lakes
 Very good pike fishing throughout the reservoirs in the upper lake called Lough Allua. Boats and guides are available on Lough Allua from "The Spideegee" angling centre. Pike to over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) are reported annually both from shore and boat.
 The Inniscarra/Carrigrohilly fishery is owned by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and a permit for boat and shore fishing is required.

Skibbereen, Co. Cork
 Shreelane Lakes
 These very productive fisheries regularly produce pike to over 25 lbs. with the occasional fish over 30 lbs. recorded. Fly and Lure fishing only. This is a managed fishery and two boats are available for hire. Permits are required.



"Ireland has possibly the most magical pike fishing in the world. Not only are the waters so different, but the pike that inhabit them are the fittest, strongest and hardest fighting pike that I have ever locked horns with. Add to that the stunning scenery and the legendary craic and you have the perfect ingredients for a pike fishing holiday to remember."
 MARK BARRETT, ANGLERS MAIL & FOX CONSULTANT

Shannon District

Shannon District

Counties Leitrim, Roscommon, Galway and Westmeath

Roskeer & Dromod, Co. Leitrim
 River Shannon
 Very good pike fishing along all the stretches of river, with good bank fishing throughout. Boats can be used to access other parts of the river and nearby lakes.

Mullingar & Finea, Co. Westmeath
 River Inny, Lough Derravaragh, Lough Iron & Lough Kinale
 Very good pike fishing with specimen pike over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) recorded annually. Several boat slips at Lough Derravaragh. This river produces many specimen pike from both bank and boat. Many good access points from bridges along the river. Very good guiding service available. Permit required to fish these lakes and a river. Permits can be purchased online or from some tackle shops.

Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim and Boyle & Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon
 River Shannon including Loughs Key and Gara, River Lung Valley, Cloonaugh Lake
 Very good pike fishing around Carrick on Shannon. Pike to over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are regularly produced in the area and the occasional 30 lbs + (13.60 Kg.) fish is possible. The river upstream and downstream is very productive and some shore fishing is possible from many of the coarse fishing stands in the area. Boat fishing is best to explore and get the most of fishing using all methods. The Lung river is 18 miles long with 6 major connecting lakes rising in Cloonaugh, Ulfar, Errit, Cloonaughy, Loughglyn and drains into Lough Gara, north of Ballaghaderreen town. The Lung system is a tributary to the Shannon and it's sister river the Breedeog, Frenchpark, Cloonaugh Lake on the system is a noted pike fishery, which can produce fish to 20 lbs plus. A pike of 39 lbs was caught on Lough Gara in 2007.

Ballinasloe & Ballygar, Co. Galway, Athleague & Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon
 River Suck including Hollygrove and Stoneham's Lakes & Lough Loum
 Excellent pike fishing on many sections of this river, which is known for its large bream shoals. This river produces many specimens over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) and in most years several fish over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) are recorded. Pike up to 41 lbs. 12 oz. (18.94 Kg.) have been recorded in the past twenty years. Good bank fishing on the many stretches near the major towns. Boat fishing is possible with a new boat slip at Ballyforan. The three lakes connected to the river also offer very good pike fishing from stands. Boat fishing is also possible with boat slips at Hollygrove and Stoneham's lakes. There is an angling information centre by the bridge at Athleague. Permit required for River Suck area. Permits can be purchased online or from some tackle shops.

Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim
 Lough Allen
 Very good pike fishing on this famous Irish pike lough, which still produces many pike over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) and an occasional fish over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.). There are some fine stretches of bank and great fishing at the north eastern corner where the River Shannon enters the lake. Boat fishing is still the best way to explore this great lake.

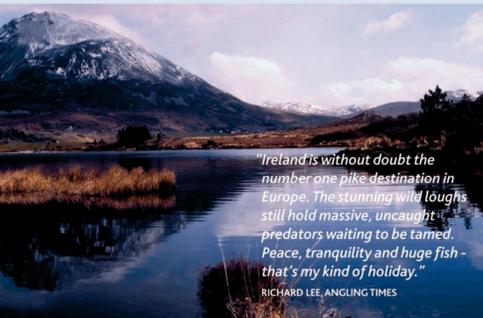
Western District

Counties Galway and Mayo

Moycullen & Galway, Co. Galway
 Moycullen Lakes
 Good pike fishing on these smaller lakes connected to nearby Lough Corrib with some of the best fishing in the spring period. Good bank fishing and pike to over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are recorded annually.

Foxford, Co. Mayo
 Derryhick Lake
 Good pike fishing on Derryhick Lake with excellent access and good bank fishing. Good boat hire and guiding service. Other smaller lakes in the area also have stocks of pike.

Kiltimagh & Castlebar, Co. Mayo
 Manulla Lake & Carrowmore Lake
 Good pike fishing with regular competitions held on both these lakes. Pike to over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are recorded annually. Good bank fishing on Manulla Lake as well as several other smaller lakes in the area. The All Ireland Pike Fly Fishing Championships are held on Carrowmore Lake. Limited bank fishing. Good boat hire and guiding service.



"Ireland is without doubt the number one pike destination in Europe. The stunning wild loughs still hold massive, uncaught predators waiting to be tamed. Peace, tranquility and huge fish - that's my kind of holiday."
 RICHARD LEE, ANGLING TIMES

North Western District

County Galway

Ballybay, Co. Monaghan
 Dromore River and Lakes, Lough Major, Bald's Shore, Mullinary Lake
 Very good pike fishing. The lakes on the Ballybay side of the Dromore River provide good fishing but mainly from a boat. Other fisheries like Lough Major and Bald's shore have good banks.

Killashandra, Co. Cavan
 Town Lake, Tullyguide Lake, Lough Oughter (Eonish)
 Good pike fishing on the big network of lakes near the town, which offer good bank and boat fishing with stands on some lakes. Pike over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are reported annually.

Shercock, Co. Cavan
 Lough Sillan, Coranaree Lake, Barnagrow Lake, Milltown Lake
 Good pike fishing. Lough Sillan is a lake of 400 acres (162 hectares) and boat fishing is best on this water which produces pike over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) annually. Boat slip on the northern side of the lake. Other waters have good banks and some stands for shore fishing.

Ballyconnell (including Bawnboy and Blacklion), Co. Cavan
 Shannon Erne Waterway, Killywillly Lake, Brackley Lake, Derrycassan Lake, Coologue Lake, Cuillaghan Lake, Lough McNear Upper
 Very good pike fishing on this huge network of lakes along the Shannon Erne waterway, which offer excellent bank and boat fishing. Many pike over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are recorded annually. There are several other lakes with good shore and boat fishing near Blacklion and Bawnboy.

Crootehill, Co. Cavan
 Dromore River and Lakes, Killyvahan Lake, Drumlona Lake, Annamakerrig Lake, Lisnalong Lake
 Very good pike fishing, with many very good lake fisheries along the Dromore River. Pike to over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are recorded from many of these lakes annually. Good shoreline and some stands on lakes. Boats and guides are available from guest houses for visitors. Several pike competitions are held annually in this area.

Arva & Lough Gowra, Co. Cavan
 Lough Gowra (many stretches), Hollybank Lake, Garty Lough
 Very good pike fishing with excellent access and facilities. There are many stretches of Lough Gowra, which provide good bank fishing. The main areas of the lake are best fished from a boat. Boat slips at Dernaferst and Dring. Pike over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) are recorded annually.

Cavan & Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan
 Lough Oughter at Killykeen, Rann, Inniscollon and Innismuck, Lough Inchin and lower sections of the River Annalee
 Very good pike fishing with many pike over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) recorded annually. Huge network of lakes offering excellent bank and boat fishing. On some lakes there are fishing stands as well as good shoreline and access points. There are several boat slipways, particularly at numerous access points on Lough Oughter.

Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim
 Gulladoo Lake, Cullies Lake, Tully Lake
 Good pike fishing. Excellent bank fishing and pike over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are reported from these waters annually.

North Western District

Counties Monaghan, Cavan and Fermanagh

Ballinamore & Keshcarrigan, Co. Leitrim
 Gardale Lake, Shannon Erne Waterway, Lough Scur, St. John's Lake, Drumlaheen Lake
 Very good pike fishing. Huge network of lakes along the Shannon Erne waterway offering excellent bank and boat fishing opportunities. Pike of over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are recorded on many of these lakes.

Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh
 Killyfyle Lough, Colobrooke River
 Killyfyle Lough is a reservoir of 22.6 hectares between Lisnaskea and Rosslea in east Fermanagh. The south side is firm and gravelly with a long sloping shelf. The north side is softer and there is a very dangerous area in the north west corner where the water is shallow and the water is very deep. Fishing from boats is not permitted. On the Colobrooke River, large pike are numerous and provide good sport. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence and Permit required.

Belturbet, Co. Cavan
 River Erne at Belturbet and Baker's Bridge, Patishan Lake, Bun Lake, Upper Lough Erne, Shannon Erne Waterway
 Huge network of lakes along the River Erne offering excellent bank and boat fishing. On some lakes there are fishing stands as well as good shoreline and access points. Pike over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are recorded annually.

Belcoo, Co. Fermanagh
 Upper Lough McNeen
 This wild and attractive lough is very popular as a pike fishery and resembles a mini Lough Erne with its islands and its numerous sheltered weedy bays. It is suitable for boat fishing on days when Lough Erne is too rough. It is a cross border lake of 983 hectares, of which 458 are in Northern Ireland. The water has good stocks of prey fish and contains large pike. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence required for waters falling within Northern Ireland.

Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
 Upper Lough Erne & Lower Lough Erne
 The Erne is one of the finest pike fishing waters in Europe and has become popular as a competition venue for anglers. This is a large lake and can turn dangerous in high winds so anglers should always seek a weather forecast prior to venturing out in a boat. Fishing in the Upper Lough is concentrated between Enniskillen and Newtonbutler with Broadmeadow, Scotch Store and Schools stretches being popular. Pike are found in the mainly weedy and reed fringed bays. They congregate there from November to March after which they spread throughout the lough. Winter fishing is best in deeper water and in calmer areas in the river sections. Ballinaleck quay is a favourite angling area. During warmer months pike are taken on spinners, spoons and plugs in shallow reed bays. On warm days pike will back on the surface and explosive sport can be had using a fly rod and gaudy pike flies. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence required for waters falling within Northern Ireland.

Belleek, Co. Fermanagh
 Lough Scolban
 Pike are the main quarry, with fish up to 20 lbs. (9 kg.) caught in this lake. It is being developed as a pike fishery and large pike are regularly removed from game fisheries and stocked into this lough. Caution should be exercised when boating, as there are a number of unmarked shallow areas in the lough. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence required.

North Western District

Counties Derry/Londonderry, Donegal and Tyrone

Londonderry/Derry, Co. Londonderry
 The Oaks Fishery
 The Oaks Fishery located only a few minutes drive from the city of Derry/Londonderry offers some of the finest pike fishing available in the north-west. Some very large fish have been recorded and a specimen pike of 41 lbs was accepted by the Irish Specimen Fish Committee in 2005. Guiding and boat hire available and a day ticket is required. Further information available from: www.thoaksfishery.com. Loughs Agency Licence required.

Pettigo, Co. Donegal
 Lough Derg and some smaller lakes near Pettigo
 The loughs in the Pettigo area provide good pike fishing from shore and boat and a local permit is required to fish them. Lough Derg, in particular, offers excellent sport (it is part of the Foyle catchment). Shore fishing is possible at a number of locations but boat fishing is recommended. Lough Derg has recorded pike up to 30 lbs. (13.60 kg) in the past but most of the pike landed today weigh in around 8 lbs - 12 lbs. (3.5 - 4.5 kg). Ghillie service and boat hire available. Pettigo and District Anglers Association manages the lake. More information from www.loughs-agency.org. Loughs Agency Licence and day permit required to fish Lough Derg.

Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone
 Baronscourt Lakes
 Baronscourt Lakes offer some of the best pike fishing in the area and for a time the venue hosted the Northern Ireland Pike Fishing Championships. Fishing is only available for guests staying on the estate. There are 3 interconnected lakes within the Baronscourt Estate: Lough Catherine 91.51 acres, Lough Fanny 29.05 acres and Lough Mary 15.47. The best time of year is between April and October. Boats hire is available and the fishing is on a strict catch and release basis. Information is available from www.barons-court.com. Loughs Agency Licence required.



Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal
 Assaore Lake and some smaller lakes near Pettigo Town
 Very good pike fishing on Assaore Lake where pike to over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) have been recorded in recent years. The lake is owned by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and shore angling is only allowed from the northern shore and a portion of the southern shore around the Lakeside Centre. ESB permit is required.

Neagh/Bann District

Counties Monaghan, Cavan, Armagh and Tyrone

Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan
 Lough Muckno
 There is very good pike fishing in many areas of this big lake both from shore and boat. Pike to over 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) are recorded annually with the occasional fish over 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) reported. There are many productive areas to try on this lake at Black and White Island, Conca Wood (Belfast Steps) and at South Lodge. Good boat hire and guiding service available. Boat slipways available at South Lodge and Black Island.

Newry, Co. Armagh
 Camlough
 This large disused reservoir offers exceptional pike fishing all year round. The lake is long and narrow and has an undulating bed. Pike fishing is best from a boat - there is a sharp drop off which is easily covered if afloat. In the early spring, pike often feed on small roach fry. This is an ideal opportunity to try fly fishing for pike. Guides and boat hire are available - further information from www.oriangling.com. Loughs Agency Licence required.

Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan
 Capragh Lake & Rahan's, Lough na Glack & Monalty Lake
 There is good pike fishing in the many excellent coarse lakes near this town. Most of the fishing is from the shore including some stands and there is a slipway for boat fishing at Rahan's Lake. Pike to over 20 lbs. (10 kg.) are recorded annually. Good boat hire and guiding service available.

Benburb, Co. Tyrone
 Creeve Lough
 Creeve Lough is developed as a pike fishery and match fishery. Scientific examination has shown Creeve to be very productive, with a perch growth rate exceeding all other Irish waters. Some very large pike have been taken on deadbaits and the heaviest pike reported was 16.9 kg and measured 109 cm in length. The water is very scenic and well sheltered. Creeve is the sister lake of Brantry and is situated south of the Aughnacloy-Benburb road. A hardcore path surrounds the lake and gives easy access to the fishing stands provided. There is a background of deciduous trees, which supply shade to the lake and car parks. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence required. www.dcal-fishngi.gov.uk

Kingscourt, Co. Cavan
 Whitewood Lake, Ervey Lake
 These lakes produce some very good pike fishing with many 20 lbs. (9.072 Kg.) + pike reported during the season. Good fishing stands on Ervey Lake. Good shore and boat fishing on both lakes.

Keady, Co. Armagh
 Clay Lake
 Clay Lake, lying along the Castleblaney Road, is renowned as a pike fishery with fish exceeding 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.). Slides and footsticks have been provided to give easy access along the shore, much of which is stony and safe for wading, although care should be taken in soft areas. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence required.

Neagh/Bann District

Counties Antrim and Derry/Londonderry

Portlone, Co. Antrim
 Lough Beg, Lower River Bann
 The Lough Beg area lies just north of Lough Neagh and is a premier pike fishery. It has a sluggish flow and some shallow bays. Pike are also found in the deeper navigational channel running through the lough. Access to Lough Beg is most convenient by boat from Newry or Toome. The Lower Bann produces a number of specimen pike every year. The most successful methods are spinning and trolling. However, to catch big fish, deadbaiting is recommended. Local anglers find pollen, mackerel, rainbow trout and roach to be the best baits. For the past few years anglers have fly-fished for pike. A number of good fish have been taken of up to 42.5 lbs. (19.28 Kg.) on both the river and Lough Beg. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence required.



"I've been going to Ireland to fish almost every year for about 40 years and in spite of fishing in many other places throughout the world Ireland remains my all-time favourite. Ireland has no equal when it comes to great all-round fishing and the warmth of its people."
 GRAHAM MARSDEN, FISHING MAGIC

Kilrea, Co. Derry/Londonderry
 Movaghgan Canal, Portna Canal
 The Movaghgan and Portna canals fish particularly well when high flow conditions exist on the River Bann. Pike up to 30 lbs. (13.60 Kg.) have been recorded. DCAL Coarse Rod Licence required. www.loughs-agency.org

Ireland
Pike Angling in Ireland

Travel, Stay, Fish and Play!

Your Web Guide To Pike Angling In Ireland

www.discoverireland.com

- Self-catering, hotels, B&Bs
- Travel offers
- Activities & places to visit
- Entertainment, festivals & events

www.fishinginireland.info

- Catch reports
- Bait and tackle shops
- Boat hire and guides
- Regulations

Tourism Ireland Offices

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Pike Angling in Ireland

Key

-  Ferry Port
-  Road
-  Airport
-  Angling Centre

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Atlantic Ocean

Irish Sea

Celtic Sea

North Channel

St. George's Channel



Anglers Welcome

Tourism enterprises signing up to the Anglers Welcome charter promise to deliver an outstanding angling holiday experience to visiting anglers. Look out for the Anglers Welcome sign as you travel around Ireland and be assured of quality service, a warm welcome and of course great fishing!

Pike angling in the Republic of Ireland is subject to the following regulations:

- a bag limit of 1 pike in any one day.
- a prohibition on the killing of any pike greater than 50 cm in length.
- a prohibition on the possession by any person of more than 1 whole pike less than 50 cm or more than 0.75 kg of pike flesh (this provision does not apply to a person storing pike or pike parts subject to conditions).
- a prohibition on the possession by any person of more than 12 coarse fish for use as bait subject to conditions.
- Details of these regulations are available at: www.fishinginireland.info/pike/pconserve.htm.

(Information correct at time of print, March 2010).

