

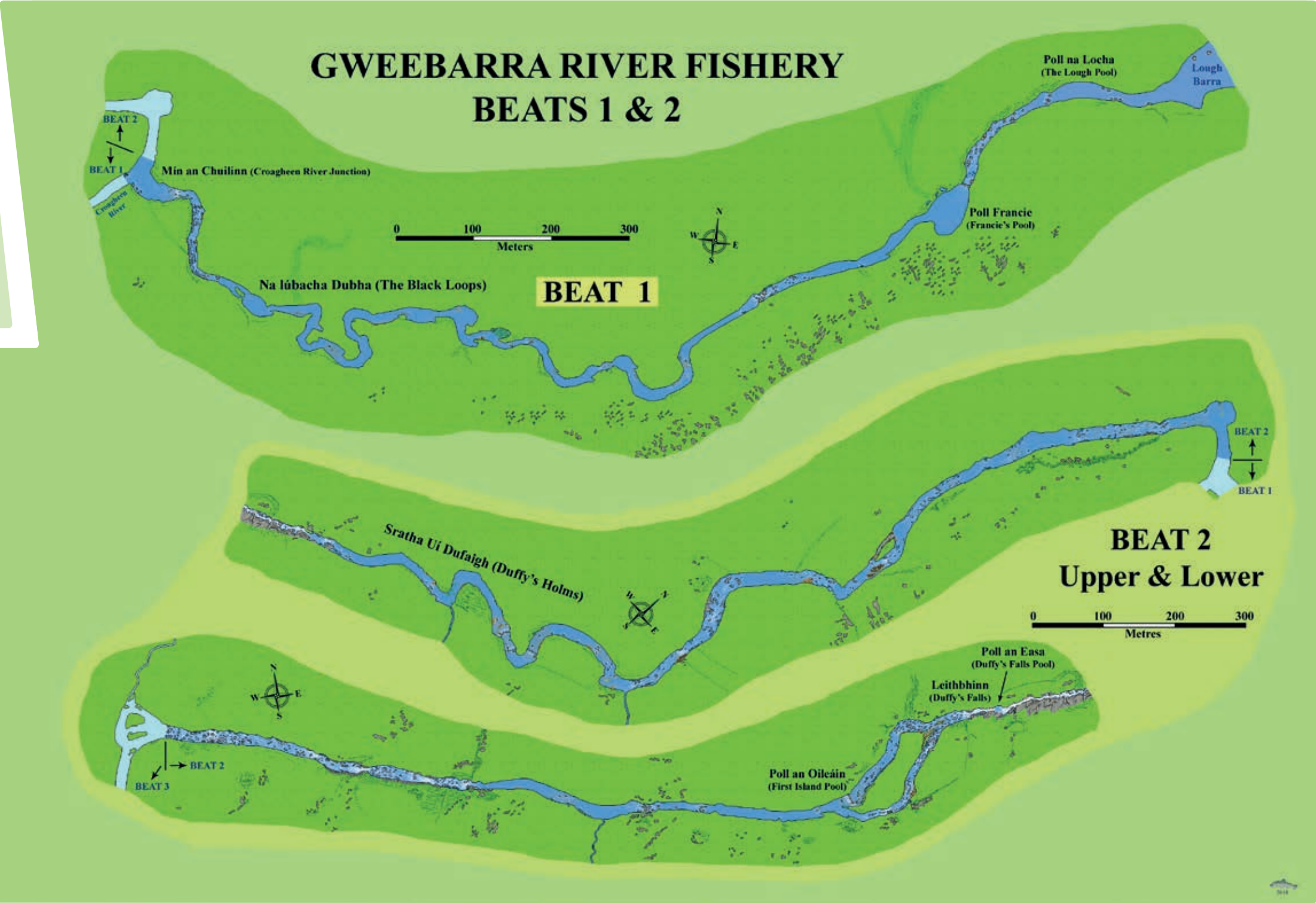
The Gweebarra River Fishery

The Gweebarra River is a 13km long stretch of spate river flowing through some of the most beautiful scenery in Co. Donegal making this one of the most picturesque rivers in the country. The Gweebarra River itself runs from Lough Barra to the top of it's estuary just below Doochary town. The estuary meanders for a further 16km before emptying into Gweebarra Bay. The Gweebarra River has a good run of free rising salmon. The spring salmon fishing is at its best during April & May, with grilse fishing being at its best from the end of June onwards. There is also a run of good-sized summer salmon which run from August onwards. Sea trout are at their best from July and are usually taken from the estuary and the pools around the Doochary area. The river provides lovely fly fishing water with many sections of streamy water and numerous holding pools. For this reason the river is beloved by many fly fishermen. When in prime condition, as the river is falling after a flood, the Gweebarra can provide wonderful fishing. Famous hot spots on the river for salmon are the Mayo Pool (Coire) at the confluence of the Cloghanagore River and the Beflaght Fall's pool (Eas Droim na Searrach).



**Beat 1:** Beat 1 runs for 1.7km from Lough Barra downstream to the junction with the Croagheen River. Access to beat 1 is from either Lough Barra or a long walk upstream from Beat 2. Accessing the beat from Lough Barra is the preferred option but it should be noted that fishing beat 1 involves a good bit of walking. Famous pools on this beat are Poll na Lochá (The Lough Pool), Poll Francie (Francie's Pool), Na Lúbacha Dubha (The Black Loops) and Min an Chuilinn (Croagheen River Junction).

**Beat 2:** Beat 2 runs for just over 3km from the junction with the Croagheen River downstream to just upstream of the large corner pool where the river briefly splits into 3 channels. Access to the beat is via a good walk along a rough track that runs over the bog from the R254 road to the river near Duffy's Fall's. It should be noted that this is a half hours walk for the average person and fishing this beat will involve a good bit of rough walking in general. Well known pools and sections on this beat are Sratha Uí Dufaigh (Duffy's Holms), Poll an Easa (Duffy's Falls Pool), Leithbhinn (Duffy's Falls) and Poll an Oileáin (First Island Pool).



Gweebarra Fact File	
Type of Fishing	Salmon & Sea Trout
Season	April to September inclusive
Best Time	Salmon – April & May Grilse – July to September Sea Trout – July to September
Beats	6 Beats available on a first come first served basis
Permit	Daily or weekly permit required
Licence	Salmon & Sea Trout – State licence required
Methods	Fly, Spinner & Worm No Natural Shrimp or Prawn baits allowed
Contact	In season contact – Owenea Angling Centre: Tel: 00353 (0)74 9551141 April & May – 9am to 1pm 7 days a week June to September – 7am to 1pm 7 days a week Out of Season – Inland Fisheries Ireland, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. Tel: 00353 (0)71 9851435 email: <a href="mailto:ballyshannon@fisheriesireland.ie">ballyshannon@fisheriesireland.ie</a> Website: <a href="http://www.fishinginireland.info/salmon/north/gweebarra.htm">www.fishinginireland.info/salmon/north/gweebarra.htm</a>

ACCOMMODATION

There are various accommodation providers in the area. For accommodation information/ bookings, the following websites may be of use:

[www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)  
[www.bandbireland.com](http://www.bandbireland.com)  
[www.irelandhotels.com](http://www.irelandhotels.com)

COUNTRY CODE

Anglers should ensure that gates are closed and that fences are not broken or damaged. Care should be taken with crops and livestock. Litter must not be discarded and no fires are allowed. Vehicles should be parked in designated areas and in such a manner that they do not cause obstruction.

BIOSECURITY

Aquatic Invasive Species and fish pathogens are readily transferred from one watercourse to another on angling tackle, boats and protective clothing. These can be very damaging to resident fish stocks, the aquatic habitat and the general environment. We would ask that all anglers inspect and clean their gear prior to fishing on the Gweebarra if that gear has previously been used on another fishery.

Full information on prevention of invasive species is available on our website at: <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Research/invasive-species.html>  
Or via Invasive Species Ireland at <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/cops/water-users/anglers/>

ERRORS OR INACCURACIES

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this guide is accurate, no responsibility will be accepted by Inland Fisheries Ireland for any errors or inaccuracies therein.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Angling  
Ireland



Gweebarra River  
Angling Guide



Angling on the Gweebarra River

The Gweebarra River fishery consists of 6 beats spread over 13km of river plus around 14km of estuary fishing. The beats cater for 2 to 4 visiting rods depending on the beat and time of season. Access to the fishery is good with numerous stiles, walkways and footbridges having been installed along the river. Beats 1 & 2 however, do require a fair amount of walking to access the river. A wheelchair accessible section has been constructed at the bottom of Beat 6 along Poll na mBreac (Trout Pool).

**Flyfishing:** Fly-fishing is the most popular method on the fishery. Most fly fishermen favour a single handed rod or a small double handed rod. Single handed rods of 10 to 11 foot in length rated AFTM 7 to 8 will suffice or double handed rods of 12 to 13½ foot with an AFTM rating of 8 or 9. The river, in general, is not particularly wide and there is rarely a need to throw a very long line on most beats. A floating line covers most of the fishing. A sink-tip or intermediate line is of benefit early in the season to fish the fly a little deeper or to prevent the flies fishing too high in the water or skating on some of the faster pools. Many patterns of fly work well but most rods nowadays fish shrimp fly patterns such as Curry's Red Shrimp, Foxford Shrimp, Bann Special Shrimp or Cascade. Size of fly is dependent on water temperature and water height but size 10 to 14 flies will cover most eventualities. Early and late in the season or during a big flood a size 6 to 8 fly may be more appropriate.

Spinning and Bait Fishing:

Most rods that spin use the ubiquitous Flying 'C' lure. No single colour seems to be more effective than others with most anglers fishing red, black or yellow lures. Shrimp and Prawn are prohibited but some rods fish with worm on the river.

Catch Returns

In the interests of fishery management and conservation the fishery requires that all rods make catch returns.

Permits & Licences

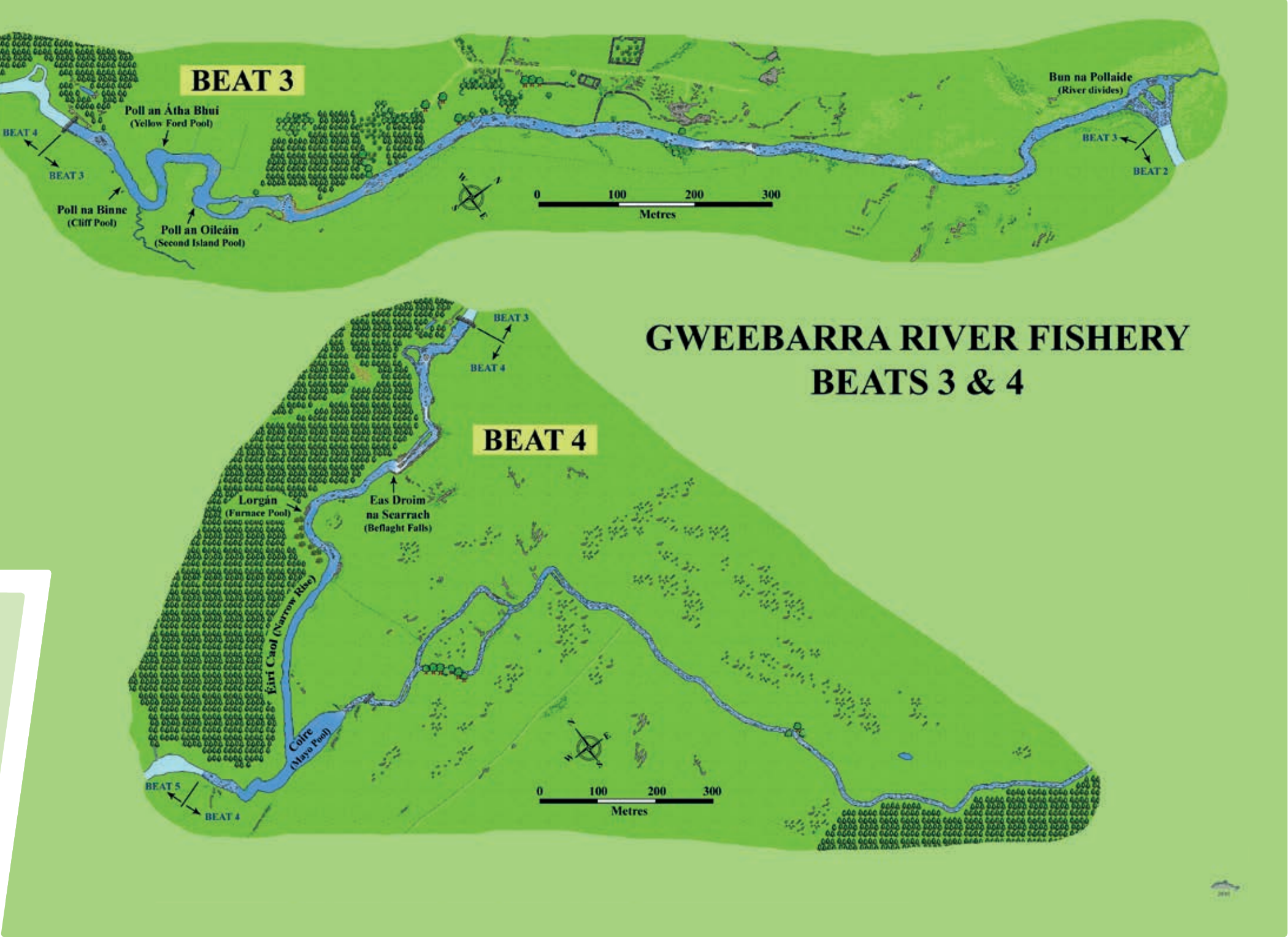
A Permit is required to fish the Gweebarra River. These are available as Adult Day permits, Juvenile (under 18 years old) Day permits, Weekly Adult permits and Juvenile Weekly permits. These are available from: The Local Shop, Main Street, Doochary, Co. Donegal. Anglers must also possess a valid state licence to fish the Gweebarra River. This can be a national state licence, a Letterkenny district licence, a Juvenile state licence (under 18 years of age), a 21 Day state licence or a 1 day state licence. Anglers should make themselves aware of any current legislation pertaining to the Gweebarra Fishery.

Bookings and Information

Bookings for beats can be taken in advance on full payment of rod permit through the Owenea Angling Centre, Glenties. Tel: 074 9551141. Rods are assigned beats on a 'first come first served' basis and will be rotated through beats thereafter if demand is high. Bookings are non-transferable. Visa & Mastercard facilities are available at the Owenea Angling Centre. Beats on the Gweebarra Fishery can also be booked through [www.donegalanglingholidays.com](http://www.donegalanglingholidays.com) For information in season (April to September inclusive) contact the Owenea Angling Centre, Glenties Hatchery, Glenties, Co. Donegal. Tel: +353 (0)74 9551141. Email: [glenties@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:glenties@fisheriesireland.ie) For out of season information contact: Inland Fisheries Ireland, Station Road, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. Tel: +353 (0)71 9851435. Email: [ballyshannon@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:ballyshannon@fisheriesireland.ie) For further information see our website: [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

**Beat 3:** Beat 3 runs for 1.7km from the large corner pool where the river briefly splits into 3 channels downstream to the footbridge over the river 300m upstream of Beflaght Falls. Access to the beat is by walking upstream from Beat 4. Well known pools and sections on this beat are Bun na Pollaide (River Divides), Poll an Oileáin (Second Island Pool), Poll an Átha Bhui (Yellow Ford Pool) and Poll na Binne (Cliff Pool).

**Beat 4:** Beat 4 runs for 1.1km from the footbridge over the river 300m upstream of Beflaght Falls downstream to the neck of the first pool below the Mayo Pool and also includes much of the lower Cloghanagore River (for the more adventurous angler). Access to the beat is via the small road that runs from the R254. Turn right off this road after driving 2km and park at the car park here. From there walk 100m through the forestry down to the river at Beflaght Falls. Well known pools and sections on this beat are Eas Droim na Searrach (Beflaght Falls), Lorgán (Furnace Pool), Éiri Caol (Narrow Rise) and the famous Coire (Mayo Pool).



**Beat 5:** Beat 5 runs for 1.9km from the neck of the first pool below the Mayo Pool downstream to the footbridge some 600m upstream of the junction with the Owenwee River. Access to the beat is by turning right after 200m off the small road that runs from the R254 to the Mayo Pool car park. Drive 250m along this road and park in the small car park here. Walk down the old lane to the river (some 400m). Well known pools and sections on this beat are Poll na Cloiche (Rock Pool), Eas Aoidh (Hugh's Falls Pool) and Poll Mhic Amhlaigh (McCauley's Pool).

**Beat 6:** Beat 6 runs for 1.5km from the footbridge some 600m upstream of the junction with the Owenwee River downstream to the tail of Poll na mBreac (Trout Pool) downstream of the Bridge in Doochary Town. Access to the beat is upstream from Doochary Town. Well known pools and sections on this beat are Poll an Ghobáin (Joining Pool), Poll Ui Cheallaigh (Kelly's Pool), Poll Ui Bhaoill (O'Boyles Pool), Poll an Chroisaire (Cross Roads Pool) and Poll na mBreac (Trout Pool).

