

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND COMMUNICATIONS

INLAND FISHERIES ACTS 1959 TO 2017

CONSERVATION OF SALMON AND SEA TROUT (CATCH AND RELEASE)

BYE-LAW NO. 1014, 2024

I, Eamon Ryan, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 57 of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010), (as adapted by the Communications, Climate Action and Environment (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2020 (S.I. No. 373 of 2020)), hereby make the following bye-law:

1. (1) This Bye-law may be cited as the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Catch and Release) Bye-Law No. 1014, 2024.

(2) This Bye-law comes into operation on 1 January 2025.

2. In this Bye-law:

“catch and release”, in relation to angling for salmon or sea trout in the waters to which this Bye-law applies, means the careful handling of any fish caught and the immediate return of such fish alive to the water from which it was taken;

“fish” means salmon or sea trout or both;

“salmon” means fish of the species *Salmo salar* (Atlantic salmon);

“sea trout” means fish of the migratory form *Salmo trutta*, but does not include a sea trout which is 40 centimetres or less in length measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in any bye-law, it is prohibited for a person, in relation to a river mentioned in column (2) of Schedule 1 opposite the mention of a fishery district in column (1) of that Schedule to -

- (a) take by rod and line any fish from the waters of the river, other than by catch and release, or
- (b) in the course of angling for fish, use or attempt to use worms as bait, or any fish hooks, other than single or double barbless hooks.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained in any Bye-law, it is prohibited for a person, in a river mentioned in column (2) of Schedule 2 opposite the mention of a fishery district in column (1) of Schedule 2, during any year from 01 January to 11 May to -

- (a) take by rod and line any fish from the waters of the river, other than by catch and release, or
- (b) in the course of angling for fish, use or attempt to use worms as bait, or any fish hooks, other than single or double barbless hooks.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in any bye-law, it is prohibited for a person, from 12 May to the end of the season, in relation to a river mentioned in column (2) of Schedule 3 opposite the mention of a fishery district in column (1) of that Schedule to -

(a) take by rod and line any fish from the waters of the river, other than by catch and release, or

(b) in the course of angling for fish, use or attempt to use worms as bait, or any fish hooks, other than single or double barbless hooks.

6. Notwithstanding anything contained in any bye-law, it is prohibited for a person, from 1 September to the end of the season, in relation to a river mentioned in column (2) of Schedule 4 opposite the mention of a fishery district in column (1) of that Schedule to -

(a) take by rod and line any fish from the waters of the river, other than by catch and release, or

(b) in the course of angling for fish, use or attempt to use worms as bait, or any fish hooks, other than single or double barbless hooks.

7. The Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Catch and Release) Bye-Law No. 1005, 2023 and the No. 4 or Lismore District Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Close Season Bye-law No. C.S. 310, 201 are revoked.

SCHEDULE 1

Article 3

Fishery District (1)	River (2)
No. 2 or Wexford District	Slaney
No. 3 or Waterford District	Barrow and Pollmounty Nore Suir including Clodiagh, Lingaun and Waterford Blackwater
No. 4 or Lismore District	Bride
No. 5 or Cork District	Argideen Owenacurra Adrigole
No.7 or Kerry District	Inny Ferta Cloonee Croanshagh

No. 8 or Limerick District	Mulkear Feale Doonbeg Lower Shannon
No. 9(2) or Connemara District	Screebe Ballynahinch (Owenmore)
No. 10 ⁽¹⁾ or Ballinakill District	Owenwee Carrownisky Erriff Bunowen
No. 10 ⁽²⁾ or Bangor District	Glenamoy Newport R (Lough Beltra) Shramore
No. 12 or Sligo District	Garvogue (including R Bonet and L Gill)

No. 13 or Ballyshannon District	Bungosteen Oily Eany Duff Eske
No. 14 or Letterkenny District	Ray Leannan Crana
No. 17 ⁽¹⁾ or Drogheda District	Boyne
No. 17 ⁽²⁾ or Dundalk District	Glyde Fane

Schedule 2

(Catch and Release to 11th May)

Article 4

Fishery District (1)	River (2)
No. 10 ⁽¹⁾ or Ballinakill District	Bundorragha (Delphi)
No. 14 or Letterkenny District	Gweebarra

Schedule 3

(Catch and Release from 12th May)

Article 5

Fishery District (1)	River (2)
No. 14 or Letterkenny District	Lackagh

Schedule 4

(Catch and Release from 1st September)

Article 6

Fishery District (1)	River (2)
No. 4 or Lismore District	Blackwater (Munster) including Glenshelane and Finisk

GIVEN under my hand,

19 December 2024.

EAMON RYAN

Minister for the Environment, Climate

and Communications.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Bye-law provides for catch and release in respect of salmon and sea trout (over 40 cm) in the rivers mentioned in the Bye-law. The Bye-law also provides for the use of single or double barbless hooks and prohibits the use of worms as bait in angling for salmon and sea trout (over 40 cm).

FOOTNOTE

Section 57 (7) of the Inland Fisheries Act, 2010 provides that any person aggrieved by this Bye-law may within 28 days after its publication in the *Iris Oifigiúil*, appeal against same to the High Court.