

OWENEA FISHERY

2014 NEWSLETTER



THE OWENEA FISHERY

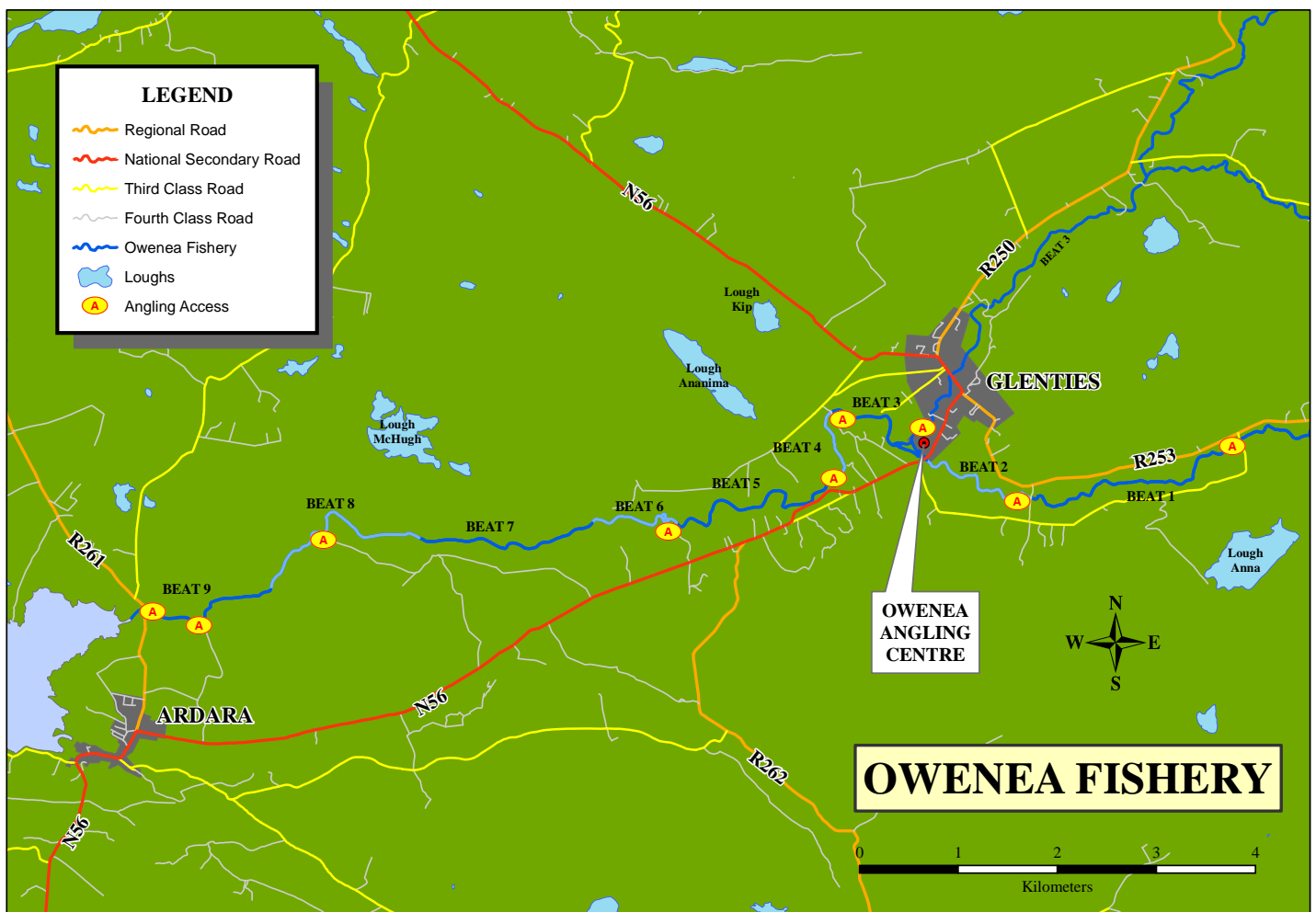
The Owenea River drains Lough Ea running for some 13 miles through Glenties and emptying into Loughrosmore Bay at Ardara. The Owenea is primarily a spate river taking from 1 to 2 days to run off, depending on the size of the flood.

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.



OWENEA ANGLING CENTRE



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 Mullantiboyle 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 Mullantiboyle 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 bottom of Beat 5.

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. There is no worming permitted from the top of Beat 6 to the tail of Archie's Pool.

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 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 downstream of this, Teague's and Breslin's, 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 always holds 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.

Beat 9 - A good flood at Poul-a-Tuarn



2013 SEASON REPORT

April



The fishery opened as usual on the 1st April. The first fortnight brought very low water conditions. We did receive a number of floods thereafter with the biggest of these reading 0.56 metres on the 17th. The gauge average for the month read 0.17m. The fishery was quiet however with only 2 visiting rods in attendance and there was no reported catch of salmon for the month.

May



May brought some good floods and there were plenty of good water conditions over the month. This is reflected in the good gauge average for the month of 0.23 metres. May was a little busier with 32 visiting rods in attendance and fair numbers of salmon caught. These were a good stamp of fish with many being double figure fish and the smallest still weighed 6lb. Given here are some of the catches taken from the Catch Register. On the 10th, Liam Ward caught the first salmon of the season. This was a 6lb fish caught on a spinner from beat 3. On the 12th, Alan Mooney recorded an 11¾lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 9. The following day James McCormaic reported a 10lb salmon caught on a spinner. On the 17th, Neil Gallagher registered an 11lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8 and John Northridge accounted for an 8¾lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 19th there were 3 salmon reported. These were Karen McMenamin's 7lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 9, Liam Ward's 10lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 3 and Anthony Carr's 11lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 4. On the 20th, Bart McHugh reported an 8lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 7. On the 22nd, John Joe Doherty recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 6. On the 26th, Billy Blair logged an 11½lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 27th, Charles Campbell registered a 6lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 3. The average size of salmon for the month was very good being 8.77lb. This was well up on the 2012 season's average of 7.50lb (see Average Salmon Sizes Chart & Graph below).

June



Overall, water levels were low this month and we experienced very sunny weather with high air temperatures during the mini heat wave over the first half of the month. Conditions were not completely hopeless since we did receive 4 good floods. These occurred on the 12th (0.40m), the 15th (0.55m), the 22nd to 23rd (0.40m) & the 28th (0.36m). The gauge average for the month was on the low side however reading 0.19 metres. The fishery was a little busier with 62 visiting rods fishing over the month. There were fair numbers of salmon caught over the month despite the often poor conditions with most of these caught when floods occurred. Given here are some of the catches taken from the Catch Register. On the 1st of the month, Alan Watson recorded a fine 12½lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8 in very low water (0.12m). On the 5th, Gordon Young reported a 5½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. Alan Watson logged a further fish weighing 6½lb caught on a fly from beat 9 on the 10th. On the 12th, Dietrich Bonhorst registered 2 salmon weighing 10½lb each caught on a fly from beat 7 with one of these released again. Ray Robinson also caught a 10½lb salmon on a fly from beat 7. Thomas Whelan accounted for a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8 and John Lennon reported 2 salmon weighing 8 & 12lb caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 15th, Alan Mooney recorded an 8lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 6. Adrian Whelan caught a 12lb salmon from beat 8. John Joe Doherty logged a 4lb grilse caught. Peter Timothy registered a 6½lb grilse caught and released on a fly from beat 7 & Jackie Hutchison reported a 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 16th, Alan Watson recorded a 9lb 1oz salmon caught on a fly from beat 7 & Adrian Whelan accounted for a 7lb salmon. On the 22nd, Peter Gallagher registered 13lb 1oz salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 24th, Richard Morrison recorded a fine 15lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8 and Derek Morrison logged a 4lb grilse also caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 25th, Frankie Byrne registered a 13lb 4oz salmon caught on a fly from beat 6 and Richard Morrison reported a 10lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 28th, Sean Campbell recorded an 8½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8 and I caught a 9lb salmon on a fly from beat 5. On the 29th, Sean O'Doherty accounted for a 14lb 1oz salmon caught on a fly from beat 7. The average size of salmon for the month was very good being 9.10lb. This was much higher than the 3 previous years (see Average Salmon Sizes Chart & Graph below).



July



We had some nice water conditions at the start of the month with decent floods on the 2nd (0.42m) and 4th (0.48m) but then the drought set in and the rest of the month gave very low water conditions except for a small flood on the 27th which was very dirty. This meant that most the month was a 'write off' and this is reflected in the fact that only 34 visiting rods fished for the month! The gauge average for the month was very low reading only 0.13 metres. Catches were understandably low and all fish recorded were caught over the first 8 days of the month. Given here are some of the catches taken from the Catch Register. On the 2nd, Columba Campbell recorded 2 fine salmon weighing 12lb each caught on a worm from beat 6. On the 3rd, Shane McCole recorded 2 grilse weighing 3 & 4lb caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 4th, Michael McCrory recorded 2 salmon weighing 7 & 12lb caught on a fly from beat 8 and Davy Sullivan accounted for a fine 15½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 6. On the 6th, Finn McCrory logged an 8lb 4oz salmon caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 8th, Frankie Campbell registered a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. The average size of salmon for the month was very good at 8.77lb. This was well up on the last number of year's averages (see Average Salmon Sizes Chart & Graph below).

August



August was a better month and brought more floods overall although most were small and only 1 flood exceeded 0.27m when the gauge rose to 0.40 metres on the 17th. There were decent water levels on the 2nd & 3rd (0.26m & 0.27m) and further floods on the 13th (0.26m), the 15th (0.27m), the 17th (0.40m), the 21st (0.21m) and the 25th (0.20m). Thereafter water levels fell to low summer levels. The fishery was busier with 191 visiting rods in attendance over the month. The gauge average for the month read 0.18 metres. This was not particularly high reflecting the small nature of most of the floods. There were good numbers of salmon caught over the month with the catch consisting almost entirely of grilse. Given here are some of the catches taken from the Catch Register. On the 2nd, Nader Farvardin caught and released a 7lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 7. Chris Gallagher recorded 3 fish weighing 3, 5 & 8lb caught on spinner & worm from beat 8 with the 5lb fish being released again. Davy Sullivan caught & released 2 grilse weighing 3 lb each on a spinner from beat 8. Michael McCrory registered a 5½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. Sean Campbell reported 2 grilse weighing 2 & 5½lb caught on a spinner from beat 8 with the smaller of these released. John McFadden recorded 2 grilse weighing 4 & 5lb caught on a spinner. Micky McLaughlin logged 2 grilse weighing 4 & 5½lb caught on a spinner. Fergal Mallon registered a 9lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8 and Shane McCole reported an 8lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 3rd, Chris Gallagher recorded a grilse weighing 4lb caught on a spinner from beat 8. Michael McCrory logged 2 grilse weighing 4lb each (losing 2 others) on a fly from beat 7. Hugh Frazer registered a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 4. Raymond Crawford reported a 5lb grilse caught on worm from beat 8. Gordon Young accounted for a 3½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. Finn McCrory recorded a 3lb 3oz grilse caught on a fly from beat 7 and John Northridge logged a 3¾lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 4th, Bart McHugh recorded a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 5th, Neil Gallagher logged a 3½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 7. On the 6th, Trevor Hyde registered a 9lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 9. Billy Blair recorded a 5½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8 and Paul Buchanan reported 4 grilse weighing 1½, 2½, 3 & 3lb caught on worm from beat 9 with 2 of these released again. On the 8th, Paul Buchanan recorded a 2½lb grilse caught on worm from beat 9. Shane McCole logged a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8 and James Compston registered a 5lb grilse & a 2½lb sea trout caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 9th, Trevor Hyde recorded a 2lb grilse caught on worm from beat 9. Billy Blair logged a 3½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 11th, Shane McCole registered a 7lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 6 and Joseph Kelly accounted for a 4½lb grilse caught on a worm from beat 9. On the 12th, Charlie Campbell recorded a 7lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8. Sean Campbell logged a 3lb grilse caught on worm from beat 8. Tommy Corr registered a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9 and Billy Blair reported a 3lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. On the 13th, Richard Archer recorded a 6½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. Shane Martin logged a 7lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8. Malachy Gallagher registered a 3½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. Anne McMenamin reported a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 4. Billy Blair recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 8. Sam McMenamin logged a 4lb grilse caught on worm from beat 8 and John Northridge registered an 8¼lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 7. On the 14th, John Lennon recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 15th, Emmanuel Simmoney caught his first ever salmon. This was



a 3½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. Malachy Gallagher recorded a 5½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9. Liam Ward logged grilse of 4, 6 & 7lb caught on fly (2) and spinner (1) from beats 3, 5 & 4 respectively. John Breslin registered an 11½lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 5. Shane McCole reported a 5lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. Jim McLean recorded a 5½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8 and Columba Campbell accounted for a 6lb grilse caught on worm from beat 6. On the 16th, Kevin O'Neill recorded a 9lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 6 and John Northridge logged a 3¾lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 6. On the 17th, Henry Patterson registered a grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 18th, John Breslin recorded 2 grilse weighing 5 & 5½lb caught on spinner from beat 5 and Fergal Mallon recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. On the 19th, Chris Gallagher registered a 6½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 20th, Pierre Rumeau logged 2 grilse weighing 4 & 5lb caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 21st, Niall Hosey reported 2 grilse weighing 2½ & 3lb caught on worm from beat 8. And Hugh Frazer recorded a 4lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 4. On the 23rd, Niall Hosey registered another grilse caught on worm from beat 8. On the 24th, Frankie Campbell logged a 6lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9 and recorded a 7lb grilse the following day on a spinner from beat 9 again. The average size of salmon for the month was fair at 4.82lb. This is similar to the previous two season's averages of 4.77lb & 4.71lb (see Average Salmon Sizes Chart & Graph below).

September



The first week of the month brought low water conditions but the middle two weeks gave a number of floods and good conditions on numerous occasions. Unfortunately the levels then fell over the last week and we ended the season with very low summer levels. The gauge average for the month read 0.18 metres. Despite some good conditions at times, the month was fairly quiet and only 71 visiting rods attended the fishery this month. There were fair numbers of salmon caught during September and given here are some of the catches taken from the Catch Register. On the 7th, Sam McMenamin recorded a 3lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. On the 8th Jim McLean had a very good day catching 8 grilse on a spinner from beat 8. The fish weighed from 4 to 7lb with 7 of these released. John Northridge registered a 3lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. Paul Brennan caught 4 grilse releasing 3 of these. Otmar Butz logged a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7. Alan Watson caught and released a 3lb grilse on a fly. Mickey McLaughlin reported a 5½lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 9. Columba Campbell reported a 7lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 6 and Davey Sullivan accounted for a 5lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. On the 9th, John Northridge recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 5. Mick Kolbohm registered 3 grilse weighing 2½, 3¼ & 6½lb caught on a fly from beat 5 with the largest & smallest of these released again. Otmar Butz logged a 6lb grilse caught on a fly from beat 7 and Beano accounted for a 4½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 7. On the 11th, Mick Kolbohm caught and released a 4lb grilse on a fly from beat 5 and Sean Campbell recorded a 9lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 6. On the 12th, Jim McLean registered a 5½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. Columba Campbell logged a 4lb grilse caught on worm from beat 6. Davy Sullivan reported a 5lb grilse caught on spinner from beat 8 and Sean Campbell caught and released a 2½lb grilse on beat 6. On the 16th, Davy Sullivan recorded a 6lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 9 and I caught and released a 14½lb salmon on a fly from beat 4. On the 17th, Jim McLean registered a 7lb salmon caught and released on a spinner from beat 8. John Breslin logged a 3½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 6 and Sean Campbell reported a 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 3. On the 18th, John Breslin accounted for a 4lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 5. On the 19th, Paul Topley recorded 6½lb grilse caught on a spinner from beat 8. Henry Patterson registered an 8lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 8 and John Breslin accounted for a 10lb salmon caught on a spinner from beat 6. The average size of salmon for the month was 5.46lb which was slightly smaller than the last 2 seasons (see Average Salmon Sizes Chart & Graph below).



And so another season passed us by. I think you will hear most rods say "It was a funny year this year"!

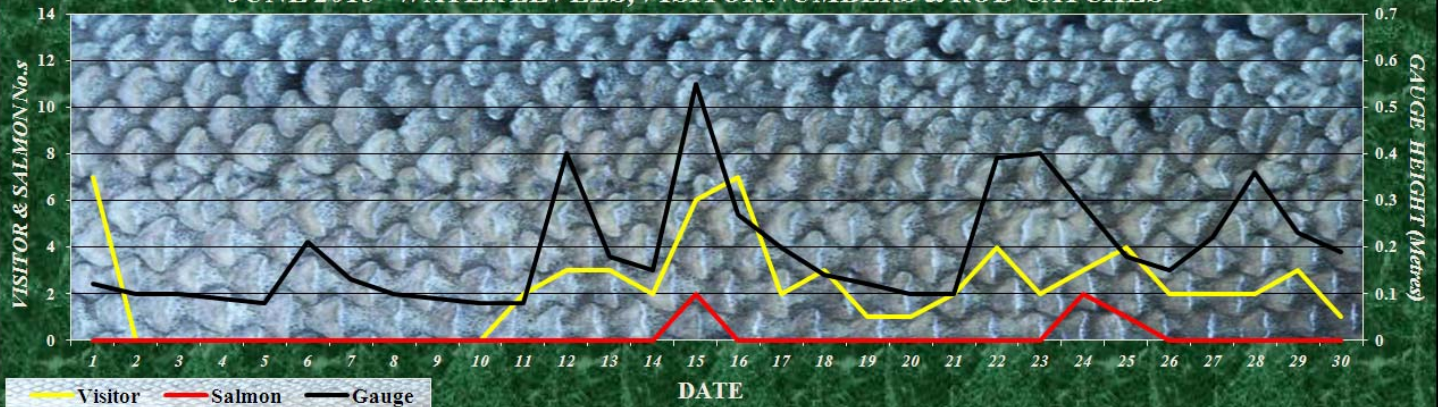
Spring was some 6 weeks late due to the cold start to the year. Then came a mini heatwave that saw temperatures up at 30°C! We also had extended periods of low water which did not help the fishing.

Overall it was a poor season in terms of the grilse run. It was however very pleasing to see the continued run of early, big, probably mostly multi sea winter, salmon and many of these were fine looking, deep fish. We look forward to the coming season and seeing familiar faces again after the winter.

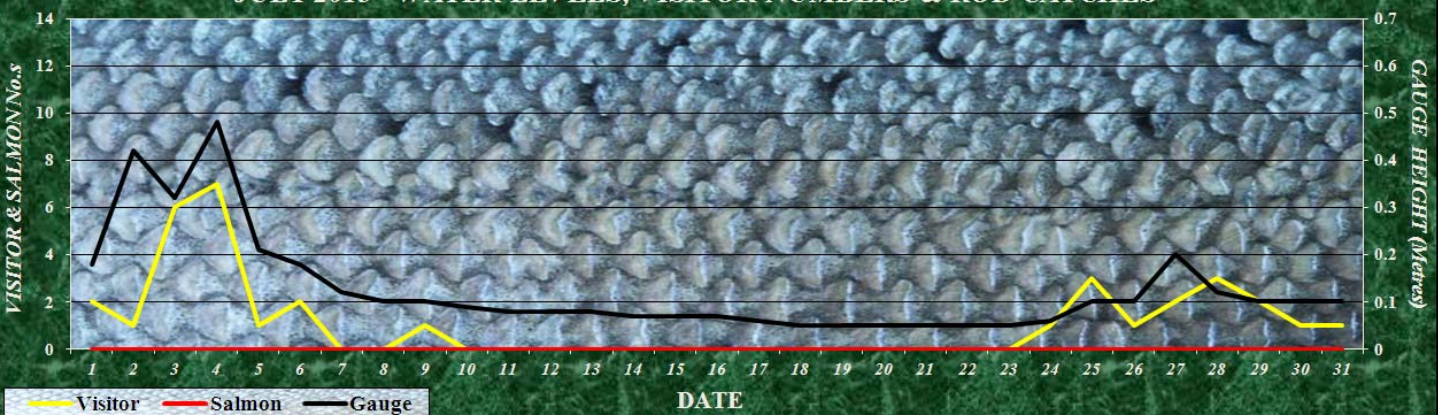


RECORDED VISITOR CATCH RETURNS/WATER LEVELS/VISITOR NUMBERS 2013

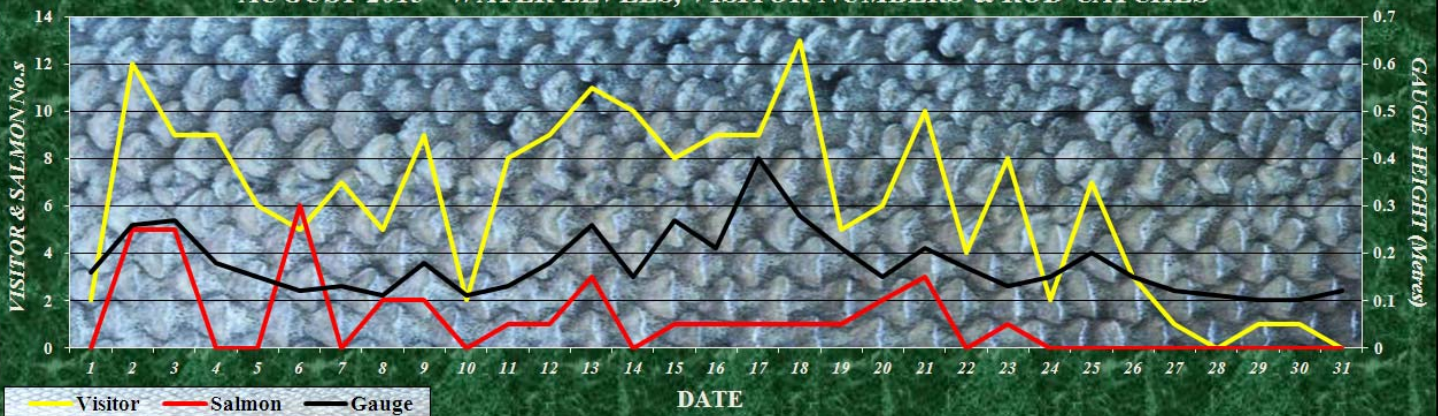
JUNE 2013 - WATER LEVELS, VISITOR NUMBERS & ROD CATCHES



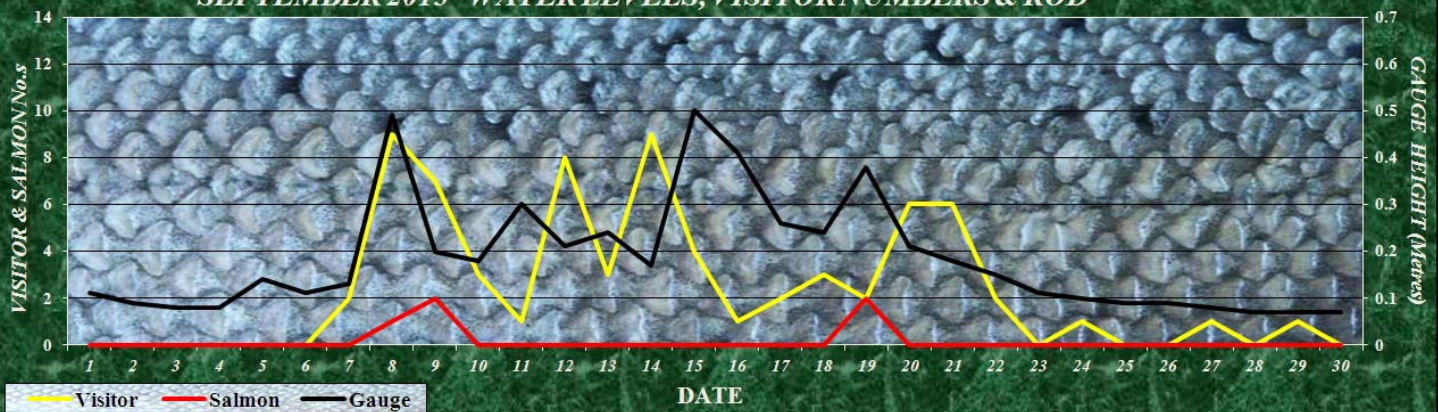
JULY 2013 - WATER LEVELS, VISITOR NUMBERS & ROD CATCHES



AUGUST 2013 - WATER LEVELS, VISITOR NUMBERS & ROD CATCHES



SEPTEMBER 2013 - WATER LEVELS, VISITOR NUMBERS & ROD CATCHES



DOUBLE FIGURE SALMON CAUGHT IN 2013

There was a good run of multi-sea winter salmon again this season and there were 25 double figure salmon recorded in the catch register which would equate to some 50+ double figure salmon caught for the season. The best fish of the season weighed 15½lb and was caught by Davy Sullivan on the 4th July on a spinner from beat 6.



Name	Date	Beat	Method	Gauge	Weight
Davy Sullivan	4 th July	6	Spinner	0.48 ↓	15½lb
Richard Morrison	24 th June	8	Fly	0.29 ↓	15lb
Lindsey Clarke	16 th September	4	Fly	0.38 ↓	14½lb
Sean O'Doherty	29 th June	7	Fly	0.23 ↓	14lb 1oz
Frankie Byrne	28 th June	5	Fly	0.36 ↑	13lb 3oz
Peter Gallagher	22 nd June	8	Spinner	0.39 ↓	13lb 1oz
Alan Watson	1 st June	8	Fly	0.12 ⇌	12½lb
John Lennon	12 th June	5	Fly	0.30 ↓	12lb
Adrian Whelan	15 th June	8	?	0.55 ↓	12lb
Columba Campbell	2 nd July	6	Worm	0.42 ↓	12lb
Columba Campbell	2 nd July	6	Worm	0.42 ↓	12lb
Michael McCrory	4 th July	8	Fly	0.36 ↓	12lb
Alan Mooney	12 th May	9	Fly	0.38 ↓	11¾lb
Billy Blair	26 th May	8	Fly	0.12 ⇌	11½lb
John Breslin	15 th August	5	Spinner	0.27 ↓	11½lb
Anthony Carr	19 th May	4	Fly	0.35 ↓	11lb
Neil Gallagher	17 th May	8	Spinner	0.25 ↓	11lb
Dietrich Bonhorst	12 th June	7	Fly	0.30 ↓	10½lb
Dietrich Bonhorst	12 th June	7	Fly	0.30 ↓	10½lb
Ray Robinson	12 th June	7	Fly	0.30 ↓	10½lb
James McCormac	13 th May	?	Spinner	0.30 ↓	10lb
Liam Ward	19 th May	3	Fly	0.35 ↓	10lb
Richard Morrison	25 th June	8	Fly	0.18 ↓	10lb
Jim McLean	28 th June	8	Spinner	0.36 ↑	10lb
John Breslin	19 th September	6	Spinner	0.33 ↓	10lb



Richard Morrison with his fine looking 15lb salmon caught on a fly from beat 8 on the 24th June.

MOST POPULAR SALMON FISHING METHOD 2013



As usual, fly fishing  was the most popular and successful method last season but only beat spinning marginally with 46.3% of salmon caught by this method (last season was 64.8%)! 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 42.7% 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, 11%, were all caught on the worm. 

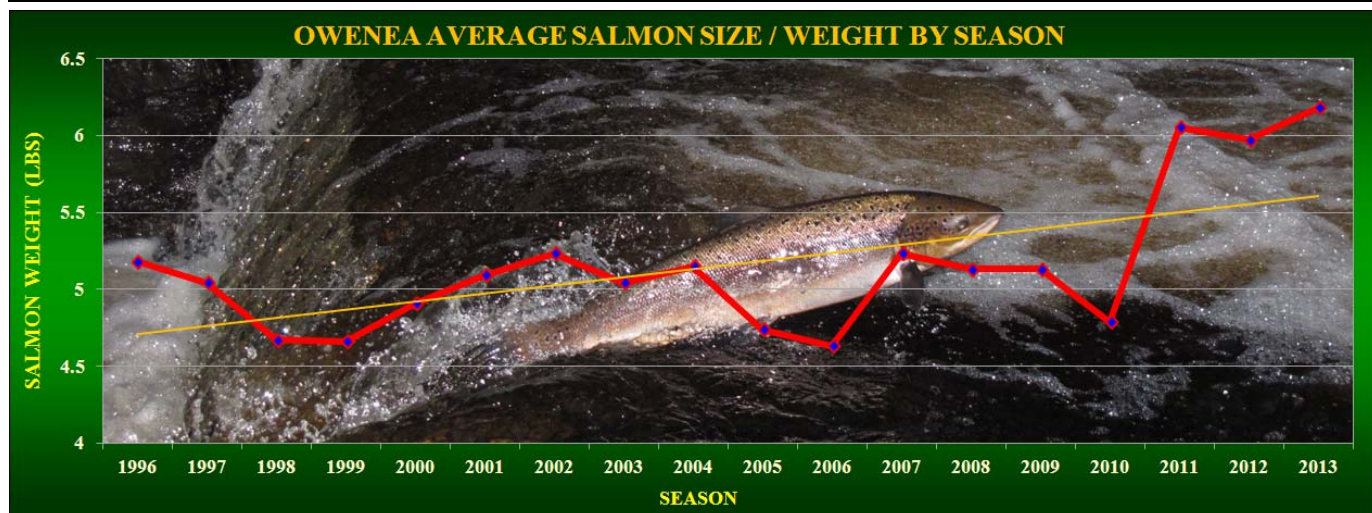
ILLEGAL METHODS

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	5.18lb
1997	-	7.00lb	4.72lb	4.19lb	6.72lb	5.57lb	5.04lb
1998	8.62lb	-	4.69lb	4.37lb	5.52lb	6.10lb	4.67lb
1999	8.50lb	8.62lb	5.22lb	4.29lb	4.35lb	5.05lb	4.66lb
2000	-	10.00lb	5.67lb	3.99lb	4.84lb	5.48lb	4.91lb
2001	Closed	-	5.43lb	4.68lb	5.40lb	4.33lb	5.09lb
2002	-	8.44lb	4.77lb	4.75lb	5.42lb	6.52lb	5.23lb
2003	-	9.33lb	7.5lb	4.25lb	4.16lb	5.10lb	5.04lb
2004	-	9.75lb	7.40lb	4.48lb	4.93lb	5.83lb	5.15lb
2005	-	10.00lb	3.50lb	4.38lb	4.62lb	4.85lb	4.74lb
2006	9.75lb	6.67lb	11lb	4.65lb	4.33lb	4.30lb	4.63lb
2007	-	8.37lb	5.75lb	5.66lb	4.87lb	5.44lb	5.23lb
2008	-	7.37lb	6.36lb	5.77lb	4.93lb	5.08lb	5.13lb
2009	-	10.75lb	7.86lb	5.65lb	4.95lb	4.33lb	5.13lb
2010	6.50lb	-	4.75lb	5.25lb	4.52lb	4.90lb	4.79lb
2011	-	9.01lb	9.04lb	7.66lb	4.71lb	5.71lb	6.05lb
2012	-	7.50lb	6.90lb	6.52lb	4.77lb	6.00lb	5.97lb
2013	-	8.77lb	9.10lb	8.77lb	4.82lb	5.46lb	6.18lb



Regular readers may notice that the average seasonal weights have changed slightly for previous seasons. This is because these have now been calculated based on all fish caught throughout the season rather than taking the mean of the month averages. This gives a more accurate figure of the average size of salmon per season and negates not including months when the statistical sample is small so that all salmon caught are included in the sample. It was pleasing to see the upward trend in average salmon size continue in 2013. This may well be due to the better runs of spring fish (seen since the cessation of drift netting) and also the poorer grilse runs of the past couple of seasons.

CATCH & RELEASE & CATCH RETURNS



Catch returns are central to the successful operation and long-term stock assessment 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, 18% of the rod catch was released. This was up on last season's figure of 15.3% but down slightly on 2011's figure of 19.15%.



BEATS THAT FISHED BEST IN 2013

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 2013	% Of Total Catch	No. Visiting Anglers	% Visiting Anglers	C.P.U.E.	C.P.U.E. rating (productivity)
1	----	----	0	----	----	----
2	----	----	0	----	----	----
3	0	----	3	0.77%	0.000	7 th
4	2	4.25%	10	2.58%	0.200	1 st
5	2	4.25%	46	11.86%	0.043	5 th
6	1	2.13%	26	6.7%	0.038	6 th
7	5	10.64%	30.5	7.86%	0.164	2 nd
8	26	55.32%	194.5	50.13%	0.134	4 th
9	11	23.41%	78	20.10%	0.141	3 rd
Totals	47	100%	388	100%		

Beat 4 came out as the most productive but this is only based on a small statistical sample of rods & salmon. Next most productive was beat 7 followed by beats 9, 8 & 5. It is unusual to see beat 5 so low on the list since it normally comes out as the most or second most productive beat.

TOP CATCH REGISTER RODS FOR THE 2013 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>Jim McLean</i>	13	5.80lb	10lb
<i>Sean Campbell</i>	7	4.93lb	9lb
<i>John Breslin</i>	6	6.58lb	11½lb
<i>Davy Sullivan</i>	6	5.92lb	15½lb
<i>John Northridge</i>	6	5.50lb	8¾lb
<i>Shane McCole</i>	6	5.33lb	8lb
<i>Columba Campbell</i>	5	8.20lb	12lb
<i>Liam Ward</i>	5	6.60lb	10lb
<i>Michael McCrory</i>	5	6.50lb	12lb
<i>Billy Blair</i>	5	5.50lb	11½lb

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 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.**

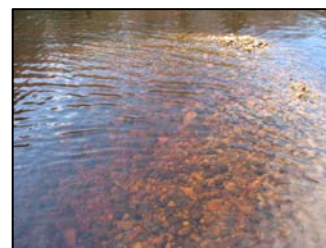
This basically means that anglers are limited to killing 10 salmon per year or less if sea trout of more than 40cm are killed since these are included in the 10 fish allowed per year.

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. This year's redd counts were low but this is due in great part to the river being too high during the counting period. The redds cannot be seen or are flattened by the time the river drops again.



The last 20 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
REDD COUNT	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	2013/14
REDD COUNT	328	282	184	338	622	446	144	N/A	260	124
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4a460; border: 1px solid black; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Years when counts were low due to prevalent conditions </div>										

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

This year we had 2 Donegal Development Association TÚS schemes on the river that were managed jointly by IFI, Glenties & Ardara angling clubs. This gave us a far higher Development staffing level and great work was carried out improving access along the river. Many walkways, walkovers, stiles etc were constructed with large sections of banks selectively cleared. This is of great benefit to anglers and walkers alike. The TÚS lads deserve a big 'Pat on the Back' and we are all grateful for the great work they achieved on the river this year. Well done!



BOOKINGS / FURTHER INFORMATION

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

Off season Information & Bookings (1st October – 30th April) contact:

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

Email: ballyshannon@fisheriesireland.ie Website: www.fishinginireland.info



In Season Information & Bookings (1st April – 30th 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 1st April – 31st May
7.00am to 1.00pm every day from 1st June – 30th 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 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

-  Brennan's B&B, Main Street, Glenties, Co. Donegal Tel: 074 9551235.
-  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. 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. Marian 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, Kilcashel, 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

-  Brennan's B&B, Main Street, Glenties, Co. Donegal Tel: 074 9551235.
-  Owenea Lodge, Kieran & Noreen Kelly, Mill Road, Glenties, Co. Donegal. Tel: 074 9551900 Mob: 087 9879546
-  Granny Kate's Cottage, Stephen McCahill, Ardara, Co. Donegal Tel: 074 9537060, Mob: 087 2424590.
-  Moagh Cottage, Ardara, Co. Donegal. Elizabeth Tel: 087 7734267.
-  Mountain View House, Portnoo Rd. Ardara, Co. Donegal. Ms. Dina Gallagher, Tel 074 9541239.
-  Joseph & Méabh Gallagher, Portnoo Road Ardara, Co. Donegal. Tel 074 9541472.
-  Mrs. Mavis Goodall, Crannog 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.
-  Rose Cottage, Mill Road, Glenties, Co. Donegal. Mary Nichols. Tel: 074 9551970.

HOTELS

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



OWENEA ANGLING CENTRE

