

## 1989 No. 482

## FISHERIES

**Angling (Department of Agriculture Waters)  
Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 1989**

*Made* . . . . . 14th December 1989

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 31st January 1990

The Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland in exercise of their powers under section 26(1) of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(a) and of every other power enabling them in that behalf with the approval of the Department of Agriculture hereby make the following Byelaws.

*Citation and commencement*

1. These Byelaws may be cited as the Angling (Department of Agriculture Waters) Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 1989 and shall come into operation on 31st January 1990.

*Application*

2. These Byelaws shall apply to angling in the waters described in the first column of the Schedule.

*Interpretation*

3. In these Byelaws—

- “all lawful methods” means any method of angling except a method forbidden by any statutory provision for the time being in force;
- “angling” means the fishing for, taking or killing of fish by rod and line or hand line;
- “bait” means any material used on a hook for the purpose of attracting fish;
- “earthworm” means any worm of the Family Lumbricidae;
- “fly fishing” means the use of a single rod, reel (including a fixed spool reel), fly line or blow line and a single cast carrying not more than three artificial or winged natural flies but does not include the use of a bubble float in conjunction with artificial or winged natural flies;
- “ground bait” means any material used otherwise than on a hook for the purpose of attracting fish whilst angling;
- “hook” means a hook attached to a fishing line;
- “length” in relation to fish means the measurement from the tip of the snout to the fork or cleft of the tail;

“maggots” means any larvae of the Order Diptera including the house fly of the Family Muscidae and the blue-bottle or blowfly of the Family Calliphoridae;

“shrimp fishing” means the use of a hook baited with a shrimp (Crangon species);

“spinning” means the use of a single rod, reel (including a fixed spool reel) and line to cast or throw bait and retrieve the bait by rewinding the line onto the drum of the reel with the bait kept in motion throughout;

“trolling” means the drawing of a fishing line with one or more hooks attached through the water from a moving boat;

“worm fishing” means the use of a hook baited with one or more earthworms.

#### *Permitted methods of angling*

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of these Byelaws the only methods of angling in the waters described in the first column of the Schedule shall be those specified in the second column of the Schedule and the use of those methods shall be subject to any restrictions as to number or minimum length of fish which may be retained as specified in respect thereof in the third column of the Schedule.

(2) The use of any matter of vegetable origin or the different species of maggots and earthworms as bait when spinning shall be prohibited.

#### *Return of fish to water*

5. All fish of less than the minimum length which may be retained or fish in excess of the maximum number which may be retained as specified in the third column of the Schedule must, without avoidable injury, be returned to the water.

#### *Prohibition of ground bait and maggots*

6. Subject to the provisions of Byelaw 7 the use of ground bait or maggots is prohibited while fishing on the waters to which these Byelaws apply.

#### *Exception from prohibition*

7. The prohibition imposed by Byelaw 6 shall not apply on the River Ballinamallard, River Blackwater, the Quoile Basin, Upper Lough Erne or in that part of Lower Lough Erne to the east of an imaginary line running approximately south west from the point where the A47 Road from Belleek to Boa Island leaves the mainland in the townland of Tawnawanny, touching the most westerly point of Bingham's Rock and the most easterly part of Hills Island and on to where it meets the southern shore in the townland of Drumcrow West.

#### *Restrictions on the use of boats*

8. Boats shall not be used for the purpose of angling except on Lough Achork, Brantry Lough, Castlewellan Lake, Coolyermer Lough, Lough Corry, Craigavon (North) Lake, Upper and Lower Lough Erne, River Erne,

Lough Glenreawan, Lough Keenaghan, Lough Meenameen, Lough Melvin and Mill Lough (Bellanaleck).

**9.** Mechanically propelled boats shall not be used for the purpose of angling except on Upper and Lower Lough Erne, River Erne, Craigavon (North) Lake and Lough Melvin.

*Restrictions on trolling*

**10.** Trolling is prohibited except on Upper and Lower Lough Erne and Lough Melvin.

**11.** For the purpose of trolling on Upper and Lower Lough Erne and Lough Melvin the number of fishing rods and lines or hand lines which may be used shall not exceed—

- (a) four in the case of a boat occupied by three or more persons;
- (b) three in the case of a boat occupied by two persons; and
- (c) two in the case of a boat occupied by one person.

*Prohibition on angling in certain areas*

**12.**—(1) Angling shall be prohibited in the River Bush between the two metal posts coloured yellow on the west bank immediately downstream and upstream of the Salmon Leap at Walk Mill.

- (2) Angling shall be prohibited in the following areas of the Quoile Basin:
- (a) the western shore from Shooter's Island to the new Barrier; and
  - (b) the eastern shore from Steamboat Quay to the most southerly point of Castle Island.

*Times for angling*

**13.**—(1) On that section of the River Bush between a point 457 metres downstream of the Lower Road Bridge, Bushmills and the outlet of the boundary drain between the townlands of Walk Mill and Ballyclogh (North) angling shall be permitted only between 0800 hours and either one hour after sunset or 2200 hours whichever is earlier.

(2) Angling shall be permitted only between the hours of 0800 and 2200 on the undermentioned waters:

Copeland Reservoir,  
Leathemstown Reservoir  
Lough Mourne  
Stoneyford Reservoir  
Lower South Woodburn Reservoir  
Middle South Woodburn Reservoir  
North Woodburn Reservoir  
Upper South Woodburn Reservoir.

*Revocation*

**14.** The Angling (Department of Agriculture Waters) Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 1986(a) are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Common Seal of the Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland on 8th December 1989.

(L.S.)

*R. T. Jordan*

Chairman

(L.S.)

*R. G. Weaver*

Secretary

The Department of Agriculture hereby approves the foregoing Byelaws.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 14th December 1989.

(L.S.)

*L. Sinclair*

Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE

Byelaw 4

2546

*Department of  
Agriculture Waters*

*Methods of Angling*

*Restriction on number and minimum  
length of fish which may be retained  
on any one day in respect of each  
rod fished under permit*

**Co. Antrim**

Altnahinch

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Four fish with a minimum length of  
25.4 cm

River Bush and tributaries

When the water level on the marker posts  
located beside the west bank of the river  
in the following positions:

Minimum length 25.4 cm for trout.

- (a) On the River Bush between a point  
457 m downstream of Bushmills  
Lower Road Bridge and the outlet  
of the boundary drain between the  
townlands of Walk Mill and  
Ballyclogh (North).

- (i) 64 m upstream from Bushmills  
Lower Road Bridge;
- (ii) immediately downstream from the  
west pier of Bushmills Church  
Street Bridge;
- (iii) 92 m downstream of the outlet  
of the boundary drain between the  
townlands of Glebe and Walk Mill;  
and
- (iv) immediately below the Salmon  
Leap Falls at Walk Mill and  
beside the angler's path footbridge  
over the outflow from the  
Generating Station at Walk Mill;

is at the colour red, fly fishing, worm  
fishing and shrimp fishing and when it  
is at the colour green, fly fishing, worm  
fishing, shrimp fishing and spinning.

Fisheries

No. 482

	When fly fishing, only flies tied on single hooks which shall not exceed No. 4 (10 mm between point and shank) may be used. Such flies shall be dressed and shall not be leaded or otherwise artificially weighted.	
(b) On the River Bush between Conagher Bridge and Bellisle Bridge and on the Stracam River between its confluence with the River Bush and Dervock.	Fly fishing 1st March–30th June. Fly fishing, worm fishing and spinning 1st July–30th September.	Minimum length 25.4 cm for trout.
(c) On the River Bush its tributaries upstream of the outlet of the boundary drain between the townlands of Walk Mill and Ballyclogh (North) but excluding that portion of the River defined in (b) above.	Fly fishing 1st March–30th June. Fly fishing and worm fishing 1st July–30th September.	Minimum length 25.4 cm for trout.
That portion of the Carey River from a point 49 m upstream of the boundary between the townlands of Bonamargy and Broughanlea to its confluence with the Glenshesk River.	Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.	None.
Copeland Reservoir	Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
Dungonnell Reservoir	Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

That portion of the Glenshesk River downstream of the boundary between the townlands of Bonamargy and Drumahaman to its confluence with the Carey River.

Killylane Reservoir

Leathemstown Reservoir

Marcy River

Lough Mourne

Stoneyford Reservoir

Lower South Woodburn Reservoir

Middle South Woodburn Reservoir

North Woodburn Reservoir

Upper South Woodburn Reservoir

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Fly fishing.

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Fly fishing only between Bonamargy Bridge and the confluence of the Carey River.

Fly fishing spinning and worm fishing on the remainder of the Margy.

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Fly fishing

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Fly fishing.

None.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

None.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

**Co. Armagh**

## Craigavon City Park Lakes

(a) North Lake.

From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

From boats, fly fishing only.

(b) South Lake.

From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Clay Lake Reservoir

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

None.

**Co. Down**

Ballykeel Lougherne

Fly fishing.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Lough Brickland

Fly fishing.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Castlewellan Forest Lake

From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. From boats, fly fishing only.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Hillsborough Lake

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. From the dam shores and the foot-bridge at the southern point of the lake, spinning and worm fishing only.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.

Lough Money

Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.

None.

Portavoe Reservoir

Fly fishing.

Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm



Quoile Basin That portion of the Shimna River which is bounded on both banks by Tollymore Forest Park.	All lawful methods. Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.	None. Two salmon or sea trout.
Spelga Reservoir	Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.	None.
<b>Co. Fermanagh</b>		
Lough Achork  River Ballinamallard downstream of the Kilgortnaleague Bridge on the A35 for one mile on either bank.	From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. From boats fly fishing only. All lawful methods.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm. None.
Coolyermer Lough	From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. From boats fly fishing only.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
Corranny Lake	Fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
Lough Corry	From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. From boats fly fishing only.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
Upper and Lower Lough Erne	All lawful methods from boat and shore.	Six fish with a minimum length of 30.0 cm.
Lough Glencreawan	From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. From boats fly fishing only.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
Lough Keenaghan	Fly fishing.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
Lough Meenameen	From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. From boats fly fishing only.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
Lough Melvin	Fly fishing, spinning, worm fishing and trolling.	None.
Mill Lough (Bellanaleck)	Fly fishing.	Four fish with a minimum length of 25.4 cm.
River Erne	From the shore fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing. Fly fishing from boats only.	Six fish with a minimum length of 30.0 cm.

**Co. Tyrone**

River Blackwater upstream of the  
Blackwatertown Bridge on the B128 for  
approximately 1½ miles in the Co.  
Armagh bank.

All lawful methods.

None.

Brantry Lough

From the shore fly fishing, spinning and  
worm fishing. Fly fishing from boats only.

Four fish with a minimum length of  
25.4 cm.

---

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Byelaws.)*

These Byelaws which revoke and replace the Angling (Department of Agriculture Waters) Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 1986 specify the methods of angling permitted on waters controlled by the Department of Agriculture and provide for a minimum length and number of fish which may be retained on any one day. They also contain certain provisions restricting the use of boats and the times of fishing.

The Regulations make the following changes of substance:—

- (i) the prohibition on the use of ground bait now applies to all material used as such;
- (ii) only shrimp (*Crangon* species) may be used as bait for shrimp fishing;
- (iii) in addition to maggots and earthworms the use of any matter of vegetable origin when spinning is prohibited;
- (iv) the prohibition on the use of ground bait has been extended to the River Erne and the western part of the Lower Lough Erne.

The waters listed in the Schedule to the Byelaws have been amended to introduce bag limits on Dungonnell and Killylane Reservoirs. An additional water has been added, namely Lough Money, Co. Down, and following the introduction of boats on Castlewellan Lake fly fishing only will be permitted from boats on these waters. The River Erne has now become a game fishery and a bag limit of 6 fish has also been introduced. A stretch of the Margy River from Bonamargy Bridge to the confluence of the Carey will be fly fishing only while on the remainder of the Margy fly fishing, spinning and worm fishing will be permitted.

A person who contravenes these Byelaws is guilty of an offence under section 26(5) of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 for which the penalty on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding £1,000.