

Mission statement

To Protect, Manage and
Conserve Ireland's inland
fisheries and sea angling
resources and to maximize
their Sustainability and
Natural Biodiversity



Iascach Iníre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

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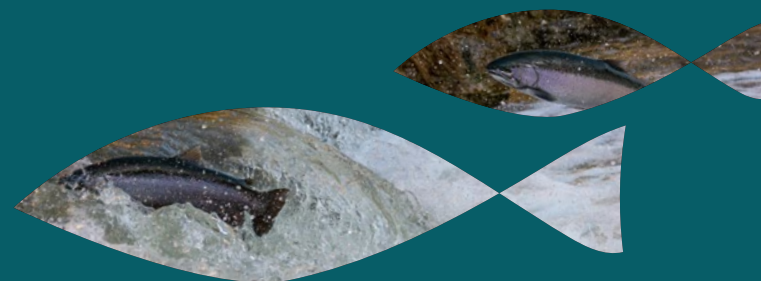
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Introduction from Section 18 Appointees

As persons appointed under section 18(5) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010, We would like to introduce you to the 2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

As is evident from the detail in the report 2022 has been a very challenging year for our IFI, and one which placed extensive public scrutiny on the work of the organisation.

IFI, as a custodian of our natural fisheries resources, has a unique and very important duty on behalf of the State to ensure Irish fish and their habitats survive and thrive into the future.



Seamus Neely
Section 18 Appointee

Tom Barry
Section 18 Appointee

We wish to acknowledge the commitment of the staff and Management for their work and their commitment to the mission and values of Inland Fisheries Ireland which was established in 2010.

We also gratefully acknowledge the many stakeholders across the fisheries ecosystem in Ireland who have provided ongoing support for the work that is being done by the organisation.

We also wish to thank the Board who served during the year reported on and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, and his department, for their inputs and strategic role in ensuring that IFI continued to evolve and to shape our inland waterways, and their inhabitants, in the midst of an existential climate challenge.

Chief Executive Officer's Foreword



I am very pleased to welcome you to Inland Fisheries Ireland's Annual Report. It provides an overview of the significant progress made in our agency

during 2022. We aim to live through our values as an organisation, and continuously adapt to the ever-changing environment around us playing a leadership role in achieving our climate action and biodiversity goals. This year represented a particularly challenging period of work for Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and its staff.

Among the uncertainties and unprecedented challenges faced in 2022 the standout through it all was the resilience of our employees, and management, in persevering and remaining wholeheartedly committed to our High-Level objective themes on Fish, Habitats, Stakeholders, Sustainability, Our People, Corporate Management, and Innovation.

Alongside our deliverables in the protection, development, and research areas, some of our key accomplishments throughout the year include:

- Extensive consultations around the strategic development plan for the Great Western Lakes, including stakeholder engagement events in the catchment areas;
- Consistently and successfully working to achieve our climate action and sustainability targets, consolidating our Environmental Management Systems (EMS) to help minimise the impact on the environment of IFI activities;

- The establishment of a steering group between IFI and the ESB to lead and coordinate activities of common interest between both parties;
- Successful delivery of the 2022 European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission Symposium in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications;
- Continued monitoring and conservation across multiple fish species and habitats, in new and ongoing projects, enhanced by our national Mobile Support Unit.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues nationwide who perform very demanding duties while maintaining our rivers, lakes and seas, and protecting and managing our native fish species.

The wellbeing of these fish and their habitats is their number one priority.

Our staff have worked with innovation and determination to ensure IFI works in a better, stronger and faster way to provide value to our citizens as a public service organisation and to futureproof how IFI operates.

I would also like to thank the Board, and Minister Eamon Ryan and his officials, for the support they have all given us throughout 2022.

At a time of constant change, within and without IFI, I look forward to continued positive engagement with all our stakeholders as we seek continuous improvements for the fisheries resources we serve and support.

Development Funding

In 2022, Inland Fisheries Ireland made funding available from the **Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection Fund** and from the **Midland Fisheries Fund**. These two funds support sustainable fisheries projects that primarily support riparian habitats and fish species conservation.

Salmon and Sea Trout Rehabilitation, Conservation and Protection Fund (SSTRCPF)**

Funding is generated from the sale of salmon and sea trout angling and commercial fishing licences, which represents a major contribution by licence holders to the rehabilitation, conservation and protection of these species. Funding is available through the SSTRCPF to IFI and contributors to the fund which may include angling clubs, commercial fishery operators and fishery owners with an interest in a salmon fishery and who have purchased an Irish salmon and sea trout angling licence, commercial fishing licence or fishery rates contributor.

30 projects worth **€1,073,390** were grant approved
10 SSTRCPF projects paid out for completion worth **€247,010**

8 In addition to the funding provided through the SSTRCPF, **in excess of €370,000 was paid out to 8 grant awarded projects:** Mayfield Lake angler access project, Rural Recreation Fund; Clonmacken Lake slipway, National Strategy for Angling Development; Roach Pond angler access in Cong, National Strategy for Angling Development; Lough Ree Angling Hub, National Strategy for Angling Development; Mallow Angler access, National Strategy for Angling Development; Croí na Laoi angler access design, National Strategy for Angling Development; Rebuild the Crana, National Strategy for Angling Development; Clonmel angler ladders, National Strategy for Angling Development.

Midland Fisheries Fund (MFF)**

This source of funding has been created through angler contributions set-a-side from the Permit Income received by Inland Fisheries Ireland in the Midlands Fisheries Group permit area. Funding is available to contributors of this fund that have paid a MFF group permit.

6 applications received worth **€59,997**
5 projects awarded
4 four MFF projects paid out for completion worth **€56,888**

** reviewed by an evaluation panel

Significant Projects

Annacotty Fish Passage

An Interagency Group and a Technical Group were established, and a public consultation event held in August 2022. PMO assisted in development of a tender for the



procurement of a consulting engineer to prepare an options assessment report and apply for planning permission for the preferred fish passage option. A Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) process was developed for comparing various passage options to assist with selection of the preferred option. It is envisaged that the MCA process can be applied to future barrier proposals following evaluation on completion of the Annacotty option selection.

Corrib Catchment Pilot Project

The objective is to identify reaches of rivers in the Lough Corrib Catchment most in need of habitat rehabilitation. Enable IFI to focus its resources on areas that are most important from a habitats perspective and will likely yield the most favourable outcomes in terms of salmonid stock and biodiversity improvement. Project Supervisors for the Design Process (PSDP) were procured from our Framework of Health and Safety consultants for each of these projects. Appropriate assessment for these plans were procured from our framework of Environmental consultants.

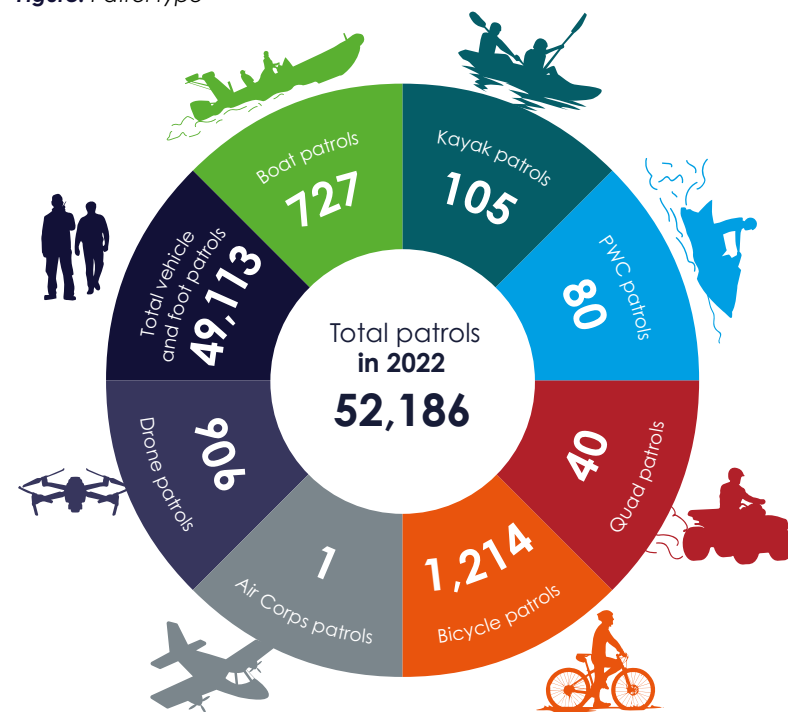
Key Achievements

31 sites identified in 2022

5 projects completed in 2022

Development plans prepared for a further **4** sites

Figure: Patrol type



Fisheries Inspections & compliance checks

Table: Number of fisheries inspection

Inspections of licence holders and anglers		2022
	Inspections of commercial salmon and sea trout licence holders	547
	Inspections of recreational anglers for licence and/or permit	15,593
	Inspections of other anglers	16,230
	Number of bass anglers checked for compliance with fisheries legislation and regulations*	2,280
Total number of fisheries inspections		34,650

Table: Number of compliance checks

Number of compliance checks		2022
Fish dealers checked		254
Restaurants, hotels, guesthouses checked		70
Total number of compliance checks		324

Illegal items seized in 2022

Figure: Illegal items seized in 2022

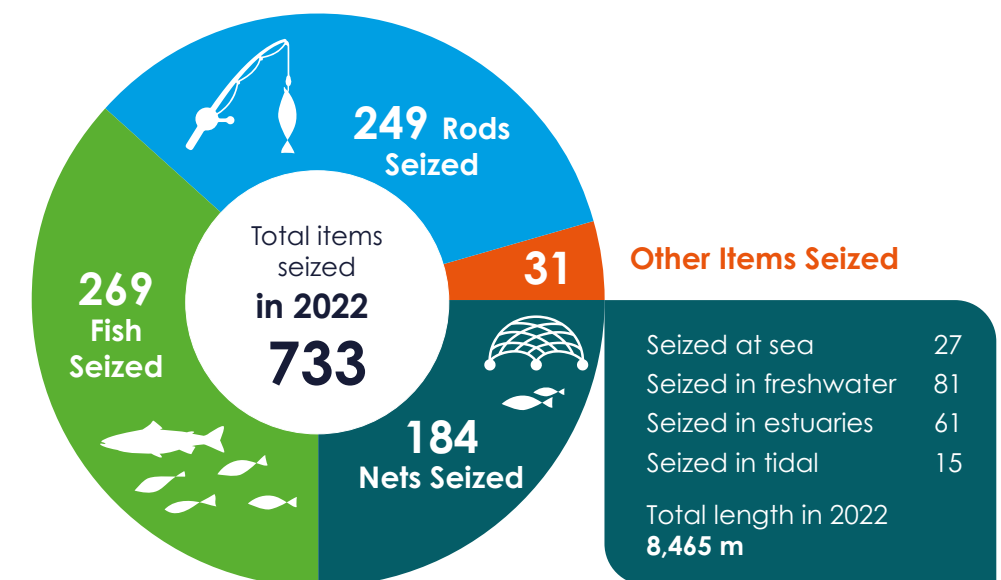


Table: Number of prosecutions initiated and concluded

Prosecutions	
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Glossary



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Glossary

Term	Description
AA	Appropriate Assessment
Acoustic Telemetry	Tagging fish with sound-emitting devices that are detected by listening stations
Algal bloom	The overgrowth of microscopic algae or algae-like bacteria in fresh, salt, or brackish waters
ARC	Audit and Risk Committee
C&R	Catch-and-release
Citizen science	The collection of data relating to the natural world by members of the general public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists
Coarse fishing	Any freshwater fish other than salmon and trout.
DAF	Dormant Accounts Fund
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DPIA	Data Protection Impact Assessments
DPO	Data Protection Officer
Elasmobranchs	A group of marine fish that have cartilage-based skeletons e.g. sharks, rays, and skates
Electrofishing	A fishing technique that uses direct electricity to affect the movements of nearby fish so that they swim toward the current, where they can be caught; this technique is commonly used by scientists to survey rivers and assess what fish are present
ERBD	Eastern River Basin District
EV	Electric vehicle
Finfish aquaculture	Farming of fish with fins (fish farming)
Finnock	Sea trout that migrates to sea between April and June, and returns to freshwater to spawn after the summer migration
Fish stocks	The living resources in a particular fish species community or population that are self-sustaining.

Disclosures Required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016

The Board is responsible for ensuring that IFI has complied with the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies ('the Code'), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (DPENDPDR) in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code.

Employee Short-term Benefits

There were 73 employee short-term benefits in excess of €60,000.

See [Note 6](#) of the Financial Statements.

Consultancy Costs

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions. See [Note 5a](#) of the Financial Statements.

Travel and Subsistence Expenditure

Travel and subsistence expenditure is categorised as follows:

Remuneration and Other Pay Costs	2022	2021
	€	€
Travel & subsistence – National	953,614	715,935
Travel & subsistence – International*	23,588	8,908
	977,202	724,843

No international travel and subsistence payments were made for travel undertaken by non-executive Board members.

Legal Costs and Settlements

Legal Fees are for prosecution cases under fisheries legislation and corporate legal advice. Total legal costs in 2022 for prosecution cases were €191,142. IFI instigated a Judicial Review of the Granting of an Aquaculture Licence - Shot Head, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork; costs for this process during 2022 were €150,425. The cost of corporate legal advice was €117,388.

Hospitality Expenditure

Hospitality Expenditure	2022	2021
	€	€
Staff hospitality	8,394	7,100
Client hospitality		2,050
	8,394	9,150

Statement of Compliance

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) as updated and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. Inland Fisheries Ireland was in full compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for the period 2022.

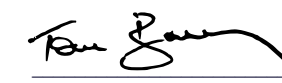
On Behalf of IFI



Seamus Neely

22nd November 2023

Date



Tom Barry

22nd November 2023

Date

