

EANY WATER FISHERY

2009 NEWSLETTER



Includes:

- 2008 Season Report*
- Water Level / Catch Info*
- Fish Counter Information*
- Accommodation Providers*
- Most Productive Pools & Methods*



EANY WATER FISHERY



The Fishery is located at Inver/Frosses in County Donegal. The Eany is a spate river system and is part of a 125 km square catchment area comprising the Eany River, the lower reaches of the Eanymore River and the lower reaches of the Eanybeg River. The fishery is noted, not only for its salmon fishing but was historically one of the most famous sea trout rivers in Ireland. Salmon enter the fishery from May onwards though the peak months for the grilse run are July, August and September. The fishery does not allow fishing with natural baits except worm. Spinning and Fly Fishing are the most popular methods depending on water height.

Eany River

The Eany River itself is a 5km stretch of water beginning at the confluence of the Eanymore and Eanybeg at Ballymacahill Bridge and flows into the Atlantic Ocean at Inver Bay. The Eany is tidal up to Hughies pool just below the fish counter and contains 10 major pools. The Eany is generally fished from Inver Bridge upstream to the Ballymacahill Bridge.

The Eany River contains some of the most popular pools on the fishery, namely the Devil's, Hughie's, Bonnyglen Falls, Burn's Falls, the Luggies and the famous Devlin Pool. The new pools above the fish counter are proving to be very productive as is the recently enhanced Planting (Wood) pool, downstream of Bonnyglen Falls.

Eanymore River

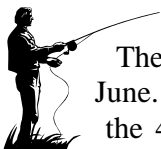
The Eanymore is a 10km stretch of water that begins at the confluence of the Struell and Eglis River; the Eanymore is generally fished on a 7km stretch from Ballymacahill Bridge to upstream of Drumboarty Bridge that has been developed by the NRFB. The Eanymore contains 32 major pools, the most popular pools are Limm-na-Mhille, the Kilm, the Battery and McKelvey's pool, the recently enhanced stretch of river above the new Angling Centre is also proving to be popular.

Eanybeg River

The Eanybeg is a 16km stretch of water that rises in the Meenaguse Scragh Special Area of Conservation in the west of the Bluestack Mountains and is usually fished along the 3km stretch on the lower reaches that have been developed by the NRFB. The river is best fished between Ballymacahill Bridge and the Eanybeg Bridge, a delightful stretch of water that includes Kingsmill-Moore's famed 'Hourglass' pool.



EANY FISHERY 2008 SEASON REPORT



June

The angling centre opened on the 1st of June. Apart from a small flood (0.60m) on the 4th, the river ran at very low summer levels until the end of the month when we received three nice floods reading around 8 on the gauge. The gauge average for the month read 0.25 metres. This would explain the fact that it was the 18th before any visiting rods fished and that only 25 visiting rods fished for the month. The first salmon we have recorded were caught on the 25th. Danny Breslin recorded a fine 13lb salmon caught from the Devils Pool on a spinner. Arthur Morrow and William Cassidy both recorded a salmon of 8lb caught on the spinner from Bonnyglen Fall's and The Devils Pool respectively. Raymond Doran recorded a 6lb grilse caught on worm from the Counter Pools. On the 28th, Jody O'Neill recorded an 8lb fish caught from the Devlin and Henry McAreavy landed a 4lb grilse on the fly from The

Corry. Average size of salmon for the month was good at 7.75lb.

July

The month started with a good flood reading 1.00 metres on the gauge. The river then fell away and except for a couple of small floods on the 8th & 10th the river ran at low summer levels until the 17th of the month when we received a good flood reading 1.40 metres. There were also good water levels over the following two days. The river then fell away to low summer levels once more and was only reading 0.08 on the gauge by the 31st! The gauge average for the month read 0.35 metres. 59 visiting rods fished for the month spread fairly evenly over the month. Salmon were hard to come by and seemed to be uncatchable at times despite some good water conditions. On the 6th, Dimitrios Kandiotos recorded 2 salmon caught on worm from the Fish Counter Pools. The fish weighed 16lb 6oz and 5lb 8oz. William Cassidy accounted for a 4lb grilse also caught from the

Counter Pools on a spinner. On the 17th, Kevin Corcoran landed an 8lb salmon from the Wood Pool. On the 25th, Raymond Doran recorded a 6lb grilse caught from the Counter Pools on worm and Gary McHugh accounted for a 4lb grilse. On the 30th July, Ciaran Scullion recorded a 6lb grilse caught on worm from Bonnyglan Falls. Francie McHugh accounted for 3 salmon for the month to 10lb. The average size of salmon for the month was good at 7.49lb. This is up on the last two seasons averages of 6.70lb & 6.08lb.

August

There was one flood (0.75m) in the first week of the month. The rest of the month was very wet and the river received numerous floods. Indeed some of these floods were too big and meant the complaint, was that the river was too high and unfishable, on a number of occasions. There were however, some lovely conditions over the month. The gauge average for the month read a huge 0.67 metres! 180 visiting rods fished for the month and there were good numbers of salmon caught. Given here are some of the more notable catches from the catch register (space precludes listing every catch).

On the 9th, John O'Brien recorded salmon of 5 & 12lb caught on a spinner from the Devlin & Ballymacahill Bridge. The 11th was a good day with good numbers of salmon caught from all over the fishery. Stewart Henry recorded salmon of 4 & 10¾lb caught on a spinner from The Devlin and The Luggies. John O'Donnell landed fish of 3 & 12lb on the fly from Ballymacahill Bridge and Burn's Falls returning the larger fish. John McLaughlin had a good day landing 6 salmon on the fly losing another 4 and rising a further 5! The fish weighed 2½, 3, 4, 4, 5½ & 11lb and four of these were returned. John Wilson recorded fish of 6 & 9½lb caught on a spinner from the Eanybeg. On the 12th, Patrick Kelly accounted for a 10lb salmon caught from the Devlin on a spinner and Connie Burke landed two grilse weighing 4lb plus each on a spinner. On the 17th, Mickey McLoughlin recorded grilse of 5 & 6lb caught on the fly from the Wood Pool and the Counter Pools. Michael Quigley accounted for a 10lb salmon caught on the spinner from the Eanybeg. On the 20th, Alan Morrow recorded 2 grilse caught on the spinner weighing 5½ & 6½lb. On the 24th, John McLoughlin recorded a further fish weighing 8lb caught on the fly from the Devlin. The following day Gus Scullion accounted for an 8lb salmon caught on worm from Bonnyglan Falls. On the 27th, Damien O'Donnell recorded 3 grilse weighing 2, 4½ & 6lb caught on spinner & fly from Bonnyglan Falls, Burn's Falls and the

Counter Pools. On the last day of the month, Raymond Doran recorded 3 grilse caught on the worm from Bonnyglan Falls weighing 3, 4 & 8½lb releasing one of these. Jim Morgan accounted for a salmon of around 14lb during the month which was released at Limm-na-Mhille. Average size of salmon for the month was 5.61lb. This compares well with the previous two seasons averages of 4.67lb & 5.01lb.

September

The month was very wet with good floods and some nice water conditions up to the 20th. From the 21st onwards the river then ran at very low levels until the 30th when we received a big flood (1.64 metres) which unfortunately meant that the river was virtually unfishable for the last day of the season. The gauge average for the month read 0.51 metres but despite the good conditions over the month the river was not particularly busy with 95 visiting rods fishing for the month. There were reasonable numbers of salmon caught but the fish seemed very dour this month and were not easy to interest.

Given here are some of the recorded catches from the register. On the 3rd, Mickey McLoughlin recorded an 8lb grilse caught in high water on a spinner from the Junction Pool and John O'Donnell accounted for 2 grilse caught on spinner losing a further 2 fish. Andy Lennox recorded a 12½lb salmon caught on the spinner from the bottom of the Eanybeg. On the 10th, Alan Morrow recorded 2 salmon caught on the spinner weighing 8 & 12½lb with the larger of these returned. Peter McClarence accounted for an 8½lb salmon caught on the spinner from Burn's Falls and recorded a further grilse on the 16th caught on the spinner from the Counter Pools. On the 18th, Fred Henry recorded a 7lb grilse caught on the spinner from the Flag Pool. On the last day of the season, Pat O'Neill recorded an 8lb grilse caught in very high water on the spinner.

And that was that! Another season passed by far too quickly for our liking! It was a pity the weather was so wet and the river was too high on the last day of the season. This did not damp the ardour of those attending the final day's celebrations as thanks were given to the river for the seasons fishing and a few glasses were taken along with the veritable feast prepared by the local ladies. As dark descended, the day was finished off by the usual firework display. We look forward to the coming season and meeting familiar faces once again for the chat and 'The Craic'.



ROD NUMBERS

The number of visiting rods this season was fairly low at 359 (354 adults & 5 Juveniles). This is well down on the 2007 attendance of 525 and also down on 2006 season's figure of 438. Given the wet summer and the consequent numerous floods during August & September, I would have expected the attendance to be a little higher than this. This may probably be explained by the fact that the salmon seemed to be very hard to catch this season and also the run of salmon was smaller this season (see counter data). Also with the Euro stronger against Sterling and the price of petrol, many of our Northern visitors did not visit the fishery as often as they would normally.

MOST POPULAR METHOD



This is calculated based on the recorded salmon caught where the lure was stated. Spinning was once again the most popular with 53.3% of salmon caught by this method this season.

The Flying 'C' in various colours remains the most popular spinner. The next most popular method was the fly with 32.6% caught on the 'fur and feather'. Where patterns were stated shrimp flies were the most popular flies with the Bann Special, Cascade, Mourne Gold & Derryman accounting for a good number of fish. Worm fishing accounted for the remaining 14.1% of salmon caught.



ILLEGAL METHODS

Anglers are reminded that shrimp, prawn and roe baits are illegal; any angler found using illegal baits, **will** be prosecuted.

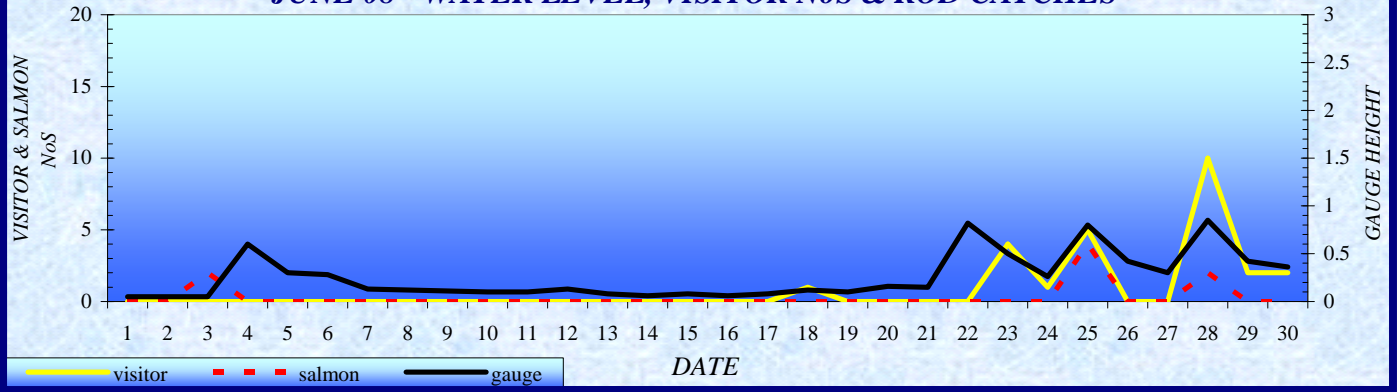


OFFICIALLY RECORDED DOUBLE FIGURE SALMON 2008

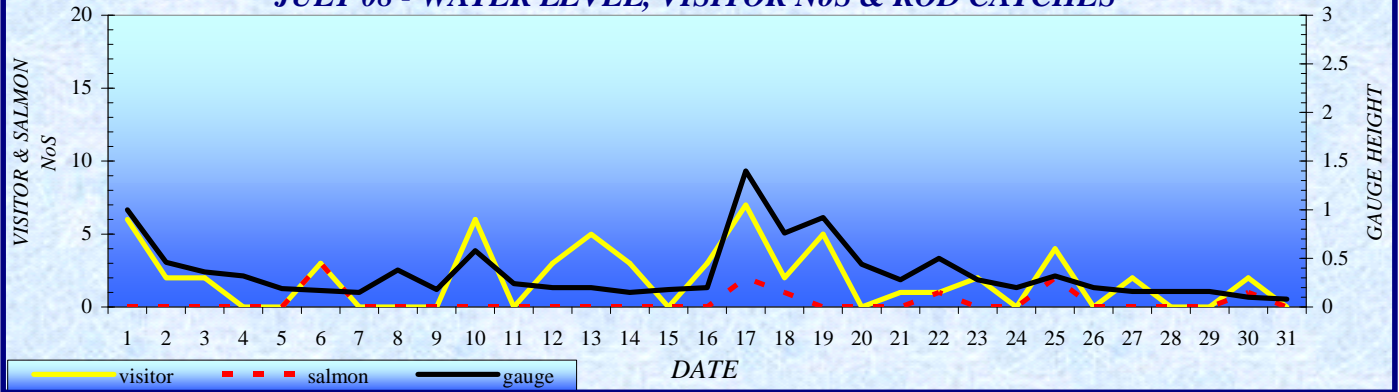
NAME	DATE	LOCATION	METHOD	GAUGE READING	WEIGHT
Dimitrios Kandiotos	6 th July	Fish Counter Pools	Worm	0.17 metres ⇌	16lb 4oz
Jim Morgan	August	Limm-na-Mhille	?	?	14lb
Danny Breslin	25 th June	Devils Pool	Spinner	0.70 metres ↓	13lb
Andy Lennox	3 rd September	Eanybeg	Spinner	1.30 metres ↓	12½lb
Alan Morrow	10 th September	Hughie's Pool	Spinner	0.90 metres ↓	12½lb
John O'Brien	9 th August	Ballymacahill Bridge	Spinner	0.70 metres ↓	12lb
John O'Donnell	11 th August	Burn's Falls	Fly	0.70 metres ↓	12lb
John McLoughlin	11 th August	?	Fly	0.70 metres ↓	11lb
Stewart Henry	11 th August	Devlin	Spinner	0.70 metres ↓	10¾lb
Francie McHugh	July	Drumagraa Bridge	?	?	10lb
Patrick Kelly	12 th August	Devlin	Spinner	0.90 metres ↓	10lb
Michael Quigley	17 th August	Eanybeg	Spinner	0.50 metres ↓	10lb

2008 Season Water Levels/Angling Attendance/Salmon Caught

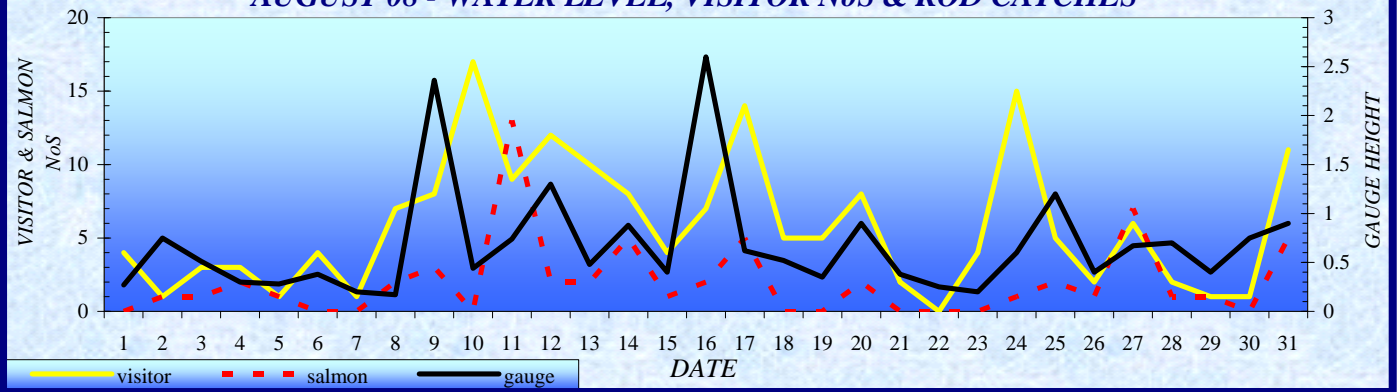
JUNE 08 - WATER LEVEL, VISITOR NoS & ROD CATCHES



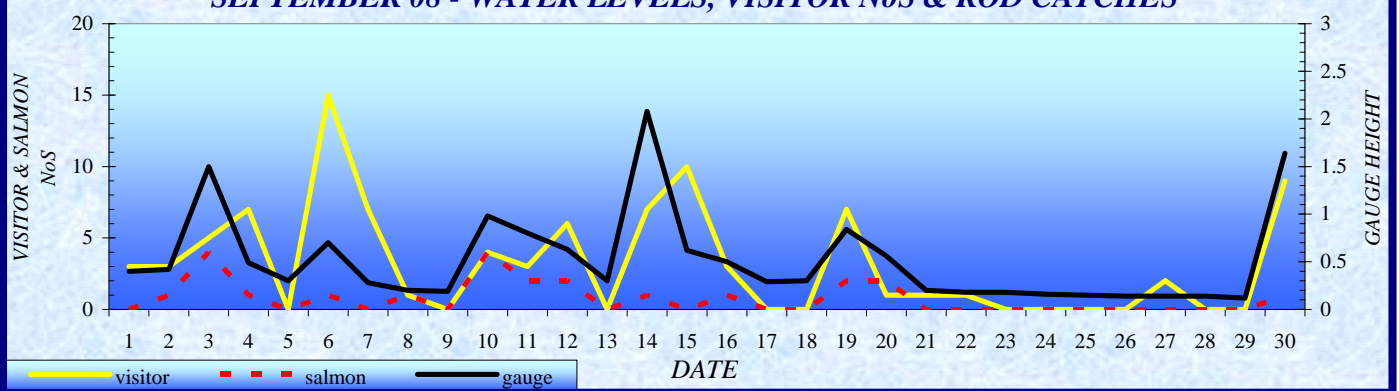
JULY 08 - WATER LEVEL, VISITOR NoS & ROD CATCHES



AUGUST 08 - WATER LEVEL, VISITOR NoS & ROD CATCHES



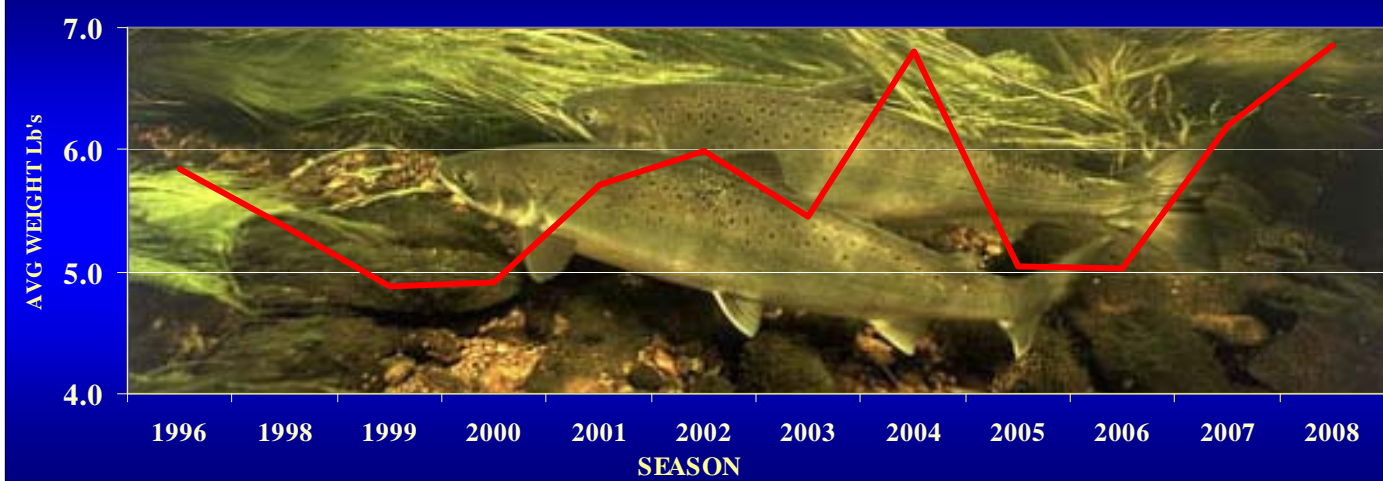
SEPTEMBER 08 - WATER LEVELS, VISITOR NoS & ROD CATCHES



AVERAGE SALMON SIZES OVER THE SEASONS

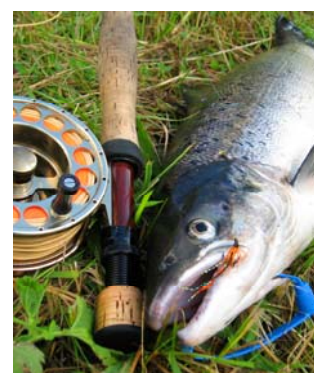
SEASON	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	YEARLY
1996	-	5.36lb	5.41lb	6.77lb	5.85lb
1998	4.38lb	5.03lb	5.63lb	6.46lb	5.38lb
1999	-	4.50lb	4.00lb	6.13lb	4.88lb
2000	4.29lb	3.14lb	5.26lb	6.97lb	4.92lb
2001	4.45lb	4.65lb	6.81lb	6.95lb	5.72lb
2002	7.90lb	4.74lb	5.27lb	6.04lb	5.99lb
2003	7.10lb	4.04lb	5.11lb	5.55lb	5.45lb
2004	8.59lb	6.23lb	6.35lb	6.07lb	6.81lb
2005	4.50lb	4.90lb	5.01lb	5.79lb	5.05lb
2006	4.00lb	6.08lb	4.67lb	5.33lb	5.02lb
2007	8.04lb	6.70lb	5.01lb	5.07lb	6.20lb
2008	7.57lb	7.49lb	5.61lb	6.73lb	6.85lb

EANY AVERAGE SALMON WEIGHT by SEASON in POUNDS



SALMON & SEA TROUT CARCASS TAGGING SCHEME

All anglers are legally required to tag and record all salmon and any sea trout over 40cm in length. Each angler will be issued with plastic gill tags and a logbook when they purchase a salmon & sea trout rod licence. All salmon and any sea trout over 40cm in length caught and killed, must be tagged immediately and recorded in the logbook. Any farmed salmon caught by an angler is considered to be a “wild Fish” and should be tagged. It is an offence to be in possession of an untagged salmon (or sea trout over 40cm) on the riverbank or elsewhere. Tags must be inserted through the gills and mouth and securely fixed. It is an offence to be in possession of a salmon or sea trout over 40cm that is untagged. The tag number, size of fish and catch location must be entered into the logbook. Logbooks must be made available to authorised fisheries officers on request. Extra tags are issued when an angler produces their logbook detailing their catch & usage of Tags. If a logbook or tags are lost or damaged this must be reported to an authorised distributor.



Anglers found with untagged fish or failing to produce a logbook or licence on request will be issued with an **on the spot fine** or **prosecuted**. **Logbooks and unused tags must be returned to the N.R.F.B. within a period of 21 days from the date of the expiry of the license.**

MOST PRODUCTIVE / POPULAR POOLS 2008



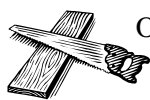
Given below is the percentage and number of salmon caught from each pool. This is calculated from all the recorded salmon where catch location was given. This does not necessarily tell us which pools are most productive since some pools are fished much more intensively than others but certainly gives an indication of the most popular fishing locations on the fishery.

POOL / LOCATION	2008 % OF TOTAL	2007 SEASON %'S
Bonnyglen Falls	19.73%	17.09%
Devlin	14.47%	13.29%
Fish Counter Pools	14.47%	5.70%
Burn's Falls	9.21%	6.33%
Eanybeg River	5.26%	4.43%
Flag Pool	5.26%	3.80%
Ballymacahill Bridge	3.95%	6.96%
McGuinness's	3.95%	3.16%
Devil's Pool	3.95%	1.90%
Wood Pool	3.95%	0.63%
Eanymore (inc. Letterbarra)	2.64%	10.76%
Junction Pool	2.63%	6.96%
Limm na Mhille (Eanymore)	2.63%	3.80%
Scullion's Run	2.63%	1.90%
Drumboarty	2.63%	-
Luggie's	1.32%	11.39%
Corry	1.32%	0.63%
TOTALS	100%	98.73%

Bonnyglen Falls produced the most fish again this season probably due to fish being held up during periods of low water. The Devlin once again produced good numbers of salmon as is usual with it being easily accessible and regularly fished. The Fish Counter Pools were far more productive this season than normal. The Luggies did not fish as well this season for some reason. Certainly good numbers of anglers fished this section since access was improved during 2007. Also few salmon were recorded caught from the Eanymore compared to normal. With the wet weather and fish readily ascending the fishery, I would have expected many more salmon to have been caught on the Eanymore.



DEVELOPMENT WORKS



Over the past 14 years the NRFB and associated bodies have been responsible for over €700,000 of development work on the Eanywater fishery, funding was provided by the International Fund for Ireland, FAS, Tourism and Angling Measures, the Marine Institute and the NRFB. A new Logie fish counter and video monitoring equipment was installed and a purpose built Angling Centre was constructed during the 2000/ 2001 close season where anglers are more than welcome to use the facilities e.g. toilets and kitchen etc.

In 2005/06/07/08 the development staff rehabilitated, repaired and erected a number of structures and developed and cleared sections of bank to improve access.

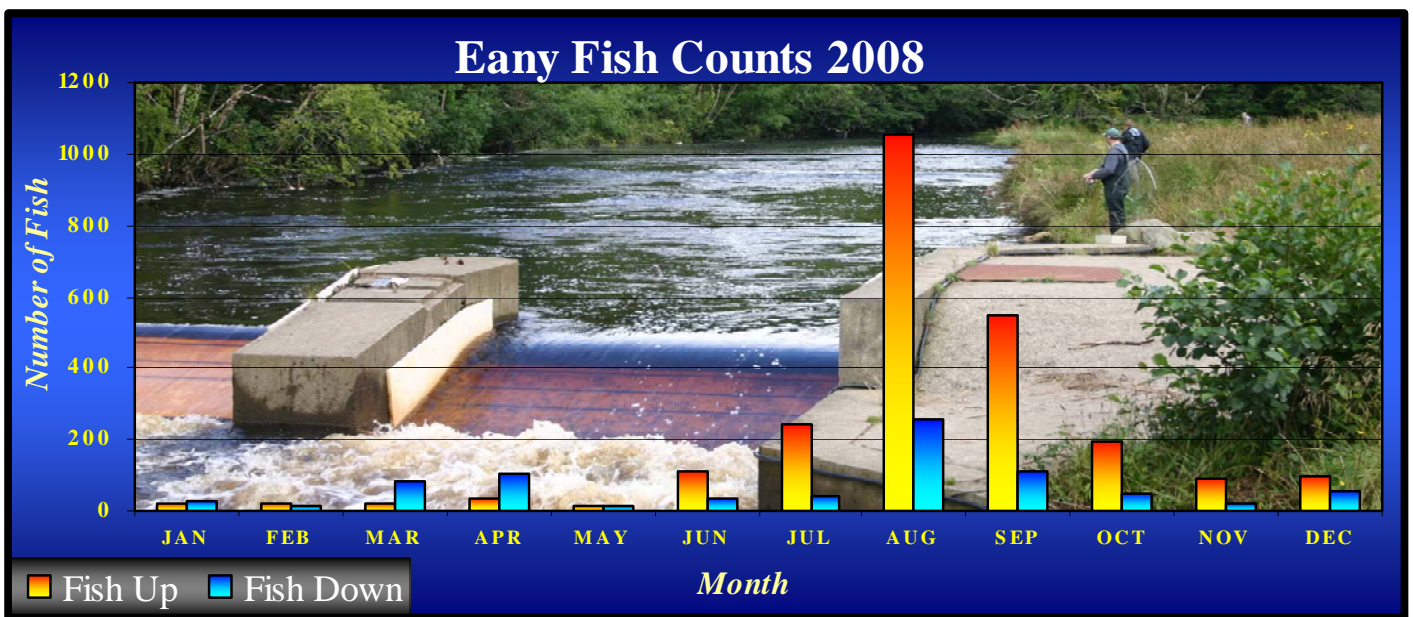


EANYMORE FISH COUNTER INFORMATION



The fish counter installed is a Resistivity (Logie) Fish Counter installed on a two stage crump weir. Under the majority of flow conditions, fish passage is restricted to the smaller weir. During flooding the second weir automatically commences to log any fish passage once sufficient water is spilling over the weir face. To assess the performance of the counter, the narrow weir is monitored by an over-head camera to verify readings of fish passing over the

lower crump weir. The design of the weirs ensures fish swim close to the electrodes when ascending or descending the weirs. Electrodes are set onto the surface of the crump weirs. The electrodes register the difference in the resistivity as a fish passes over them. The counter is set at present to record any fish of 30cm or longer. The counter will record salmon or sea trout of this length or over. The counter recalibrates itself every half hour to take into account changing environmental conditions such as water height and water conductivity due to floods etc. Overall, the counter has a 96% rated accuracy.



Month	Fish Up	Fish Down	Nett. Movement
January	19	27	17 down
February	18	15	3 up
March	24	80	56 down
April	38	107	69 down
May	16	13	3 up
June	112	33	79 up.
July	245	44	241 up
August	1052	254	798 up
September	547	109	438 up
October	192	46	146 up
November	88	19	up
December	99	58	up
TOTALS	2450 up	805 down	1645 up

CONSERVATION of SALMON / SEA TROUT STOCKS & ROD ANGLING QUOTAS.

There is an angling bag limit of 10 fish per angler of salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per season. **Subject to the maximum annual bag limit of 10 fish an angler may take:**

- A total of 3 salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) from the start of the season to May 11th and the Daily Bag Limit for this period is 1 fish per day.
- 3 salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day from May 12th to August 31st.
- 1 salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day from the September 1st to the end of the season on 30th September.

After the daily bag limit has been taken, anglers are permitted to fish catch and release **using single, barbless hooks and there is a ban on the use of worms.**

This basically means that anglers are limited to killing 10 salmon per year or less if sea trout of more than 40cm are killed since these are included in the 10 fish allowed per year.

PERMITS & LICENSES

Permits: Adult day, juvenile day and weekly permits are available from:

Eany Angling Centre, Gargrim, Frosses, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9736559

Hours of Business: May - 9am to 1pm, 7 Days a week.

June to September - 7am to 1pm, 7 days a week.

Licences: The full range of State Licences is also available from the Angling Centre.

Further Information:

Off season information (October to April) contact:

Northern Regional Fisheries Board,

Station Road, Ballyshannon,

Co. Donegal.

Tel: (071) 9851435 or Fax: (071) 9851816

Email: info@nrfb.ie Website: www.nrfb.ie

In Season Information/Bookings (May to September) contact:

Eany Angling Centre, Gargrim,

Frosses, Co. Donegal.

Tel: (074) 9736559. 9am or 7am to 1pm, 7 days a week May to June.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotels:

- Coxtown Manor, Laghy, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9734575 Fax (074) 9734576.
E-mail: coxtownmanor@oddpost.com Website: www.coxtownmanor.com
- Harvey's Point Country Hotel, Lough Eske, Donegal Town, Co Donegal Tel: (074) 9722208.
- The Abbey Hotel, The Diamond, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9721014.
- Saint Ernan's Guest House, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9721065.
- Solis Lough Eske Castle Hotel, Lough Eske, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9725000.

Self-Catering:

- Coxtown Manor, Laghy, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9734575 Fax: (074) 9734576.
E-mail: coxtownmanor@oddpost.com Website: www.coxtownmanor.com
- Mary Higgins, Drimark, Donegal Town, Co Donegal. Tel: (074) 9721370.

Bed & Breakfasts:

- Ms. P. Cleary, Coast Road, Main St. Mountcharles, Co Donegal. Tel: (074) 9735018.
- M. Harvey, Clybawn, Station Rd. Mountcharles, Co Donegal. Tel: (074) 9735076.
- Cranny Manor, Inver, Co. Donegal. Email crannymanor@eircom.net Tel: (074) 9736010.

Contact John McGroary's (074) 9735268 for further information on accommodation in the Drimarone area and the new hostel/café at Letterbarra.



CATCH & RELEASE

Anglers can play an important part in the protection of future stocks by returning salmon in rivers where insufficient salmon are surviving to spawn. The practice of catch and release has been increasing in recent years and in 2005, anglers returned 12% of the salmon catch taken by rod and line. In particular, stocks of spring fish (multi-sea-winter salmon) are at an all-time low across the North Atlantic. Assessments of salmon stocks by scientists using rod catch as an estimate of total stock have indicated that only 24 rivers in Ireland are consistently meeting their Conservation Limit. By voluntarily returning spring fish and grilse to all river anglers are helping to protect future salmon stocks by allowing additional numbers of salmon to spawn.




Fishing Tackle

The angling method used can have a significant bearing on the survival rate of released salmon. Anglers intent on releasing fish, or anglers fishing waters where a catch and release rule is in force, should carefully consider the angling method used. Salmon caught by fly fishing using single barbless hooks, have a greater chance of survival than fish caught on barbed hooks, Ireland hooks or lures with double or treble hooks.

Barbless hooks do less damage, are easier to remove and reduce handling time which can be an important factor influencing survival. Barbed hooks can have the barb pinched with pliers to allow salmon to be released more easily. Where it is not possible to use barbless hooks, hooks used should preferably be single. The fishing tackle used should be strong enough to enable the fish to be brought in quickly, taking account of the prevailing conditions and the possible size of the fish that might be caught.






Playing the Fish

Playing a fish in the following way will help its chances of survival:






-  Avoid exhausting the fish
-  In a river, move the salmon out of the fast current into quieter water
-  Once the fish is subdued bring it quickly to the bank or boat

Landing the Fish







Research has shown that exposing a salmon to air for even a short period, for example to take a photograph, can significantly reduce its chances of survival.

-  Keep the salmon in the water at all times.
-  Use a large diameter landing net with soft knotless mesh
-  Avoid beaching the fish
-  No gaffs or tailers
-  Always handle the salmon with wet hands








Removing the Hook

-  Wet your hands and keep the fish in the water. Handling of the fish should be minimized
-  When necessary the fish should be supported from beneath and the hook gently removed either by hand or by means of long-nosed forceps
-  If a hook is deeply embedded and cannot be removed, the leader should be cut close to the hook, as fish released with the hook attached will generally survive
-  Take extra care with fresh fish, as they are more prone to scale loss, injury and subsequent fungal infection
-  Care must be taken not to squeeze the fish or hold it by the gills

Releasing and Reviving the Fish

-  After removing the hook or cutting the leader, the fish should be supported in the water facing into the current and given sufficient time to recover
-  Hold the fish gently until it is capable of swimming away strongly
-  Avoid weighing the fish
-  The weight can be estimated from its length using the conversion chart
-  A tape measure or a wading stick can be used to take the approximate length while keeping the fish in the water
-  Unless compelled by statutory regulations or local rules, fish that have suffered serious damage (bleeding heavily, hooked in the gills or eyes) should be retained

Survival Chances of Released Salmon

-  Research has shown that the survival rate of salmon caught and released can be close to 100% when the above guidelines are followed.
-  Survival rate is greater at water temperatures below 20 C.
-  Very good survival to spawning of released rod-caught spring Salmon, which have subsequently spent up to nine months in the river before spawning, has been recorded in Scotland.
-  Spawning success and viability of eggs are unaffected in salmon caught and released in late autumn.
-  Spring Salmon
-  Stocks of spring salmon are at an all time low across their North Atlantic range. Conservation is more important now than ever.
-  Catch and Release can ensure that more salmon survive to spawn.

