INFORMATION

SAFETY

Both lakes contain a large number of dangerous rocks just below the water surface. Lough Conn is particularly rocky. In general, individual or small groups of rocks are indicated by distinctive rock markers in shallow water. A single marker may signify the presence of a number of rocks in its general vicinity.

However, anglers should not assume that every rock or every group of rocks in such a lake is marked. Vising anglers, in particular, are strongly advised to exercise caution, as water levels on the lakes can fluctuate significantly. Those unfamiliar with the lakes should be advised of the services of local business or guides.

The law requires that persons venturing out on to lakes and coastal waters, in a boat less than 7.5m in length, wear a properly fitting, and approved, personal flotation device or a lifejacket (S. No. 1921 of 2010). As well as boat-fishing positions, anglers are advised to check local weather forecasts before venturing out.

ANGLING RETURNS

Accurate and detailed angling returns are crucial to the sustainable management of Irish fisheries. Whether released or retained, all fish should be entered into Inland Fisheries Ireland at the end of the season. The co-operation of all anglers in the collection of angling returns is requested as this information is vital for the proper management of the fishery.

ANGLERS’ SHELTERS

Anglers’ shelters have been provided at a number of locations around the shores and on islands on Lough Conn. These locations are marked on the map with a "S" symbol.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a wide variety of accommodation available in the area, ranging from comfortable bed and breakfast accommodation in both town and country hotels, to small family run hotels, luxurious lodges, cold water inns and homely guesthouses. There is also a wide choice of quality self catering accommodation options available.

Anglers are advised to stay only at premises registered or approved by Inland Fisheries Ireland, most of these properties display the Plaice Ireland approved accommodation sign. For information on anglers’ accommodation, check the links to the right, Bed and Breakfast in the area, contact Ballina Tourism Office or see www.tourism mayo.ie, www.inland.ie or www.discoverireland.ie.

LITTER

Please protect our environment – take your litter home.

FISHING ON LOUGHS CONN & CULLIN

TROUT FISHING

The vast majority of trout taken on the loughs are taken on wet flies when trout are moving near the surface during summer. Fly fishing works, even in the quiet periods, between hatches, it is nearly always possible to attract the attention of trout with a bead of well presented wet fly. Trout fishing generally starts around the 17th March with the trout feedling voraciously on freshwater shrimp, snails and hoglice.

The sheer fly-hatches of insects to the trout are caddis, mayflies, blackflies and midges. Other forms of food are freshwater shrimp, freshwater snails, and various land based insects that get blown onto the water in July and August. trout are capable of matching the hatch with representative patterns of these terrestrial insects and can be very successful in the right conditions.

Dry flies and wet flies, patterns are also effective. Terrestrial insects are rarely caught when no significant numbers of fly are hatching on the surface. As with all wet fly fishing for brown trout, the greatest success has traditionally been attained in the shallower areas. The shallows are to be found at a large number of locations around the loch as shown on the map. The northern end of Lough Conn, in particular, is well endowed with shallow areas. The large shallow bay e.g. Clifden Bay, Big Bay and Castlefield Bay can be fished all over and fishing in these areas is possible in almost all wind directions. The most productive areas for brown fishing on Conn are Clifden Bay and Big Bay (Enniscrone).

FLY SIZES

The dry fly fished on the loughs vary from size 8 to size 14, but sizes 10 through to 14 are the most popular and useful.

EARLY SEASON

This is the period from about mid-March to the end of April. The trout are mainly interested in a diet of freshwater shrimps and freshwater shrimp but even light tippets of small chironomids (brigids), or olive wulffs will encourage fish to feed near the surface. Wet flies that are most productive during this time of year.

FALLED SEASON

The majority hatch one of the largest mayfly hatches of any trout in the country. Mayflies start appearing around mid-April and continue till the end of June when spurca hatches can still occur. Some very exciting fishing can be had at this time. Mayflies hatch all over the shallower areas and bays of Lough Conn and throughout Lough Cullin. On Conn, the most prolific hatches take place north of a line from Castlefield to Runmore.

All mayfly hatches, fished wet, work well and some excellent sport can be enjoyed dry patterns, especially the Wulff series, mayfly emergers and sparse grass inrusions.

INSECT SEASON

Suitable wind and weather conditions in late May and early June and, the mayflies (gloss) return to the water to lay their eggs. The trout prey heavily on them in this period trapped in the surface film. The artificial flies most likely to take trout in mayfly time are the Green Peter, Pheasant tail, Brick, Wulff, Nymph, Pheasant, Black Pennell, Golden Olive, Invicta, Cormorant Black, Claret Dabbler and Golden Dabbler and Copper and Silver Spoons, T Toby and Devon Minnows. Even tube flies can be successful on occasion.

Silvers tend to confine themselves to well defined areas which are known as the local lay. The best known and most frequently fished locations are A: the northern end of Lough Conn, in particular, the area around the mouth of the Gruel River, B: Vitoria Bay, Carranmore, the black and Peacock Spider, Bibio, Sooty Olive, olive Bumstead, Wulffs, Bumstead, Black Pennell, Golden Olive, Invicta, Cormorant Black, Claret Dabbler and Golden Dabbler.

LATE SEASON

Trout fishing on Conn slows down in early July but picks up again in August and, depending on conditions, can be very good from then to the close of the season on the 30th of September. From the 1st of July to the end of the season, very little fly fishing is carried out on Cullin.

All the wade patterns – Green Peter, Pheasant tail, Black, Brick – work well. Some of the fly patterns are: the Black and Peacock Spider, Bibio, Sooty Olive, olive Bumstead, Wulffs, Bumstead, Black Pennell, Golden Olive, Invicta, Cormorant Black, Claret Dabbler and Golden Dabbler.

Lough Conn & Cullin

Game Angling Guide

Detailed and up to date map, Angling Information, Tourist information.

INFORMATION

BOAT HIRE

A list of angling guides and guides who offer services on the loughs is available from Inland Fisheries Ireland, Ballina office. Details can also be found at www.fishingireland.info. Boat hire providers are listed below:

Kan Hall, Fasfoord, Co Mayo
Tel: +353 (0)64 844072
Email: kanhall@eircom.net

Paddy McDonnell
Barnewe, Bantry, Co. Mayo.
Tel: +353 (0)77 32182

Ray Murphy, Brown Race, Masbrook, Crossclough, Co. Mayo
Tel: +353 (0)74 52394
Mail: +353 (0)77 220449

Vern O’Boyle, Knockdrina, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Tel: +353 (0)77 32192

Ponitico Bridge, Hotel, Potonna, Co. Mayo
Tel: +353 (0)94 721210
Email: eoin@poniticobridge.com

Ken Murphy, Riverdene, Fasfoord, Co. Mayo.
Tel: +353 (0)94 55501
Mail: kenny69@eircom.net

Terry Brothers, Main St Fasfoord, Co. Mayo.
Tel: +353 (0)94 51275
Email: turfowling@eircom.net

Iain Wiss, Clonacannery Fishery, Enniscrone House, Ballina, Co. Mayo.
Tel: +353 (0)17 787109
Email: iain@foxhillfishing.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on angling in the Lough Conn and Cullin area may be obtained from Inland Fisheries Ireland, Arbour House, Abbey St., Ballina Co. Mayo, Tel: +353 (0)74 23288. Email: ballina@fisheriesireland.ie or Web: www.fishingireland.info.

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INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND
**ANGLING REGULATIONS**

**OPEN SEASON**
- Salmon: 1st February – 10th September
- Trout: 15th February – 10th September

Angling is restricted on area 1, 2 and 3 marked on the map. Access from 1st October to the 31st May (inclusive).

**SIZE LIMIT**
- Minimum size limit for trout is 12 inches (30.48cm)

**PERMISSION**
A permit is not required to fish these lakes. However, a state salmon licence is required by law for salmon fishing. Licences are widely available from tackle shops, Inland Fisheries Ireland and online at www.fishingireland.ie.

**BAG LIMIT**
- As possible while angling.
- In the interests of conservation of stocks, to
-联社

**LOUGHS CONN AND CULLIN**
Lough Conn is located approximately 6km south west of the town of Belmullet in north County Mayo and is set within the area of Crocott mine, while Lough Cullin lies 3km west of Foxford and together they form part of the River Mayo catchment (total area 100,000 ha).

Conn, with an area of 5665 hectares, is fed in the north by the River Deel and many smaller tributaries. With the lakes joining through a short channel at Porteen Bridge. Lough Cullin, area 1014 hectares, received water from Conn, the Canna, Togher and Glengad Rivers and drains into the River Mayo from its south east corner through what is known, locally, as the ‘Lakes River’.

The lakes support a large population of trout as well as migrating salmon, pike, roach and perch, with both accessible either from the shore or by boat.

**ACCESS**
Access to Loughs Conn and Cullin is available at several principal locations including Gortnoraberry Pier, Planamiskins Bays, Gilfen (Brown)’s Bay, Schoolhouse Bays, Breastworths, Chigflane and Ponname. These locations are indicated on the map by the symbol.

**FISHING TACKLE**
For traditional methods of angling, rods between 6 ft (1.8m) and 10 ft (3m) are used with a floating line. Floater lines are mainly used when fishing dry flies and buzzers, with darker trout fly including mayflies, spengrass, sedge and daddies. Intermediate lines are now very popular especially in early and late months of the season, with both sinking and intermediate lines employed for wet fly fishing. The usual method is short casting in front of a drifting line and adding a bulky fly, e.g. Trudle and Dobler varieties, on the top dropper through the wave.