Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme

The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme regulates salmon and sea trout fishing in Ireland and is administered by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Please note that the regulations and bye-laws are subject to change. Contact your local Inland Fisheries Ireland office for information on individual rivers.

All salmon rod licence holders must affix a gill tag to all retained salmon (any size), or sea trout (over 40cm) once the fish has been killed.

1. BAG LIMITS

There is a National angling bag limit of 10 salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) on rivers where you may catch and retain salmon (Table 1). The bag limits are subject to any quota allocated to a river and its tributaries. A person shall not retain a wild salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) from a river other than a river mentioned in Table 1.

Subject to the maximum annual bag limit of ten fish an angler may take:

- **Daily Bag Limit - 1st January to 11th May -** A total of one salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day (three fish in total may be retained for this period).
- **Daily Bag Limit - 12th May to 31st August -** Three salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day (except where a salmon rod (one-day) ordinary licence is held, 1 fish).
- **Daily Bag Limit - 1st September to the close of the season:** One salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day.
- There is a daily bag limit of three sea trout (under 40cm) per angler per day.
- Please note that it is an offence to kill any sea trout in the following waters;
  - Galway, Connemara or Ballinakill Fisheries Districts including at sea from Hags Head in County Clare to Clew Bay (and in any waters flowing into Clew Bay) in the Bangor Fishery District south of a line drawn due east and west through Achill Head,
  - Kerry District, in that part of the sea east of a line between Bolus Head and Lambs Head and all the waters discharging into it (i.e. Waterville).

After the daily bag limit has been taken, anglers are permitted to fish catch and release, using single or double barbless hooks and anglers may not use worms. The killing and possession of foul hooked fish is prohibited.

On rivers where catch and release is permitted (Table 2):

- anglers may not use worms.
- anglers must use single or double barbless hooks.
- the fish must be handled carefully and should not be removed from the water prior to release.

On all other rivers (Table 3) angling for salmon (any size) and sea trout (over 40cm) is prohibited.

- The Regulations on the River Avoca prohibit the taking of any sea trout (under 40cm) as well as prohibiting the use of worms as bait and any fish hooks other than single barbless hooks in angling for sea trout (under 40cm) (bye-law no. 890, 2011).
- The Regulations on the River Slaney prohibit the use of; (a) any lure other than artificial fly using single or double barbless hooks in that part of the River Slaney upstream from the Railway Bridge Enniscorthy, or (b) worms as bait or any fish hooks, other than single barbless hooks, in that part of the River Slaney downstream from the Railway Bridge Enniscorthy to the mouth of the River Slaney (bye-law no. 992, 2021).
- The Regulations on the River Suir prohibit the use of worms, prawn, shrimp or any other crustacean or artificial forms thereof as bait and any fish hooks other than single or double barbless hooks (bye-law no. 991, 2021).

2. OBTAINING A LICENCE

Anglers can obtain their licence from Inland Fisheries Ireland, online at store.fishinginireland.info or from any rod licence distributor. On payment of the rod licence fee, the angler will be given:

- The relevant rod licence, associated logbook and a plastic wallet for the licence/logbook.
- 3 gill tags where a salmon rod (annual) ordinary, juvenile, district or 21-day ordinary licence is issued up until 11th May and a further 7 gill tags (issued in lots of 3 or 4) from the period 12th May to 30th Sept up to a maximum of 10 gill tags in total provided they demonstrate that they have completed their logbook appropriately.
- 1 gill tag where a salmon rod (one day) ordinary licence is issued up until the close of the season.
- A business reply envelope for return of the logbook and unused tags to the relevant Inland Fisheries Ireland office.

3. THE TAG

The tag to be used by anglers is a blue plastic self-locking device (an additional brown tag is also required for certain rivers (refer to Table 1 – Open Fisheries with Optional Harvest Surplus - 2022) to ensure angling quotas are not exceeded. Contact the relevant IFI office for details on how to obtain brown tags). Each blue tag is embossed with a code identifying where the tag was issued, the year in which the tag can be used, a security code and a tag serial number.

Anglers should carefully note the following concerning the use of these tags:

- Each rod licence holder will be issued tags for his/her use only. Tags are not transferable between licence holders.
- One tag shall be attached to each salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) caught and retained.
- Tags must be attached immediately on landing the fish. These tags shall not be re-used.
- Tags shall be attached through the gill opening and mouth of the fish and securely double locked around the gill cover.
- Additional tags shall be issued on presentation of logbook information showing that the licence holder has used the gill tags issued to him or her, subject to bag limits.
- Lost and accidentally destroyed tags may be replaced upon presentation of a signed declaration completed by the angler and signed by an Authorised Officer of Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- Gill tags shall only be removed from the fish at the time of processing in accordance with the Tagging Scheme Regulations. For the purposes of this scheme processing includes: smoking, marinating or cooking the fish, gutting and freezing the fish or cutting any steaks, cutlets or portions of the fish.

4. THE LOGBOOK

On receipt of tags the angler will also receive a logbook. Details of the gill tags issued to an angler will be entered into the angler's logbook by the issuing agent. Each angler shall:

- Have the logbook in his/her possession while fishing for salmon or sea trout.
- Record all details of their catch in their logbook immediately after tagging the fish.
- Make a catch record even if the fish is released.
- Record details of any lost or damaged tags.
- Declare lost or damaged logbooks to Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Salmon and Sea Trout Angling Regulations 2022

Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

This leaflet includes information on the status of rivers (open, closed and catch and release), bag limits, obtaining a licence, correct use of logbooks and gill tags.

5. RETURNING LOGBOOKS AND UNUSED TAGS

In accordance with the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Regulations anglers are required by law to return their completed logbook (even if there is no catch recorded) and all unused tags to the issuing office of Inland Fisheries Ireland by the 19th October 2022. A business reply envelope is provided for this purpose. Anglers are required to obtain proof of postage and to retain such proof for 12 months.

6. PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF ROD CAUGHT SALMON OR SEA TROUT

Anglers are prohibited from selling salmon (any size) or sea trout (any size) caught by rod and line.

These guidelines have been prepared for information purposes only and do not purport to be a legal interpretation. The holder of a rod licence should familiarise himself or herself with section 69 of the Inland Fisheries Act, 2010 (No. 10 of 2010), the current Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations and the Salmon and Sea Trout Conservation Bye-laws.

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Table 1 - Open Fisheries with Optional Harvest Surplus - 2022

No. 4 or Lismore District	No. 10(1) or Ballinakill District
Blackwater,	Bundorragha (Delphi) (brown tag required – code J4),
Glenshelane,	Erriff,
Finisk,	Culfin,
No. 5 or Cork District	Dawros,
Bandon,	Owenglin (Clifden) (brown tag required – code M4),
Lower Lee (brown tag required – code B4),	Bunowen,
Ilen,	**No. 10(2) or Bangor District**
Mealagh,	Carrowmore Lake (brown tag required – code L4),
Owvane,	Glenamoy,
Coomhola,	Owenduff,
Glengarriff,	Newport River (including Lough Beltra and Crumpaun R.) (brown tag required to 11th May only - code C3),
No. 7 or Kerry District	Owenmore R.,
Roughty,	**No. 11 or Ballina District**
Sheen,	Moy,
Laune,	Easkey,
Cottoners,	**No. 12 or Sligo District**
Waterville/Cummeragh/Currane (brown tag required to 11th May only - code D3),	Ballysadare,
Sneem,	Drumcliff R. and Glencar Lake,
Caragh,	**No. 13 or Ballyshannon District**
Owenmore R.,	Drowes,
Maine,	Owenwee (Yellow),
Croanshagh,	**No. 14 or Letterkenny District**
Ferta,	Gweebarra (brown tag required - code P4),
No. 9(1) or Galway District	Clady,
Corrib,	Gweedore (Crolly),
No. 9(2) or Connemara District	Tullaghobegley,
Cashla,	Crana (brown tag required – code A4),
Ballynahinch (Owenmore), (brown tag required – code R4),	Owentocker (brown tag required – code I4),
	Owenea (brown tag required – code I4),

Table 2 - Open Fisheries - Catch and Release Only - 2022

No. 1 or Dublin District	No. 10(1) or Ballinakill District
Lower Liffey (downstream of Leixlip Dam), ® ®+	Carrownisky, ®
No. 2 or Wexford District	Owenwee (Belclare), ®
Slaney, (Catch and Release 1st April - 31st Aug, Otherwise Closed), ®	**No. 10(2) or Bangor District**
	Shramore, ®
No. 3 or Waterford District	**No. 11 or Ballina District**
Barrow,	Cloonaghmore (Palmerstown), ®
Suir,	**No. 12 or Sligo District**
Pollmounty,	Garavogue River (including L. Gill and R. Bonet), (Catch and Release from 12th May), ®-
Nore,	**No. 13 or Ballyshannon District**
No. 4 or Lismore District	Eany, ®
Bride, ®	Glen, ®
No. 5 or Cork District	Oily, ®
Argideen, ®	Bungosteen, ®
Adrigole, ®	Duff, ®
No. 7 or Kerry District	Eske, ®
Blackwater, ®	**No. 14 or Letterkenny District**
Owenascaul, ®	Leannan, ®
Cloonee, ®	Ray, ®
Milltown, ®	Lackagh, (Catch and Release from 12th May). ®
Inny, ®	**No. 17(1) or Drogheda District**
No. 8 or Limerick District	Boyne, ®-
Mulkear, ®	**No. 17(2) or Dundalk District**
Feale, (including Rivers Galey & Brick), ®	Glyde, ®
Doonbeg, ®	Dee, ®-
Lower Shannon,	Fane, ®
No. 9(2) or Connemara District	
Screebe, ®	

If you need to report illegal fishing or water pollution call 0818 34 74 24
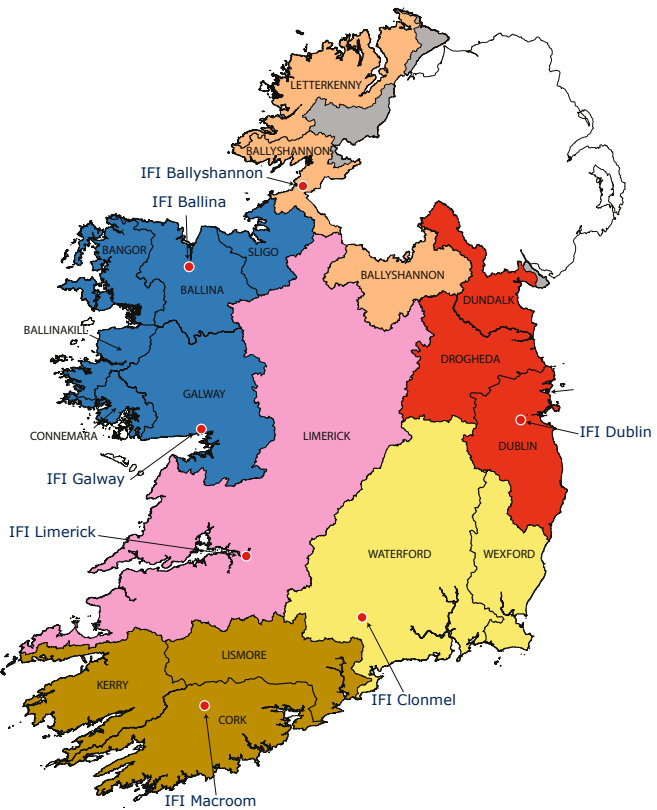
Table 3 - Closed Fisheries - 2022

No. 1 or Dublin District	No. 9(1) or Galway District
Dargle, ®	Clarinbridge, ®
Vartry, ®	Knock, ®
Upper Liffey (upstream of Leixlip Dam), ®-	Aille, ®
No. 2 or Wexford District	Owenboliska, Spiddal, ®
Avoca, ®	Kilcolgan,
Owenavorragh, ®	**No. 9(2) or Connemara District**
Slaney, (Closed to 31st March, Closed from 1st Sept), ®	L. na Furnace, ®
No. 3 or Waterford District	**No. 10(2) or Bangor District**
Owenduff, ®	Owengarve, ®
Mahon, ®	Muingnabo, ®
Tay, ®	**No. 11 or Ballina District**
Colligan, ®	Brusna, ®
Corrock, ®	Leaffony, ®
No. 4 or Lismore District	Ballinglen, ®
Lickey, ®	**No. 12 or Sligo District**
Tourig, ®	Grange, ®
Womanagh, ®	Garavogue River (including L. Gill and R. Bonet), (Closed to 11th May), ®-
No. 5 or Cork District	**No. 13 or Ballyshannon District**
Upper Lee, ®	Abbey, ®
Owenacurra, ®	Ballintra (Murvagh), ®-
No. 7 or Kerry District	Laghy (Stream), ®
Owenshagh, ®	Erne,
Finnihy, ®	**No. 14 or Letterkenny District**
Feohanagh, ®	Bracky, ®
Owenreagh, ®	Isle (Burn), ®
Emlaghmore, ®	Mill, ®
Carhan, ®	Clonmany, ®
Emlagh, ®	Straid, ®
Lee (Kerry), ®	Owenamarve, ®
Behy, ®	Swilly, ®
Kealincha, ®	Donagh, ®
Lough Fadda, ®	Culoort, ®
No. 8 or Limerick District	Glenna, ®
Deel, ®	Glenagannon, ®
Aughyvackeen, ®	Lackagh, (Closed to 11th May), ®
Annageeragh, ®	**No. 17(2) or Dundalk District**
Inagh, ®	Flurry, ®
Fergus,	Castletown, ®
Maigue, ®	
Upper Shannon (upstream of Parteen Weir),	
Owenagarney,	
Skivileen, ®	

® Notwithstanding the restrictions in place for salmon (any size) and sea trout (over 40cm), further restrictions prohibiting the use of worms as bait in angling for all other fish species apply in certain closed and catch and release rivers. Anglers may only use single or double barbless hooks where these restrictions apply.

®- Subject to paragraph ® above, restrictions may not apply to the entire river.

®+ Designated sanctuary areas may prohibit all fishing (e.g. designated sanctuary areas downstream of Leixlip Dam and Lucan Weir).

Please refer to IFI website www.fisheriesireland.ie or your local IFI office for any further changes or amendments.

We all need to fish sustainably, so that our fisheries can be enjoyed by future generations. Please practice **Catch & Release** for the majority of the fish you catch. When moving between fisheries, always make sure to **Check**, **Clean** and **Dry** your equipment, to help stop the spread of invasive species. For more information see: **https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/what-we-do/research/research-theme-biosecurity**