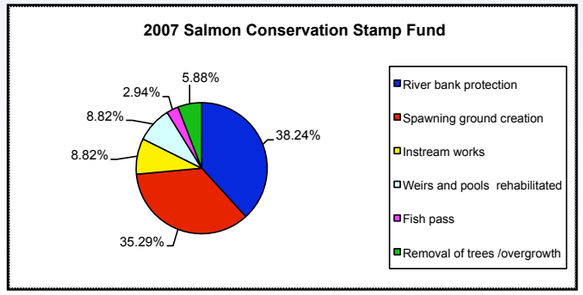
- Catchment-wide electro fishing enables the assessment of the attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit in closed rivers. This has led to more rivers being opened for catch and release to provide more data to assess salmon stocks, e.g. The Rivers Maine and Inney in Kerry District, Glenamoy River in Bangor District.
- PIT / Radio Tag experiments enable the assessment of full salmon runs where only partial counts exist, e.g. Lough Corrib.

Conservation stamp funds were collected again in 2008 for salmon rehabilitation projects, with funds available for distribution to new projects in early 2009. For 2009 the following works are proposed;

- Improvements to fish passages to allow upstream movement of salmon.
- Improvements to weirs and spawning beds.
- Installation of fish counter to River Fergus along with CCTV monitoring.
- Further protection and restoration of river banks.
- Continuation of the catchment-wide electro fishing programme.
- Using PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags to assess full salmon runs where only partial counters exist.
- Biological assessment of salmon populations.

Bank erosion widens the channel and causes siltation



Success stories from 2008

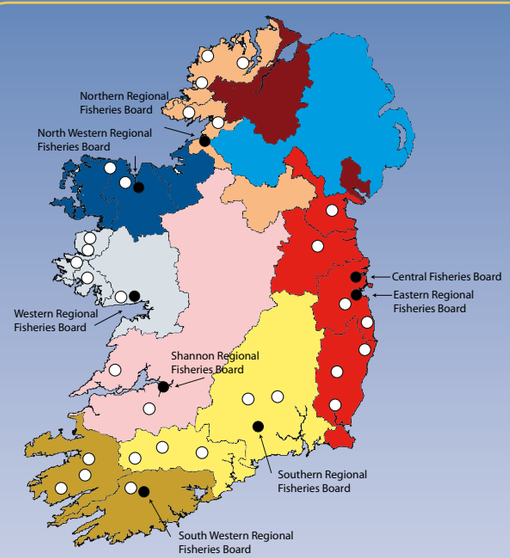
On the River Avoca in the Eastern Region a weir was constructed with boulders for the purpose of trapping smolts during low river levels. Fish were transported downstream by road and released back into the river 4km downstream of main discharge. These works have virtually eliminated fish kills during the smolt run.

The spawning beds on the upper Screebe River had been neglected for about twenty years. The beds were all compacted and overgrown with weed. The spawning beds were raked, weed removed and gravel introduced where required. A total of 327 salmon migrated upstream to the spawning beds.

950 metres of River bank have been stabilised on the Glenamoy River. The movement of gravel has been halted and 8 new salmon holding pools have been created.

Salmon spawning in a typical spawning area

- The Salmon Conservation Stamp Fund represents a major contribution by licence holders to wild salmon conservation.
- Monies are used to fund salmon river rehabilitation in various locations throughout the country.
- The Regional Fisheries Boards are implementing projects on the ground.
- The funding is coordinated by the Central Fisheries Board.
- Value for money is assured and the Wild Salmon population benefits substantially.



Projects were undertaken at the above locations on the map indicated in white

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This document can be made available in alternate formats on request.

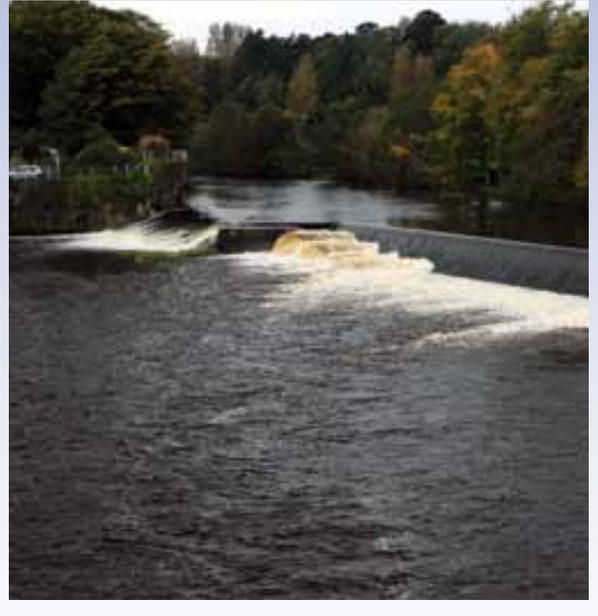
The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards

SALMON CONSERVATION STAMP
FUNDING THE REBUILDING OF OUR WILD SALMON RESOURCE
€
SALMON CONSERVATION STAMP

The purchase by salmon licence holders of a Salmon Conservation Stamp refers a major contribution to salmon conservation.

Introduction

The 'Salmon Conservation Stamp Fund' is generated from the sale of angling and commercial salmon licences. It was established in December 2006 as a means of funding a programme for the rehabilitation of salmon rivers. The Fund represents a major contribution by licence holders to wild salmon conservation. The Central Fisheries Board (CFB) was tasked by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) with co-ordinating the funding and the Regional Fisheries Boards were tasked with implementing projects on the ground. There are 148 listed salmon rivers in Ireland a number of which are below their conservation limit. In the first instance priority is given to rivers below their conservation limits in Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and which have the greatest prospect of recovery. However other rivers and programmes have also been considered.



Facilitation of fish passage upstream

Background

Ireland has entered a new era in the way it manages its Atlantic salmon stocks. In 2006 the Government decided to adopt the key recommendations of the report by the Independent Working Group on Salmon which led to the cessation of the mixed stock interceptory fishery at sea and the closure to recreational angling on all salmon rivers deemed to be below conservation limit. Rivers meeting between 65% and 100% of the conservation limit were opened on a catch and release basis only. The Government's main reason for adopting the report was to conserve our endangered wild salmon stocks. The Salmon has long been regarded as one of Ireland's most prized fish and valued as a cultural and economic resource.

Conservation Limit

A 'conservation limit' is the number of spawning salmon required to ensure that salmon are reproducing in sufficient quantities to produce the next generation of salmon. This is developed using a range of scientific indices.

Administering the Fund

The 'Salmon Conservation Stamp Fund' is being managed by a committee comprised of CFB scientists and Regional Fisheries Board representatives who receive project applications from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards. Each project is assessed and scored based on the river's conservation limit status, its special area of conservation (SAC) status, its water quality (Q-value) and the maximum potential benefits to the river. Those projects recommended for funding are then forwarded to the CEOs of the relevant Regional Fisheries Boards for final approval.

The revenue generated from the Salmon Conservation Stamp Fund is reinvested to promote the recovery of our salmon stocks and habitats taking into account project feasibility, funding availability and value for money considerations.

Project Applications

In 2007, the implementation committee received 64 project proposals from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards requesting a total of €1,253,500. Each project was assessed according to the criteria identified above and a numeric score was attached to each criterion. €637,000 was collected in 2007 and allocated to 34 qualifying projects the bulk of which were carried out in 2008.

In 2008, the implementation committee received 39 project proposals from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards requesting a total of €2,814,585. €700,000* was collected and allocated to qualifying projects which will be carried out in 2009.

(This figure will be finalised in early 2009)*

Funding allocated in 2007-2008.

Central Fisheries Board RFB Districts	Catchment wide electro fishing. PIT / Radio tag experiments.	200,000
Eastern Region	Spawning grounds created/ rehabilitated, trees and obstacles removed.	2,000
River Liffey		
River Mattock	River bank protection.	20,000
Dundalk District*	Spawning grounds created/ rehabilitated.	23,000
River Vartry	Spawning grounds created/ rehabilitated.	1,500
River Bann	River rehabilitation works.	3,000
River Dargle	Spawning grounds created/ rehabilitated.	1,500
River Urinn	Spawning grounds created/ rehabilitated, trees and obstacles removed.	5,000
River Avoca	Smolt rescue programme.	10,000
Southern Region River Allow/Dalua	Spawning grounds created/ rehabilitated.	15,000
Drish	River rehabilitation.	10,000
River Dinan	Construction of fish pass.	29,000
Shannon Region River Maigue*	In stream works and habitat restoration.	62,000
Annageeragh	Improvements to fish passage.	10,000
Western Region River Gleninagh	River bank protection.	2,500
Glencoaghan River	River bank protection.	2,500
River Erriff	River bank protection.	10,000
Lough Inagh	River bank protection.	5,000
Recess	River bank protection.	10,000
Carrowniskey	River bank protection.	5,000
Owenmore River*	River bank protection, Spawning ground rehabilitation.	7,500
Costello River	River bank protection, Spawning grounds rehabilitation.	2,500
River Screebe	Spawning grounds rehabilitation.	5,000
North Western Region Glenamoy River	Spawning ground, weirs and pools rehabilitated.	30,000
Northern Region River Glen*	River bank protection, spawning ground created/rehabilitated. In stream works and habitat restoration.	17,500
Claddy River	River bank protection.	4,000
Eske	Shrub pruning and placement of random boulders.	2,500
Gweebarra River*	River bank protection, Spawning ground created/rehabilitated. In stream works and habitat restoration.	17,000
	c/f to 2009	124,000

** 2 or more projects carried out*

Rehabilitation work on the Srahnaploya River

Conservation Benefits

The conservation benefits arising from the above works are;

- River banks were protected, preventing erosion and destruction of spawning sites and siltation, e.g. Rock armour has been placed along sections of the Carrownisky River in the Western Region to stabilise the river bank and enhance spawning and nursery areas.
- Salmon spawning grounds were created and enhanced increasing production capacity, e.g. in the Dundalk District of the Eastern Region spawning and instream works were carried out in sections of the River Fane, White River and tributaries of the Rivers Dee and Glyde. On the River Liffey new spawning beds were created at Castletown Estate and on the River Vartry a new spawning bed was created upstream of Ashford.
- Instream structures were improved and enhanced to provide additional juvenile salmon habitat, e.g. In the River Maigue in the Shannon Region, structures were introduced to the river to simulate natural river conditions.
- Pools were constructed creating holding areas for salmon fry, parr and smolts, e.g. In the Glenamoy River in the North Western Region 8 new holding pools were created throughout the river.
- New fish pass and removal of blockages improved upstream access for salmon and sea trout to spawning areas, e.g. The River Dinan a tributary of the River Nore can now clearly see fish ascending the river and not subject to major delays as was the case previously.
- Bank clearance where overgrowth was removed resulted in increased levels of macro invertebrates, vegetation and increased numbers of fish, e.g. The River Eske in the Northern Region.
- These projects have assisted with the increase in the survival of fry to smolt stage.

(PTO)