

# OWENEA FISHERY

## 2013 NEWSLETTER



*2012 Season Report*



*Top Rods & Catches*



*River Gauge & Catch Data*



*Best Salmon, Beats, Methods of the Season*



OWENEA ANGLING CENTRE



## THE OWENEA FISHERY

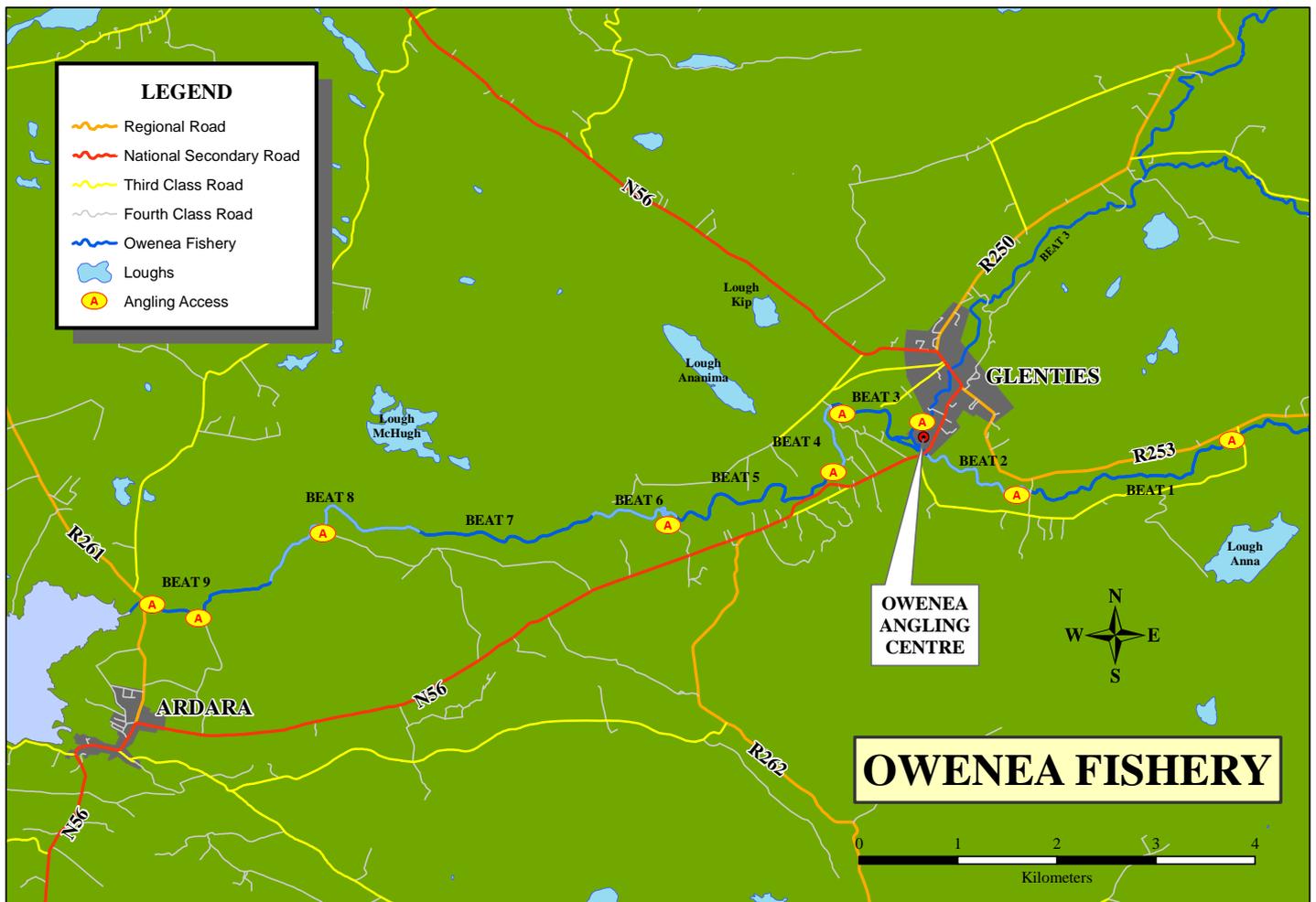
The Owenea River drains Lough Ea running for some 13 miles through Glenties and emptying into Loughrosmore Bay at Ardara. The Owenea is primarily a spate river taking from 1 to 2 days to run off, depending on the size of the flood.

When in condition, the river is one of the best in the country for salmon. The river has runs of spring salmon, grilse, sea trout and a resident stock of small brown trout. August and September are the best months for grilse closely followed by July. Spring salmon can be caught from April onwards and indeed towards the end of the season a few autumn salmon are frequently caught.

The sea trout have been making something of a comeback in recent years though numbers still remain low. The fishery still requests that sea trout are returned where possible, to help conserve stocks.

There are 9 beats on the bottom 8 miles of river with good pools spread throughout the system and plenty of lovely 'fly water'. Both banks can be fished with the beats catering for 3, 4 or 5 rods depending on the beat. Access to the fishery and along banks is good with adequate numbers of stiles and footbridges. There are bridges over the river between beats and one in the middle of beat 7. Disabled access and hospitality facilities have been provided for disabled anglers on a section of Beat 3 adjacent to the Fishery Office.

Fly-fishing is the most popular method used followed by spinning and worm. Shrimp and prawn are banned. Most shrimp flies fish well. Popular flies are Stoats Tail, Foxford Shrimp, Black Shrimp, Curry's Red Shrimp, John Anthony Shrimp Claret Shrimp and Cascade's.



## BEAT DESCRIPTION

**BEAT 1:** Beat 1 is the longest beat at around 6 miles. It runs from Lough Ea to Meenhalla Bridge. Only the more adventurous cover the full beat. The lower pools, being the more productive, are most often fished.

**BEAT 2:** Beat 2 runs from the Meenhalla to Mullenierin Bridge. The most productive pools are Garry's and the Priest pool. The river is fairly narrow, so maintain a cautious approach.

**BEAT 3:** Beat 3 runs from Mullenierin Bridge to Mullantiboye Bridge and includes the lower reaches of the Stracastle River. The Crambam, Rock Pool and Friel's Battery are the most productive pools while the section from Friel's Battery to the Short Stream can fish well for sea trout.

**BEAT 4:** Beat 4 runs from Mullantiboye Bridge to the metal footbridge below Hugh Hanlon's pool. All the pools on this beat are equally productive and in nice water, with fish showing all over, it should be fished down the whole of its length.

**BEAT 5:** Beat 5 runs from the metal footbridge to the new footbridge below the Gubbin. The beat includes 2 major holding pools in the Gubbin and the Mullindaragh. The Gubbin is a productive pool to the spinner and fishes to the fly if there is good water. The 'Car' Pool can also fish well. There is no worming permitted from the neck of Ward's pool to the tail of Archie's Pool on beat 6.

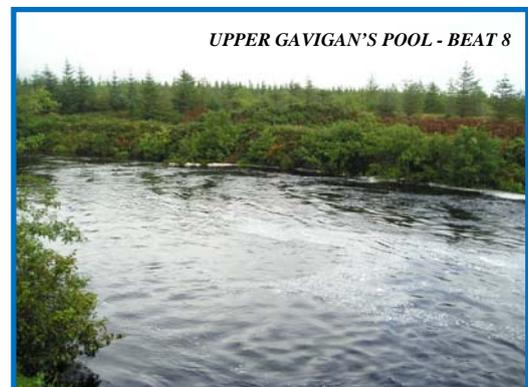
**BEAT 6:** Beat 6 runs from the New Bridge below the Gubbin to the Turf Bridge below Carry Pool. The Carry Pool is a popular pool with local worm fishermen. Archie's Pool produces a lot of fish each year. Other prolific pools include the Yellow Banks and the Battery.

**BEAT 7:** Beat 7 runs from the Turf Bridge down to the metal footbridge

downstream of the 'Trees'. There is a fair amount of slow & deep water towards the bottom of beat 7 which needs fairly high water levels to fish to the fly. There is some nice fly water at the head of the beat and around the Coarse Stream and Sally's Pool. Kelly's is a deep pool and always holds some big fish. The Lugguog and the big stones that can be seen below it can fish well in fairly high water.

**BEAT 8:** Beat 8 runs from the metal footbridge at the bottom of 7 to the metal footbridge at the car park below Whingarden Pool. It is a very popular beat and has some very productive pools. There is some lovely fly water on this beat. The most famous pool is probably Bryan's Pool. It is a deep holding pool that is always full of fish. Other productive pools include Gavigan's, Billy's, Sandy and McGill's Long Pool.

**BEAT 9:** Beat 9 runs from Poul-a-Tuarn (below metal footbridge) to the Owenea Road Bridge at the tail of Finn's Pool. Beat 9 has good fly water also interspersed with some deeper pools. Finn's Pool at the bottom of the beat, backs up with a high tide and can fish well as fish come in on the tide. Other productive pools include Boyle's and Boyle's Small pool. At the top of the beat Poul-a-Tuarn can fish well and is popular with worm fishermen. Also Ferny Pool & Holly Bush down to Boyle's are worthy of close attention.



*UPPER GAVIGAN'S POOL - BEAT 8*



## 2012 SEASON REPORT

### April



The fishery opened as usual on the 1<sup>st</sup> April. The first week of the month brought low water but we received fair floods on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Water levels then fell away until the 17<sup>th</sup> when there was a decent flood (0.34m). Thereafter the river fell and gave low water conditions for the rest of the month. The gauge average for the month was fairly low only reading 0.15 metres. The fishery was quiet with only 15 visiting rods fishing for the month which is usual for this time of the season and no salmon were recorded for the month.

### May

May was fairly dry and there were few floods. There were some fair to good water levels at times from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> but the gauge only rose above 0.35 metres on one occasion (0.40 metres on the 10<sup>th</sup>). For the rest of the month the river ran at very low levels. The gauge average for the month was low reading only 0.13 metres). The fishery was very quiet with only 11 visiting rods fishing for the month! There was however a number of salmon recorded for the month. The first salmon was caught on the 6<sup>th</sup> by Liam Ward. The fish weighed 6lb and was caught on a fly from beat 3. Davy Sullivan accounted for a salmon on the 11<sup>th</sup> and John Breslin recorded an 8lb salmon caught from beat 5 on a spinner on the 14<sup>th</sup>. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Billy Blair reported an 8lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8 and on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Andrew McMenamain logged an 8lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 6. The average size of salmon for the month was high at 7.50lb but this is a somewhat unreliable figure based only on a statistical sample of 4 fish!

### June

The first week of June was very dry and the river ran at very low summer levels. On the 8<sup>th</sup> however, we received a good flood (0.50m) and the following day a huge flood measuring 0.78 metres meant there was no fishing until the following day. Thereafter, the river level varied from low to fairly low and we only received 3 meaning floods which occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> and from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month. The gauge average for the month read 0.19 metres. The fishery was not particularly well attended with only 54 visiting rods fishing for the month. It was not until the drought broke over the second weekend of the month, that any salmon were caught. Thereafter there were some 35 salmon caught for the month. Given here are some of the catches reported in the catch register. On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> there were some 20 salmon caught. Tommy Irvine recorded a 9lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8. Billy Blair logged a 7lb fish caught on a fly from beat 8. Will Taylor registered a 4½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Anne McMenamain recorded a 7lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 9 and Tommy Corr accounted for a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, Peter Grahame reported an 11lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Kevin O'Neill logged a 7lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, P.J. Breslin accounted for a 4lb grilse caught on beat 9. John Lennon recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5 and Mick McCole accounted for an 11lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 7. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, John registered a further salmon weighing 8lb caught on a fly from beat 5 and Kevin O'Neill reported an 11lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Billy Blair recorded a 5lb grilse caught from beat on a fly and Michael McCrory logged a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Alan Watson registered a 9lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. Maurice Kennedy reported 2 fish weighing 3 & 8lb caught on a spinner from beat 8. Michael McCrory recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9 and Alan Mooney logged 2 salmon weighing 6½ & 9½ caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, George Friel recorded a 7lb salmon caught on a fly from beat. James Forster reported a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8 and John Breslin accounted for 2 salmon weighing 7 & 10lb caught on a spinner from beat 5. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Maurice Kennedy recorded a 4lb grilse caught & released on a spinner from beat 8 and a 2lb grilse caught and released the following day. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, John recorded a further grilse weighing 6lb caught on a spinner from beat 6. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, Andrew McMenamain recorded a 4lb grilse caught from beat 6 on a spinner. Michael McCrory reported an 8lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8 and John McGlashan reported a fine 16½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 5. The average size of salmon for the month was pretty good at 6.90lb. This was down however on the previous two season's high averages of 9.04lbs & 7.86lb (see table below).

### July

July brought some fair angling conditions. There were 5 decent floods which gave some nice water levels over the month. These floods occurred on the 1<sup>st</sup> (0.38m), 4<sup>th</sup> (0.40m), 18<sup>th</sup> (0.34m), 23<sup>rd</sup> (0.40m) and the 29<sup>th</sup> (0.46m). For the rest of the month river levels varied from fair to very low summer levels. The gauge average for the month read 0.19 metres. The fishery was a busier with 126 visiting rods fishing over the month. Catches were better and there was some 90 salmon caught for the month. Given here is a selection of the catches taken from the catch register. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, Tommy Irvine recorded a 7½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 7. Alan Watts reported a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. Liam Ward logged an 8lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 3. Frank McDonald reported a 10lb salmon





caught on a spinner from beat 3. Michael McCrory recorded 2 salmon weighing 7 & 9lb caught on a fly from beat 7 and Finn McCrory registered a 6½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, John Lennon logged a 15lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 5 and Liam Ward reported a 7lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 3. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Frankie Campbell recorded a 10lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Davy

Sullivan accounted for a 9½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8 and Donal McMenamin recorded 13lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, Liam Faulkner recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8 and Michel McCrory logged a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, Liam Faulkner logged a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, Joe Kelly reported a 13lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, Andrew McMenamin recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, Frank Owens registered a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Sean Campbell logged an 11½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 4. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, Alan Watson logged a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Maurice Kennedy recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Donal McMenamin reported a 10lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Father Daly accounted for 2 grilse weighing 3 & 4lb caught on a spinner from beats 5 & 6. John Breslin recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 6.

Kevin O'Neill recorded an 8½lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 6. Ray Robinson logged a 3lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7 and I caught and released a 12lb salmon on a fly from beat 5. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, Dessie Coyle registered 3 fish weighing 3, 3½ & 12lb caught on a fly from beat 7. John Breslin reported a 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 5. Fergal Mallon logged 2 salmon weighing 5 & 10½lb caught on a fly from beat 8 and Kevin O'Neill reported a 10½lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 5. On The 20<sup>th</sup>, Sam McMenamin recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, Alan Watson logged a 4½lb grilse caught and released on a fly from beat 8 and P. McGivern accounted for 4 grilse caught on a fly from beat 8 with 2 of these being released again. On the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sean Campbell recorded a 5lb grilse caught on worm from beat 8 and Frankie Campbell accounted for a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, Oliver Cunningham recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. Michael Cunningham registered a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. Frankie Byrne reported a 4¾lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. Martin Allen logged a 4lb grilse caught from beat 5 on a fly and Billy Blair recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, J. Cassidy registered two fish weighing 3 & 8lb caught on a spinner from beat 5. Daniel Cassidy reported a 3lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 5. John Lennon logged a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5 and Billy Blair caught and released a 6lb grilse on a fly from beat 8. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, Billy caught and released another 5lb grilse on a fly from beat 8. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Ray Robinson recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 6. Paul Brennan accounted for a 4½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. James Compston logged a 5½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9 and Maurice Kennedy accounted for two salmon weighing 8 & 10lb caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, Gordon & Liam Young recorded 3 grilse caught on a spinner from beats 6 & 9. Mickey McLaughlin registered 3 fish weighing 4½, 7 & 10lb caught on a spinner from beat 7 and Sam McMenamin reported a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, Alan Watson caught & released a further grilse on a fly from beat 8. John McGimpsey logged a 4½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7 and Alan Watts recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, Johnathon McCorkhill recorded 2 salmon weighing 6½ & 10½lb caught on a fly from beat 8. John McGimpsey registered a 3¾lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. Alan Watts logged 2 salmon weighing 3 & 10lb 13oz caught on a fly from beat 9 and Liam Young accounted for a 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. The average size of salmon for the month was also good at 6.52lb. This is down somewhat on last year's very high average of 7.66lb but up on the 2010 average of & 5.25lbs (see table below).

### August

August was a fairly dry this season and the predominant water levels were low. There was a good flood on the first day of the month and a fair flood on the 4<sup>th</sup> but then the river ran at low to very low levels (only just rising above 0.2m once) until a flood on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (0.34m). This flood also gave good water for the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. The river then fell away again to low levels excepting a small flood reading 0.26m on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The gauge average for the month only read 0.18 metres. The fishery was a little busier with 199 visting rods fishing for the month. This however was quieter than is usual. There was only some 70 salmon recorded for the month which is well down on the usual catch we expect for what is normally the best month of the season. This is attributable to the low rod attendance and the poor grilse run this season. Given here are some of the catches taken from the catch register. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, Frankie Campbell recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 5. Mick McCole registered a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 6. Mickey McLoughlin reported a 6lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 7. Alan Watson logged a 5½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. Michael McCrory reported a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. Paul Brennan accounted for a 5½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. John Breslin logged a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 6 and Kevin O'Neill recorded 9lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 6. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Davy Sullivan accounted for an 8½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8. Alan Watson registered fish of 4½ & 9lb caught on a fly from beat 8 with the smaller of these released. Mick McCole recorded 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 6 and Brian Smith reported a 5½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat along with a 1½lb sea trout. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mick McCole recorded a 7lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 7 and John McGimpsey registered a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Kevin Agnew reported a 7lb salmon caught on worm from beat 8 & Andrew McMenamin logged a 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. On the 5<sup>th</sup>, Andrew recorded another grilse weighing 5lb caught on a spinner from beat 7.





Alan Watson registered a 3½lb grilse caught & released on a fly from beat 9 & Patrick Harkin reported a 10lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 6<sup>th</sup>, John McGimpsey logged a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, Alan Watson recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, Peter Grahame caught and released a 3lb grilse on a fly from beat 8 and John Lennon recorded a grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, Denis Bonnet logged a 4lb grilse caught on the fly from beat 7 and I caught and released a 3lb grilse on a fly from beat 7. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, Denis reported another 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8 & Pierre Rumeau registered a 4lb grilse also caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Niall Hosey recorded 2 grilse weighing 3lb caught on worm and spinner from beat 8. On the 18<sup>th</sup>, Sam McMenamin recorded a 3lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, John Breslin accounted for a 5½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 5. From the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Finn McCrory recorded 5 fish caught weighing from 3 to 9lb caught on a fly from beats 7 & 8 with the largest of these being released again. Also on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mick Kolbohm logged a 3¾lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. Michael McCrory reported a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. Dietrich Bonhorst registered a 7lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. Frankie Campbell accounted for a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9 and Bill O'Regan recorded 2 grilse weighing 3 & 4lb caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, Hugh Frazer logged a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 4. Frankie Campbell reported 2 grilse to 3lb caught on a fly from beat 9. Michael McCrory reported a small grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. Otmar Butz registered a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7 and Bill Murray registered 3 grilse weighing from 3 to 4lb caught and released on a fly from beat 5, losing two further fish one of which was a very big salmon that broke him! On the 25<sup>th</sup>, Alan Watson recorded a 3½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 26<sup>th</sup>, Pierre Rumeau logged a small grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, Kevin O'Neill recorded a 9lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 5 and Michael McCrory logged a 4½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Michael McCrory logged a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, Michael reported a further grilse weighing 4lb caught on a fly from beat 9 & Pierre Rumeau registered a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 31<sup>st</sup>, Jean Trividic recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. The average size of salmon for the month was fair at 4.77lb. This is similar to the previous two season's averages of 4.71lb & 4.52lb (see table below).

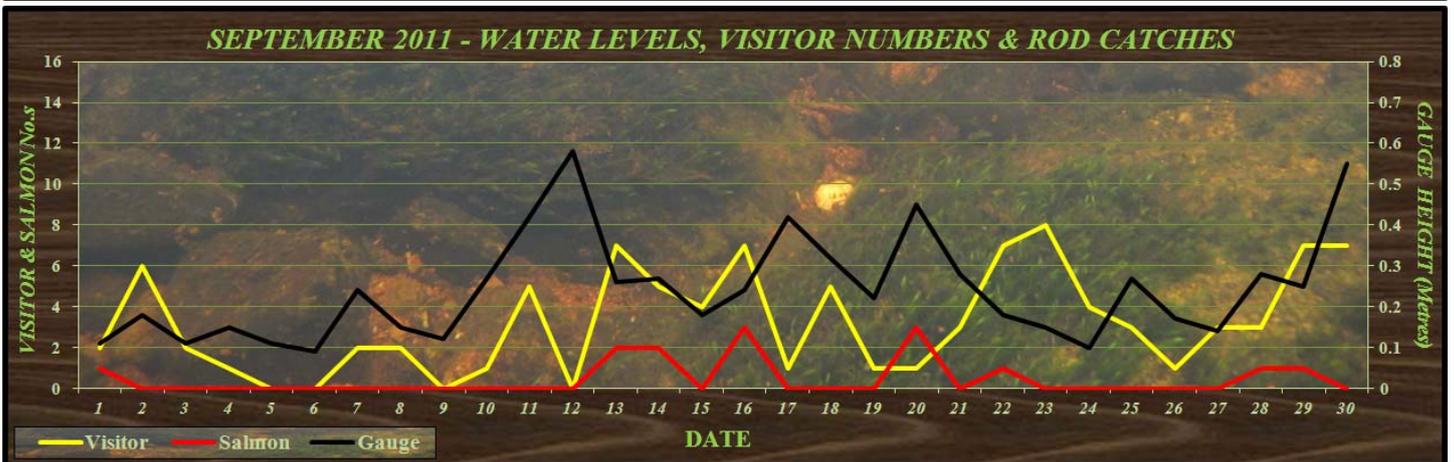
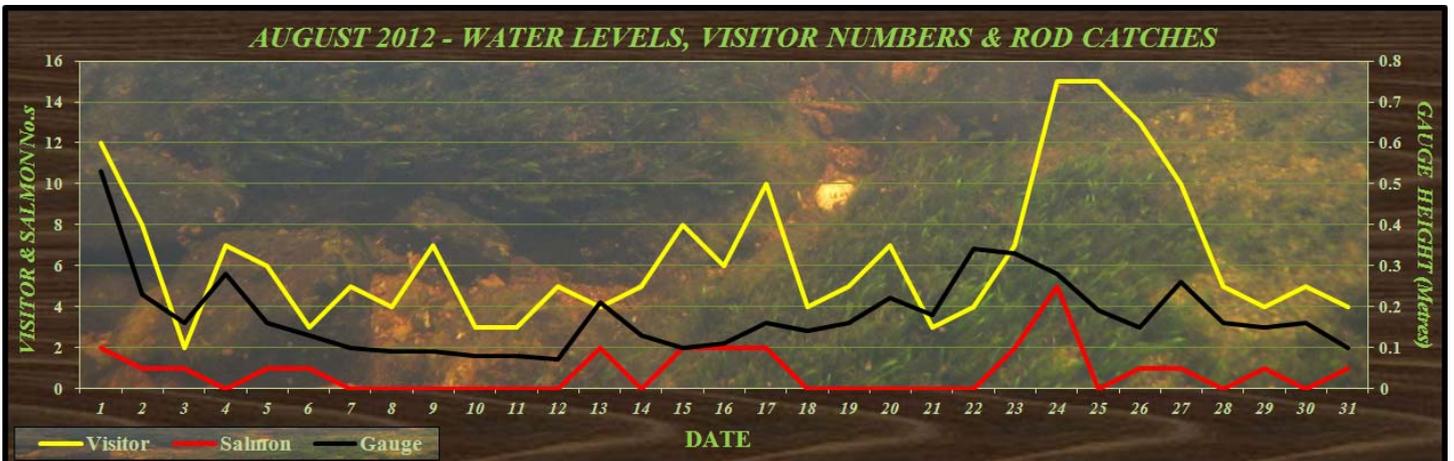
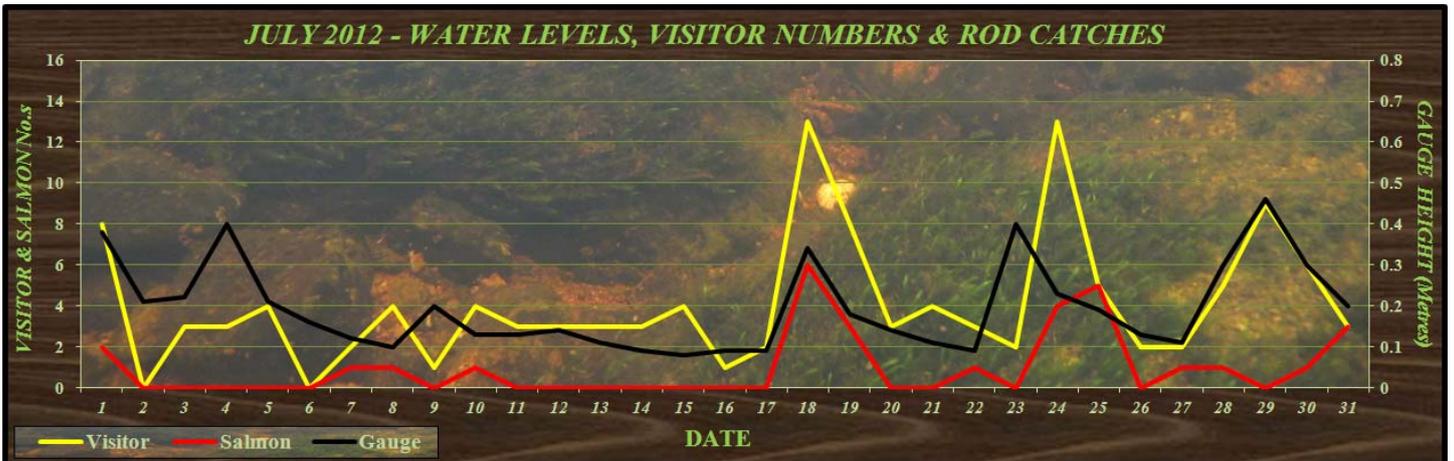
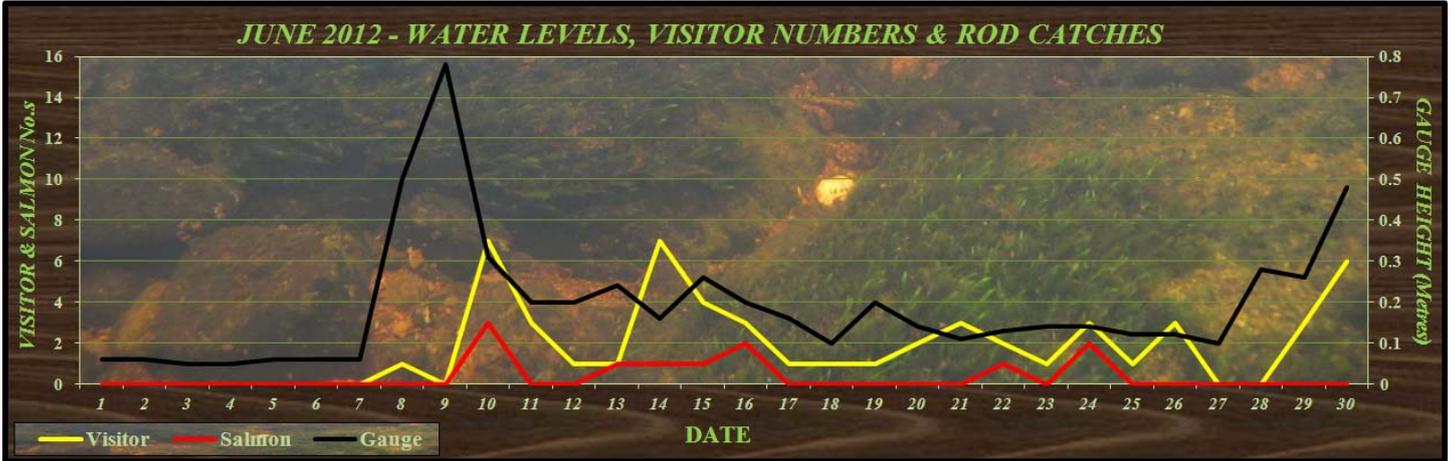
### September

The first 6 days of September brought fairly low water. There was a small flood (0.24m) on the 7<sup>th</sup> then the levels fella again. From the 10<sup>th</sup> on the month became fairly wet and we received good floods and nice water levels at times up until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thereafter, there were fair floods on the 25<sup>th</sup> (0.27m), 28<sup>th</sup> (0.28m) and 29<sup>th</sup> (0.25m). The final day of the season brought a big flood (0.55m) and we waited all day for the levels to start to fall. They never did despite the dry weather and the last day was a washout unfortunately. The gauge average for the month was good reading 0.24m. The fishery was not particularly busy especially given the good water levels and only 98 visiting rods fished over the month. Despite good water levels, there were only some 50 salmon caught this month. This is no doubt due in great part to the very poor grilse run this season. Given here are some of the catches taken from the catch register. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, Paul Doherty recorded a 4lb grilse caught on worm from beat 9 and John Conway reported a 7¼lb salmon caught on worm from beat 4. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, Donal McMenamin logged an 8lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 6. Frankie Byrne registered a 4¾lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5 and Gordon Young accounted for a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 10<sup>th</sup>, Mick Kolbohm registered a 6½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 11<sup>th</sup>, Paul Brennan accounted for a 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, Kevin O'Neill recorded an 8lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 5 and Otmar Butz registered a 10lb salmon also caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 14<sup>th</sup>, Mick McCole recorded an 8lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 6. Kevin O'Neill logged a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. Patrick Kelsall reported 2 grilse weighing 3 & 3½lb caught on a fly from beat 8. Gordon Young registered a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8 and I caught & released an 8lb salmon on a fly from beat 5. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, James Compston recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9 and I caught and released grilse of 3½ & 5lb on a fly from beat 5. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, Gordon Young accounted for a small grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, John Conway recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 4. I caught and released salmon of 5, 12 & 13lb (losing another double figure fish) on a fly from beat 5. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, John Breslin accounted for a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 5. On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Alan Watson logged a 5½lb grilse caught & released on a fly from beat 8 and William Grange recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Kevin O'Neill recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5 and Gordon Young accounted for a 3lb grilse caught on a spinner from 9. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, Sam McMenamin reported a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. Michael McMenamin registered 2 sea trout weighing 1 & 3lb caught on a fly from beat 5 and Robert Carlisle logged a 12½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 6. The average size of salmon for the month was very good at 6.00lb and compares favourably with the previous two season's averages of 5.71lb 4.90lb (see table below).

And so another season passed us by. Overall it was a poor season in terms of the grilse run and visitor attendance. It seemed that the recession was biting (allied to the cost of fuel etc) and regular visitors attended the fishery on far less occasions than in previous seasons. It was however very pleasing to see the continued healthy run of big, probably mostly multi sea winter, salmon. We look forward to the coming season.



**RECORDED VISITOR CATCH RETURNS/WATER LEVELS/VISITOR NUMBERS 2012**



## DOUBLE FIGURE SALMON CAUGHT IN 2012

There was a good run of multi-sea winter salmon this season once again and there were 24 double figure salmon recorded in the catch register (there are normally from 6 to 10!) which would equate to some 50+ double figure salmon caught for the season. The best fish of the season weighed 16lb 8oz and was caught by John McGlashan on the 29<sup>th</sup> June on a spinner from beat 5.

Name	Date	Beat	Method	Gauge	Weight
John McGlashan	29 <sup>th</sup> June	5	Spinner	0.18 metres ⇌	16lb 8oz
John Lennon	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	5	Fly	0.21 metres ⇌	15lb
Joe Kelly	8 <sup>th</sup> July	8	Spinner	0.10 metres ↓	13lb
Lindsey Clarke	20 <sup>th</sup> September	5	Fly	0.40 metres ↑	13lb
Robert Carlisle	29 <sup>th</sup> September	6	Spinner	0.25 metres ↓	12½lb
Lindsey Clarke	18 <sup>th</sup> July	5	Fly	0.25 metres ↓	12lb
Dessie Coyle	19 <sup>th</sup> July	7	Fly	0.18 metres ↓	12lb
Lindsey Clarke	20 <sup>th</sup> September	5	Fly	0.45 metres ⇌	12lb
Sean Campbell	11 <sup>th</sup> July	4	Spinner	0.13 metres ⇌	11½lb
Peter Grahame	13 <sup>th</sup> June	8	Spinner	0.24 metres ↓	11lb
Mick McCole	15 <sup>th</sup> June	7	Spinner	0.26 metres ⇌	11lb
Kevin O'Neill	16 <sup>th</sup> June	8	Fly	0.20 metres ↓	11lb
Alan Watts	31 <sup>st</sup> July	9	Fly	0.20 metres ⇌	10lb 13oz
Fergal Mallon	19 <sup>th</sup> July	8	Fly	0.18 metres ↓	10½lb
Kevin O'Neill	19 <sup>th</sup> July	5	Fly	0.18 metres ↓	10½lb
Michael McLaughlin	29 <sup>th</sup> July	7	Spinner	0.46 metres ↓	10½lb
Johnathon McCorkhill	31 <sup>st</sup> July	8	Fly	0.20 metres ⇌	10½lb
John Breslin	24 <sup>th</sup> June	5	Spinner	0.14 metres ⇌	10lb
Frank McDonald	1 <sup>st</sup> July	3	Spinner	0.38 metres ⇌	10lb
Frankie Campbell	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	5	Fly	0.22 metres ↓	10lb
Donal McMenamin	17 <sup>th</sup> July	7	Fly	0.09 metres ⇌	10lb
Maurice Kennedy	28 <sup>th</sup> July	8	Spinner	0.16 metres ↑	10lb
Patrick Harkin	5 <sup>th</sup> August	8	Fly	0.16 metres ↓	10lb
Otmar Butz	13 <sup>th</sup> September	5	Fly	0.26 metres ↓	10lb



John McGlashan with his fine 16½lb salmon caught from beat 5 on the 29<sup>th</sup> June.

## MOST POPULAR SALMON FISHING METHOD 2012



As usual, fly fishing was the most popular and successful method last season with 64.8% of the salmon caught by this method. The most popular fly patterns were all shrimp patterns with the most popular of these being: Curry's Red shrimp, Claret shrimp, John Anthony shrimp, Foxford shrimp, Bann Special shrimp and Ally's Cascade's. Spinning was the second most popular method with 32.7% of the salmon caught by this method. By far the most popular spinner was the Flying 'C' in various colours with red & black being the most used. The remaining salmon, 2.5%, were all caught on the worm.



### ILLEGAL METHODS

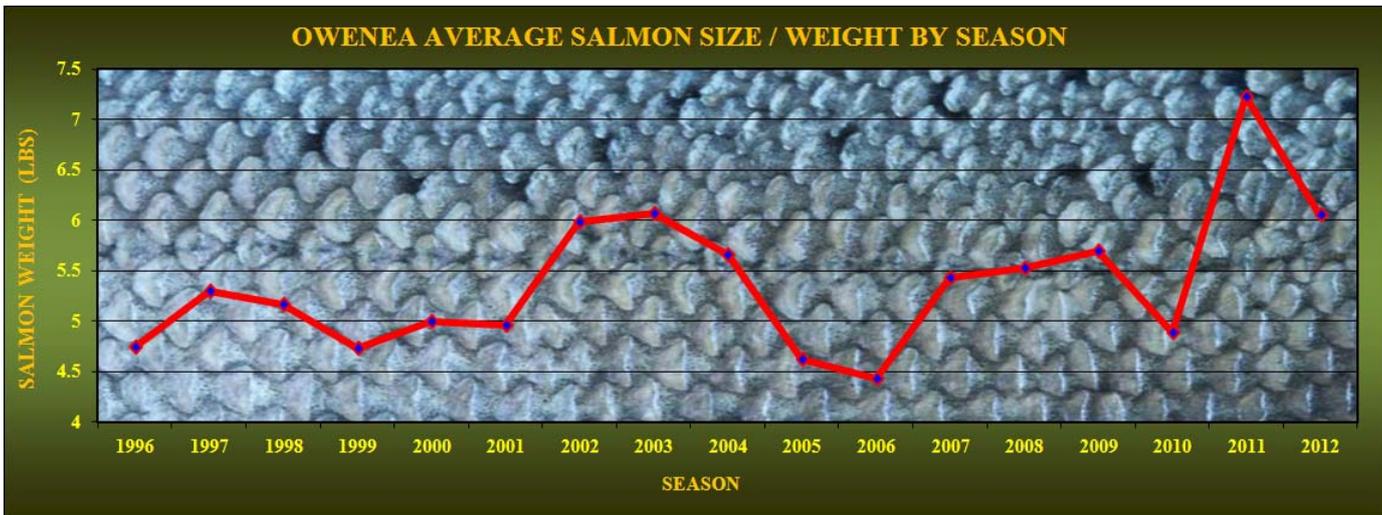
*Anglers are reminded that shrimp, prawn and roe baits are illegal. Any angler found using illegal baits will be fined and/or prosecuted.*



## AVERAGE SALMON SIZES OVER THE SEASONS

SEASON	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	YEARLY
1996	-	8.00lb	4.00lb	4.55lb	5.73lb	4.66lb	<b>4.74lb</b>
1997	-	7.00lb	4.72lb	4.19lb	6.72lb	5.57lb	<b>5.30lb</b>
1998	8.62lb	-	4.69lb	4.37lb	5.52lb	6.10lb	<b>5.17lb</b>
1999	8.50lb	8.62lb	5.22lb	4.29lb	4.35lb	5.05lb	<b>4.73lb</b>
2000	-	10.00lb	5.67lb	3.99lb	4.84lb	5.48lb	<b>5.00lb</b>
2001	Closed	-	5.43lb	4.68lb	5.40lb	4.33lb	<b>4.96lb</b>
2002	-	8.44lb	4.77lb	4.75lb	5.42lb	6.52lb	<b>5.98lb</b>
2003	-	9.33lb	7.5lb	4.25lb	4.16lb	5.10lb	<b>6.07lb</b>
2004	-	9.75lb	7.40lb	4.48lb	4.93lb	5.83lb	<b>5.66lb</b>
2005	-	10.00lb	3.50lb	4.38lb	4.62lb	4.85lb	<b>4.62lb</b>
2006	9.75lb	6.67lb	11lb	4.65lb	4.33lb	4.30lb	<b>4.43lb</b>
2007	-	8.37lb	5.75lb	5.66lb	4.87lb	5.44lb	<b>5.43lb</b>
2008	-	7.37lb	6.36lb	5.77lb	4.93lb	5.08lb	<b>5.53lb</b>
2009	-	10.75lb	7.86lb	5.65lb	4.95lb	4.33lb	<b>5.70lb</b>
2010	6.50lb	-	4.75lb	5.25lb	4.52lb	4.90lb	<b>4.89lb</b>
2011	-	9.01lb	9.04lb	7.66lb	4.71lb	5.71lb	<b>7.23lb</b>
2012	-	7.50lb	6.90lb	6.52lb	4.77lb	6.00lb	<b>6.05lb</b>

No. = Not included in Yearly average due to small statistical sample.



## CATCH & RELEASE & CATCH RETURNS



Catch returns are central to the successful operation and long-term stock management of the fishery and records of every fish caught, even if returned alive, are essential. Local Anglers and visiting anglers alike are asked to contribute to the management of their fishery by giving details of catches to the Fishery Office by phone or in person, whichever is more convenient. All anglers are of course, welcome to personally fill out their catch details on the day or following days in the catch register at the Fishery Office. In these days of conservation limits, fishery closures etc, it is paramount that we have accurate information on fish stocks in rivers.

This season, 15.3% of the rod catch was released. Unfortunately, this was down somewhat on last season's figure of 19.15%. It was however up on the 2010 figure of 10.7%. Catch and release had been a steadily increasing trend until the big drop of the 2010 season. It was sad to see this figure dropping in a year when there was a poorer run of grilse. This was one year when a higher return rate would have been desirable to help offset the poor grilse run.



## BEATS THAT FISHED BEST IN 2012

The figures given below are calculated from **fully recorded** salmon caught by visiting / associate anglers. (Many more fish were caught on each beat by local anglers or the fish or beat not recorded). This allows us to assess how each beat fished relative to each other and also lets us calculate the C.P.U.E., which gives a truer indication of the productivity of a beat. The C.P.U.E. is the Catch per Unit Effort. This is calculated by dividing the number of Salmon caught by visiting & associate anglers, by the number of those anglers fishing that beat, over the months of April to September inclusive.

Beat	No. Salmon Fully Recorded 2012	% Of Total Catch	No. Visiting Anglers	% Visiting Anglers	C.P.U.E.	C.P.U.E. rating (productivity)
1	0	----	0	----	----	----
2	0	----	1	0.20%	0.000	7 <sup>th</sup>
3	0	----	2	0.40%	0.000	8 <sup>th</sup>
4	1	1.21%	10	2.23%	0.100	4 <sup>th</sup>
5	28	33.73%	65	13.76%	0.431	1 <sup>st</sup>
6	3	3.61%	31	6.28%	0.097	5 <sup>th</sup>
7	6	7.23%	18	3.85%	0.333	2 <sup>nd</sup>
8	37	44.58%	270	54.66%	0.137	3 <sup>rd</sup>
9	8	9.64%	92	18.62%	0.087	6 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Totals</b>	83	100%	489	100%		

Beat 5 came out as the most productive once again this season by a large margin with beat 7 coming in as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most productive beat (though beat 7 is based on a fairly small sample). The 3<sup>rd</sup> most productive beat was beat 8. The river was much quieter this season than previous years and consequently the catch was down and some of the beats above have very few or no fish listed. Surprisingly, beat 9 was only the 6<sup>th</sup> most productive beat this year.

## TOP RODS FOR THE 2012 SEASON

This is calculated based on salmon officially recorded in the Owenea Fishery Catch Register at the Angling Centre. Catches were well down this season however due to the poor grilse run as is reflected in the table.

Name	No. Salmon	Av. Weight	Best Salmon
<i>Michael McCrory</i>	12	5.46lb	9lb
<i>Alan Watson</i>	11	5.32lb	9lb
<i>Kevin O'Neill</i>	9	8.11lb	11lb
<i>John Breslin</i>	9	6.17lb	10lb
<i>Lindsey Clarke</i>	8	7.69lb	13lb
<i>Maurice Kennedy</i>	8	5.44lb	10lb
<i>Billy Blair</i>	6	6.17lb	8lb
<i>Fin McCrory</i>	6	4.92lb	9lb
<i>Frankie Campbell</i>	6	4.83lb	10lb
<i>Gordon Young</i>	6	4.58lb	7lb

## SALMON 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. 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 I.F.I. within a period of 21 days from the date of the expiry of the licence.**



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

### All Salmon & Sea Trout of over 40cm

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 1 salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day from the September 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of the season on 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Sea Trout Bag Limit

There is a national angling bag limit of 3 sea trout of any size per angler per day. This includes fish under 40cm. This means anglers are allowed to kill up to 3 sea trout per day (any size). Any sea trout killed of over 40cm must be tagged.

## SALMON REDD COUNTS

These figures are indicative only, since taking redd counts depends wholly on weather conditions. When the river is in flood, redds cannot always be seen or counted. It follows that a wet winter generally means lower redd counts. Also, even in ideal conditions, not all redds are observed due to a number of fish spawning in small pockets of gravel all over the fishery. The 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/7 counts were not ideal counts due to high water conditions prohibiting a full count of all the spawning areas. There was no redd Count for 2011/12 due to constant, very high water conditions making redd counting impossible. The 2012/13 count was low since full counts were possible due to high water conditions making counting impossible at times.



The last 19 years counts are as follows:

YEAR	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
<b>REDD COUNT</b>	205	282	749	481	592	694	501	N/A	261	342
YEAR	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
<b>REDD COUNT</b>	328	282	184	338	622	446	144	N/A	260	

Years when counts were low due to prevalent conditions

## DISABLED ANGLING

Since the end of 2001 we have been able to provide disabled angling adjacent to the Angling Centre in Glenties. This includes 500m of wheelchair accessible riverbank with safety rails and fishing stands along a section of Beat 3 with wheelchair accessible office and toilet facilities. These facilities will hopefully prove to be invaluable to our less able bodied brethren who often struggle to find locations where it is possible for them to fish in safety. If any information on the same is required, please do not hesitate to contact us (details below).



## RIVER INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintenance of structures on the fishery was ongoing this season. A number of structures were replaced on both banks of beat 9 this season. Walkways were replaced and stiles repaired or replaced. There was only limited bank clearance due to low staffing levels.



## BOOKINGS / FURTHER INFORMATION



**Permits available:** 1-Day Permit – Adult, Juvenile. Weekly Permit (7 Day) - Adult.

**Off season Information & Bookings (1<sup>st</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> April) contact:**

I.F.I. Ballyshannon,  
Station Road, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal.  
Phone (071) 9851435. Fax (071) 9851816.

Email: [ballyshannon@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:ballyshannon@fisheriesireland.ie) Website: [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

**In Season Information & Bookings (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September) contact:**

Owenea Angling Centre,  
Glenties Fishery Office,  
Glenties,  
Co. Donegal.

Phone (074) 9551141. Fax (074) 9551444.

The Fishery Office at Glenties hatchery opening times are:

9.00am to 1.00pm every day from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> May

7.00am to 1.00pm every day from 1<sup>st</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Bookings can be taken in advance on full payment of permit. Fishing can be booked at through the Angling Centre or online at [www.donegalanglingholidays.com](http://www.donegalanglingholidays.com) Rods will be assigned beats on a *first come first served* basis and will be rotated through beats thereafter if demand is high.  
Visa and MasterCard accepted and debit cards.

## ACCOMMODATION

### BED & BREAKFAST

-  Mrs. T. O'Donnell, Oakdale Farmhouse, Derries, Glenties, Co. Donegal Tel: (074) 9551262.
-  Mrs. M. Regan, Ardlann, Mill Road, Glenties, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9551271.
-  Mrs. Jean Ballingsley, Lyndale, Mullantiboyle, Glenties, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9551295.
-  Mrs. M. McLoone, Marguerite's, Lr. Main St. Glenties, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9551699.
-  Ms. Rosaleen Campbell, Lisdanar, Mill Road, Glenties, Co. Donegal Tel: (074) 9551800.
-  Mrs. M. Bennett, Bayview Country House, Portnoo Rd. Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541145.
-  Ms. Norah Molloy, Brae House, Front Street, Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541296.
-  Madeline Boyd, Castle View House, Kilcassel, Loughros Point, Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541212.
-  Ms. M. Feeney, Drumbarron House, Drumbarron, Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541200.
-  Susan McConnell, Rosewood Country House, Killybegs Road, Ardara. Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541168.
-  Mrs. Mary Boyle, Avalon, Glen Road, Glenties, Co Donegal Tel: (074) 9551292.

### SELF-CATERING

-  Kathleen Slowey, Portnoo Rd. Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541204.
-  Ms. Dina Gallagher, Portnoo Rd. Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel (074) 9541239.
-  Joseph Gallagher, Portnoo Road Ardara, Co Donegal. Tel (074) 9541472.
-  Mrs. M. Goodall, Crannogh Cottage, c/o Doherty's Bar, Front St. Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541304.
-  Bernadette Shovlin, Beagh Cottage, Beagh, Ardara, Co. Donegal Tel (074) 9541444.
-  Peter McNelis, Hollybrook, Killybegs Road, Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541596.

### HOTELS

-  Highlands Hotel, Glenties, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9551111.
-  Nesbitt Arms Hotel, Main Street, Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel: (074) 9541103.

