

What is PAW NI?

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime NI (PAW NI) brings together statutory agencies, non-statutory agencies and interested parties with the common goal of combating wildlife crime through publicity, education and campaigning. PAW NI partners include key government Departments, PSNI and other enforcement agencies, environmental organisations, animal welfare groups and country sports associations.



What to do if you suspect or see illegal activity?

Responsibility in Northern Ireland for the protection of fish stocks lies with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and in the Foyle and Carlingford areas with the Loughs Agency, see map over. PSNI also have powers under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 and the Foyle Fisheries Act (NI) 1952.

If you suspect or witness any illegal activity:

- Move away from the activity and find a safe place;
- Contact DAERA Inland Fisheries
Tel: 0300 200 7860 (office hours); or
Tel: 0800 807 060 (at other times);
- Loughs Agency: 028 7134 2100
- PSNI Tel: 101 or 999 in an emergency;
- Crimestoppers;
 - Give details of the (potential) crime.
 - Location and time.
 - Description of the person(s) involved.
 - Vehicle registrations, makes & colours.
 - Detail any use of firearms, tools & dogs etc.
 - Ask for & retain an incident reference number.

*Information can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers.

WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE CRIME



Image - Gardiner Mitchell

HELP PROTECT OUR FISH STOCKS NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE



Northern Ireland
CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

www.wildlifecrimeni.org



Illegal activity seriously damages fishstocks - help us stop it!

There are a number of illegal activities that can have a detrimental effect on fish stocks. The information in this leaflet will help you to identify these activities and to know what to do if you see this happening.



The use of illegal methods to catch fish.

The use of nets is generally prohibited in all waterways in Northern Ireland. They can only be legally used by commercial fishermen on Lough Neagh or Lough Erne or for survey work (with the appropriate permissions).

Long Lines are composed of a number of fine hooks that are tied to a line. They can only be used legally by commercial fishermen on Lough Neagh. Outside these areas, anyone using anything other than a rod and line or hand line will be fishing illegally!



Unauthorised removal of material from rivers.

Gravel and stones in a river are essential to maintain a healthy fish population. The unauthorised removal of this substrate can cause a long term decline in fish numbers as it takes a long time for rivers to recover naturally from such events.

Other breaches of fishing regulations

Anyone fishing in rivers and lakes in Northern Ireland requires both a licence and the permission of the fishery owner.

Regulations are often in place to protect fish stocks by specifying times when people can fish, what methods are allowed, bag limits or size limits of fish that can be taken. Such information is generally present on signs located close to fishing areas. Anyone in breach of such regulations is acting illegally.

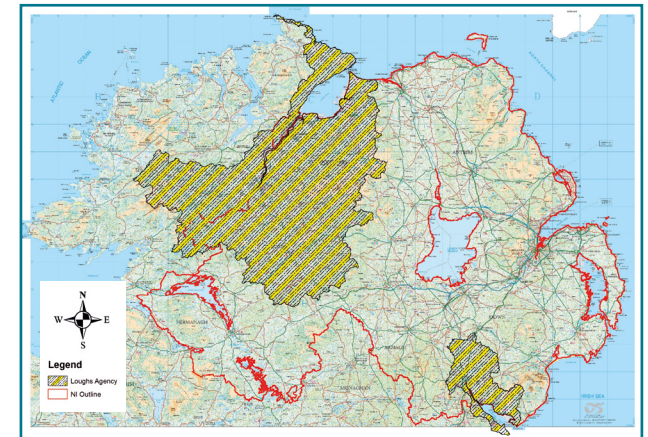
Conservation Note:

In Northern Ireland, only commercial fishermen on Lough Neagh and the Lower Bann river are allowed to catch and keep eels for the food market.

On Lough Erne there is a conservation eel fishery assisting migratory eels passing hydroelectric generator barriers between Belleek and Ballyshannon.

Enforcement

Responsibility in Northern Ireland for the protection of fish stocks lies mainly with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Inland Fisheries. However in the Foyle and Carlingford areas the Loughs Agency cover the trans border water bodies and their catchments see map below.



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The Ulster Angling Federation urges you to report any illegal or suspicious activity.

Report Water Pollution incidents to

Water Pollution Hotline

Freefone* 0800 80 70 60

24 Hours, 7 Days a Week



*Mobile Calls Charged