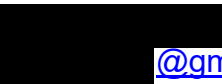




Our reference: **DAERA/26-461**


[@gmail.com](mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com)

Marine & Fisheries Division

Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast BT3 9ED

Tel: 0300 200 7860

Email: anglingcorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk

03 August 2026

Dear ,

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 07 July 2026, in which you sought information regarding Lough Neagh commercial catch data, dealer-return records and the status of the 2021–2025 scale-fish dataset.

The information requested is environmental information and has therefore been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

I can advise that the Department has reviewed the relevant previous EIR responses and information already held in relation to this matter and can provide the clarification set out below.

1	The current status of the 2021–2025 review	The 2021–2025 dataset remains subject to an active review, verification and quality assurance process. This work is being undertaken to confirm both the accuracy of the data and the robustness of the underlying data collection
---	--	--

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



		methodology. The dataset has not yet been finalised.
2	When the verification and quality-assurance process is expected to be completed	The work is being carried out subject to available resources. It is not yet known when this work will be completed.
3	When the verified dataset will be published	Once the work has been completed for verification the information will be made available to the public.
4	Whether the published data will include species-by-year figures for trout, pollan, perch, bream, roach and pike	No decision has been taken regarding the scope, format or content of any future publication. It should be noted that, of the species listed in your request, current dealer-register legal requirements for recording sales only apply to trout, pollan and pike.
5	How DAERA distinguishes dealer returns from verified catch data	Dealer returns comprise records maintained by registered fish dealers in accordance with legislative requirements. There is currently no legislative requirement for commercial fishermen to report catches to DAERA. Work is progressing on the Lough Neagh Fishery Management plan which includes a recommendation to require fishermen to report catches to DAERA for all species caught. The current review is assessing the accuracy, consistency and robustness of the 2021–2025 dataset and the underlying data collection methodology.
6	Whether the dealer-return figures released in DAERA/25-140 form part of the raw data or methodology being reviewed in DAERA/26-34 and DAERA/26-110	As previously advised, the ongoing review includes verification of information against records maintained by registered fish dealers. The review includes checks to confirm the consistency, accuracy and robustness of the dataset before it is finalised.

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



7	Whether any interim or provisional information can be released while the review is ongoing	The Department's position remains as set out in responses DAERA/26-34 and DAERA/26-110. The dataset remains subject to an ongoing review and has not yet been finalised.
8	Whether DAERA intends to publish Lough Neagh commercial catch data routinely in future	No decision has been taken regarding the routine publication of Lough Neagh commercial catch data.
9	Whether DAERA will publish aggregate information on active licences or permits, gear types, enforcement and compliance information, and the stock evidence used to support continued commercial fishing	No decision has been taken regarding the future publication of the categories of information described in your request. DAERA publishes information relating to licences and enforcement through its Inland Fisheries Annual Reports. DAERA also publishes fish stock survey information through its Fish Survey Reports. DAERA has a statutory responsibility for the conservation, protection, development and promotion of salmon and inland fisheries under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 and seeks to manage fisheries resources in a sustainable manner.
10	How the requested catch or landings data relates to the Lough Neagh Fishery Management Plan and any current stock assessments or monitoring work	Work is progressing on the Lough Neagh Fishery Management plan which includes a recommendation to require fishermen to report catches to DAERA for all species caught. Fisheries management decisions are informed by a range of evidence sources, including monitoring, management plans and regulatory frameworks. The current review is focused on verification and quality assurance of the dataset prior to finalisation.

The Department recognises the public interest in Lough Neagh and remains committed to ensuring that any information published is accurate, complete and reliable.

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

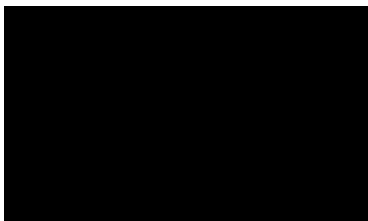


If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,



DAERA Inland Fisheries

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

