



**Central & Regional Fisheries Boards**  
**Final Annual Report**  
**18 Months Ended June 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2010.**



The Central and Regional  
Fisheries Boards

PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND

## **Mission Statement**

To ensure that the valuable natural resources of inland fisheries and sea angling are conserved, managed, developed and promoted in their own right and to support sustainable economic activity, recreational amenity and job creation.

## **The Fisheries Boards**

The Fisheries Boards are the statutory agencies responsible for inland fisheries in Ireland and operate under the aegis of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

The principal functions of the Central Fisheries Board are to:

- Advise the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources on policy relating to the conservation, protection, management, development and improvement of inland fisheries;
- Support, co-ordinate and provide specialist support services to the seven Regional Fisheries Boards; and,
- Advise the Minister on the performance by Regional Fisheries Boards of their functions.

The seven Regional Fisheries Boards have responsibility for conservation, protection, development, management and promotion of inland fisheries in their regions. They have a duty to co-ordinate and co-operate in the delivery of a national fisheries service, observing principles of sustainability, biodiversity and the conservation of all species in inland water ecosystems.

### **Central Fisheries Board Members**

Mr. David Mackey (Chairperson)

Ms. Mary Bohan

Mr. Éamon de Buítléar

Mr. Paddy Byrne

Mr. Eamon Cusack

Ms. Paula Carroll

Mr. John Henry McLaughlin

Mr. Myles Kelly

Mr. Naul McCole

### **Senior Management Team**

Dr. Ciaran Byrne

Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Cathal Gallagher

Director of Field Services

Mr. David Byrne

Director of Promotion and Marketing

Mr. Kieran Murphy

Director of Human Resources

Ms. Nuala O'Byrne

Director of Finance and ICT

Dr. Cathal Gallagher

Director of Research and Development

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Co-operative Society

Southern Regional Fisheries Board / Southern Fisheries

Co-operative Society

South Western Regional Fisheries Board / South Western Fisheries

Co- Operative Society

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Co-operative Societies

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## **Chairman's Statement**

I am pleased to present the Final Annual Report for the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards for the eighteen month period from January 2009 to June 2010. This report details the work undertaken and services provided by the Boards during this period.

Following the Government announcement in October 2008 that the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards were to be subsumed into a new national fisheries agency, a Restructuring Implementation Group (RIG) was established to develop a draft Heads of Bill document, which would form the basis of the legislation required to establish the new agency. The Government formally approved the proposals for the rationalisation of the fisheries service in mid 2009 and Dr Ciaran Byrne was appointed CEO Designate of the new agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland in August 2009.

Following discussions with the Comptroller & Auditor General in relation to the transition from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards to Inland Fisheries Ireland on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, it was agreed that the most prudent approach was to prepare a single eighteen month set of accounts for the period between January 2009 and June 2010. This then tied in with the dissolution of the Boards and the establishment of Inland Fisheries Ireland. These accounts are currently being audited and so are presented at the end of each Regional Fisheries Board section in draft un-audited format.

The eighteen months from January 2009 to June 2010 was a challenging period for the Central & Regional Fisheries Boards, as it was for the public sector generally, and most sectors of the wider economy. Notwithstanding this, all of the staff of the Boards succeeded in delivering a comprehensive, business focused programme of operations in the core areas of conservation, development, protection and promotion.

The Central Fisheries Board conformed to the corporate governance requirements as set out in the Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies



published in June 2009. All of the services delivered during the period of this report recognised the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards' "value for money" ethos, an example of which was the use of the Government Supply Agency (GSA) centralised procurement facilities for purchasing a wide range of operational equipment which enabled significant savings to be achieved. The Board complied with all Travel policy requirements.

The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards also recognised the significant contribution made by tourism and recreational angling to the Irish economy and to improving the quality of people's lives. Throughout the period the Boards continued to work with their tourism partners and the industry in delivering the Angling Tourism Marketing Strategy and the development of recreational angling for all.

Monitoring work on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) programme increased significantly in 2009 and monitoring programmes to satisfy Ireland's obligations under Annex II of the Habitats Directive and Eel Regulations, also commenced during 2009. Work on both programmes continued throughout the first half of 2010. The successful delivery of these programmes was due to the commitment and hard work of the staff of all of the Boards.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their dedication and support during this period. This being the last year of their existence, I would also like to thank and pay a very sincere and deserved tribute to the members, management and staff of the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards down through the years. Through their energy, hard work and total commitment, they have left an indelible mark for the better on Ireland's inland fisheries sector. While the last eighteen months have been difficult for all, I would in particular like to commend the staff and management of the Boards for the manner of their responses to the multitude of challenges faced.

The second half of 2010 will be another great challenge for the inland fisheries sector, however for the first time since the establishment of the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards in 1980 the challenges will be faced by a new single inland fisheries agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland. I would like to take this opportunity to

wish the new Agency every success and I have no doubt it will receive the full support of all of the stakeholders involved in the inland fisheries sector in its work and endeavours in the years ahead.

Finally I would I would also like to thank the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Eamon Ryan TD, and the officials from his Department for their continued strong support.



David Mackey  
Chairman  
December 2010



## **Comment of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ciaran Byrne**

This report sets out what the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards and the Fisheries Cooperative Societies have been engaged in during the eighteen months from January 2009 to June 2010 to advance the management of the inland fisheries and sea angling sectors in Ireland. It was a very challenging, but successful period for the Boards with a number of major new initiatives initiated and delivered.

All of the Boards adopted the Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies published in June 2009. In 2009 / 2010, the Fisheries Boards received an exchequer grant of €42 million when 18 months of funding are taken into account, of which €28.3 million or 67.5% of the total grant received was allocated towards pay costs.

## **Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Following the announcement that the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards were to be subsumed into a new inland fisheries agency in October 2008, a Restructuring Implementation Group (RIG) was established to progress this transition. This group met on a regular basis during the first half of 2009 developed the heads of bill for the new inland fisheries legislation and mapped out the transition to the new agency. In mid 2009 the Government approved the proposal for the rationalisation of the Fisheries Service and in August 2009 the CEO of the Central Fisheries Board was appointed the CEO Designate of the new agency with the job of working with the Minister, the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources and the Senior management of the Boards to establish Inland Fisheries Ireland.

## **Human Resources**

The Board maintained stable industrial relations, delivered the National Training Programme and also provided health & safety support to the Regional Fisheries Boards. One of the main challenges faced over the period was maintaining the same level of service delivery and provision of supports and services to the public and to all Regional Fisheries Boards in the face of a serious reduction in funding and also a public sector recruitment embargo.

## **Research & Development**

Scientists in the Research and Development Division delivered a focused research and development programme, as set out in the Boards business plans in 2009 and 2010, which significantly enhanced our understanding of our freshwater and recreational sea fish species. It was also a very successful period for scientific collaborations with sister agencies, including the Office of Public Works, Waterways Ireland, The Environmental Protection Agency and the Marine Institute. Many of the key research and development deliverables over this period were only possible as a result of these successful collaborations. In addition, scientists in the Division provided a comprehensive advisory and support service to the Regional Fisheries Boards.

As a result of the funding provided by our parent Department, Central and Regional Fisheries Board staff were in a position to undertake a full schedule of Water Framework Directive survey work during in 2009 and 2010. The surveillance monitoring programme included sampling 23 lakes, 54 river sites and 23 transitional sites with up to four Central and Regional Fisheries Board monitoring teams being deployed simultaneously. The Water Framework Directive is one of the most important projects to be undertaken in the inland fisheries sector as it is the first national survey of all fish species. It will provide an invaluable body of data which will not only satisfy Ireland's requirements under the fish element of the Directive, but also provide fisheries managers with a comprehensive understanding of fish populations and their changing dynamics. In addition to the Water Framework Directive, scientists from the Division along with colleagues from other agencies commenced monitoring programmes for the Eels Regulations and the Habitats Directive as Ireland also has statutory reporting obligations under both of these pieces of European legislation.

## **Angling Marketing**

During the period the Angling Marketing Division significantly progressed the Angling Tourism Marketing Strategy in partnership with the key stakeholders including, Regional Fisheries Boards, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland. Staff in the Division also worked closely with other key stakeholders including the Loughs Agency and Waterways Ireland in promoting Ireland as a premier angling destination.

A number of national and international angling shows were attended by angling promotion staff from the Central Fisheries Boards. Promotions attended included the Ireland Angling Show, the Birr Castle Country Fair and the National Ploughing Championships. Attendance at the shows both at home and abroad increases awareness of the angling product and leads to increased visitor numbers through the promotion of Ireland as a premier angling destination.

During 2009 the angling information from the CFB website was migrated to a new national angling website, [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info). This site ensures the quality and diversity of the product is best represented to online tourist anglers and is now the premier website for Irish angling information.

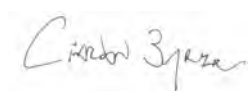
## **Salmon Management**

The strong focus on conservation of the wild Irish Salmon initiated in 2007 on foot of a Government decision to prioritise conservation over catch continued and harvest quotas were set for all designated salmon rivers. The total number of salmon harvested by all methods in 2009 was 24,278, which represents a decrease of 22% on the total harvest recorded in 2008. 18,314 salmon rod licences were sold to anglers from forty six different countries. 2009 was a very difficult year for all sectors of the economy and this was reflected by a decrease of 8.7% in rod licence sales compared with 2008.

The commercial catch for 2009 was 6,757 salmon and 45 sea trout (over 40 cm). The salmon angling harvest was 17,521 in 2009 with an additional 11,422 salmon caught and released. Thus, of the total 28,943 salmon caught by angling, approximately 40% were subsequently released. The first half of 2010 looked like continuing the generally good runs of salmon in a number of rivers, but as this report

only covers the first half of 2010, prior to the establishment of Inland Fisheries Ireland it is not possible to provide detailed comment.

Finally, I would like to thank my chairman David Mackey, my Board members, the management and staff of the Regional Fisheries Boards, without whom much of the work reported on in this document would not have been possible, and the officials from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. All have provided guidance and support to the Central Fisheries Board during the period covered by this report. This is the last time that an annual report will be produced for the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards, as on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 Inland Fisheries Ireland will be officially established and the Boards will be dissolved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards for their hard work and dedication to the inland fisheries sector during their terms of office, it is through their tireless efforts that the service is in such a healthy state on its transition into Inland Fisheries Ireland. I would also like to compliment all of the staff of the Central Fisheries Board who continue to bring excellence and dedication to the work of the Board. Looking forward to the serious challenges that lie ahead, I am confident and optimistic that the drive, commitment and expertise of the staff throughout the fisheries service will help us face and overcome any obstacles in our way.



Dr. Ciaran Byrne

CEO

Central Fisheries Board.

## **Central Fisheries Board**

### **Field Services**

The Field Services Division identified in the CFB's Strategic Plan (2008-2010) its strategic goal is "to deliver a high quality and effective fisheries protection and conservation service and to provide strong strategic business planning and operational leadership to the Fisheries Boards."

The Division strives to achieve this goal through;

- Implementation of policies in relation to inland fish species and ecosystems.
- Provision of technical and management support/advice to the DCENR and relevant agencies regarding fisheries protection and conservation.
- Management of the strategic and business planning process for the CFB and to support the Regional Fisheries Boards in this area.
- Delivery of excellent customer service and value for money.
- Management and delivery of policy relating to the States Fisheries.

Through the CFB's business planning process the Field Services Division defined specific measureable goals for 2009 and 2010 the following sections of this report outline the division's achievements against these goals.

The changed economic climate, public sector recruitment embargo and budget pressure necessitated continued review of our business plan, spend and goals. While operating in a difficult environment the national programmes dealing with fisheries protection and salmon and sea trout tagging, for which the division has operational responsibility, were delivered on time and in line with budgets.

The protection and conservation of all inland species was supported by the continued development of policy based on scientific and management advice and through the enactment of legislation in partnership with the RFBs, DCENR and other interested parties.

Given the economic climate the Field Services Division continued its strong focus on delivering value for money in its procurement of equipment and services. The Division was able to work with suppliers to improve quality and support while achieving significant cost reductions.

The Field Services Division coordinated the 2009/2010 business planning process within the CFB and also the delivery of quarterly performance metrics, as defined in the Service Level Agreement between the Central and Regional Boards and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

### **National Fisheries Protection Service**

The Field Services Division coordinates the development and operation of the national fisheries protection plan which incorporates the inshore fisheries protection function of the Regional Fisheries Boards, Naval Service, Air Corps and An Garda Síochána. The national protection plans' operations and strategies are both preventive and reactive and include the following:

- Intelligence driven deterrent ensuring the maximum visible presence in waters where the threat of illegal activity is greatest.
- Enforcement of legislation through prosecution of offenders and confiscation of illegal nets, equipment, tackle and catch.
- Effective coordination of all sea going protection capabilities (Large Patrol Vessels (LPV), Naval Service, Regional RIB patrols) and maritime protection flights.
- Agreed time schedules for Regional Boards patrol plans for LPV, Naval and Air Corp patrols.

Driven by budget constraints the Fishery Boards decided not to operate the Large Patrol Vessels (LPVs) for the 2009 season, to compensate for this loss of protection capacity the Boards increased efforts in relation to intelligence gathering, increased the number of sea patrols undertaken with the Rigid Patrol Boats (RIBs) and increased the number of air patrols supported by the Air Corp.

Inland Fisheries Ireland decided to have an LPV programme in the latter half of 2010.



**RIB sea patrol**

### **Procurement Services**

The Field Services Division facilitates the procurement of all vehicles for the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards. In 2009, tendering and purchasing was completed for 13 vehicles, this resulted in an estimated saving of 19% on recommended retail price thus delivering value for money, compliance with corporate governance and non duplication of the tender process. In 2010 tenders was issued for complete survey of the Boards' 42 Ribs and for fuel cards.

The Field Services Division also coordinates the purchase and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), safety equipment and general field equipment for the Central Fisheries Board. All this equipment is under management at the Boards warehouse facility in Swords. This ensures the availability of functional serviced equipment for the field operational staff. In 2009 process and facilities were made available for maintenance, servicing, cleaning and storage of the PPE. The Field Services Division now purchased through the Government Supply Agency (GSA) preferred suppliers including wet weather equipment, dry suits and diving equipment.



On behalf of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Project, the Field Services Division completed the contract for delivery of five 16Ft Stunner boats and trailers, for use in surveys of large lakes. In support of the same project, specification and tendering for a specialised small sea going research vessel required for their estuarine monitoring programme was completed.

In 2009 the CFB completed a review of all Boards' electro fishing strategies and equipment purchases; this resulted in a contract being awarded to advise on the technical requirement of equipment, development of Standard Operating Procedures(SOPs), development of standard training programmes and a review of equipment suppliers. In parallel the annual safety review and servicing of the board's electro fishing equipment was completed. The process in relation to the management of electro fishing equipment is being shared and implemented in the RFBs.

The Central Fisheries Board also provided the following support services to the Regional Boards:

- Provision of marine safety notices and marine advisory service.
- Technical certification and safety of all sea going Rigid Inflatable Boats (RIBs).
- Design and build consultancy for all new boats.
- Technical specification of specialist equipment.

### **Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme**

This is the ninth year of the wild salmon and sea trout tagging scheme for which the CFB provides a service in planning, implementation and monitoring. The Board was involved in strategy development, reviewing legislation, and provision of services and advice to enable the roll out of the changes in salmon management.

In 2009, based on scientific advice fishery management recommended the closure for salmon and sea trout fishing on 79 rivers<sup>1</sup> and the opening 72 rivers (including catch and release<sup>2</sup> options). As an additional conservation measure a system of

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<sup>1</sup> Conservation of salmon and sea trout bye-law no. c.s. 301, 2008

<sup>2</sup> Conservation of salmon and sea trout bye-law no. 846, 848, 849, 850, 852 -2008.

brown gill tags<sup>1</sup> was continued where it was considered necessary to protect stock of multi sea winter salmon and to facilitate monitoring of the angling quotas to ensure river based quotas are not exceeded.

The online licensing system is another step in moving towards real-time data management and in automation of management reports. A goal of the CFB is the generation of real-time angling catches to facilitate better and more efficient decision making for all stakeholders involved in salmon management. The Bradán Database is the IT tool used to capture salmon licensing and catch information. This web based tool offers the angler the capability to purchase a salmon licence from the comfort of home at any time of day or night with the licence and tags despatched to the customer, by the chosen Regional Fisheries Board. In 2009 /10, additional online licensing systems were made available to a number of the larger retail outlets. The CFB has a database used to produce commercial and recreational salmon and sea trout catches. For detailed statistics please refer to the Annual Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Statistics reports available via the Inland fisheries Ireland website.

### **Salmon Conservation Stamp Process**

On December 4<sup>th</sup> 2006, the Central Fisheries Board received a Ministerial Direction under section 18A, 19(4) and 20(3) of the Fisheries Act 1980 directing the Board to co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of a programme for rehabilitation of salmon stocks giving priority to rivers below their conservation limits in special areas of conservation which have the greatest prospect of recovery. This programme was to be funded by the proceeds of the salmon conservation stamp component of the salmon licence fees. The Field Services Division is tasked with the management, coordination and reporting on this fund.

In 2009, the salmon conservation stamp component equated to 50% of the licence fees and this continued in 2010. (Approximately €650K was collected in 2009 for allocation to projects which will be carried out in 2010). The Revenue generated from the Salmon Conservation Stamp Fund is reinvested to promote the recovery of our salmon stocks and habitats taking into account project feasibility, funding availability and value for money considerations.

In 2009, many projects throughout the country were undertaken these addressed areas such as protection of river banks, river bank clearance, creation and maintenance of salmon spawning grounds, improvement of in stream structures and pool construction, barrier removal, national smolt abundance surveys and fish counter. The projects carried out under the salmon conservation stamp programme have assisted with in increasing the number of and survival of fry to smolt stage. For a full list of projects carried out under the salmon conservation stamp fund please refer to the brochure on the Inland Fisheries Ireland website.

### **Catch and Release Incentive Scheme**

The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards national incentive scheme continued for the third year to encourage anglers to participate in catch and release when angling for wild Atlantic salmon. The scheme intends to acknowledge anglers who practiced catch and release during the 2009 angling season.

Approximately 10,000 salmon were caught and released during 2009. The winner of the 2009 catch and release scheme released 44 salmon on the Ballysadare River. The awards continue through the 2010 season.

### **State Fisheries**

The CFB has approximately 171 State fisheries under management. A standard and transparent process is in place for the tendering and licensing of State fisheries. CFB has a policy of ensuring making all its State assets openly available to the public. To achieve this we insist that any angling club that manages a fishery makes day/weekly/season tickets easily available to any visiting angler ensuring that all State fisheries can easily be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike. The CFB are not obliged to award a fishery to the highest tender.

The numbers of fisheries under licence and not under licence in the years 2007-2010 is detailed in the table below. In addition, those managed by RFBs have also been included. The drop in on-going licences was due to more annual licences being given in order to bring all clubs back to the same starting point, in anticipation of changes to duration policy from the review process. Quite a number of fisheries are managed either directly or indirectly by the RFB and these are shown below.

Year	Under licence				Not licensed	Total
	RFB management	New licence	On-going licence	Total		
2010	23	60	18	101	5	106
2009	19	52	26	97	3	100
2008	13	43	32	88	5	93
2007	12	43	33	88	3	91

**State Fisheries licences 2007-2010**

The new State fisheries database proved extremely efficient in 2009. Many old and incomplete fishery descriptions were researched using GIS and updated on the database. All fishery rates were reviewed and documented and a current and detailed database now exists. Mapping of all State fisheries also began in 2010 and is on-going.

As part of the Review of the Management of State Fisheries a Current Practice report was compiled and presented to the Board in June of 2009 detailing who the various State Fisheries are owned by and how they are currently managed. In May 2010 an International Best Practice report was compiled and presented to the Board detailing the management practices of fisheries internationally (in particular State owned fisheries). Based on these reports, existing European and Irish legislation and public consultation to take place later in 2010, recommendations will be made for a new policy on State fisheries management. These will be put to the State Fisheries Review team for review and subsequent updating and adoption.

**Customer Service**

At the launch of the Strategic Management Initiative in February 1994, the provision of high quality service to the public was identified as one of its primary objectives. Delivering Better Government, published in May 1996, recommended the introduction of a Quality Service Initiative for the customers and clients of the Civil Service and in 1997 the Quality Customer Service (QCS) Initiative was launched

The Central Fisheries Board continues its contribution to the Modernisation Programme and Quality Customer Service initiative (QCS), by delivering excellence in service to the Irish people. All customer queries in 2009/2010 were responded to in a timely manner to comply with our commitments under the Central Fisheries Board's customer charter, and in line with the Public Service Modernisation Programme and Quality Customer Service initiative (QCS).

Website statistics indicate that over 525,000 visitors, up 18% over last year, accessed 2,333,000 pages - a 17% increase over 2008.

Over 1,085 angling and site content queries were directed to the website during the year an increase of 30% over 2009. These trends are set to continue under the new website [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)

The Board will continue to progress Quality Customer Service for the coming year in line with our Customer Charter, and improve further the delivery of a service reflecting customer satisfaction and value for money.

## **Human Resources**

### **Training and Development**

The Central and Regional Fisheries Boards (C and RFBs) invested €85k in their National Development and Training Programme in the period. The plan, developed annually, with input from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards addressed the key developmental and training needs of the organisation. The key areas of development and training addressed in the national training plan were:

- Health and Safety training
- Child Protection Awareness training
- Third level education support in the Higher National Certificate in Fisheries Management and other programmes;
- Management Development programme for middle managers

The fourth group of RFB staff (7 in all) successfully completed the Higher National Certificate in Fisheries Management course in Sligo I.T. in December 2009. Nine of the students attending the course were selected from the CAO applicants.

The total number of training days for the C&RFB for 2009 was 1,398 which was an average of 3 days per staff member (including days attributed to attendance at Sligo I.T.)

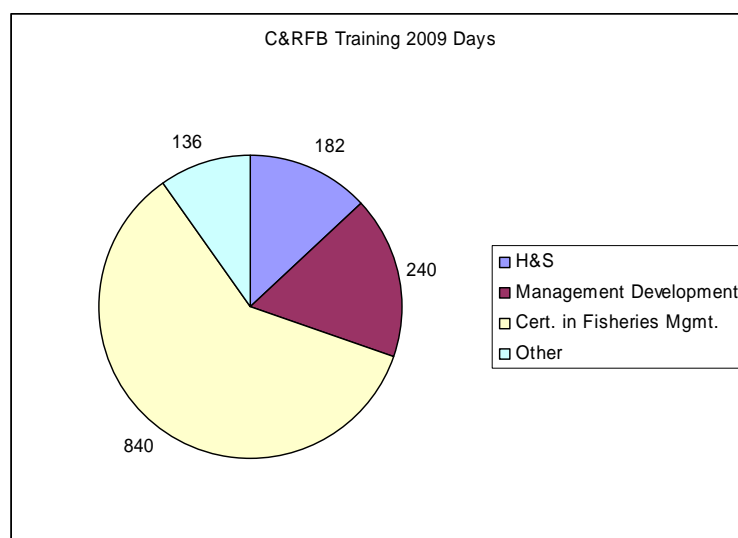


Figure 1: Number of training days for 2009.

### Freedom of Information (FOI) 2009

There were 26 new requests for information made to the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards in 2009, under the *Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003*.

The breakdown of requests was as follows:

- Clients: 3
- Others: 10
- Journalist: 9
- Business/Interest Group: 4

The decisions made by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards on the release of information under the *FOI Acts 1997 and 2003* throughout 2009 were as follows:

- 21 were granted
- 4 were part-granted
- 1 was refused.
- 1 decision was appealed internally.

Freedom of Information data for the period January 2010 to June 2010 will be included in the Inland Fisheries Ireland Annual Report 2010.

### Chief Executive Officer Remuneration

The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Fisheries Board is in accordance with the Principal Officer (higher) scale which ranges from: €90,355 to



€110,844. The remuneration of Chief Executive Officers of the Regional Fisheries Boards is in accordance with the Principal Officer (standard) scale which ranges from: €84,132 to €103,472.

### **Employee Relations**

The main focus during the period was the maintenance of continued positive employee relations in what proved to be a challenging operational environment. This was achieved in a cooperative manner with relevant Trade Unions.

Of particular focus during the period was the consequence of the Governments announcement in the 2008 Budget, to merge the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards into one National Authority Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). In 2009 the Human Resources Division continued to work closely with officials of the Department in the Restructuring Implementation Group (RIG), and contributed to the development of the legislation which resulted in the enactment of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010.

Following on from the development of the legislation a number of functional teams were established to further the establishment of IFI. The Human Resources Division led the team designated to develop a staffing plan for the New Authority. This process commenced in 2009 and was to fruition in 2010.

### **Recruitment**

In the earlier half of 2009 the Boards recruitment programme was affected by the Governments embargo on recruitment and promotion. In an effort to ensure that essential statutory objectives were met, a number of staff was reassigned to alternative scientific projects within the Board. This reassignment was achieved with the full cooperation and involvement of relevant Trade Unions. The Board was successful in receiving sanction to appoint staff to a number of key roles during the latter half of the year. These posts were advertised in line with normal procedure and filled by open competition.

### **Health & Safety**

2009 proved to be another demanding year and has seen further progress in health safety and accessibility management. This year has seen the Board go beyond its

legal requirements with regard to the Disability Act, 2005 with successful application to Kanchi for the O2 Ability awards 2010.

The committal of resources to workplace health and safety management has reaped dividends. The principal achievements in 2009 have included:

- The completion of the Work Positive Programme, a voluntary risk management project coordinated by the Health & Safety Authority.
- The development of site specific safety statements for the Central Fisheries Board Fish Farms.
- The implementation of an occupational health programme.
- The on-going management of the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) nationally with continuous promotion of the service to staff.
- The completion of an occupational hygiene programme including radon detection, light illumination levels and environmental air and noise monitoring.
- The development of local and central health and safety representative committees.
- A review and evaluation of personal protective equipment.
- Health and Safety training and induction was conducted with Central & Regional Fisheries Board staff.
- On-going risk management of the Central Fisheries Board fish farms, offices, laboratories and warehousing.
- The provision of support, advice, investigations, hazard identification, risk assessment and recommendations were made to the Regional Fisheries Boards as requested throughout the year.
- The implementation of the Departmental Sectoral plan has led to the successful development of a technical guide for the construction of angling stands. A personal emergency evacuation plan was also developed to ensure the safety of all users of the Boards head office.

## **Finance & ICT**

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

#### **General Financial Management**

The Boards accounts were prepared and submitted under full compliance with our statutory obligations under paragraph 10.2(iii) of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

#### **Financial Accounts**

There will be two sets of Financial Accounts in 2010 the first being for the 18 month period January 2009 to June 2010 and the second set of Financial Accounts are for a 6 month period July 2010 to December 2010 which relate to Inland Fisheries Ireland. The audit process commenced on the 2009-10 financial accounts in October 2010, and is due to be completed in late 2010. Draft unaudited accounts are included in this report.

#### **Internal Audit**

A full review of the Code of Practice was carried out in 2009 in light of the revised Code being issued. A new policy on Treasury Management, Whistle Blowing and Risk Management were developed in 2009/10 and all other policies were reviewed and updated where necessary.

#### **Funding for 2009 / 2010**

In 2009 / 2010, the Fisheries Boards received an exchequer grant of €42 million when 18 months of funding are taken into account, of which €28.3 million or 67.5% of the total grant received was allocated towards pay costs. €3.8 million was allocated to EU directive and national programmes, which were co-ordinated by the Board. The Boards also generated €8.3 million from other sources during the 18 month period Jan '09 - Jun '10, which was reinvested in the management, conservation and protection of Inland Fisheries.

An additional €0.86 million was generated from the Salmon Conservation Stamp fund in the 18 month period Jan '09 - Jun '10. This fund is due for disbursement in

2010 - 2011 for reinvestment in the management, conservation and protection of Inland Fisheries.

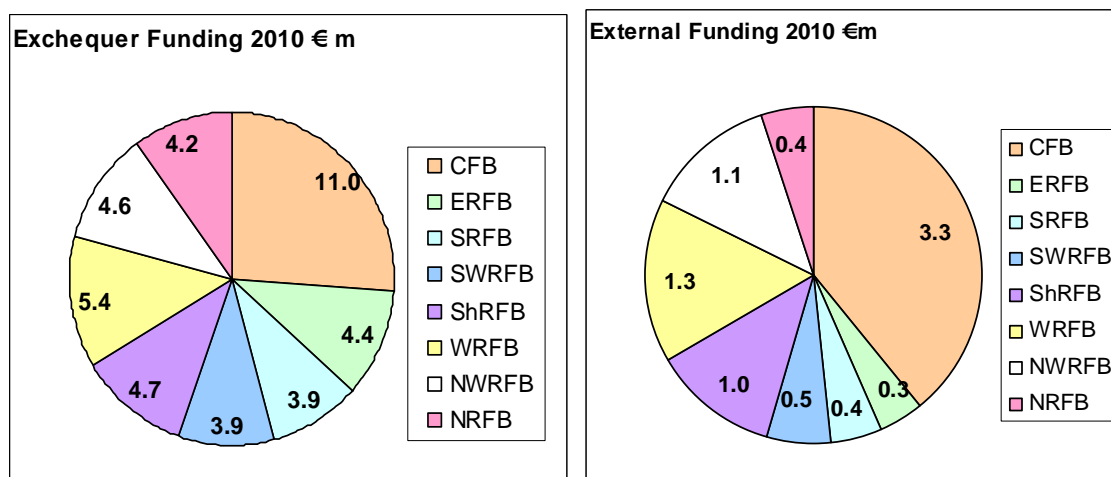


Figure 2: Central and Regional Boards funding for 2009 - 2010

## Property Management

In 2010, the insurance claim for the Laboratory and for the break in at head office were finalised and settled in full with the insurance company.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

### ICT Strategy / Systems

The Board has continued to develop, enhance and invest in its ICT systems as identified in the ICT strategy.

## **Research and Development**

The Research and Development Division identified in the CFB's Strategic Plan (2008-2010) its key strategic goal as "to develop and deliver high quality cost effective applied scientific research and development services to meet the Boards customers needs".

The Division will achieve this strategic goal through;

- Conducting scientific research on fisheries to deliver economic and heritage benefits by ensuring sustainability and conservation of fish in their ecosystems.
- Conducting research with sister agencies to provide advice for the management and understanding of ecosystem function in aquatic fisheries habitats.
- Ensuring adherence to operational procedures which harmonise with our environment and cultural heritage.
- Supporting and preserving the quality and diversity of aquatic ecosystems and ensuring compliance with relevant European Union and national legislation.
- Providing an advisory service to relevant bodies.

Each year our planning cycle culminates in the development of a Business Plan which contains details of the specific measurable goals and expected deliverables for the year ahead. This report summarises some of the work carried out by the Research and Development Division mapped against our key goals and deliverables for the period of January 2009 to June 2010.

During the period covered by this report all projects in the Research and Development division were affected by the deterioration in the economic climate and the resultant budgetary restrictions and recruitment embargo in the public sector. This necessitated a review of our initial business plan and a prioritisation of projects and resources. In consultation with the RFBs and the DCENR (Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources) projects driven by legislative requirements were prioritised and available resources transferred to these projects. These prioritised projects included work on the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, National Eel Management Plan, Salmonids, Invasive Species, Fisheries management studies and habitat restoration. In order to complete our original

research programme work packages from de-prioritised research areas were developed in corporation with University College Dublin, University College Cork and Queens University Belfast. This is in addition to the projects which are already being delivered through strategic partnerships with other national agencies including the Marine Institute (MI), the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Office of Public Works (OPW), and also with some international agencies including the Environment Agency (EA), the European Union (EU), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) and the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Council (EIFAC).

In addition to the Research and Development Division's mandate to conduct applied research we are also tasked with the provision of advice to our parent Department, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. This role increased greatly in the past 18 months with advice offered across most inland fresh water species and in relation to issues concerning the riparian corridor.

It is important that the support and expertise received from our colleagues in the Regional Fisheries Boards (RFB's) is acknowledged and it is in coordination with these colleagues that the successes in the Research and Development Division were delivered. We work hand in hand with the staff of the Regional Fisheries Boards in delivery of national research projects and also in addressing their regional research requirements.

## **NATIONAL FISH STOCK ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME**

### **1) The CAISIE Project**

The 'Control of aquatic invasive species and restoration of natural communities in Ireland' (CAISIE) project started in 2009. The main purpose of the project is to contribute to the halting of biodiversity loss in Ireland by preventing further impacts on native biodiversity from high impact aquatic invasive species through the development and demonstration of effective control methods, a programme of stakeholder engagement and awareness raising, and policy development and dissemination. This is being done through a Life+ Project known as CAISIE, the acronym for '*the control of aquatic invasive species in Ireland*'.

Invasive species in Irish watercourses are a growing threat and need to be addressed urgently. In 2005, an invasive species called *Lagarosiphon Major* established itself in Lough Corrib. This South African plant has managed to aggressively establish itself in an increasing number of locations on the lake is having a severe adverse effect on the existing ecosystem with Lough Corrib. The Life+ project has been identified to combat the growth and spread of *L.Major* as well as other invasive species in the Grand and Barrow Canals.

This Life+ Project is a European-funded project and will provide a focus for research and management work which will inform future programmes that target invasive species in Ireland and worldwide. The National Parks and Wildlife Services have the role of co-financier.

The planned CAISIE project completion date is April 2013 with a start date scheduled for January 2009, however as a result of the Irish Government recruitment embargo, a full project team was only put in place in October 2009.





**Left: Diver with sampling quadrant and geotextile lake bed covering**



**Right: *Lagarosiphon Major* underwater photo**

A detailed roadmap showing key deliverables over the duration of the project has been developed. The project Advisory Group has been established and will provide the project with guidance over the next three years. In February 2010, Minister Conor Lenihan launched the Life+ Project and the establishment of a Marketing and Media campaign to increase awareness on invasive species. Full details of work completed and project activities are available on the dedicated CAISIE website ([www.caisie.ie](http://www.caisie.ie)).



**CASIE Ministerial launch**

## **2) Marine Sportsfish Programme**

This long-running national programme, initiated in 1972, is operated in partnership with the Angling and Marketing Division of the CFB and many angling charter skippers. The programme, which is concentrated mainly on cartilaginous species, continued in 2009. All outstanding hard copy paper records have been digitised and significant progress was made in finalising a database to store the entire 40,000 individual tagging and recapture records. This process will centralise this dataset to ensure its safety and allow for full analysis of the six important species occurring in Irish waters as identified in the EU Shark & Ray Action Plan: blue shark, tope, angel shark (monkfish), common skate, undulate and thornback ray. Progress was hampered by the public service recruitment embargo but working with strategic partners in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin the database and these species reviews will be delivered in December 2010.

## **3) Coarse Fish Programme**

### ***i) Waterways Ireland (WI):***

The Central Fisheries Board is contracted by Waterways Ireland to provide fisheries and environmental management services in respect of the Royal Canal, Grand

Canal, the Barrow Navigation and the Shannon-Erne Waterway. The programme reflects the statutory obligations of Waterways Ireland and its objective of providing a quality waterways habitat commensurate with its use by a wide diversity of user groups. It further recognises the fisheries management and environmental needs of these watercourses.

In addition, the programme pays due cognisance to the obligations imposed by the Water Framework Directive. A canal is identified in the WFD as an Artificial Water Body (AWB), which is defined in Article 1 of the Directive as ‘a body of water created by human activity’. In recognition of their navigational and recreational roles, AWBs must be assessed in terms of their ‘ecological potential’ as opposed to their ‘ecological status’, which applies to natural water bodies such as rivers and lakes.

An analysis of long-term trends in fish stock status and community structure, has revealed some changes in fish communities on both the Royal and Grand Canals. In particular, the continued expansion in the range and numbers of roach has led to a relative homogenisation of fish communities on both canal systems.





**Canal sediment sampling for WFD**

In excess of 12,000 fish were stocked into the Royal and Grand Canals between 2009 and June 2010. Approximately 2,300 rudd were stocked into the 16<sup>th</sup> level of the Royal Canal at Kilcock in advance of the Waterways Ireland-sponsored Junior Canals Championship held in August 2009. Between January and June 2010, CFB staff conducted a total of 10 separate fish rescue events on the Royal and Grand Canals. The fish rescue events were conducted to mitigate the impacts of essential maintenance operations on resident fish populations. In excess of 44,000 fish, with an estimated weight of 1100kg were relocated to adjacent, unimpacted canal habitats. At one site on the Grand Canal, in excess of 1300 crayfish, protected under EU and national legislation were safely relocated within the canal

A large number of fish rescue operations were necessitated by routine dredging and maintenance operations on both canals and the Shannon-Erne Waterway. Analysis of macroinvertebrate and aquatic plant re-colonisation in newly dredged sections of the Barrow Canal, over an 18 month period, has indicated that ecological

rehabilitation following dredging can be relatively rapid. Results will be used to inform future management strategies.



**The Grand Canal barrow line in 2009, 6 months post -dredging**

Water samples, for the purposes of Water Framework Directive Compliance Monitoring, were collected at 40 sites on four occasions in 2009, this programme continues for 2010. Aquatic invertebrate samples were also collected at these sites during spring and autumn, and aquatic plant communities were assessed during the autumn sampling period. Data collected during the period 2006-2009 was analysed and used to determine current ecological potential. The majority of canals were determined to be of Good Ecological Potential (GEP), with three AWBs achieving GEP by extraction. Data collected for WFD monitoring purposes has been incorporated into national datasets and aided the development of an international monitoring and assessment tool.



#### **4) Salmon, Sea Trout and Eel Programme**

Work programmes on these migratory species are a key component of the CFB applied research function and CFB is contributing significantly to supporting management advice to the Minister and various national committees based on sound scientific assessment.

Since 2007, salmon stocks in Ireland have been managed on an individual catchment basis and evaluation of stocks at the catchment level is now a priority to assess if stocks exceed river specific conservation limits.



**Celtic Sea Trout Project set up on a Wexford Beach, nets in background**

Sea trout on the western seaboard have been assessed annually for over 20 years in the course of monitoring for sea lice infestation. A new project, the Celtic Sea Trout Project, funded under INTERREG IV, which is mainly focussed on sea trout populations the east and south coasts, began in 2009.

The latest scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) concerning European eel is that the stock is outside safe biological limits

and that current fisheries are not sustainable. The CFB is engaged in several programmes examining the status of eel in Ireland.

### **Salmon, Sea trout and Ferox trout**

#### ***i) Development of a Juvenile Salmon Index:***

The abundance of salmon fry close to salmon redds in riffle areas has been used previously as an index of salmon abundance on the River Bush in Northern Ireland. An electro-fishing technique (termed catchment-wide electro-fishing) based on these principles is now being developed for Irish salmon rivers to provide an index of juvenile salmon abundance on a catchment-wide basis which can be used to assess attainment of salmon conservation limits. Catchment-wide electro-fishing was undertaken at 978 sites in 47 catchments in 2009 to assess abundance and distribution of salmon fry. In total, 81 individual catchments have been surveyed in the first three years of this assessment, the programme has continued for the 2010 sampling season.

Findings from the first three year of the programme were presented to the Standing Scientific Committee (2009), and, following statistical analysis, the SCC proposed that rivers which were predicted not to have a salmon surplus in 2010, but where the salmon fry index was  $\geq 17$ , could be considered for catch and release in 2010. On this basis, the SSC proposed the opening of 8 rivers on a catch and release basis in 2010.

The technique has good potential for salmon stock assessment and is likely to be more reflective of salmon stock status in rivers where rod catch could not be used to estimate salmon stock size (i.e. where limited angling occurs or in smaller rivers). Several years of data will be required to compile a robust dataset against which individual catchment performance and trends can be assessed. Catchment-wide electro-fishing is also important in providing managers with information on the distribution and abundance of salmon fry. The absence or low density of salmon fry may be related to water quality issues, obstructions, or habitat damage and areas of low abundance can be investigated.



***ii) Salmon Genetics Programme:***

A strategic partnership is in place between the CFB and UCC relating to varying aspects of salmon genetics. Since 2007, salmon stocks have been managed on an individual catchment basis and assessment of stocks at a catchment level is now a priority to determine if salmon stocks are above river specific conservation limits. Additionally, work is required on salmon genetics to determine what constitutes a single salmon population. The project makes use of salmon genetics to provide for the rational management of Irish salmon stocks and to provide a better understanding of what constitutes a salmon population and how these populations are locally adapted.

Work includes updating the national salmon genetic baseline, collection and analysis of genetic material on small rivers, and collection and analysis of genetic material on tributaries of large rivers. Work is also ongoing in relation to the southern salmon stock complex (Barrow, Nore, Suir & Blackwater rivers) to genetically distinguish these individual salmon populations.

***iii) Celtic Sea Trout Project***

The sea trout is the sea going form of the brown trout and is a popular target fish in rod fisheries of rivers and coastal waters around the Irish Sea. Sampling of juvenile trout populations began in 2009 in association with the RFBs to provide samples for a sea trout genetic baseline and angling clubs in priority rivers began to collect scale samples for the project. Current understanding suggests that the incidence of sea trout and the composition and status of their stocks is sensitive to the environments in which they live. The varied life history features coupled with their widespread occurrence, makes sea trout a unique and potentially sensitive indicator of environmental change, integrating responses across diverse habitats.



CSTP Scale envelope for anglers (front and back)



Fly caught sea trout

The key aims of the project are to understand and describe sea trout stocks in the Irish Sea and its associated freshwater habitat and to explore the use of sea trout life history variation as a tool to detect and understand the effects of climate change. For more information see [www.celticseatrout.com](http://www.celticseatrout.com)

#### ***iv) Ferox Trout Study***

Ferox trout are large lake trout known to be genetically separate from the normal brown trout stock. These fish are being heavily exploited by angling and little is known of their biology or spawning locations in major Irish lakes. A radio telemetry

project began in 2005 to tag Ferox trout in Lough Corrib in an attempt to determine spawning locations with a view to protecting the stock for the long term. Over the three year period, 2005-2007, eighty Ferox trout were tagged in Lough Corrib. By radio tracking at spawning time, it was found that 82% of tagged trout recorded were recorded in the Cong River. This tributary of Lough Corrib has been shown to be the primary spawning location for Ferox trout in the Corrib catchment. As a result of the findings of this study, a conservation bye-law was introduced in 2008 on the Cong River to protect the spawning trout population.

The study moved to the Lough Mask catchment in 2008 when 32 Ferox trout were radio-tagged to determine spawning locations. A further 35 Ferox trout were tagged in 2009. The Cong canal, which connects Lough Mask and Lough Corrib, has been shown to be the primary spawning location of Ferox trout from Lough Mask. Ferox were also recorded spawning in the Glensaul and Carhernagower rivers. Radio tracking with the assistance of the Air Corps greatly improved the detection of radio tagged fish. The project will finish with the tagging of 40 Ferox trout in 2010. A three year battery life for tags will allow detection of tagged fish until 2012. A proposed outcome of the research project is to introduce conservation measures to protect Ferox trout on the principle spawning streams of Lough Mask.

#### **v) Eels: EELIAD EU Funded 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme**

The Central Fisheries Board are partners in an EU funded research programme entitled, *European Eels in the Atlantic: Assessment of Their Decline*. The project aims to study the reasons for the decline in European eels stocks and will investigate the ecology and biology of European eels during their marine migrations, and how these relate to eel condition and population of origin. The information will be integrated into models to determine the most important factors that influence silver eel production and migration success. The fulfilment of this objective will provide a means to evaluate the likely success of the EU Eel Recovery Plan, to enable management actions to be most effectively directed to enhance and conserve eel stocks across Europe, and to determine the dynamics of eel population structure and reproductive success.

A large-scale field programme is being undertaken to determine the migration routes and behaviour of silver eels during their spawning migration, and to determine

ecological factors that influence the number and quality of silver eels leaving river catchments. As part of this programme, work continued in October 2009 with 50 large eels (>80cms) being tagged at the Galway eel fishery. Data storage tags were inserted into the eels which will record depth and temperature. When tagged eels die at sea, the internal tags will float in the ocean and be washed up ashore where about 10-15% are normally found and returned. All data can be downloaded from the recovered tags.



**Eel measurement and tagging**

Eels from catchments with the swim bladder parasite *Anguillicola crassus* and eels from catchments free of the parasite were tagged. This tagging follows on from the large scale satellite tagging work undertaken in Galway in 2008. Satellite tagging will be undertaken again later in 2010 at the Galway eel fishery.

During the EELAD field work tagging in October 2009, a workshop took place with the renowned Japanese eel biologist, Professor Katsumi Tsukamoto, and collaboration is in place with his research and the work being undertaken in the EELAD project. Work undertaken in 2006 & 2007 with satellite eel tags in Galway resulted in a recent paper being published in the journal, SCIENCE, entitled, **Oceanic Spawning Migration of the European Eel, (*Anguilla Anguilla*)**. This paper outlined for the first time, the migration and swimming behaviour of eels in the ocean and provided valuable understanding of the marine migration of eels on their spawning migration to the Sargasso Sea.

***vi) Compilation of Habitat-Based Catchment Information and Historical Eel Data in Support of Eel Management Plans (EEL-PLAN):***

The latest scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) concerning European eel is that the stock is outside safe biological limits and that current fisheries are not sustainable. ICES have recommended that a recovery plan be developed for the whole stock of European eel as a matter of urgency and that exploitation and other human activities affecting the stock be reduced to as close to zero as possible. The new EU Regulation for the recovery of the stock of European eel requires that current spawner escapement (as silver eel) is measured against the best estimate of escapement that would have existed if no anthropogenic influences had impacted on the stock. It has been assumed that pre-1980s data represents the best potential estimate of pristine production levels.

This project collated all available historical eel data from rivers, lakes and transitional waters and delivered these data to the eel management process in a comprehensive habitat based GIS database. Data from the majority of major eel catchments were collated and an extensive gap analysis process was undertaken. This three partner project reported in December 2009. .

***vii) National Eel Monitoring Programme***

The EU Eel Recovery Plan (EU 2007: COM (2005) 472) required all member states to submit a management plan for the recovery of the European eel stock. Work began in late 2008 and continues into 2010, in conjunction with the Regional Fisheries Boards and the Marine Institute, to establish and deliver the National Eel Monitoring Plan. Ireland's National Eel Management Plan was accepted by the EU commission in June 2009. This plan describes a comprehensive programme of monitoring and evaluation of management actions and their implementation, and a programme of eel stock assessment.





Yellow Eel tagging (PIT) in L. Cullin

Under the National Monitoring Plan a list of monitoring objectives have been outlined:

*i)* Estimate silver eel escapement

In 2009, 3 index locations (Corrib, Shannon and the Erne catchments) were used to assess the silver eel stock. A mark recapture survey (PIT) was carried out in the three locations to determine the amount of silver eels escaping from the catchments.

*ii)* The yellow eel stocks are being monitored in order to

*a.* monitor the impact of fishery closure on the yellow eel stock

*b.* Establish baseline data to track changes in eel stocks over time.

1. Intensive fyke net surveys were carried out in 5 lakes in 2009 to determine the density of eels in each lake (approx 300 net nights per lake). Eel specimens were taken back to the lab for further analysis. The five lakes were:

- Lower Lough Corrib
- Lower Lough Derg

- Lough Feeagh
- Lough Conn
- Lough Cullin

2. A Spatially explicit Mark Recapture survey was carried out in the Waterford Estuary. The aim of the study was to determine the population density of eels within an important eel habitat.

*iii)* Intercalibration with Water Framework Directive (WFD) sampling. The results of the WFD surveys from 2008 and 2009 relating to eels have been reported in the Scientific Eel Group Annual report. In June 2010 an intercalibration study between the WFD and Eel Monitoring Programme took place in Upper Lough Erne and Lough Ree.

*iv)* Determine Parasite prevalence and eel quality

Eel samples taken by both the WFD and the Eel monitoring programme were analysed for parasite prevalence and intensity in 2009. By the end of 2010 a clear picture of the national extent of the parasite will be available. Otoliths were removed from all samples and the growth of eels in the various catchments will be determined in 2010.

*v)* Compare current and historic yellow eel stocks. The 'Eel Plan' database was used to compare historical surveys carried out in Lough Corrib and Lough Conn with the current survey carried out by CFB in 2009. There was a decrease in the Catch per Unit of Effort for Lough Conn (1972 to 2009) and for Lower Lough Corrib (1969 and 2009).

*vi)* Recruitment:

A national elver monitoring programme was implemented in April 2010. This programme will be a baseline data set upon which any changes to the elver population will be measured over time. The list of rivers surveyed by the programme were; Corrib, Ballysadare, Barrow, Slaney, Erriff, Liffey, Inagh, Maigue and Feale.

The results of the national eel monitoring programme being undertaken by the CFB and RFBs will provide valuable scientific information to advice on Irelands eel management plan, which will be evaluated in 2012.

## **EUROPEAN DIRECTIVE NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS**

### **1) Habitats Directive (HD)**

The remit of the project is to develop and carry out a national monitoring programme on the fish species listed in the EU Habitats Directive and the Irish Vertebrates Red Data Book. The Habitats Directive species include Atlantic salmon, Allis, Twaite and Killarney shad, sea, river and brook lamprey and pollan. In addition, the programme targets char and smelt, listed in the Red Data Book.

There is an obligation, under Irish implementing legislation, on the Minister of DCENR to undertake monitoring in respect of fish species listed in the Habitats Directive. Ireland must provide a status assessment, to cover the entire national territory, to the EU on a 6-year cycle in respect of the listed fish species. The database on char and smelt is patchy, with clear indications of loss of char populations in major lakes over the last 20 years. Smelt appears to have an extremely fragmented distribution in Irish waters.

The programme breaks down into a series of species-associated work packages. Within each species, a further series of sub-packages links to the various environmental windows available to sample different life stages of the species.

The programme is actively engaged in developing a series of sampling protocols to provide comparable and quantitative information to permit intra- and inter- waterbody comparison of fish status within and between years.

In 2009, sampling was undertaken for pollan in L. Derg, in a synergy with the Water Framework Directive fish monitoring team. Sampling was also undertaken for juvenile and adult anadromous shad in the SACs of the south east with staff of the Eastern and Southern Regional Fisheries Boards. Catchment-wide sampling for juvenile lamprey was undertaken in six systems, working with Regional Fisheries Board staff. In two of these, the Inny (Shannon RFB) and Garavogue-Bonet (North



Western RFB) the field survey was undertaken directly by local staff, liaising with CFB project personnel.

Catchment-wide sampling for juvenile salmon was undertaken in a range of catchments by the CFB's salmon team, working with RFB colleagues. The monitoring was undertaken in the context of CL attainment and dovetails with status assessment of salmon for Habitats Directive.

Surveys on two lakes in Donegal with the Northern RFB generated data on char populations while estuarine sampling with the Southern RFB generated information on smelt populations in specific waters.

The project has identified a suite of monitoring and other elements, up to 2013, that should provide a framework for a comprehensive status update to the EU.

A report on investigations undertaken in 2009 was completed in April 2010. There will be an ongoing annual requirement for this national programme. The next status report to the EU is due in 2013

## **2) Water Framework Directive (WFD)**

In 2007, the Central Fisheries Board (CFB), with the assistance of the Regional Fisheries Boards, began a fish monitoring programme to assess the health of Ireland's rivers, lakes and estuaries/lagoons. This work is necessary to fulfill the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) which was established in 2000 and harmonizes water quality management throughout Europe. The fundamental objectives of the WFD, which was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003), are to protect and maintain the status of waters that are already of good or high quality, to prevent any further deterioration and to restore all waters that are impaired so that they achieve at least good status by 2015. The Directive specifies that fish shall be monitored at all sites selected for Surveillance Monitoring (SM). The comprehensive fish monitoring programme developed by the CFB has been designed to cover all the different types of water bodies that exist in Ireland, and involves monitoring the fish populations in a total of 181 river sites, 73 estuary/lagoon (transitional waters) sites

and 73 lakes. Information collected in each survey is used to assign an 'ecological status' to each water body, ranging from high status to bad status, with the aim of achieving at least good ecological status in all Irish water bodies by 2015. The data collected will also help angling clubs and fishery owners to better manage their fisheries and promote sustainable fisheries development.

The WFD fish surveillance monitoring programme for 2009 to June 2010 has been extensive with 25 lakes, 70 river sites and 23 transitional waters being successfully surveyed nationwide. As many as four Central and Regional Fisheries Board WFD monitoring teams were deployed simultaneously to work in the field. The surveys were conducted using a suite of European standard methods; electric fishing is the main survey method used in rivers and various netting techniques are being used in lakes and estuaries. Adverse weather conditions during 2009 has hampered progress, particularly in the river sites where very high water levels throughout the summer months prevented many surveys from being completed; nevertheless, a vast amount of information has been gathered.



**Electrofishing for the WFD**



**On site measurement of WFD fish samples**

Approximately 55,000 fish have been recorded during the surveys in 2009/2010 and all fish have been identified, counted and a representative sample has been measured, weighed and had scales and other bony structures removed for aging purposes. Some fish were retained for further analysis in the CFB laboratory. Staff spent the winter months of 2009 processing the large volume of fish samples taken



over the sampling period. Preliminary reports for all water bodies surveyed in 2009 have been published on the WFD fish website ([www.wfdfish.ie](http://www.wfdfish.ie)) and will be replaced with more detailed reports once all fish data has been processed.



#### **Processing fish samples at the CFB**

The national WFD fish monitoring programme provides an extremely valuable, comprehensive new fish dataset for rivers, lakes and transitional waters using standardised methods that will allow evaluation of long term trends in species composition, abundance and age structure. This information will be of particular interest to the EPA, Central Fisheries Board, Regional Fisheries Boards (RFBs), fishery owners, angling organisations and the informed public. The main purpose of the information will be to fulfil the fish monitoring requirements of the WFD for Ireland, enabling River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) to be developed and implemented effectively. The information from the monitoring programme will also be used to evaluate the effectiveness or otherwise of the control measures in the WFD River Basin Management Plans. All lakes and rivers surveyed for WFD up to 2008 have been assigned an ecological status class (high, good, moderate, poor, bad) and results have been submitted to the River Basin Management Plans. These plans were published by the River Basin Districts in December 2008.

The first three year rolling WFD fish monitoring programme has been completed and a new three year programme commenced in 2010. River, lake and transitional water sites that were surveyed in 2007 will be re-surveyed in 2010, along with some sites that could not be surveyed previously due to adverse weather. Monitoring water bodies every three years in this way will enable us to identify any changes in the fish populations present and assess whether programmes of measures put in place to enhance the ecological status of degraded water bodies are working effectively.



#### **Estuary sampling for WFD**

Detailed survey reports from 2007, 2008 and preliminary reports from 2009 are available on the dedicated WFD fish website ([www.wfdfish.ie](http://www.wfdfish.ie)). A summary report of the 2008 & 2009 fish monitoring programme are also available online. A database of all fish captured is currently being developed, and abundance, biomass and species distribution maps will also be available on the WFD fish website once they are completed.

## **NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY PROGRAMME**

### **1) Invasive Species**

#### ***Status in the Royal and Grand Canals***

The canals network in Ireland is continuing to expand and the link to the River Shannon via the Royal Canal will soon be re-established. This highly interconnected network provides a ready conduit for the spread of unwelcome invasive plant, macroinvertebrate and fish species. A number of potentially problematic invasives already present in these canals, albeit at relatively low levels in most cases, include: Nuttall's pondweed, New Zealand pigmyweed, Water fern, Zebra mussel and Dace. Riparian species are becoming more prominent and have the potential to impact not only native biodiversity but also the recreational usage of the canals. Most important among these is the Japanese knotweed. On-going monitoring of the status of these species continued in 2009 and 2010; a programme for their management and control is in place.

#### ***Status and distribution of Chub (*Leuciscus cephalus*) in the River Inny***

Chub is a non-native fish that was recently introduced to the River Inny. Twenty-five specimens were captured using electric fishing in 2006 and 2007. An examination of these fish revealed that they were healthy and most were in spawning condition. The survey further revealed that long sections of the River Inny provide a habitat that is suitable for the establishment, growth and proliferation of the species. The fact that chub can spread naturally from the River Inny to other major river systems *via* Lough Ree and the River Shannon means that the species has the potential to become more widespread in Ireland.

In 2008, an extensive electric fishing survey revealed just two chub. Both were captured in the lower reaches of the river, in a relatively fast flowing area. The fish were fitted with radio tags and released. The aim was that these 'Judas' chub would join their natural shoals, thus identifying their locations and movement patterns. This would make easy the task of removing the majority of the invasive chub from the river. Results from continuous monitoring of the two radio-tagged fish revealed that they stayed in the section from which they had been captured and did not encounter any other chub. In May 2009 an electro-fishing survey was conducted by the

C&RFBs to remove any chub that remained in the River Inny. Only the two radio tagged chub were recovered and removed. It is suggested, based on this finding that chub have been successfully eradicated from the River Inny. A monitoring survey was conducted in late April 2010 confirmed their eradication.

### **Nuttall's Pondweed (*Elodea nuttallii*)**

*Elodea nuttallii*, a native of North America, was first recorded in the wild in Ireland in the early 1980s and has since been categorized as a priority or high impact invasive species. Thriving populations have been confirmed in numerous locations throughout Ireland. The dense, tangled vegetation produced by this invasive species can occupy large areas of watercourse and, where present, will suppress or eliminate native aquatic plant species.

*Elodea nuttallii* was first confirmed in the River Lee system during a fish stock survey assessment conducted on Inniscarra Reservoir in 2004. Subsequent surveys conducted in Carrigadrohid Reservoir in 2005 & 2006 revealed substantial populations of the species. In 2009, at the behest of the ESB, a survey was conducted to measure the full extent of the infestation of *E. nuttallii* in entire Lee System.

The farthest upstream sighting of the invasive pondweed was discovered in the shallow waters of The Gearagh, upstream of Carrigadrohid Reservoir. The remainder of the Lee System downstream of this point revealed widespread populations of *E. nuttallii*, and it was observed to be occupying most niches that were available to it. These areas included Carrigadrohid and Inniscarra Reservoirs, the main River Lee downstream of Inniscarra Reservoir and canal sections adjoining the River Lee at Sundays Well in Cork City.





Infestation of *Elodea nuttallii*, Kilcreeny lake, Co. Monaghan. Photo courtesy of the NRFB.

*Elodea nuttallii* has the potential to cause adverse affects to water-based recreation and amenitys in the River Lee system, in particular its reservoirs. Because the weed detaches from its roots in autumn, large rafts of vegetation have the potential to be released downstream and it is possible that these could obstruct turbines or clog intake pipes at some of ESB's installations.

While the number of realistic control options to deal with *E. nuttallii* are relatively limited, it will be essential to reduce the volume of weed present in the catchment and thereby reduce the risk of the weed spreading to other watercourses. It is recommended that designated areas, preferably where the weed grows abundantly, are selectively treated using mechanical means and light occlusion and the results monitored quantitatively over time. These studies, in combination with a knowledge of the biology and ecology of the plant, should inform future management options.



In 2009 a survey for *E. nuttallii* was carried out in the Cavan area in conjunction with the NRFB. Large populations were encountered. These locations were marked in GIS format for follow up survey work in 2010.

### **Creeping water primrose**

The presence of a new and dangerous non-native invasive plant, *Ludwigia grandiflora* (Creeping water-primrose) has been confirmed by the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards in a pond in Co. Kerry. Its location and identification followed a report from a vigilant and diligent landowner in Sneem. This is the first time that this non-native invasive plant has been recorded in Ireland. Once established in a water body, this highly invasive plant competes with and takes over from native plants resulting in damage to the native habitat. It is a very hazardous invasive species which has destroyed the native aquatic habitat in a number of other European countries. It has been linked to significant losses of native plants and habitat at a number of sites in France. The presence of Creeping water-primrose can also lead to a reduction in dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Under certain conditions, this may adversely affect fish stocks.

A survey was subsequently carried out of ponds in the Sneem area of Co. Kerry by the CFB and SWRFB and uncovered an additional three other black listed invasive species. These were *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (Parrot's feather) and *Crassula helmsii* (New Zealand pigmyweed) and *Lagarosiphon major* (Curly leaved waterweed).

### **Invasive Species Policy Development**

In 2009, the CFB commenced a process of policy development for invasive species. This policy document is due to be completed in 2010.

## **2) Salmonid River Rehabilitation**

### ***Riverine Enhancement***

In 2008, the CFB commenced a major riverine enhancement programme in collaboration with the Engineering Services Section of the Office of Public Works - "The Environmental Rivers Enhancement Programme" (E.R.E.P.). This programme involves the enhancement of drained river catchments, throughout Ireland, where

O.P.W. are responsible for the drainage maintenance of such systems. These programmes, scheduled over five years, involve the restoration of the river corridor, not just the river channel itself.

Initially six catchments were targeted for enhancement works namely the Boyne, Corrib, Dee, Maigue, Maine and Moy systems. The works on these systems were completed in 2009; the 2010 programme continues to involve the same catchments but is focused on different channel sections.

In chronological order the programme involves the following steps;-

1. Channels are surveyed to identify reaches where capital works are most likely to enhance the river corridor.
2. Works programmes are designed.
3. OPW staff implement the programmes.
4. CFB staff monitor changes in relation to the morphology and ecology of the river and also review changes in relation to bird populations in the river corridor.

Additional facets of this programme include an audit programme for OPW's machine crews to monitor compliance with OPW's environmental guidance notes and SOPs and development/roll-out of a new training programme on relevant environmental issues for OPW staff. The target of the audit programme is to monitor one third of machine crews each year. Staff training programmes were developed and delivered to all staff early in 2010.

In addition to scientific studies associated with biodiversity and hydromorphology elements, the EREP facilitates additional and on-going studies of relevance to channel management activities of the OPW. Studies on the impact of channel maintenance on lamprey and on crayfish were undertaken in the 2005 - 07 period and Ecological Impact Assessments (EclAs) were requested. This work has been continued into the EREP. The crayfish report was published by OPW in 2009. The post-impact recovery studies are on-going within the umbrella of the EREP and it is envisaged that this assessment work will continue for a further period.

### **3) Water Analysis**

The Central Fisheries Board Laboratory offers a nationwide environmental testing and support service for the Regional Fisheries Boards and other clients, such as Waterways Ireland. The current laboratory complex in Swords Business Campus is divided into four labs (main chemistry, ICP-MS, Microbiology and Biology) and an office area.

Samples relating to pollution incidents and fish kills are analysed in the laboratory. Water samples are analysed from all WFD fish monitoring sites (rivers, lakes and transitional waters). Waterways Ireland have contracted the CFB to analyse water samples from all Water Framework Directive monitoring sites in artificial waterbodies as required by legislation (2000/60/EC and SI. No. 722 of 2003). The water quality data generated is also used by the Environmental Protection Agency in many reports, e.g. Lake Water Quality Report, Water Quality in Ireland Report, State of the Environment Report, Environmental Indicators Report, Phosphorus Report, etc. The laboratory also carries out statutory analyses for CFB fish farm licences.

The CFB is engaged in ongoing continuous monitoring programmes on a number of key inland waterbodies. This monitoring consists of physicochemical analysis on-site and bacteriological and further chemical analysis in the CFB laboratory. Its purpose is to identify and eliminate sources of pollution, thus maintaining these waterways as a valuable recreational resource.

The laboratory was closed for seven months from December 2008 to June 2009 due to a refit. During that time water samples were outsourced to an external laboratory (2199 water samples). The laboratory reopened in early July and a total number of 1216 water samples were analysed thereafter. A new state of the art Elan DRC-e ICP-MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer) was acquired by the CFB in 2009. This instrument will complement the existing suite of analysis techniques carried out by the CFB laboratory. The instrument was commissioned during summer 2009 and chemistry staff were trained in its operation and applications.

## Promotion & Marketing

### **Angling and Marketing team, 2009 to June 2010**

This period of time was a positive 18 months for the Central Fisheries Boards Angling and Marketing team. We have continued to work closely with and support our Regional Fisheries Board colleagues, tourism partners, Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland, government agencies and the industry in implementing the Angling Tourism Marketing Strategy (ATMS).

Close working relationships with the Loughs Agency, Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) in Northern Ireland and the industry were confirmed and enhanced with a view to advancing the ATMS and developing joint working programmes where appropriate.



**Angling Journalist Mike Weaver on the River Goul**

In addition to attendance at promotional shows the CFB carried out an extensive overseas journalist familiarisation programme in association with the Regional Fisheries Boards (RFB's), Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland. Industry members being involved as appropriate.



11 journalist visits from four markets, France, Germany, Holland and the UK were achieved. So far these have secured footage for a DVD on 'Fly fishing for Pike;' 15 published articles with some 45 pages of editorial coverage (with a number of further articles to be published in 2010 / 11).



**Shane O'Reilly at an angling show in Utrecht, November 2009**

Subsequent to this the Angling Advisors wrote articles for a variety of magazines and the CFB web site giving another 38 articles and some 84 pages of editorial coverage. The angling information officer started writing angling reports for the Trout and Salmon magazine monthly with up to four pages covering the best of Irish game angling published monthly along with some photos.

Articles covered aspects of salmon, pike and trout fishing in Ireland that reflected the expertise of the current Angling Advisors. In particular articles were aimed at promoting rivers and fisheries that are not so well known outside Ireland.

The editorial coverage received from these trips and articles had an advertising equivalency of circa €248,000 representing a huge return on investment and excellent value for money.

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The CFB continued to support and develop recreational angling in Ireland by providing information on, how to fish, when and where, to anglers throughout the country. The CFB website and the accompanying expert advice provided by the staff continue to be vital in delivering this service to both the Irish and visiting anglers.

The Boards worked closely with our education partners and the importance of our fisheries resource and its place in our natural heritage was successfully communicated to young people countrywide through the national educational programme 'Something Fishy'. This highly successful project is planned to be extended and possibly redeveloped in 2010.

### **Overseas Promotional Events**

In 2009 / 10, in association with Tourism Ireland and Fáilte Ireland, we attended a number of targeted angling promotions / shows in the UK, France, Netherlands, Germany and the USA. At these events the Boards actively promoted Ireland as a leading tourist fishing destination by promoting the best of what we have to offer.

The CFB attended 12 overseas promotions including:

- 4 in the USA,
- 4 events in France,
- 2 in Holland,
- 1 in Germany,
- 1 in the UK (our largest market).

### **Promotional events on the Island of Ireland**

Promotions attended during 2009 / 10 included the Ireland Angling Show (twice), the Birr Castle Country Fair, National Ploughing Championships. Hooked live, and Loughs Agency Angling Fair (twice).

Attendance at the shows / events both at home and abroad increases awareness of the angling product and leads to increased visitor numbers through the promotion of Ireland as a premier angling destination.

It also affords the CFB the opportunity to assess the market potential / demand in each sector and develop target offerings for specific markets. They are also a key indicator in changes in the market.

Information obtained assists better targeting of viable segments in some markets. It also allows developments in competing markets / countries to be assessed and monitored. Importantly it also allows staff to make contact with varying members of the industry from other countries and in particular journalists.

### **Website Development and Performance**

Website statistics indicate that these websites perform well to the end of June 2010. 759,000 visitors, a 13% increase over the last 18 months, accessed more than 3,000,000 pages - up 21% over January 2008 to end of June 2009.

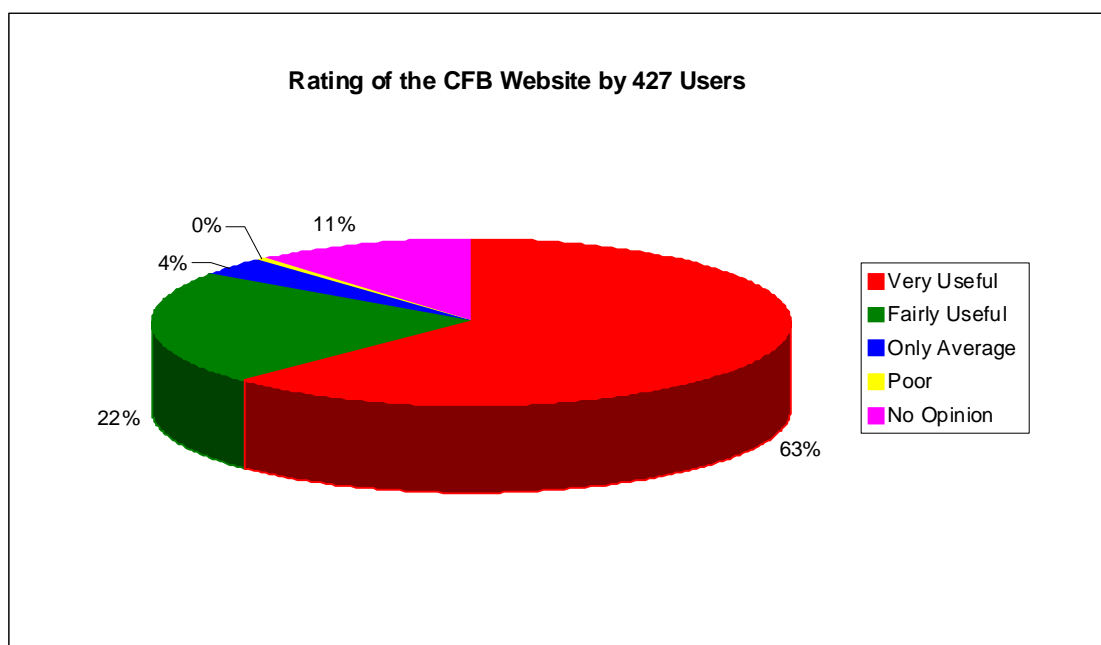
In excess of 2,662 angling and site content queries were directed to the website during the year an increase of 30% over the 18 month period.

The French, German and Dutch versions of the angling site continued to perform well. Each of these sites is placed in the top 10 results of relevant search engines. The German and Dutch sites have consistently been placed by Google Germany and Google Netherlands in their top 5 results. Current angling reports are added on a weekly basis to these sites to ensure users are kept up to date in these markets.

The websites of the Northern, South Western, Southern and Eastern Regional Fisheries Boards were maintained and managed by the CFB until the formation of

Inland Fisheries Ireland. Advice and support was given to the North Western Regional Fisheries Board, Recreational Angling Ireland and the education programme Something Fishy in maintenance and management of their websites.

In addition to this work the CFB developed a website for the Life + project Caisie, which makes information and reports available to the public, anglers, stakeholders and other interested parties. A website was developed for Fisheries Awareness Week containing up to the comprehensive details on all activities planned for the week and a gallery of photographs from the various events. A website for Inland Fisheries Ireland was designed and developed in May and June 2010.



**CFB website ratings**

### **National Angling Brochures**

In 2008 working with Fáilte Ireland we produced a suite of angling brochures. These were under the headings of salmon and sea trout, wild brown trout, pike, coarse and sea angling. These brochures were to provide visitors with details on the best of Irish angling through centres of excellence for each type of fishing. These brochures were revisited and rewritten in 2009 / 10.



### **Regional Fisheries Board Publications**

- Sea angling guide for the NWRFB. A 68-page colour brochure with maps & descriptions of all the best angling marks in the region and general angling information. The brochure should attract both domestic and foreign tourism to the area.
- Pike angling guide for the NRFB. A 72-page colour brochure with maps & descriptions of all the best angling venues in the region coupled with general angling information. The brochure should attract both domestic and foreign tourism to the area.
- River Suir angling guide in French. Same layout of the pre-existing English version of the brochure for use in the French market.

### **Additional Major Publications**

- Research Project Summaries, a 52 page document summarising the major research projects being carried out by CFB staff.

### **Further Publications**

- Display banners: Both corporate & generic angling display banners designed for use at promotional shows.
- Catch of the month Certificates for Seascapes.
- Catch of the week Certificates for CFB.
- Breast Cancer Certificates for CFB / ERFB.
- Salmon Open / Closed Rivers document.
- Logo design, Celtic Sea Trout project.
- WFD Annual Report
- Fish Atlas project
- Finance Division Budget Pack
- State Owned Fisheries Report
- Life+ project promotional materials.

### **The National Education Programme 'Something Fishy.'**

'Something Fishy' is a collaborative venture between the C & RFB's and Blackrock and Monaghan Education Centres, originally launched in 2005. This collaborative approach to active learning has transformed the way the curriculum is experienced by teachers and students alike by providing 'hands on' learning opportunities to all concerned.

In 2009 / 10 working in partnership with 10 education centres based in the 7 RFB's 152 schools took part. This gives a figure of approximately 5,086 individual students who have been exposed to this cross curricular project. Cavan Education Centre also were involved, external to the main work and they dealt with a further 27 schools and 2,282 students.

The programme has been under continual development since its inception. To streamline delivery of the programme in 2008, two dedicated coordinators, one from the CFB and one from Blackrock Educational Centre were appointed. Their roles were deemed a success and so used again in 2009 / 10.

The feedback on Something Fishy has been positive from all areas. In nearly every region the RFB's cannot service the level of interest in the project. As such it is hoped that it can continue to develop in 2010 / 11 when the project will be run under the auspices of the Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Following the success of the competition first instigated in 2007 it was again run at both Regional and National level. A large number of entries were received from across the country.

The National 'Something Fishy' Competition in 2010, winners were the Robertson National School, Co. Donegal. They were presented with their prizes on Friday June 11<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the CFB office in Swords. The project that won them their national prize was entitled 'The E-elusive Eel'. This work was an exposition of the life and times of the freshwater Eel.

At present new lesson plans are being developed to expand the scope of 'Something Fishy.' The Loughs Agency is also running the project in their region for 2010 / 11.

### **Coaching**

The section was involved in a number of coaching activities. We helped deliver a Certificate in Coaching Angling course level 1 & 2. This was sponsored by the Loughs Agency and delivered through Flat field fishing with support from the CFB.

Three 'Introduction to Fly-fishing' days specifically aimed at ladies were supported, being run in conjunction with the ERFB as well as coaching during the Salmon festival in Ballina and a coaching day for the Something Fishy winners from 2009.

### **Media and Communications**

41 press releases were issued on behalf of the C & RFB and the RAI. Most were covered by the angling press with some being picked up by the national and regional press.

As well as the articles produced by the Angling Advisors a total of six articles were produced during the year for the angling media, one national newspaper (Irish Daily Mail) and an environment magazine (The Environment). Two specific radio interviews were conducted for RTE's Seascapes, one on the Specimen Fish Committees Awards and one on the banning of eel fishing. We also continued to be a regular contributor to RTE's Seascapes programme.

The filming of conger eels for a Welsh children's show was coordinated by the CFB and SWRFB. TV coverage for 2010 was negotiated with RTE's Living the Wildlife producers. Filming began with a Canal Salvage in late 2009 and this will be completed in early 2010 with the Celtic Sea Trout project and the Ferrox trout project being filmed in 2010.

Filming of some canal salvage operations for RTE's 'Living the Wildlife' took place in January. Staff from the Waterways Ireland project subsequently discussed the biology of the fish transferred with the presenter. This episode of "Living the Wildlife" was aired on 4th May.

For St Patrick's Day the C & WRFB designed a float and took part in three parades around the WRFB region to promote the message of invasive species to the general public. The float won three silver cups in the Strule parade.

For Fisheries Awareness Week national promotion was carried out by the CFB with the Regions dealing with local media. The national launch was by Alan Quinlan and the launch also included a radio advert on Today FM. This advertisement was subsequently "aired" on YouTube and got a very positive response.

Martin O' Grady's book 'Brown Trout in Ireland' was launched by Sean Power T.D Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in the National Gallery of Ireland.

Monthly sea angling reports are now compiled and submitted to the maritime news paper 'Irish Skipper.'

To increase our reach into various markets and to compliment the Irish Angling Update Twitter was trialled from February. Although it is of limited value it has proved useful on a number of occasions and it will continue to be used into the future.

### **Sea Angling Logbook and Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme**

The RFB's were involved in jointly delivering these schemes again in 2009 with the CFB. These schemes continue to provide important scientific and marketing information.

### **Sea Angling Logbook Statistics**

The tagging and logbook programme was again run successfully. Bad weather during the angling season meant figures were lower for both the tagging and logbooks. Skippers continue to diversify from angling into other areas such as sightseeing and eco-tours which means the trend in participation in the logbook programme is continuing to decline. On a more positive note we are continuing to recruit more and more anglers to the tagging programme which is growing year on year.

## **Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme**

About 50 charter skippers and a number of dedicated anglers took part in the 2009 Marine Sport Fish Tagging Programme. Over 1,000 fish were tagged and released including blue and porbeagle shark, tope, common skate and ray. Since 1970, over 40,000 sea fish have been tagged and released including nearly 20,000 blue shark. This programme is the largest in Europe and the second largest in the world after the USA.

## **REVIEW OF ANGLING**

### **Salmon**

For the first time in many years, the first salmon of the season was not recorded from the River Bundrowes (Drowes) in Co. Donegal but from Co. Kerry. A 10 lb fish was taken on the troll from the middle lake in Killarney on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January.

A few salmon were reported in February on Lough Melvin and the River Drowes along with a few fish from Lough Currane. By the middle of March, the fishing improved particularly in the south west where good fish were reported on the Laune and upper Caragh Rivers and Lough Currane.

April and the Galway Weir Fishery had good fishing including five fish for a Dublin angler on the fly in one day. A specimen of nearly 23 lbs was also reported from the Cong River fishery at the top of Lough Corrib. Good spring fishing was reported from the River Moy in mid April including fish to 15 lbs and the fishing during the latter half of the month improved everywhere.

Fishing improved steadily during May and the grilse started to show at the end of the month particularly on the River Moy. By the end of June, nearly 1,800 Salmon were reported from the Moy. Constant rain throughout the rest of the summer certainly helped salmon fishing all around the country with floods on most of our rivers and good fishing when these dropped a little. August which is usually a poor month for sport was probably the best with the inclement weather producing constant small floods bringing superb sport in nearly all our major Salmon Fisheries.

Sport continued into September with all fisheries reporting very good fishing. The fishing on the River Moy was a little poorer during this month and the season total of 7300 fish was well down on the previous year. It was also positive to report quality fishing on the Nore, Suir and the Cork Blackwater in the Southern Region. A 32 lbs fish during the last week of the season on the River Nore, (the biggest since 1991) ended the season on a high note.

On the first day of 2010, the River Bundrowes in Co. Donegal was back producing the first salmon of the year of 10 lbs. for an Enniskillen angler spinning. The river continued to fish very consistently right up to June. Lough Currane also produced a nice salmon on the opening day of the 17<sup>th</sup> of January and anglers fishing during the spring enjoyed excellent sport for salmon along with some specimen sea trout. The Cork Blackwater had a great start to the season with record numbers of fish reported particularly on the Fortwilliam Fishery in May. Our best fishery, the Moy had some fine spring fishing in May and the start of the run of grilse in June was excellent with fish spread out throughout the catchment giving great sport for anglers.

### **Sea Trout**

Lough Currane continued to dominate the specimen list for the year with 24 of the 26 recorded specimen fish. The other two claimed specimens were taken on the Currane system with one from the Cummeragh River and one from Lough Namona. Late April and May produced many specimens (fish over 6 lbs fish) and on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, a fish of 12lbs 7ozs was captured by a Swiss angler on the troll setting a new record for the lough. Two others over 10 lbs were recorded by UK anglers on fly during the month. The constant high water levels produced some very consistent fishing on Currane for the rest of the summer with August recording some excellent fishing.

Elsewhere there were quality sea trout recorded from the Erne estuary in early March. In July, prolific sea trout fishing was reported from Carrowmore Lake and the Owenmore River, Co. Mayo. August, some fine fishing reported from Lough Beltra. At the start of September, there was a good run in the Ballynahinch system with excellent sport on Lough Inagh in particular.



The improving Delphi system producing an 8lb fish (the largest for 24 years) with Doo Lough giving the best results.

The only poor report for the season was the sharp decline in sea trout numbers in the West Cork area where fishing was not great on the Bandon River or on some of the nearby rivers.

The early season sea trout fishing in 2010 was mainly dominated by Lough Currane where many more specimen fish over 6 lbs. were reported weekly from the beginning of March. May was as usual the best month and for the second year in a row, another new a new lough record sea trout of 12 lbs. 14 oz was captured by a cork angler while trolling. A few sea trout were reported in north west Mayo in June and in the west cork rivers but the best of the run was expected in second half of the season.

#### **Wild Brown Trout - River & Lough.**

Lough Corrib got off to a good start during the middle of February, but some cold weather put anglers off fishing later in the month. Fishing the Cong Canal was delayed this year by the introduction of a new byelaw changing the opening day to 17<sup>th</sup> of March. The Kells Blackwater and the Fane Rivers produced some excellent fishing during the opening weeks of the season.

A fine ferrox trout of 15 lbs 6 oz. was reported from Lough Mask on the troll during the first week of March. The 'duck fly' fishing was first class on the great western lakes, (Corrib, Mask and Corrib) and the midland trout loughs (Owel, Sheelin and Ennell).

It was a good spring for trout in loughs and rivers in general and this continued into early May when there was some very good olive fishing.

'Mayfly' commenced on the first week in May on Lough Derg in Co. Tipperary and a quality fish of 9 lbs 14 oz was taken on the dap. The 'fly' was up early on Corrib and it turned out to be a good Mayfly season. In the midlands there was some fantastic trout reported on Lough Ree for anglers who knew where to fish this huge lough. As

ever Lough Sheelin produced some excellent fishing to the mayfly which continued into late June when some good fall of spent gnat kept the trout coming to the angler's imitations. The best fish was just over 10 lbs. taken on the spent gnat and it was re released.

'Mayfly' went into June also on Lough Derg which produced some excellent spent gnat fishing.

Early summer and an unusual specimen of 6 lbs 9 oz trout was recorded on the River Dodder in Dublin city on the fly.

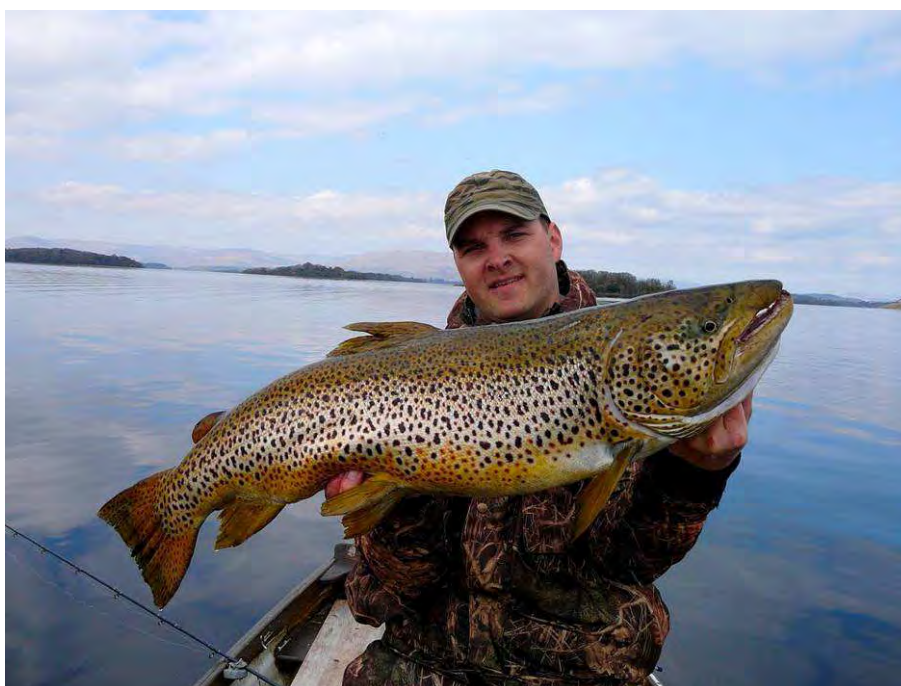
The summer weather was generally wet, with high water levels during July and August, so causing river fishing to be poor during these months. The only fishery producing regular good fishing was Lough Sheelin with regular good evening fishing.

Conditions were poor for the Annual World Cup competition on Lough Mask although there was a huge entry over the four days with the eventual winner taking seven good trout on the final day. Fishing improved on Lough Corrib and other trout loughs throughout August and right into September. Water levels were still high with constant rainfall but fishing improved on rivers and the good fishing continued on most of the midland trout loughs and western loughs including Lough Arrow.

A very good trout season ended on a high note on the midland trout loughs with wet flies producing good fishing. A final note, it was a good year for specimen river trout producing 14 claimed over 5 lbs, with the Cong Canal, the River Inny the best rivers.

The spring of 2010 had to be one of the best on our great trout rivers for many years. Rivers like the Boyne, Liffey, Nore and Suir produced some wonderful fly fishing for anglers from home and abroad. There were great hatches of olives and other flies during the early part of the season and with so many anglers practicing catch and release on these and many smaller rivers, our trout fishing has improved. There was great hatches of duffly early in April on the midland trout loughs and the great western trout loughs and anglers enjoyed some fine fishing. A new Lough Sheelin record trout of 15 lb 2 oz was caught and released in March. Mayfly fishing was a

little sporadic throughout the country but in general there was some fine fishing on Lough Sheelin, Loughs Derg and Ree and on the Western loughs. Well known angling writer, Dennis Moss writing in Trout and Salmon summed up his Mayfly season with 13 days fishing where he caught and released 35 trout with 25 off Lough Ree and 10 on Lough Sheelin. 10 of his fish were over 4 lb., 5 over 5 lb., 1 over 6 lb. and his best fish was a fine 8 lb 12 oz fish from Lough Sheelin. There was one very noteworthy trout recorded from Lough Corrib in May. A Polish visitor caught and released a trout of 25 lb 2 oz on a lure which was the biggest trout from Ireland in over 100 years.



**25lb 2oz trout, largest brown trout in over 100 years, returned alive on Lough Corrib in May 2010.**

## **Pike**

This popular sport fish produced a wonderful season at most popular venues around the country. In the specimen list, there was one Lough fish over 30 lbs. reported from Lough Key but the river list is again very impressive with 22 specimens recorded, the River Suck dominating the list with ten fish. The Rivers Inny, Shannon and Barrow accounted for many of the other fish recorded. One of the best fish reported for the year was a 33.5 lb Pike from Shreelane Lake in west Cork caught in January.

The first three months of the year produced plenty of fish over 20 lbs. There were many competitions held at venues regularly by the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs and fishing was very good. Visiting anglers particularly from France and Holland recorded big fish from lough venues in the Shannon and Erne catchments in particular.

Pike fly fishing continues to gain popularity and the use of belly boats is also gaining in popularity. The autumn and early winter period provided more pike angling action to the season and many good pike were recorded at river and lough venues.

The good pike fishing continued in 2010 on all our major loughs and rivers nationwide and anglers enjoyed some superb sport even when there was some heavy snow early in the year. Pike over 20 lbs. were reported weekly on both loughs and rivers and the best fish reported was a fine specimen fish of 32 lb. 4 oz from the River Suck. The quality of the fishing continued all through the spawning period in March and early April and the best fish reported was over 35 lbs. from the River Shannon. It was also notable that several pike over 20 lbs. were recorded taken on the fly including a best fish of 28 lbs taken on Lough Derg. Catches were so good at times all through the period that some excellent catches were recorded by visiting anglers. Two French journalists fishing in the Killeshandra lough's area recorded over 200 Pike up to 20 lbs. in five days fishing mainly taken on lures at the start of May. As the summer progressed to late June there were less anglers out pike fishing which was normal for the time of year.

### **Coarse Angling**

There was quiet start to the season though the upper Shannon and the River Barrow producing some notable catches of roach and hybrids. In March, the first big fish were reported from Co. Clare where some large bream to over 8 lbs. More good catches of roach and bream were reported from other areas of the River Shannon by Easter. The hot water section at Lanesboro fished well producing specimen tench, roach and occasionally bream.

May produced some excellent fishing for tench, roach and some big specimen bream (up to 9 lbs) from many venues in Co. Cavan. The Scarriff River produced

one 200 lb catch of roach during the month and more specimen bream were reported from the hot water at Lanesboro.

The end of May and the two first weeks of June produced some superb catches of bream in Longford (up to 300 lbs a day), specimen tench at Shannonbridge and specimen rudd at Carrigadrohid in Co. Cork.

The Lough in Cork produced several big specimen carp during this period. Later in the month, specimen tench were recorded at Rahan's and Ballyhoe Lakes. Several festivals on the Grand Canal at Prosperous and Edenderry fished well. Venues in Longford and Lough Derg continued to fish well producing big catches of bream, tench and hybrids in late June. The wet weather in early July did not deter some of big catches of bream including a huge 450 lbs of bream in one day in Longford. Tench fishing was excellent including some specimens recorded in the small lakes in the Ballinamore area. An incredible competition weight of 549 lbs 10 oz of carp won the three day festival at Gaulmoylestown Lake near Mullingar late in the month. Many angling festivals were held in the Cavan area in September including the annual British King of Clubs competition and despite very high water levels there was some fine catches recorded at all of these. In late September, October and November high water levels made fishing difficult for anglers but at venues in the Longford big catches of bream were regularly reported along with some hybrids, roach and tench. Overall it was a superb season for specimen sized fish for all coarse species throughout the year despite the often inclement weather during most of the summer and autumn.

The first two months of 2010 did not bring out many coarse anglers out fishing but several winter league competitions were held on mainly loughs and on some rivers. Up in Enniskillen on Lough Erne, there were some great competition weights of Roach, Bream and Hybrids including a winning weight of over 100 lbs. in a float only match in February. There were some super catches of Roach recorded at regular matches fished on the River Barrow during the spring. By May, there were more anglers from home and abroad out fishing in many of the major coarse angling centres and recording many catches of Bream and Roach over 100 lbs. Some

terrific catches of Tench were recorded also in the May June period mainly in small loughs in the Cavan, Leitrim and Monaghan areas in particular.

### **Sea Angling**

A good start to the season with good shore fishing was reported from Wicklow and Wexford during the winter shore festival which attracted many English visitors. In February, a 14 lbs bass was reported from Co. Kerry. It was in late February that boat fishing was first mentioned in reports and 6 specimen fish were recorded at Red Bay in Co Antrim, the first of many for the area. The good bass fishing continued into March with specimens recorded in several parts of the Cork / Kerry area including a fine fish of 14.7 lbs. fish at Youghal. The good spring weather brought more boats out to sea early in the season and there were good pollock off Clifden and specimen mullet recorded in Cork in March.

Mackerel were reported from Co. Clare in early April and there were some good deep sea fishing off west Cork including a fine specimen coalfish at Courtmacsherry. In April and May both shore and boat anglers reported good catches of a variety of species.

A prolific run of Twaite shad was recorded on the River Barrow at St. Mullins including specimens. Kilrush, Valentia Island and Red Bay all produced specimen fish in May for boat anglers.

The first tope of the season was recorded at Downing's in late May. Deep sea fishing was excellent at most centres with good numbers of tope, skate, and pollock recorded along with a good range of species. By late June, the weather got inclement meaning charter days were lost, but there was still quality shore fishing at many venues in the south east, south and western coastal areas. The first shark of the season was a caught on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June and is at present is the largest fish ever caught in European waters. Captured in the Shannon Estuary, it was a six gill shark of 1056 lbs (480 Kg) caught by a Swiss visitor. The first porbeagle shark of the year was recorded at Downing's in Co. Donegal in the second week of July. On the first week of August a 12 year old boy captured a 46 lbs. tope in Dublin Bay which was tagged and released.



Elsewhere, the weather was a little kinder and deep sea fishing along with shore fishing was back in full swing with a wide range of species recorded nationwide. By mid August, the weather once again deteriorated causing the loss of more charter days. Despite this there was excellent fishing on the occasional days that the boats were able to go to sea.

It was a great year for mullet anglers and many specimens were recorded at venues from the east to the west coasts. Sharks, skates, rays, congers, pollack all featured in catches for deep sea anglers in September and there were many specimen fish recorded. One notable fish was a fine 68 lb tope recorded at Carlingford Lough in September. It was a good autumn with the Blue Shark season everywhere extending to the end of October and big skate recorded up in Red Bay (over the Irish record) but not claimed. Right up to the middle of November there was shore and boat fishing all around the coast with a big range of species reported.

Sea angling in 2010 got off to a great start with several charter boats out fishing in the first week of the year in Cork and Antrim with anglers recording some fine Ling, Cod and Conger. In February a new potential record Haddock was recorded off Union Hall in Co. Cork. The mullet season kicked off early with some specimens recorded in west Cork by shore anglers. By April more charter boats were back in the water than in previous years and there was very good fishing for a wide range of species all around the coast. There was some excellent Bass fishing reported from Wexford, Cork and along the Kerry coastlines in particular. Tope were also recorded in May up in north Donegal. A potential record Skate estimated over 230 lbs was tagged and released in Red Bay in Co. Antrim. By the beginning of June the season was in full flight with most charter boats out operating around all our major sea angling centres nationwide. The first Blue Shark of the season was recorded in the first week in June at Courtmacsherry. Other highlights in June were specimen pollack in Cork Harbour, specimen wrasse in Sligo and 70 Tope in a day and a half recorded at Red Bay in Co. Antrim.

### **Recreational Angling Ireland**

We continued to help organise, coordinate and run events. Support was given as requested, this included planning and organising events, advertising the events and looking after the RAI web site.

### **National Angling Week / Fisheries Awareness Week**

Early in the year it was suggested we organise a National Angling event. Varying dates were put forward and eventually it took place in September. However regional support was patchy (one not taking part and two involving themselves in a limited way). What ran was both successful and well received. From this planning took place for an annual event, Fisheries Awareness Week. The intended aim of the week was to offer the opportunity to people to have a go at angling.

All of the regions took take part and develop this event. The chosen week was the 22 – 30<sup>th</sup> May. A programme of 126 events was offered, these varied from cooking demonstrations to beach angling competitions. The week was deemed a success and will be repeated in 2011.

**THE CENTRAL FISHERIES BOARD**

**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

	Notes	18 months to 30 June 2010 €	Year ended 31 December 2008 €
<b>Income</b>			
<b>State and EU Funding</b>			
Operating grants		10,992,602	10,118,887
Net deferred funding for pensions	12c	942,057	482,654
Less: Allocated to Regional Fisheries Boards	1b	-	(700,002)
		<u>11,934,659</u>	<u>9,901,539</u>
<b>Other Income</b>	2b	3,259,169	2,505,798
<b>Transfer from / (to) Capital Account</b>	10	<u>435,394</u>	<u>428,339</u>
		<u>15,629,222</u>	<u>12,835,676</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	3	5,666,393	4,154,620
Operations	4	<u>9,018,435</u>	<u>7,496,732</u>
		<u>14,684,828</u>	<u>11,651,352</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the period</b>		944,394	1,184,324
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) at 1 January</b>		<u>1,126,041</u>	<u>(58,283)</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) at period end</b>		<u><u>2,070,435</u></u>	<u><u>1,126,041</u></u>

## **Eastern Regional Fisheries Board**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### **Administration and Corporate Governance**

This report covers eighteen months ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010. From 1<sup>st</sup> July the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards were subsumed into one new agency known as Inland Fisheries Ireland.

During the eighteen month period the Board had an excess of income over expenditure of €131,817 in its financial statements. During the eighteen month period assets were purchased totalling €241,644. As can be seen from the draft accounts EU funded projects amounted to nil. These accounts are in draft format and are subject being certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Board worked to a detailed business plan for the year and in many cases exceeded the goals set. Our customer charter defines and highlights the level of service you can expect from the Board and it along with our code of business conduct are available on our website: [www.fishingireland.net](http://www.fishingireland.net)

A public sector embargo was introduced which meant a decrease in the numbers of temporary staff on the ground at key periods during the year. However, it is the Boards view that effective use was made of its resources attested by the numerous achievements outlined in the annual report and business plan.

5 requests were received by the Board under the Freedom of Information Act during the eighteen month period.

The Board has met the required achievements set out under Benchmarking. There are several areas identified under Sustaining Progress that the Board has achieved. Other areas under Sustaining Progress are proactively being pursued and will be achieved in the foreseeable future.

The Board has complied with the requirements of the Disability Act 2005 in that the 3% target has been reached. A number of structures were improved catering for disabled access in Counties Monaghan and Meath.

### **Internal Controls**

On behalf of The Eastern Regional Fisheries Board, I hereby acknowledge that the Board is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate system of internal financial control is in operation within the Board.

I am satisfied that the systems which the Board has in place are reasonable and appropriate for the Boards circumstances having regard to its size, level of expenditure, staff resources and the nature of its operations. However, the systems do not, and cannot, provide absolute assurance against material error.

The Board has appointed an audit committee whose duties include;

- a) Review of annual financial statements before submission to the Board
- b) Discussions as appropriate with the Comptroller and Auditor Generals Office
- c) Discussion of any problems and reservations arising from internal and external audit and any matters which auditors may wish to discuss with the committee (in the absence of management where necessary)
- d) To review the external auditors management letter and managements response
- e) To review the Board s internal control systems with particular reference to EU funds
- f) To consider major findings of internal investigations and managements response
- g) To consider other relevant topics, as defined by the Board

The Chairman of the audit committee reports both formally and verbally to the Board as appropriate and conveys the recommendations of the audit committee to the Board.



The Board takes the major strategic decisions and meets at regular intervals to monitor performance and plans. The executive management only act within the authority delegated to them by the Board to give effect to Board policy and decisions. The Boards professional advisors are available for consultation by the Board as required.

The Guidelines on Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals were adhered to, as are the guidelines on the pay of Chief Executives.

A detailed procedural manual is now complete and management exercise close supervision over all significant transactions. Major sources of income are subjected to overall reconciliation and, where possible, staff duties are appropriately divided taking account of the risks involved and the limited number of staff. The following specific procedures are in place in order to provide effective financial control.

I. Formal procedures are in place for the purchase of all goods and services, for approval of invoices in respect of goods and services and authorisation of payment in respect of goods and services. Procedures in this regard have been strengthened from time to time and recommendations emerging from internal audits have been implemented. It is the Board's policy to tender for all professional services.

II. Monthly accounts and budgets are prepared throughout the year. On a quarterly basis, management accounts are reviewed by the audit committee. The Board operates a computerised accounting system which is capable of providing a wide range of financial and accounting information.

III. Budgets are prepared in respect of each year and monthly statements of income and expenditure are produced to facilitate comparison with budgeted figures.

IV. Together with the other Fisheries Boards, the Board has put in place a system of internal audit which involves the annual audit of the Boards financial affairs by an external firm of auditors. Reports have been provided, management has responded to these and action has been taken on recommendations as appropriate. Draft and final reports were considered by the Board s audit committee and by the main Board as appropriate. Auditors have met with the audit committee both in the absence of

Board management and in the presence of management. The Chairman and other members of the audit committee have reported to the Board on their deliberations and findings. On the basis of these reports, I am satisfied that the Board has implemented an adequate system of financial control.

I wish to confirm that the Board has reviewed the effectiveness of its system of internal financial control on the basis of reports provided by internal and external auditors and by the audit committee.

**John Chambers**

**Chairman**

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**

### **Habitat Enhancement Works**

2009 was characterized by very heavy rainfall during the summer months which prevented the completion of many instream works. The early part of 2010 was characterized by very icy and cold wintry conditions, this was followed by a dry spring and early summer. 8 river enhancement programmes took place with a total investment of €15,960. 3,700 meters of rivers and streams were developed, this included works on the Rivers Mattock, Boro, Dereen, Kildavin, Liffey, Dee and Fane. A fish counter was installed on the River Fane at Stephenstown. 212 angling swims on lakes and rivers were developed.

### **Environmental Management and Control**

The Board carried out investigations in relation to environmental issues and assessed the potential impacts of developments on fishery habitats. 938 submissions were made to the relevant local authorities in relation to planning applications, which may impact on fisheries. These applications relate to a variety of proposals from residential, agricultural and commercial developments and land use practices. 128 of these were forestry proposals. Comments were made on local authority development plans in the Region.

1350 inspections were carried out during the year, 209 of these were in response to complaints received by the Board. As a result of these inspections, 54 warning letters were issued and 1 prosecution initiated. There were 7 fish kill incidences, the most significant of which was on the River Blackwater in Wexford where hundreds of brown trout and sea trout were killed in 2009. The suspected cause was pesticides. In 2010 a fish kill happened at Peter's Lake in Monaghan town at which 60 coarse fish were killed. This incident was caused by a blockage in a pipe which runs past Peter's Lake which was rectified by Monaghan County Council. 40 fish were killed on the River Tolka in April 2010, the result of a toxic contaminant entering the river.

As has been the trend for the last two years there was a decline in the number of housing and commercial projects, and publicly funded infrastructural development. 3 national road projects were under construction including the M3 and N4 motorway projects and the M50 upgrade. A further 12 were at the planning stage. 1,400 fish

were salvaged from rivers and tributaries affected by road developments during 2009. Fish stocks in 18 streams were also monitored in the Greater Dublin area.

## **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT / RESOURCE INVESTMENT**

### **Access**

A large number of projects took place with 14 angling facility enhancement projects completed during with a total investment of €91,663. 9 angling pools were created on a variety of rivers throughout the Region. Significant work took place on Loughs Emy and Muckno with 254 additional angling spaces created, the majority of which were on Lough Muckno in Monaghan.

### **Surveys**

Electro fishing works were carried out on many of the Region's rivers with 193 salmonid surveys and an investment of €69,931 during the 18 month period. 457 fish stock assessments were undertaken during the 18 months. The Catchment Wide Electrofishing programme was undertaken in conjunction with the Central Fisheries Board. The purpose of the five minute fishing technique was to evaluate juvenile salmon stocks for management purposes. High water prevented many of the sites being fished, some sites produced very good juvenile salmon numbers and some were fewer than expected.

The Board also assisted the CFB in its monitoring and survey programmes under the Water Framework Directive. It also carried out many salmon radio and PIT tagging surveys throughout the Region. A pike tagging programme took place in the Drogheda district and coarse fish surveys were also undertaken.

### **Celtic Sea Trout Programme**

A major project involving agencies in Wales and Ireland was launched to assess various aspects of the lifecycle and biology of the Irish Sea sea trout populations. Funded by the Ireland / Wales EU Interreg project it is being led by Bangor University and the Board is a partner in the project. During the year surveys were undertaken in association with local stakeholders along the East coast to provide information for this project.

## **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

### **Marketing and Promotion**

The Board attended 9 key angling promotions at home and abroad. Press and media coverage during the year was very successful with a total of 229 items recorded during 2009 and the first half of 2010. This included editorial coverage in national newspapers and radio and TV programmes on RTE 1's Nationwide and Eco Eye.

### **Angling Season**

The angling season in 2009 was characterised by a very dry spell in June followed by an extremely wet summer and a very icy winter in 2010 leading to a dry spring and summer in 2010. Angling conditions improved with the Indian summer in September and October. In general brown trout angling was reported as good throughout the Region especially on the Rivers Fane and Liffey. Coarse and pike fishing was reported as very good with the lakes of Cavan and Monaghan producing some fantastic catches. Despite the poor weather conditions for boat fishing for much of the season, sea angling was good with the Rosslare small boats festival producing 42 species of fish. .

### **Education and Fisheries Awareness programmes**

The Dublin Angling Initiative had a very successful 18 months with 1,044 young people participating in DAI's summer 3 day angling courses and assistance given to teenagers from youth fishing clubs on a regular basis. 13 angling festivals took place including Flycasting event on the River Liffey, celebrity media competition, Tinnahinch fly fishing centre, ladies fly casting events, series of events on Lough Muckno including the All Ireland, police championships, Celtic cup, Fishmaniak polish completion, Rosslare small Boats festival and Dublin Angling Initiative youth competition.

A total of 58 schools participated in the 'Something Fishy' educational programme for fifth and sixth classes and it included presentations, school visits, release of trout ova into local rivers and field trips. 185 visits took place to schools which meant that approximately 2,300 children were visited by the Board. The Regional winner in 2009 was Nun's cross national school in Ashford, Co. Wicklow and in 2010 it was St. Clare's national school in Harolds Cross.

Fisheries Awareness Week was very successful with many events held throughout the Region in May 2010. This included a youth angling expo in Howth sea angling club which Minister Conor Lenihan officiated and 3,000 people attended. Flycasting days were held in Wicklow and Wexford. A series of river and lake trails took place in Emy Lough and Toberona Angling Centre in Dundalk.

## **NETWORKING / CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT**

### **Avoca Catchment Management**

The proposed derogation remains on the Avoca river until 2027 and the Eastern River Basin District submissions digest report was published at the end of the year which stated that it is technically infeasible to remediate the river by 2015 because of overland flow and groundwater. The Board actively encouraged objections to this but to no avail.

A datalogger was installed by Wicklow County Council in consultation with ERFB, EPA and GSI at White's bridge on the Avoca River. Not as many smolts were rescued in 2009 on the Avoca River as in 2008 due to very high water levels. However in 2010 over 5,300 smolts were rescued which demonstrates the tremendous potential of the Avoca as a salmon river and the importance of this smolt rescue programme.

## **REGULATION**

The river Liffey was open for the month of January in 2009 and on a catch and release basis only and closed for the remainder of the season. In 2010 it was open for New Year's Day only and closed for the remainder of the season. The Rivers Boyne and Castletown were open for catch and release only. The River Slaney was closed for salmon and sea trout angling, however a new byelaw permitted fishing for sea trout under 40cm and 2 fish could be kept per day from 1<sup>st</sup> July onwards, which proved very successful. This regulation saw more anglers on the system and 253 sea trout were caught and released in 2009. The River Glyde was also open for catch and release from 1<sup>st</sup> July and 70 fish were released in 2009. On the River Boyne 360 salmon and sea trout were caught and released in 2009. The River Fane was open for angling and the catch was 238. In 2009 1,251 salmon licences were



sold and 87% of angling logbooks were returned in 2009. At the time of writing 70% of angling logbooks for 2010 have been returned and a final reminder letter has been sent out.

The spawning season was very difficult for redd counting due to fluctuating water levels and much flooding throughout the Region. Indications from redd counts that could be ascertained are that spawning levels seemed to be slightly down on previous years.

### **Conservation Stamp monies**

In 2009 The Eastern Regional Fisheries Board was allocated €97,500 to carry out a feasibility study for a full fish counter on the River Boyne, a fish pass on the White River and salmon habitat enhancement works in the Wexford district. The feasibility study on the River Boyne was completed. The two remaining projects have been hampered due to high water levels and landowner agreement issues, it is the Boards plan to complete these works in the 2010 and 2011 seasons

In 2010 €107,000 was allocated to install a fish counter on the River Glyde. The Board has got the agreement of the landowners and has had engineers prepare plans for the counter. The Board aims to have these works completed in 2011.

### **Prosecutions**

There was an unprecedented effort in patrolling our inland waterways during the eighteen months despite the cutbacks on resources. The Board won thirteen illegal fishing cases, three of which were for illegal salmon fishing and ten were for illegal coarse fishing in Cavan and Monaghan. The total fines given in these cases were €9,900 and costs awarded were €17,087. In one case in Monaghan a defendant was given a jail sentence and great press coverage was received including an article in the UK publication 'Angling Times'.

51,017 man hours were completed on carrying out river, lake and sea patrols. 172 checks were made on fish dealers, restaurants and hotels. In 2009 1,310 yards of nets and 8 boats were seized. 36 prosecutions were initiated and 82 on the spot fines were issued. For the first 6 months of 2010, 17 on the spot fines were.

## **ADMINISTRATION / CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Board discharged its statutory functions, struck the fishery rate, issued licences, collected rates, prepared estimates and accounts and co-operated with new and pending legislation. It met with its statutory, administrative, financial and corporate governance duties. The appointment of internal auditors has aided the Board's systems of internal controls.

### **Board Fisheries**

There were approximately 2,250 rod days on Lough Bracken during 2009 with €1,000 revenue created. 3,000 brown trout and rainbows were released into Emy and Bracken Lakes during the angling season.

### **Eastern Fisheries Development Society**

The Eastern Fisheries Development Society met twice during the 18 month period and received no applications for grants from angling clubs. €3,910.33 was allocated to the society during the year; however no funds were allocated to these clubs in grant aid.

### **Health and Safety / Training**

One staff member attended the Fisheries Diploma course in Sligo. Two staff participated in the Middle Management course. Other training attended by staff included first aid, electrofishing, fish counters, four by four off roading, PIT/ radio tagging programme, child protection, IT and financial management.

**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>18 month period Ended 30 June 2010</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2008</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Oireachtas Income	1	4,394,603	3,144,680
Other Income	2	336,409	380,848
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	14 (c)	816,255	619,582
		<u>5,547,267</u>	<u>4,145,110</u>
<b>Transfer from Capital Account</b>	12	240,739	(132,833)
		<u>5,788,006</u>	<u>4,012,277</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	3	902,720	745,460
Operations	4	4,753,470	3,558,929
		<u>5,656,190</u>	<u>4,304,389</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>		131,816	(292,112)
<b>Surplus at 1 January 2009</b>		<u>103,751</u>	<u>395,863</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus at 30 June 2010</b>		<u>€ 235,567</u>	<u>103,751</u>

## **Southern Regional Fisheries Board**

### **Foreword**

I am pleased to present the 2009 and from January-June 2010 Annual Report of the Southern Regional Fisheries Board.

This report details the Board's operations and activities during 2009 and from January-June 2010 across its broad range of responsibilities.

The establishment of Inland Fisheries Ireland on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 means this report covers the last 18 months of this Board's remit. It is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation of the current Board and the members and the staff continued up to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 to perform to the highest ethical standards and in this period complied with all the Corporate Governance criteria for statutory bodies.

During 2009/2010 the Board members and executive staff played a very constructive role in the restructuring process of the fisheries service as announced by Minister Ryan in October 2008.

The Board was shocked with the untimely death of Board member Paddy Power who died in May 2009. He was a loyal and committed member who had given valuable service to inland fisheries for over 27 years.

Finally my thanks to my Board colleagues and the Board's staff for their continued support to me in 2009/2010 and my best wishes to everyone for a smooth transition to Inland fisheries Ireland.

Joe Teesdale  
Board Chairperson

## **Introduction**

This 2009 and the first six months of 2010 Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 11 of the Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1999.

Commercial salmon fishing recommenced in 2009. Snap net fishing took place on the Nore along with draft net fishing on the Blackwater. The Barrow was closed for all types of fishing, salmon angling was allowed for the month of September on the Nore while the Suir was on Catch & Release.

Board staff continued to support, and advance the effective management of the Region's Fisheries.

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Joe Teasdale and his Board colleagues for their assistance and cooperation during 2009/2010.

Also a special thanks to all the professional and committed staff for their trojan work, loyalty and service in this period and for ensuring a smooth transition to Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Brian Sheerin

Chief Executive Officer

## **ADMINISTRATION & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

### **Implementation of the Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies**

All Board members are aware and appear fully compliant with the provisions of the Standards in Public Office Act 2001, and the Code of Business Conduct.

All Board members had made a Disclosure of Interests in accordance with the provisions section 3, Appendix A, of the Code of Practice.

All Board employees are aware and fully compliant with the provisions of the Code of Business Conduct for Employees.

The up to date codes of business conduct are available upon request with a copy of each such code is accessible through the Board's body's web site.

The Board has in place a Customer Charter and this is posted on the Board's web site.

### **Report with reference to section 10.2 of the Code of Practice:**

There were no commercially significant developments affecting the Board during the year. The Board did not establish any subsidiaries, participate in joint ventures or acquire shares.

The Board complied with all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and disposal of assets.

A statement on the Board's system of internal financial control, in accordance with the requirements of 10.2 (iii) of the Code is also available in the body of the Financial Statements.

As stated above, the Codes of Business Conduct for Board Members and Employees have been put in place and adhered to.

Government policy on the pay of the Board's Chief Executive Officer is being complied with.



No fees are paid to Board members so Government guidelines on payment of director's fees do not apply.

As of now, there have been no significant post balance sheet events. The Board's accounts for 2009 were audited by the Comptroller & Auditor General along with the first 6 months of 2010. The transfer to Inland Fisheries Ireland took place on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

The Guidelines for Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals were complied with.

The Code of Practice has been adopted by the Board and the Board is compliant with the provisions of the Code.

### **Board Member Appointments**

All members (with the exception of Paddy Power RIP May 2009) continued in office up until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 on the invitation of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources pending the independent review of the Inland Fisheries Sector and the Ministers direction that the sub-committee of the Liaison Group work with officials of the Department in formulating proposals for Government approval. The Minister requested the Board to allow the CEO to participate in the restructuring process of the Fisheries Service and he and the ACEO Ms Suzanne Campion were actively engaged in this process.

At its AGM in 2009 and in 2010, the Board elected Mr. Joe Teasdale as Chairperson and Ms. Mary Ferns as Deputy Chair.

### **Board Meetings**

In 2009 the Board met 10 times and had an extra meeting in Dublin with Deputy Sean Power TD Minister of State DCENR .In 2010 the Board met 6 times and had its final meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

Overall percentage attendance of meetings by Board members was 82 % (2009) and 88% in 2010.

### **Sub Committees**

The Board Audit Subcommittee met 4 times in 2009 and 3 times in 2010. Subcommittees for Eels, Licence allocation and Fishery Districts also met throughout this period. All committees reported to the full Board.

### **Audits**

The Boards 2009 Accounts were audited by the C&AG with the first 6 months of 2010 in September 2010. July the 1<sup>st</sup> was the Establishment day of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The Boards Internal Auditors Sheehan Quinn and Co. completed an internal audit of the Boards operations in 2009 and met with the Board's Audit Subcommittee in compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. All the audits, subcommittee and Board operations complied with the provisions of the Code of Practice for Corporate Governance of State Bodies, the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 and the Standards in Public Office Act 2001.

### **Equality**

During 2009 the Board complied with all the provisions of all the codes of Good Practice and Legislation pertaining to equality.

### **Freedom of Information**

6 requests for information under Freedom of Information legislation was received by the Board during this period 2009/2010. The Board also assisted the CFB in the compilation of information for FOI requests which applied to all the other Fisheries Boards.

### **Partnership**

The Board has two partnership groups in place. One group deals with non-IR issues. All divisional areas and grades are represented. The second group is in place to work in partnership with SIPTU and comprises SIPTU shop stewards, the local SITPU branch secretary and management. Both groups meet quarterly.

During this period 2009/2010 the Groups were consulted and organised training days, team building exercises, social events and raised funds for local charities such as Hospice etc.

### **Staff Development and Training**

Board staff underwent various development and training programmes during 2009/2010. As part of the Boards programme of training and up-skilling, training has taken place in Project Management, Advanced Driving, Supervisory Management, First Aid, Sea Safety, Coxswain courses etc. The Board fully support the Certificate in Fisheries Management Course in Sligo Institute of Technology, and Ray Byrne graduated from this in 2010.

The Board acknowledges the assistance of the Training Manager and HR at CFB and the Boards own in house trainers.

### **Health and Safety**

Monthly meetings for Health and Safety are attended by all staff in the various work teams and districts. The Safety Committee met quarterly, while risk assessments and audits are ongoing. The Safety Committee made very constructive submissions regarding the new Employee Safety Handbook and all staff received a presentation from the HR unit in the CFB regarding the Board' inputs. There was one accident/incident at work reported during 2009, This was reported to the Gardai as it involved a Quad Bike being driven at and hitting a member of staff. The CEO was invited by the Health & Safety Review to present a paper at its national conference in Dublin. The CEO also is a member of SERAC which is a subcommittee of the HSA the statutory body in Ireland for Health & Safety.

### **Facilities**

The Board has developed a brand new building in Ballylynch Industrial Estate, Carrick on Suir, for the West Waterford Operational Team and this was officially opened by Deputy Conor Lenihan TD Minister of State DCENR on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2010.

## **LIFE Programme**

The Board played a very active part in preparing a submission and securing funding for the Life Programme in association with Duhallow Leader Company. This is an EU programme which will restore and augment the populations of freshwater Pearl mussel, Atlantic Salmon and Otter (Annexe 11 species EU Habitats directive) Kingfisher (Annexe 1 species EU Birds Directive) and a subspecies of Irish dipper endemic to Ireland in the Upper Blackwater Catchment.

## **Eel Management Plan**

The Board participated in the Eel Working Group which completed RBD plans for submittal to the EU by January 2009. All eel fishing ceased in Ireland. The Board provided practical and technical assistance in the monitoring and research programme of the estuarine eel fishery in the Waterford estuary.

## **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

### **Fisheries Management & Protection**

The 4 major rivers in the region had the following status during this period 2009/2010.

<b>River</b>	<b>2009 Quota</b>	<b>2010 Quota</b>	<b>Commercial Nets</b>
Blackwater	4,403	5,504	Full Season
Nore	465	2,277	4 Weeks & Full S
Suir	C&R	C&R	-----
Barrow	Closed	Closed	-----

This period was particularly busy for staff working in protection ensuring that there was a high level of compliance with all relevant legislation. Regular river boat, estuary and RIB patrols were undertaken along with a large number of mobile and foot patrols over the entire region. Over this period the Board issued 66 On the Spot Fines to anglers. The Board also prosecuted anglers for non-return of angling logbooks, and issued 74 On the Spot Fines for the same offence. A total of 26 prosecutions were initiated in the period. The Board confiscated 3600 yards of net and seized no boats. The Board met all its targets in relation to its service level agreement dedicating more than 26463.5 man hours to lake, river and coastal

patrols. Staff also carried out 69 checks on fish dealers, 49 checks on Restaurants and 28 checks on Hotels/Guest houses.

### **Commercial Sector**

In 2009 there was a short season for snap net fishing on the river Nore and the catch was 211. The regular season operated for both Draft and Snap net on the Blackwater and the catch was 432. In 2010 the snap net catch on the Nore was 801 and the Blackwater catches were snap 1,097 and draft 340.

### **District Committees**

The Board as per the 2009 Regulations held 2 joint District Committee meetings and two were also held in 2010.

### **Angling Catch 2009**

In 2009 2321 salmon rod licences were sold in the Southern region. These generated an income of €154094 to the Board 50% of which was in respect of Conservation Stamp and was remitted to the CFB as per Ministerial Direction under sections 18A, 19(4) and 20(3) of the Fisheries Act 1980.

<b>Rod Licence Sales 2009</b>						
<b>All Ireland</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>21 Day</b>	<b>Juvenile</b>	<b>1 Day</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Total No.</b>
376	893	750	111	191	0	2321

### **Rod Licence sales 2009**

Rod Catch for 2009 is reflected in the table below.

District	River	Species	Reported Catch
Lismore	Blackwater (Munster)	Salmon	2227
Waterford	Nore	Salmon	87

#### **Rod catches**

#### **Logbook Returns**

It should be noted that these figures only reflect the logbooks returned to the Board. Out of a total of 2321 licences and logbooks sold, only approx 80% were returned to the Board. The 2010 figures will be presented in the 2010 Annual Report

### **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

#### **Water Quality**

During 2009 the Environmental staff of the Board inspected a multiplicity of local authority, forestry, civil engineering, farm and industrial premises for actual or potential sites of fisheries habitat degradation and water quality concerns. These inspections resulted in a number of fisheries habitats and water quality infringements being detected necessitating various responses from prosecution, to warnings and consultations. The Board undertook successful prosecutions against Laois County Council and BAM Construction Company.

#### **Planning**

Board staff also commit a large proportion of their time to proactive and preventative work which includes areas of Physical Planning (planning applications, development plans, SEA etc.), Licensing (IPPC, WPA, Waste, Foreshore, Aquaculture, etc.), Infrastructural Projects (roads, waste water and water treatment plants, landfills, abstraction, etc), Forestry (planting, felling, fertilisation, NWS, roads, etc.) and routine inspections (aerial patrols, spot-checks), participation in various working groups, committees etc.

During this period 2009/2010 Board staff also gave 9 presentations at training courses, meetings and conferences.



## **FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT SOCIETIES**

### **The Southern Trout and Coarse Fisheries Development Society**

The Board paid €35000 to the Co-op during 2009 which relates to matching funding for 2008. By Ministerial Order the operations of the Co-op ceased on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 and the Co-op returned unspent funds of £134,607.98 to IFI.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **Flood Relief Schemes**

Three major flood relief schemes were ongoing throughout the year. These were Mallow, Clonmel and Fermoy. Work on the Clonmel Scheme is well under way with Phase 1 of the scheme almost complete. Major works were completed on retaining walls along the River bank, bridges and culverts were installed on the tributaries entering the main channel. All this work was completed with minimal disturbance to the aquatic habitat. Phase 2 of the Scheme commenced during 2010 and agreement has been reached with the OPW on the methods to be used for all relevant works on the River Banks, and again minimal disturbance should take place during these works.

The scheme at Mallow involves little work on the main channel but major works have taken place on many of the tributaries particularly on the North Bank of the River. These works included the construction of overflow channels, holding culverts, some minor diversions of river channel and the construction of embankments. Work on the South Bank is planned for the coming year and will also include river diversions and over flow channels. All this work has been completed by agreement and with minimal disturbance to the aquatic environment.

The scheme in Fermoy commenced late in 2009 and will have minimal effect on the main channel as the construction of defence barriers is the main component of this scheme. No tributaries are being interfered with and only small retaining walls at the outlets of drainage pipes are to be constructed along the river bank.

### **Fish Passage**

The Board provided technical assistance and carried out works on a number of fish passes. The Board also constructed a number of small scale rock ramp structures.

Examples include a rock ramp on the River Nire which was completed in conjunction with Clonmel FAS Workers.

Rock ramps were also constructed by private individuals assisted by angling clubs on the Kings River.

The design of a new fish pass for Clonmel Weir was agreed with the OPW and other stake holders. Construction of this fish pass will commence during Phase 2 of the flood relief scheme. The design of a small rock ramp has been agreed for the Southern part of Lady Blessington's Weir in Clonmel. This will be constructed when water levels allow. A fish pass has been agreed with the owner of Stradbally Weir and will be constructed in due course.

A number of other projects for the removal of weirs or by pass channels around weirs are at the planning and design stage. These include the Basin on the River Delour, a weir on the Stradbally River upstream of its confluence with the Barrow and the Weir at Kilkee Castle near Athy.

## **Roads**

Work on the new motorways and road networks continued with regular inspections and meetings with contractor's and design engineers. Towards the end of the year most of the motorways in this region were complete and some work remains on an agreed snag list.

Due to high water levels, flooding and construction traffic for the motorways, some older culverts and stone arch bridges on secondary and minor roads collapsed and needed repair. Agreement was reached with the local authorities, contractors and other stake holders on work programmes to repair or replace these bridges.

## **Habitat Improvement Works**

Major works were conducted on the River Suir upstream of Thurles. This work was in conjunction with drainage works done by North Tipperary County Council. The Fisheries aspects of the project included the construction of deflectors, pools, glides and riffle areas. Some bank protection and pruning of vegetation was also carried

out. A submerged weir which was creating a deep ponded section was also removed to create improved habitat for salmon and trout. All this work was completed to the satisfaction of all stake holders including the local angling club.

Work on the River Dinin which was a follow on from previous years included mainly bank protection to prevent erosion of clay soils into extensive spawning areas. This work was carried out in conjunction with NPWS and local land owners.

A small programme of bank protection and bank maintenance was conducted on the Upper Blackwater near Knocknagree. This work was to protect valuable spawning grounds and promote the survival of salmon fry to smolt stage.

Cahir has been designated a centre of excellence for Brown Trout angling. This means that all amenities such as hotels, B&B's and local facilities should benefit from trout angling in the area. The River Suir at Cahir holds an excellent stock of Brown Trout and has good angling facilities. Failte Ireland had finance available for improvement works in the Cahir area. It was proposed that a section of the river bank would be developed to improve access for anglers that would include anglers with special needs such as wheel chairs or walking aids. A plan to develop 1.5km stretch of river bank to include 3 wheel chair access bays was developed to a standard of tar and chip finish and stone wall safety barriers. This project was completed in conjunction with the local authority, Coillte, Failte Ireland and the local angling club and was officially opened on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 by Deputy Dr Martin Mansergh TD Minister of State at the Department of Finance.

### **Water Framework Directive**

The Central Fisheries Board was assisted in Waterframe Work Directive surveys on all major catchments. These electro-fishing surveys were conducted throughout the summer as weather conditions and water levels allowed. Most sites surveyed yielded favourable results and no major problems were encountered.

## **Promotion**

Staff attended a number of angling promotional events which included CLA Country Fairs in Birr and Shanescastle Co. Antrim, Oxford UK, the National Ploughing Championships and other shows in Swords Dublin .

Advertising was also taken in angling magazines and promotion material. Work also commenced on the Barrow Coarse Angling Guide and the River Suir Trout Angling Guide is now available in French.

## **Hydro Electric Schemes**

A number of applications were received for proposed hydro electric schemes. These were on the Nore Catchment at Castletown, Kilkenny, Kells and Thomastown. Some sites were deemed unsuitable. Others are work in progress and will be applying for planning permission. One site at Castletown weir is under construction.

On the Barrow, two applications were received. One which is under construction in Stradbally and one which is at the design stage near Borris.

The River Suir Catchment has a number of Hydro Schemes that were inspected and a proposal for a new scheme was received for the River Glasha near Kilsheelan. This project is now at the design stage.

A number of meetings took place with Department Engineer's, weir owners, members of Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) and Kilkenny LEADER Company. These meetings were to formalise a process and agree conditions on the installation of small scale Hydro Schemes. This work has been helpful to guide potential investors and developers in all aspects of the construction and operation of small scale hydro electric schemes.

## **Fish Counters**

The main focus of fish counters this year was on the installation of the Suir Counter. Work continued with the Department Engineer's on alterations to the design of the crump weir to accommodate the requirements of the Office of Public Works (OPW) and construction details. A Section 47 certificate of approval from the OPW was

received. Authorisation for the construction was also received from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The concrete units that comprise the physical structure were delivered to the site and consultation with stake holders and the local authorities is ongoing.

The DIDSON Counter was installed on the River Nore downstream of Thomastown but due to high water conditions and teething problems with instrumentation the results obtained could not be verified. A staff member who was attending a Fisheries Management Course in Sligo used the opportunity of this work as part of his final project. This counter was transferred to a tributary of the River Barrow at Poulmounty prior to the winter floods in the Nore. It remains in operation and information obtained will be analysed in due course.

The counter on the Blackwater at Clondulane is in operation and information was downloaded on a regular basis.

### **Education Programmes**

This year saw advances in the development of the Board's education programme. A number of schools were visited with workshops specific to each school environment delivered. In some instances classes were brought out to nearby streams where students observed the process of electro-fishing and fish handling. Time was spent liaising with the education centres in Cork, Wexford and Kilkenny in the deliverance of the Something Fishy Programme. Staff presented a 2 day workshop programme to teachers in the Kilkenny Education Centre.

Work continued in conjunction with the angling club in Ballyshunnock providing educational workshops on the aquatic environment of the reservoir and some angling basic's to schools in the Waterford City environs. Again this programme proved very successful.

### **Angling Awareness Week**

This was the first year that this awareness week was introduced on a National Level with all the regions participating. It was agreed that the scheduling of the week in late

August / early September 2009 was problematic in attracting target audiences this Board had a very successful outcome. The 2010 events organised at the end of May included an Introduction to Shore Angling in Passage East and Youghal, an Introduction to Trout Angling in both Cappagh Lake Dungarvan and Lough Dhoire Bhile Thurles and Tuition in Coarse Angling both at Oaklands Lake New Ross and Ballyshunnock Reservoir. These events were attended by the general public, scout groups, clients of the IWA and Psychiatric Services.



**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>18 month period Ended 30 June 2010</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2008</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Oireachtas Income	1	3,943,434	2,785,728
Other Income	3	438,382	211,463
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	12 (c)	705,727	580,461
		<u>5,087,543</u>	<u>3,577,652</u>
<b>Transfer from Capital Account</b>	11	<u>(115,265)</u>	<u>111,321</u>
		<u>4,972,278</u>	<u>3,688,973</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	4	1,872,594	1,440,160
Operations	5	3,357,161	2,339,727
		<u>5,229,755</u>	<u>3,779,887</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>		<u>(257,477)</u>	<u>(90,914)</u>
<b>Surplus at 1 January 2009</b>		<u>333,251</u>	<u>424,165</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus at 30 June 2010</b>		<u>75,774</u>	<u>333,251</u>

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## **South Western Regional Fisheries Board**

The Board continued to advance its expertise in a number of key areas and overall had a very successful 18 months in 2009/2010

Stakeholder attitudes and awareness towards the inland fisheries environment continues to grow with the Board receiving many beneficial and positive comments from the general public and anglers.

The commercial draft net salmon sector worked well with the Board in the development and management of its industry into the future.

Game, coarse and sea angling were of a very high standard throughout 2009/2010. While 2009 grilse numbers were only average 2010 returns were excellent.

There were many notable successes on the tourism angling front. This bodes well for the future of tourism angling in the SW and Ireland generally. Sea angling, once again, was of a particularly high standard, generating considerable editorial interest and bass angling is continuing to be the premier sea angling product. Bass angling out-performed all other tourism angling products.

### **Chairman's Statement**

In accordance with paragraph 10.2. of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, I wish to report to you on the current position in relation to the implementation of the Code in the South Western Regional Fisheries Board. In 2003 the Board adopted the Code and intend to comply with it in full. The Board decided not to seek any derogation under Section 1.3. of the Code. Early in 2003, the Board had requested Central Fisheries Board to assist in the preparation of a Framework Code of Best Practice for Corporate Governance in the Fisheries Boards, a Framework for a Code of Business Conduct for Board members and employees in the Fisheries Board and Principles of Quality Customer Service for customers and clients of the Fisheries Board (being consistent with that outlined in the Appendices to the Code). The Board has in 2004 adopted a Code of Conduct for Board

Members, and has published its Customer Charter on its website. Board management has utilised the assistance given as has produced a draft Code of Business Conduct for Employees. The Board has examined this draft and has requested management to bring it to completion following appropriate consultation and coordination with other fisheries boards. This has now been completed and the Code has been adopted by the Board

With particular reference to 10.2. of the Code I wish to inform you that;

The Board has not established any subsidiaries and has not acquired any shares. From 2003 to 2009/2010 the Board has formed a committee arising from the tagging and quota regulations.

The Board has in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and 2009/2010 managed a fund for Cork Harbour research and raised money externally for this purpose. The Board intends extending research to other fisheries throughout the region as circumstances permit.

1. The Board is endeavouring on an ongoing basis to meet all of its requirements regarding financial reporting, internal audit procurement and asset disposals and is of the opinion that it has done so in 2009/2010.
2. The final Statement for 2009/2010 will be provided with the audited accounts following agreement with external auditors.
3. A Code of Business Conduct for Directors, a Code of Business Conduct for Employees and a Customer Charter is now in place.
4. Government Policy on the pay of the Chief Executive in the South Western Regional Fisheries Board and its other employees is being complied with.
5. Government Guidelines on the Payment of Directors Fees are being complied with. There are no payments to any of the Board members within the region currently.

6. Our Internal Audit Review process brought to our attention the Code.
7. As of now there have been no significant post balance sheet events. Our accounts for 2009/2010 have yet to be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office.
8. It is our understanding that the Guidelines for Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals are not relevant to the activities of this Board for the year 2009/2010.
9. I confirm that the Code of Practice has been adopted by the Board at its March 2003 meeting. It is the intention of the Board to continue to be in full compliance with the Code.

In relation to Section 10.1. - Reporting Arrangements, the Board requests that the existing situation whereby the Board's accounts should be provided within three months of the end of the previous year be retained as opposed to two months as outlined in this section. The Board is obliged to meet a tighter deadline than that outlined in 10.1(iii) in relation to the publication of its Annual Report. The Board is obliged to submit its Annual Report to Central Fisheries Board prior to the end of the third month of the subsequent year. We suggest that the Board should be allowed to meet a single deadline in respects to paragraphs (ii) and (iii) of this section, that being the end of March. Regarding the Disposal of Assets and Access to Assets by Third Parties, the Board has adopted the Code in full. The Board has undertaken under section 5.5. to maintain a record of disposal of assets over a threshold of €200 to directors and employees or their families. The Board has retained a requirement that any disposal above €2,000 to such persons will require formal endorsement by the Board.

Ellen Godfrey.  
Chairman

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

### **Board staff**

In 2009/2010 the Board had 32 operative full time staff and employed 7 temporary staff.

The Board carried out its functions in accordance with, and as laid down by, the 'Ethics in public Office' directives. Corporate governance and 'value for money' are viewed as core principles by the Board, management and staff.

The Boards Audit Committee continued to function efficiently and monitored that the Board adhered to the corporate governance guidelines in internal auditing, procurement, disposal of assets, tax compliance and strategic and corporate planning.

### **Five Year Development Plan**

The Boards five-year development plan, with its emphasis on safeguarding the environment through sustainable development continues to be applied with educational programmes forming its backbone. No Net Loss and mitigation banking are valuable additions to the plan which continues to gain momentum. Biobanking is seen as a workable alternative methodology to the safeguarding of Ireland's biodiversity.

### **Annual Business Plan**

The Board successfully achieved the components of its business plan in 2009/2010. While there were many challenges throughout the year the Board succeeded in delivering its objectives and bringing the programmes home on budget.

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION**

### **Sustainable Development**

The Board made considerable headway in its sustainable development initiatives and continued with its education awareness programme through 'Something Fishy' and multi stakeholder processes generally. The Holistic Management Model developed for the Kerry Blackwater continues to be applied elsewhere. While not without its challenges MSPs continue to offer a real opportunity in the management of the regions fisheries. Mitigation Banking is similarly making headway.

## **Aquaculture**

The Board continued to keep a watching brief on the regions sea lice monitoring programme. The Board assisted the Tralee Oyster Society.

## **Fisheries Protection**

Through the work of the Boards protection staff a number of prosecutions were initiated and a substantial quantity of illegal fishing equipment and fish was seized in 2009/2010. The 'On the Spot fines' system continued to prove effective. The general public continued to feed information into the Board which was of considerable assistance in tackling illegal activities in the region.

## **On The Spot Fines (OTSF)**

The Board issued 27 (Kerry) and 160 (Cork) OTSFs in 2009/2010.

## **Mobile Protection Unit**

The Boards mobile Protection Unit proved to be a considerable deterrent to illegal fishing activities in 2009/2010. The Unit provides a valuable rapid response facility to the Board which greatly assists its protection operations. The Unit was well received by the general public and anglers.

## **Protection statistics**

### *Cork Region*

Total nets seized	1859m overall
Fish seized	3 bass seizures
Prosecutions initiated	19
Equipment seized	150 items

### *Kerry Region*

Total nets seized	10,400 m
Fish seized	15 bass and salmon
Prosecutions initiated	9
Equipment seized	11 items



### **PWC Programme (Personal Water Craft)**

The Boards PWC programme proved very successful in 2009/2010. The rapid response capabilities of these craft added an additional dimension to the Boards sea based protection programme. Several staff were trained in their operation to the highest international levels. The cost effectiveness of these craft were amply demonstrated during the period.

### **National Fish Counter Programme**

The following counters operated in the region during the year;

Waterville fishery

Kerry Blackwater

River Bandon

Sneem

Maine (new counter)

The Board counter programme continues to deliver quality data on salmon and sea trout movements in the SW. The Board upgraded its counter programme during the year and now downloads and validates data at time of capture.

The Board installed a new modular fish counter on the river Maine in 2009/2010. The Maine counter is performing extremely well and has proved very beneficial in the quantification of salmonid stocks on the river.

### **Tags and Quotas**

The wild salmon and seatrout tagging scheme ran smoothly throughout 2009/2010.

There was a 100% return of logbooks from commercial fishermen in both 2009 and 2010.

The percentage of angler's logbooks for 2009 was 79.0%.

During 2009 a total of 227 on the spot fines were issued to persons who had still failed to return their logbooks for the 2008 season and 22 prosecutions were initiated as a result.

During 2010 a total of 124 on the spot fines were issued to persons who had still failed to return their logbooks for the 2009 season and 20 prosecutions were initiated as a result.

### **Commercial Salmonid Catches 2009/2010**

In 2009 the commercial salmonid catch for Cork District was 1302 fish and for Kerry District 1782 fish.

In 2010 the commercial salmonid catch for Cork District was 1518 fish and for Kerry District 4076 fish.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL**

### **Aquatic Environment:**

The Board received 300 reports of an environmental nature during the eighteen month period. These reports ranged from complaints of the discharge of effluent directly to waters from agriculture, industry and local authority sources, through non-compliance with planning conditions, dumping of materials close to watercourses and physical interference with rivers through drainage and gravel extraction.

Comment: Removal of riverbed materials affecting salmonid spawning and nursery grounds continued in 2009/2010 again compromising river ecosystems and bank stability

Several incidents of silt discharges from large civil engineering development sites occurred within the region. The Board worked with contractors to develop measures to control contaminated waters, however good site management, maintenance of silt control facilities and ceasing works during inclement weather conditions was found the most effective measures in preventing discharges.

The majority of the reports were received from the general public with the remainder being from fishery officers, anglers and Board members. These reports are detailed below:

Activity	2009/2010 (18 months) %
Drainage & gravel removal	21
Agriculture (slurry/silage etc)	8.6
Industrial/ Commercial Discharges	8.0
Local Authority Works/Discharges	20.3
Abstraction/Low Flows	3.6
Forestry Works	2.0
Construction Activities Discharges	4.3
Planning Concerns	6.3
Fish Health/Disease	5.3
Eutrophication	5.0
Miscellaneous*	15.3

\* Includes unsubstantiated reports, odour pollution, unauthorised dumping, fish passage issues and natural events etc.

### **Prosecutions**

5 outstanding cases were heard during the year, two were successfully concluded, and a third was struck out with costs and expenses awarded to the Board. A further 7 cases associated with environmental investigations were initiated, 4 have been successfully concluded with the remaining cases pending. All cases related to drainage and instream works.

### **Fish Kills**

There were no fish kills recorded during 2009. This is the first year this event has occurred and may have been a result of improved effluent management and high rainfall during the normally critical summer period. For the 6 months to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 three minor fish kills were recorded, two associated with physical damage caused by turbine operation, the third cause was not determined

## **Submissions**

Submission were made in relation to the following

- a) 34 Water Pollution Act Discharge License/Waste Management Permit Applications.
- b) 6 appeals to An Bord Pleanála.
- c) 35 Foreshore/Aquaculture License Applications.
- d) 215 Forestry Submission on applications relating to establishment, clear fell and native woodland schemes.
- e) 11 SEA/Draft Development Plans.
- f) 5 submissions were made on National and Regional Policy Papers and Guidelines.
- g) 1 on a Water Abstraction Order Proposal.

## **Section 18 Authorisations EIS + Research**

16 Authorisations were issued by the Board during the year.

## **Civil Works/Fishery Development**

203 civil work proposals were assessed, which involved inspections, meeting, consultations and or submissions as appropriate. 5 Fish removal operations were undertaken to facilitate river diversions and temporary bridge construction.

## **Educational/Awareness Programme**

A publicity and awareness campaign on Invasive Aquatic Species aimed at the general public, gardening centers and angling clubs was undertaken during the winter period.

19 school visits were undertaken as part of the Something Fishy Educational Programme. The juvenile incentive programme was supported in the Kerry area with a presentation and field trip. Fishery awareness week was supported with information on the aquatic environment and on invasive species.

### **Environmental Committees and Working Groups**

The Boards interests were represented at several environmental steering and management group meetings in the South West.

### **Fish stock surveys**

Surveys were carried on several rivers throughout the region to support the Boards decisions on drainage proposal and planning and to inform the Board on the effects of pollution incidents and habitat interference. Surveys were also carried out to support the Lee Salmon Restoration Programme.

### **Planning**

A total of 299 submissions were made on Planning issues in relation to their potential impact on fisheries made to the relevant planning authorities. In many instances preplanning consultation with developers took place and fishery requirements were included in development design. Six decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanala during the period.

### **Freedom of Information Act**

One request under the Freedom of Information Act was received by the Board in 2009/2010.

### **Energy requirements**

The Board, a member of the Lee Valley Ecolabel Project and 'Macroom e', continued its programme of energy improvement. In addition, the Board, as part of its sustainable energy initiative, continues to run seven PVO modified vehicles thereby reducing the Boards CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.

### **Disabled Access**

The Board continues to implement its disabled access programme.

### **Farnannes Fishery Centre (FFC)**

The Farnannes Fishery Centre proved very successful over the year. A number of training courses were held in the FFC training room. The facility allowed the Board to maintain and store operational equipment in a safe and sound environment.

### **Training**

Board staff attended a number of training courses during the year which were mainly held in the FFC.

### **River Lee Salmon Restoration Programme**

The Board successfully continued the River Lee Salmon Restoration Programme. This programme gained considerable support from the local stakeholders and goes from strength to strength.

### **PMDS**

The Boards 2009/2010 PMDS programme continued to gain momentum. Staff stated that they found the process valuable, allowing for additional feedback which assisted them in the delivery of the Boards Development Plan.

### **Health and Safety**

The Board held a number of staff Health and Safety meetings during the year. Comprehensive equipment checks were undertaken to ensure safe operations.

### **Marketing and Promotion**

The Board had a successful year on the marketing and promotional side producing a number of publications. Six trade shows were attended in 2009/2010, two in the USA, one in the UK, one in France and two in Holland. These shows resulted in a number of firm bookings and generated considerable interest.

Angling log book data indicates that the US trade shows have resulted in very positive growth from USA anglers in spite of the economic challenges facing the US.

Several promotional articles were written for various publications and Bass angling proved to be a very hot topic amongst the journalists.

### **Catchment Management**

Catchment Management, a process fully adopted by the Board, continues to gain ground. While a number of aspects associated with catchment management generated considerable discussion throughout the year, co-management is now well set to become the management tool of choice for fishery managers.

### **Multi Stakeholder Processes (MSPs)**

The Board continued to develop and advance the multi stakeholder process in the management of the regions inland fisheries. Considerable effort was applied to the development of systems that would allow for the dissemination of information.

### **Public Education Awareness**

The Board undertook a number of public/school awareness programmes. These are designed to build capacity and foster relations. They were very well received by the groups in question.

### **Network and Partnering**

The Board continued to build its network base in 2009/2010. Collaborative management and partnerships are viewed as pivotal by the Board in delivering a stream lined service.

## **BOARD FISHERIES**

### **Coarse Angling - Inniscarra Lake**

Inniscarra Lake, managed jointly by the ESB and the SWRFB, had a very successful year and indications are that visiting tourist numbers are on the increase. Pike and bream angling were particularly good during the year. Boat patrols, to eradicate illegal angling practices on the lake, proved very successful. There were several angling competitions held on the lake during the year and the catch reports were above average.



### **Managed Trout Lakes**

The Boards managed Rainbow trout lakes had a good year. Approximately 74,000 Rainbow trout were stocked into the lakes. Feedback indicates that people enjoyed fishing the lakes with some large fish being landed during the year.

### **Permit Sales for the Boards Fisheries**

The total permit sales for the Boards fisheries other than the Managed Lakes was € 172,073.00

### **Sea Angling**

Reports from anglers during the year indicated that sea angling, both from boat and shore, were of a high standard. Good numbers of mainland European anglers continued to visit our shores, especially the Dutch. Similarly there was a good volume of UK anglers. Several specimen fish were landed by the charter boats in 2009/2010.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **European Initiatives**

The Board actively sought new European programmes during 2009/2010. A LIFE bid was submitted entitled RIVERBANK which investigates the role of BIOBANKING and CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS in the preservation of Irelands Biodiversity.

### **No Net Loss**

The Boards 'No Net Loss' programme aimed at ensuring sustainable development of the SW is ongoing. A number of presentations were given during the year.

### **Tourism Angling Programmes**

The Board in conjunction with both Kerry and Cork county councils finalized a number of tourism angling development programmes.

**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>18 month period Ended 30 June 2010</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2008</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Oireachtas Income	1	3,883,570	2,635,518
Income from CFB			96,634
Other Income	2	601,847	484,730
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	11	460,978	478,100
		<u>4,946,395</u>	<u>3,694,982</u>
<b>Transfer from Capital Account</b>	10	75,405	(232,911)
		<u>5,021,800</u>	<u>3,462,071</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	3	1,466,361	1,093,627
Operations	4	3,897,402	2,822,099
		<u>5,363,763</u>	<u>3,915,726</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>		<b>(341,963)</b>	<b>(453,655)</b>
<b>Surplus at 1 January 2009</b>		<u>407,983</u>	<u>861,638</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus at 30 June 2010</b>		<u>66,020</u>	<u>407,983</u>

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## **Shannon Regional Fisheries Board**

### **Chairman's Statement**

The eighteen month period ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 (2009/10) represented the final period of the Board's existence. The Board was dissolved on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 and superseded by Inland Fisheries Ireland on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. Inland Fisheries Ireland took over the duties and assets of the Central and seven Regional Fisheries Boards. All staff were transferred to the new organisation.

This Report provides an overview of the extensive range of activities which the Board and its staff, together with its stakeholders, engaged in. Protecting our fish and their environment is the corner stone of our Strategy and Business Plan, therefore enforcement of legislation affecting fisheries and the prevention of the degradation of the fish environment are the principal duties of staff. The Board devoted considerable time and resources to a variety of scientific studies carried out in our waters, with the objective of increasing our understanding of and improving the condition of our fisheries resource. The Board also focused on creating awareness and appreciation of our inland and sea fisheries resources by organising a series of promotional activities during the period, including Fisheries Awareness Week, which was held in 2009 and 2010.

In successfully delivering on its Business Plan, the Board complied with its Corporate Governance requirements as set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Board is committed to providing an efficient and transparent service where value for money is pursued. The main elements of our Corporate Governance compliance are detailed in this Report. In fulfilling our remit, I was greatly assisted by the excellent and expert assistance of the Board members, CEO and Staff and thank them for their hard work and commitment throughout 2009/10. I would also like to thank the CFB and the other Regional Fisheries Boards, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) and our stakeholders for their ongoing assistance and support.

Michael Callaghan  
Chairman

## **Corporate Governance**

I am pleased to present the 2009/10 Report of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board. This report details the Board's operations and activities during the period across its broad range of responsibilities.

The Board had a deficit of expenditure over income of €520,700 in its draft financial statements. During 2009/10, assets were purchased totalling €464,684. These accounts are in draft format and are subject to being certified by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Board members, both elected and Ministerial nominees, meet monthly to review the Board's operational and financial performance, and to formulate strategies and give direction to the Board. The Board members are representative of the stakeholders in the Shannon catchment.

The Board has established subcommittees, which focus on Policy development, Audit oversight, and Fisheries management.

The Board engages external professionals to perform an Internal Audit of the Board's operations, in addition to the regular audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Board has clearly defined Policies and Procedures, focusing on professionalism, accountability and segregation of duties.

The Board adopts an annual Business Plan, which is drafted to ensure compliance with the Board's service level agreement with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

In line with the Government decision, the Board, when appropriate, has consulted with the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DCRGA) over development and promotional activities.

The Board has put in place a Risk Register and Risk Management Strategy. The Board complied with the Ethics in Public Office Act and has adopted the Code of

Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, 2001. All Board members are aware and appear fully compliant with the provisions of the Standards in Public Office Act 2001 and the Code of Business Conduct. All Board members have made a Disclosure of Interest in accordance with the provisions of section 3, Appendix A, of the code of Practice. All Board employees are aware of and fully compliant with the code of Business Conduct for employees. The up to date Codes of Conduct are available on the Board's website.

There were no commercially significant developments affecting the Board during the period. The Board did not establish any subsidiaries, participate in joint ventures or acquire shares. The Board complies with all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement, appraisal and management of capital expenditure, and disposal of assets.

A statement on the Board's system of internal financial controls, in accordance with the requirements of 10.2 (iii) of the code is also available in the body of the Financial Statements.

The Board compliant with Government policy on the pay of the Board's Chief Executive and guidelines on the payment of director's fees; no such fees are paid to the Board members.

The two Fisheries Development Societies based in the Shannon Region, carried out Fisheries development and conservation work on a wide variety of projects. Both Societies provided a report and audited accounts in compliance with their requirements. The Societies were abolished upon the enactment of the Inland Fisheries Act and transferred any residual funds to IFI.

Six Freedom of Information requests were received and replied to by the Board with the assistance of the CFB.

The Board also complied with the requirements of the Disability Act 2005 in that the 3% target has been achieved and surpassed with 7% of staff with a disability under

the definition in the Disability Act 2005. All staff completed disability awareness training and programmes put in place to assist disabled anglers.

The co-operation and assistance of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, other Fisheries Boards, the ESB, An Garda Síochána, The Naval Service, The Air Corp, Angling Clubs, Local and Regional Authorities, Tourism Authorities, the OPW, and its many stakeholders is acknowledged by the Board.

The Shannon Fisheries Region covers the sea angling and inland fisheries of the Shannon River catchment from the River Feale catchment in North Kerry and the rivers of County Clare flowing westwards to the Atlantic to its source in Co. Cavan. The coastal boundaries stretch from Kerry Head to Hags Head in County Clare. The region covers a land area of 17,776 square kilometres which is serviced by 18 local authorities.

### **Mission Statement**

*“To conserve, develop, manage and promote the valuable inland fisheries and sea angling resources of the region in their own right and in a sustainable manner for the benefit of local communities”.*

In delivering on the 2009/10 Business Plan and the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) in place with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), the Board achieved its goals in six main areas. The Board is committed to operating through partnership and delivering on its goals to a high standard, in a professional manner.

### **Habitat Conservation**

*Protect the fish habitat through the provision of Fisheries Environmental services in line with needs and available resources, in partnership with our stakeholders.*

Water Quality and habitat loss continues to be a major limiting factor to the restoration of natural fish stock levels in the Region. 2009/10 has seen a slight improvement in these areas although it remains to be seen what effects the major flooding event on the Shannon will have. While the Board fully appreciates the

devising effects on the people of the catchment the desire to drain large sections of streams and rivers could have long term effects on the fish stock levels of the catchment. The Board is committed to working with the various state agencies to minimise the damage to the fisheries resource while developing sustainable flood plans. The Board was consulted on a number of proposed wind energy projects and small scale hydroelectric schemes which could have potential impacts on the fisheries habitat. All of these projects, in theory, are environmentally sustainable. However, as shown with wind farm projects in particular, major landslides have caused series loss of fisheries habitat. Similarly, impoundment for water power, entrainment and subsequent mortality of fish caught in the turbines can cause significant depletion of fish stocks.

Environmental monitoring continued throughout 2009/10 at the sites affected by the two peat slides which occurred in late 2008. An aerial and foot survey of the Lough Allen tributaries was undertaken and a restoration program was drawn up for the Owengar River and other Rivers within the Lough Allen catchment to address impacts from the landslide which occurred at Garvagh Glebe. The Board successfully negotiated a settlement with the developer of the wind farm in the Owengar area and these funds are being used to restore the river.

In 2009 the Board investigated a further minor landslide at Garvagh Glebe south which highlights the fragility of peat soils and their suitability for certain types of development, especially infrastructure associated with wind farms. .





**The Garvagh Glebe peat slide at Tullynamacduff, County Leitrim**

Invasive species continue to pose a significant ecological threat in the Shannon catchment. Changes to legislation regarding the sale and distribution of aquatic plants are necessary to help prevent unwanted colonization by non-native plants. Tighter control at ports is also necessary to prevent the import of alien species into the country.

Live carp imported from France were seized from French anglers by Fisheries Enforcement Officers in the Limerick. While in Lough Ree invasive Ponto-Caspian shrimp (*Hemimysis anomala*) was discovered. Scientific studies are being carried out Board, in association with the Central Fisheries Board and Queens University to monitor the population dynamics of the invasive shrimp and to assess the wider ecological implications of their introduction.

During 2009/10 the Board devoted considerable time to the monitoring of the many new road schemes traversing the Shannon Region. While loss of habitat did occur, the Board succeeded in ensuring that the loss was minimised. The no net loss principle was adopted in many cases and many kilometres of river were restored. It is expected that many of the roads under construction will be completed during the course of 2010, but many more are in the planning stages. The Board continues to monitor the many waste water and sewage treatment plants throughout the Region and where necessary took Court action when a breach of the legislation was detected.

An important cooperative role was developed with Local Authorities in the Region where significant damage to watercourses has taken place due to illegal development activities. A successful enforcement order in County Limerick was achieved in the case of one development, requiring him to reinstate the river and the Board is also working with Offaly County Council with regard a similar development.

The Board has made several detailed submissions and presentations in relation to the Greater Dublin Water supply scheme, now known as the Dublin Region Supply Scheme. This scheme has the potential to have a serious impact in the Shannon Region and it is important that if the extraction is to go ahead that it is sited and developed in such a way as to minimise the impact and fish habitat and fisheries. The Board as one of the stakeholders considers that the Dublin city authorities should not be permitted to abstract water from the catchment without charge. Funding derived from water charges could be returned back into the catchment through environmental projects.

A report on a survey to assess the potential impact on the ecologically sensitive pollan of a proposed navigation development in Lough Allen was published.

## **Regulatory Compliance**

*Protect fish and their habitat through ensuring compliance and enforcement of regulations.*

An important part of the Boards function is the protection of our fisheries resource through the enforcement of the Fisheries and Pollution Acts. Fisheries Officers patrol a variety of fisheries habitats throughout the Shannon catchment from the open salmon angling rivers in the lower Shannon to mixed stock fisheries in the mid and upper Shannon. These patrols seek to detect non compliance, identify possible sources of pollution and ensure compliance with tagging and log book conservation requirements. Patrols are also carried out as part of an agreement with the ESB to monitor activity on their fisheries.

In the Shannon area there were 34 prosecutions initiated for breaches of the Fisheries Acts and over 120 On-The-Spot Fines issued, the majority of these being for illegal fishing. In June 2009 alone there were thirteen nets seized in the Shannon Estuary, West Clare and River Feale. A number of fishermen were prosecuted for illegal netting arising from incidents in June 2010. There was a noted increase in incidents reported and encountered in 2009 and to date 2010 would appear to be even busier. Four nets were seized in the tidal waters of the Feale in February 2009 and many more in the following months. Illegal activity was just as prevalent in 2010. A net was also seized in the Doonbeg River and a cage in the Galey in December 2009. These seizures are outside the usual salmon run and show the need for presence throughout the year by Fisheries Enforcement Officers. A major highlight during the period was the apprehension of individuals using a lamp and spear during the salmon spawning period in the Mulkear and this resulted in a successful prosecution.

The use of On-The-Spot Fines has lead to a more efficient way of policing the fisheries laws for many minor offences. During routine boat or foot patrols on the inland waters the use of On-The-Spot Fines has meant that live baiting issues, breaches of the pike and coarse fish byelaws can be dealt with promptly. On Lough Derg in particular it led to a high profile article in the Angling Times which detailed

the professionalism of the Board in dealing with the enforcement of Fisheries legislation.

Along the coastline patrols were carried out using large boats (RIBs), large patrol vessels (LPVs) and assistance was given by the Navy and Air Corp. While no breaches were uncovered in 2009/10 there were a number of reports responded to regarding illegal fishing. The sharing of information and co-operation with neighbouring Regional Fisheries Board allowed for more efficient use of resources.

The lack of adequate legislation to protect our native fish populations was highlighted in April 2009 when staff uncovered a group of French anglers fishing for pike with live carp as bait in Lough Derg. The carp had been imported by the anglers and the case is ongoing.

### **Commercial Salmon Fishery**

Commercial draft net fishing took place in the Cashen and Feale rivers. Good compliance was achieved by the commercial sector with 100% of logbooks returned and no breaches of the legislation observed. A total of 1470 tags were issued to 42 license holders. The total catch for the 2009 CFO Draft net fishery was 1,252 fish, which is significantly down on previous years. There were no sea trout reported caught by the draft net fishery. The 2010 season opened on June 1<sup>st</sup>, a change from previous years, and to date the catch has been encouraging. Not all available licenses were taken out in 2010, as a result of the poor catch over previous years.

### **Eel management and conservation**

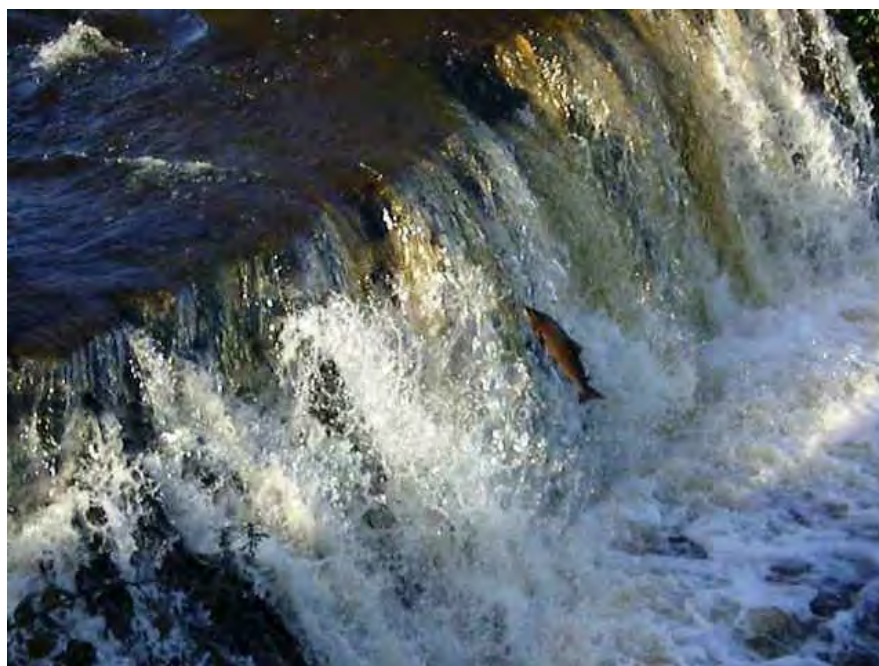
Following adoption of the National Eel Management Plans by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, conservation measures were put in place requiring considerable Board resources and cooperation with other Agencies. A trap and transport programme was initiated to transport netted eels (under Section 14 authorisation) from upper areas of the Shannon to below the dam at Parteen. In 2009 over 24 tonnes of silver eels were trapped and transported from licensed locations on Lough Ree, River Inny, Rooskey and Killaloe and released into the Kilmastulla River below Parteen Weir. A similar programme will take place in 2010.

Commercial fishing for eels was banned under the 2009 legislation and to ensure compliance lake patrols on all the major Shannon lakes were carried out from September 2009. A number of nets were seized on the main Shannon lakes during the summer.

Coordination of scientific studies was carried out through the National Scientific Eel Group. Catch statistics and general studies on the biology of eels was carried out by National University of Ireland Galway, in consultation with this group.

### **Resource Investment and Product Development**

*Deploy resources effectively to meet operational needs*



**Salmon leaping**

### **River Restoration Projects**

A number of river restoration works were carried out throughout the Shannon Catchment. Over 5,000m of river channel were restored in ten rivers. Works on the Cross River near Athlone were completed. A number of in-stream structures were inserted and angling access was provided along the river bank through fencing and the erecting of stiles and drain crossings. River restorations works on the major tributaries of the River Maigue in County Limerick began in summer 2009 to redress



the loss of diverse fisheries habitat caused by drainage works. Some of this work was part funded under the Salmon Conservation Fund. In Cavan, spawning beds and gravel pools were introduced into 2km of the Ballyjamesduff River to Latnaglochan.

### **Fisheries Development Projects**

A number of additional facilities were constructed to enhance angling access to lakes and rivers. A total of 72 stiles, footbridges and platforms were constructed. These projects were carried out in association with local development groups, LEADER programmes, County Councils and the ESB. Development works along the Mulkear salmon fishery is carried out in association with the ESB and the Mulkear Catchment Management Group. Other ongoing works involved the maintenance of swims, upgrading of angling facilities, development of disabled angling access and the creation of pools to support additional cohorts of fish.

Restocking programmes are maintained both to enhance native salmonid populations and for angling development, particularly for put-and-take fisheries. In terms of wild fisheries, the policy of the Board is to enhance the natural habitat for salmonids as an alternative of restocking to preserve the genetic integrity of the stocks. Restocking of brown trout was carried out at selected locations, as an additional means to augment wild populations and to promote recreational angling and tourism. Restocking with larger brown trout occurred in traditional angling lakes such as Lough Owel, Lough O'Flynn and a number of lakes in county Clare.

Over 43 thousand rainbow trout were stocked into put and take fisheries in 2009/10. Other species stocked or relocated were Pike and Carp. Nearly 900 thousand brown trout were stocked into various fisheries.

### **Fish Counters**

The Board successfully managed 3 fish counters, the Feale, Maigue and Mulkear. The counters were invaluable in providing information to enable management of Salmon stocks. Various technical upgrades were made to the equipment. Progress has been slow in securing planning for the installation a counter on the River Fergus, due to numerous requests for further information. Planning permission was secured

in 2010; however this has been appealed to An Bord Pleánala by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### **Fish spawning surveys**

Redd counts surveys were carried out throughout the catchment in salmonid waters from the River Feale and Galey in the south to the spate streams and headwaters at Lough Allen. Information was recorded for digital mapping of the spawning grounds. This provides important supplementary information in stock assessment programmes and is important in the context of salmonid fisheries management. The cold water temperatures in early 2010 seemed to favour salmon spawning, as there were much fewer diseased salmon noted by our officers - there was also a larger return of kelts to sea.

### **Catchment wide e/fishing**

Catchment wide electrofishing surveys were carried out on three catchments in 2009 - Galey, Fergus and Maigue. These surveys provide data on stock levels and results will be used, together with other information, to inform fisheries management and conservation approaches such as the setting of salmon conservation limits.

### ***Shannon Salmon Restoration Project***

Work continued on the Shannon Salmon Restoration Project through the Board's Advisory Committee and a Scientific Technical Committee. Following consultation with all stakeholders and the fishery owner the ESB a draft strategy was put out to consultation in 2009 and a finalised version published in 2010. In 2009 the Committee focused on hydro-acoustic surveys to assess the upward migration of salmon through major obstacles on the system and reviews on international best practice for the mitigation against obstacles posed by dams and navigation weirs on fish migrations. Collation of various stock assessment surveys data was carried out from electro-fishing surveys, salmonid spawning surveys and restocking programmes. This provides information on the spatial distribution of current salmon stocks throughout the Shannon system. Reviews of archived material, (including genetic analysis), was carried out to help establish the historic distribution of salmon in the catchment.



### ***Atlantic Aquatic Resource Conservation (AARC) project***

The AARC project is funded under the 2007-2013 Atlantic Area programme and was initiated in early 2010. Planning meetings for work in the Shannon Catchment occurred under the auspices of the Shannon Salmon Restoration committee in late 2009 and early 2010. The main work programmes in the project include:

- Undertaking an inventory of the physical river resource integrating the data into a high resolution geographical information system (GIS).
- Estimating the strength of the residual population.
- Undertaking a genetic assessment of candidate populations as a source of the highest potential and most appropriate brood-stock for the re-colonisation trial.
- Undertaking the collection and holding of broodstock.
- Undertaking a programme of assisted re-colonisation
- Undertaking monitoring of the recolonisation process.
- Providing a programme of assisted migration past the hydro scheme dams.

The project involves a European partnership approach across six countries providing a multi-disciplinary approach to improving our knowledge and research into important anadromous fish species and to help inform improved management approach for the conservation of these species. Full details and up to date information on the AARC project can be found at <http://aarcproject.org/>.

## **Partnership**

### ***Catchment Management***

Fisheries catchment management is a process of engagement and cooperation with various stakeholders concerned with the management and development of their local rivers and lake ecosystems. It involves strategic planning and integrated management approaches for geographically distinct catchments (sub-catchment level) and leads to the development of a catchment management plan through consensus and public consultation.

Fisheries catchment management has been underway on the River Mulkear Catchment for over ten years. A catchment management plan has been drafted for the River Mulkear by a representative committee and has gone through public

consultation. This plan provides a template for the management of the River Mulkear in terms of fisheries, drainage maintenance, forestry, agriculture practices and water quality improvements and the catchment management process provides a framework for the enhancement of the River Mulkear fisheries through proactive planning. There have been many important milestones in the Mulkear Catchment Management process, including the installation of fish counters, community engagement in the tackling of invasive weeds, education and awareness events (through schools 'Something Fishy Programme' and 'Fisheries Awareness Week') and most recently the successful granting of an EU LIFE biodiversity funding.

### ***Mulkear LIFE - EU LIFE+ Nature Project***

This €1.7 million EU LIFE Nature project is now up and running. The project success is a direct result of the cooperative approach and dedication of the Mulkear Catchment Management Committee. Mulkear LIFE is being managed by a dedicated project team of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board and supported by OPW, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Limerick County Council. The work programmes will be informed by a Project Steering Committee and various technical advisory groups comprised of relevant experts and members of the Mulkear Catchment Management Committee. The Mulkear Committee will also act as the Project Advisory Group providing input into the strategic running of Mulkear LIFE.

The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board is rolling out Catchment Management into other sub-catchments within the Shannon Region. A Catchment Management committee has been established for the River Maigue in County Limerick and the inaugural meeting was held in late 2009. The process has also been initiated for the River Suck and River Feale sub-catchments. Catchment management plans for both these catchments will be drafted by the relevant committees in 2010.

Consultations have also taken place in other sub-catchments to address various important issues and these regions may require a similar catchment management approach to deal with the relevant priority issues. The Kilmastulla River in County Limerick is an important river in the context of lower Shannon salmonid stocks. It has been heavily influenced by drainage and requires a fresh approach to flood relief with ecological management in mind. Detailed river restoration plans have been

developed for the River Kilmastulla and improved consultations will be required in 2010.

Similarly, the River Jiggy in Roscommon Town has suffered from poor water quality as identified in successive Environmental Protection Agency reports and a number of surveys have been carried out in 2009 to look at enhancement approaches for this sub-catchment. The Board expects to develop upon these surveys through cooperative approaches with relevant agencies in the region in 2010.

### **Marketing & Promotion**

The Board was involved in a number of promotional shows in Europe and inward journalists trips, designed to help attract anglers to the Region. This is part of the Board's tourism promotional priorities and provides the opportunities to advise the tourist section of the abundance of angling opportunities in the Region. While of visiting anglers remain low there were signs of an increase on some fisheries. With prices dropping, the Board sees an opportunity to attract new anglers to the country and will increase its activities in this area in the coming year.



#### **Pocket guides**

The production of a series of pocket guides was commenced the Board to cover all our primary managed fisheries. The Lough Sheelin guide, the first in the series has been published with the Lough Owel and the Little Brosna and Camcor River now available. A Sea Angling Brochure is near completion and will be published early in the coming season.

## **Angling**

Angling continues to attract large numbers of anglers to the Region. The Region has a wide diversity of angling opportunities available and while it has faced many threats the 2009/10 seasons, demonstrated that this resource is among the best in the country. The resource continues to provide sustainable economic benefit to local communities and the potential for much more. Some of the highlights from the season are outlined below.

The 2009 spring run of Salmon was disappointing on the River Feale with very few fish caught in the opening weeks. There was a good grilse run on the Mulkear River in July and into August 2009, while the River Feale overall was poor considering the good fishing water, particularly in August, which is normally a good month on the fishery. The 2010 spring run was disappointing for anglers due to low water conditions. Fish counter figures were encouraging and a pattern is emerging where multi sea winder fish are moving later in the summer.

The brown trout fishing went very well on Lough Sheelin and Lough Owel, in particular. It was a difficult period throughout the region in terms of weather and flooding. Although, 2009 mayfly hatches were not as good as previous years, there was good fish caught on the dapping and most fisheries saw improved fishing later in the season. Fish in the 7lb bracket were caught on Loughs Owel, Shellin and Lough Derg. The Garrykennedy Fishing Club award for the heaviest trout of the mayfly season (on Lough Derg) was 7lb 1oz, caught by a Nenagh angler on a 'wulff'.



**Garrykennedy Fishing Club angler with catch**

It was late spring before the main coarse angling season commenced in earnest in the Shannon Region with the longer evenings and milder weather. Excellent catches of large Roach, hybrids and Bream were reported along the Shannon from Shannonbridge to Banagher. Other hotspots were the lower River Inny at Tommy Foxes. A national contest for anglers with special needs took place at our access for all facility at Donamon on the River Suck over the Easter weekend. The King of Clubs competition was fished on the Shannon at Portumna while fishing at the Banagher Festival recovered sufficiently for the pleasure anglers who bagged well in the backwaters upstream of Banagher and downstream at Meelick. Specimen tench fishing was enjoyed at Lanesboro and at Meelick in the early season.

One of the highlights of the autumn fishing was the annual Carrick on Shannon Festival which was fished over four days at four venues in the Upper Shannon. The Shannon Regional Fisheries Board supported this event, providing stewarding and prepared the venues for the festival. Coarse angling conditions were very favourable with the Indian summer in October 2009, providing ideal conditions and water levels recovered after the summer deluge. The 2010 mayfly season was again poor; this is being attributed to the lower temperatures.

Pike angling continues to be an important angling product in the Shannon Region with fly fishing for pike is becoming an increasingly popular specialist form of pike angling.

There were several high profile Pike fishing competitions and events held in the region over 2009/10. The Boyle & District Angling Club had a very successful Easter Pike Angling Festival on Lough Key over Easter weekend 2009. Some great pike were caught with the top three rods each recording fish of over 20lbs. The first qualifier of the national pike championships was held on the River Inny at Legan in early April 2009. A total of 212 pike were recorded for the 86 competitors. Thirty-four angling journalists from Germany, Belgium, France, Ireland and elsewhere arrived in Athlone in April 2009 to consider the suitability of Lough Ree as a Pike fishing venue and to launch the Lough Ree International Pike Festival which was held in April 2010. The prestigious Annual European Pike Angling Challenge was fished at the end of September 2009 on Lough Derg and the lower Shannon.

The Shannon Region featured prominently in the 2009 Specimen Pike Awards. Most of the Specimen Pike verified by the Irish Specimen Fish Committee were caught in the Shannon Region i.e. on the Shannon, River Suck and Inny systems.

### **Education and Outreach**

Fisheries and environmental awareness is a key part of the Shannon Regional Fisheries Boards commitment to achieving several of its objectives. There are three main programmes which are rolled out through the school system; Shannon Regional Fisheries Board Fisheries and Environmental Education programme, the national Something Fishy programme, and Waterwise programme.

Over 5,000 primary school students participated in the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board Fisheries and Environmental Education program in 2009/10. Primary school children from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class take part in a class room visit which incorporates a talk, fun games, an art competition, insects from the river and sometimes live fish.

Twenty five local schools were selected for the more detailed national Something Fishy Schools Education Programme. Staff from the Board delivered the training in the selected schools and brought the children on a variety of field trips.

The Waterwise initiative was co-ordinated by the **Save Our Lough Derg** group and brings together North Tipperary Co Council and the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board to deliver a practical programme to local primary school children. The programme involves visits to the source of the Nenagh River and follows it downstream to where it meets Lough. In 2009 there were ten schools who participated in the programme.

An outreach program was formally set up with Rossbrien School Completion Program in Limerick City. Fisheries Staff worked with the group and the primary school children to develop an interest in fishing and environmental awareness. The ultimate aim of the program is to retain the children in primary education through a reward system of field trips, fishing trips and fishy workshops. One day events were held with other groups at Clara, Co. Offaly and Limerick Youth Project.



### **Fisheries Awareness Week**

Through the showers and the sunshine the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board held its now annual Fisheries Awareness Week at the end of April 2009. In 2010 Fisheries Awareness week was run nationally. The 2010 event coincided with National Biodiversity week and enjoyed the finer weather at the end of May. Many “Take a friend fishing” events were held throughout the Shannon catchment. Large numbers of people particularly turned out to try their hand at angling and on Lough Ree the local angling club provided boat trips while on Lough Derg a massive 38lb pike was caught at Mountshannon. For the more advanced anglers there was coaching provided for casting on the banks of the Mulkear River near Bilboa, Co. Limerick and at Lough Owel in Mullingar. The Shannon Board organised major conference both years, pulling together all stakeholder and agencies with an interest in fisheries and fish habitat. The 2009 conference focused on “Managing Fisheries in Challenging Times”, while the 2010 conference focused on fish passage issues on the Shannon.

### **Human Resources**

*Continue to develop a capable, flexible and effective organization*

2009/10 was a challenging period for the Board as the public service recruitment embargo led to the non replacement of posts and considerable delays in the filling of externally funded contract posts.

Nevertheless staff as always, through their dedication to the work of the Board, delivered on the Board’s service obligations for the period, including a large volume of scientific studies and the extra workload brought about by the ban on eel fishing and associated conservation measures.

The Board is concerned that it may not be in a position to deliver the full range of services in future years as the number of staff decreases, particularly at Fishery Officer grade.

Continued focus is placed on promoting health and safety in the workplace. The Board carries out comprehensive reviews of equipment and personal safety. In the course of 2009 the Health and Safety committee drafted a comprehensive safety



statement, reviewing all areas of the Board's operations. The Board's training programme for the period was particularly focused on water safety and boat handling, ensuring that all field staff are up to date in their skills.

In total over 450 training days were provided in 2009/10. Apart from water safety and boat handling, courses were delivered in areas such as First Aid, GIS and expert witness training.

The Board also worked in partnership with the other Fisheries Boards in delivering the national training and modernisation programme. Items outlined in the Service Level Agreement with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources were addressed.

The Performance, Management and Development System is fully operational in the organisation. This system provides for the review of each individual's performance and their training needs against objectives which are in line with the business plan of the Board.

**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>18 month period Ended 30 June 2010</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2008</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Oireachtas Income	1	4,708,285	3,257,846
Other Income	2	1,020,375	894,656
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	13 (c)	863,000	772,000
		<u>6,591,660</u>	<u>4,924,502</u>
 <b>Transfer from Capital Account</b>	 12	 78,542	 58,901
		<u>6,670,202</u>	<u>4,983,403</u>
 <b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	3	748,155	535,583
Operations	4	6,442,747	4,387,016
		<u>7,190,902</u>	<u>4,922,599</u>
 <b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>		 (520,700)	 60,804
 <b>Surplus at 1 January 2009</b>		 364,904	 304,100
 <b>(Deficit)/Surplus at 30 June 2010</b>		 <u>(155,796)</u>	 <u>364,904</u>

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## **Western Regional Fisheries Board**

### **HEADQUARTERS AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

#### **Introduction**

The Board undertook its statutory responsibilities throughout the period and held fourteen full Board meetings and several other subcommittee meetings as well as seven audit committee meetings. The accounts were completed and submitted to the Department in a timely manner and the external audit was conducted for the period between the 31<sup>st</sup> Aug and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2010. All the Boards obligations were fulfilled during the year.

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2009 the Board discussed the fishery rate and a proposal that the rate be struck at €17.46 in the Euro was sent to the Minister in that regard. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 the Minister confirmed the rate at €16.78 in the Euro (the same as the previous year) due to the fact that it was anticipated that there would be deflation rather than inflation during the year. In January 2010 the Board recommended that the fishery rate to be struck should be decreased by 5% for 2010.

All declarations in respect of the Ethics in Public Office for the period are in place for all Board members and the Chief Executive Officer.



**Official Opening of Teach Breac, Galway on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009** from left to right; Colm Cantillon (Architect) (Simon J. Kelly & Associates); Councillor Seamus Walsh; (Galway County Council; Deputy Michael D. Higgins TD; Councillor Mary Hoade; Deputy Frank Fahey (who performed the ceremony); Lal Faherty (Chairman; The Western Regional Fisheries Board); Councillor Thomas Welby (Galway County Council); Greg Forde (Chief Executive Officer; The Western Regional Fisheries Board); Shane Cuddy ( Cuddy Developments Limited - Principal Contractor).

## **Finance**

The Board accounts were prepared by the staff of the Board in conjunction with Deacy and Associates the Board's accountants.

A private firm, Moylan Mulcahy, undertook the audit of the Board on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General between the 31<sup>st</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Internal Audit of the Board was undertaken by an external firm, Sheehan Quinn, on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009, this report was reviewed and adopted by the Audit Committee and the recommendations ratified by the Board on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

## **MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES**

### **New Counters**

The Board received funding through the Conservation Stamp and other sources for several fish counters in the region during the year. In addition the VAKI counter at Clifden that had been purchased in the previous year was installed in the fish pass on the Owenglin River and commissioned. The counters completed in 2009 were the Culfin, Dawros and the Clifden. A further counter installation on the Kilcolgan was constructed in October 2009 and commissioned in June 2010.

The Western Board has now developed very considerable expertise in the field of counter construction and operation.



**The new counter weir on the Culfin River, Lettergesh, Connemara.**

The counters installed are primarily Logie counters (Culfin and Dawros) and the counter on the Clifden (Owenglin) is a Vaki. These are very different counter technologies but only certain counter types can be installed on particular rivers.

The counter weir on the Kilcolgan had to be built into the bed of the river as the area is liable to flooding and the works had to be done in a manner that did not cause any



interference with the rivers discharge capacity, this was achieved by widening the river and excavating the river bed.



The crump weir on the Kilcolgan River.

### ***Lagarosiphon major* Management - Lough Corrib**

The Board continued to work intensively on the management and control of the invasive weed *Lagarosiphon major* in Lough Corrib. The scientific back-up was curtailed for a period as the Central Fisheries Board sought sanction for the employment of staff for the Life + project on invasive species for which they had received EU funding. The scientific project only really became operational towards the end of 2009. The Board continued to employ staff on the project throughout the period using funding from various sources including Galway County Council; the Western Fisheries Development Society; The Heritage Council; The Office of Public Works and from the Boards own resources.

The work undertaken by the staff was extremely encouraging in that Rinneroon bay and Baurisheen which previously had become carpeted throughout with weed was cleared before the spring of 2009. Over the period 400 tonnes of weed were removed and over 100 light occlusion sites completed.



The main weed cutting boat removing weed in Cornamona, Co. Galway.

## RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

A number of research project were undertaken during the year in conjunction with the Central Fisheries Board.

### (1) Salmon Smolt - Erriff and Gowla Rivers

In this experiment salmon smolts were microtagged in Cong and imprinted in both the Erriff and Gowla rivers. Two separate batches of fish were used in each river. One batch in each river was fed with Slice <sup>TM</sup> which provides protection to the fish against a settlement of salmon lice once the fish go to sea. The other batch of fish were fed normal feed, the survival rates of the different batches of fish will be monitored over the coming year.



**(2) Sea Trout - Erriff River**

Sea trout migrating to sea from the Tawnyard river sub-catchment of the Erriff river were again monitored during the normal kelt and smolt migration period. This is done annually to assist with building a long time series of data on the growth rates and survival patterns of the sea trout in this river.

**(3) Traps**

The Board continued to monitor salmon and salmon and sea trout in the Screebe system (on behalf of the fishery owners); Invermore and Gowla as part of the ongoing research with the Central Fisheries Board.

**(4) Ferox Trout - Loughs Mask and Corrib**

The Board continued with the Ferox trout capture and tagging programme on Lough Mask in 2009 and 2010. This was the final year of the three year programme previously conducted on Lough Corrib. In all 79 fish over the three years were caught and tagged and their migration to spawning were monitored over the winter of 2009 and shall be monitored over the coming winter. To date the results have been less conclusive than that observed on Lough Corrib where 95% of the Ferox trout spawn in the one river.

**(5) Eels**

The Galway Fishery was selected as one of the National Index rivers for eel assessment in the period. The nets at Galway which had previously been licensed as a commercial fishery were fished in the normal manner in 2009 but on a scientific basis only. Eels were tagged and released upstream to assess the catching efficiency of the nets. Other eels were tagged as part of two separate tagging programmes - some of the fish with internal tags which would eventually be washed up on distant shores and the data downloaded. The fishery will continue to be an index river for the future.

## **(6) Water Framework Directive Sampling**

The Board continued to assist the Central Fisheries Board with the sampling of streams and estuaries as part of the Water Framework Directive assessment of different water bodies.

### **Biosecurity Plan for Lough Mask**

Following the preparation of the Biosecurity plan for Lough Mask the start of the roll out process commenced in the period.

The Board in conjunction with Mayo County Council held the first few meetings to try and put in place the necessary controls for a “Biosecurity Zone” for Loughs Mask and Carra. This is a new departure in Ireland and it will take time for this concept to be embraced Nationally. In 2010 biosecurity efforts were increased as part of the planning for the World Cup Trout Competition to be held in August 2010 by requiring the provision of cleaning stations for boats transferring from other water bodies to the lake.

As part of the outreach education aspect of this programme presentations were made on the topic to the Strategic Policy Committee of Mayo County Council and Galway City and County Councils throughout the period.

### **Development Projects**

A significant number of development projects were undertaken in the period on streams around Loughs Mask and Carra in particular the Ballyheane; Ballintubber; Brownstown; Robe; Rocksborough and Srahnalong rivers - this programme was jointly funded by the local angling clubs and the Western Fisheries Development Society.

This programme which cost €27,800 produced excellent results and demonstrated what can be achieved with the state and angling clubs pool modest resources to best effect.



**Ballintubber River before development works.**



**Ballintubber River after development works.**

### **Sea Trout**

Sea trout returns in the Ballynahinch system deteriorated in terms of finnock survival but there were some larger fish running the system which was encouraging. It again must be noted that after an absence of salmon in the adjacent salmon farm for a number of years the cages were re-stocked in the period with salmon smolts. It was also notable that cod were in two sites in the Bertraghboy Bay apparently without a licence.

The Board continued to correspond with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on the matter of salmon aquaculture and issues related to the management,

licensing and regulations of the salmon farms in the Region. The Board wrote to the Department on thirteen occasions on the matter.

### **Staff Recruitment**

During the period an embargo was announced by the Department of Finance on all recruitment in the public sector. This unfortunately left the Board unable to recruit a person to replace a general operative and a fishery officer who retired during the period. Several other staff on temporary contracts were lost. In the autumn the Board received sanction for several temporary posts including an Administrative Assistant and several posts to cover the Water Framework Directive sampling.

### **Retirement**

During the period Michael Hamroque retired after 26 years service with the Board working in the Lough Mask and Carra area of the Region - he had 13 years prior service with CIE. Paddy Glynn, a fishery officer in the Galway Fishery, retired after 33 years service with the Board. The Board owes a sincere thanks to Michael and Paddy for their long service to the fisheries of the Region and the Board.

### **Fisheries Awareness Week**

Over the period the Board held “Fisheries Awareness Week”, an initiative started by the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board. Fisheries Awareness Week is an initiative to raise awareness of fisheries and the fisheries service in the Region and the programme was expanded to a National event in 2010. In all the Board held 30 events in both years including the official opening of the Board’s Headquarters and a charity row from Lough Carra, through Lough Mask and Lough Corrib to the Fisheries Field in Earl’s Island. The event raised over €9,000 for Cancer Care West. Other activities were as diverse as sea fishing in Lettergesh, open days in various locations to tours of Cong salmon hatchery and fish cooking in Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and Aasleagh Lodge.





A group of school children being shown fish and insect larvae from a stream sample by Fishery Officer Kevin Kerrigan.

### **Environmental**

During the period, the Board took legal proceedings against Galway County in respect of fish kills at Clonbur on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2008 and Dereen, on the Clare River in March 2009. The longstanding case in respect of the Athenry fish kill from 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July 2006 was finally disposed of in 2009. These three prosecutions have been instrumental in fast tracking the upgrading of the treatment plants and systems in the respective locations.

During the period pike were also discovered in the upper reaches of the Owenriff system near Oughterard. While it would seem that the fish have been there for a number of years the Board are alarmed that the lakes that previously held a very large stock of small brown trout now had very few trout. The Owenriff is a major nursery lake for brown trout from Lough Corrib.

### **Western Fisheries Development Society**

The Board continued to work in close association with the Western Fisheries Development Society and several projects undertaken by the angling club and funded by the Development Society were sub-contracted to the Fisheries Board, this resulted in excellent value for money. The Co-Operative grant aided a major project on Lough Mask and Carra streams with a contribution of €19,084 and a further €20,000 was contributed to the weed cutting operations on Lough Corrib. In total grant aid of €69,246.98 was made to over 12 projects in the Region. Share certificate sales amounted to €13,921.80 and the Society received grant aid of €5,521.86 from the Central Fisheries Board for the year 2008. The Society grant aided as many eligible projects as possible to ensure that the funds were completely exhausted prior to the dissolution of the Cooperatives in April 2010.

### **Donation**

In December 2009 the Board received an anonymous donation of 3 books associated with the legal challenge between the Ashworths (Edward and Thomas) and Patrick Browne and 18 named respondents in relation to the ownership of the Galway Fishery. These were bound and prepared in 1861. The books contained all the legal briefs in relation to the injunction sought and granted to the Fishery owners and the books document the unbroken ownership history of the fishery from 1228 - 1860. They represent a very important component of the history of the Galway Fishery and the Board are extremely grateful to the anonymous donor who made them available to the Board through a Galway firm of solicitors, Desmond Fitzgerald & Sons, Barna, Co. Galway. Ultimately it is hoped that the books will be displayed in a public museum in either Galway or Castlebar.

### **Publications**

The Board undertook a revamp of its website during the period to ensure it complied with the legislation on accessibility. The Board completed the publication of the newsletters for both the Galway and Erriff Fisheries as well as a brochure and beat map for the Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh Lodge. Copies of these are attached or are available on the Boards website: [www.wrfb.ie](http://www.wrfb.ie).

### **Chairman's Statement**

As per government decision in October 2007, 5180/20/13/0996, the Board has consulted with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs over development and promotional activities during the period.

### **Report regarding the implementation of the Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies.**

All Board members are aware and appear fully compliant with the provisions of the Standards in Public Office Act 2001, and the Code of Business Conduct.

All Board members had made a Disclosure of Interests in accordance with the provisions section 3, Appendix A, of the Code of Practice.

All Board employees are aware and fully compliant with the provisions of the Code of Business Conduct for Employees.

The up to date codes of business conduct are available upon request with a copy of each such code is accessible through the Board's web site.

The Board has in place a Customer Charter and this is posted on the Board's web site.

### **Report with reference to section 10.2 of the Code of Practice:**

There were no commercially significant developments affecting the Board during the period. The Board did not establish any subsidiaries, participate in joint ventures or acquire shares.

The Board complied with all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and disposal of assets.

A statement on the Board's system of internal financial control, in accordance with the requirements of 10.2 (iii) of the Code is also available in the body of the Financial Statements.

As stated above, the Codes of Business Conduct for Board Members and Employees have been put in place and adhered to.



The Board has complied with government policy on the pay of the Chief Executive Officer. The CEO is paid on the salary scale of Chief Executive Officers for Regional Fisheries Boards. The scale is a 5 point scale plus 2 long service increments. At the end of 2009 this scale was from €89,674 - €111,164 - and the CEO was on point 5: €104,437. At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 this figure has been decreased to €97,417.

The Board has also complied with government guidelines on payment of director's fees, as no fees are paid to members of the Board.

As of now, there have been no significant post balance sheet events. The Board's accounts were extended to an 18 month period up to the day before vesting day of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The Board has complied with the Guidelines for Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals.

The Code of Practice has been adopted by the Board and the Board is compliant with the provisions of the Code.

**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>18 month period Ended 30 June 2010</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2008</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Oireachtas Income	1	5,351,917	4,209,185
Other Income	1	1,300,229	982,469
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	10c	882,196	633,906
		<u>7,534,342</u>	<u>5,825,560</u>
<b>Transfer from Capital Account</b>	11	<u>216,124</u>	<u>(1,140,336)</u>
		<u>7,750,466</u>	<u>4,685,224</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	3	2,493,371	1,689,293
Operations	4	5,046,415	3,579,852
		<u>7,539,786</u>	<u>5,269,145</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>		210,680	( 583,921)
<b>Surplus at 1 January 2009</b>		<u>89,218</u>	<u>673,139</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus at 30 June 2010</b>		<u>€ 299,898</u>	<u>89,218</u>

## **North Western Regional Fisheries Board**

### **Mission Statement**

The Board is committed to the conservation and sustainable development of the region's inland fisheries, sea angling and molluscan shellfish resources and to the management of these valuable resources in a way which will yield the maximum return to the local economy, on a sustainable basis, while, at the same time, providing a valuable and attractive recreational outlet for local people.

### **Budget**

The Board's budget for the 18 month period was approximately €5.63m of which €4.58m was provided by the exchequer with the balance, €1.05, being raised by the Board through sales of fishing licences, angling permits, the collection of fishery rates etc.

### **Protection and Conservation of Fisheries**

Having regard to the number of highly valuable salmon fisheries in the region, and the Board's statutory remit, protection of these fisheries again accounted for the bulk of the Board's work over the 18 month period. All of the main rivers were patrolled on a regular basis in order to ensure that the fisheries laws and regulations were being complied with. As well as inland waters, the region's coastal area was patrolled on a regular basis throughout the main salmon season with the Board's RIBs (Rigid Inflatable Boats) generally operating in pairs for safety reasons. Once again, there was little evidence of illegal activity along the coast but, nonetheless, 25 illegal nets were seized in 2009 at sea and estuarine waters. However, during the first six months of 2010 a further 18 nets were seized largely from estuaries of the Owenmore and Owenduff rivers and from Tullaghan Bay reflecting increased illegal activity. The following were the main elements of the Board's protection activities over the 18 month period.

- A total of 3,249 staff days were devoted to patrols of inland waters plus an additional 172 boat patrols.

- A total of 355 staff days were devoted to sea patrols including 28 two-boat patrols and 15 one-boat patrols.
- A total of 300 staff days were devoted to land based coastal patrols.
- The region's oyster fisheries were also patrolled and these accounted for 61 staff days.
- A total of 96 illegal nets, measuring 6,574 yards, were seized.
- A total of 32 On the Spot Fines were issued.
- Prosecutions were initiated in 28 (15 in 2009 & 13 to 30 June, 2010) cases in relation to illegal fishing incidents. At the time of this report, convictions had been recorded in 7 cases and one had been dismissed. The remainder had yet to come before the courts due to difficulties experienced in serving summonses in some cases and the adjournment of a number of other cases pending the resolution of related legal proceedings.
- The licensing, salmon tagging, bag limit and quota regulations were enforced throughout the region with angling/licence/logbooks checked in 6,852 cases.
- At the Board's request, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources made a further bye law providing for extension of the annual close season for salmon angling in specified parts of Lough Conn, Lough Cullin and the River Deel from 1 February to 31 May for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 in order to conserve stocks of Spring salmon.

### **Management of Salmon Stocks**

The region's salmon fisheries were managed in accordance with government policy which requires management of the national salmon stock on a river catchment basis. This resulted in a complete prohibition on salmon fishing on a small number of rivers, the enforcement of a *Catch & Release* regime on some others and the enforcement of a quota on all other rivers. Commercial fishing in the region in 2009 was limited to

23 Special Local Draft net licences which operated in the Tullaghan Bay area, in West Mayo, and one ordinary draft net licence which operated on the Newport River estuary. The position was similar in 2010 up to 30 June when, at that date, 22 special local draft net licences for the Tullaghan Bay area and an ordinary draft net licence for the Newport River had been issued. In accordance with the law, following consultation with the Bangor Fisheries District Committee, the Board's CEO in 2009 and Acting CEO in 2010 decided on the allocation of total allowable catch to commercial fishermen and anglers in respect of the Owenmore, Owenduff and Newport Rivers. They also determined the individual allocations to commercial fishermen licensed to fish on those rivers.



**A smolt trap is used on the Glenamoy River to monitor salmon stocks**



**A footbridge was erected across a Board weir on the Owenmore River to facilitate servicing of fish counting equipment on the weir**

Tags were then distributed in accordance with the allocations in each case and catches were monitored regularly throughout the season to ensure compliance with quota allocations. In addition to the specific protection role discharged by the Board, as reported above, the following were the main elements of work carried out in relation to management of salmon stocks over the 18 month period.

- The Board issued 5,555 salmon angling licences and 25 commercial salmon fishing licences were in 2009. A further 2,438 salmon angling licences and 24 commercial salmon fishing licences up to 30 June 2010.
- Quotas were allocated to the commercial salmon fishermen in accordance with the regulations and carcass tags distributed to each licence holder accordingly.
- Commercial fishing licences and logbooks were checked on a regular basis to ensure compliance with quotas.
- The Board managed fish counters on the Garravogue and Ballysadare Rivers in the Sligo District, on the River Moy in the Ballina District and on the Munhin and



Owenmore Rivers in the Bangor District. The Moy counters did not operate in 2010 due to preparations for the planned refurbishment of the weir. The Owenduff counter (Bangor District) was managed jointly with a fishery owner on whose fishery the counter is located. Plans were progressed for the installation of a fish counter on the Newport River (Bangor District).

- Comprehensive plans were drawn up and planning permission obtained for extensive refurbishment and modernisation works on the Moy salmon weir in Ballina. As well as rehabilitating the existing structure, the new facilities will provide significantly enhanced fish counting capability as well as facilitating the trapping of fish for scientific purposes when required. By 30 June, 2010 the tender process was completed and a design build contract had been awarded with a view to the commencement of works in early July, 2010.
- For the eighth consecutive year, electro fishing surveys were carried out in 2009 at 35 index sites on the Owenmore, Owenduff, Glenamoy, Newport and Owengarve Rivers in the Bangor District in order to monitor stocks of juvenile fish. The 2010 surveys had not been commenced in the period covered by this report.
- For the fourth consecutive year, electro fishing surveys were carried out in 2009 at 23 index sites in the Ballina District (mainly Moy Catchment) in order to monitor stocks of fish and, for the first time, a similar programme commenced in the Sligo District with 16 sites being electro fished. The 2010 surveys had not been commenced in the period covered by this report.
- As part of a countrywide programme of assessing stocks of juvenile salmon in various river systems, Board staff, in 2009, carried out 5-minute fishing surveys at 135 sites throughout the region. The 2010 surveys had not been commenced in the period covered by this report.
- Board staff devoted 48 staff days to the operation of a smolt counter on the River Deel in order to monitor smolt movement on this major tributary of the River Moy.

- A smolt trap was also operated during 2009 on the Glenamoy River (see picture) in order to monitor smolt movement on this river which is below its conservation limit for salmon stocks and in which the Board has invested heavily in recent years. The trap was also deployed on the Glenamoy from April to early June, 2010 but did not record any smolts due to exceptionally low water levels.

### **Development and Improvement of Fisheries**

The Board carried out a range of improvement and development works aimed mainly at enhancing stocks of trout and salmon and providing better access to fisheries for anglers. Some work was also done to improve pike stocks on selected fisheries and to improve access to coarse fisheries. The main elements of the work carried out were as follows:-

- A further phase of clearance of shrub clearance was carried out along the banks of the Crumpaun River, an important spawning and nursery tributary of the Newport River/Lough Beltra system. A forest harvester was used to clear heavy shrubbery along a 4.2 km stretch of the river and to remove fallen trees from the river itself.
- With funds provided from the Salmon Conservation Fund, a further phase of enhancement works was carried out along a 3.2 km stretch of the Shranaplaia River, a tributary of the Glenamoy River in North West Mayo. The works consisted mainly of restoration of badly eroded river banks and the creation of habitat for juvenile trout and salmon as well as improvement of spawning sections of the river.



**Work underway on rebuilding the banks of the Shranaplaia River, a tributary of the Glenamoy River, in north west Mayo, following years of severe bank erosion.**

- Elsewhere in the Ballina District, spawning bed enhancement works were carried out on both the Cloonaghmore (Palmerstown) River and on the Ballinglen River both of which are below their conservation limit for salmon stocks. Works were carried out over about 500 metres of river channel on the Cloonaghmore and over about 50 metres on the Ballinglen.



**A new stile is erected along the Moy, upstream of Ballina, to improve access for anglers**

- Access along the River Moy was further improved with some of this work being carried out in conjunction with Ballina Salmon Anglers' Association. A total of 13 new stiles and 9 new footbridges were constructed and 4 other stiles were repaired during 2009. This work continued in 2010 and a further 4 bridges and 1 large stile were constructed.
- With the assistance of a FÁS Community Employment Scheme, extensive bank clearance work was carried out in various parts of the Moy catchment area. In 2009 more than 22 km of river/stream bank was cleared of excessive shrubbery and 24 blockages were removed from rivers. In the six months to 30 June, 2010 a further 2.4 km of channel was cleared of excessive shrubbery and 4 blockages were removed.





**Work being completed on construction of a vortex weir on the Ranaghan River, a tributary of the Ballysadare River in Co. Sligo.**

- A further phase of enhancement works was carried out on the Ballysadare River system with the aid of funding provided by Ballysadare Fishing Club Ltd. Works concentrated on the Ranaghan River, an important spawning and nursery tributary of the system. A total of almost 5 km of river channel was enhanced with the clearance of heavy shrubbery, removal of obstructions, construction of vortex weirs, introduction of gravel and improvement of existing spawning beds.
- Enhancement works were carried out along a 520 metre section of the Cloughbrack River, a tributary of Lough Conn. Works included the reinstatement of badly eroded river banks with rock armour and the creation of pools and the loosening of compacted gravel. Additional improvement works on this river were carried out with the assistance of the Office of Public Works.
- Also in the Lough Conn catchment, spawning gravel was introduced in the lower sections of the Terrybaun Stream and Browne's Stream.



**Work underway on protecting the bank of the Cloughbrack Stream, a tributary of L. Conn**

- Bank protection works were carried out over a short (60 metre) section of the Easkey River at a bend where severe bank erosion was occurring. Instream improvement works were carried out on a 300 metre stretch at the same location.
- Control of pike stocks on major trout fisheries continued to be an important feature of the Board's work. A total of 605 staff days were devoted to this activity resulting in the removal of 2,847 pike, weighing, 6,404 kg (average 2.25 kg). Of these, 1,826 pike, weighing 4,213kg. (average 2.31 kg) were restocked into pike fisheries in the region.
- Despite the generally very wet summer, water reached a critically low level, in June, 2009 on the River Deel which has extensive swallow holes in a mid section of the river. In order to prevent fish mortalities, staff salvaged almost 3,000 trout and salmon and removed them to the safety of the lower section of river. In June 2010, a further 5,250 salmonids were salvaged and the swallow holes along a 100m section of the Deel were staunched and flow was restored. An additional 531 trout were salvaged in the L Arrow catchment during low water conditions in May, 2010.



- In 2009 more than 1,000 trout were “cropped” from the Owenbeg River and transferred into Lough Arrow (same catchment) in order to provide a boost to stocks of wild trout in the lake. Under this programme a further 849 trout were cropped to June 2010 and also released into L. Arrow.



**An old fridge is recycled and used as mini incubation unit on the Cartron Stream,  
Lough Arrow**

- The Board again operated two small trout incubation units on streams in the Lough Arrow catchment. The units, recycled from disused fridges, were used to hatch trout in sections of stream where there was little natural spawning (see picture). A total of 6,000 trout fry (70% hatching success) were released into selected Arrow feeder streams.
- Eight fisheries in the region were stocked with hatchery reared trout during the over the 18 month period. A total of 6,350 adult brown trout were released and 15,754 rainbow trout, of various ages, were also stocked.



**Recently hatched trout alevins, with yolk sacs attached, swim around in the incubation unit**

- In early 2010 angler access was also improved at Lough na Leibe where three new bridges were installed and on the Drumcliff River where three ladder type stiles were constructed.
- Boat access to Lough Muck (near Foxford) was enhanced with improvement of the existing slipway and lowering of the lake bed adjacent to the slipway.
- As part of the annual elver monitoring programme on the Moy, the spring tides of late April 2010 brought a modest run of elvers to the Moy. Board staff managed to capture 6.5kg of elver which was transported upstream and released at various locations around Lough Conn.

### **Protection of Water Quality**

Protection of water quality was a very important element of the Board's work during the period. Two staff continued to be deployed on a full-time basis on protecting and monitoring water quality and on prevention of water pollution. An extensive sampling

programme continued throughout the year with samples being analysed in the Board's laboratory in Ballina. Considerable emphasis was placed on ensuring that developments that could impact on water quality were carried out in a way which prevented or minimised such impact. Planning applications were monitored and comments submitted in respect of developments which had the potential to have a negative impact on waters. Similarly, proposed forestry developments were examined and comments were submitted to the relevant authorities as appropriate. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Board was consulted in relation to various infrastructural works, including major road projects, and Board staff liaised closely with relevant personnel in Local Authorities, NRA and various engineering consultancy companies in regard to measures necessary to minimise silt discharge or other possible damage to fisheries. The main features of the Board's work in relation to protection and water quality during the 18 month period were as follows:

- A total 1,517 water samples were collected and analysed in the Board's laboratory.
- An additional 44 samples, collected by staff, were analysed externally for the Board and 180 further samples were collected and forwarded to the Central Fisheries Board's laboratory as part of long term monitoring programmes for Loughs Conn and Arrow which have been ongoing for more than 30 years.
- A total of 131 planning applications were assessed and comments were submitted as considered appropriate for the protection of water quality. Three appeals were lodged by the Board to An Bord Pleanála in respect of developments for which Local Authorities had granted permission. In one case, conditions requested by the Board were included in a decision to grant. Permission was refused in a second case and the Board's appeal in the third case was not upheld for technical reasons.
- Seven environmental impact statements were examined and submissions made as appropriate.

- Fourteen applications for effluent discharge licences were considered and, again, submissions made as considered appropriate for the protection of water quality.
- A total of 120 pollution reports were received and investigated and follow-up action taken in all cases.
- Warning letters were issued in 36 cases and, in general, these proved to be highly effective with appropriate action being taken by offenders in virtually all cases.
- The Board successfully prosecuted a landowner in respect of a serious water pollution incident.
- Inspections were carried out by Board staff on 149 farms in the region. Follow-up was taken as necessary including the issue of warning letters where warranted.
- A total of 83 inspections were carried out at waste water treatment plants in various parts of the region. A very outdated plant at Kiltimagh (Moy catchment) was of particular concern to the Board and, following many years of pressure by the Board and the local community, a contract for the construction for a new plant at Kiltimagh was signed in 2009 and by 30 June, 2010 work on the construction of the new plant was well advanced.
- Various infrastructural works were monitored and a total of 59 inspections were carried out to ensure that such works did not impact adversely on water quality. In all cases, follow-up action was taken as necessary and, in general, appropriate action was taken to prevent damage to fisheries.
- General inspections were carried out at a total of 51 locations which presented a threat, or a potential threat, to water quality and follow-up action was taken as necessary in all cases.



- Impacts on water quality arising from the major Corrib Gas Project were monitored. The Board's CEO sat on two committees whose functions were to monitor the project in relation to (a) construction of the terminal building at Ballinaboy and (b) the "upstream" pipeline from the sea to the terminal building. Both committees operated satisfactorily and were very useful in facilitating an exchange of information and briefing all parties in regard to progress on the project.
- The Board was directly involved in implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Western River Basin District. The Board's Assistant CEO was a member of the Management Committee for this project and Board staff participated in surveys, relating to implementation of the Directive, on two lakes (Arrow and Cullin) and three Rivers (Unshin, Dunneil & Gowlan) in 2009 and a further three river surveys to 30 June 2010.

### **Promotion and Marketing of Angling**

The Board again placed considerable emphasis on promoting and marketing the region's fisheries. Angling enquiries were dealt with, weekly angling reports produced, overseas trade shows attended and visits by angling journalists facilitated. The Board supported several angling events and further expanded its *Something Fishy* programme in primary schools. In regard to the latter, the Board was particularly pleased that Breaffy National School, Ballina, won the 2009 national *Something Fishy* award for its project, the second consecutive win for the region in this event. The following were the main features of the Board's activities in promoting and marketing the region's fisheries:



**A young angler practices his casting under the watchful eye of staff member and qualified casting instructor, Declan Hughes, during the Fly Casting Day held by the Board as part of Ballina Salmon Festival week**



**Pupils of Breaffy National School, Ballina, pictured at Central Fisheries Board offices with some of their teachers and officials of the Central Board, the NWRFB and Mayo Education Centre, after the school was presented with the National Something Fishy Award**





**The Board's Fisheries Information Manager, Markus Muller, disseminating information on angling in west of Ireland at a trade show in Germany**

- A total of 828 angling enquiries were dealt with during the period; these were received by telephone, e-mail and letter as well as from personal callers to the Board's headquarters in Ballina.
- Angling guides, brochures and other material were distributed in response to 440 of the above enquiries.
- A total of 50 angling reports were compiled and these were distributed to local and national press as well as being posted on the Board's website and forwarded to the Central Fisheries Board for inclusion in national reports.
- A total of 43 advertisements were placed in Irish and overseas angling publications encouraging anglers to come to the region on fishing visits.
- Thirteen trade events were attended during the year including shows in USA, UK, Germany, France, Holland and Ireland.

- The Board hosted visits by eight angling journalists from five overseas countries in 2009. Up to the end of June 2010 a further 8 journalists were hosted. As well as arranging fishing, boats, ghillies etc. support and guidance was provided, as appropriate, by the Board's marketing staff. These visits resulted in several excellent articles on angling in the region being published in continental magazines.
- One of the above visits resulted in the production of a 60-minute DVD, in German, on fly fishing in the region. This DVD featured fishing at two locations on the River Moy the Easkey River the Owenmore and Owenduff Rivers and on Carramore Lake in Bangor Erris.
- The Board produced three new angling publications during the year. For the first time, a guide to game angling in Co. Sligo and District was prepared and published. The Board published a new Guide to Sea Angling and, in conjunction with the North Mayo Marketing Fund, a leaflet was produced to publicise Ballina following its designation as Salmon Capital of Ireland in 2008.
- Having commissioned a Feasibility Study on the possibility of establishing a Salmon Life Centre in Ballina, in 2008, the Board transferred lead responsibility for this project to Mayo County Council as part of the emerging project was considered to be outside the Board's remit. It continued to work with the Council in seeking to develop this project. At the year end, the Council was preparing to invite expressions of interest from property owners who may be interested in providing a suitable site for the project in the proposed Salmon Quarter area. Arising from this, a number of interested parties submitted expressions of interest in 2010.
- As part of the 2009 Ballina Salmon Festival, the Board organised a fly casting day on the banks of the Moy featuring several qualified casting instructors who provided angling tuition free of charge and gave demonstrations in the skill of distance casting etc. Despite inclement weather, the event was very successful and is likely to become a regular feature in the festival programme. In another contribution to the Festival, the Board arranged "An Evening with Salmon Experts" in which a number of acknowledged experts gave presentations on aspects of salmon

management. The Board also provided a day's fishing for juvenile anglers on the Cathedral Beat of the Moy Fishery during festival week.

- The Board organised, or directly supported, eight juvenile angling events in 2009 involving 251 participants at locations ranging from Lough Doon, Co. Leitrim, to Ballin Lough, near Westport, Co. Mayo. Some of these events were arranged to coincide with Fisheries Awareness Week in which the Board participated, along with other Fisheries Boards, in September 2009. A further 128 Juveniles participated in the events organised as part of Fisheries Awareness week 2010.
- In May 2010, the Board ran a very successful Fisheries Awareness Week. A total of 18 events were organised and the week opened with an open day at the Board's Headquarters in Ballina where the visiting public were afforded the opportunity to view historic displays on the Moy Fishery amongst other attractions. Other very successful events included tours of the Moy Estuary and the Garravogue River/Lough Gill, introductions to sea angling on Killala and Broadhaven Bays, introductions to Fly fishing for lady anglers and coarse and rainbow trout angling events. A total 413, including adults and juveniles participated in the range of events organised.
- The Board's website was maintained and improved during the year. A webcam was again utilised to transmit real time pictures of the Ridge Pool, River Moy, on the site which experienced a total of 137,076 visits during the year, a massive increase of 64% on 2008. During the first six months of 2010, the site received 79,341 visits which was almost 16% more than half the visits recorded in 2009. The increased use of the site underlined the importance of the internet as a medium for the promotion and marketing of angling.
- Sales of salmon angling licences in the region during 2009 were analysed to determine the origin of anglers who purchased licences. A total of 5,555 licences were sold by the Board and this represented a decrease of 10% on the 2008 figure of 6,158. The decrease in sales was attributed to the exceptionally high water levels which prevailed throughout much of the main season resulting in unsuitable angling conditions. Of total licence sales, 67% were purchased by

anglers from outside the region while 42% were purchased by anglers from outside the Republic of Ireland and 29% of the total was purchased by anglers from outside the 32 counties. Anglers came from 26 overseas countries as well as from Northern Ireland with the biggest numbers of anglers coming from England, France and Germany. Analysis of trends in salmon angling licence sales are presented in the full NWRFB 2009 report. Sales of salmon angling licences for the first 6 months of 2010 were 2,642 and comparisons with 2009 will be only possible at year end.

- Twelve field trips were completed associated with the 12 County Mayo schools participating in the 2009/2010 Something Fishy programme.

### **Management of Board Fisheries**

The Board was directly responsible for management of a number of state fisheries which were under its control. The most important of these were the Moy Fishery, at Ballina, and the Cloongee Fishery, also on the River Moy. The Board also managed a number of trout lakes throughout the region. The main features of its activities in regard to management of fisheries over the 18 month period were as follows:

- Angling on the Moy Fishery was allocated in accordance with the Board's criteria for allocation of angling on the fishery which had been updated in December, 2008. A total of 673 offers of angling were issued in respect of 1,871 rod days in 2009. The fishery accommodated a total of 2,498 anglers, from 18 countries in 2009, and they accounted for a total catch of 1,711 salmon, a decrease of 29% on 2008 which, itself, was not a good year for the fishery. For the third consecutive year, fishing was badly affected by persistent high water levels during the main angling season. In the first six months of 2010, a total of 1653 rods were sold on the Moy Fishery.
- In 2009 the Board issued a total of 1,093 permits in respect of the Cloongee Fishery, an increase of 24% on 2008. Cloongee produced a total catch of 288 salmon, an increase of 15% on the previous season. To 30 June 2010, estimated further 834 rod days were fished on the Cloongee Fishery.

- Booking arrangements were operated on all Board fisheries and boats were provided for hire on a number of lakes. A total of 4,192 rod days were sold in respect of Board managed fisheries in 2009 compared with 4,409 rod days in 2008, a decrease of 5%. The decrease is accounted for mainly by reduced permit sales at the Moy Fishery which suffered badly as a result of persistent high water levels. Total rod days on Board managed fisheries for the first six months of 2010 amounted to 2,818.
- Permit and boat hire income amounted to a total of €212,902 in 2009 compared with €233,724 in 2008, a decrease of 9%; the decrease was due mainly to the reduced permit sales on the Moy Fishery due to unsuitable angling conditions resulting from high water levels. Licensing of Board fisheries to angling clubs yielded a further €6,530 in income. Permit and boat hire to 30 June, 2010 amounted to almost €142,000.
- In partnership with Ballina Town Council, the Board part funded 50% of the costs associated with the refurbishment of the River Moy wall at Emmett Street Ballina. The wall which runs the entire length of the Cathedral Beat of the Moy Fishery was cleaned, broken and missing stone replaced and the entire wall was repointed. The works greatly improved the appearance of the wall which had become very unsightly.

## **FISH CATCHES AND ANGLING**

### **Commercial Salmon Fishing**

In accordance with the provisions of the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations, 2008 and 2009 a quota of 2,000 salmon was allocated for 2009 and 2010 to the holders of 23 Special Local Draft Net Licences on the Owenmore and Owenduff River estuaries with a further small quota allocated to the holder of a draft net licence on the Newport River estuary. Once again, flood conditions impacted on draft net fishing and, despite an extension of the commercial fishing season to mid August, the licence holders managed to catch only 1,107 salmon. Details of commercial and rod catches for 2009, as well as graphics illustrating trends and catches, are contained in the full NWRFB 2009 report.

Commercial salmon fishing in the period 12 May to 30 June, 2010 was poor largely due to very low water conditions which persisted throughout the period.

### **Salmon Angling**

For the third year in succession, the 2009 salmon angling season was dominated by exceptionally high water levels and this, combined with a further delay in the arrival of the main grilse run, had a detrimental effect on angling. Persistent high water had a particularly negative impact on the Moy Fishery at Ballina as it made fly fishing impossible for much of the season. The main grilse run was again particularly late in arriving in the Owenmore River resulting in a relatively short angling season on that river. On the other hand, the Ballysadare Fishery enjoyed an excellent season with good runs of both spring fish and grilse providing excellent angling throughout most of the season although the fishery was, to some degree, also affected by high water. Runs of fish to the Owenduff to 30 June 2010 were comparable with 2009 but the run of fish to the Owenmore was well down due to persistent low water. The Ballysadare enjoyed a good run of salmon up to 30 June, 2010 but because of low water upstream of the falls, large numbers of salmon were held in the lower reaches of the river and in the Ballysadare Channel.

The total recorded salmon catch on the Moy in 2009 was 7,310 salmon, compared with 7,392 in 2008, a decrease of just 1%. The annual average catch on the Moy for the five year period ending 2009, stands at 8,295 which represents a very good return by any standard. In the Bangor District, the total salmon rod catch was 1,347 fish which represented an increase of 1% on the 2008 figure while the recorded catch in the Sligo District was 1,719 which also represented an increase of 26% on 2008. Details of commercial and rod catches, as well as illustrations of trends, are contained in appendix 3. While it must be acknowledged that commercial fishing on the Moy was phased out in the 1990s and that drift net fishing was prohibited from 2007, it is encouraging to note that, in overall terms, there has been a steady upward trend in the salmon rod catch since the regional figures were first compiled in 1981 (see graph in full NWRFB 2009 report). This reflects the continuing importance of salmon angling for tourism in the region. There was a relatively strong run of spring salmon into the River Moy up to the end of June 2010 and with the unusually low



water levels angling was good on the lower beats of the river. A total of 1,658 salmon had been recorded by anglers on the Moy up to the end of June, 2010.

### **Brown Trout Fishing**

Angling for brown trout in 2009 on the region's main lakes showed a slight improvement on 2008. Conditions were hampered by inclement weather and unseasonably high water levels which impacted on fly fishing. Trout fishing on Lough Conn was again inconsistent with some anglers enjoying reasonable fishing on particular days while others were very disappointed. However, the total recorded catch, at 1,944 trout, weighing 2,041 lbs (average 1.05 lbs), represented an improvement on the 2008 season when 1,837 trout, weighing 1,898 lbs (average 1.03 lbs) were recorded. Trout angling showed a further improvement on Lough Arrow in 2009 with anglers reporting some of the best sport experienced on the lake for several years. While numbers of fish caught were still quite low, reports suggested that trout fishing on Arrow was on an upward trend following several years of very disappointing returns.

Angling on Lough Conn in April and the early part of May 2010 was dominated by cool north easterly breezes often accompanied with bright sunshine making conditions difficult. However, despite this some good catch catches were had with wet flies early on in the season. Weather conditions also impacted on the Mayfly fishing. Early June proved to be a successful time for dry fly anglers and some good catches were reported at this time. The annual boat count at Lough Conn which was taken on 6 June, 2010 recorded 262 boats compared with 245 in 2009. Lough Arrow, on the other hand, has fished extremely well from mid May to Mid June, with great hatches of mayfly throughout this period. Daytime fishing was productive in late May and in the early part of June some excellent catches were reported to spent gnat in the evenings. Similar to Conn, the annual boat count at Lough Arrow which was taken on 28 May, 2010 recorded 154 boats compared with 123 in 2009.

### **Rainbow Trout Fishing**

Ballin Lough, the Board's rainbow trout fishery, near Westport, remained open throughout the winter of 2008/2009. Little angling activity took place on the lake during the winter months and only picked up again in March. The lake again proved

popular throughout the main 2009 angling season with 533 rods accounting for a total catch of 1,458 trout of which approximately 80% were released. The heaviest trout recorded weighed 5 lbs. In the 2 months to 30 June anglers reported 896 rainbows over 50% of which were sportingly returned.

### **Sea Trout Fishing**

Sea trout on the Moy estuary was disappointing in 2009 due mainly to the impact of flood conditions which caused severe discolouration of the water during the main fishing season. The estuary produced a recorded catch of 662 trout which is well down on the reported catch of 1,001 in 2008 which itself was not a good season. Elsewhere, Carrowmore Lake provided some good sea trout fishing with a recorded catch of 416 trout the vast bulk which were released. Sea trout fishing to the end of June 2010 was similar on most fisheries to that experienced in 2009. However, sea trout catches were well down on Carrowmore Lake.

### **Sea Angling**

Despite long periods of unsettled weather, sea angling in the region enjoyed a fairly good year with the various clubs reporting good returns from their annual competitions. Overall, the number of varieties of fish caught was good. During the 2009 Belmullet Sea Angling Festival, a wide variety of species was recorded including pollack, coalfish, dogfish, ballan wrasse, cuckoo wrasse, red gurnard, grey gurnard, tub gurnard, whiting, dab, flounder, ling, thornback ray, John Dory and cod. The Newport Sea Angling Club promoted three national events - the All Ireland Interprovincial Championship, the All Ireland Ladies Championship and the All Ireland Open Boat Championship. The Board sponsored a juvenile competition organised by the Newport club. There were reports of good fishing for blue shark from the Mullaghmore area and good shore fishing at various locations throughout the region notably on the North Mayo coast from Kilcummin to Céide.

In May 2010, the Belmullet Sea Angling Club hosted the Home international Boat Angling Competition with teams from Ireland, England and Wales competing. The event was hailed as a great success with 15 species recorded out of a total catch of 1,532 fish. As part of Fisheries Awareness Week 2010, the Board in partnership with two charter boat skippers organised a number of very successful introductory sea

angling trips on both Killala and Broadhaven Bays and a variety of species were recorded.

### **Commercial Eel Fishing**

Following a Government decision in 2008, no commercial eel fishing took place in the region in 2009 or 2010 in order to conserve stocks in accordance with the requirements of an EU Management Plan for eel fisheries.

### **Oyster Fishing**

No oyster fishing took place in the region in 2009 or up to 30 June 2010.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Board managed its operations in accordance with requirements of the Fisheries Acts, the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and best practice. The following were the main elements of the Board's Corporate Governance procedures during the year.

- The Board produced and implemented its Business Plans for 2009 and 2010 and regular reports on implementation of the plan were prepared and submitted to the Board for review.
- The Annual Reports for 2008 and 2009 were produced and submitted to the Central Fisheries Board by 31<sup>st</sup> March of 2009 and 21010 as required by the Fisheries Acts, 1980.
- The Board's Accounts for 2008 were prepared and submitted to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) by 28 February, 2009, in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of Stated Bodies, and to the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General by 31 March, as required by the Fisheries Act, 1980. The Accounts were audited and were cleared by the C&AG in June, 2009. The Board's draft accounts for 2009 were prepared and reviewed by the Audit Committee and Board.

- An internal audit of the Board's Financial Management Procedures was carried out, on behalf of the Board, by Sheehan Quinn & Co., Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors. They reported that the Board had implemented an adequate system of internal financial control in the areas which were subject to audit. The auditors confirmed that issues raised in the 2008 internal audit had been satisfactorily addressed and made some further recommendations for improvement in controls following the 2009 audit.
- The Board's Audit Committee met seven times during the 18 month period and had discussions, in the absence of management, with both internal and external auditors.
- The Board operated within budget during 2009 and submitted accounts to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources as required. The Board had in place an assessment of business risks which were regularly reviewed. The Terms of Reference of the Board's Audit Committee were broadened to include Risk Management.
- Fifteen Board meetings were held during the year. Details of attendance of expenses paid to Board Members are included in the full NWRFB 2009 report.
- The Board complied with the Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies. A report by the Board Chairman as required by section 13.1 of the Code is included below.
- Board members were reminded of their responsibilities arising from the Ethics of Public Office Acts, 1995 and 2001. The CEO submitted a statement to the Board Chairman in accordance with the provisions of the Acts.
- The Board's Safety Committee met five times to review safety matters and recommendations made by the Committee were implemented. The Board took a number of initiatives to combat the possible spread of a H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) amongst staff. Health and Safety tool kits were provided in all Board vehicles and

training courses in relation to Health and Safety issues were provided and attended as appropriate.

- The Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) was implemented for all staff and follow-up action taken as necessary.
- Six requests received by the Board for information under the Freedom of Information Acts were processed over the 18 months. Information was provided to the Central Fisheries Board in respect of a seventh enquiry.
- The requirements of the Official Languages Act, 2003 were complied with in regard to publication of the Board's Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2008 with Irish language versions being prepared and posted to the Board's web site.
- The Board's CEO retired on 30 April and the Board delegated the functions of the CEO to the Assistant CEO up until the establishment of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

#### **Chairman's Report to Minister regarding compliance with Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies**

Minister,

I wish to report to you on the position regarding implementation of the Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies by The North Western Regional Fisheries Board. The Board complied with the provisions of the Code. It had in place a Code of Business Conduct for Board Members and each member agreed to comply the terms of the code. All Board members made a Disclosure of Interests in accordance with the provisions section 3, Appendix A, of the Code of Practice. The Board also operated a Code of Conduct for Employees during the year. The Board had in place a Customer Charter and this was posted on the Board's web site. The Board maintained a Register of Business Risks, as required by the Code of Practice, and this was reviewed during the year. With reference to section 13.1 of the Code of Practice, I wish to report the following position in relation to my Board.

- i. There were no commercially significant developments affecting the Board during the period. The Board did not establish any subsidiaries, participate in joint ventures or acquire shares.
- ii. The Board complied with all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, travel, procurement and disposal of assets.
- iii. I attach herewith a statement on the Board's system of internal financial control, in accordance with the requirements of 13.1 (iii) of the Code.
- iv. As stated above, a Code of Business Conduct for Board Members is in place and members have agreed to be bound by the terms of the Code. A Code of Conduct for Employees is also in place in respect of Board staff.
- v. Government policy on the pay of the Board's Chief Executive Officer was complied with. The CEO's salary from 1 January, 2009 to 30 April, 2010 was €147,885 and that of the Acting CEO from 1 May 2010 to 30 June 2010 was €12,929.
- vi. Government guidelines on payment of director's fees were complied with; no fees are paid to members of the Board. Details of expenses (travel and subsistence in accordance with authorised rates) paid to Board members are contained in appendix 2 of the Annual Report.
- vii. As of now, there have been no significant post balance sheet events. Audit of the Board's accounts for the 18 month period has not yet been completed by the Comptroller and Auditor General and, therefore, the Board can only provide draft accounts at this time. The unaudited accounts will be submitted to your Department, in accordance the requirements of the Code of Practice, and to the Comptroller & Auditor General for audit in accordance with statutory requirements having regard to the extension of the financial year arising from the restructuring of the fisheries service.



- viii. I am satisfied that the Guidelines for Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals were complied with.
- ix. While the Board has not formally adopted a Travel Policy, I am satisfied that Department of Finance guidelines in relation to travel are being complied with.
- x. I confirm that the Code of Practice has been adopted by the Board and that the Board is compliant with the provisions of the Code.

### **Systems of internal financial control - section 13.1 (iii) of the Code**

1. I hereby acknowledge that the Board is responsible for ensuring that an appropriate system of internal financial control is in operation within the Board.

The systems can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

2. Key procedures for effective internal financial control

The system of internal financial control operated by the North Western Regional Fisheries Board is based on the following measures:

- The Board takes the major strategic decisions and meets at regular intervals to monitor performance;
- There are clearly defined management responsibilities;
- Major sources of income are subjected to overall reconciliation and where possible, staff duties are appropriately divided taking account of the risks involved and the limited number of staff;
- Monthly accounts and budgets are prepared throughout the year and these are reviewed by the Board Audit Committee and Board;

- Budgets are prepared in respect of each year and monthly statements of income and expenditure are produced to facilitate comparison with budgeted figures;
- The Board has in place a system of internal audit under which an audit is carried out by an external firm of auditors. Reports are considered by the Board's Audit Committee which met seven times during the 18 month period and, also, by the Board as appropriate;
- The Terms of Reference of the Board's audit committee were broadened in the period to include risk management. Business risks were considered by the audit committee and the Board and specific steps were taken to reduce risks identified.
- The Board has adopted a policies and procedures manual on the internal controls over the receipt and disbursement of funds.

## 2. Operating Procedures

Formal procedures are in place for the purchase of all goods and services, for approval of invoices in respect of goods and services and authorisation of payment in respect of goods and services, for signing of cheques and for security of blank cheques. Procedures in this regard have been strengthened from time to time and recommendations arising from internal audits, audit committee findings and management reviews have been implemented.

## 4. Review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Financial Control

The North Western Regional Fisheries Board carried out a review of the system of internal financial control during the 18 month period.

John Walkin  
Chairman

## **Services for Persons with Disabilities**

The Board continued to improve the provision of access to services for persons with disabilities as follows:

- The Board's web site was further improved in order to comply with W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The requirements of people with disabilities were considered in relation to all promotional material produced by the Board
- Further access improvements were carried out at the Board's headquarters to facilitate improved access for persons with disabilities.
- A Designated Access Officer was available to deal with queries in relation to access for persons with disabilities.
- Existing facilities for anglers with disabilities were maintained as necessary.
- The "count me in" survey, which had been completed in March, 2008, was updated in March 2009 and confirmed that the Board was still meeting the 3% target for employment of persons with disabilities.
- The Board reported to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and to the Central Fisheries Board in relation to progress on implementation of the sectoral plan and expenditure on access.

**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>18 month period Ended 30 June 2010</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2008</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Oireachtas Income	1	4,584,184	3,317,305
Other Income	2	1,049,228	784,893
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	14c	740,000	676,000
		<u>6,373,412</u>	<u>4,778,198</u>
 <b>Transfer from Capital Account</b>	 11	 248,143	 45,654
		<u>6,621,555</u>	<u>4,823,852</u>
 <b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	3	2,171,359	1,614,716
Operations	4	4,158,768	3,074,277
		<u>6,330,127</u>	<u>4,688,993</u>
 <b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>		 291,428	 134,859
 <b>Surplus at 1 January 2009</b>		 <u>635,639</u>	 <u>500,780</u>
 <b>(Deficit)/Surplus at 30 June 2010</b>		 <u>€ 927,067</u>	 <u>635,639</u>

## **Northern Regional Fisheries Board**

### **Chairman's Statement**

The Board's annual programme of works for the year was impacted significantly by budgetary constraints and, in particular, by the Government announcement in March relating to a moratorium on recruitment of permanent or temporary staff. As a consequence of detailed submissions to the Department of Finance, sanction was subsequently given for the filling of key priority posts to maintain core services to the public. Critically, this included filling of the vacant Fisheries Environmental Officer post in the Cavan District, which was recognised as a national priority in terms of maintaining the progress made in relation to protection and restoration of water quality issues in the upper Erne system.

Following several years of significant capital investment in the development and promotion of fisheries in the Northern region through the National Development Programme, the downturn in the economy resulted in a severe reduction in funding available for continuation of this work. Notwithstanding this, the NRFB secured €49,000 through the Wild Salmon Conservation Fund to conduct habitat enhancement works on the R. Lackagh, north Donegal. The Board focused its remaining available resources towards an ongoing programme of replacement or repair of angling infrastructure throughout the region.

During the year the Board conducted an extensive programme of water quality monitoring and fish stock assessments of rivers, lakes and estuaries in conjunction with the CFB, EPA and Local Authorities to meet requirements under the Water Framework Directive.

Meetings regarding the review of inland fisheries continued through the year culminating in publication of the Inland Fisheries Bill 2009 and confirmation that the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards structures are to be rationalised into a single agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland. The proposed date of vestment of the new agency is deferred to April 2010.

The Board met eleven times through the year with additional subcommittee meetings held to deal with commercial fishing, angling, protection, eels and Corporate Governance.

John McLaughlin was reappointed as Chairman following election at the first Board meeting of the year on 26 January 2010. A total of 6 Board meetings were completed over the period to the 30 June 2010. In addition there was a number of subcommittee meetings relating to the Angling, Audit, Commercial and Fishery District committees held.

Efforts to resolve the ongoing dispute regarding the Gweebarra fishery through mediation were unsuccessful. Matters are now being pursued through the High Court to bring resolution to overall management of the fishery.

A legal agreement was signed between the NRFB and the Creeslough angling club in relation to the overall management of the R. Lackagh.

A presentation was made to all the Board members at Harvey's Point Hotel, Lough Eske on 29 June 2010 in recognition of the many years of service to the Northern Regional Fisheries Board.

### **Corporate Governance**

Report regarding the implementation of the Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies.

All Board members are aware and are fully compliant with the provisions of the Standards in Public Office Act 2001, and the Code of Business Conduct.

All Board members had made a Disclosure of Interests in accordance with the provisions section 3, Appendix A, of the Code of Practice.

All Board employees are aware and fully compliant with the provisions of the Code of Business Conduct for Employees.



The up to date codes of business conduct are available upon request with a copy of each such code accessible through the Board's web site.

The Board has in place a Customer Charter and this is posted on the Board's website.

Report with reference to section 10.2 of the Code of Practice: There were no commercially significant developments affecting the Board during the year. The Board did not establish any subsidiaries, participate in joint ventures or acquire shares.

The Board complied with all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and disposal of assets.

A statement on the Board's system of internal financial control, in accordance with the requirements of 10.2 (iii) of the Code is also available in the body of the Financial Statements.

As stated above, the Codes of Business Conduct for Board Members and Employees have been put in place and adhered to. Government policy on the pay of the Board's Chief Executive Officer is being complied with.

Government guidelines on payment of Director's fees are being complied with; no fees are paid to members of the Board

As of now, there have been no significant post balance sheet events. The Board's accounts for 2009 were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General and await sign off and, therefore, the Board can only provide draft accounts at this time.

The Guidelines for Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals were complied with.

The Code of Practice has been adopted by the Board and the Board is compliant with the provisions of the Code.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's office carried out its annual audit of the Board's financial operations and systems. The audit sub-committee met four times during 2009 and the minutes and actions arising were adopted in full by the Board. An internal audit was conducted during the year confirming that the Board had implemented an adequate system of internal financial control. Audit recommendations were circulated to the Board and duly implemented.

In accordance with Financial Reporting Standards FRS17, the Board engaged an actuary to value the liability of the Board's Defined Benefit Superannuation Scheme. The results of the valuations are included in the 2009 accounts.

### **Freedom of Information**

The Board received one request for information under the Freedom of Information Act which was granted in full.

### **Parliamentary Questions**

The Board received and answered a total of 12 Parliamentary questions through the year.

### **Human Resources**

The Board has a full time compliment of 41 sanctioned permanent staff. The post of CEO currently remains unfilled with Dr. Milton Matthews, appointed Acting CEO on 13 November 2008 following the retirement of Mr. H. Lloyd.

As a consequence of the moratorium on recruitment of staff announced by the Government in March 2009, any permanent posts which become vacant through retirements or temporary contracts which expire are not being renewed. Following the submission of a business case for the filling of priority posts to maintain core services to the public a further 12 temporary staff were employed to carry out specific projects and additional protection duties during 2009.

The Board continued its commitment towards staff training, development and health and safety. Four staff completed the Certificate in Fisheries Management at Sligo IT.

### **Ministerial Direction**

The Board was issued with a Ministerial Direction under Section 18A of the Fisheries Act 1980, to put in place appropriate measures so as to ensure that the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is consulted in relation to development. The Board is required to report on the consultations undertaken and the outcome of same in the Annual report. The Board is in the process of agreeing appropriate measures.

## **PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF FISHERIES**

### **Letterkenny and Ballyshannon Districts**

Despite the generally poor run of salmon there was a significant increase in the levels of illegal fishing encountered both at sea and on river systems. This level of illegal activity has not been experienced since the 1980's. In the Letterkenny district increased sea patrol activity uncovered a resurgence of fixed netting at sea with 24 illegal nets being seized and 2 fishermen apprehended with a drift net onboard.

The protection season was extended late into the year with illegal activity reported and nets seized as late as December.



**Protection and Conservation of Fisheries**

A total of 84 prosecutions were initiated in the Letterkenny district over the season (39 of which related to the Gweebarra rod angling dispute), and a further 10 initiated in the Ballyshannon district. The majority related to illegal netting of rivers or use of fixed engines (nets) at coastal or island locations. The salmon tagging, bag limit and quota regulations were enforced with over 1,698 angling licences and logbooks checked.



**Confiscated net**

Angling in 2009 was restricted to four rivers in the Ballyshannon district (Duff, Drowse, Eany and Glen) and four rivers in Letterkenny district (Owenea, Gweebarra, Crolly and Crana). Angler compliance with the regulations was generally very good, although a number of prosecutions were taken for anglers fishing in rivers which were closed for conservation or for failure to tag captured salmon. Foul hooking of salmon was also detected at specific venues where salmon gather downstream of falls. On-the-spot fines or prosecutions were issued on the Duff and Tullaghobegly Rivers in relation to this and related offences.

Angling in 2010 was again restricted to four rivers in the Ballyshannon district (Duff, Drowse, Eany and Glen), with the R Eany restricted to a brown tag regulations and a surplus of 283 salmon which was divided equally by the commercial draft net and angling sectors.

Five rivers were fully open to salmon angling in the Letterkenny district (Owenea, Gweebarra, Crolly and Crana) with the R Clady open for catch and release only.

### **Upper Erne**

Regular patrols at periods of peak pike angling activity were conducted to ensure compliance with the pike bye laws. There is a high level of awareness and compliance by both local and visiting anglers.

Additional protection patrols were required in response to incidents of illegal fishing activity where coarse fish were being targeted mainly, but not exclusively, by eastern European immigrants. The majority of incidents involved very low numbers of fish with a total of 13 pike and 86 other fish seized over the season. A total of 17 prosecutions were initiated resulting in imposition of significant fines and costs on defendants together with forfeiture of boats, nets and other items seized.

## **AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT- DONEGAL, LEITRIM AND N. SLIGO**

### **Investigations and Planning**

A total of 1,343 assessments and investigations in relation to aquatic issues were undertaken. 191 planning applications were examined with subsequent observations forwarded to the relevant Planning Authority. The applications were diverse in nature, ranging from unauthorised developments to technical and time consuming hydro and wind farm proposals. Many of these are still going through the statutory planning process.

Several site planning consultations were required for the re-instatement and refurbishment of a hydro site at the Ballintra River at Aghadullagh. The scheme will reach completion and commissioning by the end of March 2010.



**New intake weir and fish passage facility at Aghadullagh**

Farm surveys were undertaken on the Owenboy (Crana) and upper/lower Glashagh (Lennon) rivers during the year. 17 units were visited on Owenboy with 16 ranked low risk and 1 medium risk. 53 units were visited on the Glashagh tributaries with 50



low risk and 3 medium recorded. All farms not in the low risk category will be further monitored.

### **Forestry**

28 forestry applications were assessed by the Board with recommendations forwarded to the Forest Service. A significant proportion of applications were submitted under FEPS (Forest Environment Protection Scheme) with a lesser number for afforestation and NWS (Native Woodland Scheme).

### **Reports**

49 reports were received by the Board and investigated. One fish mortality event was recorded on the Owenboy R. (Crana) in early January. Investigative sampling failed to detect a defined pollution source.



**Glen River Landslide Report (September 2009)**



**Glen River Landslide removed with no river impact**

### **Infrastructure**

Works on new and upgraded waste water treatment facilities for Kinlough and Kiltyclogher commenced during the year. The improvements will increase overall treatment capacity (both hydraulic and biological) and will also provide for phosphorous removal. Both plants are within the Lough Melvin catchment and the investment is a significant step in the protection of this highly sensitive water body.



**Works on improvements to Kiltyclogher WWTP**

### **Kinlough WWTP upgrade**

Local Authorities have an ongoing programme for maintenance works on bridge structures and this can be problematic from a fisheries perspective if undertaken using unsound work practices. In this regard the Board was directly involved with a

maintenance project at Clardrumman, on the River Eske at a spawning and nursery area for salmonids. Freshwater Pearl Mussels were also present. It was therefore imperative that the works programme did not affect the aquatic resource in any way. Consequently stringent management procedures to ensure all works have confined totally to the structure itself were identified and implemented.



**Bridge underspan secured to prevent any loss of maintenance material**



**Simple containment methods**

### **Water Framework Directive**

The Board continued to be actively involved with the Public Authorities Forum of the North Western and Neagh Bann International River Basin Districts. The Board forwarded their observations on the Draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the North Western International River Basin District (NWIRBD) in June 2009.

Observations in this regard included issues relating to quarries, forestry, instream works, shared waters and heavily modified water bodies - several of which occur in Co. Donegal.



**Drawdown on a heavily modified water body - what implications for conservations limits?**

The final RBMPs are due to be brought before the local Authority in Jan - Feb 2010 and then reported to the European Commission by March 2010.

Draft sub-basin plans for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel were published in 2009 and the Board made their submission on the plans in June. Donegal has 6 of these protected sub-basins - Owenea, Owencarrow, Clady, Eske, Glaskeelan and Lennon. The qualifying species is at a declining status in these rivers and as such they are classed as moderate status under WFD and must be improved. The decline in populations has generally occurred from an ongoing failure to produce new generations due to siltation of gravel or nutrient enrichment as characterised by the presence of excessive growths of algae or macrophytes.





**Erosion and bank instability leading to sediment loss**



**Eske SAC with excessive macrophyte growth**

Requirements for the FPM rivers will be to assign conservation strategies to determine reference conditions and to return these rivers to those reference conditions with no siltation or nutrient loss.

### **Drainage Maintenance**

A number of Donegal rivers form part of the Office of Public Works (OPW) ongoing programme for riparian management including selected vegetation removal, instream works and bankside improvement/reinforcing. These works form an integral part of a national drainage maintenance strategy undertaken by the OPW on specific catchments and underpinned by legislation.

The Board and OPW have over the years developed an understanding of the requirements of each organisation and new practices, procedures and proposals have been developed. In most instances valuable fishery development works have been undertaken simultaneously to OPW operations, resulting in a mutually beneficial outcome for both. In 2009 the OPW undertook work on the Duff catchment which included removal of instream materials, excessive gravel deposits and over hanging trees. Following Fisheries Board advice new pools were created, gravels strategically redistributed and bankside erosion curtailed. An additional stretch of the R. Duff is scheduled for further enhancement works during 2010.



**Duff River post OPW works 2009**

### **January - June 2010 Environmental Report for Donegal, N. Leitrim and N. Sligo**

A total of 758 inspections and investigations were undertaken in the period including 63 planning applications, 10 in forestry, 6 discharge licences, 7 waste permit applications and 27 reports of possible aquatic degradation. A noticeable trend in applications for wind farm projects was evident in the period as was a general hostility towards some sites from the local population. Consequently three such proposals are currently either with An Bord Pleanála or at further information stage.

### **Water Framework Directive**

IFI staff assisted the EPA with monitoring runs on Mulroy Bay, L. Swilly, Gweebarra estuary and on the Eske. Staff were also involved with the Public Authorities Forum in the North South Share project and represented IFI at meetings.



## **Forestry**

Applications for afforestation were well down and most activity within the sector related to thinnings and partial clearfell. Sites in the latter category were inspected regularly to ensure that actions were undertaken in a satisfactory manner.



## **Civil Works**

IFI liaised on several sites with the Local Authorities and their agents on bridge repairs and replacement and regularly inspected to completion stage. Many sites were highly sensitive from a fisheries perspective and therefore important that works did not impact upon the aquatic resource.



**Bridge to be replaced over Ray R. Falcarragh.**

## **AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT- UPPER ERNE**

### **Aquatic Environment**

Ongoing monitoring of the Erne catchment, rivers and lakes indicate a significant continuing problem of eutrophication and loss of habitat. Over the year the NRFB took 564 samples in total from rivers, stream and lakes in the Erne catchment. These samples were analysed both by the Central Fisheries Board and also by an external laboratory. Monthly water samples are analysed for TP, MRP, TN, TON, and chlorophyll; water transparency (Secchi Disc) is also measured in the field. In terms of lake water quality, the primary constituents of concern are TP and chlorophyll. As indicated in previous years certain pollution “hot spots” are apparent. These are generally observed to be located downstream of sewage treatment plants indicating overall the level of effluent being discharged is below standard. The new EPA licensing regime should contribute to rectification of this problem over time together with the continuous monitoring programme conducted by NRFB staff.

## **Planning**

105 planning applications were examined with subsequent observations forwarded to the relevant planning authority. The applications reflected a diverse array of developments, ranging from farm yard developments including slatted sheds, single dwelling houses to often complex and contentious such as the Lough Oughter Navigation plan and the Clones Canal Plan, road by-passes, marina proposals, and Group Water schemes upgrades. Mostly the applications did involve some consultations with the relevant Local Authority. Others of major concern would have required direct consultations with the developers as well as environmental consultants.

## **Forestry**

30 forestry applications were assessed by the Board with recommendation's submitted to the Forest Service. These applications related to afforestation, felling, Forest Environment Protection Scheme (FEPS), Native Woodland Scheme (NWS) and road construction.

## **Inspections**

The NRFB staff carried out over 6,000 non-routine inspections and routine patrol inspections on various locations in the Erne Catchment. The non-routine inspections consisted of various types of units outlined below, and the routine incorporates the monthly checks done on routine points.

<b>Locations</b>	<b>No. Inspections</b>
Farms	141
Industrial	313
Wastewater & WTP	358
Civil Eng. Works	4
General Water Inspections	5313

**Table 1: Inspections in NRFB**

From these inspections follow up action was undertaken to remediate any problems encountered. Two prosecutions were initiated.



## **Agriculture**

In so far as possible slurry disposal activities were monitored. Numerous incidents of slurry dumping or mismanagement of slurry were recorded. 57 warning letters were issued. Follow up inspections were carried out in each case to see had the problem been rectified. Three fish kills in the catchment in 2009 was attributed to agricultural activity, two of which related to excavation work carried out by the farmer.



**Pollution incident**

## **Industrial**

1,313 Industrial environmental checks were carried out on various industries in the region. These checks were done above and beyond the routine checks, and were carried out as a result of pollution reports from members of the public or follow up inspections from incidents detected by staff members.



**Pollution incident**

### **Municipal Plants**

358 Environmental inspections were carried out on Local Authority sewage treatment plants and pumping stations. Following on from this one successful prosecution was initiated against Cavan County Council. A regular issue cited by Local Authority Engineers is accidental blockage of pumping stations and intermittent overflow of storm drains into surface waters following flood events. In 2009 a Local Authority Sewage Treatment Plant attributed to 1 fish kill in the region.

## Fish Kills

There were 5 fish kills in the NRFB (RoI) portion of the Erne Catchment as detailed below.

Date	Location	Species	Cause
24/06/2009	Cavan Town River	1 Roach	Local Authority Sewerage
		1 Perch	
13/06/2009	Annalee River Knappagh Waters	84 Crayfish & Swan Mussels	Excavation work by local farmer
		1 Trout	
		1 Lamprey	
30/06/2009	Annalee River Knappagh Waters	400 Crayfish & Swan Mussels	Excavation work by local farmer
		3 Eel	
		5 Trout	
06/07/2009	Dromore River	81 Brown Trout	unknown
		16 Perch	
		1 Hybrid	
21/9/2009	Ballintra River	Trout 986	Local farm unit, samples taken
		Perch 34	
		Crayfish 369	
		Eel 2	
		Pike 20	
		Lamprey 69	
		Roach 46	

**Table 2: Fish Kills in the NRFB**





**Fish kills**

## **Annual Environmental Report for Erne Catchment (Cavan, Monaghan, Longford, Leitrim) Jan-June 2010**

### **Aquatic Environment**

Ongoing monitoring of the Erne Catchment rivers and lakes was carried out. 245 samples were taken in the months January to June and results analysed.

### **Planning**

150 planning applications were examined with subsequent observations forwarded to the relevant Planning Authority. The applications reflected a diverse array of developments, ranging from wind farm developments, a biotechnology unit, a mixed plastics recycling unit, a Bio Park development, river crossings for group water schemes and general housing development. Most of the applications did involve some consultations with the relevant Local Authority however some others of major concern have involved consultations with the developer's directly and also environmental consultants.

Drainage works were also carried out in various catchments and advice was given as to the required guidelines to the contractors prior to commencement of such works. Also close observations were carried out during operation of works to ensure no adverse impact on fisheries habitat.

### **Forestry**

18 forestry applications were assessed with recommendation's submitted to the Forest Service. These applications related to afforestation, felling, Forest Environment Protection Scheme (FEPS), Native Woodland Scheme (NWS) and road construction.

## **Inspections**

NRFB staff carried out over 3,975 non-routine inspections and routine patrol inspections on various locations in the Erne Catchment. The non routine inspections consisted of various types of units outlined below, and the routine incorporates the monthly checks done on routine points.

<b>Locations</b>	<b>No. Inspections</b>
Farms	101
Industrial	160
Wastewater & WTP	159
Civil Eng. Works	5
General Water Inspections	3485

From these inspections follow up action was taken to remediate any problems encountered and also 3 prosecutions were initiated. From this one conviction was secured in September 2010 with the other two cases pending. In February 2010 one successful conviction was also secured.

## **Agriculture**

28 warning letters were issued and follow up inspections were carried out in each case to see had the problem been remediated.

## **Fish Kills**

There were 2 fish kills in the Erne Catchment of the Northern Regional Fisheries Board from January - June. Sources were not identified with 21 fish killed in total.

Restocking of the Ballintra River took place following a successful prosecution. Over 1,000 Erne brown trout were restocked back into the river.



**Restocking in the Ballintra River**

### **Environmental talks**

3 REPS talks were given to local farmers and an educational day was held in conjunction with Monaghan County Council in Ballybay Wetland Centre.

### **Water Framework Directive**

The Board conducted a number of fish stock assessment surveys around the region Board in relation to surveillance monitoring for the Water Framework Directive.

Working in conjunction with the Central Fisheries a total of 7 lakes (Sessiagh, Kindrum, Anure, Dunglow, Agannive, Nashidna and White L.) were surveyed using survey gill nets and fyke nets. A total of 3 river sites (Clady, Erne and Finn) were surveyed by electrofishing to determine current stock abundance and diversity.

A total of 6 transitional waters (estuaries) were also surveyed (Erne, Durnish, Inner Donegal Bay, Gweebarra, L Swilly and Inch). Preliminary results of these surveys can be found on the designated website [www.wfdfish.ie](http://www.wfdfish.ie). The NRFB also provided support to the EPA through the year for water quality monitoring of the Erne, Eske, L Swilly, Mulroy and Gweebarra estuaries.

NRFB staff assisted the EPA in water quality sampling of the Erne, Eske, Gweebarra and Swilly estuaries through the year as part of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements for transitional waters.

Catchment-wide electrofishing surveys were carried out in 16 river systems currently closed to salmon angling for conservation purposes. These surveys, comprising five minute electrofishing surveys at selected sites throughout each river system, provides direct estimates of juvenile salmon stock abundance for each of these rivers to support future management recommendations.

### **Monitoring of Sea Lice levels on sea trout**

Sampling continued in the Eany, Eske, Leannan and Crana river systems for prematurely returning sea trout with sea lice infestations. High sea lice burdens were again noted on sea trout sampled from the Eske in particular. The Board continues to have serious concerns regarding the potential impact of aquaculture operations on wild sea trout rivers given the frequency of serious breaches of sea lice control thresholds recorded at certain aquaculture facilities over recent years.

### **Commercial Salmon Fishing**

The commercial salmon draft net fishery was confined to three estuaries in 2009:- Loughros More (Owenea R.), Gweebarra and Inver Bay (Eany R.). The available surplus on these fisheries was divided equally between commercial draft nets and anglers. Due to the overall decline in salmon numbers returning to these fisheries a decision was taken to revert to the traditional commercial draft net season from 12 May to 30 July. Reported catches were well short of the TAC in all three fisheries with less than half of the allowable catch taken.

Fishery	Total Allowable Catch	Actual catch
Loughros More	593	271
Gweebarra R.	284	127
Inver Bay (Eany)	404	129

Table 3: Commercial salmon catches 2009

ESKE COUNTER			
Year	2007	2008	2009
Number of Salmon	1,080	957	894
Number of Trout	30	36	62
Total Fish	1,110	993	956
Salmon Surplus	257	134	71

Table 4: Eske Counter

### Salmon Counters

The Board maintained their programme of servicing, downloading and routine maintenance of the salmon and sea trout counters on the Eany and Eske rivers. The salmon runs were down on previous years in both rivers with the Eany R. in particular showing a significant decline. Despite the unseasonably wet summer the grilse run was poor with the majority of salmon arriving from mid-July onwards.

EANY COUNTER			
Year	2007	2008	2009
Number of Salmon	1080	957	894
Number of Trout	30	36	62
Total Fish	1110	993	956
Salmon Surplus	257	134	71

Table 5: Eany Counter



Fish counter

### Oyster Fishing (L. Swilly)

The Board continued to closely monitor the oyster fishery in L. Swilly with random inspections of oyster catches and boats conducted though the year to prevent illegal hand-picking and to ensure undersize oysters are returned from dredge catches. Incidents of illegal handpicking of oysters decreased in 2009, due mainly to increased surveillance.

The Board continues to encourage self regulation and co-operation amongst the traditional oyster fishing community. NRFB officers attended on oyster sale days to permit Fishery officers to inspect catches and ensure undersized oysters were not taken. Overall fishing effort continued to decrease in 2009 due to a decline in market demand and the impact of *Bonamia* (a protozoan parasite) on the fishery.

### Eel Conservation

Due to the continued long term decline of European eel stocks, the EU Commission introduced a Council Regulation in September 2007 which required all Member states to prepare Eel Management Plans for the recovery of stocks for submission to the EU by 31 December 2008. Arising from this legislation was passed in 2009 prohibiting fishing, possessing or selling of eel caught in the Republic of Ireland. Protection operations in the Upper Erne were hampered by the delay in approval of the UK Eel Management plans which includes the N. Ireland portion of the Erne, necessitating monitoring of eel dealers travelling to and from N. Ireland.



One of the key management actions identified in the Eel Management plan for the North-west International River District Basin (NWIRBD) was initiation of a silver eel 'trap and transport' programme by the ESB to ensure escapement of downstream migrating silver eels around hydroelectric power facilities located at Belleek and Ballyshannon on the lower reaches of the Erne system. Two sites were fished through the year, one site located in Upper Lough Erne and the other at Ferny Gap at the outflow of Lower Lough Erne. A total of 9.4 tonnes of live eel were trapped and transported with the assistance of the ESB, NRFB and DCAL (Dept. of Culture, Arts and Leisure) officers. Scientific monitoring was conducted by NUI- Galway and the CFB.

## **Angling**

### *Letterkenny and Ballyshannon districts*

The first salmon of the 2009 season was landed by Adrian McGrane, Kells on the R. Drowse on 23 January, a nice 10 lb salmon which was donated by the Peak Restaurant, Bundoran to the RNLI lifeboat fund. Salmon angling through the season was difficult with a disappointing late run of grilse arriving from mid-July onwards. Best catches were taken on the Owenea and Gweebarra fisheries, with the R. Eany fishing poorly. The average size of returning salmon increased which is encouraging for future spawning production.

The R Drowse yielded the first salmon of the again on 1 January 2010 amidst very cold conditions (minus -7° Celsius). The salmon weighed 10lb and was caught by Brian McEvoy from Enniskillen on a Yellow Belly Devon Minnow downstream of the Four Masters Bridge.

Generally speaking there was a disappointing run of spring salmon to the Donegal rivers, followed by severe drought conditions through late spring and early summer. The first of the season's grilse runs began in mid-late June.

Sea angling was good throughout the year with good reef fishing reported and excellent tope catches recorded through the season. The Fisheries Board interagency Sea angling Coaching and Team challenge was hosted by the NRFB in Killybegs in September with the invaluable assistance of the NW Chartered

Skippers, CFB and RFB colleagues. The event, won by the Sea Fisheries Protection Agency, highlighted the quality and variety of species available in Donegal waters as publicised by the **Irish Angler's Digest** who covered the event.



**The Fisheries Board interagency Sea angling Coaching and Team challenge**

### *Upper Erne*

Coarse angling in the Upper Erne continued to attract UK and Continental tourists, although there appears to be a decline in the numbers of UK coarse anglers visiting.

The consensus among anglers was that coarse angling was satisfactory though there is still concern about the perceived lack of bream in some waters.

Locally organised coarse angling festivals continued to be successful and significant increases in numbers entering were recorded by some, most notably Belturbet, Cootehill and Carrigallen. The Irish Ferries and Failte Ireland sponsored British King of Clubs was again successful with a total catch of 3,563.3 kg by 100 anglers. The average catch per peg weighed in was 7.4 kg.

Pike angling early in the year was very good and some visiting parties from the continent recorded high catches of mainly small pike, with a few big pike also taken.

Local clubs operating put and take trout fisheries recorded a good demand for visitor day tickets and some are now considering placing restrictions on the number of visitors in order to reserve space for their own members. Moyduff Lake, which is managed directly by the Board, produced satisfactory results, but permit sales were down compared to 2007 returns.

## **Development and Improvement of Fisheries**

### *Donegal*

The Board, in conjunction with the local angling clubs, continued to directly manage a number of key state-owned fisheries in Co. Donegal including the Eske, Owenea and Gweebarra. Management agreements have been signed with the Cloughaneely Angling Club (Rivers Ray and Tullaghobegly) and Dunfanaghy Angling Club (Loughs Sessiagh, Port and New Lake). Agreement was reached with NPWS regarding the management of angling on Lough Beagh in Glenveagh National Park with two new angling boats, outboards and moorings supplied by the Board.

Routine maintenance of angling infrastructure, fencing, bank clearance and habitat enhancement was carried out on the Gweebarra, Eany, Eske and Owenea rivers.

### *Wild Salmon Conservation Fund*

A total of €49,000 was received by the NRFB under this fund for enhancement of salmon habitat on the River Lackagh, north Donegal. This project comprised creation of pools to assist fish migration, selective bank clearance and fencing along important spawning tributaries on the fishery. Fencing was erected along substantial stretches of the main spawning streams in order to prevent access by livestock to the river-bank, allowing natural bank side vegetation to re-establish to provide shelter and food for juvenile fish. Selective bank clearance was completed along selected stretches where excessive tree and shrub growth had caused tunnelling.



Upper Erne catchment (Cavan, Monaghan and Leitrim)

Following a number of years of significant capital investment in angling facilities through NDP funds, there was no funding available in 2009. Development works comprised mainly of replacement of stands and stiles that had become derelict. The NRFB undertakes a rolling programme of repair and maintenance of angling structures as resources permit.

*Wild Salmon Conservation Fund (Jan- June 2010)*

The following projects were approved for funding in 2010 subject to planning, landowner agreements and sanction of temporary staff. Due to the ongoing moratorium on staff recruitment, where possible proposed works were advanced through outsourcing and completion of planning and feasibility stages.

	Proposed	Granted
R Lackagh	€170,000	€128,000
Glenagannon R.	€13,000	€11,500
R Eske	€50,000	€45,000
Cloughaneely	€25,000	Not granted

## Upper Erne

The spread of zebra mussels throughout the Erne system has led to a clearing of the previously turbid conditions thus allowing macrophytes to flourish. This has required additional staff resources to be allocated to deal with significant weed growth in some competition venues, particularly at L. Oughter.

The Board continued to provide assistance for local and sponsored angling events and festivals. Support includes event planning, preparation of venues, clearance of swims, pegging, signposting and provision of stewarding and weigh in services. Events assisted through the year include:-

- Cootehill Easter Festival
- King of Clubs Benelux
- Stena Challenge
- L. Scur Angling Festival
- Ballybay Festival
- Arva (Heineken) Angling Festival
- British King of Clubs
- Cootehill Angling Festival
- Carrick On Shannon Angling Festival
- Carrigallen 5 Day Festival

## Marketing and Promotion

Shows Attended by NRFB	Interest
Pêche Loisirs, Clermont-Ferrand, France	Pike & Game Angling
The Big One, Farnborough, UK	Course & Sea Angling
National Angling Show, Swords, Co. Dublin	Game, Coarse & Sea
Angling in Ireland, Belfast, N. Ireland	Game, Coarse & Sea
Visma Angling Show, Rotterdam, Holland	Sea, trout & Pike
Utrecht, Holland	Sea & Pike
Gortrecht, Belgium	Sea & Pike

NRFB staff attended several angling shows through the year to promote angling in the region. A good response was noted particularly from the Clermont-Ferrand show



from French pike and trout anglers and tour operators. A Pike Fly fishing DVD filmed on the Erne was produced by a French television company 'Seasons'. A similarly positive response was generated by the Dutch and Belgian sea and pike angling shows resulting in follow up articles by journalists, tour operators and visitors to the region.

A number of angling journalists were hosted over the year with a view to generating published articles on fisheries in the Northern region. Journalist visits arranged in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland and the Central Fisheries Board, during the year resulted in several features on the region's fisheries including **Trout and Salmon** (L. Beagh and L Eske), **Zee Engelsport** (Sea Angling- Holland), **Beet Magazine** (Pike Angling- Holland), **Total Coarse Fishing** and **Anglers Mail**.

The NRFB, in conjunction with CFB staff, completed production of a '**Guide to Pike Angling Waters in the Northern Fisheries Region**' which was launched in February 2010 at the **Ireland Angling 2010** show in Swords, Co. Dublin by renowned angling journalist and broadcaster, Matt Hayes. The guide provides a comprehensive guide to pike angling waters in the region and will be available free of charge.

Further shows attended by NRFB staff during January to June 2010 included:-

<b>Shows Attended by NRFB (Jan-June 2010)</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Pêche Loisirs, Clermont-Ferrand, France	Pike & Game Angling
The Big One, Farnborough, UK	Sea & coarse Angling
National Angling Show, Swords, Co. Dublin	Game, Coarse & Sea
Hooked Live, Citywest, Co. Dublin	Game, Coarse & Sea
Visma Angling Show, Rotterdam, Holland	Sea, trout & Pike

Angling information for the Northern region was updated to website, [www.fishinginIreland.info](http://www.fishinginIreland.info), which provides a comprehensive guide to angling venues, news updates, competitions and tackle providers. The Board's angling officer and District inspectors responded to general queries through the season and compiled weekly angling reports through the season. Angling updates are emailed out to anglers and journalists on our distribution list through the season.



### **Education and Fisheries Awareness (2008-2009)**

The Something Fishy education programme was again conducted in association with Donegal and Monaghan education centers. A total of 12 schools were visited in the Inishowen area, 16 south Donegal and a further 17 schools in the Cavan area. Participating schools were encouraged to submit class projects on their experience of the fish, insect life and habitat of their local river. Scoil Niall Mor, Killybegs was selected as regional winners to go forward to the national finals.

### **Education and Fisheries Awareness (2009-2010)**

23 schools were visited in the Cavan-Monaghan district under the Something Fishy Schools Programme which included giving an educational talk to the older children and also giving a practical talk to all the children and showing them live species of fish and invertebrates. Over 669 children participated. A local competition took place with prizes awarded to the winners.



**Rossan N.S. Something Fishy overall winners (Cavan District).**

A further 16 schools in the Letterkenny district and 14 schools in the Ballyshannon district meant that over 1,000 pupils over the region participated in the programme over the year.

The Donegal Regional prize giving took place in the Donegal Education Centre on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> May. All the schools that entered a project were represented on the evening. The children from the different schools were asked to give a brief overview

of their projects before the winners were announced. The standard of the projects were excellent, but unfortunately there could only be one winner and that was Robertson N/S from Ballintra. In second place was Killaghtee N/S and in third place was Fintra N/S.

**Robertson National School, Ballintra** was crowned the National Champions at the Central Fisheries Board in Swords, Co, Dublin on 11<sup>th</sup> June for their project - the 'EELusive Eel'. A range of projects, drawings and field activities were completed on the life cycle, behaviour and global decline in eel stocks- all of which was captured in a musical dvd.



#### **Fisheries Awareness week (22-30 May 2010)**

A range of activities across the region, including were organised and well attended by the public. Activities included:- game, coarse and sea angling demonstrations, fly casting, fly tying, fishery education and river walks.

**DRAFT UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE 18 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2010**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>18 month period Ended 30 June 2010</b>	<b>Year ended 31 December 2008</b>
		<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Oireachtas Income	1	4,226,901	3,404,724
EU funding	2	10,751	456,686
Other Income	3	417,265	530,537
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	15 (c)	745,136	367,943
		<u>5,400,053</u>	<u>4,759,890</u>
<b>Transfer from Capital Account</b>	11	166,408	79,211
		<u>5,566,461</u>	<u>4,839,101</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Administration	4	2,411,455	2,013,670
Operations	5	3,241,720	2,810,040
		<u>5,653,175</u>	<u>4,823,710</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the year</b>		(86,714)	15,391
<b>Surplus at 1 January 2009</b>		<u>440,657</u>	<u>425,266</u>
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus at 30 June 2010</b>		<u>353,943</u>	<u>440,657</u>

## Appendices



		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
<b>Instream Spawning / Enhancement</b>									
No. Rivers Streams Enhanced	No.	8	12	1	10	24	8	8	71
Investment in Instream / Spawning Enhancement	€	15960	75000	10000	25000	90,000	188401	45,000	449361
Length of River and Stream Developed	Km	3.7	2.5	0.7	5.4	57.3	4.3	5.4	79.3
<b>Angling Development</b>									
No. of Angling Facility Enhancement Projects	No.	14	4	3	10	5	7	6	49
Investment in Angling Facility Enhancement	€	91,633	25000	135000	15000	2,000	134063*	15000	417696
Angling Pools Created	No.	9	15	0	1	0	0	0	25
Stiles, Footbridges, Platforms Etc.	No.	26	10	5	48	0	41	165	295
Additional Fishing Spaces Created	No.	254	24	25	0	0	3	40	346
No. Coarse Fish Transferred	No.	0	0	0	2084	578	1826	59	4547
Bank Clearance / Habitat Enhancement	Km	0	18	0	0	0	28.9	2.995	49.895
<b>Surveys</b>									
Salmonid Surveys	No.	193	3	13	52	11	7	2**	281
Coarse Fish Surveys	No.	6	2	0	2	12	3		25
Other	No.	0	0	0	16	9	1		26
Investment in Fishery Surveys	€	69,931	96,000	12500	WFD	70,000	40035		288466

\* includes work on wall of cathedral beat (71k) and FAS Scheme (21k)

\*\* see also WFD surveys

## Appendix 1. Fisheries Development and Surveys undertaken between January 2009 and June 2010



	Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
<b>Pollution Control</b>								
Reported Fish Kills No.	7	7	3	5	2	8	8	40
Fish Kills Caused by Agriculture No.	0	5 (1 suspect)	0	1	0	1*	4	11
Fish Kills Caused by Industry No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Kills Caused by Eutrophication No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Kills Caused by Local Authorities No.	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	6
Other No.	5	2	3	3	1	4	3	21
Pollution Inspections No.	1350	1322	195	1,180	1341	120	7,951	13459
Warning Letters Issued No.	54	430	83	35	24	36	75	737
Pollution Prosecutions Initiated No.	1	2	2	15	2	2	7	31
<b>Water Quality</b>								
Water Samples Taken No.	32	142	240	3,382	593	1,741	933	7063
Samples Tested by Regional Board No.	32	133	155	0	180	1,517	35	2052
Samples Tested by CFB Laboratory No.	0	0	69	2,648	0	180	575	3472
Samples Tested Externally No.	0	10	12	704	453	44	323	1546
Total Water Tests No.	32	142	240	3,352	1,865	1,741	933	8305
Average No. of Determinants Test No.	5	3.4	5	5	5	9	16	48.4

\* suspected cause was agricultural activity

## Appendix 2. Pollution Control and Water Quality Report for January 2009 to June 2010

		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
<b>Fish Stocking</b>									
Brown Trout Stocked	No.	301,500	100,990	0	507,200	3,000	6,350	337,000	1,256,040
Salmon Stocked	No.	42,000	0	0	0	108,000	0	0	150,000
Rainbow Trout Stocked	No.	3,000	0	74,000	33,330	0	15,754	0	126,084
Coarse Fish Stocked	No.	527	0	0	0	0	0	0	527
<b>Total</b>		<b>347,027</b>	<b>100,990</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>540,530</b>	<b>111,000</b>	<b>22,104</b>	<b>337,000</b>	<b>1,532,651</b>
<b>CFB Stocking to Regional Boards</b>									
Brown Trout Fry	No.	300,000	100,000	0	330,000	0	0	310,000	1,040,000
Brown Trout Summerlings	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1500*	1,500
Brown Trout 2 Year old	No.	1,500	990	0	41,350	3,000	3,000	3,150	52,990
Rainbow Trout Fry	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Trout Summerlings	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainbow Trout 1 Year Old	No.	3,000	0	71,000	33,430	0	2,000	0	109,430
Rainbow Trout 2 Year Old	No.	0	0	3,000	200	0	0	3,200	6,400
Rainbow Trout 3+	No.							300	300

\*Brown trout 1+

### Appendix 3. Fish Stocking Report for January 2009 to June 2010

		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
<b>Rod Angling Licence Issued</b>									
Salmon / Sea Trout	2009 no.	1,266	2,321	2,753	1,348	2,292	5,555	2,779	18,314
Share Certificates	2009 no.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Commercial Licence Issued</b>									
<b>Salmon</b>									
Drift Net	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Draft Net	No.	0	2	29	10	16	2	25	84
CFO Draft		0	0	0	42	0	0	0	42
Special Local Draft Net	No.	0	0	0	0	0	23	10	33
Snap Net	No.	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
Trap	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	No.	0	0	1	0	16	0	21	38
<b>Totals</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>208</b>
Salmon / Trout Dealers	No.	92	43	41	36	27	27	36	302
Eels Dealers	No.	7	1	28	2	0	2	2	42
Molluscs Dealers	No.	71	25	0	30	12	4	30	172
<b>Board Managed Fisheries</b>									
Fisheries Managed	No.	1	2	15	27	6	7	7	65
Rod Days	No.	1,500	964	13,000	n/a	1,807	4,192	814	22,277
Revenue	€	1,000	8,768	172,073	109,255	127,504	212,902	38,485	669,987

Appendix 4a. Fishing Licences and Board Managed Fisheries Report 2009

		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
<b>Rod Angling Licence Issued</b>		to follow							
Salmon / Sea Trout	No.	1017	1,303	1,948	911	1,131	3,111	1,808	11,229
Share Certificates	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Commercial Licence Issued</b>									
<b>Salmon</b>									
Drift Net	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Draft Net	No.	0	2	29	10	16	2	15	74
CFO Draft		0	0	0	37	0	0	9	46
Special Local Draft Net	No.	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	22
Snap Net	No.	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
Trap	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	No.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>180</b>
Salmon / Trout Dealers	No.	57	43	30	21	16	16	0	183
Eels Dealers	No.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Molluscs Dealers	No.	63	24	28	28	10	7	11	171
									0
<b>Board Managed Fisheries</b>									0
									0
Fisheries Managed	No.	2	2	15	27	6	7	6	65
Rod Days	No.	300	867	3,000	n/a	882	2,818	720	8,587
Revenue	€	1,500	n/a	n/a	60,584	66,615	141,979	35,089	305,767

\* includes 5 oyster dredge and 7 molluscan dealers licences

#### Appendix 4b. Fishing Licences and Board Managed Fisheries Report January to July 2010

		Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
<b>Protection &amp; Surveillance</b>									
Short Duration	Man	4,875	8,555.00	5350	13,160	4,535	4,176	4,057	44,708
Boat Patrols	Hours								
Net Seized	Yards	1,750	3,600	12,259	2,934	6,532	6,597	8,171	41,843
Boats Seized	No.	10	0	0	5	0	0	18	33
Prosecutions Initiated	No.	43	42	28	34	5	28	137	317

**Appendix 5. Protection and Surveillance Report Jan 2009 to June 2010**

<b>Staffing</b>		Central Board	Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board	Total
Permanent Staff	No.	39	41	31	31	45	51	41	41	320
Exchequer Funded Temporary Staff	No.	27	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	36
Project Funded Staff (EU or other)	No.	12	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>373</b>
Development Staff / Field Staff	No.	50	4	5	4	18	16	9	10	116
Protection Staff	No.	0	26	21	18	21	24	22	22	154
Pollution Staff / Environmental Staff	No.	0	6	4	2	3	1	2	2	20
Admin / Finance & Other Staff	No.	29	5	5	7	7	10	8	7	78
EU + other		12	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>373</b>

**Appendix 6 Staffing Report as of June 2010**

## Appendix 7. Regional Fisheries Board Members June 2010

	Eastern Board	Southern Board	South Western Board	Shannon Board	Western Board	North Western Board	Northern Board
Chairperson	John Chambers	Joe Teesdale	Ms. Ellen Godfrey	Michael Callaghan	Lal Faherty	John Walkin	John McLaughlin
Salmon Rod Rep.	Kieran Caffrey	Jim Wemyss	Paul Lawton	Jim Horgan	Martin Beatty	Seamus Henry	Chris Shaw
	Roddy Minogue		D.J. O'Riordan	Andy McAllion	Lal Faherty	Declan Turnbull	Gerry McNulty
Draft Net Rep.	Brendan Long		Jack Howard	Gabriel McKenna (RIP July 09)	John Joe Flaherty	John Munnelly	John McIntyre
	Leo Boyle		Denis Teahan	John Slattery			
Drift Net Rep.	Edward McCormack			-			
	Martin Costigan	David Neal	Seamus DeBurca	Patrick Peril	John Needham	Michael Waters	Vacant
		Michael Connors	Thomas B. O'Rourke	Matthew Benn	Christy Martyn	Melvin Tighe	Roger Curran
		John Furlong		-	Francis Flanagan		Stephen McGonagle
		Tom Walsh		-			
Other Salmon Netsmen Rep.		Peter Walsh		-			Mary O'Donnell
		John Carroll		-			
Eel License Rep.	Anthony Wilde	Pat Diggins		Michael Flanagan	Michael Gannon	John Hughes	Kieran Lynch
Rated Occupier	John Murphy	Joe Teesdale (Chair)	Ms. Ellen Godfrey	Edmond P Costelloe	Leslie Lyons	Peter Layden	Shane Gallagher
Trout Angler	Stewart McGrane	Michael Byrne		Martin McEnroe	John Burke	Finian Dodd	Frankie Byrne
		Kyrle Delaney		Michael Callaghan	Paddy Tierney	Francis Taaffe	
Coarse Angler	John Chambers	Michael Walsh		Sean Young	Vacant		Brendan Coulter
				Joe O'Donoghue			Terence Sheridan
Sea Angler	Hugh O'Rorke	Paddy Power (RIP May 2010)	John Martin	Jim Robinson	Duncan Brown	John Walkin	Bill McGarvey
IFT Life Member	Patrick J. Conneff	David Willis	Gerry Keating	Patrick J Isdell	Edmond Cusack		Patrick Foley
Staff Member	Kevin O'Brien	Pat Bowe	John Harte	Seamus McDermott	Ruaidhiri De Barra	Padraic Traynor	-
Oyster Rep.			Joe Tansley	-	vacant	Paddy Quinn	
Ministerial Appointees	Carmel Lynn	John Condon	James Doyle	Cllr. Mary Bohan	Mary O'Muircheartaigh	James Maloney	Patrick Sweeney
	Des Taylor	Mary Ferns		Declan Quigley	Marie O'Connor	Brendan O'Mahony	Matt Caulfield
	Anne Farrell	Anne Gibbons	John Harrington	Mary Candler-Kennedy	Dr. Jimmy Dunne	Anthony Ferguson	Maeve Quinn
	Betty Hayes	Vacant 1	John Lucey	Peg Ward-Heslin	Tomas Browne	Mary Gallagher McBride	Caroline Connolly
	Karin Dubsy	Vacant 2	Marry O'Connor	Paddy Mackey	Vacant	Mary Hensey	Joan Kelly
	Michael Joyce	Vacant 3		Breege Murray	Vacant	Ann Campbell	Enda Bonner
		Vacant 4		Kevin Duffy	Vacant	Ann Geary	Jerry Lundy



	Licences Sold	Logbook Returns	% Returns	Raising factor
Region				
Eastern	1,266	1,085	85.70%	1.050
Southern	2,321	1,896	81.69%	1.067
South Western	2,753	2,238	81.29%	1.069
Shannon	1,348	1,056	78.34%	1.083
Western	2,292	1,697	74.04%	1.105
North Western	5,555	2,950	53.11%	1.265
Northern	2,779	1,968	70.82%	1.124
<b>National</b>	<b>18,314</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>70.38%</b>	<b>1.126</b>

**Appendix 8. Numbers of angling licence sales and log book returns in each Regional Fisheries Board in 2009.**

Licence Category	Annual A	District B	Juvenile P	21 Day R	1 Day S	Foyle Ext W	Special Local W	Region Total
Eastern	486	601	73	88	16	2	0	1266
Southern	376	893	111	750	191	0	0	2321
South Western	589	1384	123	514	143	0	0	2753
Shannon	253	881	117	73	24	0	0	1348
Western	356	812	133	707	270	14	0	2292
North Western	547	2167	424	1890	460	67	0	5555
Northern	233	1029	185	456	197	539	140	2779
<b>National</b>	<b>2840</b>	<b>7767</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>4478</b>	<b>1301</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>18314</b>

**Appendix 9a. Angling licence sales in each Regional Fisheries Board in 2009.**

Licence Category	Annual A	District B	Juvenile P	21 Day R	1 Day S	Foyle Ext W	Special Local W	Region Total
Eastern	273	313	38	53	16	0	4	697
Southern	102	301	37	250	67	0	0	757
South Western	555	1103	89	145	50	0	0	1942
Shannon	128	421	24	4	1	0	0	578
Western	276	533	56	214	43	9	0	1131
North Western	382	1372	167	506	114	101	-	2642
Northern	110	535	50	184	14	441	77	1411
<b>National</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>4456</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>1356</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>8954</b>

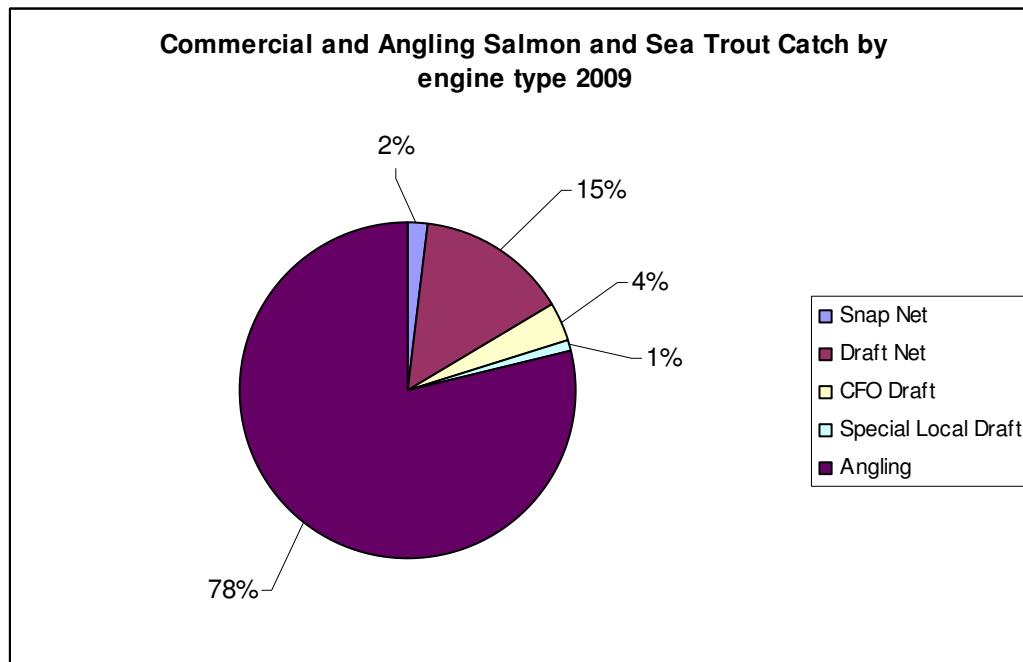
**Appendix 9b. Angling licence sales in each Regional Fisheries Board Jan-June 2010**

<b>Fishery District</b>	<b>Engine Type</b>	<b>River</b>	<b>Salmon Caught</b>	<b>Sea Trout Caught</b>	<b>Total Reported Salmon &amp; Sea Trout catch</b>
Waterford	Snap Net	Nore	211	10	221
Lismore	Draft Net	Blackwater (Munster)	64		64
Lismore	Snap Net	Blackwater (Munster)	368		368
Cork	Draft Net	Bandon	59	9	68
		Ilenn	44	0	44
		Lee (Cork)	1,182	8	1,190
Kerry	Draft Net	Caragh	13	5	18
		Inny (Knockmoyle)	28		28
		Laune	1,620	3	1,623
		Owenmore (Brandon)	95	6	101
		Roughty	12		12
Limerick	CFO Draft Net	Feale	1,252		1,252
Ballinakill	Draft Net	Clifden River	6		6
		Dawros	8		8
		Delphi R.and L	6		6
		Erriff	40		40
		Killary harbour (note 1)	94		94
Bangor	Draft Net	Owenduff	456		456
		Owenmore	674	2	676
Ballyshannon	Draft Net	Eany	127	2	129
Letterkenny	Draft Net	Gweebarra	127		127
	Special Local Draft Net	Owenea	271		271
<b>Totals</b>			<b>6,757</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6,802</b>

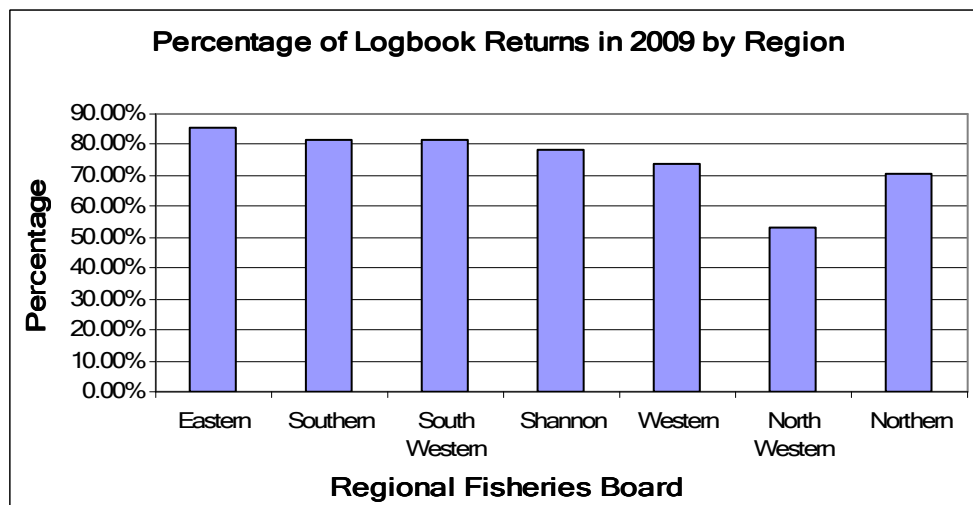
**Appendix 10. Commercial salmon and sea trout catches by river from log book returns in 2009.**

	No.s Tagged To June 2010	Numbers Recapt. to June 2010	% Return	Days at Liberty	Dist. Travelled (Miles)	Numbers Tagged in 2009-June 2010
Blue Shark	18422	828	4.49	180827	0-4250	188
Porbeagle Shark	149	7	4.70	71-3947	89-2300	21
Thresher Shark	1	0	0.00	-	-	0
Tope	6299	421	6.68	28-6587	0-2185	257
Monkfish	1027	190	18.50	0-4525	0-720	0
Common Skate	1174	156	13.29	501022	0-120	38
Long Nosed Skate	3	0	0.00	-	1	0
White Skate	21	1	4.76	975	3	0
Blonde Ray	711	115	16.17	26-1871	0-45	4
Undulate Ray	1094	55	5.03	0-2676	0-60	0
Thornback Ray	9582	281	2.93	0-2190	0-80	264
Painted Ray	262	13	4.96	13-1398	0-20	0
Homelyn Ray	341	13	3.81	294-1373	0-72	11
Spurdog	120	0	-	-	-	67
Bass	1805	56	3.10	0-1373	0-88	0
Mullet	311	5	1.61	0-275	0-200	0
Flounder	287	30	10.45	0-738	0-3.5	0
Sting Ray	40	0	0.00	-	-	0
Bull Huss	90	5	5.56	103-1499	0-125	17
Dabs	43	2	4.65	378	2	0
Smooth Hound	102	0	0.00	-	-	45
Plaice	5	1	20.00	70	0	0
Bluefin Tuna	11	0	0.00	-	-	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41,900</b>	<b>2,179</b>				<b>912</b>

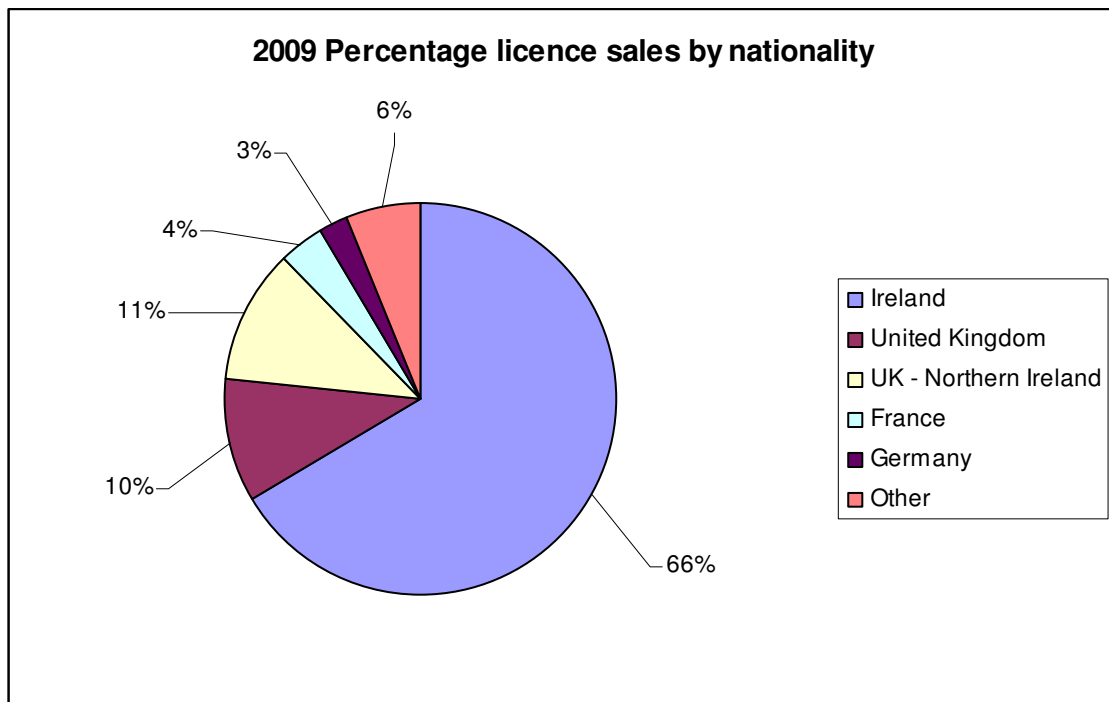
**Appendix 11. Tag and Recapture of Marine Species up to Dec 2009.**  
 (Data for 2010 will be compiled for the 2010 report)



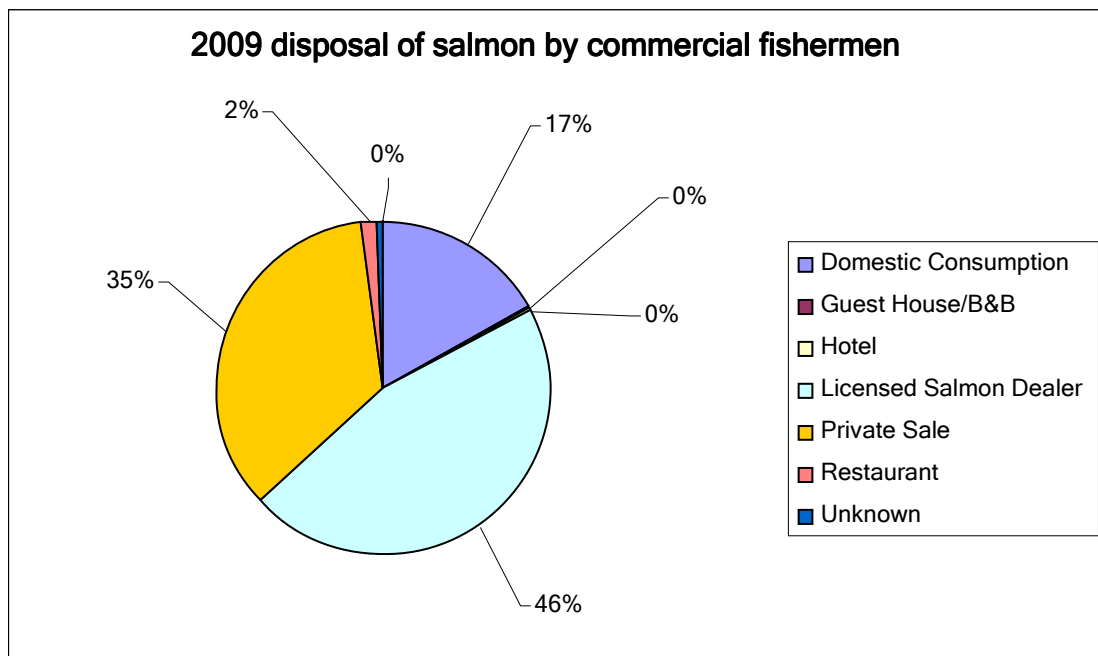
**Fig.1 Commercial and angling salmon and sea trout catch by engine type 2009.**



**Fig 2. Percentage log book returns in each Regional Fisheries Board 2009.**



**Fig 3. Nationality of anglers who purchased salmon fishing licences in 2009.**



**Fig 4. Disposal of salmon caught by commercial fishermen in 2009.**



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**Central Fisheries Board**  
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