

Guys, with the new season approaching, and increased focus on Pollution, poaching etc.. this season is a critical one, with all **RA 111** members playing an important role as stakeholders and guardians of our waterways and natural resource.

Should members encounter suspicious or illegal activity, suspected illegal netting or fish removal, the **FCB has recommended the following guidelines and Code of Conduct:**

Remember, as you could be reporting potential criminal activity, it is important to record as much accurate evidence as possible! Incidents should be reported, ideally, as the activity is occurring, to allow the authorities to apprehend anyone undertaking suspected criminal activity.

1. Record as much evidence discreetly, as it is safe to do so; e.g. photos, film, descriptions of person(s), car number plates, make, model etc.. **DO NOT COMPROMISE YOUR OWN SAFETY, HOWEVER!!!**
2. If illegal activity is in progress, move away from the vicinity, and try and observe at a safe distance.

3. Phone the following Hotline numbers to contact the relevant Fisheries Boards:

FCB - 02838 334666

Bann Systems - 02870 344796

DCAL - 02890 258873

Loughs Agency - 02871 342100

Pollution Hotline Number

Pollution Hotline - 0800 807060 (24 Hour Freephone)

4. If you cannot contact the relevant Fisheries Management Staff directly, contact either:

Robbie Marsh or any of the RA111 interim committee:

(Neil Todd- 07834329757)

They can contact the FCB directly, and report details of the incident. They will then either report back to you directly, giving direction on further action, or give the authorities your details to contact you directly.

5. Do not handle or remove physical evidence such as nets, fish, set-lines etc.. Leave them in place.

Remember, these items are criminal evidence, and any area where suspected illegal activity is occurring is a potential crime scene.

Members are reminded that it is a criminal offence to knowingly interfere with a crime scene.

6. Remember, the authorities may already know about the nets/lines etc.. and could be staking the scene out! So any unauthorised interference may compromise a conviction! Certain nets may also be in place by licensed, legal nets men.

7. However, under certain circumstances (for example, if there are no bailiffs available to take immediate action,) the Authorities may either; authorise members to remove nets/evidence, or request they are left in place to stake-out future activity.

This will be confirmed only by the authority of the FCB or controlling fisheries body.

Additional notes:

1. Some nets are legal, and licensed. Please be aware of and respect them if you are fishing in the vicinity of legal nets.
2. Gill nets are illegal on all rivers.
3. Coarse fish cannot be removed legally, between 1st. March and 31st. May.
4. It is illegal to net or use as bait, Any Brown trout less than 30.6 cm from snout to fork of tail.
5. It is illegal to net or use as bait, Pollen less than 20.5 cm from snout to fork of tail.
6. Rainbow trout and other coarse fish of any size may be used as bait, dependent on local fishery regulations.
7. No pike over 4.4 kg may be removed, used as bait etc.
8. No more than 2 pike of 4.4 kg or less may be removed per day.
9. All fisheries activity is governed by the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966, and its amendments.