



## Boyne Valley Angling Guide

Inland Fisheries Ireland welcomes you to the Boyne Valley Fishery. In this area you will find superb trout, salmon, coarse, pike and sea angling that will satisfy the expectations of specialist, experienced and novice anglers alike. There is a great diversity of waters in this fishery and Inland Fisheries Ireland invites you to sample the quality and variety of fishing for yourself.

Excellent angling for wild brown trout is available on the River Boyne and its tributaries as well as on a series of small to medium sized lakes, which are located near Collinstown and Fore in Co. Westmeath. Salmon and sea trout anglers are also catered for on the lower reaches of the Boyne between Navan and Drogheda. The lakes around Bailieboro and Virginia to the north west of the Boyne Valley and a number of lakes near Collinstown and Delvin hold excellent stocks of pike and coarse fish as do the Royal and Grand Canals at Enfield and Edenderry. Sea anglers are provided for on the stretch of coastline from Clogherhead south to Laytown and from Gormanston to Skerries.

This area has a number of well-established angling centres which offer visiting anglers a full range of angling and ancillary services including guide services and boat hire. This will ensure that visiting anglers fully enjoy their angling experience in the Boyne Valley. The area is also serviced by a wide range of very affordable accommodations ranging from self catering to B&B and quality hotels that can cater for the needs of visiting anglers, providing drying rooms and tackle and bait storage facilities. Tackle shops are available in many of the main towns and angling advice is readily available through the many, tackle dealers, angling clubs, guest houses and tourist offices as well as local Inland Fisheries Ireland offices.

The proximity of the Boyne Valley to major airports and sea ports means that quality angling is only a one hour drive away. The Boyne Valley has much to offer as an angling and tourist destination and is well worth a visit.

## Coarse & Pike Angling in the Boyne Valley

The Boyne Valley Fishery offers excellent opportunities for the coarse and pike angler, especially in Virginia and Bailieboro to the north west, Collinstown and Delvin to the west and Enfield and Edenderry to the south west of the Valley.

There is something to suit every coarse angler in the Boyne Valley Fishery and the main species available include bream, roach, rudd, hybrids, perch and tench.

There are also a number of prolific pike waters which produce pike in excess of 20lbs annually. These include Lough Ramor, Skeagh Lake, Drumkeary, Castle Lake, Nadrageel and the Dysart lakes.

Many of these waters are underutilized and can provide excellent sport for the visiting angler. There are no license or permit requirements for coarse and pike fishing on these waters and generally the fishing is free. Pike fishing may be accessed on Lough Lene and White Lake subject to certain conditions and a permit is required.

There are a number of coarse and pike angling bye-laws with which anglers should become familiar before fishing. Full details of these regulations can be found at [www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm](http://www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm)

## Coarse & Pike Angling Waters

### Virginia and Bailieboro Angling Centres:

The towns of Virginia and Bailieboro Co. Cavan are located to the north west of the Boyne Valley Fishery and are surrounded by many quality coarse and pike fishing venues.

**Lough Ramor** is the biggest lake in this area covering an area of 800 hectares. It is quite shallow at its southern end with depths averaging 2-3m. Depths in excess of 15m have been recorded at the northern end of the lake. The average depth in most of the fishable venues below Virginia, on the southern end of the lake, is only two meters.

Lough Ramor is an excellent coarse fishery and it regularly produces large catches of skimmers, roach, roach-bream hybrids and some big bream and perch. Feeder, waggler

and pole techniques all produce excellent results. Virginia, Coronagh, Knocknagartan and the Nine-Eyed Bridge are all notable venues on the southern end of the lake. Access at Knocknagartan is by way of a private road.

In addition to its excellent coarse angling, Lough Ramor is one of the area's top pike angling venues. Large pike are a feature of the lake and many 20lbs fish are recorded annually and a number of pike in excess of 30lbs have also been taken here. Bank fishing will bring success but the best results are achieved from a boat. Trolling, spinning and dead-baiting techniques can all produce results. Boats can be launched from the slipway beside the school in Virginia, at the slipway at the Lakeside Manor Hotel and at the end of the laneway located at the northern end of the lake. There is excellent car parking available at a number of points around the lake. Boats are also available locally for hire.

#### **Boat Hire on Lough Ramor**

Lakeside Manor Hotel, Dublin Road, Virginia, Co. Cavan, Ireland.

Tel: +353 49 8548200

Email: [info@lakesidemanor.ie](mailto:info@lakesidemanor.ie)

Web: [www.lakesidemanor.ie](http://www.lakesidemanor.ie)

**The Ramparts River** flows through Virginia and holds stocks of good sized bream as well as roach and perch. Access to the fishery is via the handball alley at the northern end of the town. A number of stiles have been provided to facilitate angling in this sheltered fishery. Pole anglers should please keep clear of the overhead power lines. The river also contains a small stock of small to medium sized pike.

**Nadrageel or Lackan Lakes** are located to the north west of Virginia and cover an area of approximately 100 hectares, with depths to 10m. The two lake sections are separated by a heavily reeded channel. This fishery holds good stocks of bream, roach, rudd, hybrids and perch. There are fishing stands on the northern shoreline and the best access is from the roadside where a spacious car park is provided. Nadrageel also contains a good stock of small

to medium sized pike which is complemented by a smaller stock of larger pike. The fishery produces a good number of double figured pike annually with occasional fish of 20lbs also being taken. Best results are achieved from a boat and a slipway is provided at the car park on the Ballyjamesduff road. Trolling artificial lures and dead baiting techniques work well from a boat but spinning, ledgering and float techniques can also work from the shore. Boats are available locally for hire.

#### **Boat Hire on The Lackan Lakes**

Lakeland Marine and Tackle, Cavan Road, Virginia, Co. Cavan.

Tel: +353 49 8543712

**Cornaslieve Lough** is a small lake located 3km north west of Virginia. It covers an area less than 2 hectares with depths to 3.5m. The western and eastern shorelines are tree lined and fishing is available from a small number of firm spots on the northern shoreline. This lake holds small numbers of bream, roach and hybrids. This lake also holds small numbers of small to medium sized pike. Access is across the fields and parking is difficult.

**Lisgreá Lake** is situated approximately 4km to the north west of Virginia. It covers area of 4 hectares with depths to 4m. There are a number of fishing stands on the southern shoreline. This lake holds an excellent stock of bream to specimen size (3.402kilos) and a smaller stock of specimen roach-bream hybrids (1.361kilos). This water also holds tench and perch. The best access is from the road and there is limited car parking in a narrow lane nearby. Lisgreá lake contains a stock of small to medium sized pike and fishing from the stands or from a float tube produces the best results. This is a good pike fly fishing venue.

**The Gallon Loughs** consist of Gallon Lake to the north and Dargans Lake to the south. These lakes are located approximately 6km north of Virginia. Gallon Lake covers an area of 2 hectares with depths to 3m. This lake holds a stock of good bream and roach-bream hybrids to specimen size. The lake also holds some perch and roach. This lake contains a stock

of small pike with medium sized fish being taken occasionally. Access to this lake whose shoreline is heavily reeded is difficult but would be suitable for small boats or float tubes.

**Dargans Lake** is a small lake covering an area of 3 hectares with a maximum depth of 7m. This lake contains a fine stock of medium sized bream, roach and hybrids. There are two fishing stands on the eastern shoreline and the north western corner of the lake has an open shoreline. This lake contains a stock of small pike with medium sized fish being taken occasionally. Access is from the road at the southern end of the lake where a car park is provided.

**Galloncurra Lough** is located 5 km south west of Bailieboro and covers an area of 7 hectares with a maximum depth of 3.5m. This is a superb fishing venue and has an excellent stock of roach-bream hybrids to specimen weight (1.361kilos) as well as a good stock of bream and roach. Pre-baiting swims can produce the best results and worm, maggot, caster and sweetcorn are all successful baits.

There is also great pike fishing available with numerous fish over 20lbs being taken by anglers using a variety of methods. Ledgered dead-baits and sink and draw methods have proved successful. There are a number of fishing stands at this venue and the best access is from the road at the western side of the lake, where a car park is provided.

**Mullagh Lough** is located 2km west of the village of Mullagh and covers an area of 33 hectares with depths to 9.5m. This is a popular pike fishing venue and it holds a

stock of good pike with bream and roach also present. The best access is from the northern and western sides of the lake and there is adequate car parking available. There is a universally accessible stand at this venue and it is also possible to launch boats.

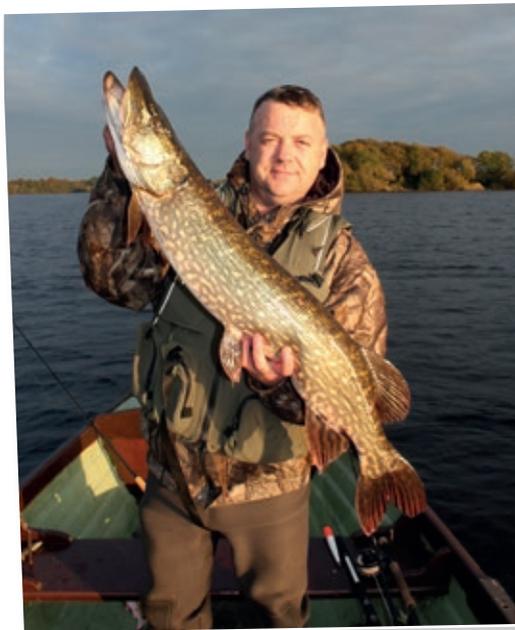
**Bailieboro Lough** also known as Town Lake is located on the western side of the town of Bailieboro and covers an area of 9 hectares. Due to its location this lake is a popular fishery and it can provide good sport for coarse and pike anglers. There are a number of fishing stands on this water some of which are universally accessible. This lake is relatively shallow and holds stocks of perch, roach, bream and some tench. This is an excellent pike fishing venue and all the usual techniques will work.

Access is good on both the northern and southern shorelines and car parking is also available in these areas.

**Galbolie Lough** is located 3km north west of Bailieboro and covers an area of 4 hectares with a maximum depth of 6m. This lake holds good stocks of bream, rudd, hybrids and pike. The best access to the lake is from the road on the north eastern shoreline but parking is difficult in this area.

**Parkers Lake** is located 4km north

west of Bailieboro and covers an area of 6 hectares with a maximum depth of 6m. This lake holds a good stock of bream as well as roach, perch and pike. It also holds roach-bream hybrids to specimen size. Once fish have been located the use of swim feeders and intermittent ground baiting can maintain the interest of the feeding shoal. There are a number of fishing stands to the south and south west of this lake and these



greatly facilitate angling. Access which is from the road is assisted by number stiles but please park with care in this area.

**Castle Lake** is located 3km north west of Bailieboro and covers an area of approximately 20 hectares with depths in excess of 6m. This lake holds stocks of bream, roach, hybrids and perch. There are a large number of fishing stands on this water, some of which are universally accessible. Castle Lake is a popular pike fishing venue and regularly produces pike in excess of 20lbs. The lake contains a good stock of small to medium sized pike and this is complemented by a smaller stock of larger pike. Boats can be launched at this location. The best access to the lake is from the road at the northern end of the lake where there is also excellent car parking.

**Drumkeary Lake** is located 5km north west of Bailieboro and covers an area of 15 hectares with a maximum depth of 10m. This fishery produces some fine catches of bream and hybrids and is also known to produce some very large pike. Roach and perch are also present. A number of angling stands have been constructed to facilitate access for anglers and it is also possible to launch a boat. Access is from the road at the northern and north western end of the lake and car parking is difficult.

**Skeagh Lake** is situated 7km north west of the town of the Bailieboro and it covers an area of approximately 50 hectares. Fishing is from a number of swims on the eastern shoreline. This fishery holds good stocks of bream, roach and perch. The lake also contains a good stock of small to medium sized pike with occasional fish in excess of 20lbs being recorded. Access is from the road on the eastern side of the lake. Car parking is also available in this area.

#### **Boat Hire on Skeagh Lake**

Lil McCormick,

Tel: +353 42 9665340

Email: [skeagh@hotmail.com](mailto:skeagh@hotmail.com)

#### **Collinstown and Delvin:**

There are a number of notable coarse and pike fisheries in these areas and they too can provide excellent sport for anglers.

**The Dysart Lakes** are located 4km south west of Delvin and cover an area of approximately 12 hectares. Lough Analla is the largest of these lakes and a number of fishing stands have been provided to facilitate angling on these waters. Fishing is often difficult but the rewards can make the extra effort worthwhile. These lakes hold large stocks of roach, rudd, tench, and perch and are also noted for producing large pike. Access and car parking are located close to Johnstown school.

**The Ben Loughs** are located north east of Fore and Lough Adeel, which lies east of Collinstown. They are regarded as mixed fisheries offering both game and coarse angling. They are primarily coarse angling waters which can also provide good quality pike fishing. However, they do hold small stocks of good trout to 3-4lbs in weight. Access is difficult and permission to fish should be sought locally.

**Enfield and Edenderry** are well established angling centres on the Royal and Grand Canals. Both of these canals hold excellent stocks of perch, bream, roach and tench. There has been extensive development on large stretches of these waterways and there is good access for disabled anglers in some areas. Edenderry and Enfield Coarse Angling Clubs hold annual angling festivals and visiting anglers are welcome to participate. A calendar of events is produced annually by the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland. Access and parking facilities are excellent in both these areas and there is plenty of help and advice available locally. Useful contacts in these areas are:

Mr. Pauric Kelly, Chairman, Edenderry A.D.C., Coarse Angling Club, 48 Fr. Paul Murphy Street, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.

Tel: +353 86 3503117 Tel: +353 86 3346065

Mr. Brian O'Donoghue, Royal Enfield Angling Club, Baconstown, Enfield, Co. Meath.

Tel: +353 86 3658467

Royal Enfield Angling Club, Mark O'Donoghue.

Email: [mark.odonoghue@citi.com](mailto:mark.odonoghue@citi.com)

Tel: +353 86 3658461 Tel: +353 46 9541911

[www.facebook.com/royalenfield](http://www.facebook.com/royalenfield)



## ANGLING TUITION

Brendan O'Reilly (ACI Coach & Angling Guide),  
Careily House, Donore, Co. Meath.

Tel: +353 86 6010272

Email: [newgrangepiker@gmail.com](mailto:newgrangepiker@gmail.com)

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Peter O'Reilly, (APGAI Ireland & FFF Master  
Flycasting Instructor) Ballybatter House, Boyne  
Hill, Navan, Co. Meath.

Tel: +353 46 9028210

Email: [peter@oreillyflyfishing.com](mailto:peter@oreillyflyfishing.com)

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## ANGLING GUIDE SERVICES

Peter Cunningham, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Tel: +353 86 4682516

Email: [petercunningham3@gmail.com](mailto:petercunningham3@gmail.com)

Web: [www.boynevalleyfishingguides.com](http://www.boynevalleyfishingguides.com)

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Marc O'Regan, Cranmor, Dunderry Road, Trim,  
Co. Meath. Tel: +353 46 9431635

Email: [cranmor@eircom.net](mailto:cranmor@eircom.net)

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## Additional Information on Guiding

[www.fishinginireland.info/guides](http://www.fishinginireland.info/guides)

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## TACKLE DEALERS IN THE BOYNE VALLEY

### Navan and Kells

Anglers World, Specialist Tackle, Balmoral  
Business Park, Navan,

Co. Meath. Tel: +353 46 9071866

Email: [info@anglersworld.ie](mailto:info@anglersworld.ie)

Web: [www.anglersworld.ie](http://www.anglersworld.ie)

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Clarkes Sports Den, Kennedy Place,  
Navan, Co. Meath.

Tel: +353 46 9021130 Web: [www.sportsden.ie](http://www.sportsden.ie)

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The Flying Sportsman, Carrick Street, Kells,  
Co. Meath. Tel: +353 46 9241743

## Drogheda

Drogheda Angling Centre, Boyne Shopping  
Centre, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Telephone: +353 (0) 41 9872943

Mobile: +353 (0) 86 4682516

Email: [petercunningham3@gmail.com](mailto:petercunningham3@gmail.com)

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Top Gun Sports, 50 Magdalene Street,  
Drogheda, Co. Louth.

Tel: +353 41 9842225

Email: [info@topgunsports.ie](mailto:info@topgunsports.ie)

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Duo Hook, The Granary, Constitution Hill,  
Drogheda, Co. Louth

Tel: +353 (0)86 8443870

Email: [info@duohook.ie](mailto:info@duohook.ie)

Web: <http://duohook.ie/>

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## Balbriggan

The Cycle and Army Store,  
Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

Tel: +353 1 8413597

Email: [cycle.angling@hotmail.com](mailto:cycle.angling@hotmail.com)

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## Virginia and Bailieboro

Lakeland Marine & Tackle, Cavan Road,  
Virginia, Co. Cavan.

Tel: +353 49 8543712

Web: [www.virginiafishingtackle.com](http://www.virginiafishingtackle.com)

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Raymond Arnold, Main Street, Virginia,  
Co. Cavan. Tel: +353 49 8547060

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Bailie Stores, Main Street, Bailieborough, Co.  
Cavan. Tel: +353 42 9694449

Mobile: +353 86 7374547

Email: [bailiestores@eircom.net](mailto:bailiestores@eircom.net)

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## Additional Information on Tackle Dealers:

[www.fishinginireland.info/tackleshops](http://www.fishinginireland.info/tackleshops)

## OTHER IFI BROCHURES IN THIS SERIES

Fishing in Ireland's North East,  
Fishing in Dublin and Wicklow,  
A Sea Angling Guide to Ireland's East Coast.

## TOURIST OFFICES & INFORMATION CENTRES IN THE BOYNE VALLEY

Drogheda Tourist Office, The Thosel, West  
Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth.  
Tel: +353 41 9872843  
Email: [tourism@drogheda.ie](mailto:tourism@drogheda.ie)  
Web: [www.drogheda.ie](http://www.drogheda.ie)

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Navan Tourist Information Centre, Railway  
Street, Navan, Co. Meath.  
Tel: +353 46 9092300  
Email: [info@solsticeartscentre.ie](mailto:info@solsticeartscentre.ie)

Trim Visitor Centre, Castle Street,  
Trim, Co. Meath.  
Tel: +353 46 9437227  
Email: [trimvisitorcentre@eircom.net](mailto:trimvisitorcentre@eircom.net)

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Kells Tourist Information Centre, Kells Civic  
Offices, Headfort Place, Kells, Co. Meath.  
Tel: +353 46 9248856  
Email: [kellstouristoffice@meathcoco.ie](mailto:kellstouristoffice@meathcoco.ie)

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Meath Tourism: [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

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Louth Tourism Information:  
Web: [www.loutholidays.com](http://www.loutholidays.com)

## ADDITIONAL TOURIST INFORMATION

Fáilte Ireland, Áras Fáilte, Amiens Street, Dublin 1  
Email: [info@failteireland.ie](mailto:info@failteireland.ie)  
Web: [www.discoverireland.ie](http://www.discoverireland.ie)  
Tourism Ireland: [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com)

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## ACCESS AND COUNTRY CODE

**Access to Fisheries:** Access does not imply a right of way and anglers should ensure that they have the necessary permission to enter and cross private lands. Where possible, anglers should walk along the river bank or lake shore.

**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.

**Errors and Inaccuracies:** Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this brochure is accurate, no responsibility will be accepted by Inland Fisheries Ireland for any errors or inaccuracies contained herein.





Travel times to The Boyne Valley	
Galway	150 min
Dublin	60 min
Belfast	120 min
Rosslare	150 min

### Getting To The Boyne Valley

**Roads:** The Boyne Valley can be accessed by way of the M1 motorway to Drogheda, the N2 to Slane, the M3 to Navan and Kells and the M4 to Kinnegad.

**Airports:** The airports in closest proximity to the Boyne Valley are Dublin and Belfast. A number of low cost airlines operate between Dublin and Belfast and the UK and Europe.

**Ferry Ports:** The Boyne Valley can be easily accessed from Dublin and Dun Laoghaire from the South and Belfast and Larne from the North.

**O/S Maps:** Anglers will find the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series Maps No's 35, 42, 43 and 49 very beneficial when visiting the Boyne Valley. These are available from most newsagents and bookstores.

### Additional Angling Information

This brochure offers general information on the fisheries of the Boyne Valley. An additional series of leaflets which gives further information on the fisheries referred to in this brochure is available from:

Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, D24 Y265.  
 Tel: +353 1 2787022 Fax: +353 1 2787025  
 Email: [blackrock@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:blackrock@fisheriesireland.ie)  
 Web: [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

Purchase your salmon licence at:  
[www.fishinginireland.info/salmon/salmon\\_licence.htm](http://www.fishinginireland.info/salmon/salmon_licence.htm)

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This brochure can be made available in alternate formats upon request.

# Fishing for Wild Brown Trout, Salmon and Sea Trout in The Boyne Valley

The Boyne and its tributaries are ranked among Ireland's premier fly-fishing rivers and hold extensive stocks of wild brown trout. They provide anglers with the opportunity to fish many miles of under-fished waters that are literally teeming with wild brown trout ranging in size from .25kgs to 2.5kgs. The Kells Blackwater is the largest and most popular tributary of the Boyne and provides access to some of the finest dry fly fishing in Ireland. The smaller tributaries which include the Rivers Deel, Stoneyford, Athboy-Trimblestown and Enfield Blackwater all provide anglers with challenging and exciting fly fishing opportunities for wild brown trout in unspoiled surroundings.

In addition to the fantastic wild brown trout fishing available, the Boyne can also provide anglers with some great salmon and sea trout fishing opportunities. The River Boyne gets a good run of salmon and sea trout during July, August and September. The most popular salmon beats are located at Navan, Slane, Donore and Oldbridge. Salmon to 20lbs are taken annually. Sea trout fishing is best between Slane and Oldbridge and on the Boyne estuary at Mornington. Additional information on accessing salmon and sea trout fishing on the Boyne is available on the Inland Fisheries Ireland website [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)



## How to Get Fishing in the Boyne Valley

Anglers please note that the use of worms or the use of any hooks other than single barbless hooks is prohibited in the main channel of the River Boyne downstream of Leinster Bridge and on the Kells Blackwater downstream of the Nine Eyed Bridge. Trout and salmon angling in the Boyne Valley is generally controlled by angling clubs or associations, with some being maintained by private fishery owners. Anglers wishing to fish for salmon, sea trout or wild brown trout on angling association waters must obtain a permit from that association and fishing on these club waters is subject to the current rules and regulations of the association. All angling associations in the Boyne Valley support a policy of catch and release for wild brown trout. Trout fishing in the Boyne Valley requires anglers to be in possession of a permit for the waters being fished. Salmon and sea trout fishing requires anglers to be in possession of both a state license and a permit.

Salmon and sea trout fishing on the River Boyne are also subject to the salmon and sea trout angling regulations for the time being in force. These regulations are reviewed annually. Before fishing, please ensure that you check for the up to date status of these regulations and other bye-laws at [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)



## Fishing for Wild Brown Trout in the Boyne Valley

The Boyne and its tributaries rank among the best wild brown trout angling rivers in Ireland. Rising near Newberry Hall, Co. Kildare, the Boyne meanders its way in a north easterly direction for 112km through counties, Offaly, Meath and Louth before entering the Irish Sea below Drogheda. The Boyne holds extensive stocks of wild brown trout and has good stocks of trout from .5kg to 2.25kg with occasional fish to 2.75kg. However, the average weight of fish is .35kg.

The Boyne has all the fly hatches associated with a limestone river with the most prolific being sedges and olives. Early in the year, the large dark olive (*Baetis rhodani*) is important and hatches of the mayfly (*Ephemera danica*) and the blue winged olive (*Ephemera ignita*) are prolific during the summer months. The black gnat (*Bibio johannis*) is also very important and chironomids such as the apple green midge can be an important part of the trout's diet in late summer.

There are a number of popular trout fishing locations in the Navan and Trim areas and these are located at Kilmarn, Stackallen, Blackcastle, Dunmoe, Trim and Longwood. There is also good trout fishing downstream of Slane at the 'Scabby Arch', Crewbawn, Johnsons, Rosnaree and Staleen. Fishing can be good all throughout the season depending on weather and water conditions but the best of the fishing is from mid May to mid September. Some river sections can weed up in summer but there is still a lot of accessible water. Anglers wishing to fish for wild brown trout on the River Boyne must have the necessary permission or a permit from the local Angling Association.

Trout fishing permits can be purchased from a number of outlets in Drogheda, Navan, Kells, Trim, Ballivor, Longwood and Enfield. A detailed list of contacts that provide permits for angling association waters on the River Boyne is available at [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

**The Kells Blackwater** is the largest tributary of the River Boyne. It is fed by Lough Ramor in County Cavan and flows in a south easterly direction passing north of Kells, Co. Meath to its confluence with the Boyne at Navan. This river has all the usual fly hatches associated with a limestone river with sedges and olives being important. The large dark olive (*Baetis rhodani*) leads to the first of the early season rises on the Kells Blackwater. Presently, the best of the brown trout angling on this river is on the waters controlled by Kells Angling Club. This includes the stretches from the Nine-Eyed Bridge at its source to Mables' Bridge, which is located just north of Kells. This river holds a good stock of small to medium sized wild brown trout and this is complemented by a stock of trout up to 1kg and over. This river fishes well from March to September. There is good trout fishing on all stretches from Maudlin Bridge to the Nine Eyed Bridge. Day permits are available from the Flying Sportsman, Carrick Street, Kells, Co. Meath. Tel: +353 46 9241743

**The Athboy-Trimblestown River** flows in a south easterly direction across Co. Meath for 35km passing through Athboy before entering the River Boyne approximately 3.2km upstream of Trim. The high banks on this river can be overcome by wading and chest waders are required to fish it effectively. The fishing on this river downstream from Athboy is controlled by Trim-Athboy and District Angling Association. This river has a good stock of wild brown trout up to .35kgs in weight with reasonable stocks of larger trout to over .5kg. The fishing is good from Athboy to its confluence with the Boyne. Day permits which cover fishing on extensive stretches on the Boyne and Athboy-Trimblestown are available the Trim-Athboy and District Angling Association. Tel: +353 86 8777039

**The Stoneyford River** rises south of Oldcastle in Co. Meath and flows in a south easterly direction through counties Meath and Westmeath for 24km before entering the River Boyne below Scarriff Bridge. This river has excellent hatches of fly-life and is spring fed which helps maintain water levels in summer.

The Stoneyford has high banks in places but there is good access to the river in most areas. This river holds very good stocks of small to medium sized wild brown trout that regularly oblige the waiting angler. This river is best fished by wading in-stream and chest waders are essential. However, some areas are too deep even for chest waders. There is excellent fishing from South Hill Bridge to the confluence with the River Boyne, with the exception of the stretch at Woodtown West, which is located approximately mid-way between Lislogher Bridge and Cloghbrack Bridge. Parking and access are normally located close to the bridges.

The Stoneyford can be described as an all day fishery with trout feeding avidly throughout the day. There are however some periods of inactivity, but these are usually short lived. The best of the fishing is from May to September. Fishing on this river is controlled by the Stoneyford Angling Association and day permits covering the Stoneyford and a small stretch on the Boyne are available from Davis' Shop in Ballivor. Tel: +353 46 9546074

**The River Deel** derives its source from Lough Lene and flows in a south easterly direction through Raharney Co. Westmeath before joining with the River Boyne 1.5km upstream of Inchamore Bridge. The River Deel is a limestone river and has excellent fly hatches including various upwing species and sedges. Terrestrials can also be important on this river.

Many stretches of this river hold good stocks of wild brown trout exceeding 1kg in weight. Fishing is controlled by the Deel and Boyne Angling Association and the best fishing is to be had early in the season before the luxuriant growth of weed gets firmly established. This river is deep and can be fished by wading or from the bank. Wading with care is recommended and the use of chest waders is essential. There is good fishing at Cummer Bridge upstream of Raharney and at Clondalee and Killyon Bridges below Raharney. There is also a good stretch immediately below Raharney village close to the old cemetery. Parking is generally off road and the best access is from the bridges. There are prolific hatches of sedge on this river and fishing the evening rise can produce excellent results. Daytime fishing can also produce some nice fish if the angler uses the correct techniques. Permits and details on accessing fishing on the Deel are available in Raharney. Tel: +353 44 9374595

**The Enfield Blackwater** rises north of Prosperous village in Co. Kildare and flows past Johnstown Bridge and Longwood, before entering the River Boyne just below Inchamore Bridge. As with many of the tributaries of the Boyne this river has high banks in places but it has many fishable areas. This river has a good stock of wild brown trout ranging from .25kg to .7kg in weight. Longwood Angling Association controls fishing from Johnstown Bridge downstream and there is good fishing to its confluence with the Boyne. Day permits which cover fishing on extensive stretches on the Boyne and the Enfield Blackwater are available from the post office in Longwood. Tel: +353 46 9555013

**The Upper Boyne Lakes** are located near Collinstown and Fore, Co. Westmeath and although small in size they can provide great sport for trout anglers wishing to experience some Lough style fishing. Lough Lene and the White Lake contain stocks of wild brown trout but are also stocked on a regular basis with quality rainbow trout.

**Lough Lene** is situated north of Collinstown, Co. Westmeath and covers an area of 430 hectares with depths to 20m. The Lough Lene Angling Association controls fishing on this lake, which is noted for the purity and clarity of its water. This lake holds a good head of wild brown trout and this is complemented by regular stocking with rainbow trout. Sedge fishing can produce results all year round and the Green Peter and Murrrough are important in July and August. Boats for hire and day permits are available locally. Contact: Tommy Fagan, Inisfree, Collinstown, Co. Westmeath Tel: +353 44 9661359

**The White Lake** is located 6.5km east of the town of Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath and covers an area of 26 hectares with depths to 30 meters. This fishery contains good stocks of brown and rainbow trout and fishing is controlled by the White Lake Angling Club. This lake holds some big trout and fishes well all year round. Fish are sometimes taken on small brown sedges and the Green Peter and Murrrough are successful in July and August. Boats for hire and permits are available locally. Contact: Ita Halpin, The Seven Wonders, Fore, Co. Westmeath. Tel: +353 44 9661114



## Sea Angling

The 25km stretch of coastline from Clogherhead to Skerries can provide good sport for sea anglers. This stretch of coastline is intermittently broken by the outflows of the Ballywater, Boyne, Nanny and Delvin rivers. The headlands at Clogherhead and Ben Head and the reefs and islands at Balbriggan and Skerries provide excellent opportunities for sea anglers. Lure and fly fishing techniques are well suited to the shallow and gently sloping beaches in this area.

Clogherhead is one of the most popular sea angling venues with hundreds of anglers being attracted by the visiting shoals of mackerel during the months of July, August and September. There are many other species to be caught including mullet, coalfish, codling, conger, dabs, bass, plaice and sea trout.

Moving south towards the Ballywater River the angler will find gently sloping beaches for approximately 8km to the Boyne estuary. Fishing can be good following strong easterly winds with occasional bass being taken on lure and fly at the mouth of the Ballywater River. Mullet and dogfish are the main species in this area.

The Boyne estuary and river mouth are extremely popular venues and can produce some fine bass fishing during the summer months, to crab, sandeel, ragworm and lugworm. Fly fishing and spinning also produce excellent results on the estuary. These areas are also popular for mackerel fishing and occasionally shoals enter the estuary itself and this produces terrific sport when the occasion arises. Other species to be caught include flounder, mullet, plaice and sea trout. The estuary is a great source of bait with ragworm, lugworm, shellfish and crab all readily available. The mullet fishing can be excellent during the summer months on the mud flats, which form part of the river estuary. Boats can be launched from the Mornington side at low water.

South of the River Boyne are the extensive beaches at Mornington, Bettystown, Laytown and Gormanston all of which fish best to bait after a strong easterly blow. The south beach at Laytown at the mouth of the River Nanny provides some nice fishing for bass and flatfish. This area also plays host to large shoals of mullet during the summer. The reefs at Balbriggan and the islands around Skerries can produce some good bass fishing in August and September.

At time of print (2016), anglers fishing for bass in Ireland are bound by articles 10.5 and 10.6 of the recently introduced EU Regulation 2016/72. There is no longer a closed season. Further legislation has been drafted to implement the increased size limit from 42cm as per the EU Regulation to 50cm in line with the IFI Bass Policy.

The current legislation requires:

- Catch and release for bass between Jan 1st and June 30th
- Bag limit of 1 fish per day from July 1st to December 31st
- Size limit of 42cm

Bass legislation is subject to change so always check for the most up to date regulations prior to fishing:

[www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm](http://www.fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm)



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