

# Moy Fishery Newsletter 2011

Tel: +353 (0) 96 21332

Fax: +353 (0) 96 78850

Email: [moyfishery@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:moyfishery@fisheriesireland.ie)

[www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)

## Angling Overview

Although angling generally on the Moy was reasonably good throughout the 2011 season, catches on the Moy Fishery suffered as a result of the unsettled weather and frequent floods throughout last summer. The sunny April weather brought the promise of great spring salmon angling on the Ridge Pool which, it was hoped, might be even better than 2010. However, by mid-May stormy, unsettled weather had become established and, with the exception of a week here and there through the summer months, this weather pattern persisted for most of the season. This resulted in water levels fluctuating on a weekly basis as one flood followed another. Salmon entering the tidal reaches of the River Moy reacted accordingly and relatively few lingered in the Moy Fishery waters.

Over the last number of years, grilse have shown an increasing tendency to run later in the season. This phenomenon was particularly noticeable in 2011, with the peak of the run occurring in the very last days of July and into the first two weeks of August. This was somewhat surprising, given that the peak of the run arrived around 10 July in the 2010 season. This led to the hope that runs may be returning to their normal pattern, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to predict the precise timing of future grilse runs.

With the bulk of the salmon moving through the lower reaches of the Moy, it is not surprising that the upper reaches of the river fared particularly well. The East Mayo Anglers' Association water had an exceptional salmon season for both springers and grilse. Cloongee, immediately downstream, also had a very productive salmon season. Overall, catches on the Moy were just below average for the last five years. The total catch for the river was a respectable 8,801 salmon with 521 of these caught on the Moy Fishery.



**Martin Kiely from Limerick with an early springer off the Ridge Pool.**



**Virginia Webb from West Midlands, England with a fine salmon of 6.5lbs taken on the Cathedral Beat in early July.**



Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

### Ghillie Miko Munnelly Retires

One of the Moy Fisheries longest serving ghillies, Miko Munnelly, has retired. His youthful appearance may have fooled some of his many friends and colleagues but in accordance with national guidelines, he was obliged to retire from the public service once a certain critical age was reached. All at the Moy Fishery were sorry to see Miko depart and he will also be greatly missed by his angling friends and associates.

Miko has worked as one of the Ridge Pool ghillies since 1996 and in that time he will have met and attended to many thousands of anglers and landed their fish. We wish him and his family many years of good health and happiness and hope that he will visit us regularly at the Moy Fishery over the coming years.



### Moy Fishery Beats

It was an exceptionally poor angling season on the Moy Fishery but some beats performed proportionately better than others. The Ridge Pool accounted for over 60% of all the fish caught. This is an unusually high proportion as this figure has previously ranged from 45% to 50%. The proportion of the catch taken on the Weir Pool and Cathedral beat was lower than usual, accounting for 2.5% and 23% respectively of the total catch.

The Lower beats (Ashtree & Springwells) were also impacted by conditions, with just 9 and 6 salmon respectively, and there was rarely a time where salmon were observed in

any significant numbers on this part of the fishery. Even the build-up of late season fish, thought to originate from the Bunree River, failed to materialise as they, like their counterparts from the upper Moy, took advantage of the high water to run straight upstream to the vicinity of their spawning grounds.

The Freshwater beat, which usually fishes well when water levels are high, was also very disappointing with just 7 salmon recorded in 2011. It appears that once the fish sensed the frequent rises in water level, they too continued their migration up river.

Beat	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Ridge Pool	1351	241	469	321	953	334
Weir Pool	315	69	121	55	91	12
Cathedral	983	101	264	217	587	123
Polnamonagh	2	0	4	0	5	1
Springwells	19	3	24	36	55	6
Ash Tree	55	12	18	2	45	9
Point	67	31	40	45	82	29
Freshwater	71	21	27	26	68	7
Community	8	2	35	2	38	0
Other	32	6	7	7	19	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2903</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1009</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>1943</b>	<b>521</b>

### Catches on the Moy Fishery Beats for the last 6 Years

Name	County	Date	Beat	Lure	Lbs
Kevin Clayton	Kilkenny	20 June	Ridge Pool	Fly	15.10
Paul McGrory	Louth	6 May	Ridge Pool	Fly	12.77
Robert McKenzie	Scotland	20 May	Ridge Pool	Fly	11.93
Brian McGlashan	Scotland	20 May	Ridge Pool	Fly	11.90
Paul McGrory	Louth	5 May	Ridge Pool	Fly	11.44
Gerard Meulas	France	9 May	Ridge Pool	Fly	11.05
Gerard Meulas	France	9 May	Ridge Pool	Fly	11.00
Jim McLeland	Northern Ireland	11 July	Ridge Pool	Fly	10.58
John McKinley	Westmeath	10 July	Weir Pool	Fly	10.00
Colin Goh	England	27 June	Ash Tree	Spin	10.00

### Top 10 Best Salmon 2011

### Best Fish of 2011

This season's best salmon was caught by Kevin Clayton, from Kilkenny (pictured right). It weighed 15.1 lbs and was caught on fly, on the Ridge Pool, in late June. It is the largest salmon caught on the Moy Fishery since 2003. The number of double figure Moy Fishery salmon (>10lbs) was down in 2011 with a total of 10 compared to 16 in 2010 but the proportion of double figure fish was actually higher than the previous year, at 1.9% compared to only half that in 2010. Eight of these 10 larger salmon were caught on the Ridge Pool and, unusually, none were recorded from the Cathedral beat.

As well as the increase in the proportion of larger salmon recorded, the average size of fish caught throughout the season was 4.28 lbs, up by .28 lbs on last year. This represents a continuation in the trend for increasing salmon size which appears to have become established since the abolition of drift net fishing in 2006.

The critical factor which most influences the numbers of larger fish caught is the water conditions which occur during May and June which is now the prime period for multi-sea winter salmon on the Moy Fishery. There were no "net marked" fish recorded on any of the Moy Fishery beats throughout the season, although a considerable proportion of the catch showed signs of seal damage. Many anglers will have noticed the regular presence of grey seals on the Ridge Pool and Cathedral beat, particularly during July and August.



**Kevin Clayton with the heaviest salmon of 2011.**

### Refurbished Weir Officially Opened in September

This project commenced in July 2010 and was completed in March 2011. After which a series of electronic counters were incorporated into the old salmon traps. It is proposed that these counters will provide valuable data on the volume and timing of salmon runs on the River Moy and allow for effective sustainable management of stocks into the future.

The Taoiseach Enda Kenny came to Ballina on the 2nd of September to officially open the weir. In his address following the opening ceremony, he commented on the importance of angling tourism to the local and national economy and consequently, the important role IFI plays in the management of this resource. He also praised the hard work and dedication of local IFI staff, Ballina based architect Vincent Coleman and the board of the former North Western Regional Fisheries Board, who collectively planned and implemented the project. The refurbished weir subsequently won a national award for heritage architecture.



**Jack Charlton (centre) pictured here with friends Ray Bailey(right) and Ted Walsh.**



**At the official opening of the newly refurbished weir were (l-r): John Walkin (former Chairman NWRFB), John Conneely (Director IFI, WRBD), Michelle Mulherin TD, Ciaran Byrne (CEO IFI), An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, Brendan O'Mahony (Chairman IFI) and Declan Cooke (River Moy Manager).**

## Review of Tariffs

The table below outlines tariffs for the 2012 season on the Moy Fishery. Some prices have been reduced at peak angling periods for the forthcoming season. Significant price reductions have been implemented in the late May to mid June period on the Ridge Pool. This is primarily to reflect the continuing trend in later grilse runs but should not be taken as an indication of less favourable angling. This period has been good for the last two seasons and the quality of fish available at this time can be excellent.

There have also been some adjustments made to the cost of salmon angling licences and these represent better value to the angler. Most notably, the price of the annual national licence ("A") has been reduced from €120 to €100 and the Juvenile ("P") licence has been reduced from €18 to €10. There have been additional minor adjustments to other licence types all of which are downward. Details of these price changes available on the IFI website ([www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)).



Belgian angler Roland Machtens with a lovely 9 pounder from the Cathedral beat.

### Moy Fishery Tariff 2012

Beat	Period	Time	Price
Ridge Pool	1 February - 16 April	Sunrise - Sunset	€15*
	17 April - 23 May	Sunrise - Sunset	€40
	24 May - 14 June	Sunrise - Sunset	€60
	15 June - 30 June	Sunrise - 2pm/2pm - Sunset	€80
	1 July - 15 August	Sunrise - 2pm/2pm - Sunset	€120
	16 August - 23 August	Sunrise - 2pm/2pm - Sunset	€80
	24 August - 30 September	Sunrise - Sunset	€60
Cathedral Beat	17 April - 23 May	Sunrise - 6pm	€20
	24 May - 14 June		€40
	15 June - 30 June		€50
	1 July - 15 August		€80
	16 August - 30 September		€40
Pollnamonagh	17 April - 31 May	Sunrise - Sunset	€15
	1 June - 30 September		€20
Spring Wells	17 April - 30 June	Sunrise - Sunset	€20
	1 July - 31 August		€30
	1 September - 30 September		€20
Ash Tree	17 April - 30 June	Sunrise - Sunset	€20.00 per rod
	1 July - 31 August		€100 4 rods/boat
	1 September - 30 September		€60 4 rods/boat
Freshwater Beat	1 February - 30 September	Sunrise - Sunset	€20

\* Fishing on Ridge Pool is free until the first fish is caught, or 5 April, whichever occurs first.