

What to do:

If you land an angling fish with a lamprey attached please;

- take a photo of the lamprey and host fish
- measure the length of the lamprey if possible
- return the lamprey back to the water.



If you land an angling fish with round markings on the skin please;

- take a photo of the fish, showing the mark clearly
- measure the length of your fish if possible
- Note date, location and number of marks

Remember we need a date, location on the lake and type of fish to which the lamprey was attached



We Are Looking For

Sea lamprey spawning sites

Lamprey scarring mark on a host fish

Lamprey attached to a host fish

You can report your sightings to IFI at info@fisheriesireland.ie

or

You can sign in on a new app developed to collect information on lamprey from non-scientists.

www.ucd.ie/rarefishreporter

You are the citizen scientist
You can make a difference
Please send us your observations.

Thank you!

Eolas agus comhairle / Information and advice
info@fisheriesireland.ie



Spot the Sea LAMPREY



The lampreys are a very ancient group of fish.

They are unusual in many ways:

- Adults have a sucker-like mouth with lots of teeth
- The young life stages live burrowed into fine sediments in rivers for up to several years
- The adults of some species live as external parasites on other fish or marine mammals
- Some species migrate to sea and spend their adult life there
- All the species spawn in freshwater
- Lamprey use chemical signals to find their way into rivers from the sea and to find mates at spawning time

The three lamprey species found in Ireland - sea-, river - and brook lamprey - are all listed in the EU Habitats Directive and Ireland has designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for lamprey in some of our rivers.

- Sea lampreys can be up to 1 m in length and can travel long distances up rivers from the sea to spawn
- Spawning takes place from late May to early July
- Man-made barriers can block the upstream migration of adult sea lamprey
- Sea lamprey excavate large nests or redds - freshly turned mounds of clean gravel and a deep pool just upstream
- Redds are often found in clusters just downstream of weirs

In recent years, anglers are reporting landing trout with an eel-like fish attached. The stories have come mainly from our large lakes during Mayfly season - from L. Derg, L. Conn, L. Cullin and L. Corrib.

Some anglers have also noticed round marks on the surface of fish - of trout, pike and bream - where lamprey have been attached. The sucker mouth allows the lamprey to clamp on to host fish. If the lamprey remains a long time it can damage the host's skin and tissues, leaving a deeper scar.

The lamprey causing these marks on fish are described as Land-locked lamprey that may not go to sea but will attach themselves to host fish in lakes.

