



Lough Owel Angling Centre

ANGLING DRIFTS

There are eight popular boat drifts on Lough Owel which are suited to particular times of year and wind direction. Some drifts are popular all through the season. Give these drifts a try when you next visit.

DRIFT 1 Lady's Drift

This drift will produce results right through the angling season regardless of the wind direction. Anglers can drift with a southerly wind off Mulally's shore in a line out past Lady's Island. A westerly wind starting at the back of Srudarra island will take the angler along the Tullaghan shoreline out past Lady's and on towards Mulally's slipway.

Lough Owel, Co. Westmeath



DRIFT 2 Srudarra's Drift

This drift once again will produce results right through the year when the wind is from the east, west and north. These winds will allow the angler to drift either onto or off Srudarra Island.

DRIFT 3 Portloman Pumphouse Drift

This drift works best with a southerly or northwesterly wind. This is one of the longest drifts on Owel and can produce the best results from the early season, into the Mayfly and onto the 'peter' fishing season. It fishes best in a southerly wind drifting past the kettle into the corn fields. Fish in the 5lb bracket have been caught in this area.

DRIFT 4 The Kettle Drift (shallows marked by a kettle; hazard only at low water)

This is a popular drift on Owel and can produce the best results from the early season, into the Mayfly and onto the 'peter' fishing season. It fishes best in a southerly wind drifting past the kettle into the corn fields. Fish in the 5lb bracket have been caught in this area.

DRIFT 5 The Tyre Drift (shallows marked by a tyre; hazard only at low water)

This is another favoured drift on Owel and can be fished most of the year. When wind conditions are right, the angler can drift for over 1km past Brabazon point into Kilpatrick point. This area can produce good results and fish of over 2lbs can be caught here, particularly late in the season.

DRIFT 6 The Bullring Drift

This drift fishes well throughout the angling season. One of the best runs is with a south easterly wind from Church Island past the diving board, along the Bullring and on towards the small pump house. This drift will also produce results in the opposite direction.

DRIFT 7 Church Island Drift

This drift is best during mid season into the summer. It will produce the best results with a westerly or southerly wind drifting into the Bullring or from Captain's Hill towards Church Island.

DRIFT 8 Mid Lake Drift

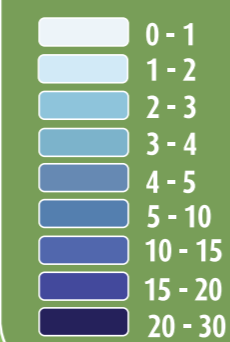
This drift finds favour with Owel anglers late in the season. It fishes best drifting from mid lake into the large pump house, over to Portloman or down past Srudarra Island into Tullaghan.

ANGLER SAFETY

Anglers, please think safety and be safe while on the water and wear your life jacket at all times, remember it's the law. Always tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you home. Carry a mobile phone that is charged.

If in difficulty ring the emergency services on **999 or 112** and seek help.

DEPTH IN METRES



P Car Park

Slipway

Primary Roads

Roadway

FOR YOUR SAT NAV

POINTS OF INTEREST	Longitude	Latitude
Tullaghan Car Park	07° 22' 41" W	53° 33' 16" N
Mulally's Car Park	07° 21' 54" W	53° 33' 21" N
Lough Owel Lodge	07° 21' 27" W	53° 33' 39" N
Jack Doolan Boat Hire	07° 21' 27" W	53° 33' 05" N



Inland Fisheries Ireland
Iascach Intire Éireann

Lough Owel

Co. Westmeath

LIST OF USEFUL CONTACTS

For angling information contact Inland Fisheries Ireland local office at Tudenham Lodge, Mullingar
Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 8769 open in the mornings Monday to Friday.
For angling support contact the Angling Section.

Tel: +353 (0) 61 300238
Fax: +353 (0) 61 300308
Email: shrbd@fishinginireland.info
Web: www.fishinginireland.info

L. O. T. P. A.

(Lough Owel Trout Preservation Association)
Stan Mc Keon, Ashtown House, Walshestown, Mullingar, Co Westmeath.
Mob: +353 (0) 86 831 7728.

GHILLIES

Contact L.O.T.P.A. as above to arrange a Ghillie.

BOAT HIRE

Jack Doolan, Levington, Lough Owel, Mullingar.
Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 2085.

ACCOMMODATION

Lough Owel Lodge B&B, Mullingar
Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 8714
Web: www.loughowellodge.com

Annebrook House Hotel, Mullingar
Tel: +353 (0) 44 935 3300.
Web: www.annebrook.ie

Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar
Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 0894
Web: www.bloomfieldhousehotel.com

Newberry Hotel, Mullingar
Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 2888
Web: www.thenewburyhotel.com

Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar
Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 8563
Web: www.grevillearmshotel.ie

Beechpark Self Catering, Colinstown, Co Westmeath
Tel: +353 (0) 86 736 6255
Web: www.beechparkholidayhome.com

For up to date accommodation listings visit www.fishinginireland.info

TOURIST INFORMATION

Discover Ireland Centre, Market Sq., Mullingar
Tel: +353 (0) 44 9348650
Email: mullingar@failteireland.ie
Web: www.discoverireland.ie/westmeath

WHEELY BOAT



IFI provide a Wheely Boat specially designed by the Wheelyboat Trust for anglers with disability. The boat has a front ramp to allow wheelchair access and comes with a 15 hp fixed electric start engine for ease of operation. This is available for hire on request. Users are advised to have one special needs assistant on hand to facilitate with the operation of the boat.

To arrange, please contact Tudenham Lodge Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 8769 or Assistant Inspector Dermot Broughan Mob: +353 (0) 87 259 5286.

LOUGH OWEL

Lough Owel lies 4 km (c.2.5 miles) north west of Mullingar town, to the left of the Mullingar - Longford Road, the N4. It is a high pH, mainly spring-fed limestone lake with an area of 2,547 acres (over 1000 Hectares). It has remarkable water quality and can give visibility to a depth of 6m (over 20 feet) on a bright day.

The Lake is managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland who over many decades have preserved Lough Owel primarily as a trout fishery, although some Pike angling is available. The lake has a resident stock of wild brown trout. The average size of trout is about 1.5lbs to 2lbs. Anglers report catching trout up to 7lbs and over every season.

Lough Owel has few tributaries, all of which are small. Spawning and nursery facilities for brown trout are extremely limited. As a result, a number of wild Owel trout are stripped each year. On average, over 200,000 ova are transferred to Cullion Fish Farm in Mullingar and stocked back into the lake at the unfed fry stage. In addition, up to 10,000 adult brown trout are stocked into the lake on a phased basis over the year. These management programmes seek to ensure that Lough Owel is maintained as a well-renowned trout fishery.



INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

IFI maintains a regularly-updated website www.fishinginireland.info on all angling opportunities in Ireland. We publish a weekly angling update and provide an angling support service by email and telephone, see list of contacts.

NB: The following Angling Regulations maybe subject to review and change by IFI in the future. For updates, please enquire.

ANGLING REGULATIONS

TROUT OPEN SEASON:
March 1st - October 12th.

SPECIES: Brown Trout averaging 1.25lbs - 2lbs; trout up to 7lbs possible.

SIZE LIMIT: 30 cm (12 inches).



DAILY BAG LIMIT: 3 trout.

PERMISSION TO FISH: Lough Owel is an IFI managed fishery and a fishing permit is required. A permit can be purchased at Tudenham Lodge, Mullingar Tel: +353 (0) 44 934 8769, which is open in the mornings Monday - Friday or from the many outlets listed on our website. Permits can also be purchased and printed online, visit: www.fishinginireland.info

ANGLING RULES

- All legal angling methods are permitted i.e. fly fishing, spinning and trolling.

- Angling from a boat only - shore fishing is prohibited.

- The use of Belly Boats is prohibited.

- Pike Angling is permitted all year round, subject to the national Bye-Laws.

- Coarse Angling is permitted all year round, subject to the national Bye-Laws.

- Anglers can only fish with one rod per angler.

- Rods must not be left unattended.

- All undersize fish must be returned to the water with as little injury as possible.

- Fish hooked on the outside of the mouth must be returned.

- IFI reserves the right to refuse or revoke a permit to anyone violating Fishery Regulations. Check for individual regulations on each fishery.

- Do not lose your temper or behave churlishly when a Fisheries Officer asks you to produce your permit. Remember he/she is doing the job which you expect, looking after your interests and protecting the fishery. Be at all times considerate.



ANGLING ETIQUETTE

Always show respect for other anglers, lake users, and the environment you fish in. Please observe the following code of angling etiquette and abide by the rules of the fishery. Enjoy your fishing!

- Life Jackets are required to be worn by law.

- A head lamp or torch is required while fishing late on the lake.

- Do not operate on full throttle in shallow areas, boat piers or near other boats on the lake.

- Do not cut in front of another drifting boat. A distance of at least 100 metres must be maintained from the nearest boat.

- Please show other anglers respect and try to use the oars at appropriate times.

- When moving from one drift to another be aware of other anglers in the vicinity.

- Please bring all litter home. Do not discard fishing line into the lake or onto the shoreline.

ACCESS TO THE LAKE

There is good public access - slipways, carpark and boat berthage - available on the southern end of the lake at Mulally's and Tullaghan, as indicated on the map. Hire boats are moored at Mulally's. While access is signposted off the Mullingar - Longford road, the old N4, we provide GPS co-ordinates for those with SAT NAV to easily locate these points.



ANGLING INFORMATION EARLY SEASON (March April)

The season opens in March and, during this month and into early April, the best method of taking trout is by trolling.

The trout prey heavily on sticklebacks and local advice is to fish a 1.5 inch grey Lane Minnow. Imitative lures fished on sunk lines would probably be equally effective.

The areas to concentrate on are close by the shore and over and around known shallows.

The first hatches of Duckfly occur around the second or third week of April and the hatch lasts for approximately two weeks. The best hatches are to the west of Srudarra island and in the 'neck' of the lake from Mount Murray across to Kilpatrick Point - see map. Fishing is best during mild spells of weather.

The most commonly used wet flies at this time are Connemara Black, Black Pennell, Claret & Mallard, Sooty Olive and Duckfly imitations.

MID SEASON (May - June)

The fly fishing peaks around May 15th and often remains lively until mid June, with hatches of Lake Olives, Buzzers and even occasional hatches of Mayfly. There is an evening response to buzzer, particularly towards the end of May.

The more popular flies this time of year are Sooty Olive, Bibio, Greenwells Glory, Cock Robin, Claret & Mallard, Green Olive, Gosling Mayfly, Grey Duster and various Buzzer pupa imitations. The late evening and night time buzzer fishing can be best of all, and it is worth noting that the Grey Duster fished dry will take more fish than any other fly when cast to a feeding trout. This pattern should be dressed with a good quality badger cock hackle, the tips of which must be white and not cream or grey. Some anglers like to fish from morning until evening, finishing around 7pm. This can be very convenient, but often not always very successful. The angler going out at 7pm and leaving the water at 11.30pm or midnight generally gets much better results and more action.

HIGH SEASON (July - August)

There is generally a lull in the trout fishing season from about the second week of June until the third week in July and few anglers fish the lake during this time. Instead anglers eagerly await the annual hatch of large sedge - Pyrgane species - known in Ireland as the Green Peter. It is difficult to give an exact time of year for the emergence of this fly. During a hot summer, the hatch can begin as early as July 14th, while in a cooler season it may be delayed by a couple of extra weeks. The hatch starts about 10pm and lasts for about one hour but may go on much longer.

It is vital to remember that the best fishing is always after dark on Lough Owel.

Another point worth noting is that the first week or ten days of the hatch always provides the best fishing. The trout feed more avidly early on in the cycle but, after about two weeks, fishing begins to slow down.

These great sedges hatch in open water. On the east side, the hatch occurs around Church Island and along by the shallows off the Bull Ring. Also see Drifts 3 and 4.

The Green Peter brings up the best fish in the Lough. During the Green Peter hatch, trout angling is at its best and trout anglers enjoy lively sport at this time. This is the period that nearly always produces the biggest trout of the season.

It is recommended to fish a team of wetflies in the areas mentioned above until about 10pm. A Green Peter on the bob, an Invicta in the middle and a Green Peter pupa on the point will do just fine. When the first fish appear at the surface, they take the adult fly as they scuttle across the surface - this is time for fishing the dry fly. Cast it in the path of a feeding fish and tweak it slowly along the surface. When the fish takes, avoid striking immediately to allow the fish to turn down before sending the hook home.



END OF SEASON (September - October 12th)

This can be an excellent time of year for daytime fishing using wetflies, which extends from mid August, September and even to early October. Fish anywhere, even out into deep water. In warm weather you should pay special attention to the area along by the small pump house on the east shore. There are lots of cool springs in this area and the trout tend to congregate here. There can be very good wetfly fishing during late evenings in August to a mixture of buzzers, small sedges, and small black terrestrial flies. The best Autumn fishing is in September, particularly when strong north-westerly or south-easterly winds sweep across the length of the lake. Such winds are ideal on Lough Owel.

DAPPING

Dapping can work wonderfully well on Owel from late July through August and September and even into October. Without a doubt the favourite 'dapp' on Owel is the Grasshopper. This land-based insect is rarely found on the water but, for some unknown reason, it can be very productive. Local anglers consider it to be far more superior to the 'Daddy'. Unlike dapping the mayfly, only a single insect is used, attached to a size 8 or 10 hook.

If you have difficulty getting in or obtaining grasshoppers or run short during a day's fishing, you can usually replenish by collecting them along the shore in front of the trees at Captain's Hill or along the shore at Portloman. They are best sought out on a bright warm day and should be stored in a dry, airy box containing dry grass or new mown hay.

Let us summarise the fly hatches on Lough Owel. The Lake has a good hatch of Duckfly in spring and a good Green Peter hatch in July and August, and fair hatches of Olives in May and again in late August - September. The Mayfly hatch can be best described as sparse and localised.

The native Lough Owel trout are dour except during the evening buzzer hatch in May and the Green Peter hatch in July and August. The fish can also be fairly active in September during the day. The stocked trout make a considerable contribution to the liveliness of the fishing on the Lough, particularly in September.

ACCESSIBILITY

Should you have difficulty reading any part of this document, please contact our Accessibility Officer or Tel: +353 (0) 61 300238. Alternative formats can be made available on request.

ERRORS & OMISSIONS

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this publication. IFI cannot take any responsibility for any error or omission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This pocket guide was produced by Brian Mc Manus, Inland Fisheries Ireland, with valued input from the local angling club L.O.T.P.A. Thanks to IFI staff member Dermot Broughan for his considerable assistance.

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