**Subject:**Shannon RBD Trout Regulations Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am responding to the consultation on the proposed amendments to the byelaws regulating trout angling in Shannon RBD.

There are inconsistencies in the existing byelaws (e.g. over size limit) and therefore I welcome the opportunity to introduce consistency. Specifically, I would offer the following observations on the areas of the review:

1. Bag limits. There is scientific and anecdotal evidence from the angling community that angling, especially with modern communications and targeted effort, can impact on trout populations, even in very large waterbodies such as the Irish Great Lakes. There is also good scientific evidence of the value of well-practised catch-and-release fishing in trout conservation. Therefore, I strongly support the idea of a bag limit set at one trout per angler per day, not three, as the consultation proposes. I understand that many anglers have been voluntarily limiting the number of trout they kill on the lakes in the interest of conservation and that these proposals brought into law will support those voluntary efforts.

2. I support the setting of close seasons as described in the consultation.

3. It is a commonly accepted and logical principle in sustainable fishery management that fish be allowed to come to maturity and spawn at least once before harvest. I suggest, therefore, that a minimum size limit for trout in the Shannon RBD be set at 16" (41cm) to allow females to spawn at least once before being caught and killed.

I believe too that other rules and regulations currently in place should remain so (e.g. those on trolling) and that local angling associations should be closely involved with any future proposed changes.

Yours faithfully,