



Getting To The Upper Suck

Roads: The Upper Suck can be accessed by way of the M6 motorway from Dublin or Galway to Athlone and then taking the N61 to Roscommon.

Airports: The airports in closest proximity to the Upper Suck are Galway and Knock.

Ferry Ports: The Upper Suck can be easily accessed from Dublin and Dun Laoghaire from the South and Belfast and Larne from the North.

O/S Maps: Anglers will find the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series Maps No's 39 & 40 very beneficial when visiting the Upper Suck. These are available from most newsagents and bookstores.

Travel Times

Airports		Ports	
Galway	1 hour	Belfast/ Larne	4 hours
Knock	1 ½ hours	Dublin/Dun Laoghaire	2 hours
Dublin	2 hours	Rosslare	3 ½ hours
Shannon	2 hours	Cork	3 ½ hours



Pike and Coarse fish regulations

Pike bye law no. 809 (2006) provides for the following conservation measures:

- a bag limit of 1 pike in any one day
- prohibits the killing of any pike greater than 50 cm in length
- Prohibits the possession by any person of more than 1 whole pike less than 50 cm or more than 0.75 kg of pike flesh, this provision does not apply to a person storing pike or pike parts subject to conditions
- Prohibits the possession by any person of more than 12 coarse fish for use as bait subject to conditions

CONSERVATION OF AND PROHIBITION ON SALE OF COARSE FISH BYE-LAW NO. 806, 2006

provides for the following conservation measures:

- A person shall not take and kill by any means more than 4 coarse fish on any one day.
- A person shall not take and kill by any means any coarse fish greater than 25 cm in length measured in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.
- Any coarse fish taken inadvertently in contravention of this Bye-law must be handled carefully and returned without avoidable injury to the waters from which they have been taken
- It is prohibited for any person to sell or offer for sale any coarse fish caught by any means.
- It is prohibited to use or attempt to use live fish as bait in fishing in fresh water.
- It is prohibited to transfer for any purpose live roach (*Rutilus rutilus*) from any waters to any other waters.
- It is prohibited to fish for pike or coarse fish by any means whatsoever other than by rod and line.
- A person may not attempt to fish for pike or coarse fish in freshwater with more than two (2) rods at any one time.
- Bye-law No C.S. 303, 2009 prohibits fishing for eel, or possessing or selling eel caught in a Fishery District

(Further information on angling regulations can be found at www.fishinginireland.info/regulations)

Control of Invasive Species & Biosecurity

The integrity of our native aquatic biodiversity can be undermined by the spread of invasive (alien) species and diseases between catchments. Every effort should be made to conserve native habitats and to limit the effects from human activities. Some useful practices that could be adopted include:

- Ensure all fishing gear (hand-nets and clothing) is cleaned and/or disinfected, particularly if moving frequently between catchments.
- Power wash boats and vehicles and where possible leave boats out of water for a period of a few days, if moving between catchments.
- Empty all bilge water from boats and engines before leaving a site.
- Do not transfer water or fish between catchments (check bye-laws regarding transfer of live fish).
- If using bait source it from local angling shops.
- Do not transfer any water in trailers or containers between catchments.
- Do not release any aquatic plants or plant material from a remote source into a water course.
- Limit the use of keep nets and prevent injury to fish and aquatic animals.
- Keep an eye out for IFI disinfection stations.

(Further information on biosecurity can be found at <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Biosecurity/biosecurity-for-boaters-and-anglers.html>)

Please observe our Country Code

- Seek permission from private landowners before crossing private lands or property. Normal access is over footbridges and stiles or where public access is provided.
- Do not park cars in fields, except where permission is granted and it is safe to do so.
- Anglers and other visitors are requested not to discard litter and to treat the area with respect.

Errors and Inaccuracies

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate, no responsibility will be accepted by Inland Fisheries Ireland for any errors or inaccuracies contained herein.

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Lough O'Flynn & Upper Suck Valley Angling Guide



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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

Lough O’Flynn

Lough O’Flynn is a three hundred acre limestone lake which is situated 2km’s (1.5 miles) north of Ballinlough village in West Roscommon. The village of Ballinlough is located on the N60 Castlerea to Ballyhaunis Road. There is good access to the lake at two locations both on the south/east shore – both locations are close to the old railway station at Willsborough.

The first access point is at the IFI offices, signposted in Ballinlough village. Take the first left after the railway bridge where there is a small boat harbour and boats for hire. Continue past the IFI offices to another access point at “The Pumphouse”.

Angling is permissible by fly fishing, dapping, spinning and trolling under oars. The lake is one of IFI’s managed trout lakes and an Inland Fisheries Ireland angling permit is required. Lough O’Flynn is for the most part a ‘Put and Take’ Brown Trout fishery with a number of wild trout landed each season. On average the trout are 1.25 lbs but some trout of up to 3 lbs have been recorded.

The lake has prolific hatches of duckfly, chironomids and lake olives. The mayfly and spent gnat fishing is as good as anywhere in Ireland with good fly activity on the lake annually. There is an enormous fall of daddies in August and dapping the daddy or grasshopper, which can be collected in the rushes around the lake shore, is almost guaranteed to produce a few trout at Lough O’Flynn. With the exception of the shallow northern end, the lake is fishable all over.

The best flies include, the sooty olive, March brown, Connemara black, mayfly patterns including spent gnat imitations, murrough, green peter and daddy.

The lake has a stock of pike and pike anglers are welcome to fish the lake through the year provided they adhere to the pike bye laws and undertake trolling baits under oars only.

Fishing Permits available online at www.fishingireland.info

Permit Agents:

Breege Comer, Main Street, Ballinlough.
Tel: 086 0851371

Robert Flynn, Main Street, Castlerea.
Tel: 094 9620028

Boat Hire:

Boats are available for hire on Lough O’Flynn from Inland Fisheries Ireland.
Contact Breege Comer, Main Street, Ballinlough
Tel: 086 0851371.

Private Boat Hire:

Pat O’Gara, Carrick, Ballinlough Tel: 094 9640111



Rules & Regulations

Open Season:	March 1st to October 12th
Species:	Brown Trout averaging 1.25 lbs
Size Limit:	10 inches
Daily Bag Limit:	3 Trout
Angling Methods:	Fly fishing, dapping, spinning and trolling under oars
Pike Fishing:	Permitted all year round subject to National Bye-Law Regulations (see overleaf).

Rates for 2012 are:

Adult Annual	€40
Pensioner Annual	€20
Juvenile Annual	€15
Adult One Day	€12
Juvenile One Day	€2
Visitors 21 Day	€20

Anglers can only fish one rod per angler

Rods must not be left unattended.

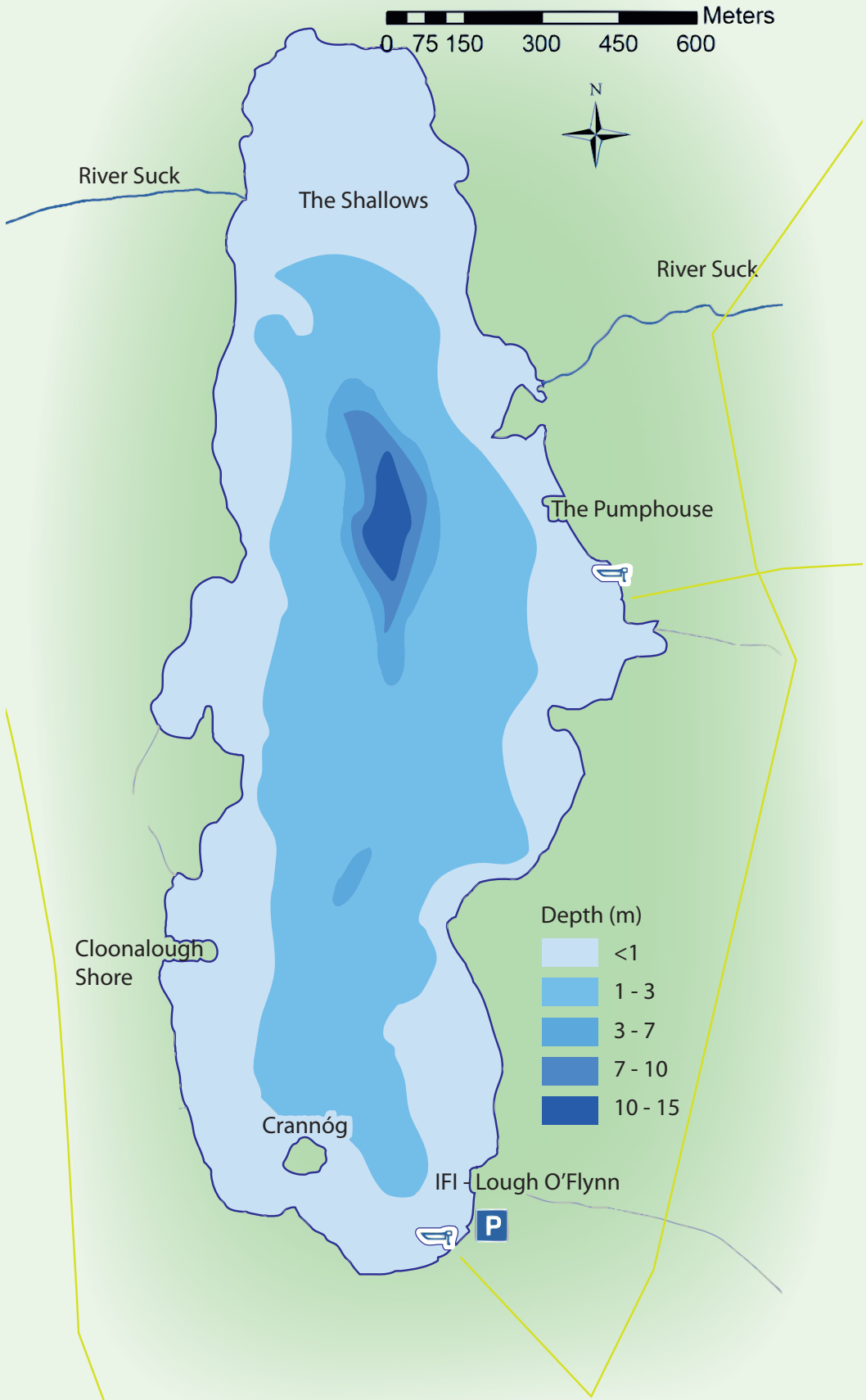
All under sized fish must be returned to the water with as little injury as possible

The Management reserve the right to refuse and revoke a permit to anyone violating, these regulations or acting in a manner detrimental to the fishery, fishing or the surrounding countryside.

Anglers who are found to have acted in an ‘unsporting manner’ may have their permit revoked

Permission to Fish:

This fishery is part of Inland Fisheries Ireland’s managed waters and anglers require a fishing permit to fish here. Lough O’Flynn and the River Suck Catchment System of lakes and rivers are covered by this fishing permit. You can purchase a fishing permit online using your credit card or laser card or at any local permit agents.



This map is not a navigation chart and should not be used as such.

Please use caution when boating on the lake.

Please show other anglers respect while fishing.

Always carry a mobile phone in case of emergency. If an emergency occurs, dial 112 or 999.

Make sure someone knows where you have gone and what time of your expected return.

Lifejackets are required to be worn by law.

The Upper Suck Catchment

The Upper River Suck Catchment drains a large part of West Roscommon, East Galway and a small part of East Mayo. It is a catchment that has the best of both coarse and game angling.

It comprises the main River Suck and even downstream of Lough O'Flynn, it is a respectable size of a main channel of between 20 metres and 40 metres in width. In some sections such as between Athleague and Castlecoote the river is as wide as fifty metres as it meanders its way through flat farmland. It has probably the best pike angling anywhere in Ireland and has great stocks of coarse fish too.



There is a network of small streams and rivers which offer great trout fishing especially from March to June when big numbers of small trout up to 10" can provide exciting trout angling.

There is also a variety of small coarse angling lakes dotted throughout the area all of which offer good coarse and pike angling. The biggest lake in the region is Lough O'Flynn where trout of 1.5 lbs are common and fish of up to 3 lbs have been recorded every year at the lake.

Pike Angling

Pike fishing on the River Suck is famous and there are fewer better pike locations in Ireland than at the back of "The Factory" in **Athleague (8)** in February or March where pike of 20 lbs are very common. Fishing is at its optimum in low water levels.



There is also great pike angling available at the **Donamon (6)** section and pike of 20 lbs can be caught here between October and April. The deep water above **Castlecoote (7)**, at 'The Meetings' provides good pike fishing as do the deeper stretches at **Castlestrange**. The Suck here is liable to flooding as it is in Athleague. Anglers should check water levels with I.F.I. or local tackle shops before making travel arrangements, especially during winter months.

Holygrove Lake (13)

Holygrove lake is a 50 acre lake located between Ballygar and Athleague, upstream from Rookwood Bridge on the Suck. The lake is fairly shallow, typically five feet with two deep veins where bank fishing is best. This fishery primarily holds Pike and Tench with weights reaching 37lbs and 7lbs respectively. Angling for Tench is best during the evening hours. There are good stocks of Hybrids, Roach and Rudd also. Facilities include 8 angling spaces, a 4 space angling stand and ample parking.

Ghillies

Given the extent of angling areas in the upper River Suck catchment, you may want to acquire some expert local knowledge of the best fishing haunts, whether coarse or game fishing. The following ghillies can assist you on your day's outing:

Bernard Mannion, c/o Doyle's Shop, Main St, Castlereia. Tel: 086 3175433

Robert Flynn Hardware, Main Street, Castlereia. Tel: 094 9620028

Bill Cassidy, Kiltullagh, Glennamaddy, Co Galway. Tel: 086 3356759

Bait Stockist

Oscar Neilan, Castlecoote Stores, Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon. Tel: 090 6663394; Mob: 087 2236533

Trout Angling

There is some trout angling available on the main River Suck especially during the early season – mainly in the vicinity of the bridges such as Clonalis (in Castlereia town), Clooncarra Bridge, Willsbrook Bridge and Frenchpark Bridge. The river is between 7-8 metres in in these upper reaches. There is a small stock of nice trout in these streamy sections.

Smaghraan River rises six miles west of Roscommon Town and joins the River Suck from the north a mile downstream from Donamon. The river holds a large stock of small trout which seem to be confined to specific areas or hot spots – one such 'spot' is the area above and below the bridge at Oran on the N60. Another is the section between the railway bridge and the Suck confluence. Access to this area is further up the small road which leads to the section at Donamon.

Cloonard River (1)

This river is formed by the confluence of the Lough Glinn stream and the Frances River and offers about eight miles of trout fishing before joining the River Suck at Castlereia. It is crossed by six bridges, hence access is reasonably good. This is a good trout river, especially from Ballindrimley Bridge downstream to Castlereia. It holds a lot of trout to 1.5 lbs. The stretch upstream of Castlereia swimming pool is especially good.

Island River (2)

The Island River rises south of Ballinlough in Co. Roscommon and flows east to the River Suck at Ballymoe. It is primarily a spring fed river, running over limestone and the water is crystal clear. It is slow flowing in many parts, but with a few livelier sections.

The peak season is March to May before weed builds up in summer. It holds a huge stock of trout to half a pound, a fair number to 1.5 lbs and the deep pools hold trout to 3 lbs. These are beautifully marked and deep trout. The river can be fished all the way from Island Bridge, past the Mill of Clough and on to Buchalla. Try a wet fly in Spring, down to the Mill of Clough. There are some nice pools for dry fly from the Mill of Clough to Buchalla Bridge. Another good stretch is at Ballymoe from a point one mile upstream of Castlereagh Bridge down to the confluence. The channel varies in width from 4 to 40 metres. For the greater part of its journey, this river flows through rough pasture, marshy areas and cut away bog and access along the banks can be difficult.



Springfield River (3)

This is a great little stream with lots of trout averaging 10 inches and better ones too, up to 16 inches. It is spring fed – hence the name. It is a tributary of the Island River which it joins about three miles west of the village of Ballymoe. The two mile stretch downstream from Ballaghaueag Bridge on the Ballymoe to Dunmore road is a real gem and a delightful place to fish a dry fly. It has good hatches of olives, sedges and black gnats. Despite the fact that it has a good gradient, it has a tendency to weed up in summer.

Smaghraan River (4)

This is a spring fed river with its source a few miles to the west of Roscommon Town and enters the Suck near Donamon Castle. The river is fast flowing with a good stock of small wild brown trout, with some trout up to 3lbs. Fishing is at its best earlier in the season with dryfly and nymph providing the best results.

Shiven River (5)

The river enters the Suck just south-east of Ballygar. Upper stretches hold good stocks of wild brown trout early in the season, with an average weight of 12ozs. Good coarse fishing in Mucknagh area. Fishing is best early in the season before reeding up. Good hatches of mayfly and olives.

Coarse Angling

The Suck between Athleague and Lough O'Flynn has several good sections of coarse fishing waters. The stretch 1km downstream from **Donamon Bridge (6)**, has been developed by IFI, as an International Universal Access Angling Section, to accommodate thirty anglers. Road access is via a narrow road 200 metres along the Oran Road from the Bridge at Donamon. There is excellent parking and fishing facilities, all along the 600 metre section. The section is signposted - "River Suck Donamon".

The river is deep along this section and has a great stock of hybrids, bream to four pounds and lots of roach with some big tench to five pounds. There are great pike in this section too, especially in October/November and again in February/March - and pike to 20 lb are not uncommon here. Deadbaiting roach produces the best results.

At **Castlecoote Bridge (7)** the river is shallow but the bream shoals appear in the deeper water two miles downstream and above 'The Meetings' (upstream). This is always worth trying and the local shop will give precise advice on how the section is fishing.

Just above the bridge in **Athleague (8)** there are some good swims along the right bank which can be approached from the Glennamaddy Road. Here there are fine stocks of bream and roach available, especially at evening time.

Lough Loung (9) is a deep coarse angling lake that has good access and is well signposted from Glinsk Village between Creggs and Ballymoe. Fishing is from wooden fishing platforms which have been provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland. It has a good stock of bream to 5 lbs and roach to 2 lbs. This remote lake is always worth a visit and produces excellent results to anyone who makes the effort. Pre-baiting is advisable and will generally lead to better catches.

Stoneham's Lough (10)

The lake is adjacent to the picturesque village of Castlecoote and covers an area of 20 acres. It is on the Derryhippo River, a small tributary of the Suck flowing from Creggs. The lake is a renowned coarse fishery but also has Pike up to 33lbs. Predominant species are Roach, Hybrids, Rudd and Bream. Facilities include a public access, car parking and 12 angling stands.

Blacks Lake (11)

Blacks Lake is on the Derryhippo River which flows south from Creggs village. This is a small lake of 15 acres within 2kms of the main River Suck, adjacent to Castlecoote and Donamon. Predominant species are Hybrids, Roach, Bream, Perch and Rudd but also has recorded Pike up to 33lbs. Facilities include 9 fishing stands and ample parking.

Mount Talbot (12)

The river here is fast and shallow. Park at the bridge and fish up-stream. Trotting in 2-3 feet of water will bring a good bag of Rudd, Perch and Hybrids. There are also wild brown trout present.

