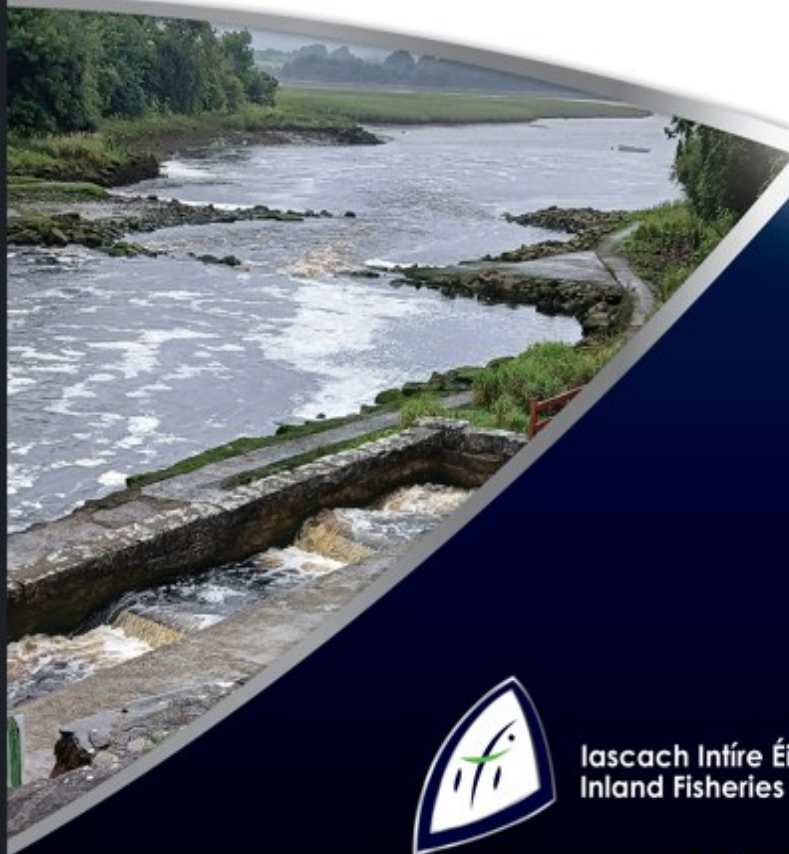


Inland Fisheries Ireland Consolidated Fish Counter Summary Report

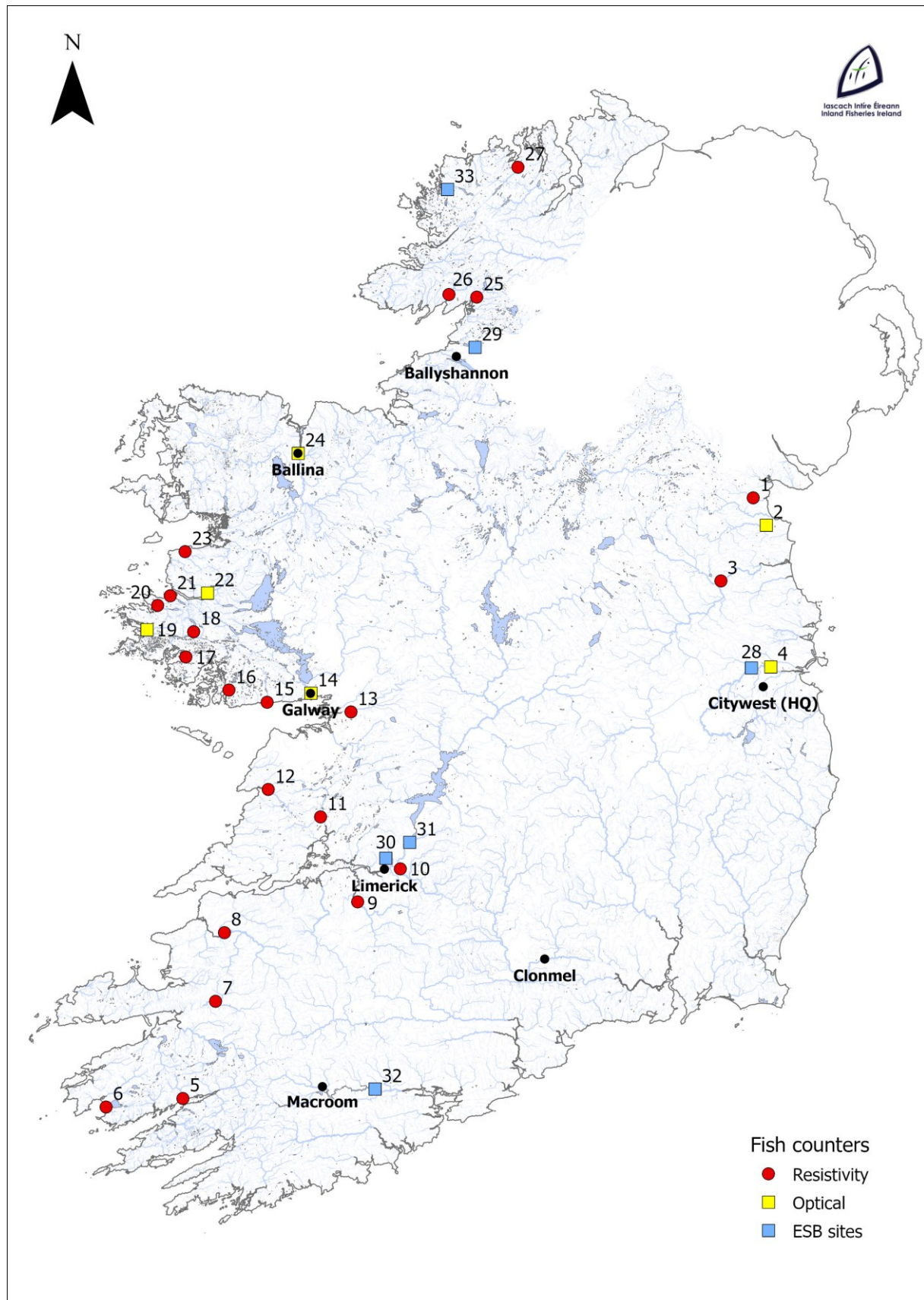
2025

IFI/2026/1-4795



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

fisheriesireland.ie



Foreword

Inland fisheries Ireland is the statute authority for Salmon management and conservation in Ireland. The principal goal of Inland Fisheries Ireland in salmon fishery management is to ensure the natural reproduction of the existing genetic wild stock of salmon. Atlantic salmon are a protected species under the 1992 EU Habitats Directive which requires the Atlantic Salmon must be maintained and restored to its conservation status in its natural range.

The Irish salmon stock have an anadromous lifecycle which requires them to go to sea and out of the Irish jurisdiction. This requires Ireland to have a national and international partnership approach to protecting the species. Ireland, under its ICES and NASCO obligations, must provide stock assessments to assist and inform the international assessment and management of the salmon stocks in the North Atlantic

Direct and indirect stock assessments are undertaken each year and TEGOS provides information to the DCCE on salmon stock annually. TEGOS provides independent advice to Inland Fisheries Ireland on the management of individual rivers.

This report provides published information derived from the Fish Counter Programme which informs this process.

Barry Fox

Head of Operations

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Introduction

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a Statutory Body established on the 1st July 2010. Under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) the principal function of IFI is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. Ireland has over 70,000 kilometers of rivers and streams and 144,000 hectares of lakes all of which fall under the jurisdiction of IFI.

IFI is mandated to ensure that the fisheries of the State are protected. Fish Counters are used as a scientific and management tool to provide Inland Fisheries Ireland with indices of total stock of salmon or sea trout within selected Irish Rivers. This information acts as a representation of the status of fish (salmon/sea trout) stocks within a given catchment. Data is obtained from the fish counters, uploaded to an internal website, validated and informs this report.

Atlantic salmon conservation work at Inland Fisheries Ireland is supported by independent scientific advice provided by the Technical Expert Group on Salmon (TEGOS). TEGOS use the fish counter data with angling logbook data, commercial catch statistics and historical data to predictively model the probable number of salmon returning to each river and provide catch advice enabling legislation for the year ahead.

This report provides information on the activities of the fish counters operated by Inland Fisheries Ireland. The Fish Counter Programme utilises Resistivity and Optical fish counters as the most suitable available to provide accurate data for the Irish climate and river systems. The counters are predominantly configured to count salmon, but a small number of sites were installed specifically configured to count sea trout.

1 River Fane



Type : Resistivity Counter
Operating: Jan – Dec 2025
Performance: Good
Verified: Yes

1.1 River site and description

The fish counter is sited in Stephenstown, on the Dundalk to Ardee Road. It is a resistivity fish counter with two channels covering the width of the River Fane. The counter is managed by IFI staff from the Dundalk District. The data is downloaded and verified on the computer system which is housed in the Dundalk Salmon Anglers hatchery facility near the weir.

1.2 Operation

The counter worked well during the year with maintenance being carried out regularly. The counter on this weir performed well as the connections were upgraded and sealed and so provided good data for 2025. The site has been visited regularly, with frequent data downloads and was also reconfigured and tested during the year. Additional works to upgrade the facility from a health and safety perspective are planned as are upgrades to hardware in conjunction with the local angling club. A new camera system is scheduled for installation in 2026.

Table 01: Counter data for the R. Fane

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	137
Grilse	29
Late Summer Salmon	03
Sea Trout	244

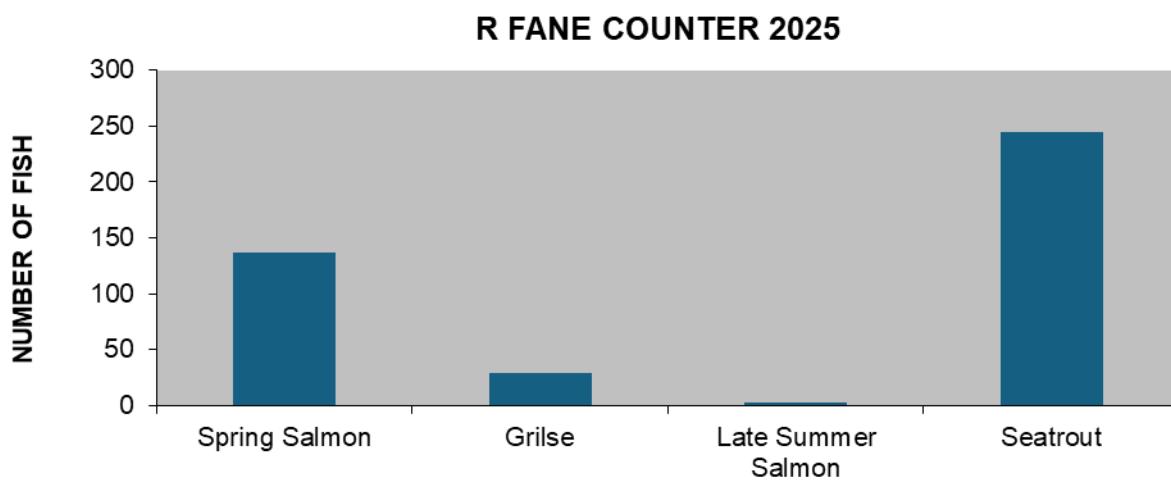
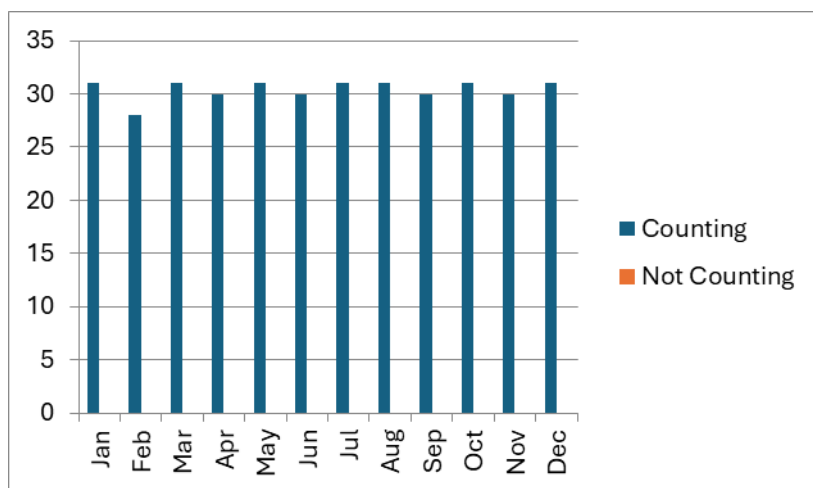


Table 02: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



2 River Dee



Type : Vaki Optical Counter

Operating: Jan - Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

2.1 River site and description

The fish counter is sited at Cappogue, on Drumcar Weir, on the Drumcar to Dunleer road, County Louth. It is a Vaki counter and records the fish as they move up and down through the fish pass on the side of the weir. This counter is a partial counter, and the percentage of the fish counted depends on weather and water level. This data was uploaded by IFI staff from the Dundalk District. The data is verified on site using Winari software.

2.2 Operation

A Vaki Riverwatcher has been installed on this site. The Vaki unit has worked well on this site and is particularly suited to this type of fish pass. The site has been maintained and serviced by local staff who verify counts and ensure the accuracy of the counter. The runs of fish recorded are low annually.

Table 03: Counter data for the R. Dee

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	15
Grilse	105
Late Summer Salmon	23
Sea Trout	865

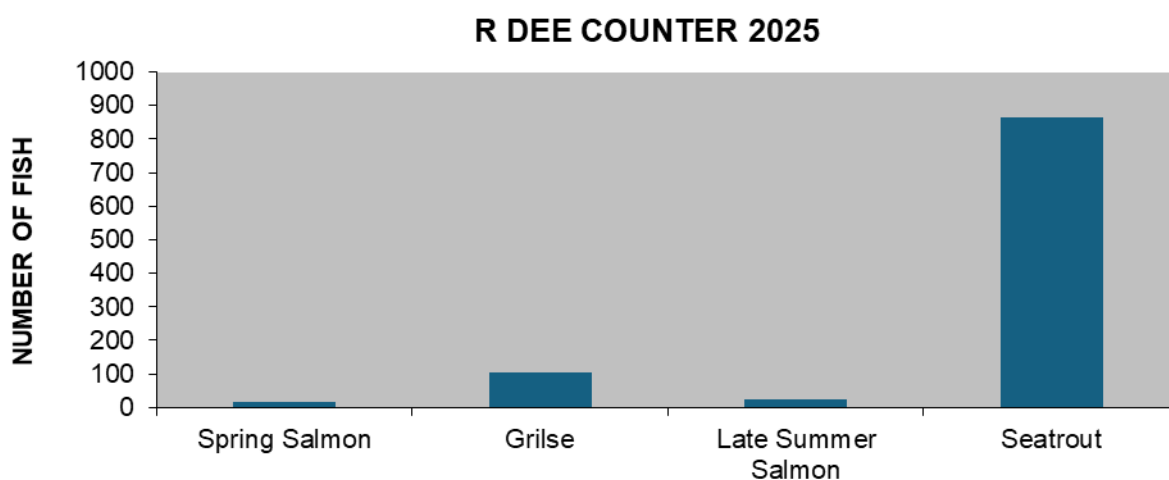
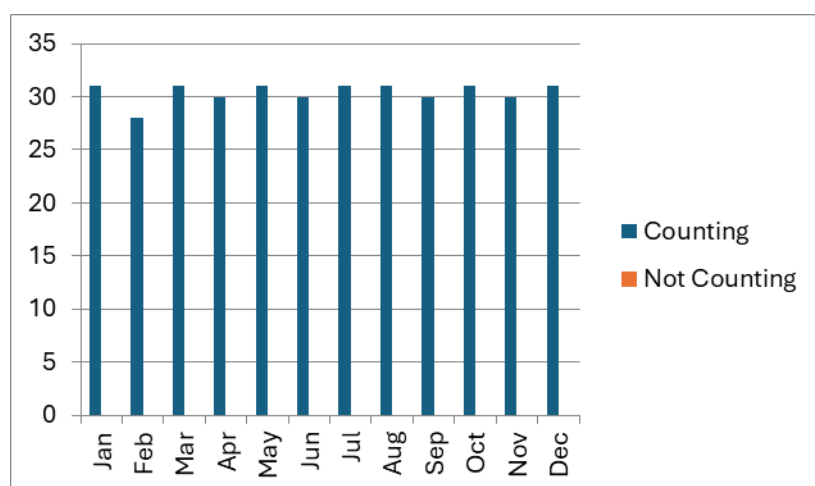


Table 04: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



3 Boyne Counter



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

3.1 River site and description

The fish counters at Blackcastle in Navan, Co. Meath consist of six different channels which count fish travelling up and down the River Boyne system. These are made up of four crumps which record fish as they pass over the weir. The counters account for approximately 20% of the total width of the channel at Blackcastle. The weir at Blackcastle makes up the remaining 80%.

3.2 Operation

The counters give an accurate total of the fish that travel through them; the number of fish that cross up and down across Blackcastle Weir is unknown. This counter provides a partial count but counts a high percentage of the run of fish. The counter site has had significant upgrades to the counter and camera hardware. A new Logie counter was installed on the site and is working well.

Table 05: Counter data for the R. Boyne

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	91
Grilse	262
Late Summer Salmon	642
Sea Trout	0

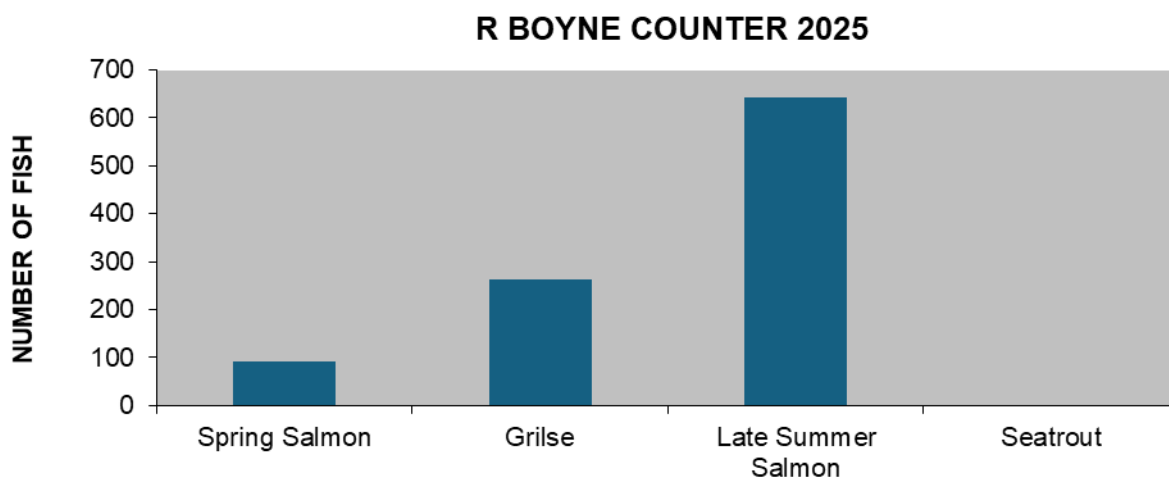
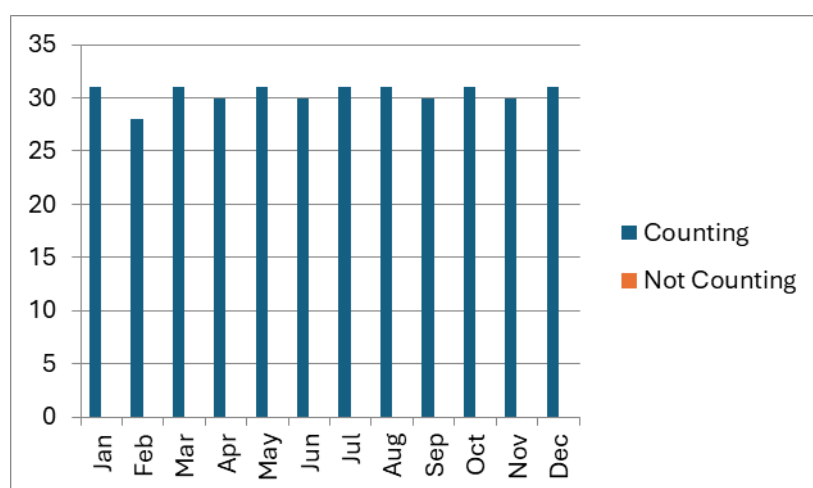


Table 06: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



4 Liffey (Island Bridge)



Counter Type: Vaki Optical Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

4.1 River site and description

The fish counter is at Island bridge, 5km west of Dublin city centre. It is an older Vaki counter and was recently transferred to IFI from the Marine Institute. The data is downloaded and verified locally on the computer system which is housed in a hut beside the weir.

4.2 Operation

The Vaki counter was regularly maintained and downloaded. The counts show a lot of activity around the weir with significant number running up and down. All the counts were verified twice to ensure the accuracy of the counts as the level of activity has increased on the counter. This is a partial counter and the percentage of the population of fish counted each year depends on the amount of water in the river.

Table 07: Counter data for the R. Liffey

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	61
Grilse	91
Late Summer Salmon	19
Sea Trout	126

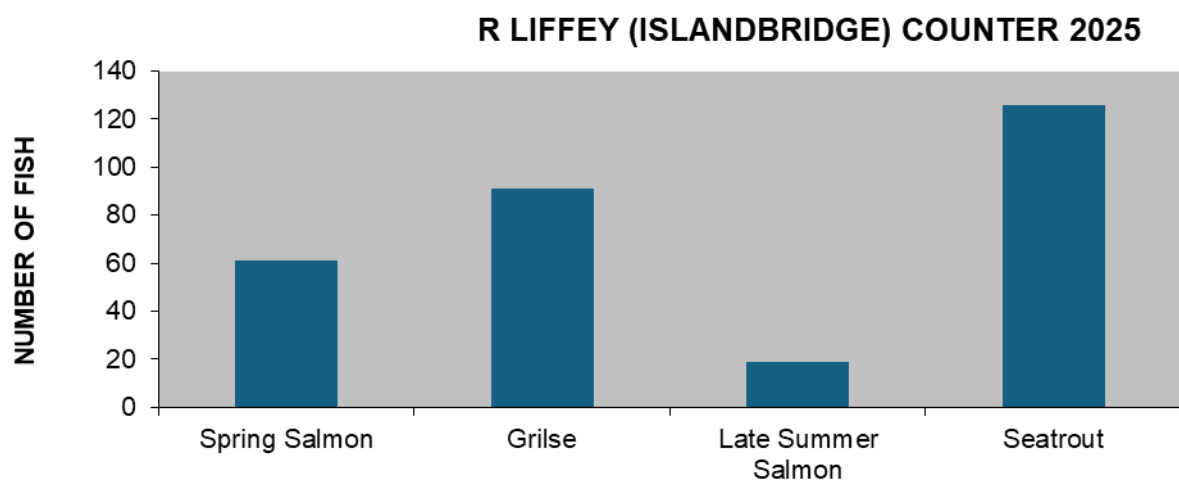
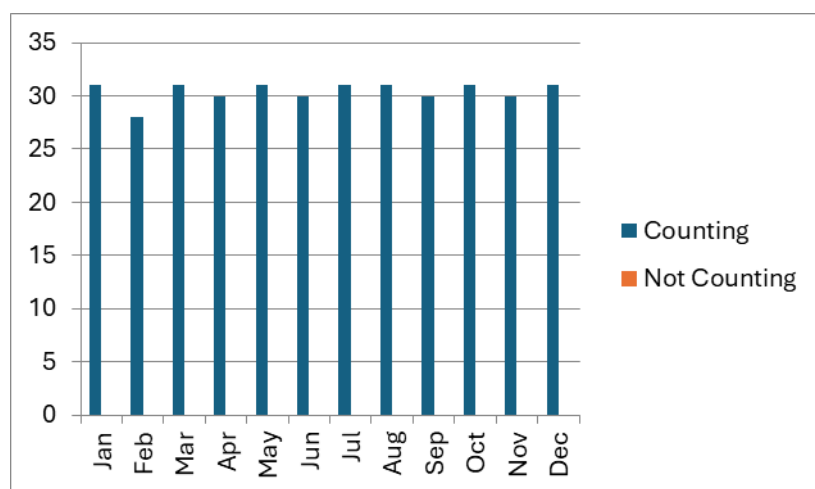


Table 08: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



5 Kerry Blackwater



Type : Resistivity Counter
Operating: Jan – Dec 2025
Performance: Good
Verified: Yes

5.1 River site and description

The Kerry Blackwater counter is located one hundred meters upstream of the estuary. It is a Logie resistivity counter which operates over three channels and gives a total count for the river. The river is currently open for angling on a catch and release basis. The river is sixteen miles long with one small lake and is considered a spate river.

5.2 Operation

The counter operated well during the year. The site has had a substantial upgrade to the cameras and recording equipment. The site now has high-definition cameras on each weir. The counter has been reconfigured and tested several times during the year to ensure it continues to count as accurately as possible. This site data was downloaded regularly, verified and uploaded. This site has would remote access capability. The site doesn't count many sea trout as it has been configured to count salmon as accurately as possible.

Table 09: Counter data for the Kerry Blackwater River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	364
Grilse	358
Late Summer Salmon	212
Sea Trout	39

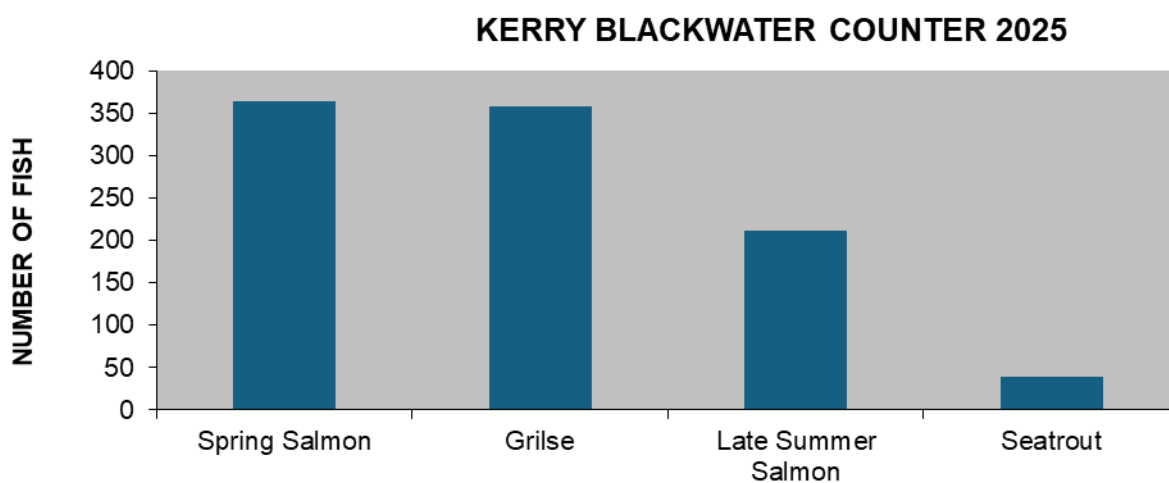
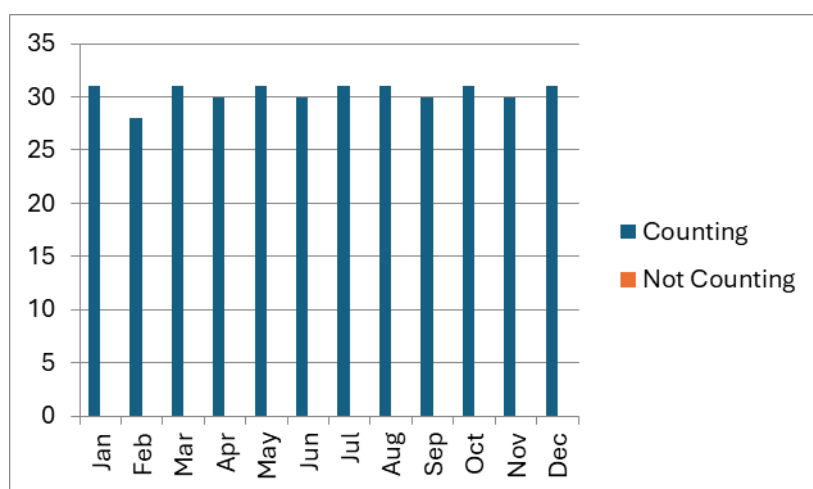


Table 10: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



6 Waterville



Type : Resistivity Counter
Operating: Jan –May 2025
Performance: Poor
Verified: No

6.1 River site and description

The Waterville counter is located upstream of the estuary in the estate grounds of Waterville House. The counter is a Logie resistivity counter which operates four counting crumps giving a total count for the river system. The electrodes are spaced primarily for counting sea trout but also counts salmon. The data to date has been verified by CCTV camera.

6.2 Operation

The fish counter site is an older site operating on four channels just upstream of “Butler’s Pool”. The counter counts site also has a pool camera immediately downstream of the bridge. This site has suffered infrastructural damage to the second channel which traditionally has recorded the largest proportion of the run of sea trout for the system and will require significant repairs in early 2026.

7 River Maine



Type : Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan-Dec 2025

Performance: Poor

Verified: No

7.1 River site and description

The fish counter on the Maine is a Logie resistivity counter operating four channels which span the river giving a total count. The counter weir is located upstream of "Marshall's bridge" and was commissioned in late 2009. The counter site is six miles from the sea but only half a mile upstream of the intertidal zone.

7.2 Operation

The counter has operated on three crumps in 2025. The site has had extensive upgrades to the recording equipment and installation of high-definition cameras. The counter was checked and reconfigured during the year. Significant debris crossing and getting lodged on the weir has caused an increase in the number of events being recorded. The construction of the weir, which has precast crumps, has significant background noise which affects the accuracy of the counter. The data from this weir has been downgraded to 'unverified' due to the level of background noise on the weir. The data generated has not been forwarded to TEGOS for analysis.

Table 11: Counter data for the Maine River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	1402
Grilse	171
Late Summer Salmon	1249
Sea Trout	03

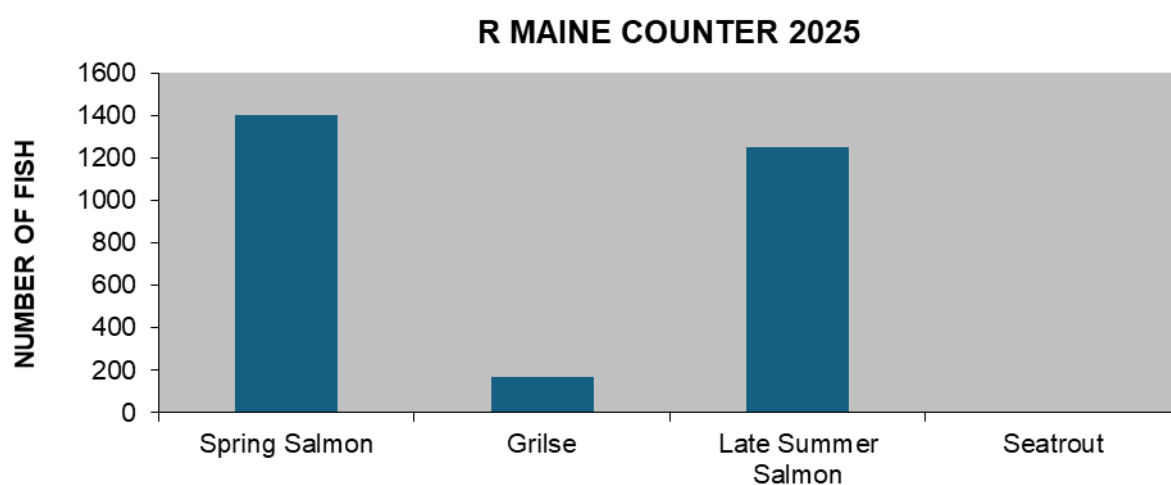
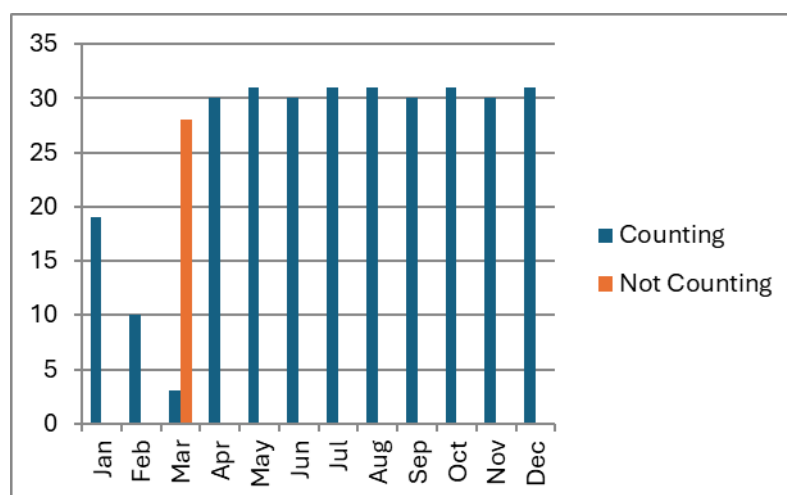


Table 12: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
307	28



8 Feale River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan-Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

8.1 River site and description

The River Feale rises in the Mullaghareirk Mountains in County Cork and meanders approximately 74 kilometres before joining with the Galey and Bricks Rivers becoming the Cashen River. The River Feale counter is located approximately 5 kilometres downstream of Listowel Town in the townland of Scartleigh at the Kerry County Council water abstraction plant. The River Feale is above its conservation limit and is therefore open for angling.

8.2 Operation

The counter is a one channel counter operated on a crump which was installed to assist fish over the large weir. The counter operated well over the course of the summer. This counter provides consistently accurate data. The counter site has been upgraded with new recording equipment and cameras. This counter site has remote access.

Table 13: Counter data for the Feale River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	1364
Grilse	3132
Late Summer Salmon	615
Sea Trout	22

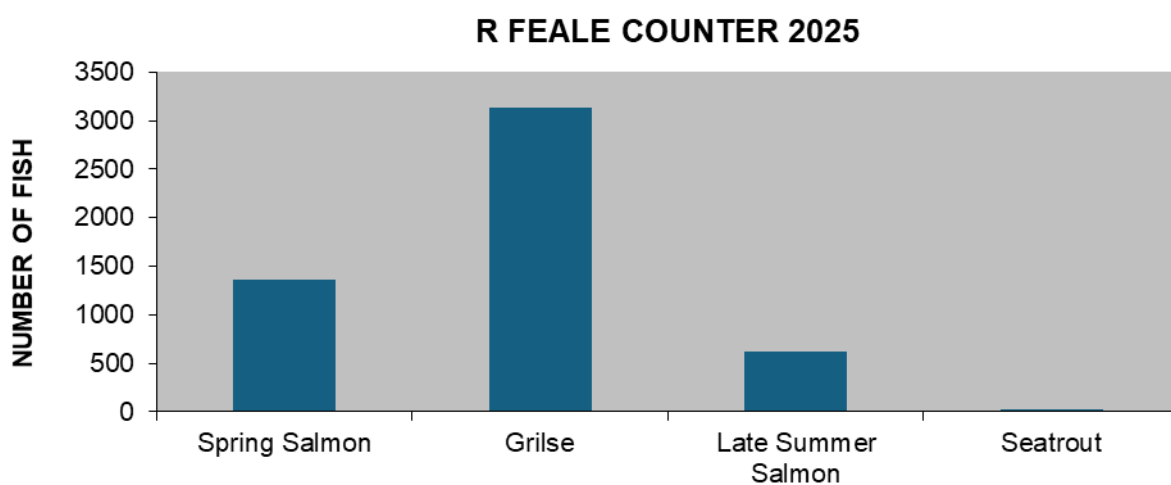
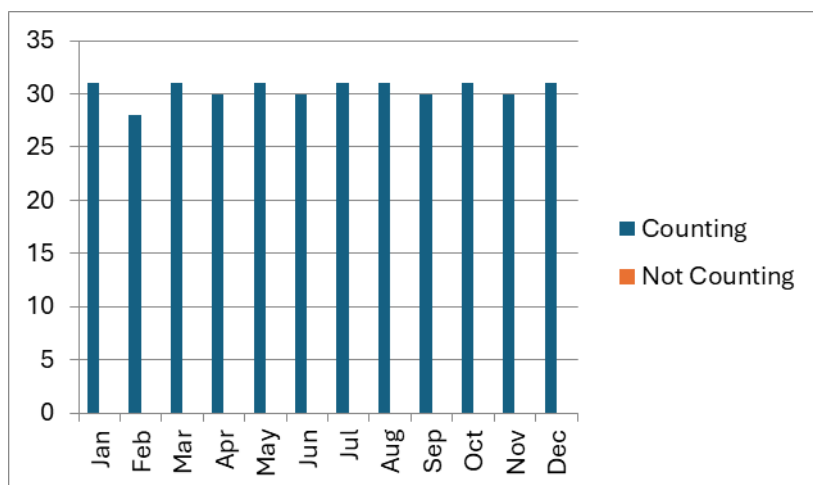


Table 14: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



9 Maigue River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operation Period: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

9.1 River site and description

The River Maigue rises at the base of the Ballyhoura and Slievenamuck Mountains in the Galtee Mountain range in south County Limerick. It drains a large catchment area of 1,009km² extending from Ballylanders and Kilfinnane in the southeast, flowing northwest through the villages of Croom and Adare then turning north into the Shannon estuary at the Ferry Bridge, not far from Kildimo village. The River Maigue catchment area is characterised predominantly by rich pastureland and forms part of the renowned 'Golden Vale' agricultural area.

9.2 Operation

The Maigue counter is a ten-channel counter. The counter was completed in March 2013 and is a re-engineered crescent shaped weir. The site uses three counters to count all ten channels and therefore requires a greater amount of time to maintain and verify. In 2025 the counters were operational and worked well. This site requires three counters to cover all the weirs. The counting weir requires work to connections and electrodes after each winter due to significant debris and velocity of water during flood events. Counting of fish in the winter floods is very limited.

Table 15: Counter data for the Maigue River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	308
Grilse	171
Late Summer Salmon	115
Sea Trout	0

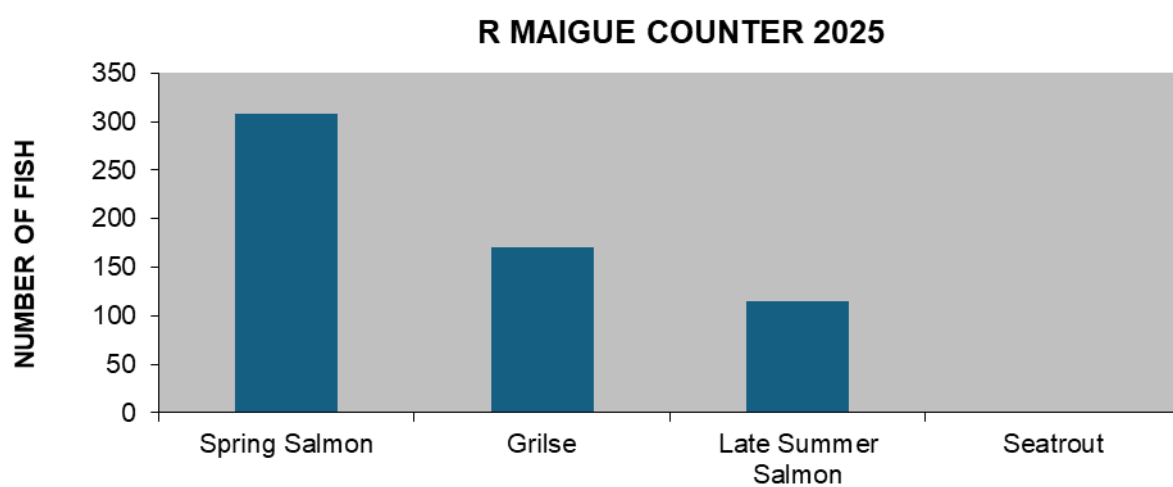
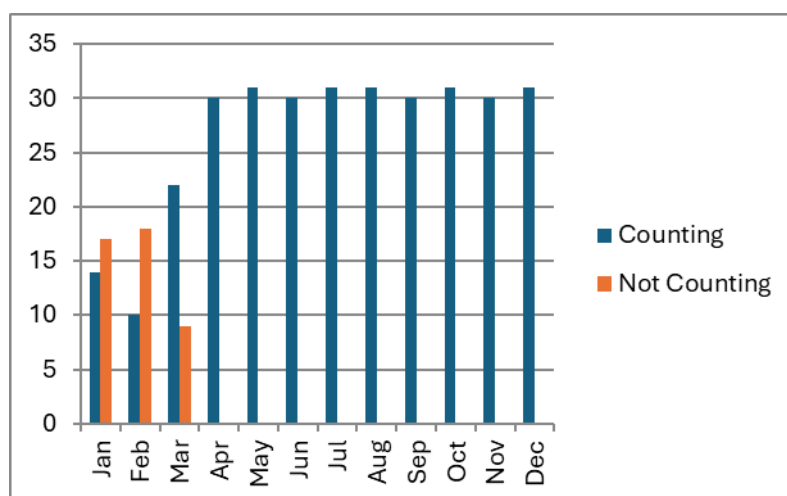


Table 16: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
321	44



10 Mulkear



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan-Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

10.1 River site and description

The Mulkear counter is located at Ballyclough on a purpose-built crump weir approximately 3 kilometres upstream from where the mouth of the Mulkear River enters the River Shannon. Due to a large road scheme crossing the Mulkear River in 2004 an agreement was reached with the contractors to install a three-channel crump weir and counter underneath the main bypass bridge located upstream of Annacotty village also included in the plans was a side channel for eel passage.

10.2 Operation

The counter worked well and provided accurate counts for the river. All three crumps were operational, with only minimal maintenance required to keep this counter working. The counter site has been significantly upgraded and now has high-definition cameras on all weirs and new recording hardware. This site was upgraded with remote access. The site has provided verified counts for 2025.

Table 17: Counter data for the Mulkear River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	359
Grilse	1457
Late Summer Salmon	1658
Sea Trout	12

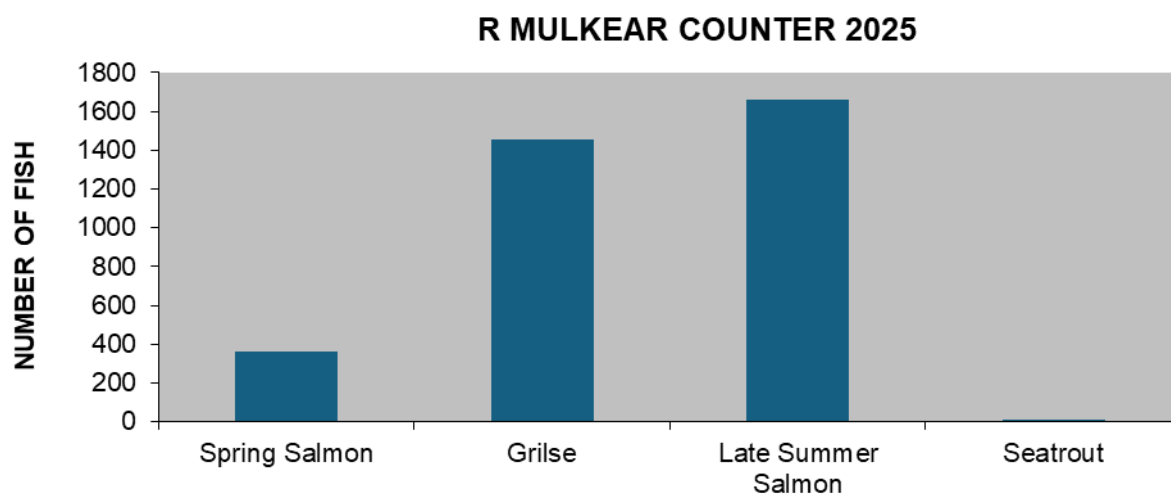
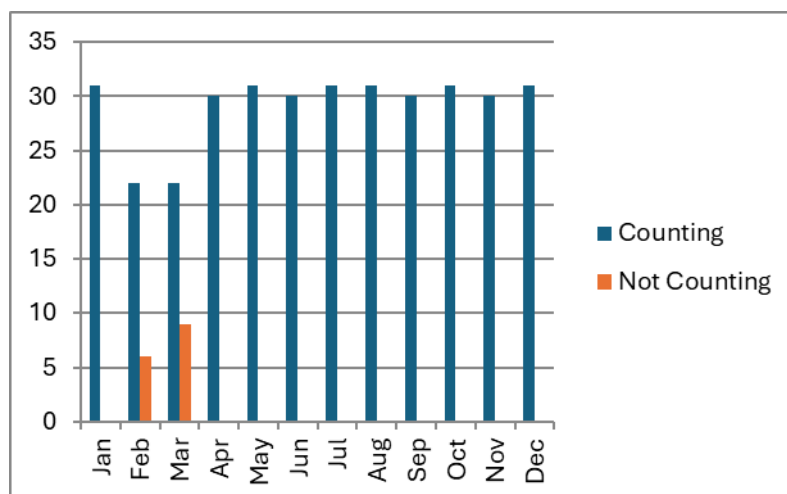


Table 18: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
350	15



11 Fergus River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

11.1 River site and description

The Fergus fish counter was installed as part of the flood relief works in Ennis. It consists of one channel located at the top of the new fish pass. The design of the fish pass is unique to allow lamprey, elvers and salmonids to migrate upstream past the old structure which is protected.

11.2 Operation

The counter is housed in the civic building adjacent to the river. This facilitated an upgrade to the site which includes cameras, computer and verification software which has greatly increased the capabilities of the facility. An additional underwater camera has been installed at the site to assist with verification. The civic building is now occupied and access to the building is easy, the counter was checked regularly.

Table 19: Counter data for the Fergus River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	353
Grilse	37
Late Summer Salmon	148
Sea Trout	0

R FERGUS COUNTER 2025

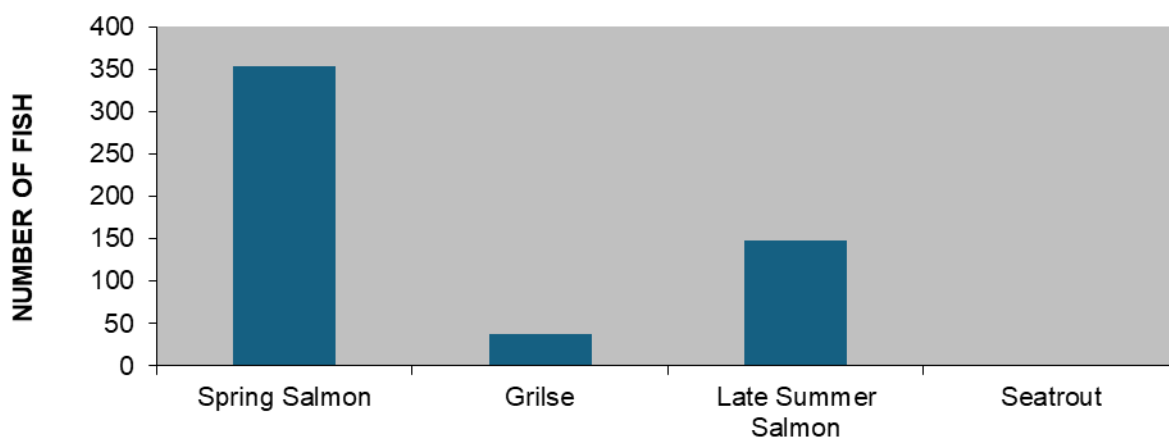
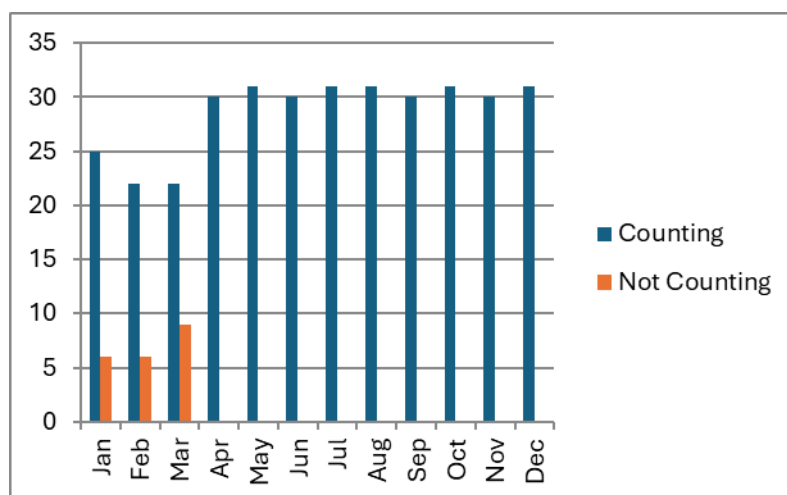


Table 20: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
344	21



12 Inagh River (Ennistymon)



Counter type: Resistivity Counter (Tube)

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

12.1 River site and description

The tube counter in Ennistymon on the Inagh River was reinstalled in late December 2014. This site at the top of the fish pass was the original site of the fish counter which was also a Logie tube counter. The current installation has CCTV verification since early January.

12.2 Operation

The counter has performed well during the year. The counter functioned well during the year and was checked regularly. Fish counts for the river are down on previous year and the run timings are similar every year. The counter is not scheduled for upgrade in 2026.

Table 21: Counter data for the Inagh (Ennistymon) River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	0
Grilse	0
Late Summer Salmon	36
Sea Trout	04

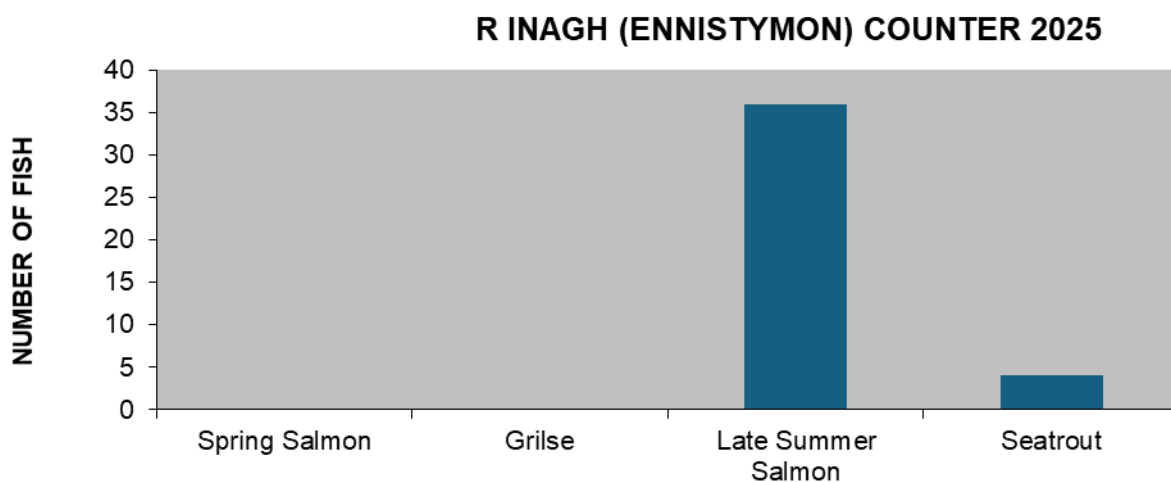
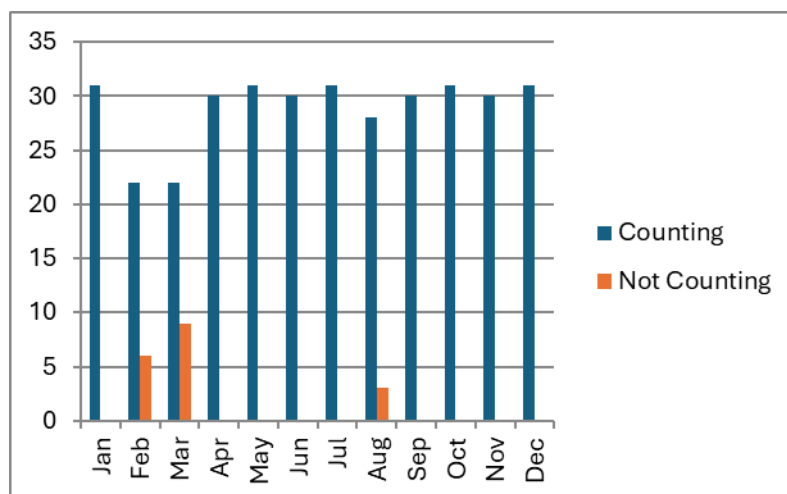


Table 22: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
347	18



13 Dunkellin River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan – December 2025

Performance: Fair

Verified: Yes

13.1 River site and description

The Dunkellin counter was installed early in 2010 and was commissioned in June of that year. The counter is located upstream of the village of Kilcolgan. The counter is a three-channel counter which operates well in medium and low water. This entire area is subject to extensive flooding; this can lead to the weir being inundated for significant periods.

13.2 Operation

The counter was not operational for a significant period due to high water and power supply issues. The new counter site is less accessible due to a change in ownership of the property. The new site is located further up the catchment. Inland Fisheries Ireland operates the counter on the dedicated infrastructure built and designed by the OPW.

Table 23: Counter data for the Dunkellin River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	17
Grilse	56
Late Summer Salmon	23
Sea Trout	29

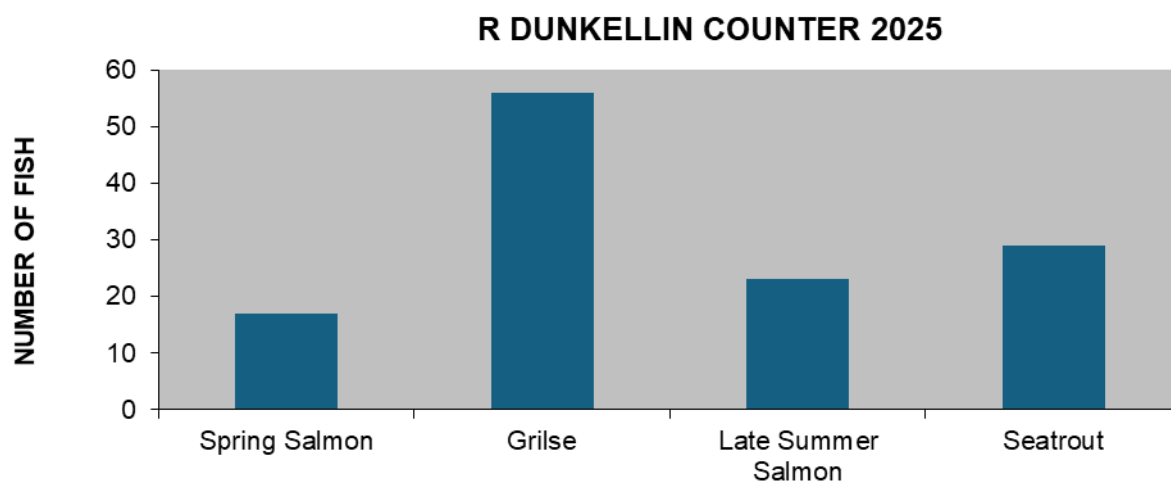
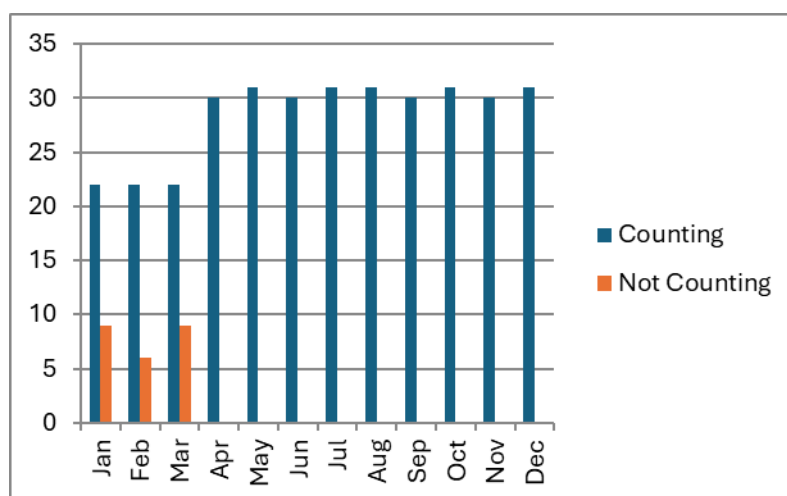


Table 24: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
341	24



14 Corrib Counter



Type : Resistivity Counter (Tube Configuration)

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

14.1 River site and description

The Corrib counter is situated in a fish pass at the Salmon Weir in Galway. The system it uses is a Logie fish counter in conjunction with a tube fish pass that counts salmon which enter the tube on their return to the river from the sea. An underwater surveillance camera is used to verify the fish count recorded on the counter. Water levels invariably have an impact on the number of fish using the pass as salmon may, in high water, run upstream through opened gates. This is a partial counter as it only counts fish ascending the river through the fish pass.

14.2 Counter operation

The counter operated well during the 2025 season. The counter data has been verified and is accurate. The counter worked well with no unexpected interruptions. A new Vaki optical counters has been installed and the counts have been verified and uploaded to the web site. This is a partial count for the river and the percentage of fish using the fish pass varies from year to year depending on the water level.

Table 25: Counter data for the Corrib River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	321
Grilse	3915
Late Summer Salmon	326
Sea Trout	0

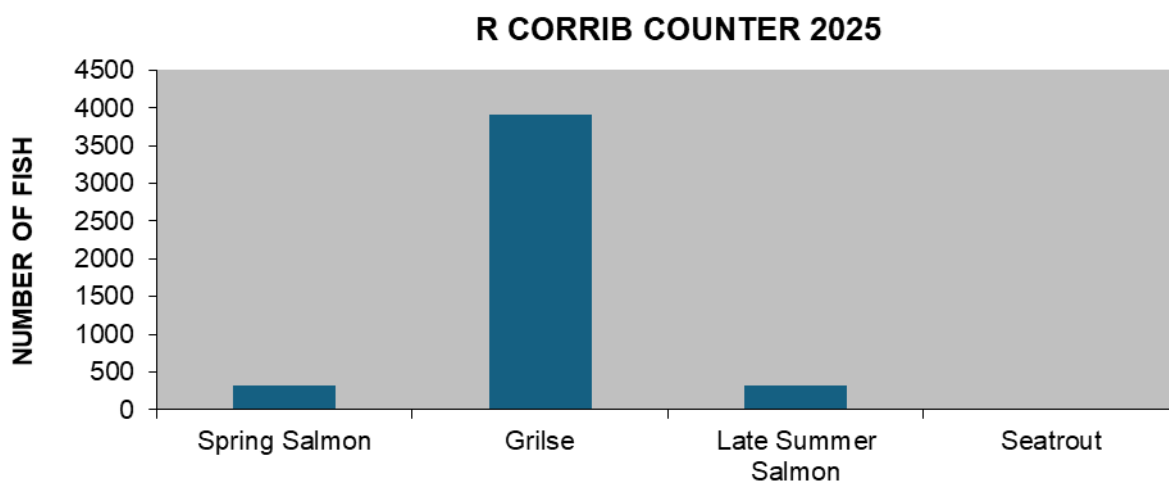
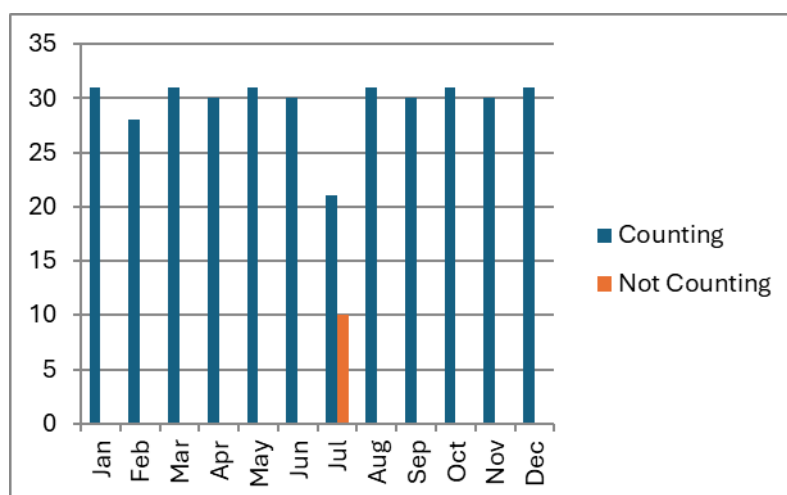


Table 26: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
358	07



15 Owenboliska River



Type : Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

15.1 River site and description

The counter is situated downstream of the village of Spiddal. The counter was constructed and commissioned by IFI in 2011 and was funded by the conservation stamp fund. The counter operates on a purpose-built weir with one counting channel. A verification camera system is also in operation.

15.2 Counter operation

The counter has been operational for the entire season with no problems recorded. The counter is affected by the dumping of water from the impounding weir on the upstream lake. Sea trout can run the counter during these events and will not be detected by the counter. The sea trout, counter data is more accurate in years where water levels are low and limited dumping of water from the impounding weir occurs. The site is maintained by Galway district staff and several visits were carried out to reconfigure, download and verify the counter data.

Table 27: Counter data for the Owenboliska River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	19
Grilse	156
Late Summer Salmon	18
Sea Trout	290

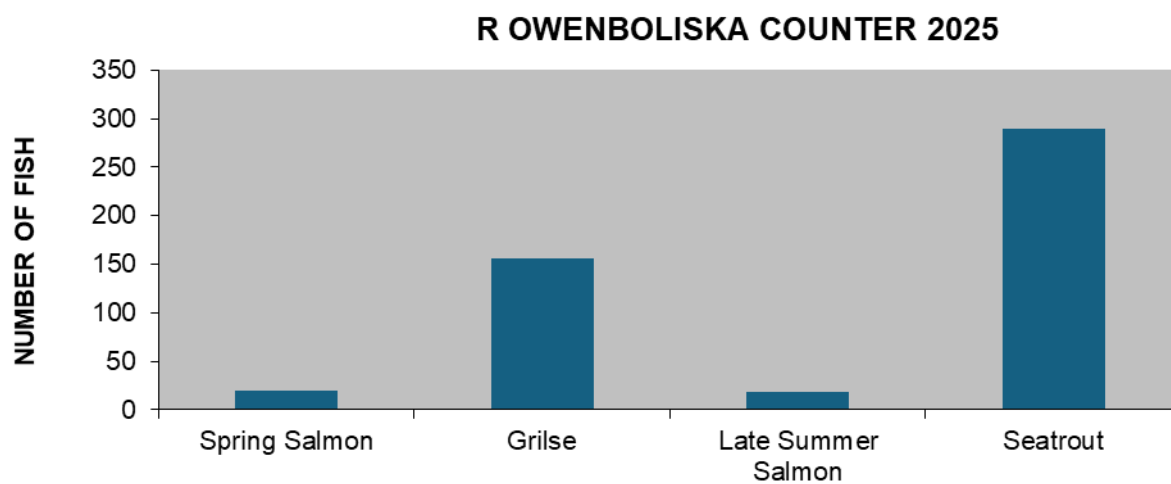
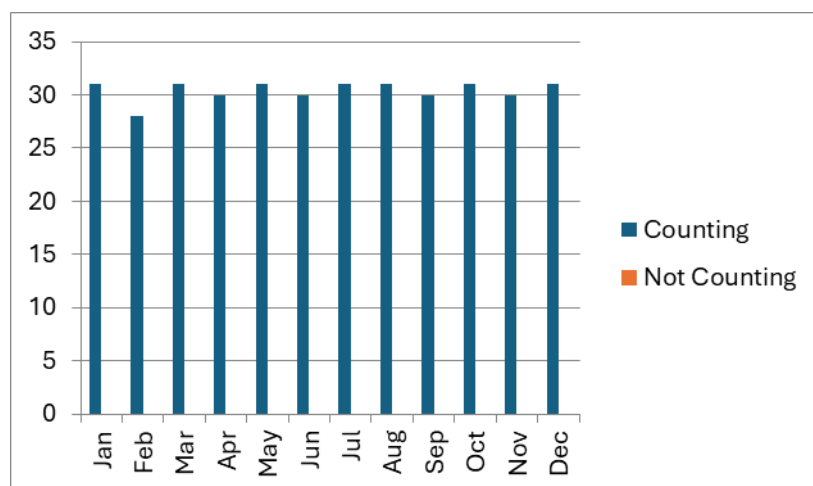


Table 28: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



16 Casla River



Type : Resistivity Counter
Operating: Jan – Dec 2025
Performance: Good
Verified: Yes

16.1 River site and description

The Casla River is privately owned and is the main river of the Costello and Fermoy Fishery. The river is six kilometres in length and drains an area of 83km² which includes 22 lakes – it is a typical sea trout system. The counter is located at a crump weir situated close to the limits of tidal influence. Under most flow conditions fish will run up over the weir.

16.2 Operation

The counter operated very well throughout 2025. The counter hut has been upgraded with the removal of the old pumping equipment and the installation of a new steel door. The counter functioned well during the year. The counter has provided accurate counts with no loss of data for the year.

Table 29: Counter data for the Casla River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	252
Grilse	617
Late Summer Salmon	60
Sea Trout	607

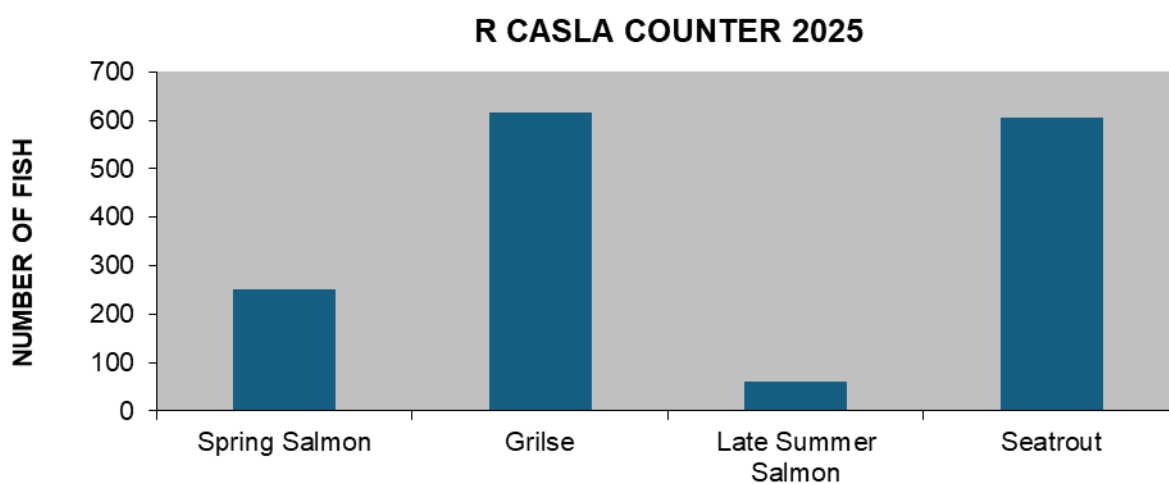
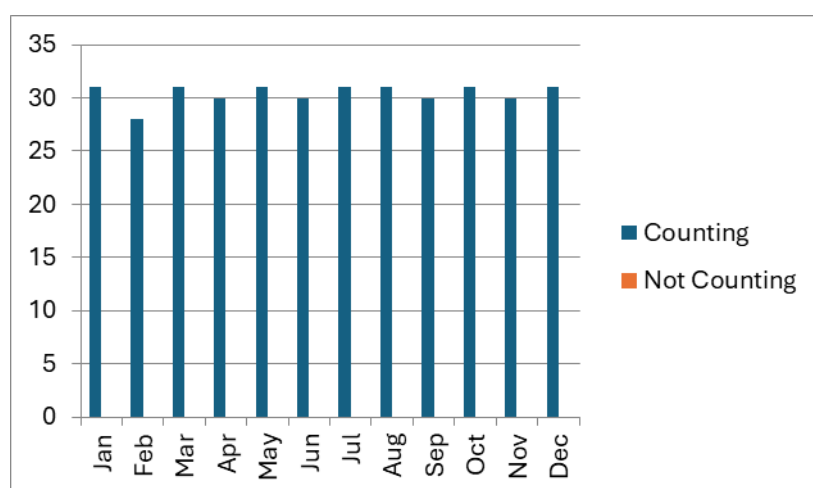


Table 30: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0





17 Owengowla River



Type : Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan - Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

17.1 River site and description

The Gowla counter is located at the old trapping facility 100m above the intertidal zone. This counter was installed in 2013. The site consists of a two-channel weir which is set up to count sea trout. The counter was installed to replace a partial counter and trapping facility.

17.2 Operation

The counter on this site operates on a two-channel weir. The site provides a total count for salmon and sea trout for the river. The site has provided accurate counts for 2025 with no breakdowns or loss of data. Camera data for the river suggest a small run of very large salmon run this system annually. The run of salmon is significantly higher than would be expected for this small sea trout system.

Table 31: Counter data for the Owengowla River

Fish Species	Number
Spring salmon	14
Grilse	32
Late Summer Salmon	07
Sea Trout	164

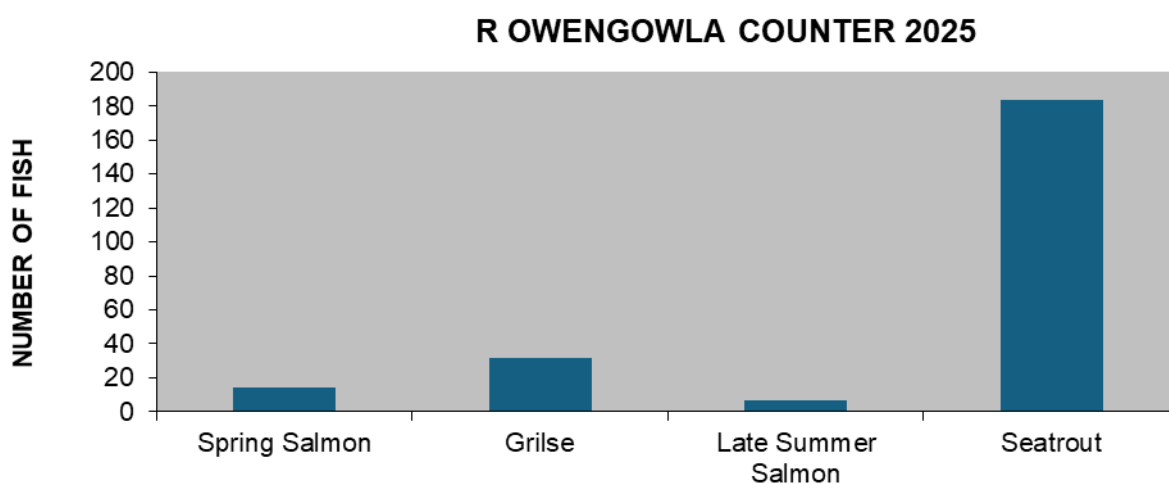
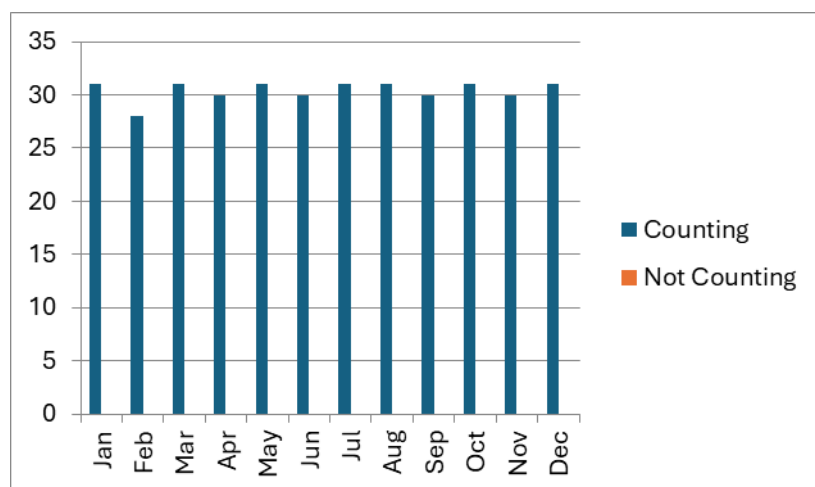


Table 32: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



18 Inagh River



Type : Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

18.1 River site and description

The Inagh counter is located on the Inagh River 40 m above Derryclare Lake. It is the location of the first Logie counter in the country which was installed in the late 1980's. The structure is a purpose-built crump weir with one counting channel to facilitate a Logie counter. The counts are verified by CCTV. The fishing rights are privately owned by a syndicate and managed by Lough Inagh Lodge Hotel.

18.2 Operation

The counter worked well throughout the year. The consistent water level allowed for accurate verification of the counts for salmon. The counter records salmon accurately but sea trout can use an alternative channel which is not counted. The hardware on this site has been upgraded to ensure verification was possible on the full data set.

Table 33: Counter data for the Inagh River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	09
Grilse	245
Late Summer Salmon	25
Sea Trout	08

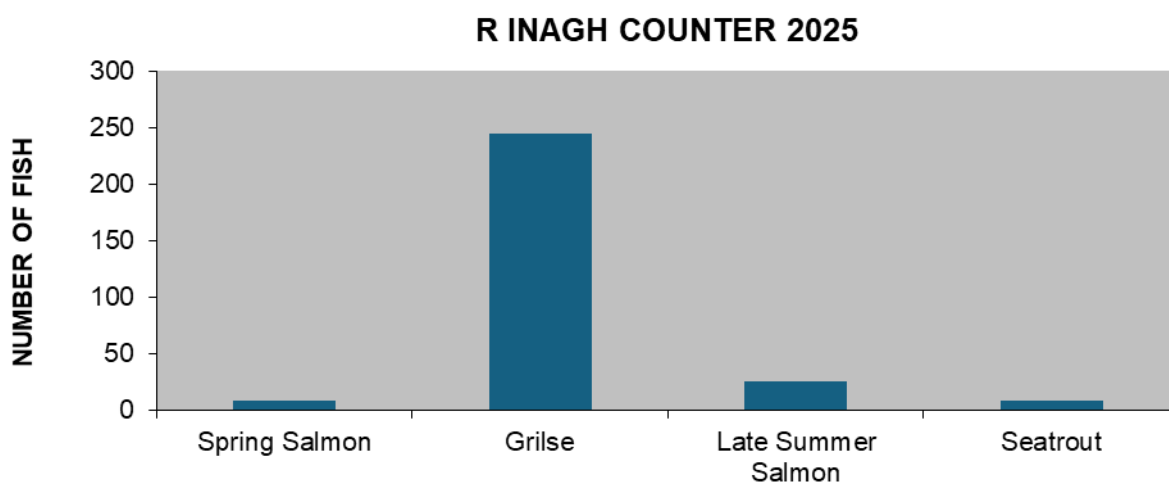
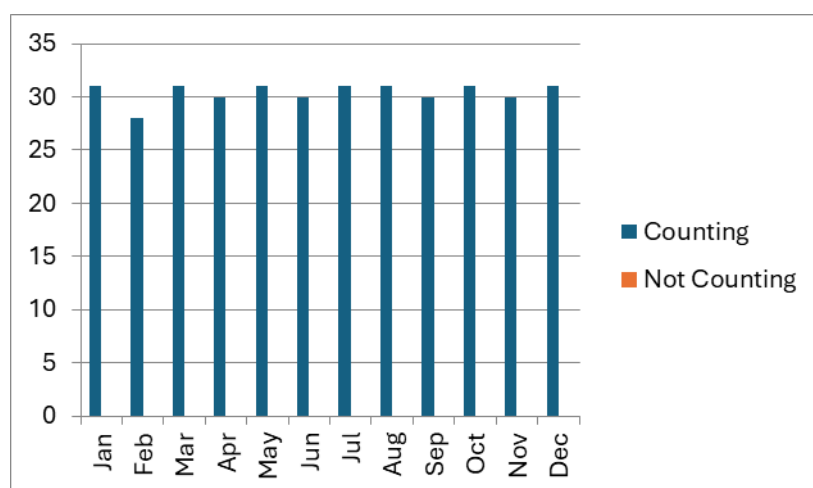


Table 34: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



19 Owenglin River (Clifden River)



Counter type: Vaki Optical Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

19.1 River site and description

The site of the counter in the Owenglin River is in the existing fish pass just upstream of the estuary. The Vaki counter and camera are particularly suited to this type of site. The counter and camera are housed in a stainless-steel purpose-built frame which allows the counter to activate the camera and provide video and infrared silhouette images of the fish. The fishing rights to the Owenglin River are privately owned by the Clifden Angling Club. The fishing rights include numerous small lakes.

19.2 Operation

The counter has operated well over the course of the year. The Vaki counter operated without any issues. The counts are very accurate, and the river is open with a small surplus. Significant repairs have been carried out to the fish pass with additional repairs will be required in 2026. Data collected over the last three years demonstrates the positive effects of the development works carried out by the local angling club and catch and release on the stock in the river.

Table 35: Counter data for the Owenglin River

Fish Species	Number
Spring salmon	43
Grilse	808
Late Summer Salmon	101
Sea Trout	72

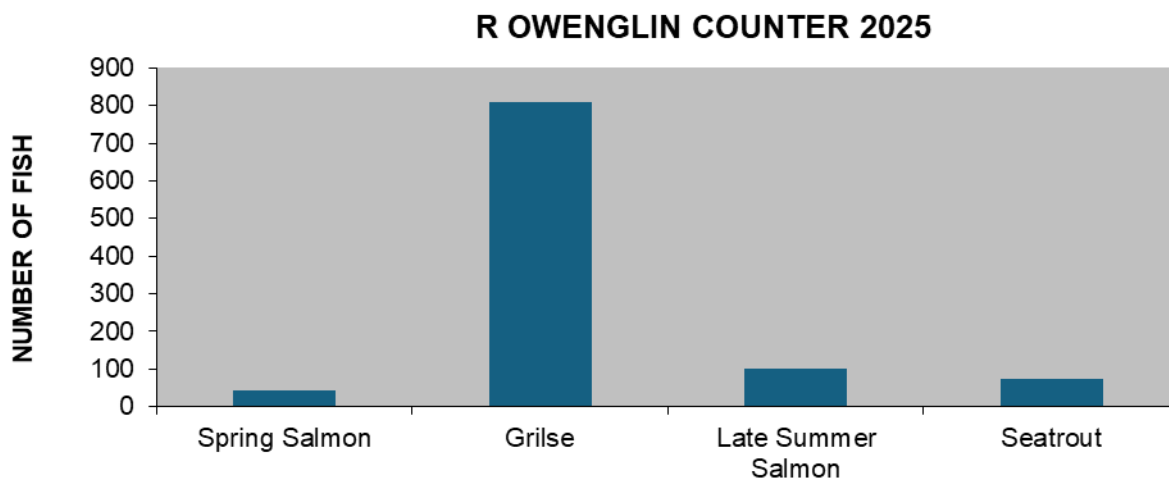
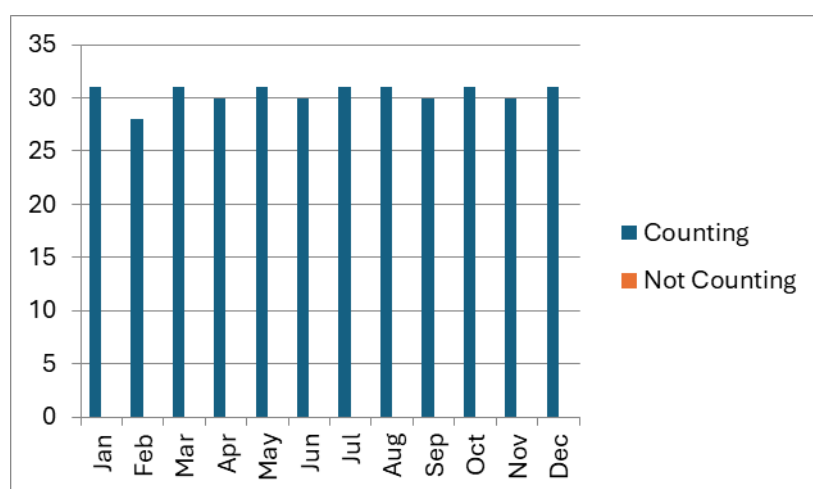


Table 36: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



20 Dawros (Kylemore) River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

20.1 River site and description

The Dawros is a privately owned river with three groups owning the fishing rights. The river has traditionally enjoyed good salmon and sea trout runs. The system incorporates three lakes (Kylemore Lake, Pollagcapaill, and the Castle Lake) and the Dawros River which enters the sea in Ballinakill Bay.

20.2 Operation

The counter operated well and recorded the fish runs for the year. The counter is located under the old Dawros bridge. The counter worked well despite the extensive flooding in the winter months and required some works to keep it operational. The counter is configured to capture salmon which has eliminated some of the smaller sea trout counts. The sea trout count does not represent a decline but a focused effort to more accurately count salmon in higher water.

Table 37: Counter data for the Dawros River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	309
Grilse	270
Late Summer Salmon	166
Sea Trout	74

R DAWROS COUNTER 2025

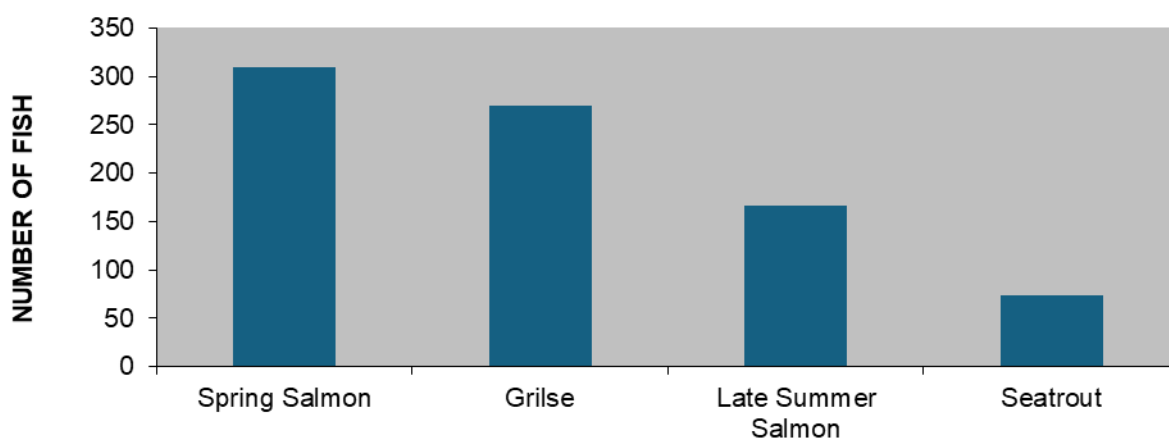
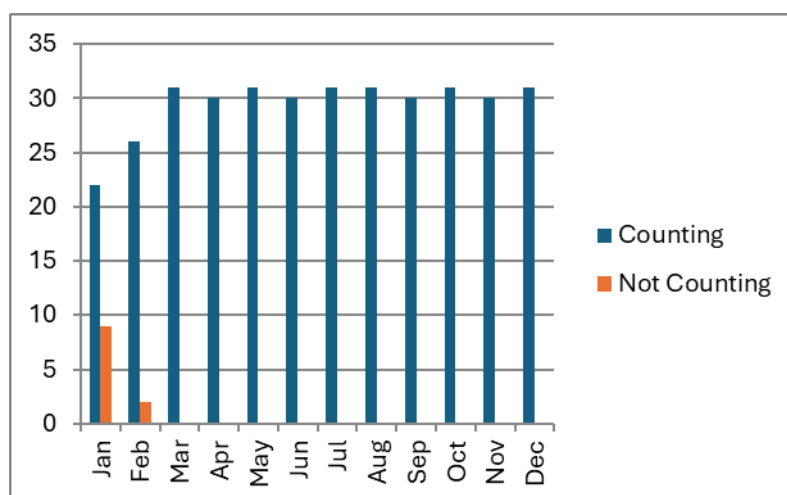


Table 38: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
354	11



21 Culfin River



Counter Type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

21.1 River site and description

The Culfin counter is in Lettergesh village downstream of Lettergesh Bridge. The river is open for angling with a surplus of fish. The structure is a purpose-built weir with two counting channels. The counts are verified by CCTV. The fishing rights are privately owned by the Ormsby and Thomson families.

21.2 Operation

The counter has not had any problems and worked consistently throughout the year. The counter has been carefully maintained and has produced accurate verifiable figures. The numbers of fish remain relatively constant each year. IFI will upgrade the hardware on this site when required. The current system is very suitable for this site and works well.

Table 39: Counter data for the Culfin River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	52
Grilse	335
Late Summer Salmon	156
Sea Trout	89

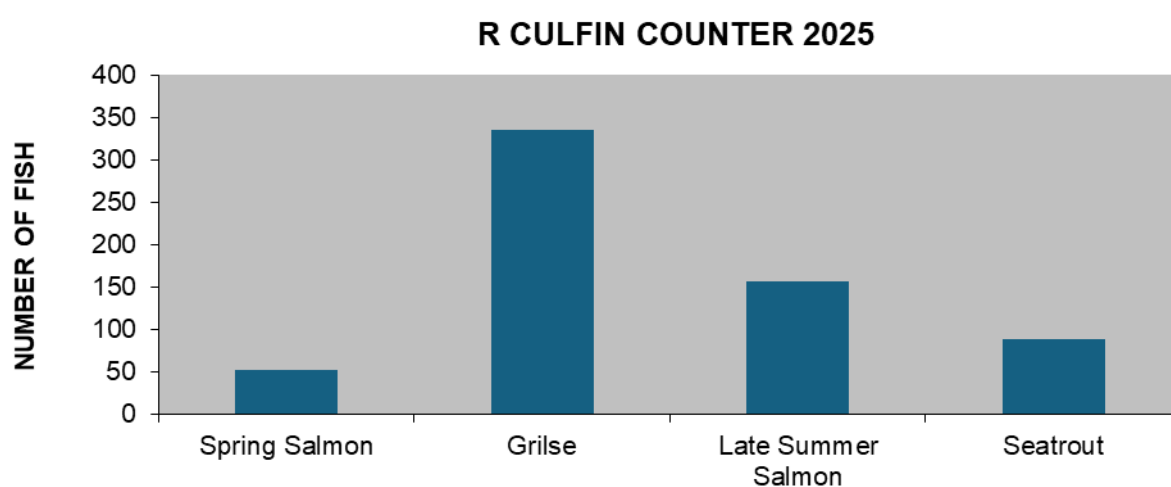
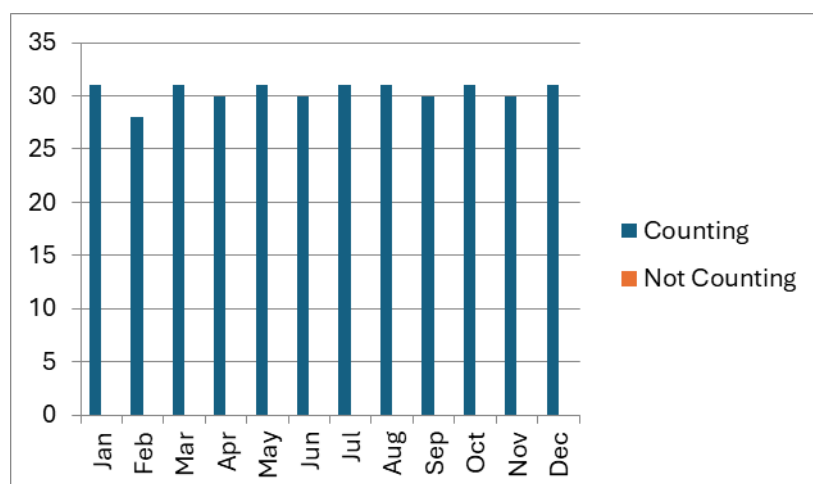


Table 40: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



22 Erriff River



Counter type: Vaki Optical Counter

Operating: Jan- Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

22.1 River site and description

The Erriff River is The National Salmonid Index Catchment River for IFI. The river has been one of the principal salmon and sea trout fisheries in the west of Ireland. IFI operates a Vaki counter on the river. The location of the counter is at the top of the fish pass which allows migrating fish to pass the famous Aasleagh falls.

22.2 Operation

The counter operated consistently throughout the year. The counter is operated in conjunction with several other recording devices which allows us to establish the accuracy of this type of counter. The counter is very accurate. The run of salmon was a below average run for the river. The data is a net figure for wild fish into the system as tagged ranched salmon are removed from the system at the trap and are not allowed to access the river to spawn.

Table 41: Counter data for the Erriff River

Fish Species	Number
Spring salmon	13
Grilse	892
Late Summer Salmon	255
Sea Trout	2089

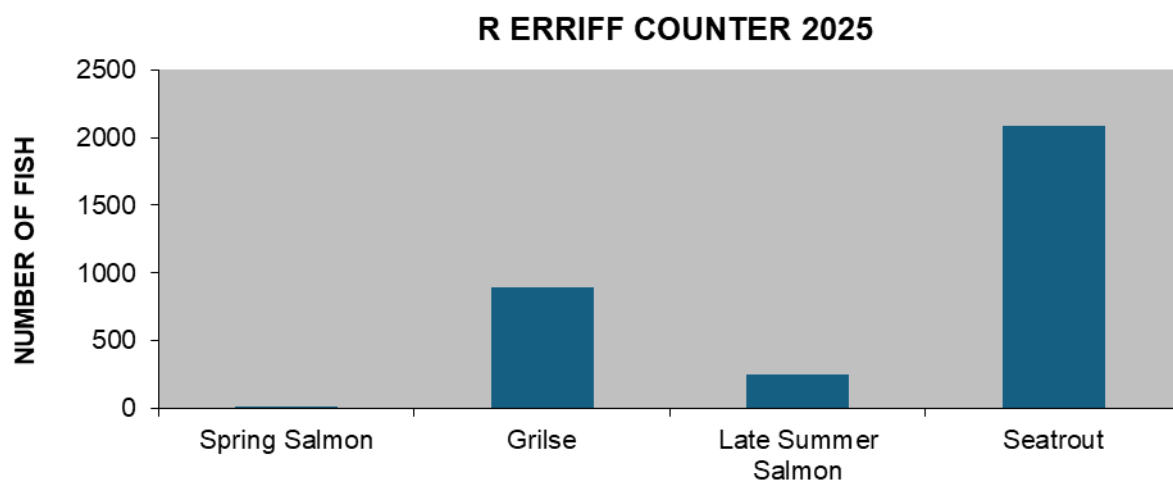
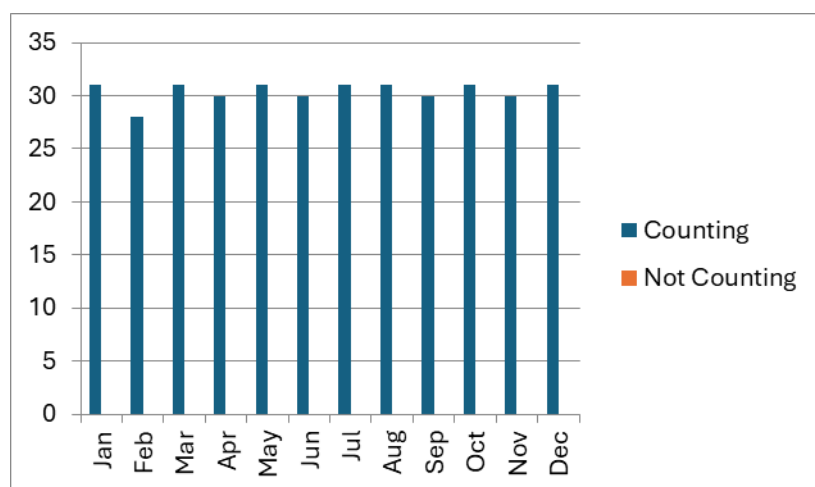


Table 42: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



23 Bunowen River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan-Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

23.1 River site and description

The Bunowen River is partially owned by the State and managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland. There is a small section of the river that is privately owned. The river is 10 kilometres in length and drains an area of 75km squared which includes three lakes. The counter is located beside the IFI store at Ballyhip, Louisburgh, Co. Mayo.

23.2 Operation

The counter has performed well over the year and continues to provide an accurate total count for the river. The location of the counter is well upstream of the confluence with the sea. The counter usually records a late run of fish – this is not due to fish entering the river late in the season but is due to fish resting in the deep pools in the lower section of the river over the summer and only ascending the river to spawn in November and December. It also gives the impression of an early run of spring salmon which is not the case.

Table 43: Counter data for the Bunowen River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	20
Grilse	212
Late Summer Salmon	227
Sea Trout	59

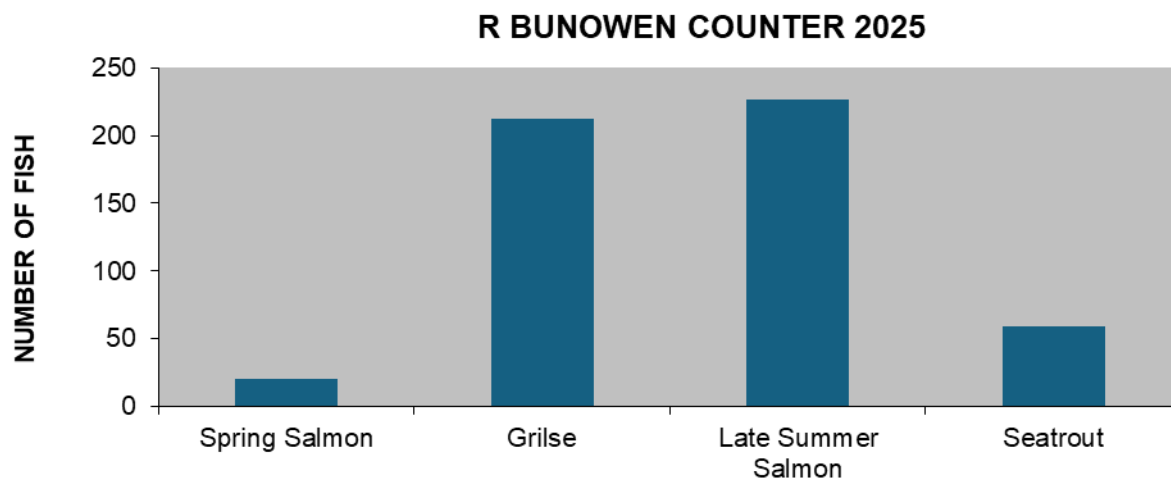
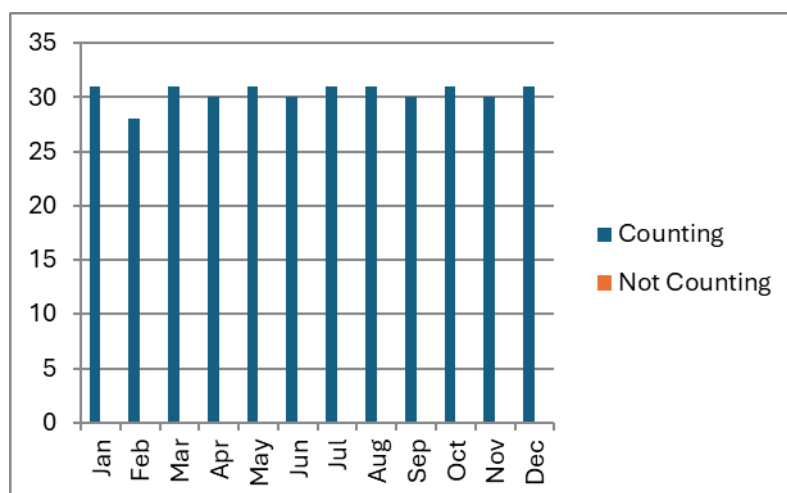


Table 44: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



24 River Moy Counters



Counter type: Resistivity Counter/Vaki Optical Counters

Operating: Jan- June 2025

Performance: Poor

Verified: No

24.1 River site and description

The completion of the refurbishment works on the Ballina Salmon Weir allowed for the reintroduction of the counters on the Moy River. Following an upgrade in 2014 there are now two Logie counter crumps and two Vaki counters which were installed in May of 2012. The counters are located on the site of the refurbished weir. The four counters provide a partial count for the river.

24.2 Operation

The counters on the Moy are two resistivity counter crumps and two Vaki channels. The counters were operational for intermittent periods. Access to complete repairs was not possible because of issues with the hydraulics on the weir. The intermittent data is available but not comparable with previous years, so it is not included in this report. A significant numbers of fish travel upstream through the queen's gap without being counted. The counts from year to year depend on water level and can vary significantly; the facility provides a partial count.

25 Eske River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan- Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

25.1 River Site and Description

The Eske fishery consists of the 5km River Eske, the 900-acre Lough Eske and its tributaries. The fishery has a run of spring salmon, a good run of grilse and some late salmon. The counter at this installation is a resistivity (Logie) counter.

25.2 Operation

The counter worked well all year and a full count for the year on all 3 channels was obtained. The counter data was downloaded, and all data was verified on a weekly basis giving accurate counts for the river. New camera mounts were installed. The site was well maintained and downloaded regularly with no loss of data.

Table 45: Counter data for the Eske River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	81
Grilse	589
Late Summer Salmon	207
Sea Trout	79

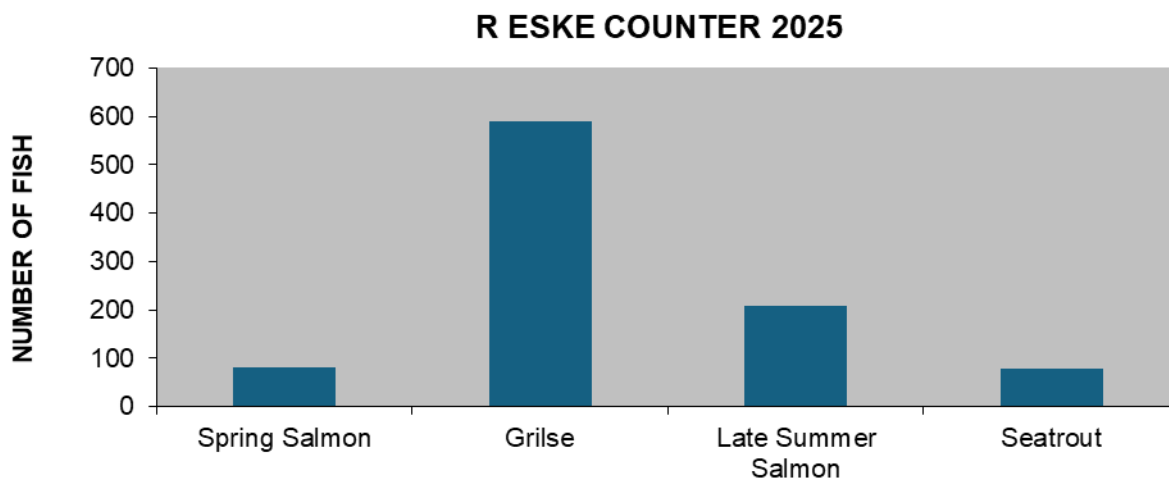
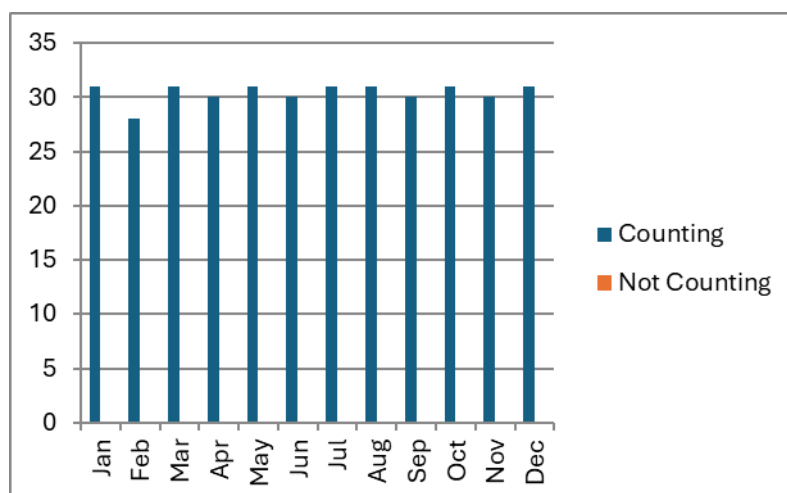


Table 46: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



26 Eany River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan- Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

26.1 River site and description

The Eany Water fishery is a spate river and forms part of the 125sq km Eany catchment area comprising the Eany Water, the lower reaches of the Eanymore and the lower reaches of the Eanybeg. The fish counter is in the lower section of the river just above the tidal area. The fishery has a small run of spring fish but is noted for its midsummer runs of grilse, late runs of summer salmon and for seatrout.

26.2 Operation

The Logie counter worked well resulting in a comprehensive count for the year for the river. A small number of maintenance issues were sorted out promptly and this ensured a continuous accurate count. All the data collected by the counter has been verified by CCTV cameras. New cameras and cables have been installed on the site in conjunction with new recording hardware.

Table 47: Counter data for the Eany River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	121
Grilse	1378
Late Summer Salmon	136
Sea Trout	60

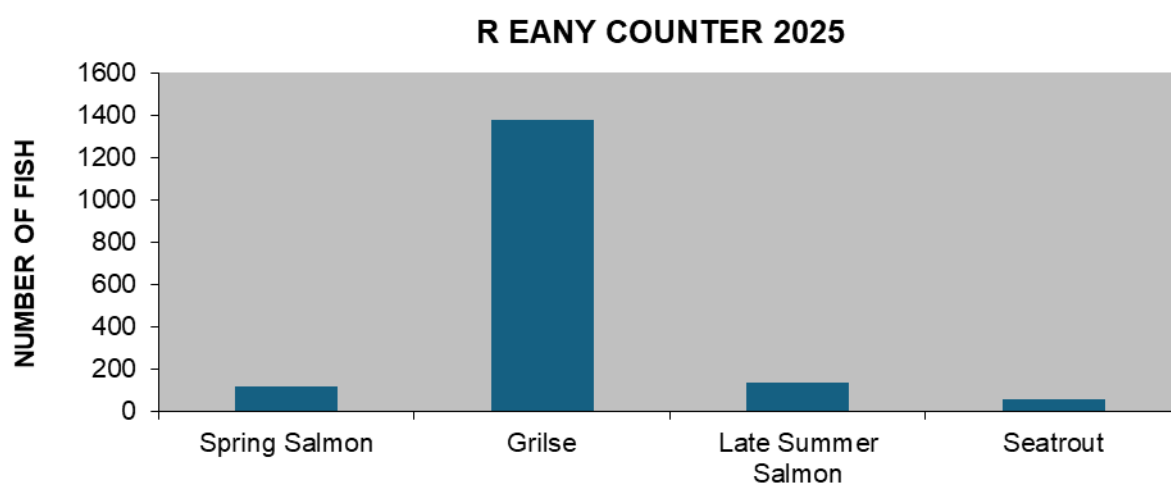
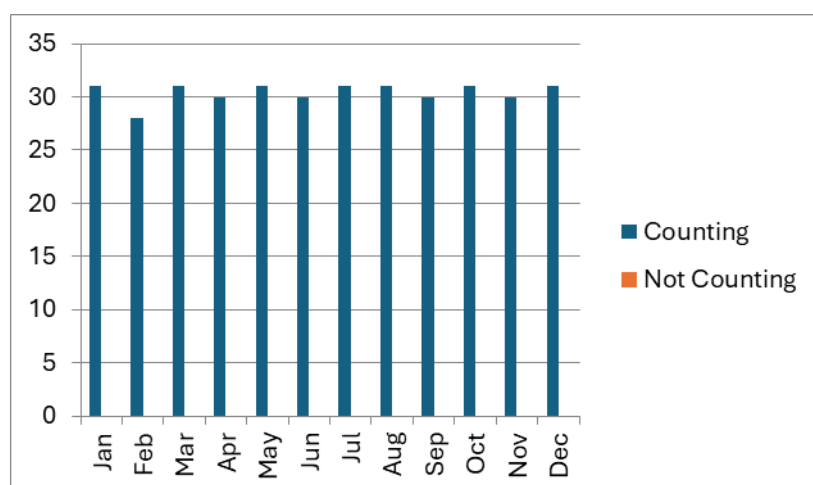


Table 48: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



27 Lackagh River



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan–Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

27.1 River site and description

The Lackagh fishery is situated partially within Glenveagh National Park and within an S.A.C. This fishery is one of the few recognised multi sea winter salmon fisheries in the Northwest. This fishery is currently below its conservation limit. The counter was commissioned early in 2017. The counter is a three-channel resistivity counter with verification cameras on all three crumps. The counter has been engineered with a walkway to allow for easy access for maintenance and repairs.

27.2 Operation

The counter has been funded by the “Salmon Conservation Fund” and is operated by IFI staff based in Ballyshannon. The counter is visited regularly, and the data verified. All fish movements were verified on the site. This counter has provided accurate data for the river for 2025. Data recorded would suggest a poor run of fish for the river this year.

Table 49: Counter data for the Lackagh River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	23
Grilse	32
Late Summer Salmon	-5
Sea Trout	326

R LACKAGH COUNTER 2025

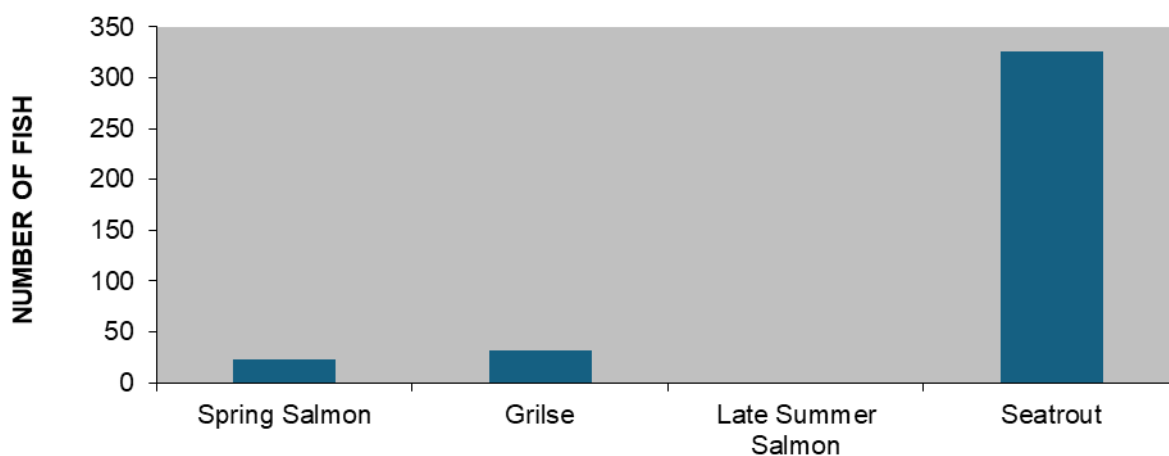
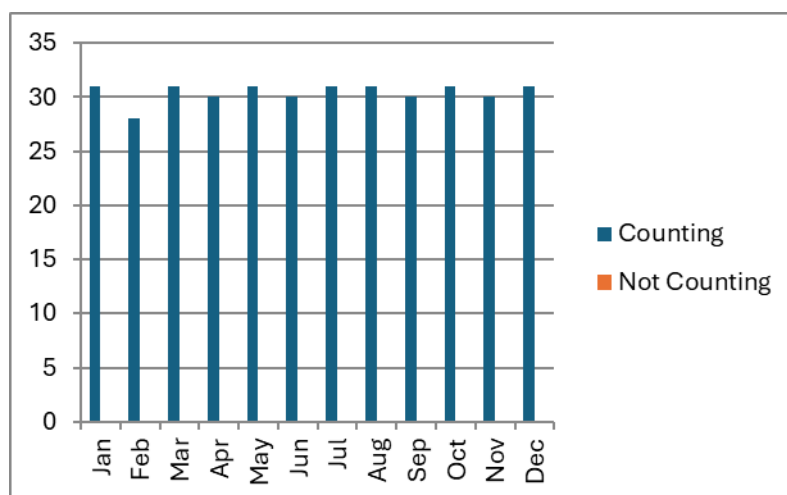


Table 50: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



ESB Counter Network

In 2022 ESB and Inland fisheries Ireland agreed a memorandum of understanding to download the fish counters which were being operated by the ESB.

The counters are located on the river Liffey, Erne, Shannon, Clady, and the Lee, on fish passes at ESB operated hydro generating stations. The ESB fish counter programme involves five Vaki counters and one Logie counter.

The counters have provided accurate verified data since their reinstallation and will provide important data for the river systems for the foreseeable future.

28 Leixlip Counter



Counter type: Resistivity Counter

Operating: Jan–Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

28.1 River site and description

The fish counter is sited on the upper end of the fish lift at the Leixlip dam on the river Liffey. It is a Logie, resistivity, counter with one channel covering the width of the fish lift chute and provides a full count of salmon that pass up-stream past this point of the river. The current configuration includes a desktop computer with Geovision DVR card and two cameras which provides verification for the fish count.

28.2 Operation

The fish counter infrastructure has been well maintained and is interrogated by a dedicated desktop computer with a Geovision card installed. The current hardware is very suited to this site. There are two Sony submersible cameras on site. Two cameras at the top of the fish pass allow for verification of the fish ascending the system. This counter has operated well in 2025.

Table 51: Counter data for the Liffey (Leixlip) River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	45
Grilse	210
Late Summer Salmon	17
Sea Trout	89

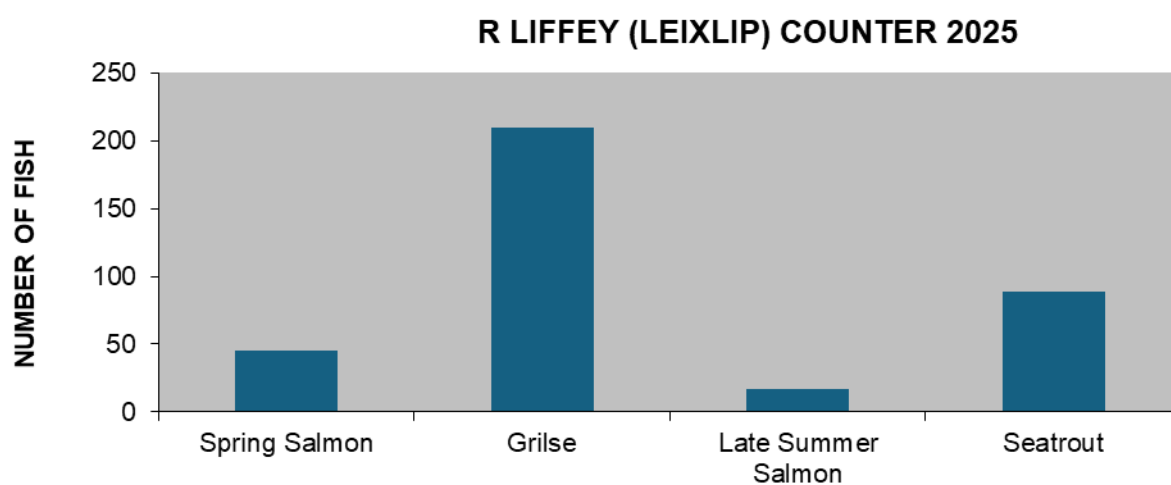
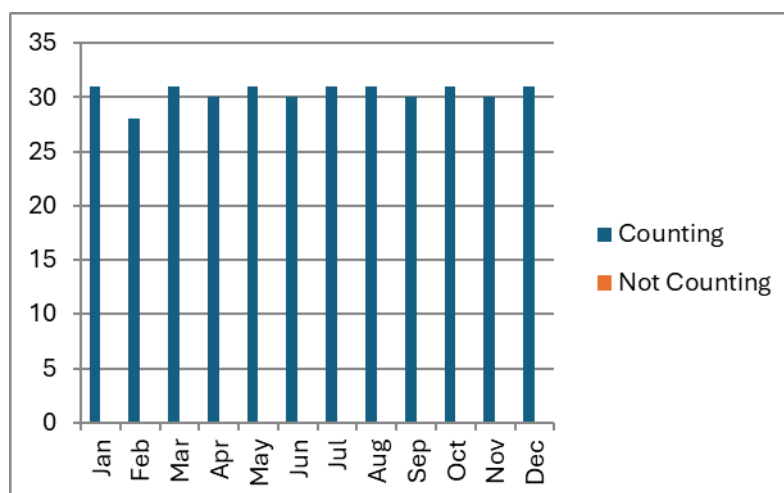


Table 52: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



29 Cliff Hydro Station



Counter type: Vaki (Windows 10/Minicomputer)

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

29.1 River site and description

The counter is in the fish pass for the Cliff Hydro Station on the Erne. The fish pass is a series of pools that allow fish to pass the hydro station. The Vaki frame is in one of the pools in the fish pass which allows for a total count of salmon that pass upstream of this point. The display unit is located outside the main building and is housed adjacent to the fish pass in a stainless-steel cabinet. The Vaki counter is a new generation counter which includes a minicomputer with Windows 10 operating system.

29.2 Operation

The counter has worked well during the year. The distance between the display unit and the panel has been reduced significantly which has resulted in a more successful count. The data has been downloaded by IFI staff and the ESB staff locally have carried out upgrades as any works carried out on or in the fish pass requires a "Proof of Isolation" lock out order.

Table 53: Counter data for the Erne River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	25
Grilse	386
Late Summer Salmon	548
Sea Trout	0

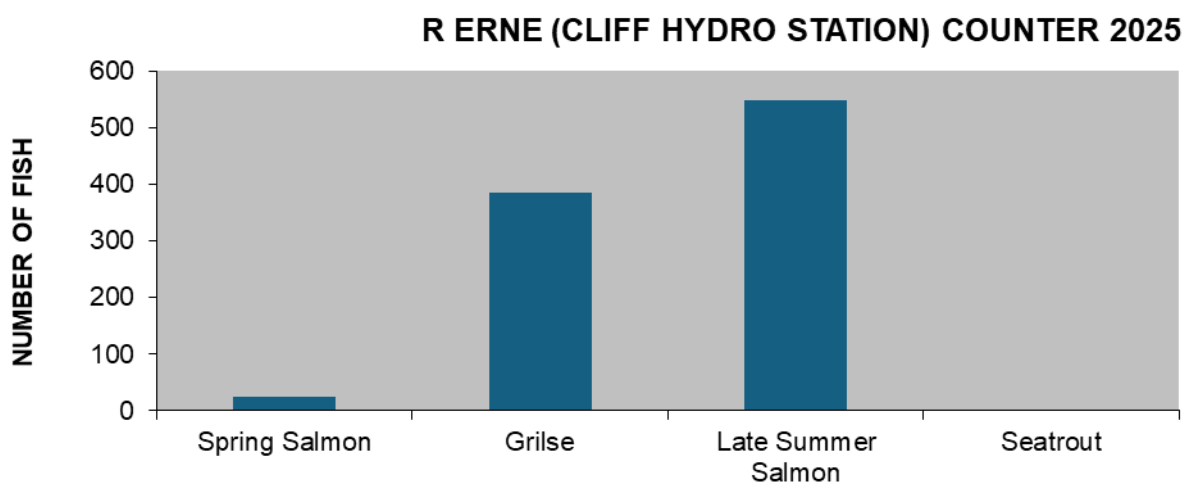
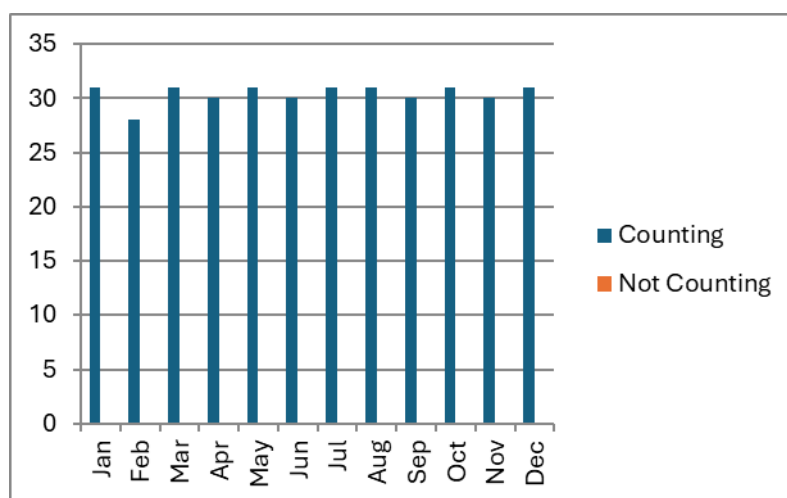


Table 54: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
351	14



30 Ardnacrusha Hydro Station



Counter Type: Vaki Counter

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

30.1 River site and description

The counter is a Vaki counter located at the upper end of the Borland type fish-lift at the country's largest generating station on the River Shannon. The panels are located at the top of the lift before they enter the flume. The computer and software to interrogate the counter and cameras is in an office in the main building. There is a GSM mobile remote access to the counter on site.

30.2 Operation

The counter is operational using an older type of DU which has proved very successful for this site. The panels are located at the top of the lift which is a stable site and produces accurate results. The fish counter operated successfully throughout the year.

Table 55: Counter data for the Shannon River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	12
Grilse	24
Late Summer Salmon	05
Sea Trout	0

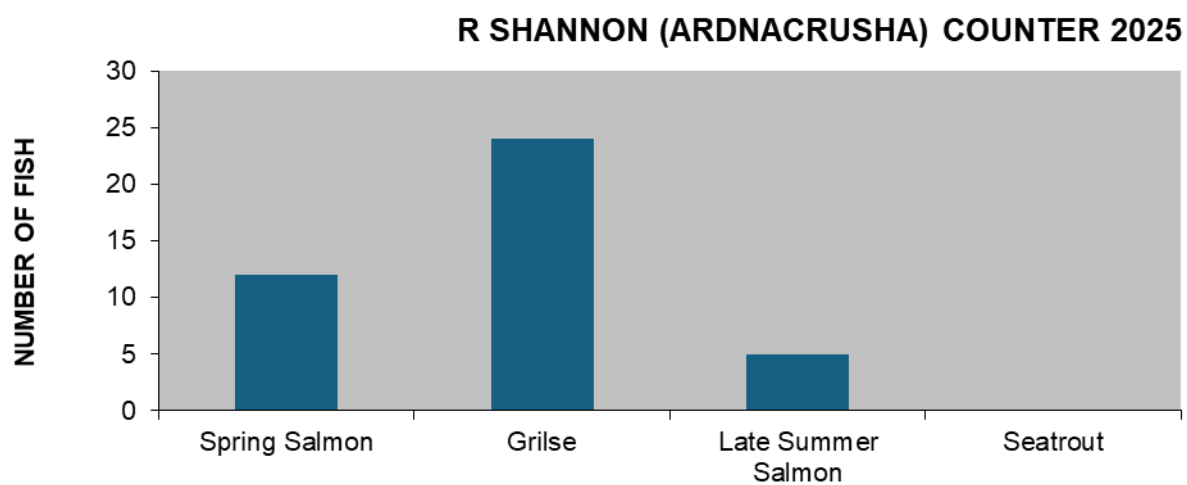
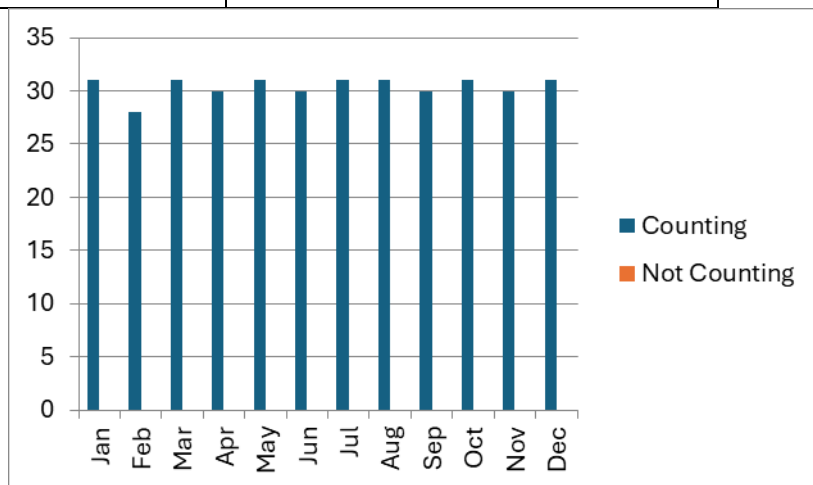


Table 56: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



31 Parteen Impounding Weir



Counter Type: Vaki

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

31.1 River site and description

This site is located on the weir at the lower end of the Shannon, and it regulates the water for the main Ardnacrusha Hydroelectric station. The counter is a standard Vaki counter with a digital display unit located in the hatchery building and the panels in the fish pass. The fish pass is a ladder type fish pass which is maintained by the hatchery staff.

31.2 Operation

The counter is a new Vaki counter system which was purchased and installed in 2023. The counter works well, and remote access is available on this site. The counter has recorded a significant run of salmon since its reinstallation.

Table 57: Counter data for the Shannon River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	328
Grilse	63
Late Summer Salmon	700
Sea Trout	0

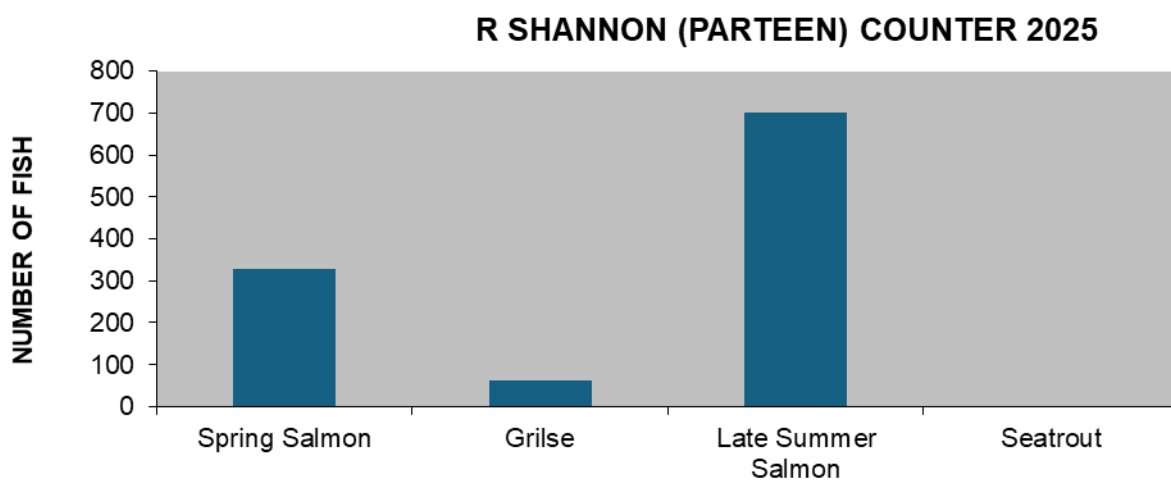
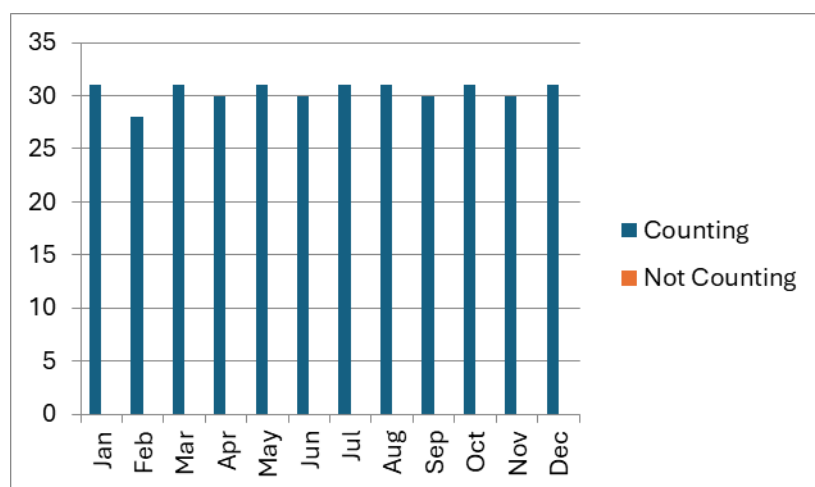


Table 58: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



32 Inniscarra Hydro Station



Counter Type : Vaki

Operating: May to Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

32.1 River site and description

The fish counter is in a fish lift in the Inniscarra dam which was built in 1953 on the River Lee in Co Cork. The Vaki counter is a standard configuration which requires a laptop and connection to download on-site and verification off-site. All physical works need to be completed by staff on site. The Vaki panels are held in place by a special metal frame on the upper end of the lift.

32.2 Operation

The counter is currently operational and a new Vaki optical counter was installed in May 2023. The cradle has been replaced on the weir to hold the panels, and the counter is working well. This counter has remote access capability.

Table 59: Counter data for the Lee River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	07
Grilse	02
Late Summer Salmon	188
Sea Trout	33

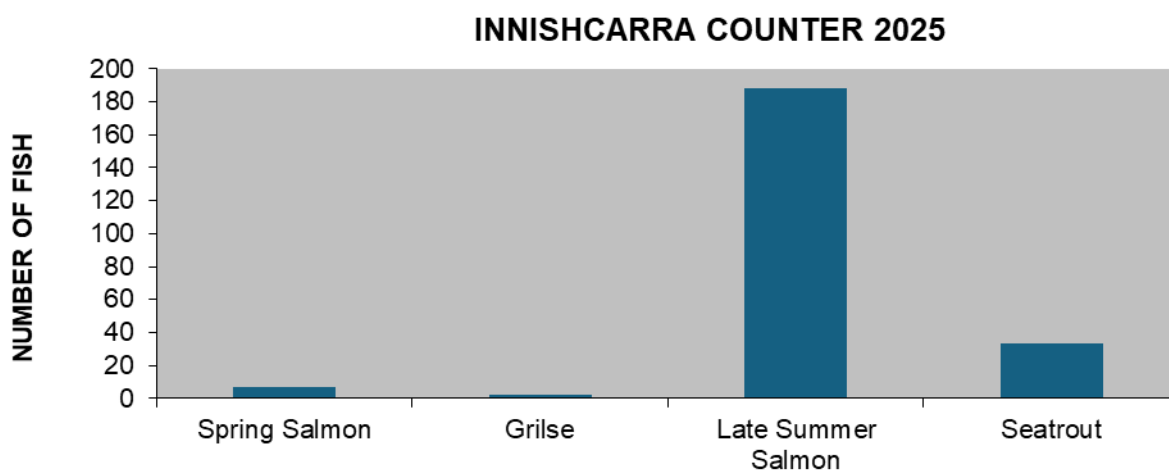
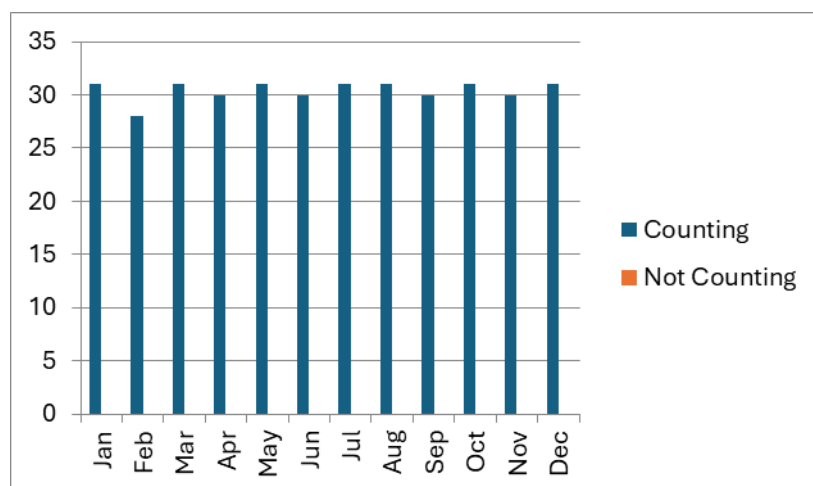


Table 60: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



33 Clady River



Counter type: Vaki

Operating: Jan – Dec 2025

Performance: Good

Verified: Yes

33.1 River site and description

The Clady River flows through wild moorland for around nine kms draining Lough Nacung at Gweedore and flowing through Bunbeg to join the Crolly River estuary. The Clady gets a good run of grilse with the odd autumn salmon. The river flow is controlled by a hydroelectric power station at the head of the river. The counter is located well up the system with significant spawning occurring below the census facility. Therefore, it provides limited census data for the full Clady catchment.

33.2 Operation

The new Vaki counter is an upgraded base model to replace the older Vaki that was on this site. This site is operated by the ESB with operator assistance from IFI. IFI staff download and verify the data gathered and the site maintenance is carried out by the ESB. This counter site has remote access capability.

Table 61: Counter data for the Clady River

Fish Species	Number
Spring Salmon	03
Grilse	16
Late Summer Salmon	01
Sea Trout	16

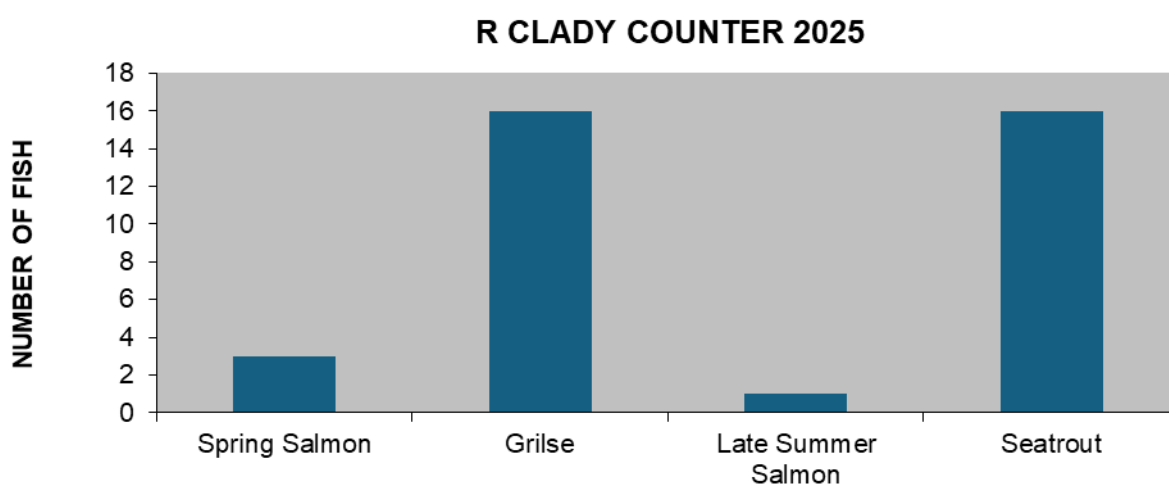
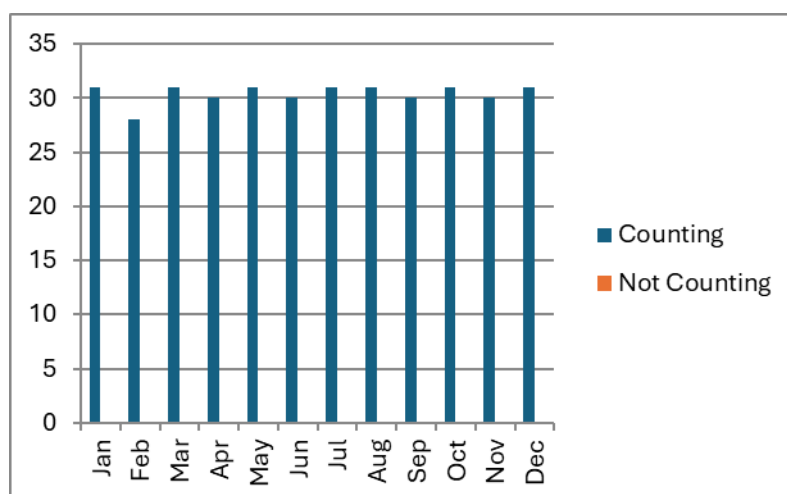


Table 62: Counter Operations

Counter Operational (Days)	Counter not operational (Days)
365	0



Conclusion

Ireland has a key role in managing salmon stocks as one of the few countries in Western Europe with a strong stock of salmon in many diverse but mostly small rivers. While in many instances the stocks of Atlantic salmon are overall in decline throughout its range, Inland Fisheries Ireland is charged with preserving and protecting the large number of genetically unique stocks in Irish rivers.

Given the decline in stocks over the last two decades, better and more rigorous management of salmon in Ireland is of increasing importance. However, these management goals can only be achieved if the stock has been quantified, which requires that the methodologies for assessment be reliable and robust. Both direct and indirect assessment methods have been used to date. IFI staff are committed to maintain the existing fish counter network and to explore new technologies to develop the programme for the future

Acknowledgements

The compilation of this report would not be possible without the expert work and efforts made by IFI field staff.