



IFPAC POLICY

FOR PIKE BOAT COMPETITIONS

1.0 SAFETY

The Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs recommends the following for all Pike Boat Competitions:

- 1.1 Extremely adverse weather conditions pose a risk to the safety of competitors during boat competitions. The organisers of competitions are responsible for deciding upon the cancellation of the event in such circumstances or relocating the event to a more suitable venue. In the event that the organisers deem weather conditions suitable for a boat competition to proceed, then competitors are responsible for their own personal safety; and should weather conditions deteriorate or become unsafe during the competition then the responsibility to cease fishing is at the competitor's discretion. All competitors are expected to be aware of and abide by the "14 Steps to Safe and Enjoyable Boating" promoted by "Irish Water Safety". See www.iws.ie. It is recommended that a copy of the "14 Steps" be on display at the competition check in. In the interest of safety it is required that there be a minimum of at least one experienced boat man per boat.

***Note:** The wearing of lifejackets is compulsory (Current Legislation for the Republic of Ireland is Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 259 of 2004. No specific Legislation has been introduced to date by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland. We recommend the adoption of the Health and Safety considerations of S.I. No. 259 of 2004 in all pike boat competitions).*

- 1.2 The organiser's attention is drawn to the fact that rough water conditions created by high winds have been identified as a major stress factor on fish held and transported in fish holding tanks. The risk of fish mortality increases when fish are transported in holding tanks over rough water. Very warm water temperatures also increase the risk of fish mortality. Pike Boat Competition events need to be conducted in a manner that considers weather conditions and minimizes or avoids fish mortality risks caused by such weather.
- 1.3 In the months of June, July, August and September, fish are not to be retained by any method; and all fish should be weighed and released immediately.

2.0 RULES

2.1 All pike boat competitions to be run on a 'Heaviest Fish' basis only, for the following reasons:

- It reduces any possible risk to pike populations on individual fisheries by ensuring that the number of fish retained and weighed is minimized
- It prevents the displacement of large numbers of fish from the area of capture
- It promotes 'Best Practice' for efficient stewarding
- It promotes an 'Immediate Release' ethos to anglers

2.2 Mandatory equipment per boat is as follows:

- Landing Net
- Unhooking Mat
- Forceps
- Longnosed Pliers and/or Baker Hookouts (for unhooking of lures)
- Bolt Cutters
- Weigh Sling
- Scales
- 1 No. Pike Sack per angler (Minimum of two Sacks per boat)
- Min 200 Litre Holding Tank (see Fig 1 for minimum specifications)
- 1 No. Bucket

3.0 OPEN PIKE BOAT COMPETITIONS

3.1 Stewards Requirements

- A map of the competition venue showing the extent of the fishing area is to be grid referenced into manageable areas and a map is to be given to all competitors
- Mobile phone numbers are to be listed on the map for the Stewards responsible for each grid referenced area
- Stewards are to wear Hi-viz vests and a flag is to be displayed on all Stewards boats
- A "Senior Steward" must be appointed by the organisers
- All other Stewards must immediately report weights centrally to the "Senior Steward"
- The responsibility of the "Senior Steward" is to centrally record all weight records from all other Stewards and to advise on an ongoing basis the "cut-off weight" for weighable fish

3.2 Competitor Boat Requirements

- Before entering the slipway each boat is to be checked for full compliance with the mandatory equipment requirements
- Before commencement of fishing each boat must ensure that the fish holding tank is in compliance with the attached specification – see Fig. 1 - and that the aeration system is fully operational

Note: Failure to comply will result in entry being refused or disqualification.

3.3 Fish Retention and Weighing Requirements

- Each angler on catching a fish must contact the closest grid referenced steward for advice of the “cut-off weight” so that fish below the cut-off may be released immediately
- Fish above the “cut-off weight” are to be retained for weighing in the following manner:
 1. A single fish is to be placed into a pike sack
 2. The pike sack is to be used to place the fish into the holding tank and the fish should remain in the pike sack
 3. In the event that the fish is over 8lb in weight the boat must proceed immediately to the nearest grid referenced stewards boat or land based weigh station
 4. In the event that a fish is under 8lb, it is advisable that the fish is weighed at the earliest opportunity or at the time of capture of a second fish, whereupon both fish must be taken for weighing immediately
 5. When weighing fish, only one at a time may be removed from the holding tank using the pike sack and transferred directly into the weigh sling
 6. After weighing, the fish must be returned to the water using the weigh sling with the responsibility for safe release resting with the competitor
 7. On completion of weighing and release, a minimum of 50% of water within the holding tank should be replaced with fresh clean water

4.0 CLOSED CLUB COMPETITIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that all fish are weighed and released immediately upon capture. Where this is not done, the competition should be run as per Section 3.1 to 3.3 inclusive of the IFPAC Pike Boat Competition Policy.

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 *Zebra Mussels (Dreissena polymorpha)* – In the interest of promoting best practice, to prevent the spread of zebra mussels between fisheries it is recommended that all boats are high pressure steam cleaned prior to participation in a boat competition to remove mussels and/or larvae. Cooling water to outboard engine must also be flushed out and landing nets to be fully dried or pre-immersed in hot water.

- 5.2 *Boat Discharges* – It recommended that all anglers check and rectify any pollution discharge risks from their boats prior to participation in a boat competition (e.g. oil, petrol etc.)
- 5.3 *Invasive Weed* - To prevent the spread of invasive weed species throughout our inland waterways, the appropriate precautions to inspect and clean boats, trailers and equipment prior to moving between fisheries are recommended. A non-exhaustive list of invasive species is set out below. It is recommended that anglers view the website of the Central Fisheries Board www.cfb.ie for a full description of the impact of invasive species.
- Curly leaved waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*)
 - Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*)
 - Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)
 - Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*)
 - New Zealand pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*)
 - Nuttall's pondweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)
 - Parrot's feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
 - Fringed water lily (*Nymphoides peltata*)
 - Water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*)

Policy Date: November 2007

Webmaster's note:

Due to difficulties with links from MS Word to certain versions of Adobe Acrobat, you cannot link to either the "14 Steps to Safe and Enjoyable Boating" or the Holding Tank diagram referred to above. Please return to the website [homepage](#) from where these documents can be accessed.