



Inland Fisheries Ireland Annual Report 2012



lascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Contents

Mission Statement	3
Board Members/ Management team	4
Chairman's Statement	5
Statement of Internal Financial Control	7
Comment of Chief Executive Officer	9

Divisional Reports

Operations	12
Research & Development	25
Business Development	37
Human Resources	49
Finance & ICT	52
Glossary of Terms	57

Appendices

1. River Basin District Map	60
2. Schedule of Salmon Counters operated by IFI in 2012	61
3. River Basin District Patrol Man Hours	62
4. Patrol Methods: 6 Month Report Q3 & Q4 of 2012	62
5. Environmental Assessments 2012	63
6. Environmental Inspections 2012	63
7. Inspections of Permit and Licence Holders: 6 month report Q3 & Q4 of 2012	64
8. Prosecutions/On the Spot Fines 2012	64
9. Angling Development Works 2012	65
10. Rehabilitation of Rivers/Streams: 6 month report Q3 & Q4 of 2012	65
11. Environmental Protection Warning Letters Issued	66
12. Pollution control and water quality report	66
13. Fisheries Development Surveys 2012	67
14. Reports to IFI 24 Hour Fisheries Protection Hotline	67
15: Current Funded Projects	68
16. 2012 Bye-laws and Statutory Instruments	69
17. Salmon and Sea Trout Angling Licence Sales and Logbook Returns	70
18. Salmon and Sea Trout Angling Licence Sales in each RBD	70
19. Fishing Licences and RBD managed Fisheries report 2012	71
20. Salmon Conservation Fund Projects	72

21. Commercial Salmon and Sea Trout Catches by River from Log Book Returns	73
22. Fish Stocking report 2012	74
23. Tag and Recapture of Marine Species to December	75
24. IFI Staffing level 2012	76
25. Training & Development Programmes 2012	76
26. Prompt Payments 2012	77
27. Parliamentary Questions, Freedom of Information requests	77
28. Schedule of Fees and Expenses paid to the Board of IFI in 2012	77
29. Seizures Monthly Summary Table 2012	78-79

Mission Statement

“To ensure that the valuable natural resources of inland fisheries and sea angling are conserved, managed, developed and promoted in their own right to generate positive return for the community and the environment.”

Principal Functions

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the statutory agency responsible for inland fisheries in Ireland. It operates under the aegis of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR).

The principal function of Inland Fisheries Ireland is set out under Section 7 (2) of the Inland Fisheries Act of 2010. This is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. The general functions of IFI are to:

- (a) promote, support, facilitate and advise the Minister on the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of inland fisheries, including sea angling,
- (b) develop and advise the Minister on policy and national strategies relating to inland fisheries including sea angling, and
- (c) to ensure implementation and delivery of policy and strategies developed under (b) as agreed with the Minister.

Inland Fisheries Ireland, Board Members

Mr Brendan O'Mahony	(Chairman) appointed with effect from the 1 st of July 2010
Mr John Carroll	appointed with effect from the 3 rd of November 2010
Mr Andrew Duncan	appointed with effect from the 1 st of July 2010
Mr Lal Faherty	appointed with effect from the 1 st of July 2010
Mr John Geary	appointed with effect from the 3 rd of November 2010
Dr Frances Lucy	appointed with effect from the 1 st of July 2010
Mr Marcus Mac Mahon	appointed with effect from the 17 th of November 2010
Mr Michael McGreal	appointed with effect from the 3 rd of November 2010
Ms Muireann O'Neill	appointed with effect from the 7 th of December 2010
Dr Ciaran Byrne	ex-officio member by statute from the 1 st of July 2010.

Attendance at Board meetings from the 1st of January 2012 to the 31st of December 2012

During the period from the 1st of January to the 31st of December 2012 the Board held eleven Board meetings. All Board members attended nine of the meetings with two members unable to attend two meetings and two other members unable to attend one meeting each.

Management Team

Dr Ciaran Byrne	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Pat Doherty	Head of Finance and ICT
Mr Kieran Murphy	Head of Human Resources
Dr Greg Forde	Head of Operations
Dr Cathal Gallagher	Head of Research & Development
Ms Suzanne Campion	Head of Business Development.

Chairman's Statement

I am pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report for Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). IFI was formally established on the 1st of July 2010 following the amalgamation of the Central and seven Regional Fisheries Boards. The principle functions of IFI are set out in Section 7 of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 and they are the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. In addition, a general function of IFI is to promote, support, facilitate and advise the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources on the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of inland fisheries, including sea angling as set out in section 7 (a) of the Act. This report provides a high level account of the work undertaken and the services provided by IFI during the period from the 1st of January 2012 to the 31st of December 2012.



The financial accounts for Inland Fisheries Ireland for the year to the 31st of December 2012 are provided in the Finance & ICT report. These accounts are currently with the auditors so are presented in draft, un-audited format in this report.

In accordance with section 13.1 of the 2009 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies;

- (i) The only commercially significant development to take place in 2012 was the acquisition of a new headquarters location. An offer of purchase was placed on a new building but the transaction had not closed at the year end. The Board did not establish any subsidiaries, participate in joint ventures or acquire shares;
- (ii) The Board complied with all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, procurement and disposal of assets;
- (iii) The Board has complied with its obligations under tax law;
- (iv) A statement on the Board's system of internal financial control is also available in this annual report;
- (v) The Codes of Business Conduct for Directors and for Employees have been put in place and adhered to. These Codes are available on the IFI website;
- (vi) The Board has complied with Government policy on the pay of the Chief Executive Officer and all employees;
- (vii) The Board was in compliance with Government guidelines on the payment of Director's fees from the 1st of July 2012. Prior to that the Board was not in compliance. This is an outstanding issue still to be resolved;
- (viii) As of now, there have been no significant post balance sheet events;
- (ix) The Board has complied with the Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals;
- (x) The Board has complied with all Government Travel Policy requirements;
- (xi) All Board members have made a Disclosure of Interests in accordance with the 2009 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
- (xii) The 2009 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies has been adopted by the Board and the Board is compliant with the provisions of the Code.

In accordance with Section 13.2 of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies I can confirm that no commercially sensitive developments took place in the preceding six months, however in the financial year 2012, IFI advanced its plans to relocate its headquarters to a new location principally to avoid significant long term rent expenditure. Sanction and capital funding was provided by DCENR to facilitate the purchase and fit out of a new building, and following an exhaustive search a new building was identified and as at year end negotiations on its purchase had not been concluded.

Like 2011, and the preceding number of years, 2012 was a challenging year for the fisheries service, as it, like many other State Agencies, was faced with further reductions in budget allocations, and more importantly the continuation of the Public Service Recruitment Embargo. Notwithstanding these challenges, all of the staff succeeded in delivering a comprehensive, business focused programme of operations in the core areas of fisheries conservation, protection, management, marketing and development.

One of the principal benefits of the establishment of IFI in 2010 was the opportunity to harmonise the operations and administration of the fisheries service, and in this regard the programme of standardisation in all areas of the business continued in 2012. This has been delivered through the medium of auditing a number of functions and assets and followed by implementing the recommendations of the audits. The management and staff of IFI have also continued to drive a value for money culture not only when procuring goods and services but also in terms of how assets are being utilised and shared throughout the organisation. The significant reductions in exchequer funding have also necessitated an even closer focus on expenditure, and the current programme of driving down costs and introducing efficiencies will be continued in 2013.

IFI is a 'people' organisation, and almost without exception the work we engage in would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of the staff. They must be recognised for embracing the multitude of challenges faced in 2012 and working closely with the senior management team to develop new ways of doing business. They must also be commended for introducing and supporting efficiencies and new technologies right across the organisation.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their support during 2012. They have been instrumental in driving the business forward and ensuring that the management and staff achieved the challenging targets identified in the 2012 Business Plan. The Board played a key role in setting the strategic priorities for the organisation in 2012 and making sure that plans were put in place to achieve these strategic priorities. I have no doubt that over the lifetime of the Board they will ably assist in transforming the inland fisheries sector.

Finally I would also like to thank the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte TD and the Minister of State in this Department, Fergus O' Dowd TD, and the officials from their Department for their continued strong support.



Brendan O'Mahony

Chairman

April 2012

Chairman's Statement on Internal Financial Control

In making this statement I have relied on representations made by management of Inland Fisheries Ireland. During the period from the 1st of January 2012 to the 31st of December 2012 the Board of IFI was responsible for ensuring that an appropriate system of internal financial control was in operation within the Agency.

The systems which the Board had in place could only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets were safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded and that material errors or irregularities were either prevented or were detected in a timely manner.

The system of internal financial control was based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it included:

- Strategic plans and annual budgets which were approved by the Board.
- High level budget reports which reviewed performance against budget and which were reviewed at Board meetings and Audit Committee meetings.
- Senior management meetings consisted of the Chief Executive and members of the senior management team including the Head of Finance which met monthly to examine performance against budget and to discuss financial issues affecting the organisation.
- An internal audit function which monitored compliance with policies and procedures and the effectiveness of internal controls operated within the organisation. The internal auditor reported to the Chairman of the Audit Committee.
- An Audit Committee which was made up of a minimum of three Board members and which met four times in the year to 31st of December 2012. The Committee's duties include:
 - a) review of annual financial statements before submission to the Board.
 - b) discussions as appropriate with the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office.
 - c) discussion of any problems and reservations arising from internal and external audit and any matters which auditors may wish to discuss with the committee (in the absence of management where necessary).
 - d) to review the external auditor's management letter and management's response.
 - e) to review the Boards internal control systems with particular reference to EU funds.
 - f) to consider major findings of internal investigations and management's response.
 - g) to consider other relevant topics, as defined by the Board.

The Chairperson of the Audit Committee reports to the Board.

The Board takes major strategic decisions and meets at regular intervals to monitor performance and plans. The executive management only act within the remit delegated to them by the Board to give effect to Board policy and decisions. The Board's professional advisors are available for consultation by the Board as required. The Board approved the risk policy subject to risk scoring being reviewed.

In respect of the period ended 31st of December 2012, a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control was formally conducted by the internal auditors on behalf of the Board.



Brendan O'Mahony
Chairman.

Comment of the Chief Executive Officer, Dr Ciaran Byrne

This report sets out at a high level the work Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) has been engaged in during 2012. The core focus of the organisation in 2012 was on delivering a comprehensive business plan covering the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of our inland fisheries and sea angling resource, and importantly, consolidating and building on IFI's establishment as a single fisheries agency with common goals and organisational culture.

IFI adopted and worked within the context of the 2009 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. In 2012 IFI received an exchequer grant of €25.448 million, of which €17.665 million was allocated towards pay costs of €19.6 million. IFI also generated €5.3 million from other sources during 2012. This was reinvested in the management, conservation and protection of the inland fisheries resource.



Finance & ICT

During 2012 the Finance Division focused on further upgrading the financial and information technology (IT) architecture, and standardising processes across the business. In terms of financial reporting, rolling out enhanced modules on IFI's accounting software package and the redevelopment of the monthly management accounts facilitated more enhanced financial decision making throughout the organisation. In addition, the Finance Division supported a number of internal and external audits during the year, each of which took a considerable amount of staff resources. During 2012 further progress was made on consolidating IFI's IT structures into a single location in the Swords headquarters.

2012 was also defined by the considerable amount of non-standard reporting on financial metrics required by our parent Department (DCENR), the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) and the Department of Finance (DoF). In addition the Finance Division provided significant support in the form of pension calculations and advice to staff members thinking of retiring under the Incentivised Early Retirement Scheme which concluded in February.

Operations

This Division is focused on the core role of delivering the fisheries services in local communities, and is supported in its role by each of the other Divisions. The Operations Division is managed on a River Basin District (RBD) basis. During the period of this report the core focus of the Operations Division was in delivering on the agreed Business Plan for 2012 and developing a consistent approach to the management of the inland fisheries resource, by identifying and implementing best practices in all RBDs.

In terms of the operations of IFI, 2012 was unique as being one of the wettest years on record. The weather had an effect on how, where and when fisheries work was undertaken and indeed what work was undertaken. As a result of the weather a number of development and enhancement programmes were delayed or disrupted, however in some areas there was a reduced focus on protection as rivers were in flood and unfishable, either legally or illegally, for significant portions of the year. In 2012 many of the functions of the Logistics Division were subsumed into the Operations Division and the programme of fleet reduction and consolidation of facilities and resources continued.

In addition there was consolidation of a number of facilities management contracts for all IFI main offices during the year.

Research & Development

Scientists in the Research & Development Division delivered a focused research and development programme, as set out in the 2012 Business Plan. This programme covered a range of projects from delivering on Ireland's statutory obligations under the Water Framework and Habitats Directives to providing scientific advice for the Minister in respect of salmon and other fish species. It was also a very successful period for scientific collaborations with sister agencies, including the Office of Public Works, Waterways Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Marine Institute. In addition, scientists in the Division provided a comprehensive advisory and support service to the Minister and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. Over the last number of years the Research & Development Division has been significantly streamlined, the result of which is that the Division has become an almost exclusively applied scientific service, with the fundamental research requirements being delivered through collaborations with a number of Universities and Institutes of Technology.

Human Resources

The core focus of the Human Resources Division in 2012 was to ensure that IFI had enough staff to deliver on its core Business Plan while also adhering to the strict Employment Control Framework (ECF) requirements as laid down by the DPER. This entailed, *inter alia*, managing the public sector incentivised early retirement scheme (ICER) which took effect in February.

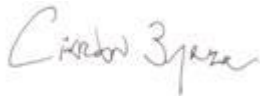
The main challenge faced by the Human Resources Division over the period of this report was working to develop a new organisational culture for IFI, and providing the HR/IR supports and services to the public, and other Divisions within IFI while managing staff numbers down to the levels permitted by DPER under the ECF. Staff from the Division also worked very closely with colleagues from DCENR in the provision of a range of HR information which was used to assist in public sector management particularly in the context of the reduction in size of the overall public sector.

Business Development

2012 was a busy year for the Business Development Division with the continued success of a number of key programmes, including the 'Something Fishy' programme run in conjunction with National Education Centres, and Fisheries Awareness Week; an initiative which is designed to encourage non anglers to take up angling.

In addition to the education and promotion programmes, staff from the Business Development Division have supported a significant number of angling journalists, and attended a number of international angling and lifestyle shows, to promote angling in Ireland. One of the core roles of the Business Development Division upon its establishment was to enhance and improve the interaction between IFI and angling clubs and federations, to facilitate a greater role for them in the management of fisheries. In this regard 2012 was a very successful year, with a number of the programmes run by angling federations being supported by IFI. Staff from the Division also developed a range of online 'how-to' guides to assist clubs in undertaking development work of local fisheries. There was further streamlining and consolidation of the marketing and promotion roles of IFI during 2012.

Finally, I would like to thank my Chairman, Brendan O'Mahony, my Board members, the management and staff of IFI, without whom the work reported on in this annual report would not have been possible. I would also like to thank the staff of our parent Department (DCENR) who have worked tirelessly to ensure 2012 was a successful year for the inland fisheries sector. I would also like to compliment all of the staff of IFI who continue to bring excellence and dedication to the work of the organisation. Despite having completed another difficult year in 2012. I am confident and optimistic that with the drive, commitment and expertise demonstrated in the last year we are in an excellent position to overcome any obstacles in our way.



Dr Ciaran Byrne

CEO

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Operations

Operations – An Introduction

The Operations Division manages the day to day field activities of IFI throughout the country in the areas of fisheries protection, development and enforcement and covers the work of 258 staff. The Division is headed up by the Head of Operations, Dr Greg Forde, based in Galway and assisted by six River Basin District Directors.

In keeping with IFI's primary goals, the Operations Division continues to deliver a professional service across core functions with emphasis on the protection of the resource and the development and implementation of procedures and policies as a means of ensuring a consistent and uniform approach to fisheries management throughout the country.

For the past 12 months, a number of changes have been encouraged and adopted in the area of work practices within IFI, the most significant of which has been the roll out of the official IFI work wear in February 2012 to all field staff, which has had a very positive impact on transforming the public perception of the Fisheries Service.

The deployment of new surveillance equipment in 2012 has also proven to be highly effective in combating illegal fishing activity. The use of night sights, spotting scopes and mobile close circuit television cameras (CCTV) has proven to be highly advantageous in conducting covert surveillance operations.

In addition to the improvements in surveillance capabilities, telecommunications were augmented by the roll out of a pilot Tetra radio communication system in the South Western River Basin District.

There were two very important legal decisions during the year. The first was the High Court judgement issued in relation to the modular trial regarding IFI's proposed management of the Gweebarra River in Donegal. The second related to a challenge against IFI's title on the Clongee stretch of the Moy River in Ballina where a riparian owner challenged IFI's title, both cases were won comprehensively by IFI.

Protection of our Fisheries Resource

General

The protection of Ireland's freshwater and coastal fisheries resource remains the primary objective of the fisheries service. In 2012 IFI initiated 98 prosecutions in respect of breaches of the Fisheries Acts. These primarily related to illegal fishing, and water pollution.

Salmon poaching through the country continues despite the efforts of IFI staff with early running spring salmon being targeted in particular. In addition to working to physically protect the resource, IFI have also endeavoured to use legislative means through the introduction of a range of Bye-laws during the course of the year assist in protecting the resource.

IFI also put significant effort into patrolling off the South coast to reduce the incidence of illegal Bass fishing. This followed discussions with the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) and the issuing of 'Bass' warrants under the Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act of 2006 to IFI field staff. Some key prosecutions in this area are pending. As a consequence of the increased protection activity the incidents of Bass poaching were reduced on previous years.

As a result of the fisheries protection work undertaken by staff during 2012, 7 boats and over 24,500 metres of net were seized in addition to a range of other netting and angling

paraphernalia. Details of all items seized, including the date, district, location of seizure and details of the items seized are provided in the 2012 Summary Seizures Table at Appendix 29 and full details are available at www.fisheriesireland.ie

IFI have concentrated protection activity in known 'hot spots' to try and reduce habitual poaching. While this was successful and resulted in several key prosecutions the extremely wet summer also assisted the fish in avoiding the poachers with water levels at an all-time high for prolonged periods.

Significant protection resources were also allocated to the monitoring and protection of Eel Fisheries and the provision of assistance to the Electricity Supply Board's (ESB) silver eels Trap and Transport programme. Over the past year 30.5 tonnes of eel were released from the River Erne and 24 tonnes of eel were released from the River Shannon, these eels were trapped above the hydroelectric dams and transported past them and released back into the wild for onward migration to the Saragossa Sea.



Figure 1: New silver eel release tank at the tail race on the Erne, Ballyshannon

IFI patrolled the wild Oyster fisheries throughout the country and implemented the non-intensification of the fishery requirement associated with the issue of the Oyster licenses in 2012, which is related to the absence of Appropriate Assessments (AA) of this fishery conducted under the Habitats Directive. It is hoped that the Appropriate Assessment for Lough Swilly, one of the main wild oyster fisheries, will be completed in 2013.

One of the more worrying developments during the course of the year was the increase in the incidence and severity of aggression towards IFI staff in the field. This is being monitored and a number of cases of assault and obstruction have been brought before the courts.

Another area of concentrated activity was in the enforcement of salmon angling regulations in rivers with brown tag allocations. These are rivers which are open for catch and kill salmon fishing but which have a smaller surplus and a realistic possibility of this surplus being exceeded by anglers. The number of brown tags issued reflects the surplus on the river. These rivers require additional protection.

Key Legal Milestones

There were a number of legal landmark judgements in 2012. Most notable was the judgement issued in relation to the modular trial regarding IFI's proposed management of the Gweebarra River in Donegal. The result in this case had national relevance as it confirmed IFI's entitlement to manage State Fisheries and IFI's entitlement to manage (with agreement) fisheries on behalf of private owners. The judgement by Ms Justice

Laffoy paves the way for the local management plan to be progressed and finally brings resolution to this issue which has been on-going for 10 years.

In her judgement, Ms Justice Laffoy stated that 'the defendants have not established any right, public, or otherwise, to fish in the freshwater part of the Gweebarra River, including the part thereof the subject of this module'.

In short IFI succeeded on all issues contested in this module and the Judge rejected all aspects of the defendants claim to have acquired rights to fish without the permission of the owners. The judgement extended to the entire freshwater part of the Gweebarra and not just the section the subject of the modular trial.

This matter has since been appealed by the defendants to the Supreme Court, which could take up to four years to be heard, but in the interim period the High Court judgement stands.

The second judgement concerned IFI's title to the Cloongee Fishery on the River Moy in Ballina. The case, which was initiated in 2007, was finally heard in early May in Castlebar Circuit Court. The case related to a claim to fishing rights by a riparian landowner initially along the section of the IFI owned Cloongee fishery (River Moy) bordering his land but later for a much more extensive section of the fishery. At the conclusion of the case the Judge signed an Order confirming IFI's title to the entire fishery. The order also stated that the riparian owners had no claim to any part of the River Moy and, in particular, to the section bordering their lands. The Order also included some undertakings by the riparian owners not to interfere with IFI in the operation of the fishery.

Fines/Prosecutions/Forfeitures

IFI initiated 98 prosecutions (See Appendix 8) for breaches of the Fisheries and Water Pollution Acts, 91 of which were heard in court during 2012 and the remainder due to come before the courts in 2013. With regard to "On the Spot Fines", 388 fines were issued by IFI with a combined monetary value of €35,875. The money received from fines in lieu of prosecution, or on the spot fines, is reinvested by IFI into the protection and development of the angling resource.

Prosecutions in respect of salmonid (salmon, sea trout and brown trout) offences make up the vast majority of offences during the year with a smaller number in respect of coarse fish and bass fishing offences.

Every year a significant amount of illegal netting is seized in sea and freshwater but there is also a significant amount of winter poaching taking place with 'unseasonable' fish being targeted on the upland spawning beds using modified forks and a range of other equipment.

In a number of the more severe cases where assaulting fisheries officers was proven, custodial sentences were imposed.

Bye-laws/Regulations/Review of legislation

In conjunction with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), staff of the Operations Division undertook a complete review of all fishery Bye-laws with the view to refining the list of current regulations and repealing out-dated Bye-laws. It is hoped that this exercise will be completed in 2014. In addition, a significant amount of time was dedicated to formulating the framework for the modernisation of the fisheries legislation which will be enacted over the coming year.

In line with the requirement of the salmon regulations and the changing status of a number of salmon rivers, a range of Bye-laws were passed to control angling methods and the number of fish that can be killed (fishery bag-limits). A list of relevant Bye-laws enacted for 2012 are provided at Appendix 16.

New Technology

Night vision technology and high power spotting scopes and surveillance cameras were introduced under a pilot scheme to test their effectiveness in combating poaching and illegal fishing activity. The use of these innovative technologies has assisted in mitigating some of the impacts of reductions of field staff numbers as a result of the recruitment embargo.

Covert cameras were placed at key locations throughout the country and proved particularly effective in detecting, recording and notifying Fishery Officers as to potential illegal activity.

Protection staff in certain 'hotspot' areas were issued with CCTV body cameras which, it is hoped, will help to deter the violent and aggressive behaviour towards them when enforcing fisheries legislation, an increasing feature of operations in recent years. The cameras are mounted on the breast pocket and provide very good quality video footage which can be easily downloaded to computer and viewed as well as being used in evidence if required.

Telecommunications were enhanced by the introduction of a pilot Tetra radio communication system in the South Western River Basin District (SWRBD). The Tetra system proved rugged and reliable both at sea and on land. The River Basin Districts (RBD's) also employed mobile CCTV cameras which greatly assisted with routine patrols and stakeouts. There is little doubt that both of these tools demonstrated increases in operational efficiency and cost savings throughout the service.



Figure 2: A Fisheries Officer in new work wear and wearing a CCTV body camera

The use of Kayaks for river and lake patrols has proven to be highly successful. It is now possible to patrol both banks of entire river systems in a number of hours which previously would have taken several days to patrol due to their remote location or poor access points. A Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) was successfully deployed for patrolling the Wexford beaches against illegal bass fishing. The UTV significantly increases distance covered during patrols and acts as a major deterrent to illegal activity, this has been particularly good at increasing the length of beach patrolled.



Figure 3. Kayak patrol on the Cong River

The Environment and Fish

Fish Kills

10 fish kills were reported in 2012 of which details are provided in Appendix 12. IFI responded rapidly to a major fish kill on the River Vartry, Co. Wicklow in June, this was one of the largest fish kills in the country in recent years. This fish kill took place while the river was in flood conditions, which is highly unusual. Given the flood conditions and the fact that any potential contaminant could have been washed down the river very quickly it proved difficult to definitively trace the source of the fish kill, despite an exhaustive investigation.

IFI also investigated a report of dead fish in the White River in Dunleer, Co. Louth on the 3rd of August. Approximately 1,000 dead fish were noted over a 4km stretch from Battsland, Dunleer downstream to the confluence with the River Dee. Mortalities included adult and juvenile Salmon and Trout, Eels, Minnow and Stoneloach. Despite a detailed search in the area, no polluting discharges to the river were found.

The following is a brief overview of some of the key environmental issues which affected fish habitats in 2012 and details the part played by IFI in the resolution of same;

- IFI had a successful prosecution in a case following a fish kill affecting 5.1km of the River Glory, Co. Kilkenny – this took place as a result of the discharge of silage effluent.
- Following an oil pollution event on the River Deel in January and the River Groody on St. Stephen's day, IFI worked with the local authorities and provided assistance to aid the clean-up and monitoring of the sites.
- IFI successfully prosecuted Iarnrod Eireann during 2012 and was awarded fines and costs totalling €14,000 in relation to a pollution event at their yard near the River Boyne. This case was the result of a number of year's work.
- Two fish kills were recorded in the Lismore District during 2012, on the Kiltha River at Mogeely and the Gradogue River in Mitchelstown. The Kiltha River incident occurred as a result of a pesticide spillage and is the subject of on-going IFI action. The Gradogue River incident which killed 700 fish resulted from a discharge from an Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licensed premises and

is currently subject to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enforcement action.

- A fish kill was investigated on the River Ara, Co. Tipperary. A number of trout and other species were killed along a 300m stretch of channel in Tipperary Town. The source of the pollutant was not detected.

Water Quality and Pollution

Many of the water quality or pollution issues traditionally associated with low water conditions during the summer months and within the farming calendar were not realised during 2012 due to exceptionally high rainfall and flood conditions that persisted throughout the country for much of the year.

Four environmental prosecutions reached a successful conclusion in 2012. These related to incidents on the Woodford River near Killarney, the Sal River near Bandon, the Mullaghnagown River near Leap, Co. Cork and the Argideen River near Clonakilty. Two of the cases resulted from discharges from quarrying operations; one was as a result of a discharge of silage effluent while one related to in-stream development works. The primary legislation employed in these prosecutions was Sections 171 and 173 of the 1959 (Consolidated) Fisheries Act.

An investigation took place into the escape of approximately 5,000 roach into a tributary of the River Suir. Local anglers in Templemore, Co. Tipperary reported large numbers of small fish in the tributary and on further examination these fish were found to be roach. A major recovery operation was launched and more than 5,000 roach were removed and placed into a nearby lake that was known to previously contain roach.

Infrastructural Projects

During 2012 IFI continued the on-going assessment of a large number of infrastructural projects. Examples included the construction of a new town at Monard, Co. Cork, the construction of a Science and Technology Park at Curraheen, Co. Cork and the construction of the Dargle Flood Relief Scheme.

A significant amount of time was dedicated to the planning and operational issues concerning the installation of a new gas pipeline running from Callan, Co. Kilkenny to the Great Island power station in County Wexford.

IFI's role in relation to these and similar projects included fish removal operations to facilitate works, advice on in-stream mitigation works, habitat restoration works and improved fish passage where opportunities arose, coupled with environmental monitoring during construction particularly in relation to silt run-off.

A significant number of submissions were made on Hydro-Electric Powerplant (HEP) proposals including an appeal to An Bord Pleanála regarding a proposed HEP facility on the River Slaney at Aghade.

IFI staff were involved in the planning and installation phases of a number of wind farm projects including a large project being developed in the upper River Barrow catchment by Bord Na Mona Energy Ltd.

General Environmental Issues - Challenges faced in 2012

One of the major environmental issues faced during 2012 was the timing of bridge repairs over sensitive channels by local authorities. Urgent repairs were completed to many road bridges in the country. In some cases Local Authorities sought to carry out these works under derogation during the "closed period" for works which extends from

October through to April. The function of this closed period is to protect spawning fish as during this period salmon and trout and their fertilised ova are very vulnerable to siltation or other discharges of deleterious matter. IFI will be working to ensure that Local Authorities and the National Roads Authority (NRA), to the greatest extent possible, complete tendering processes such that necessary works can be undertaken between May and September, thereby reducing risk to sensitive channels.

In 2012 many of these works related to emergency works but some were related to works that could have been undertaken during the summer months but had been overlooked by the applicants or the issue only came before IFI when funding became available to do the work in the latter part of the year.

Another consequence of the flooding of recent years has been the proposals for large scale flood alleviation works on several rivers including the Ilen, Bandon and Feagle in Co.Cork and the Dodder and Dargle in Dublin and Wicklow. Such proposals have the potential for significant negative impacts on fisheries.

Securing a Future for Fish

Development of Fish Habitat

Every year IFI undertakes a suite of fisheries development works, some as part of the routine works undertaken throughout the country and other works are undertaken as once off development projects. Where possible, IFI seeks to get maximum use from development funds by encouraging funding from independent sources such as angling clubs, Leader (Liason Entre Actions pour le Développement d'Economie Rurale, a Rural Development Programme) project funding and other sources. A small sample of some of the development works undertaken in 2012 is provided below:

Lough Corrib Catchment

Fish habitat improvement works were undertaken on four channels in the Lough Corrib catchment during the year. Over 1,000 metres of feeder channels in the Lough Corrib and Lough Mask catchments were enhanced in 2012. The works included the creation of in-stream structures designed to facilitate juvenile salmonid production and survival. The enhancement works were made possible by financial assistance from the Lough Corrib Angling Federation, the Clydagh Foundation, local angling clubs and the Office of Public Works (OPW).

Owengar River Rehabilitation Project

This is a major river restoration programme following a serious landslide event. To date 5,200 metres of channel have been restored on various sites upstream of the R280 road bridge in 2012.

Lough O'Flynn River Rehabilitation Project

IFI restored the main spawning stream that runs into Lough O'Flynn, Co. Roscommon. An increase in trout redds were reported during the winter period confirming the success of this project.

Tralee River Lee

In association with Kerry County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in-stream habitat and bankside improvement works were undertaken along a 1,000 metre section of the Lee (Tralee) River. This included extensive tree and shrub

pruning and removal of fallen debris allowing light to enter the river bed. In addition, in-stream deflectors, pool and gravel banks were introduced along a 200 metre section of the River Lee downstream.

Wicklow Bridges

In co-operation with Wicklow County Council and the Wicklow Heritage Forum, staff completed the Wicklow Bridges Project report which involved the assessment of 103 bridges for their impact on the movement of migratory fish species. 58 of the structures were ranked as being "High Risk" to salmonid species, 12 structures were ranked as "Moderate Risk" to salmon movement, while 68 of the 103 structures assessed were ranked as "High Risk" to Lamprey and Eel movement.

Eske River

IFI staff introduced new spawning gravel to the Eske River at Lough Eske Bridge. This work was completed in consultation with the NPWS. Staff from both agencies carried out an extensive Fresh Water Pearl Mussel survey prior to the work commencing.

Managing Lakes and Rivers

IFI continue to manage a large suite of rivers and lakes throughout the country from small coarse fishing lakes in Cavan, Monaghan and Leitrim to significant salmon rivers on the west coast such as the Rivers Moy and Erriff.

The very wet summer of 2012 impacted significantly on both the River Moy Ridge Pool and Cathedral fisheries and the Galway managed Fisheries. Income from both fisheries was well down on 2011 due to the persistent very high water levels caused by the poor summer weather. The River Erriff and River Moy Cloongee fisheries both enjoyed better seasons than in 2011 as a consequence of the weather conditions in the case of the River Moy Cloongee and also as a direct result of an excellent angling year in 2011 in the case of the River Erriff Fishery. Permit and accommodation income on the River Erriff fishery was up by 21% on 2011 income and the River Moy Cloongee fishery recorded its best year since its purchase by the State with permit income up by 11% over 2011 income. The River Moy Cloongee fishery actually benefitted from the high water levels on the lower Moy fishery beats.



Figure 4. A salmon attempting to ascend the Curry Weir

IFI also continued to manage State owned fisheries including the Eske, Eany, Owenea, Crolly, Lackagh and Glenveagh Rivers in Co. Donegal and have management

agreements in place (on smaller State owned fisheries) with local clubs where the club manages the fishery as per the conditions of the agreement. These include the Rivers Ray and Tullaghobegley and the Dunfanaghy Lakes.

Development of Angling Infrastructure

Access Development

Significant angling infrastructure and fishery access projects were completed on State owned waters such as the Eske, Owenea and Eany in Donegal. Further fisheries development and improvement works including the maintenance and where necessary, either the removal or replacement of damaged angling infrastructure was undertaken, in conjunction with angling clubs, on the Lackagh, Rye and Tullaghobegley Rivers using joint funding initiatives from Udaras na Gaeltachta, LEADER and volunteer labour working under IFI supervision.

In conjunction with local angling and Tourist Development Associations and angling clubs, coarse angling festivals were assisted by IFI staff depending on local requirements. In total over 1,000 'swims' were cleared in preparation for angling competitions in the midlands.



Figure 5. Stand constructed at Clare Lake, Claremorris in partnership with Claremorris Chamber of Commerce

Boro River (River Slaney Tributary)

IFI undertook an extension to the angling walkway on the prolific sea trout fishery on the Boro River at Borodale which was completed with the support of funding from Coillte, who are the landowners at this site.

Lough Muckno

IFI was a project partner in the Lough Muckno Development Project. The project turned a section of the lake into a world class coarse fishing competition venue. The venue has received CIPs (Confederation Internationale de la Pêche Sportive) standard and has already attracted a number of international fishing competitions.

Harnessing Natural Resources (HNR) Cross Border Project

In 2012 IFI received funding of €53,800 for the development of Herons Shore in Drumshambo, Co. Leitrim. Angler access was improved by providing 10 additional car

parking spaces and lake access along the shoreline by a pathway. As part of this project access improvements and a floating fishing stand were developed on Acres Lake.

International Competitions

The main coarse angling festivals supported by IFI through the provision of staff support and logistics were the Lakelands and Inland Waterways World Pairs, Arvagh King of Clubs, Arvagh International Festival, Benelux King of Clubs, Seniors Classic, Cootehill Festival, Carrigallen Festival, Lough Gowna (Jimmy Sloan), Lough Gowna Open, Killeshandra Festival, Belturbet Festival and the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland (NCFFI) All Ireland Junior and Senior National Coarse Angling competitions.

River Erriff Angler Access

A significant improvement to angler access was completed on the River Erriff fishery, Co. Mayo where a new footbridge was installed. This is part of the Western Way and was funded by South West Mayo Development, a LEADER company. The new bridge will facilitate crossing of the river for anglers and walkers alike in all water conditions.

Fish Counters Programme

IFI manages 31 salmon and sea trout counters through the country. The counters are currently undergoing a programme of upgrading to ensure that all counters perform to their optimum. This has required certain works on the older fish counter sites to install video verification and where necessary replace plastic sheeting and old fish counter hardware. In conjunction with these works the development of an in-house website for hosting all fish counter data is on-going and will be completed in 2013. A Schedule of salmon counters operated by IFI in 2012 is available at Appendix 2.

Fisheries Development (Provision of advice, guidance and supervision)

In addition to the broad development brief undertaken by IFI on rivers and lakes throughout the country, IFI also assist angling clubs, local community groups and schools in developing and implementing plans to protect and improve their local watercourses. IFI provide practical advice on what is best for the local habitat and biodiversity and also assist in the preparation of significant plans seeking funding from third parties for the development of the fisheries habitat or angling infrastructure. This extends not just to the in-stream habitat but also includes the riparian zone on the banks of rivers. IFI has assisted many local angling clubs to submit informed applications for funding under the Salmon Conservation Fund (SCF) programme.



Figure 6. Salmon running the River Eany Fish counter, Co. Donegal

Managed Fisheries

IFI continues to manage a suite of lakes through the country subject to the demand from anglers. These fisheries are stocked either from IFI's own hatchery resources in Cullion, Co. Westmeath or Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. In addition a number of other lakes are managed directly by local angling clubs and in these situations IFI staff provide advice and supervise works. In some areas IFI create or augment existing fisheries through the transfer of fish from other lakes where predatory species are being removed. In addition to these fisheries IFI manages the premier wild brown trout fisheries of the country including Loughs Corrib, Mask, Carra, Conn, Cullen, Arrow, Leane, Inchaquin, Melvin, Sheelin, Owel, Ennell, and Derravaragh.

Invasive Species Management

IFI has in recent years, taken on the responsibility for managing aquatic and riparian invasive species. This followed the rapid expansion of invasive weeds particularly in a number of lakes and rivers and along a number of river banks. As part of the overall management programme, IFI has undertaken a massive weed control and removal programme on Lough Corrib in particular, where the curly-leaved waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*) has become established. This work has been significantly supported by the NPWS, the OPW (which also provided significant logistical support), Galway County Council and the Heritage Council. Without this annual financial support the work could not have proceeded.

The Mulkear LIFE+ Project continued the non-native invasive species removal action throughout the year. This involved hand picking of Himalayan Balsam by the Mulkear Conservation Volunteer outings, and spraying of Giant Hogweed by Limerick County Council.

The Irish Rural Development (IRD) Duhallow LIFE+ project in conjunction with IFI has conducted extensive manual clearance of Himalayan Balsam from the River Allow catchment, a tributary of the River Blackwater in Co. Cork and this will continue during 2013. While the main channel of the River Blackwater has been extensively colonised by this invasive plant, this initiative will shed light on the feasibility of such work in clearing important tributaries similarly affected by this species.

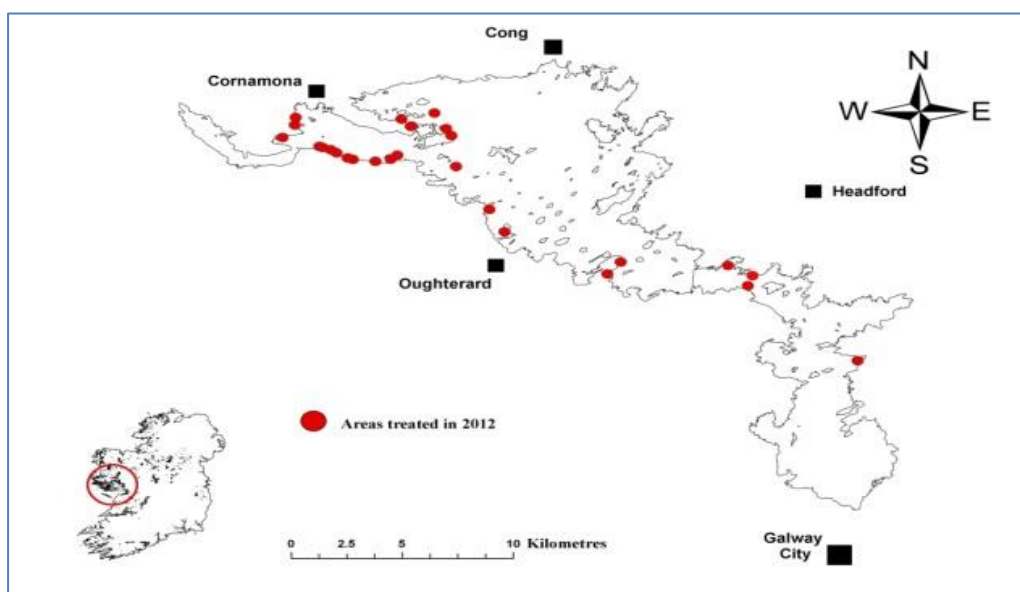


Figure 7. Sites in Lough Corrib where *Lagarosiphon major* control operations were conducted in 2012 (n=30)

In the River Lee Catchment in Cork there was a substantial programme of work addressing Giant Hogweed at a number of locations along the Inniscarra Reservoir. Local landowners and the ESB also assisted in removing small pockets of the plant.

Of particular interest from an invasive species management context is that the previously extensive growth of Nuttall's Pondweed in Carrigadrohid Reservoir appears to have completely disappeared. This disappearance may be associated with the effects of the severe cold encountered in December 2010 when low reservoir levels exposed the plants and the reservoir bed substrate to freezing conditions for a number of weeks.



Figure 8. The Chairman of the Board of IFI, Mr Brendan O'Mahony and Minister Fergus O'Dowd inspecting newly provided disinfection facilities at the Galway Fishery

During the 2012 World Pairs Angling Competition IFI technical staff carried out dipping and disinfection operations on all anglers' equipment, keep nets, boots and waders. A series of information meetings to highlight the dangers of aquatic invasive species were held throughout the region and relevant brochures were distributed. Warning signs on the dangers of spreading Zebra Mussels (*Drissenia polymorpha*) and the requirement to wash boats have been erected at the major fisheries in the area. IFI staff are continuing, with the help of angling federations such as the Irish Angling Development Alliance, to make efforts to ensure "no dip, no draw" competition rules are enforced at all coarse angling matches and festivals. Committees and organisers are being made aware of the importance of these policies.

Logistics

Property and Facilities

A number of properties throughout the River Basin Districts were assessed following the identification of issues of concern regarding their suitability as workplaces. Several areas were identified as priority for replacement or upgrade and these will be further investigated in 2013 when a comprehensive report on all properties will be undertaken.

Since 2007 IFI has leased a 2,500 sq. foot premises in Kilmacrennan, Co. Donegal which provides a base for boat and equipment storage in the area. Following an extensive search, IFI successfully identified suitable premises for purchase in Letterkenny during 2012 which will provide a permanent base (4,000 sq. foot) in a central location for office, equipment, vehicles and Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) boat storage. It is hoped that the purchase will be completed in early 2013.

Procurement Services

IFI continued to avail of the services of the National Procurement Service and in particular the eTenders portal. IFI complies with public procurement guidelines through its Purchase and Public Procurement Policy.

Vehicles and Boats

IFI purchased 20 new vehicles during 2012 as replacements for vehicles that had completed their useful life. 12 vehicles were purchased through the National Procurement Service framework contract and 8 through the National Procurement Service eTenders facility. IFI continues to rationalise its vehicle fleet in tandem with providing a mobile based fisheries service for over 200 field staff in the Republic of Ireland.

IFI instigated a RIB survey in late 2012 which is due for completion in 2013. As part of this process, IFI sought advice and guidance from the Irish Coastguard and other relevant agencies.

IFI logistics staff assisted with the sourcing and procurement of two large aluminium boats for the EU funded Control of Aquatic Invasive Species (CASIE) project on Lough Corrib.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and services to River Basin Districts (RBDs)

In 2012 IFI purchased 130 Stormforce 375 newton lifejackets for staff engaged in sea going operations. This lifejacket was developed for the Irish Coastguard in conjunction with IFI and is a further advancement in keeping IFI staff safe when on the water.

A standardised high quality set of wellington boots and waders was issued to field based IFI staff and new standardised high specification dry suits were also issued to 70 staff who were due replacements.

Research and Development

Research and Development – An Introduction

The Research and Development (R&D) Division of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) continues to focus on the delivery of high quality applied research and advice to support the conservation, protection and sustainable development of Ireland's inland fisheries resource. Over the past number of years the R&D function has been considerably restructured to accommodate the contraction in available expert resources and funding. This restructuring has focused on delivery of statutory responsibilities under the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, European Union Eel regulation and to support the development of legislation.

The essence of good management and decision making is grounded in high-quality advice; the requirement for expert advice continued to grow in 2012, with the servicing of requests from Government, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), IFI management, stakeholders, international bodies and individuals. The quality and provision of this advice is dependent on the quality, quantity and age of the available data, these data are delivered via some of the projects described in this report.

The R&D Division of IFI are delighted to report on the successful delivery against the goals outlined in IFI's 2012 Business Plans. All projects had a successful year given the resource constraints experienced. Any resource issues were mitigated through project and task prioritisation; however some projects were not able to complete the full planned field programmes. This report is not intended to document all of the projects and the deliverables completed but does document some of the Division's major achievements in 2012.

Water Framework Directive

In 2007, IFI (formerly the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards up to 1st July 2010), began a fish monitoring programme to assess the health of Ireland's rivers, lakes and estuaries/lagoons. This work is necessary to fulfil the requirements of the European Communities Water Framework Directive (WFD) which was transposed into Irish Law through S.I. No. 722 of 2003. The comprehensive three-year rolling fish monitoring programme developed by IFI encompasses over 300 water bodies, including 154 river sites, 78 transitional water bodies (estuaries and lagoons) and 78 lakes. Information collected in each survey is used to assign an 'ecological status' to each water body, ranging from high status to bad status.



Figure 9. Seine netting on the River Boyne transitional water body, October 2012

WFD fish surveys conducted during 2012 were part of the second three-year rolling fish monitoring programme from 2010-2012. A reduction in staffing levels and bad weather during 2012 resulted in fewer water bodies being surveyed than were originally planned. Nevertheless, a concerted effort by the WFD team along with the assistance of many Regional IFI Operations staff has seen the successful completion of surveys in a total of 23 lake water bodies, 58 river water bodies and 3 transitional water bodies nationwide.

A joint sampling exercise between the IFI WFD fish monitoring team and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency staff was carried out successfully during the transitional water surveys with the aim of developing harmonised sampling protocols for fish in transitional waters for the island of Ireland.

Preliminary reports for all water bodies surveyed in 2012 have been published on the WFD fish website (www.wfdfish.ie) and will be replaced with more detailed reports once all fish data has been processed. A comprehensive summary report of the 2012 surveillance monitoring programme will also be available in due course.

Habitats Directive and Red Data Book Fish Programme

This exchequer-funded programme serves to fulfil, in part, the obligations of the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in respect of the status of conservation fish species listed in the EU Habitats Directive. IFI are tasked with monitoring and reporting, on a 6 year cycle, on the status of the fish species listed in Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive (river, brook and sea lamprey, Twaite and Killarney shad, pollan and Atlantic salmon) in line with the requirements set out in the EU Habitats Directive as transposed into Irish law under SI 94 of 1997. Where feasible, this programme also includes monitoring of Ireland's Red Data Book fish species such as char and smelt. Collectively IFI refer to these species as 'conservation fish species'. Since its inception in 2009, the programme has been developing a national database to cover the distribution of the shad and lamprey species and of pollan, with a view to reporting to the EU in 2013 as part of the 6 year reporting cycle (2007-2012) under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. By the end of 2012 a substantial coverage of catchments has been achieved in respect of juvenile lamprey occurrence, complementing the datasets compiled by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in the 2003-2007 period.



Figure 10. River/brook juvenile lamprey (top) and transformer (bottom) i.e. transforming into young adult lamprey

The programme of work undertaken in 2012 sought to expand the sampling coverage for conservation species as well as developing and refining sampling techniques that would yield optimal output with limited resources. Modern as well as traditional techniques have been used, including use of telemetry to examine movements of anadromous shads and of migratory sea lamprey, the latter work being done by the MULKEAR LIFE project.

Hydroacoustic sampling has been undertaken for Killarney shad and for pollan, working with the IFI's WFD. Looking forward, 2013 will see IFI compiling its Article 17 status reports for the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and will also see the roll-out of the next 6 year monitoring programme.

National Eel Management Plan

The National Eel Monitoring Programme (EMP) is in the 2nd three year cycle (2012-2015) of monitoring. The aim of the programme is to fulfil Ireland's obligations (EU Eel Regulation 11000/2007) under the monitoring objectives set out in the national eel management plan. These objectives are:

- To estimate Silver Eel escapement (in collaboration with the Electricity Supply Board (ESB), the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) and the marine Institute (MI)
- To estimate silver eel escapement indirectly using yellow eels
- To monitor the impact of fishery closure on yellow eel stock structure
- Inter-Calibration with Water Framework Sampling
- To compare current and historic yellow eel stocks
- To establish baseline data to track changes in eel stock over time
- To evaluate impedance of upstream colonisation: migration and water quality effects
- To determine parasite prevalence and eel quality.

A review of the first 3 years (2009 – 2012) of the monitoring programme was forwarded to the EU Commission in June 2012 as part of our reporting requirements.

The national elver monitoring programme was carried out for a third year in 2012. The aim of the programme is to monitor the level of elver recruitment arriving in Ireland and create a long-term time series to track changes in recruitment levels. Elver monitoring was undertaken at six sites nationally, the unusually wet weather hindered operations at 2 sites (Inagh and the Maigue), where water levels were at flood levels for the majority of the elver season. Generally recruitment remains at the low levels experienced over the last decade and appears to be variable at the different sites around the country. It is recommended that in order to get a clearer pattern into the levels of juvenile eels returning to Ireland, monitoring is continued at these sites over the coming years.

In the yellow eel monitoring programme, three lakes (Loughs Derg, Oughter and Muckno) were sampled for eels using fyke nets. Catches were good on Lough Muckno and Lough Derg but remained low on Lough Oughter. The low catches in Lough Oughter in 2012 confirmed the result of the 2011 survey indicating a lower population level than expected. The Eel Monitoring Programme team linked up with the Water Framework Directive team to sample a number of key locations including Lough Derg, Lough Cullin, Lough Arrow and the Boyne Estuary.

Fyke netting was also undertaken in the River Barrow estuary to compare eel density with historical data. Ten eels were tagged with acoustic tags in the River Barrow to determine home range. This study revealed that three of the 10 eels tagged undertook a downstream migration during the silver eel migration season in October, over a very short time period. One eel travelled 26kms in 14 hours (Figure 11). This pilot study has highlighted the need to actively search for tagged eels using a mobile detector in order to investigate the extent of eel territoriality in the Barrow system.

Monitoring of the silver eel run on the River Fane system, downstream of Lough Muckno, was undertaken from August to November 2012. A continuation of the mark recapture study was carried out in the Shannon, Erne and Fane catchments with all eels tagged with passive integrated transponder tags (P.I.T). Morphological measurements (length; weight; eye diameter; pectoral fin length etc.) were taken to determine life stage and estimate maturation. A number of eels were sacrificed for further analysis in the laboratory (parasite prevalence, age, growth).

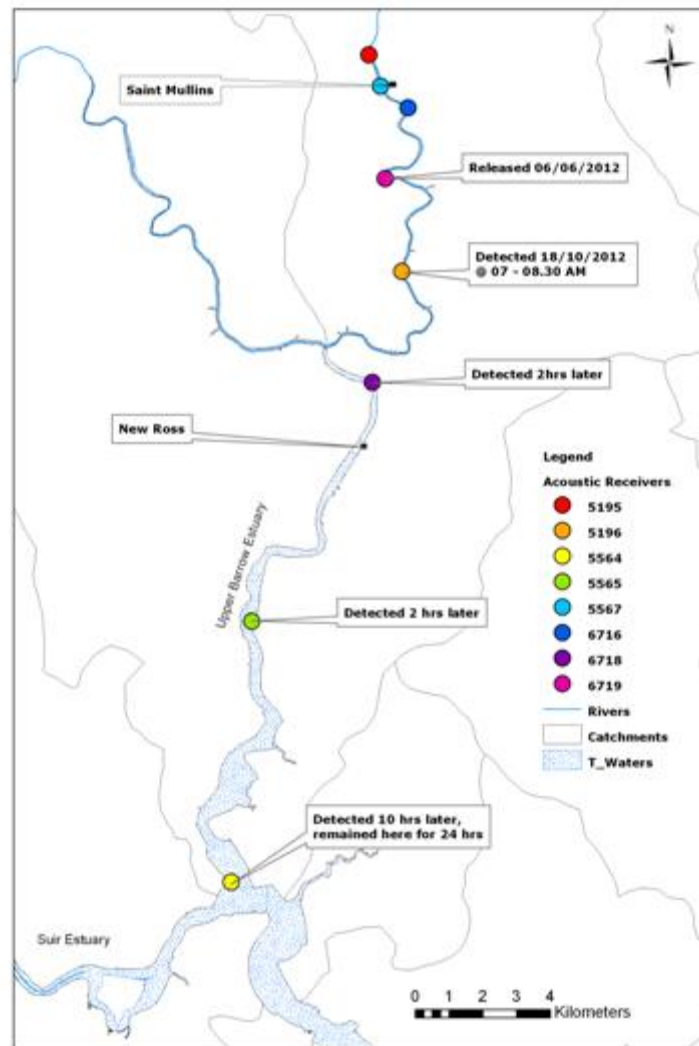


Figure 11. Map detailing migration route and times for tagged eel number '16280' migration in the River Barrow Estuary, October 2012

Management of Aquatic Invasive Species in Ireland

Aquatic invasive species represent a growing threat to the island of Ireland and their prevalence and impact is becoming increasingly apparent. These non-native species can cause appreciable damage to natural aquatic and riparian environments, indigenous biota as well as to the local and national economy. As a small country on the western edge of Europe, Ireland has experienced fewer invasions than many countries on mainland Europe. However, those aquatic invaders that have established have managed to wreak serious environmental, social and economic damage. Additionally, the rate at

which new high priority aquatic invasive species are accessing Ireland has increased in recent years, necessitating urgent and robust intervention.

IFI is the lead agency responsible for the control and management of invasive riparian and aquatic species in the Republic of Ireland. In recent years IFI has commenced wide ranging biosecurity initiatives that are aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species and fish pathogens in our watercourses. Foremost among these has been the creation of awareness among key stakeholders and the public at large regarding the serious threats posed by invasive species and what measures can be taken to halt the advance of these harmful organisms. Education relating to invasive species is crucial and IFI has produced a diversity of materials and initiatives to promote this. Additionally, a suite of biosecurity protocols has been produced by IFI that detail the correct procedures that should be taken to clean and disinfect field sampling equipment, angling tackle, boats or scuba diving gear. These are all available for download from www.fisheriesireland.ie. In 2012 a free invasive species app for use on smart 'phones was made available on general release.

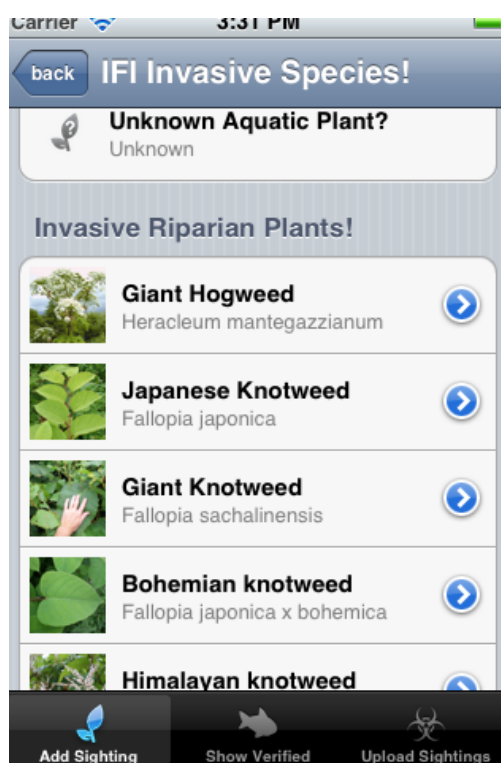


Figure 12: Screen shot from IFI's invasive species 'App'

Salmon and Sea Trout

In order to support salmon management legislation assessments of salmon populations including catchment wide electro-fishing, assessment of salmon runs at partial fish counter sites and collection of biological data on adult salmon populations are carried out annually on a national basis. These applied studies inform the annual salmon management programme.

The objective of the catchment-wide electro-fishing (CWEF) programme is to determine the abundance of juvenile salmon in a catchment (as an indicator of adult salmon presence), where no data on salmon status are available. If recorded abundance exceeds a threshold developed by the Standing Scientific Committee for Salmon (SSCS), management then have a mechanism to open rivers for catch and release angling. Catchment wide electro-fishing was completed in 24 catchments in 2012 to assess

abundance and distribution of salmon fry. A total of 530 sites were sampled. In the first six years of the programme (2007-2012), 238 catchment surveys in 124 catchments have been undertaken comprising 4,958 individual site surveys.

A value of 17 salmon fry (catchment average over all years where survey data available) was computed by the SSCS as a threshold value above which rivers could open for catch and release angling where information is limited or insufficient. Generally there was good co-relation agreement between the SSCS scientific assessment of attainment of salmon Conservation Limit (CL) from rod catch or counter data and the results of the catchment-wide electro-fishing surveys. Five rivers predicted not to have a salmon surplus in 2012 based on SSCS salmon model outputs, but where an average salmon fry index ≥ 17 over the 2007-2012 period was recorded were recommended for opening on a catch & release basis in 2013.

Catchment wide electro-fishing is also important in providing managers with detailed information on salmon fry distribution and abundance. The absence or low density of salmon fry may be related to water quality issues, obstructions, or habitat damage and areas of low abundance can be investigated. These data should be used to target any remediation works that may be required.

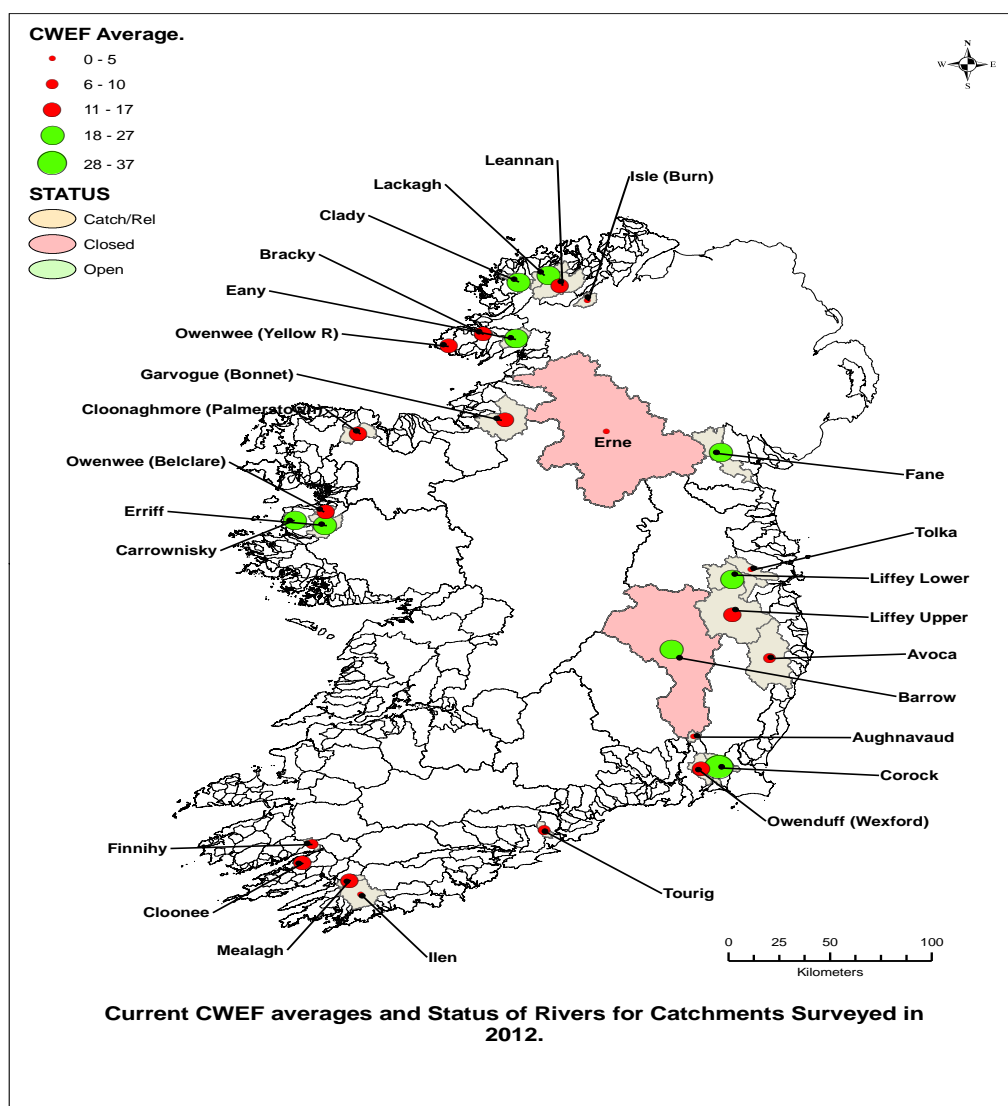


Figure 13. Catchment-wide electrofishing results for catchments surveyed in 2012 with river status during 2011.

A major project, the INTERREG (Innovation and Environmental Regions of Europe) funded Celtic Sea Trout project (CSTP) is also being undertaken, in partnership with research agencies primarily based in Wales, to provide information on sea trout in the Irish Sea. Studies are being conducted on the genetics and microchemistry of sea trout to provide stock discrimination tools. Baseline data is also being collected on age and growth, fecundity, sex ratio and other biological characteristics to provide information for management of sea trout populations. The potential use of sea trout as an indicator of climate change is also being investigated. The project aims to understand and describe sea trout stocks in the Irish Sea and thereby to enhance sea trout fisheries and strengthen their contributions to quality of life, to rural economies and to national biodiversity.

Anglers continued to submit scale samples from priority rivers discharging into the Irish Sea for the CSTP - a total of 4,552 sets of scales were collected since the project began. A total of 1,311 fish were sampled over a large portion of the Irish Sea during marine trawl sampling conducted in 2012. Sea trout life history, growth and fecundity are key aspects of the analysis and the project will be completed in 2013. Marine sampling for sea trout has not been undertaken in the Irish Sea previously, so the findings from the project will be entirely new and will allow improved management of sea trout stocks.

Sampling of sea trout for sea lice infestation off the western seaboard, which has been conducted since 1991 continued in twelve rivers during 2012.

A Passive Integrated Transponder (P.I.T.) tagging programme is on-going on the River Boyne to assess counter efficiency as the counter at Blackcastle weir only counts part of the salmon run. An unquantified proportion of the salmon run ascends uncounted over the "open" part of this weir. Traditional draft net fishermen, under the supervision of IFI staff, sampled salmon in the tidal portion of the catchment in 2012 and 235 fish were P.I.T. tagged between July and early September. Up to December of 2012 14 salmon were detected passing through the PIT tag readers at Blackcastle. Adult salmon were also trapped and P.I.T. tagged on the River Dee in 2012 as part of a counter efficiency assessment project but severe flooding limited tagging opportunities.

Salmon scales were collected and analysed for life history information from the commercial fishery on the Munster Blackwater and River Suir and rod fisheries on the Owenmore River (Connemara) and Sneem River (Co. Kerry).

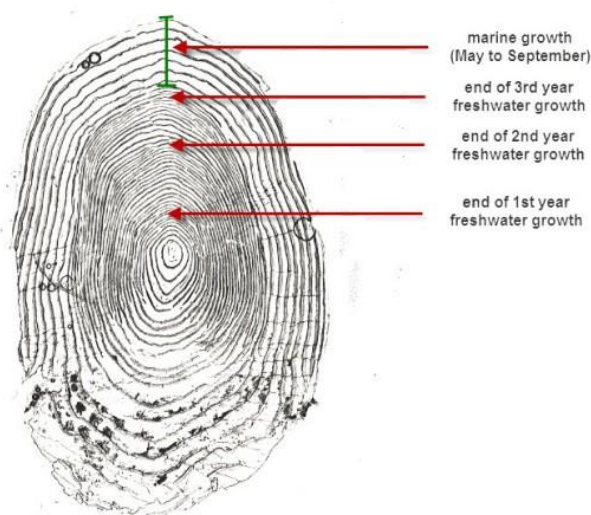


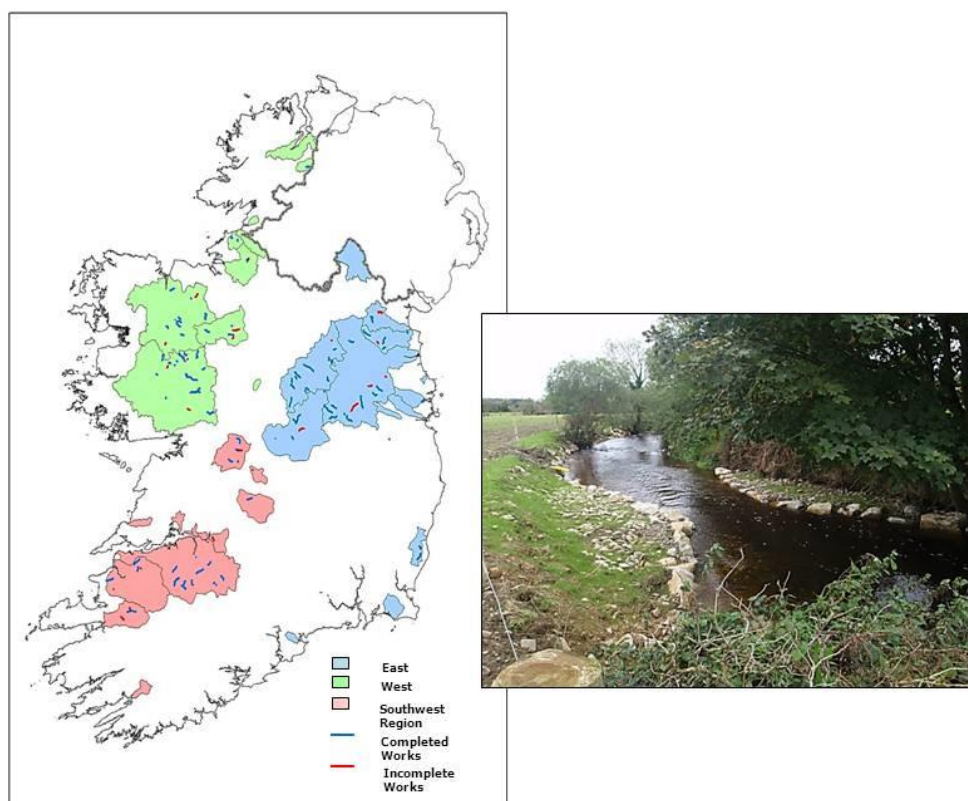
Figure 14: Image of a scale from a 25.2 cm sea trout finnock from the Dargle River. The fish was aged 3.0+ years

Environmental Rivers Enhancement Programme (EREP)

The first Environmental Rivers Enhancement Programme (EREP), of 5 years duration, was completed at the end of 2012. This collaborative programme between the Engineering Services Section of the OPW and IFI had two objectives:

- To carry out capital works programmes on drained salmonid rivers to increase the production of these fisheries and enhance the environmental biodiversity of the river corridor.
- To introduce new drainage maintenance practices whereby standard drainage maintenance would have a less severe impact on the biota of river corridors.

Funding for this programme was provided by the OPW, and IFI personnel designed the enhancement programmes, oversaw their implementation and monitored their effectiveness. IFI staff also designed more “eco-friendly” maintenance operations and ran training courses for OPW personnel in relation to the implementation of these programmes. OPW staff implemented all of these programmes. This programme has proved very successful with up to 25km of salmonid channel enhanced per annum in capital works terms and 75km of maintained channel enhanced in a more eco-friendly way.



Location of all EREP sites. Example of completed Capital Works on the Maine R., Co. Kerry

Figure 15. Map of EREP sites and example of completed Capital Enhancement works

Waterways Ireland Support

IFI are contracted by Waterways Ireland (WI) to provide fisheries management, aquatic plant management and Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring on the Royal and Grand Canals, the Barrow Navigation and the Shannon-Erne Waterway. The programme

reflects the statutory obligations of WI Ireland and its objective of providing a quality waterways habitat commensurate with its use by a wide diversity of user groups.

Fish stock assessments were conducted on the Shannon-Erne Waterway and on sections of the Barrow Navigation and the Royal and Grand Canals in 2012. The generally healthy populations were typically dominated by roach. Of particular note were the excellent stocks of tench, a prized angling species, recorded on several sites on the Grand Canal. Fish rescue operations were carried out in advance of routine and emergency work in waterways which required de-watering. While directly protecting resident fish shoals, these events also enable IFI staff to examine drained waterways for the presence of invasive plant and animal species.

For the purposes of WFD compliance monitoring, water samples were collected from 11 Artificial Water Bodies (AWBs) in the Royal and Grand Canals and the Shannon-Erne Waterway. Forty-four sites were sampled on four occasions in 2012. All 11 AWBs achieved Good Ecological Potential (GEP) in terms of the physico-chemical criteria for the WFD.

IFI also maintained vigilance of a number of feeder streams to the canals in 2012. These feeders can be a source of contamination and their monitoring is an important tool in identifying pollution sources to the main channels. A high faecal coliform count was recorded in a culverted drain discharging to the Royal Canal at Kilcock Harbour in August 2012. Repair work was carried out by Kildare County Council in October and, while there was a general improvement in water quality, faecal coliform counts remained relatively high in the drain during follow up surveys. IFI will continue to monitor the situation at Kilcock into 2013.

Aquatic plant management surveys were conducted along the entire length of the Royal and Grand Canals. These surveys aid rational management of plant communities which may impact negatively upon amenity use, while also allowing broad scale examinations of the distribution and status of an array of invasive species. Surveys for Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) were carried out on the westerly reaches of the Grand Canal and at angling centres on the Shannon-Erne Waterway. To date, this species has not been recorded from these waters. Control programmes for a variety of invasive aquatic and riparian plant species were conducted in cooperation with IFI's invasive species team. Monitoring of the section of the Grand Canal where control of the invasive plant, New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) commenced during winter 2011/12 continued throughout the year. While some very limited re-growth was apparent in late 2012, it is estimated that approximately 99% of the original plant biomass had been removed from the treated area. In addition to the invasive species monitoring and control programmes, IFI piloted a biosecurity protocol for angling competitions on the Shannon-Erne Waterway during the World Pairs Angling Competition which was held in September 2012.



Figure 16. IFI staff with Tench captured during an electrofishing survey of the Grand Canal, near Shannon Harbour

Laboratory Services

The IFI Laboratory offers a nationwide environmental testing and support service for regional IFI staff and external clients, such as WI. In addition, the laboratory carries out statutory analyses for IFI fish farm discharge licences. During 2012, 2,954 water samples were analysed.

IFI laboratory staff recommenced trace element analysis using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) during 2012. A laser ablation system coupled with the ICP-MS was also commissioned during the year and this instrument now enables IFI research and development staff to analyse the microchemistry of solid material such as bony structures of fish (scales and otoliths) and differentiate environmental changes throughout the fish lifecycle. Pilot projects to examine the microchemistry of scales and otoliths of brown trout in the Lough Mask catchment and bass in Irish estuaries began in late 2012.

Bass Research

Bass is an extremely important and valuable marine sport angling species in Ireland. The steep decline in bass stocks in Ireland in the mid-1970s resulted in a severe deterioration of the renowned bass angling resource and the cessation of the commercial fishery to conserve stocks through the Bass (Conservation of Stocks) Order, 1990. Since then, bass have been regarded solely as an angling species and are restrictively managed.

Bass is the only marine species managed for angling and IFI has been working on bass since the 1970s when Kennedy and Fitzmaurice (1972) undertook some important baseline work on their ecology. IFI recognises the current and potential value of bass and in 2012 a Bass Policy Group, convened by IFI, prepared a draft national bass policy document. The policy was focussed on ensuring the conservation and protection of bass, and their aquatic habitat, whilst also facilitating long term sustainable social and economic value for all stakeholders. The policy will underpin the future development of the resource and the direction of IFI's bass work programme.



Figure 17. Bass being released (photo compliments of Henry Gilbey)

Bass work comprised several elements in 2012. A limited survey of catches of bass was completed in 2012 to contribute to Ireland's reporting requirements under the EU Data Collection Framework (DCF) which ensures adequate data on fish stocks and their

fisheries are collected to support scientific monitoring and stock assessment. This study highlighted the catch-and-release nature of the Irish fishery and the fact that the numbers of bass retained by anglers is low.

In 2012 IFI enhanced its bass research programme. A pilot study on the microchemistry of bass scales and otoliths was initiated to investigate the potential of developing such tools to study bass migration patterns and possibly for stock discrimination. IFI's bass scale archive was consolidated and bass sampling was carried out in several locations. Planning for an intensive 3-5 year study on bass commenced.

Pike Research in Ireland

Northern pike (*Esox lucius* L.) are an important angling species which despite occurring in most Irish freshwater systems, had not been subject to comprehensive study. IFI in cooperation with the Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs (IFPAC) are funding a PhD with University College Dublin (UCD) researching several aspects of the biology of pike in Ireland. Firstly pike diet is being investigated through the powerful combined methods of stable isotope and stomach content analysis, and comparing findings between habitat types (rivers, lakes and canals) to determine effects on both morphology and physiological condition. This study will also present the first Ireland-wide population genetic investigation using microsatellite markers to illustrate the nature of population connectivity in Irish pike, and their relation to UK and European populations. To date, samples have been collected from 24 locations around Ireland, along with 4 British, and 5 European populations. All baseline information has been gathered, stable isotope samples have been processed and are currently undergoing analysis. Stomach content analysis, scale ageing and morphometrics are also underway. This research will provide empirical data to inform pike management in Ireland.

An IFI Pike Policy Review Group comprised of IFI staff and relevant personnel from the Irish Federation of Pike Anglers (IFPAC) and the National Angling Representative Association (NARA) was formed in 2011 to develop a policy that would ensure the conservation and protection of pike and their aquatic habitat, while also facilitating long-term sustainable social and economic value for all stakeholders. The policy is currently in draft form.



Figure 18. Research sampling of Pike at Slevin's Lake Mullingar and a pike prepared for morphometric analysis

Specimen Fish Atlas

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee (ISFC) is a voluntary body, representative of all angling interests (coarse, game and sea) in Ireland, whose principal function is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large (i.e. specimen) fish taken on rod and line in Irish waters.

The ISFC annual reports provide invaluable information for anglers when planning angling trips, particularly those seeking a 'specimen'.

In summary the ISFC service provides:

- Accurate collation of specimen fish data
- Verified reference material
- Angling tourism support (Ireland & NI)
- Angling promotion and promotional material
- Excellent information for specimen hunters
- Highlights prime specimen fish locations
- Highlights unusual specimen fish locations
 - Incentive for repeat visits to Ireland by tourists or to Irish venues by Irish anglers through the cumulative awards schemes (10 specimen award, 50 specimen award etc)
- Special awards for: young angler, overseas angler, fish of a lifetime award
- Data for Regional specimens/records
- Biological material collected
- Focal point for unusual captures.

With support from IFI, where the ISFC resides, digitisation of all paper records and associated GIS mapping of all specimen fish captured was completed in 2012 to develop a specimen fish atlas. All capture locations have been identified and logged and maps are being prepared for web publication in 2013.

IFI Fish Farm

The aim of the IFI's fish stock management programmes is to restore fish populations in those fisheries which have been affected by pollution, fish kills and other incidents. Fish stock management has also been used to enhance the angling status of a fishery. The IFI fish farms rear brown trout and rainbow trout to supply external customers and lakes managed by IFI.

In 2012, IFI continued with its programme of modernising its fish farms, with the upgrading of the facilities in both Roscrea and Mullingar. A new oxygen monitoring system was put into operation, allowing greater control of conditions affecting fish stocks on site, and enhancing fish production.

IFI continued with its policy of switching over production of fish from diploid to triploid stocks, and 70% of fish stocked out in 2012 were triploid. It is anticipated that this will reach 85% in 2013, and all stocks produced in 2014 will be triploid.

The redesign of fish ponds in Roscrea continued, as did enhancement of biosecurity on site, and ensuring that all fish stocks were fully contained in secure ponds and raceways.

IFI continued to ensure that the quality of fish stocked out from its farms, to both its commercial customers and internally within IFI, were of the highest quality and size, and positive feedback was received from a number of its customers.



Figure 19. Juvenile triploid brown trout, Roscrea fish farm

Business Development

Business Development – An Introduction

The Business Development Division of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is responsible for a number of programmes which run on an annual basis. These programmes have the express aim of developing the potential of the inland fisheries sector, by increasing the numbers of resident and tourist anglers, empowering stakeholders and generating a better return for Ireland. 2012 was a successful year for the Division in terms of delivering on the various programmes outlined in its Business Plan. These programmes facilitate delivery by IFI staff and stakeholders in an integrated and focused manner, providing synergies across the various initiatives thereby supporting the business of inland fisheries and the sea angling resource.

Minister Fergus O'Dowd, Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources provided great support and encouragement throughout 2012 by attending a number of events run by IFI, angling federations, clubs and other organisations and engaging with our many stakeholders.

During 2012 the Board of IFI also met with Minister Michael Ring, Minister of State at the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and with Fáilte Ireland representatives to discuss marketing of the angling product and to ensure that an appropriate emphasis is placed on tourism angling in the plans of the two tourism agencies, Fáilte Ireland (FI) and Tourism Ireland (TI). IFI continues to work with both agencies under an agreed Strategy for Irish Angling Tourism encompassing publicity, marketing and promotion of angling in Ireland by IFI and Fáilte Ireland.

It is IFI's aim to increase the number of anglers fishing in Ireland. However, accurate baseline information in relation to the number of recreational anglers is not available. In early 2012 IFI commissioned Tourism Development International (TDI) to undertake a survey of recreational angling in Ireland to address this information deficit. This important study will estimate the overall volume of domestic and overseas anglers, categorise anglers by species targeted, estimate expenditure by anglers and the value of angling to Ireland, obtain insight into anglers motivations, opinions and attitudes, suggest initiatives to improve the quality of angling and benchmark the Irish angling experience against competitor destinations. During 2012 TDI undertook their research through two phases of a household survey with Millward Browne Lansdowne (MBL) by conducting angler surveys nationally at 50 angling venues and a survey of the angling trade and stakeholders. TDI appointed MBL to undertake the household survey portion of the research. This comprised two waves and took place in May and October. The results of the survey are expected in the spring of 2013 and these results will inform IFI's marketing and angling development plans into the future.



Figure 20. John Quinlan, angling guide and accommodation provider, interviews his guests as part of the socio-economic survey of anglers

As a relatively new agency IFI is still in the process of rebranding and in 2012 a €102,000 nationwide project commenced to replace old and out of date signage on State Fisheries and at IFI facilities, and to provide new signage where the need had been identified. Almost all pre-existing signage required updating to comply with the Official Languages Act. A wide variety of signage including information boards, finger posts and building signs were designed, produced and installed.

The main activities of the Business Development programme in 2012 are detailed under the key programme headings in this report.

Education and Awareness

IFI is committed to a number of education and awareness programmes which focus on education and dissemination of information on the inland fisheries resource, fisheries habitats, conservation issues, commercial salmon fisheries and the sport of angling.

Something Fishy

The Something Fishy programme is now in its 9th successful year and is run jointly by IFI and the Blackrock Education Centre who coordinate the programme with other education centres around the country. It is aimed at 5th and 6th class primary school students and the objective is to teach students about water quality, fish and the environment and to hope to interest them in angling. Nine education centres participated in the programme in 2012. The theme for the 2011/2012 academic year class project was invasive species.

The Something Fishy programme continues to be oversubscribed by schools as its learning objectives support the national school curriculum and it also offers a unique hands-on learning opportunity through field trips to local lakes and rivers or through fish tanks brought to class rooms.

In all, 2,200 students from 126 schools took part in the project in 2012, including several Gael scoileanna. The overall winner of the 2012 competition was Ballygarrett National School, Co. Wexford with their quirky DVD presentation of 'Fishylympics'. This production incorporated invasive species, well known personalities and the topical Olympic Games. Further information is available at www.somethingfishy.ie



Figure 21. Students at Doaghbeeb National School in Co. Donegal and students at Ayr Hill National School Co. Donegal taking part in Something Fishy activities

Fisheries Awareness Week (FAW)

Fisheries Awareness Week (FAW) is an annual event held nationally, and hosted by IFI, during the month of May. It aims to encourage adults and children who may never have

fished before to take up a new hobby, to work with angling clubs and organisations to promote all types of angling and to promote the role the fisheries service has in protecting and conserving Ireland's wonderful fisheries resource. Further information is available at www.faw.ie

Amongst the events promoted as part of FAW 2012 were 6 'Balsam Bashes', where groups gather to pick Himalayan Balsam from river banks in order to eradicate it and conserve fisheries habitat, 21 sea angling trips, 17 trout angling trips, 10 coarse angling trips, 4 pike and 4 salmon angling trips. In addition 4 events specifically targeted at disabled anglers were held. In addition, a number of talks, school events, open days and family fun days were also held. During the course of the week over 1,700 individuals participated in FAW events across the country.



Figure 22. Minister Fergus O'Dowd attends a Balsam Bash on the River Dodder where participants learned about invasive species and bio-security, and IFI staff teaching fly casting at a FAW event on the River Laune, Co. Kerry

Dublin Angling Initiative (DAI)

The Dublin Angling Initiative (DAI), IFI's youth outreach programme in Dublin, had another successful year in 2012 with 598 young people participating in the Dublin Angling Initiative's 3 day summer angling courses. Assistance was provided to teenagers from the youth wing of numerous angling clubs on a regular basis.

Notable achievements during 2012 include the DAI stand and family zone at the National Angling show in Swords from 11th to 12th February and the removal of the invasive weed '*Lagrosiphon major*' in Darndale pond, Belcamp, Dublin 17. Both of these events created huge interest and very positive feedback.

Youth Angling

In August 2012 IFI hosted a workshop in IFI Swords, Co. Dublin to discuss Youth Angling. The workshop was attended by representatives of the Irish Angling Federations, Sports Partnerships, Community Programme Unit of the Irish Youth Justice Service, Coaching Ireland, Association of Professional Game Angling Instructors (APGAI) Ireland, and Blackrock Education Centre. The workshop considered the Angling for Youth Development (AFYD) Ireland proposal.

The Angling Council of Ireland (ACI), with assistance from IFI, ran a pilot AFYD Ireland programme with St Paul's Community School in Waterford in spring 2012 and

Minister Fergus O'Dowd presented the participants with certificates at Mount Juliet during a FAW event in May.



Figure 23. Minister Fergus O'Dowd presented certificates for completion of the Angling for Youth Development Ireland pilot programme to students from St Pauls Community School in May

Marketing and Promotion

Angling Shows Programme

In 2012 IFI participated in a series of promotional trade shows and exhibitions throughout Ireland and Europe. The purpose of these shows is to promote angling in Ireland, increase the numbers of anglers visiting Ireland to fish, and to support the industry in promoting itself. IFI staff attended shows in Germany, France, the UK, Belgium and the Netherlands during 2012 as well as 3 shows in Ireland.

Articles and Advertising

During 2012 programmes of promotions were undertaken which saw 29 supported visits to Ireland from angling journalists from France, Holland, Germany, the UK, Norway and Italy. Output from these visits has already appeared in many high profile angling magazines, blogs and websites. The majority of the articles written during 2012 will appear in publications in 2013. Similarly, many articles produced during 2011 were printed in 2012 with more to come in 2013. In total, 52 articles arising from 23 supported visits, along with 4 IFI authored articles were published in foreign publications in 2012. These have an estimated advertising value of €493,000. A further 16 website and 'YouTube' features have been posted by journalists supported on trips to Ireland but are not included in this valuation.

During the year a number of articles and traditional advertisements were published in angling magazines and trade papers. IFI also assisted FI in producing copy for a very successful run of advertorials which featured in Trout and Salmon, a premier game angling magazine.

Promotional Material

Producing high quality promotional materials across a range of media including websites, DVD's, e-brochures, reports and mobile applications is an absolute necessity in order to compete with other countries offering an angling tourism product. IFI constantly strives to improve the quality of its materials both in terms of information and appearance. In 2012 a number of new angling guides were produced including:

- Mayo Game Angling Guide
- Sligo Game Angling Guide
- Boyne Valley Angling Guide
- Lough O'Flynn & River Suck Angling Guide
- South West Angling Guide.

IFI also produced a number of pop-up displays and banners for use at promotional shows and events. The 'Angling in Ireland', 'Angeln in Irland' and 'Pêche en Irlande' brands have been used to promote angling across Europe and the United States. Many of IFI's angling provider trade partners have incorporated the IFI branding regime for Irish angling into their own activities.

In addition IFI produced branded items along with various flyers, signage and posters to raise awareness of IFI, Catch and Release Angling, Angling, Invasive Species and to promote awareness of the role of the organisation.

Filming

As part of the activities undertaken by IFI to promote Irish angling to as wide an audience as possible and improve our profile at angling shows a number of short films were commissioned in 2012. Footage was taken for 8 films covering the various angling products and IFI's corporate activities. The trout and pike angling films will be available for shows early in 2013 with the bass, sea, salmon and coarse angling films as well as the corporate films becoming available later in the spring of 2013. These films will be widely distributed on social media platforms, 'YouTube', angling websites and at trade shows.



Figure 24. Filming angling catches at Carrowmore Lake

Salmon Management

Salmon Conservation Fund

The Salmon Conservation Fund (SCF) was established in 2006 to provide funding for the rehabilitation of salmon rivers in Ireland with priority given to rivers which are in special areas of conservation (SAC) and are not meeting their Conservation Limit (CL). The funds are generated from the sale of angling and commercial salmon licences which represents a major contribution by licence holders to wild salmon conservation. The revenue generated from the SCF is reinvested to promote the recovery of our salmon stocks and habitats taking into account project feasibility, funding availability and value for money considerations. IFI is tasked by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) with co-ordinating the funding, and the River Basin Districts (RBD's) and angling clubs and federations are tasked with implementing approved projects on the ground.

The SCF is being managed by a committee comprised of fisheries managers, scientists and angling representatives who assess and make recommendations on project applications received from qualifying applicants. Projects are assessed and scored based on the river's conservation limit status, its water quality (Q-value) and the maximum potential benefits of each project to the river.

For 2012, 38 SCF projects to a value of €683,000 were approved or provisionally approved. The projects involved, inter alia, fish passage improvements, spawning enhancement, in-stream works, river bank protection, fencing, riparian zone improvement and national studies towards salmon conservation. These projects were allocated funding from revenue generated and collected throughout 2011 from angling and commercial licence sales. €520,000 was collected at the end of 2012 and will be allocated to suitable qualifying salmon conservation projects in 2013 with works to be carried out in 2013/2014.

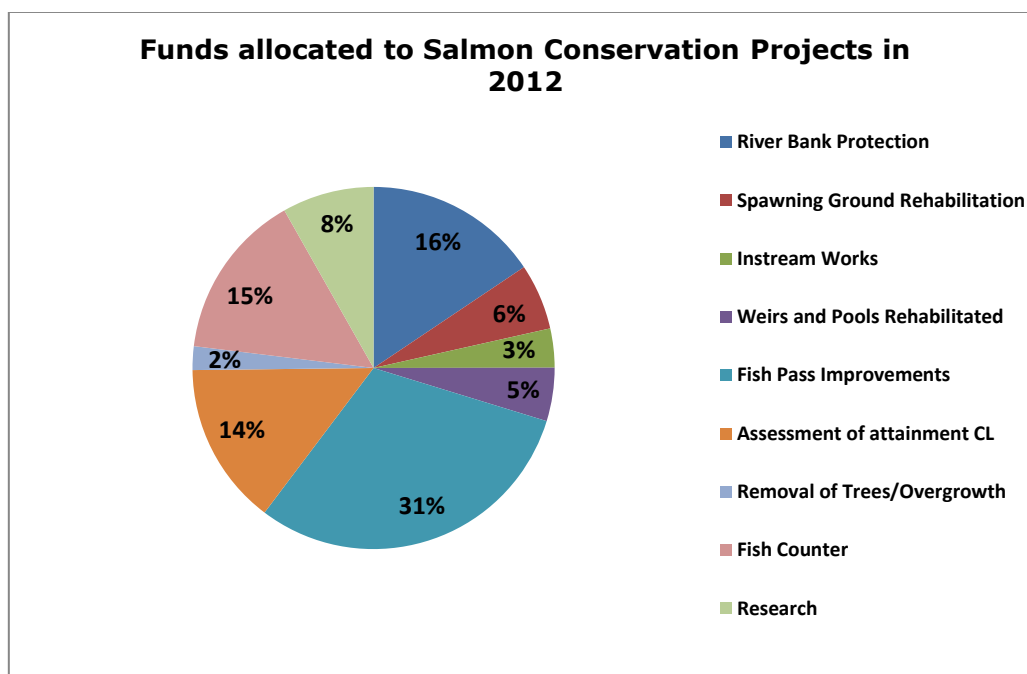


Figure 25. Funds allocated to Salmon Conservation Projects in 2012

Of the 38 projects approved or provisionally approved for funding in 2012, 25 projects were allocated a total of €200,000 funding with no more than €10,000 allocated per project. Details of projects funded to date along with works carried out are available on the IFI website (www.fisheriesireland.ie).

Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme

The principal aims of the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme are to provide a means of collecting accurate nominal catch statistics and estimates of salmon and sea trout stock exploitation, to develop best management strategies and to ensure these species are exploited in a sustainable manner on a national, river basin, fishery district and river basis.

Under the regulations all fishermen must affix a coded tag to each salmon (or sea trout over 40 cm) they catch and retain. A logbook entry must then be made giving details of each fish caught. All logbooks and unused tags must be returned to RBD offices as set out in the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme regulations.

This data is entered into a national database by IFI staff and following this, the validation, collation and analysis of the data is performed to produce the annual Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Statistics Report. These reports provide valuable information to fisheries managers, scientists, policy makers and legislators and assist in the design and implementation of policies and strategies for the conservation of salmon and sea trout stocks in Ireland. The most recent report (2001 to 2011) can be downloaded from the www.fisheriesireland.ie website.

In 2012, based on scientific advice, management recommended the closure of salmon and sea trout fishing in 61 rivers¹ and the opening of 86 rivers² (including catch and release options). A system of brown gill tags was in operation in select rivers where it was considered necessary to ensure river based salmon angling quotas were not exceeded.

Salmon Catch

The 2012 Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Statistics show that the total number of salmon caught by all methods (including catch and release) was 44,497 salmon and 2,822 sea trout (over 40cm) respectively, which represent a decrease of 1.05% on the total salmon catch recorded in 2011 (44,967) and an increase of 0.82% on the total sea trout catch recorded in 2011 (2,799). 2012 proved a challenging year for both anglers and commercial fishermen with difficult fishing conditions, high water levels and inconsistent fish runs at key fishing periods.

The 2012 commercial catch was 10,319 salmon and 34 sea trout (over 40 cm) which represent 56% of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 18,376 fish allocated to the commercial fishing sector. The biggest landings of commercial salmon catches in 2012 were in County Kerry on the River Feale with 1,509 salmon (14.6% of the commercial catch), in County Cork on the River Lee with 1,407 salmon (13.6% of the commercial catch), in County Kerry on the River Laune with 1,343 salmon (13% of the commercial catch), and in Co. Cork on the River Blackwater with 1,013 salmon (9.8% of the commercial catch).

The 2012 angling catch was 34,178 salmon and 2,788 sea trout (over 40cm). Of the 34,178 salmon caught by anglers, 22,287 were harvested and 11,891 subsequently released. Commercial fishermen caught 23% of the catch in 2012, compared to 27% in 2011 and recreational anglers caught 77% in 2012 compared to 73% in 2011.

¹ Conservation of salmon and sea trout bye-law no. 308/309/311/893/-2011, 895-2012

² Conservation of salmon and sea trout bye-law no. 310/885/886/889/890/891/892/894-2011, 896/898-2012

Table 1. Details of 2012 salmon catch by all methods compared to 2011 figures

Salmon Catch	2011	2012
Angling and Commercial		
Total Angling and Commercial salmon catch	44,967	44,497
Commercial		
Total Commercial Salmon catch data	11,973	10,319
Angling		
Total angling salmon harvest	20,306	22,287
Total angling salmon caught and released	12,688	11,891
Total Angling Salmon catch	32,994	34,178

License Sales & Log Book Returns

19,588 salmon rod licences were sold to anglers from fifty four different countries which represents a decrease in sales of 1.56% over 2011. The majority of licence sales (66%) were to residents within Ireland, 12% to Northern Ireland and a further 9% of angling licence sales to UK residents with a significant number of anglers also coming from France (4%) and Germany (3%). Anglers returned 14,597 logbooks in 2012, with a national return rate of 75%, up from 72% on 2011 logbook returns. Table 2 shows the summary statistics for the total numbers of rod licences sales from 2001 – 2012 and the numbers and percentage of logbooks returned by salmon anglers.

Table 2. 2001 to 2012 salmon and sea trout angling licence sales and logbook returns

Year	Licence Sales	Logbook Returns	% Return
2001	32,814	14,238	43%
2002	35,024	18,116	52%
2003	31,809	18,088	57%
2004	30,807	17,955	58%
2005	28,738	17,682	62%
2006	27,341	18,554	68%
2007	19,986	12,962	65%
2008	20,061	13,917	69%
2009	18,314	12,890	70 %
2010	17,983	12,813	71%
2011	19,899	14,414	72%
2012	19,588	14,597	75%

Table 3. 2012 licence sales by licence type and cost

Licence Type	Annual A	District B	Juvenile P	21 Day R	1 Day S	Foyle Area W	Special Local x	Total Angling
Cost	€100	€56	€10	€40	€20	€80	€24	
Volume of sales	3,512	7,256	1,476	4,189	2,202	598	355	19,588
Total sales value €	351,200	406,336	14,760	167,560	44,040	47,840	8,520	€1,040,256

Bye-laws

The principal Bye-laws introduced for the 2012 season were for the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout stocks. Bye-laws were set in place at both national and local level to facilitate bag limits for salmon and sea trout angling (Bye-laws No. 885 & 887 of 2011), the opening of fisheries on a catch and release basis (Bye-laws No. 310/886/889/890/891/892/894 of 2011, 896/898 of 2012), and the closure of certain fisheries where it was considered necessary to afford adequate protection to salmon and sea trout stocks (Bye-law No. 308/309/311/893 of 2011, 895 of 2012).

Further restrictions were set in place for all angling methods on certain closed and catch and release fisheries prohibiting the use of any fish hooks, other than single barbless hooks, and the use of worms as bait in angling where it was considered necessary to afford additional protection measures to salmon and sea trout stocks (Angling Bye-law No. 897, 2012).

The Conservation of Eel Fishing Bye-law 312, 2012 prohibiting fishing for eel or possessing or selling eel caught in a river in the State was introduced.

Commercial fishing for salmon and sea trout detailing the rivers where commercial fishing was permitted along with the opening and closing season was set out in the various Bye-laws (Bye-law 899 & 900 of 2012).

The above Bye-laws were proposed by IFI, based on best management and scientific advice and consultation with stakeholders, and then submitted to the Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources for consideration. Following approval and signing by the Minister, these Bye-laws are enforced by IFI field staff. A list of relevant Bye-laws enacted for 2012 are provided at Appendix 16.

State Fisheries Management

Licensing of State Fisheries

During the 2012 season, 79 fisheries were under licence to 46 angling clubs/organisations generating over €43,000 in licence fees. Fisheries available for tender for the 2013 season were advertised on-line and the incumbent clubs were contacted to inform them of the tender process. IFI have issued long term licences to a number of clubs subject to a management agreement and a long term fisheries development plan being agreed with the clubs. Information on invasive species was

distributed to clubs as a possible area that clubs might address as part of a long term fisheries development plan. By December the majority of clubs had submitted tender bids seeking longer term licences.

Fisheries Development

In Donegal, IFI are working with the Cresslough Anglers on plans to promote and improve access to some of the smaller more remote State lakes. In Sligo, IFI assisted the Sligo Anglers in carrying out weed cutting on Glencar Lake in July. IFI supplied specialised cutting 'V' blades and a boat and coxswain to assist in the works. The club supplied the labour to collect and dispose of the weeds after they were cut. Dr Joe Caffrey of IFI supervised the cutting and reported that it was a success.

Four clubs managing State fisheries under license received funding through the Salmon Conservation Fund (SCF) to carry out development works in 2012. The Kilbride Angling Club received funding of €10,000 from the SCF to continue works started in 2011 on the main channel of the Kells Blackwater. The Abbeyfeale Anglers Association received funding of €9,873 for the enhancement work on the Rivers Feale and Oulagh. The Crolla Angling Association received funding of €9,700 from the SCF to carry out development works on the Crolla River in Donegal. In Kilkenny, the Thomastown Anglers Association received funding of €10,000 from the SCF for rehabilitation work on the River Nore.

Title research was carried out to assist in setting up a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the community for the development of recreational angling on Keel Lough, Achill Island. Redundant fishing right burdens were removed from folios in eleven instances and nine further title research queries were received and investigated. IFI also made a submission to the Land Registry regarding the first registration of lands adjoining the Avoca River in Co. Wicklow.

Permits for IFI managed fisheries

The permits for State owned fisheries managed by IFI were rebranded with IFI's logo and many were amalgamated to reduce the overall number of permit types available. The new A5 size permits can be folded in two to fit in an angler's pocket. Plastic sleeves for holding and protecting permits were also commissioned. These are clear on one side and white on the back with the IFI logo, website and hotline phone number and designed for use with all but daily permits. Both permits and plastic sleeves were well received by the angling community.

Business Development and E-business

Websites and Social Media

IFI's angling information website www.fishinginireland.info was completely redesigned in 2012. The new site has added functionality which will see users able to purchase both permits for selected IFI fisheries and maps, books and other resources which anglers will find useful. The new site will come on stream in early 2013.

Fishinginireland.info plays an important role in connecting domestic and tourist anglers with service providers in the angling sector and in 2012 over 80,000 referrals were made to service provider websites.

Social Media

The use of social media to engage stakeholders is of great value to IFI. Angling reports are posted to the blog at www.fishinginireland.info and tweeted to our followers on Twitter. Through this medium, connections were made with pop singer Hannah Berney

and hypnotist Keith Barry. With over 2,000 Facebook 'likes' in 2012 IFI's posts on angling in Ireland and other announcements had the potential to be seen by as many as 750,000 people. Individual posts were seen by as many 13,477 individuals.

IFI Telephone Hotline 1890 34 74 24

IFI operates a 24 Hour Hotline on 1890 34 74 24 through which concerned individuals can report incidents of pollution, poaching and the presence of invasive species. During 2012, 478 calls were received through the Hotline (which was a 3% increase on the 464 calls received in 2011). The most common reason to call the hotline number was to report an illegal incident (220). 133 calls related to pollution incidents, 7 calls reported the presence of invasive species and 118 were general queries.

Stakeholder Facilitation & Joint Working

Stakeholder facilitation during 2012 included meetings with angling federations to ensure IFI's awareness of the issues of concern to anglers, providing training in funding procurement, development works, invasive species awareness and angling promotion. Working in conjunction with our angling stakeholders and other State Agencies such as the Loughs Agency (LA) and Waterways Ireland (WI), IFI has increased awareness of angling during Fisheries Awareness Week (FAW) and through the sponsorship scheme with significant support being given to the Lakelands and Inland Waterways World Pairs Championship in particular.

IFI hosted a workshop to discuss angling development funding at which all angling federations were represented. The workshop was supported by the Irish Leader Development Network (ILDN).

Through the National Outdoor Recreation Framework, IFI built strong ties with the National Trails Office (NTO) in 2012. Their Trails Guide, launched by Minister Michael Ring, Minister of State for Tourism and Sport, in February, included significant input from IFI. Discussions on the possible angling trail development of Caha and Bluestack mountain lakes have taken place and the NTO have offered their assistance. The NTO ran an excellent trails development course specifically for IFI staff in November 2012.

IFI became members of Leave no Trace (LNT) during 2012. The principles of LNT tie in very well with those of IFI and membership will help us encourage anglers to be more responsible towards the environment.

Donegal Angling

In May 2011 IFI initiated a pilot project to better organise and market the Donegal angling tourism product. Progress during 2012 has included the establishment of an angling stakeholder's alliance known as Donegal Angling Tourism Alliance (DATA). With IFI's assistance, DATA have developed a business and marketing strategy to work with the tourism industry and relevant development agencies. DATA has been successful in raising LEADER (Liason Entre Actions pour le Développement d'Économie Rurale, a Rural Development Programme) funding and will now work to develop the Donegal Angling Holidays brand in conjunction with IFI and the tourism agencies.

Sponsorship

In 2010 and 2011, a pilot sponsorship scheme was developed by IFI through which individuals, clubs, federations, commercial salmon licence holders etc were invited to seek sponsorship for events that would raise awareness of the inland fisheries resource, recreational angling and the work of IFI. The full sponsorship programme operated in

2012, and 88 applications for support were received for events, competitions, teams, literature and equipment. Support was granted to 55 applicants including 7 National Angling Federations and 13 Angling Clubs. Other recipients included youth diversion projects, disabled angling initiatives and the Irish Specimen Fish Committee.

The events which covered a wide range of activities took place all over the country and covered all disciplines of angling with particular emphasis on junior anglers.

Human Resources

Human Resources – An Introduction

The overall objective of the Human Resources Division as set out in Inland Fisheries Ireland's 2012 Business Plan is to provide a best practice, user-friendly and comprehensive set of Human Resource services and systems for Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) that enables it to meet the demands of its Strategic Plan, the Government's transformation of the public sector, the terms of the Croke Park Agreement and the National Recovery and Public Sector Reform Plans.

The Division is led by the Head of Human Resources, Kieran Murphy, assisted by the HR Operations and the Learning and Development managers. A significant increase in Divisional responsibilities during 2012 was the addition of the national health and safety remit. From March 1st 2012 the health and safety executive commenced reporting to Kieran Murphy.

In 2012 the Human Resources Division concentrated on delivery in the following key areas; organisational development through the design of a revised operational structure in line with mandated staffing constraints dictated by the limitations of the Employment Control Framework (ECF), and the provision of human resources, health and safety, and learning and development supports for the organisation. The Division was also responsible for overseeing and meeting IFI's responsibilities in regard to the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Acts 1997 and 2003) and its Garda vetting programme.

2012 was again a challenging year for the Division, working in line with the restrictions imposed by the revised ECF, the continuing demands associated with the Croke Park Agreement, the National Recovery Plan and the Public Sector Reform Plan. During 2012 IFI again met its targets and requirements related to these programmes while maintaining stable employee relations.

Staffing

During 2012 the overall staffing level in IFI was reduced from 341.25 members at the 31st of December 2011 to 323.1 staff at the 31st of December 2012. A significant proportion of this reduction is due to 13 staff opting to retire in February 2012 under the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (No 2) Act of 2009. The balance of the reduction occurred as a result of natural turnover and the expiration of a number of fixed term contracts.

The Government's embargo on recruitment in the public sector remained in place during 2012. As in 2011, IFI was not in a position to engage in any external recruitment apart from the appointment of thirty two seasonal protection staff. Sanction was received for these appointments for a period of four months and the recruitment was conducted centrally by the Human Resources Division, by way of open competition. The IFI Staffing level for 2012 is available at Appendix 24.

Training & Development

The IFI annual National Training Plan was delivered throughout 2012 with the main focus on the training of field staff in line with the long-term strategic plan for the period 2012 to 2015. This plan provides a schedule of training based on operational and functional requirements of IFI and includes:

- Core IFI operational training modules such as the IFI Staff Scheme, Induction Training, Fisheries Law, Conflict Resolution, Expert Witness Training

- Health & Safety, Corporate Compliance, and specific role related skills such as Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) Operations, Personal Survival training, Chainsaw and other machinery use
- Government and Business initiatives such as Performance Management training, Disability Awareness, Child Protection Awareness etc.
- Management Development.

Two new core skills programmes were introduced in 2012. Training in the first programme, Conflict Management and Court Procedures was provided to all IFI Field staff by Garda College personnel in Templemore following a period of design and development with the college.

The second programme, Swiftwater Rescue Training was developed and tailored by the provider to meet the needs of the IFI staff.

Overall, 26 separate training programmes were delivered for staff of IFI in 2012, over 1,896 training days, averaging 6 days per employee. The training cost for 2012 was calculated at 2% of payroll. However, the quality of the training provided has allowed the staff of IFI to work more efficiently and effectively towards achieving the goals of the organisation and in providing a more professional and customer orientated service for our stakeholders. Full details of the programmes delivered are set out in Appendix 25.

Employee Relations

Stable industrial relations were maintained during 2012 despite the on-going difficult conditions in which IFI is continuing to operate. Good lines of communications on key issues have been maintained with staff and trade unions. The 2012 staff Corporate Day designed to update staff on business and related matters took place and this, together with the on-going publication of the IFI staff newsletter provided a platform on which to build the continued expansion of internal communications.

The issue of coordinated work wear, designed to contribute to and maintain the confidence of the public in IFI, was finalised and this has been of extreme benefit in establishing and enhancing the professional image of the organisation.

Up to the formation of IFI in July of 2010, management of staff matters including absenteeism was controlled on a regional basis. Following the formation of IFI the Human Resources Division commenced an on-going process of implementing and centralising HR management systems. As an integral part of this process the Division assumed responsibility for the coordinated management of long term absenteeism.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of staff is of paramount importance to IFI and the following is a summary of the key achievements in this area during 2012.

The National Safety Committee was formed in September 2011 in compliance with Section 26 of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Act of 2005. In early 2012 the elected national safety representatives received formal training for their roles. The committee has since become an integral part of safety management within the organisation. It has been proactive in consulting with management on such topics as personal protective equipment (PPE), an employee safety handbook, work wear, training and risk assessments. The Committee also developed a lone working procedure and buddy system which was agreed in 2012 will be rolled out in the first quarter of 2013.

A staff safety handbook was produced in consultation with the National Safety Committee and issued to all staff. This is an easy reference document for staff which focuses on the most prominent safety issues they may encounter in their daily operations.

In 2012 there was a significant effort to improve safety protection for staff working on or adjacent to water. New 150N compact personal flotation devices (PFDs) were introduced for all relevant staff. Staff involved in sea going operations were also issued with new 375N combined buoyancy Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs). A total of 116 staff received training in the safe use of this equipment. IFI also commenced a Swiftwater Rescue training programme for staff in 2012.

Safety risk assessments of IFI properties and operational bases continued as a key part of the health and safety management programme in 2012 with thirty such assessments completed in 2012 as part of this on-going programme.

IFI supported safety initiatives and events organised by the Institute of Occupational Safety & Health's (IOSH) Rural Industries Section. The Health & Safety Executive who is the current chair of the IOSH Rural Industries Section was involved in the organisation of safety events. These were open to the public and to safety professionals alike. Topics covered in 2012 included firearm safety, road safety and trailer towing regulation and safety in Ireland's mining sector.

Incident Reporting Statistics 2012

25 incidents were reported to the Health & Safety Executive of IFI in 2012 of which 7 were reported to the Health & Safety Authority. The number of incidents reported in each location ranges from 1 to 7. IFI Ballina & Galway reported the most incidents; however, when one considers the number of staff in that location the reported incident rate is only just over 1% higher than the IFI national average.

Freedom of Information

Seven Freedom of Information (FOI) requests were received in 2012, one from a journalist, one from a business/interest group, one from a member of staff and four from the general public. Of the seven requests, one was in relation to personal information, five were non-personal and one was seeking a range of information of both a personal and non-personal nature.

Of the total received, four were granted, two were part-granted and one was withdrawn and handled outside of the FOI process. One of the part-granted requests went to internal review.

Garda Vetting

The Human Resources Training and Development Manager is the authorised signatory within IFI for Garda Vetting purposes and processes all Garda Vetting applications received. This applies to IFI's requirements in relation to its staff and also to applications submitted by members of the public in relation to individual applications for appointment as Section 294 Private Water Keepers. During 2012 a total of 80 applications were processed.

Chief Executive Officer Remuneration

The remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer of Inland Fisheries Ireland is in accordance with the Assistant Secretary scale which ranges from: €134,523 to €153,885.

Finance & ICT

Finance & ICT – An Introduction

The remit of the Finance & Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Division of Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is to provide a comprehensive set of Financial and ICT systems which are adaptive and flexible enough to meet the evolving demands of IFI and also robust enough to meet the highest standards of corporate governance.

The Finance & ICT Division of IFI are pleased to report on the successful delivery against the goals outlined in IFI's 2012 Business Plans. During 2012 in addition to maintaining proper financial records for IFI, the Division complied with statutory and corporate governance reporting deadlines for both the Financial Statements and the Annual Report. The Division also provided timely financial advice for strategic decision making to the management and Board of IFI and were active in the legal and cost aspects required in relation to the process of procuring new Dublin and Donegal premises.

The format of the management accounts presented to the Board was improved in 2012 providing more concise information to improve the decision making process at Board level.

Specific key achievements included the roll out of the electronic purchase ordering system for all Divisions in headquarters, devolution of budgetary control to the Divisions, installation of the SharePoint/intranet service to improve efficiencies and communications across the organization, a review of banking rates and following a competitive tendering process in early 2012, the change of IFI's main Bankers to Bank of Ireland. In addition, all EU project claims submissions met the strict reporting deadlines. All PQ's were responded to by the requested deadlines. In 2012 the Fixed Assets and Counter Fraud areas were reviewed as part of the internal audit programme.

Over the past number of years the finance function has also continued to be restructured at national level in order to accommodate the requirements emanating from the formation of IFI. Finance staff all took on additional responsibilities to compensate for staffing restrictions due to the impact of the staffing embargo.

The main activities of the Division in 2012 are detailed under the key programme headings outlined below.

Financial Management

Budgets and Management accounts

During 2012 detailed Divisional budgets were prepared and consolidated into a final IFI budget that was agreed by the Board and the Senior Management Team (SMT). Management accounts were presented to the Board and SMT on a monthly basis with a commentary on performance against budget. Reporting formats were changed during the year to improve the quality and accessibility of the financial information being presented to the Board for decision making purposes.

Financial Statements

IFI's Financial Accounts in respect of 2012 were submitted to the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) by the 28th of February 2013 and to the Minister and the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) by the 31st of March 2013 in full compliance with statutory obligations.

Electronic Purchase Order system rollout

The implementation of the electronic purchase order system within each Division of the Swords office added improved corporate governance in the procurement procedures within IFI.

Payroll and pension

The payroll function operated effectively throughout 2012. Pensions and gratuities were calculated for 13 staff who retired on the 29th of February 2012, availing of the favourable terms on offer under the Government's Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (No 2) Act of 2009.

Projects and non-standard financial reports

All European Union (EU) sponsored project claims were submitted within the required deadlines, the main projects being the Celtic Sea Trout Project (CSTP), funded through the Innovation and Environmental Regions of Europe programme (INTEREG), the Control of Aquatic Invasive Species in Ireland project (CAISIE, funded through the EU LIFE+programme), and the Controlling invasive priority non-native species and restoring native biodiversity project (CIRB, funded through INTERREG). A comprehensive audit was conducted by EU auditors on the CSTP with auditor visits on the other projects also occurring during the year. Other *ad hoc* reports and costing's were carried out during the year in areas such as property, fish farming, permits, accommodation and staffing.

Asset Management and Utilisation

Risk Register

Development of IFI's Risk Register during 2012 led to a thorough review of all significant issues impacting on IFI and its assets. Responsibility for each significant area was assigned to a senior manager within IFI. Risk scores were prepared for each of the risks identified in the risk register and these were reviewed by the Audit Committee for approval by the Board.

Fixed Asset Audit

An extensive fixed asset audit took place during 2012. This involved a visit to each IFI location and matching of physical assets to the fixed asset register, with each asset being tagged and where appropriate photographed. All of the core IFI assets have been recorded on a single proforma asset register database.

Procurement

A total of €617k was expended purchasing assets in 2012. Strict procurement procedures were implemented and in a significant number of cases assets were purchased either on frameworks set up by the National Procurement Service or through the eTenders portal. Assets not purchased through these processes were in specific cases of bespoke or force majeure requirements. Management continue to nurture the strong value for money culture inherent throughout the organisation.

Financial Planning

Financial and Treasury management

The Finance Division, in conjunction with assistance from our parent Department, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), successfully met both strategic and operational funding requirements during 2012. A key strategic objective for 2012 was the purchase of a new Dublin premises. While the final contracts were not signed during 2012, funds had been secured, and these were drawn down in 2013 when IFI concluded the acquisition.

Yields from funds held on deposits were up 33.73% on 2011; this was largely attributable to changing banker to Bank of Ireland and maximising the return on the various products they had to offer and implementing an active treasury management programme.

Funding for 2012

In 2012 IFI received an exchequer grant of €25.448 million, of which €17.665 million was allocated towards pay, the total cost of which was €19.6 million. IFI also generated €5.3 million from other sources during 2012. This was reinvested in the management, conservation and protection of the inland fisheries resource.

An additional €0.55 million was generated from the Salmon Conservation Fund during 2012. This fund is due to be disbursed in 2013 for reinvestment in the conservation and rehabilitation of salmon and sea trout fisheries/habitats. Part of these funds will be made available to angling clubs, federations and similar organisations.

Information & Communications Technology (ICT)

SharePoint / Intranet

Intranet webhosting server architecture was installed in order to provide the basis for the development of IFI's SharePoint driven intranet. The intranet will provide a more secure and efficient method for IFI to share information and data within the confines of its core data network.

Hand Held Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

Field data collection forms have been trialled on ruggedised tablet devices with the objective of streamlining and standardising data collection, and spatially enabling existing and future IFI processes, particularly in the field. It is intended for this Mobile GIS project to integrate with a more centralised, secure digital data storage system. The initial forms developed in conjunction with our partners, Compass Informatics and Geofield, have included electrofishing survey, redd counts, barriers and lake survey. The forms will be enhanced to take account of practical feedback from colleagues and suggestions will be considered from various parts of IFI on other processes that could benefit from using these tablet forms, such as environmental surveys or structures and stands.

A number of hand held GIS devices were selected to trial a mobile data capturing field application. One aspect of the trial was a requirement to upload recently captured field data back to the live data base located in IFI's data centre. A 3G mobile technology was decided upon, whereby direct connection could be established to the data centre without compromising any security while the data was in transit. Further application testing will continue throughout 2013.

Network Monitoring

All aspects of network connectivity between each district site are now continually monitored. Any potential data link disruption can be identified early, providing support teams the time required to investigate wider network issues that may arise. This monitoring provides pre-emptive network troubleshooting.

Internet Content Filtering

Internet browsing traffic will now be filtered on both incoming and outgoing communications. This method of filtering further enhances network perimeter security, and also provides a safe internet search environment for IFI users by monitoring web traffic in more detail and checking for malicious web site code.

ICT District Support

On-going ICT support was maintained to a high level for the River Basin District offices as well as the Sword's head office throughout the year. A number of *ad hoc* projects were completed by the ICT section. A new helpdesk ticketing facility was put in place in early 2012 with in excess of 350 issues raised and resolved during the year.

A new IT infrastructure monitoring program was installed and this helped in achieving zero downtime during 2012 on a pre-emptive basis.

Corporate Governance

In 2012 the Division developed the following draft policies:

- Draft IFI Risk Register
- Draft IFI Financial Procedures Manual.

Work commenced on streamlining and updating the IFI Fixed Asset Register.

The 2011 draft Annual Report was submitted to DCENR by the statutory deadline.

Four audit committee meetings were held in 2012.

During 2012 IFI coordinated responses to 91 Parliamentary questions.

Internal Audit

Two internal audits were carried out in 2012 by the internal auditors RSM McClure Watters; a Fixed Assets Review which examined the existing Fixed Assets Register and draft Fixed Assets Policy, and a Counter Fraud Review which examined procedures that are in place in relation to cash holdings, procurement, stock & supplies, income and seizures.

IFI have endeavoured to comply with the Prompt Payments Act and a progress report can be found on the website and at Appendix 26 of the Appendices to this report. Further progress is expected in this area in 2013.

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Draft Income & Expenditure Account for the 12 months to 31 December 2012

	Notes	2012	2011
		€	€
Income			
State and EU Funding			
Operating grants		24,918,580	24,946,450
Net deferred funding for pensions	12c	3,289,961	3,953,587
Other Income	2b	5,305,324	5,163,341
Transfer from / (to) Capital Account	10	1,067,121	967,111
		<u>34,580,986</u>	<u>35,030,489</u>
Expenditure			
Administration	3	4,825,126	4,818,088
Operations	4	27,543,422	28,147,660
		<u>32,368,548</u>	<u>32,965,748</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) at 1 January		4,042,166	1,977,424
Surplus / (Deficit) at period end		2,212,438	2,064,742
		<u>6,254,604</u>	<u>4,042,166</u>

DRAFT STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

	2012	2011
	€	€
(Deficit)/surplus for the period	2,212,438	(1,907,730)
Experience losses / (gains) on pension scheme liabilities	705,000	3,592,000
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of pension scheme liabilities	13,967,000	(996,000)
Actuarial Loss / (gain) on pension liabilities	14,672,000	2,596,000
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding	(14,672,000)	(2,596,000)
Total Recognised (loss)/gain for the period	<u>2,212,438</u>	<u>(1,907,730)</u>

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 17 form an integral part of these Financial Statements

Chief Executive

Date

Board Member

Date

Glossary of Terms

Anadromous fish Fish born in fresh water which spends most of its life in the sea and return to fresh water to spawn eg salmon, smelt, shad, striped bass, and sturgeon are common examples. *opp* catadromous: does the opposite - lives in fresh water and enters salt water to spawn. Most eels are catadromous.

Bunding Structure to prevent water ingress

Crump Weir Generally a weir designed with a specific slope to accommodate a fish counter

DCENR the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

DoF the Department of Finance

Electro Fishing The utilisation of the reaction of fish to electrical fields in water for facilitating fish capture

FI Fáilte Ireland

Fish Counters Electronic device used to determine the number of fish migrating past a particular location. (See Logie, Partial and Vaki, Counters)

LA Local Authority

Logie Counter Resistivity fish counter placed across a weir to count fish moving upstream or downstream.

MI Marine Institute

NPWS National Parks and Wildlife Service

OPW the Office of Public Works

Otoliths commonly known as "earstones," are hard, calcium carbonate structures located directly behind the brain of bony fishes. X-ray images of a spotted seatrout show the location and orientation of the otoliths.

Partial Counter Fish counter which only covers part of the River width or counts only part of the fish run.

Put and Take Fisheries Fisheries where hatchery trout are stocked at a catchable size to create recreational angling.

PIT Tag A Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag is an encoded wire tag attached to a fish which can be read remotely using a pit tag reader based on radio frequency technology.

REDD/REDDS A spawning nest made by a fish, especially a salmon or trout.

RBD River Basin District.

SWIM A part of a stream frequented by fish.

Standing Scientific Committee for Salmon purpose is to offer independent scientific advice to IFI on Eels and Salmon.

TI Tourism Ireland

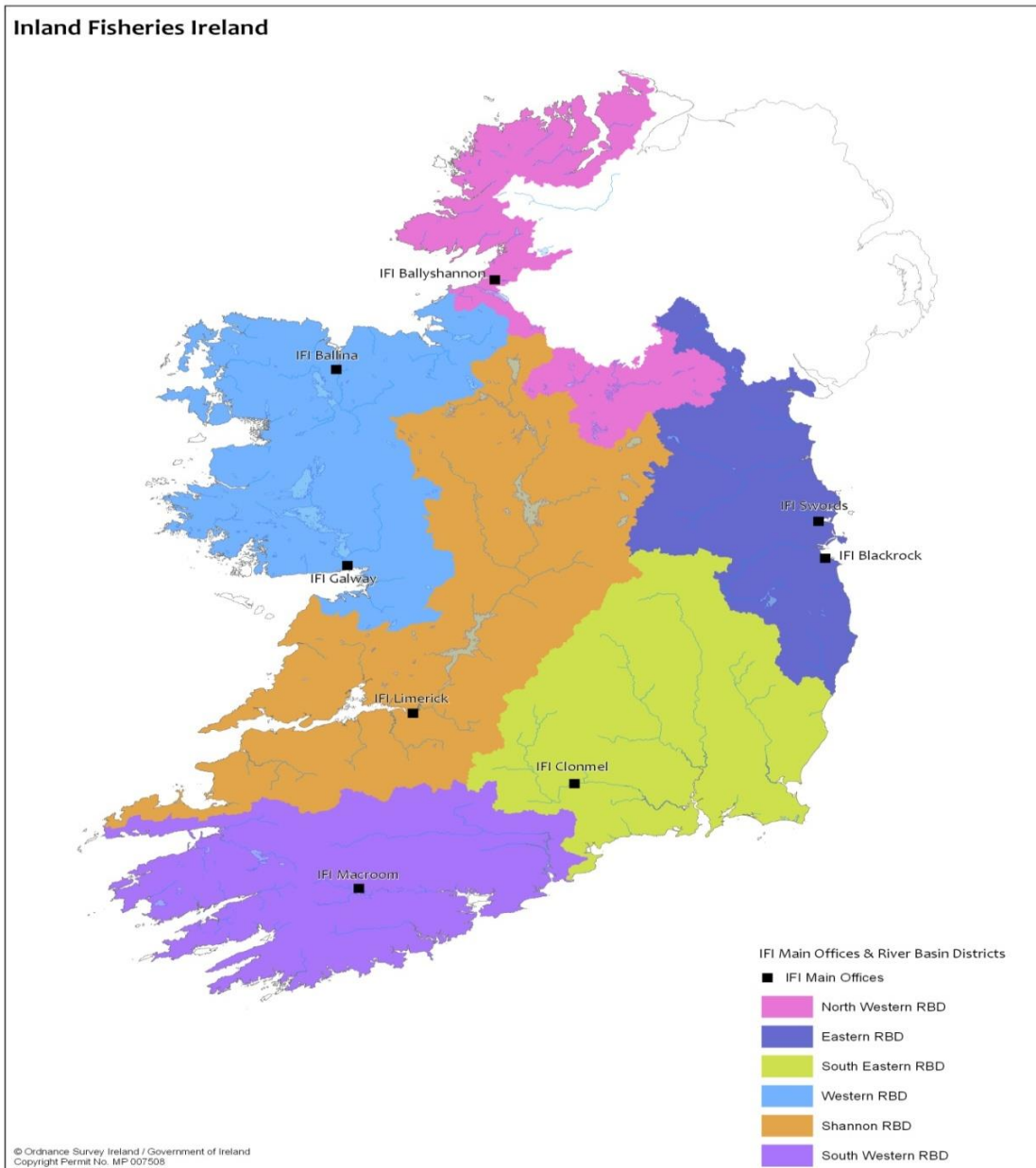
Vaki Counter Infra-red fish counter used in narrow locations such as a fish pass to count salmon and sea trout.

WFD Water Framework Directive.

WI Waterways Ireland.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Inland Fisheries Ireland main offices and River Basin District Map



Appendix 2: Schedule of Fish Counters operated by IFI in 2012

Schedule of Fish Counters operated by IFI in 2012			
River	District	Counter Type	Full Counter/ Partial Counter
Bunowen	Ballinakill	Logie	Full Counter
Owenglin	Ballinakill	Vaki and camera	Full Counter
Culfin	Ballinakill	Logie	Full Counter
Dawros	Ballinakill	Logie	Full Counter
Feale	Limerick	Logie	Partial Counter
Maigue	Limerick	Logie	Partial (Upgrading to Full)
Mulkear	Limerick	Logie	Partial (Upgrading to Full)
Slaney	Wexford	Logie	Partial Counter
Boyne	Drogheda	Vaki	Partial Counter
Eske	Ballyshannon	Logie	Full Counter
Eany	Ballyshannon	Logie	Full Counter
Munhin (Carrowmore)	Bangor	Logie	Full Counter
Moy	Ballina	Logie and two Vaki	Partial Counter
Owenmore	Bangor	Logie	Full Counter
Ballisodare	Sligo	Vaki	Full Counter
Owenduff	Bangor	Logie	Full Counter
Erriff	Ballinakill	Vaki	Full Counter
Casla	Connemara	Logie	Full Counter
Ballynahinch	Connemara	Logie	Full Counter
Inagh	Connemara	Logie	Partial Counter
Corrib River/Lake	Galway	Logie	Partial Counter
Fane	Dundalk	Logie	Full Counter
Dee	Dundalk	Vaki	Full Counter
Kerry Blackwater	Kerry	Logie	Full Counter
Maine	Kerry	Logie	Full Counter
Waterville	Kerry	Logie	Full Counter
Bandon	Cork	Logie	Partial Counter
Dunkellin	Galway	Logie	Full Counter
Owenboliska	Galway	Logie	Full Counter
Gowla	Connemara	Vaki	Full Counter
Garavogue	Sligo	Vaki	Partial Counter

Appendix 3: Total Patrol Man Hours for 2012

*Comparable variance due to significantly fewer lakes in the SERBD region.
A patrol is defined as man hours invested from departure and return to base and refers to patrols conducted at lakes, rivers, coastal and estuary water bodies by IFI staff.

Patrol Man Hours			
River Basin District	Total Lake Patrols man hours 2012	Total River Patrols man hours 2012	Total Coastal/ Estuary Patrols man hours 2012
ERBD	8,720	15,963	1,217
SERBD	72*	16,690	3,961
SWRBD	5,506	16,575	1,436
SHRBD	4,436	18,327	4,671
WRBD	4,536	26,877	4,897
NWRBD	5,343	21,066	1,071
Total	28,613	115,498	17,253

Appendix 4: Number of Patrols by Different Methods (*Q3, Q4 2012)

*This is a new metric which was introduced as part of the Service Level Agreement with DCENR and came into effect in July 2012, data for this metric has therefore been collated over the subsequent six month period.

Number of Patrols by Different Methods							
River Basin District	Bicycle Patrols	Quad Bike Patrols	Kayak Patrols	Vehicle Patrols	Personal Water Craft Patrols	Boat Patrols	RBD Total
ERBD	108	0	21	4,325	0	36	4,490
SERBD	0	6	0	721	0	25	752
SWRBD	6	0	13	3,044	13	28	3,104
SHRBD	0	0	0	1,113	0	154	1,267
WRBD	0	0	2	5,117	0	246	5,365
NWRBD	0	27	0	1,064	0	48	1,139
Total	114	33	36	15,384	13	537	16,117

Appendix 5. Environmental Assessments in 2012

River Basin District	Number of Planning and Licensing Proposals assessed in 2012	Number of Forestry Proposals assessed in 2012
ERBD	374	64
SERBD	376	170
SWRBD	371	239
SHRBD	348	108
WRBD	516	161
NWRBD	201	67
Totals	2,186	809

Appendix 6: Number of Environmental Inspections in 2012

* Due to the broad scope of IFI's work and the unique nature of each RBD, environmental inspections can be wide ranging in terms of complexity and with varying levels of investigative requirements. The RBDs report on Environmental Inspections which are deemed as "visual inspections" and also on more complex cases where a greater degree of analysis/inspection is required.

*Environmental Inspections	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Farm Inspections	262	564	118	706	92	315	2,057
Industrial Premises	137	148	28	61	37	365	776
Wastewater & Water Treatment Plants	441	123	128	135	111	450	1,388
Civil Engineering Works	271	479	130	68	170	519	1,637
Forestry Sites	55	108	69	35	229	77	573
Industrial Sites	254	148	69	28	87	90	676
RBD Total	1,420	1,570	542	1,033	726	1,816	7,107

Appendix 7. Number of Inspections of Permit and Licence Holders (Q3, Q4 2012)

*This is a new metric which was introduced in July 2012. Data for this metric was therefore collated over the subsequent six month period.

** This is an estimated figure.

*Permit and Licence Holder Inspections in Q3 and Q4 of 2012	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Commercial Salmon and Sea Trout Licence Holders	0	92	160	95	240	43	630
Recreational Salmon and Sea Trout Licence Holders	315	73	750	840	2,760	248	4,986
Inspections of Non-licensed Anglers (Trout, Coarse Fish and Sea Anglers)	455	538	520	2,411	1,378	**400	5,302

Appendix 8. Prosecutions and On the Spot Fines 2012

Prosecutions and On the Spot Fines	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Number of Prosecutions	11	7	24	11	13	32	98
Number of Cases in Court	11	5	10	10	25	28	89
Cases Appealed	1	2	5	0	2	0	10
Number of On the Spot Fines Issued	56	22	107	107	35	61	388
Number of Fines Paid	33	17	79	62	19	31	241
On the Spot Fines in 2012	€4,950	€2,550	€11,950	€8,925	€2,850	€4,650	€35,875

Appendix 9. Angling Development Works 2012

Angling Development Works	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Number of Angling Facility Enhancement Projects	8	1	0	14	4	12	39
Investment in Angling Facility Enhancement € (Excluding Salmon Conservation Projects)	€13,500	€2,000	€350.00	€161,780	€6,400	€15,000	€199,030
Number of Stiles, Footbridges, Platforms Replaced	32	1	3	7	25	219	287
Number of New Additional Fishing Spaces Created	40	0	0	15	1	812	868
Number of Coarse Fish tTransferred within the Region	300	0	0	526	276	49	1,151

Appendix 10. Six month report on Rehabilitation of Rivers/Streams (Q3, Q4 2012)

*This is a new metric which was introduced in July 2012. Data for this metric was therefore collated over the subsequent six month period.

*River Sites Developed refers to sites where no previous work has been carried out.

**River/Stream Maintained refers to sites where on-going work is carried out to ensure the quality of the river/stream is maintained to a high standard.

***Stream Rehabilitation refers to sites which have undergone rehabilitation work following significant damage/deterioration.

Rehabilitation of Rivers/ Streams	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Number of Rivers Sites Developed*	5	5	2	10	31	63	116
Length of River/Stream Maintained **(metres)	460	0	4.2	850	32,696	25,370	59,380.2
Length of Stream Rehabilitated *** (metres)	97	3,000	500	7,610	5,027	3,778	20,012

Appendix 11. Environmental Protection Warning Letters Issued in 2012 in respect of environmental matters

Environmental Protection	No. of Warning Letters Issued
ERBD	22
SERBD	272
SWRBD	135
SHRBD	23
WRBD	20
NWRBD	103
Total	575

Appendix 12: Pollution Control and Water Quality Report 2012

Pollution Control and Water Quality	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Reported Fish Kills	4	1	2	1	1	1	10
Fish Kills Caused by Agricultural Practice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Kills Caused by Industrial Operations	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Fish Kills Caused by Municipal Works	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other	4	1	0	0	1	1	7
Number of Water Samples Collected	91	135	80	2,234	301	538	3,379

Appendix 13. Fisheries Development Surveys carried out in 2012

Fisheries Development Surveys	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Totals
Number of Small Stream Risk Surveys (SSRS)	0	2	0	0	6	0	8
Number of Electrofishing Surveys	70	25	24	33	124	21	297
Number of General Fisheries Surveys	15	7	5	23	15	18	83

Appendix 14. Reports to IFI 24 Hour Fisheries Protection Hotline in 2012

No. of Incidents Reported to IFI 24 Hour Fisheries Protection Hotline Tel. 1890 34 74 24	
Incident Type	Number
Number of Illegal Fishing Cases Reported	220
Number of Pollution Cases Reported	133
Number of Invasive Species Cases Reported	7
Other	118
Total Number of Calls	478

Appendix 15: Current Funded Projects

Project/ Survey Title	Project Director	Total Budget €	Duration	Funding Source
Atlantic Aquatic Resource Conservation (AARC) Project	Paddy Gargan	€3.87m	3 Years	ERDF, IFI, University College Cork (UCC), Electricity Supply Board (ESB) & Marine Institute (MI)
Mulkear LIFE, EU LIFE+ Project	Ruairi O Conchuir	€1.74m	5 Years	IFI, OPW, Limerick County Council (Co.Co), NPWS, North & South T. Co.Co.
Control of Aquatic Invasive Species in Ireland (CAISIE)	Joe Caffrey	€1.5m	4 Years	EC Life+ & NPSW
Celtic Sea Trout Project (CSTP)	Paddy Gargan & Willie Roche	€466,000	3 Years	INTERREG Iva Ireland – Wales & IFI internal funding
Water Framework Directive (WFD) Surveillance Monitoring of Fish Stocks in Lakes, Rivers & Transitional Waters	Fiona Kelly	€366,000	On-going	IFI
Environmental River Enhancement Programme (EREP)	Martin O'Grady, Jimmy King	€305,000	On-going	Office of Public Works
Waterways Ireland Project	Joe Caffrey	€235,000	On-going	Waterways Ireland
Habitats Directive	James King	€200,000	On-going	IFI
National Eel Management Plan	Paddy Gargan	€188,766	On-going	IFI
Salmon CL Attainment Project	Paddy Gargan	€120,224	On-going	Conservation Stamp Fund
EELIAD Eel Research	Paddy Gargan	€115,544	4 Years	EU
Pike Research	Joe Caffrey	€96,000	3 Years	IFI & IFPAC
Fish Stock Surveys on L. Corrib	Martin O'Grady	€50,000	On-going	IFI
Bass Research & Monitoring Programme	William Roche	€23,000	On-going	EU Data Collection Framework & IFI internal funding

Appendix 16. 2012 Bye-laws and Statutory Instruments (SI's) enacted in 2011 for the 2012 season and enacted within the 2012 season

Bye-law No.	Bye-laws enacted in 2011 for the 2012 season
308 of 2011	Ballina District River Deel Close Season
309 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Closed Rivers)
310 of 2011	Lismore District Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Closed Season
311 of 2011	Owenator River Prohibition on Angling with Rod and Line
885 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Bag Limits)
886 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Catch and Release)
887 of 2011	Conservation of Sea Trout Bye-Law No. 887, 2011
889 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Suir)
890 of 2011	Avoca River System (Catch and Release)
891 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Bandon)
892 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (Newport River)
893 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (River Slaney)
894 of 2011	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout (R. Shannon) (Catch and Release)
Bye-law No.	Bye-laws enacted in 2012
312 of 2012	Conservation of Eel Fishing Bye-law
895 of 2012	Ballina district (prohibition on angling with rod and line)
896 of 2012	Conservation of salmon and sea trout (River Nore)
897 of 2012	Angling Bye-law
898 of 2012	Conservation of salmon and sea trout (River Slaney)
899 of 2012	Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Draft nets and Snap nets
900 of 2012	Salmon and Trout Conservation (Extension to Draft Nets Season)
Statutory Instruments (S.I's)	
S.I. No. 705 of 2011	Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme (No. 2) Regulations 2011
S.I. No 706 of 2011	Inland Fisheries (Fixed Charge Notice) (No. 2) Regulations 2011
S.I. No 80 of 2012	Control of Fishing for Salmon Order 2012

Appendix 17. Salmon and Sea Trout Angling Licence and Logbook Returns 2012

River Basin District	Salmon & Sea Trout Angling Licences Sold	Salmon & Sea Trout Logbook Returns	*% Logbook Returns
ERBD	1,079	1,001	93%
SERBD	1,549	1,242	80%
SWRBD	4,479	3,491	78%
SHRBD	1,242	1,037	84%
WRBD	7,936	5,559	74%
NWRBD	3,303	2,267	68%
Total	19,588	14,597	74.52%

Appendix 18. Salmon and Sea Trout Angling Licence Sales in each RBD 2012

Licence Category	Annual A	District B	Juvenile P	21 Day R	1 Day S	Foyle Ext W	Special Local X	Region Total
ERBD	546	363	56	78	32	4	0	1,079
SERBD	358	962	247	474	432	475	355	3,303
SWRBD	261	743	111	66	59	2	0	1,242
SHRBD	379	873	114	143	40	0	0	1,549
WRBD	1563	3704	781	2770	1214	107	0	10,139
NWRBD	405	611	167	658	425	10	0	2,276
Total	3,512	7,256	1,476	4,189	2,202	598	355	19,588

Appendix 19. Fishing Licences and RBD Managed Fisheries Report 2012

Rod Angling Licences issued		ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Salmon/ Sea Trout		1,079	1,549	4,479	1,242	7,936	3,303	19,588
Commercial Licences issued								
Salmon								
Draft Net	No	0	0	42	0	19	13	74
CFO Draft	No	0	0	0	50	0	0	50
Special Local Draft Net	No	0	0	0	0	23	8	31
Snap Net	No	0	87	7	0	0	0	94
Other	No	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	No	0	87	50	50	42	21	250
Salmon/ Trout Dealers	No	53	24	36	15	31	13	172
Molluscs Dealers	No	63	22	28	28	17	6	164
IFI Managed Fisheries								
Fisheries Managed	No	1	0	16	18	13	7	55
Revenue	€	€1,200	0	€122,133	€94,483	€322,444	€41,441	€581,701

Appendix 20. Salmon Conservation Fund Projects 2012 based on funds paid out

- (1) – conservation component collected in 2011, funds allocated in 2012
 (2) – These projects range from projects allocated funds from 2009-2012
 (3) – Based on projects completed in 2012, these projects were allocated funds spread across 2009-2012
 (4) – Total of grant aid paid out in 2012 for projects allocated funds from 2009- 2012.

Salmon Conservation Fund (SCF) Projects	National Projects	ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
No. of SCF projects allocated funds in 2012 from the conservation component of the licence (1)	2	8	8	2	11	4	2	37
No. of SCF projects completed in 2012 (2)	4	3	3	0	7	3	2	22
Total value of Projects completed or applied for € (3)	€439,818	€24,946	€29,704	€0	€255,157	€93,724	€111,772	€955,121
Monetary value of aid provided € (4)	€368,876	€23,128	€29,473	€0	€50,265	€75,888	€111,772	€659,402
Value of aid provided as percentage of total cost of works	84%	93%	99%	0%	20%	81%	100%	69%

**Appendix 21. Commercial Salmon and Sea Trout catches by River from Log Book returns
2012**

Fishery District	Engine/Type	River	Salmon Caught	Sea Trout Caught	Total Reported Salmon & Sea Trout Catch
Waterford	Snap Net	Nore	759	4	763
	Snap Net	Suir	622	2	624
Lismore	Snap Net	Blackwater (Munster)	894	0	894
	Draft	Blackwater (Munster)	119	1	120
Cork	Draft Net	Lower Lee	1,407	9	1,416
		Bandon	64	0	64
		Ilen	118	1	119
Kerry	Draft Net	Laune (Including Cottoners)	1,343	5	1,348
		Roughty	18	0	18
		Owenmore R. (Brandon)	124	0	124
		Inny	27	1	28
		Castlemaine Harbour	844	3	847
Limerick	CFO Draft Net	Cashen/Feale	1,509	0	1,509
Ballinakill	Draft Net	Killary Harbour	369	0	369
		Dawros	38	0	38
		Culfin	7	0	7
		Owenglin (Clifden)	35	0	35
Bangor	Draft Net	Owenmore	371	0	371
		Owenduff	445	8	453
		Combined estuary	274	0	274
		Glenamoy	24	0	24
		Newport River	12	0	12
Ballyshannon	Draft Net	Eany River	202	0	202
Letterkenny	Special Local Draft Net	Owenea/Owentocker Loughros More	548	0	548
	Draft Net	Gweebarra	146	0	146
Totals			10,319	34	10,353

Appendix 22. IFI Fish Stocking 2012

Galway *49,949 refers to salmon smolts produced by Cong Hatchery & stocked out as part of the experimental ranching programme.
Ballina **15,000 refers to wild brown trout alevins produced and released in Lough Arrow catchment.

Wild Fish Stocking by IFI		ERBD	SERBD	SWRBD	SHRBD	WRBD	NWRBD	Total
Salmon Stocked	No	0	0	0	0	*49,949	0	49,949
Coarse Fish Transferred	No	300	0	0	526	431	0	1,257
Wild Brown Trout – Alevins	No	0	0	0	0	**15,000	0	15,000
Total		300	0	0	526	65,380	0	66,206
Reared Fish Stocking by IFI								
Brown Trout Fry	No	0	0	0	150,000	0	0	150,000
Brown Trout 1 Year old	No	0	0	0	400	0	0	400
Brown Trout 2 Year old	No	1,500	0	3,050	16,950	4,650	0	24,650
Rainbow Trout 1 Year old	No	1,500	0	34,350	8,900	1,000	0	44,250
Rainbow Trout 2 Year old	No	0	0	1,150	0	400	0	1,550
Total		3,000	0	38,550	176,250	6,050	0	220,850

Appendix 23. Tag and Recapture of Marine Species. Figures to December 2012

	Numbers Tagged to December 2012	Numbers Recaptured to December 2012	% Return	Days at Liberty	Dist. Travelled (km)	Numbers Tagged in 2012
Blue Shark	19,208	858	4.47%	0-6502	0-6800	244
Porbeagle Shark	171	8	4.68%	71-3947	142-3860	8
Thresher Shark	1	0	0.00%	n/a	n/a	0
Tope	7,355	486	6.61%	28-6587	0-3496	290
Monkfish	1,028	190	18.48%	0-4526	0-1152	0
Common Skate	1,335	184	13.78%	0-3257	0-432	13
Long Nosed Skate	3	0	0.00%	n/a	n/a	0
White Skate	21	1	4.76%	975	4.8	0
Blonde Ray	735	124	16.87%	26-1871	0-128	1
Undulate Ray	1,116	55	4.93%	0-2676	0-96	6
Thornback Ray	10,315	316	3.06%	0-2190	0-180	77
Painted Ray	280	13	4.64%	13-1398	0-32	6
Homelyn Ray	394	13	3.30%	294-1373	0-115.2	0
Cuckoo Ray	9	0	0.00%	n/a		0
Spurdog	435	2	0.46%	280-521	1400	36
Bass	1,805	56	3.10%	0-1373	0-140.8	0
Mullet	311	5	1.61%	0-275	0-320	0
Flounder	287	30	10.45%	0-738	0-5.6	0
Sting Ray	43	0	0.00%	n/a	n/a	0
Bull Huss	142	6	4.23%	103-1499	0-249.6	7
Dabs	43	2	4.65%	378	3.2	0
Smooth Hound	179	4	1.82%	1775	760	48
Plaice	5	1	20.00%	70	0	0
Bluefin Tuna	11	0	0.00%	n/a	n/a	0
Blackmouthed Dogfish	8	0	0.00%	n/a	n/a	0
Total	45,281	2,211				736
Total Fish Tagged to date : 43,572						

Appendix 24. IFI Staffing level at 31st of December 2012

IFI Staffing Full Time Equivalent (FTE) 2012		
Permanent Staff (FTE)	No.	298.9
Exchequer Funded Temporary Staff (FTE)	No.	17.2
Project Funded Staff (EU or other)	No.	7.0
Total Staff (FTE)		323.1

Appendix 25. Training & Development Programmes delivered in 2012

Training & Development Programmes delivered in 2012	No. of Participants	No. of Training Days
Personal Survival Techniques and RIB Capsize Training	88	169
Kayak/Canoe Training	42	88
Electrofishing Training	60	60
Child Protection Awareness Training	10	10
Occupational First Aid Training FETAC Level 6	57	139
Chainsaw Training	12	60
Corporate Governance Training	12	12
Manual Handling Training	230	115
Induction Training	59	59
Conflict Management & Court Procedures	191	759
Powerboat Level 2 Training & Instructor Re-validation	49	98
Certificate in Pesticide Application FETAC Level 6	10	20
Report Writing	10	10
Quad Driving Training	9	9
Swiftwater Rescue Training	20	40
Dive Coxswain Training	8	20
Lab Safety	8	8
Abrasive Wheels Training	5	5
360 Degree Excavator Training	1	1
Chemical Awareness Safety Training	9	9
Fire Warden Training	82	41
Asymmetrical Lifejacket Training	118	59
Safety Representative Training	9	26
Trail Development	12	24
Retirement Seminar	14	40
Safe use of Firearms	15	15
TOTAL	1,140	1,896

Appendix 26: Prompt Payments made to creditors by IFI in 2012

Details	Number	Value €	Percentage of total number of payments made
Number of payments made within 15 days	6,721	5,242,929	48.62%
Number of payments made within 16 days to 30 days	4,680	2,215,526	36.28%
Total payments made in excess of 30 days	1,948	1,861,583	15.10%
Total payments made in 2012	13,349	9,320,038	100%

Appendix 27. Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information enquiries answered by IFI in 2012

2012 PQs and FOIs	Total 2012
Parliamentary Questions (PQs)	92
Freedom of Information Requests (FOIs)	7

Appendix 28. Mileage and Subsistence expenses & Fees paid to the Board of IFI in 2012

Board Member	Mileage & Subsistence	Fees & Remuneration (*payable from 1 st July 2012)
Brendan O'Mahony (Chairman)	7,555	2,993
Andrew Duncan ^{1,2}	2,202	1,924
Lal Faherty ¹	6,838	1,924
Dr Frances Lucy ^{1, 3}	2,749	0
John Carroll	3,396	1,924
John Geary ²	7,284	1,924
Michael McGreal ²	4,301	1,924
Marcus Mac Mahon ²	3,213	1,924
Muireann O'Neill ^{1, 3}	5,332	0
Dr Ciaran Byrne ³ (ex-officio Board member)	12,071	0
Total	54,941	14,537
Some members also serve on Board Subcommittees: ¹ denotes Audit Committee ² denotes Property Committee		

Appendix 29: Summary of Seizures in 2012 from rivers, lakes and estuaries in all IFI River Basin Districts
***Nets refers to Fixed, Bass, Coarse, Gill, Fyke, Land, Linnen, Loop, Monofilament, Trammel, Trout and Salmon nets.**
A detailed breakdown of Seizures during 2012 is available on the IFI website at www.fisheriesireland.ie

Monthly summary of seizures in 2012 from rivers, lakes and estuaries in all IFI River Basin Districts									
2012	No. of Incidents in each month from all RBDs	Engine	Boat	Number of Nets *	Total combined length of Nets seized (in metres)	Fishing Rods	Rod and reel	Fish	Other
JAN	15	1	1 Dinghy 1 Engine	8	1,233	1	2	45 Bass 17 Bags Oysters 2 Pike	1 Battery 1 Bait Box 1 Fish Trap
FEB	16		2 Dinghies	9	1,515	6		20 coarse 1 Trout 1 Bass	Eel trap Pump & Paddles 1 Spear
MAR	21			24	935	17		4 Bags Oysters 8 Salmon 4 coarse	Pulley rope
APR	24			20	901.7	8	1	41 small fish 1 Pike 10 coarse	1 Oyster Dredge 2 Fish Trap
MAY	40		1 Dinghy 1 Boat	27	1,767	32		54 coarse 6 Trout 5 Pike 2 salmon	1 Pulley 1 Cage
JUN	52	1		39	3,576	12	4	87 coarse fish 7 Salmon	Pulley system 9 set lines
JUL	83		1 Boat	125	7,713	11	4	3 Sea Trout 32 Salmon	4 Hand lines
AUG	61	1 Stroke haul		67	3,666.3	19		6 Salmon 11 Sea Trout	3 Bikes Salmon ova paste 1 Fish Trap

2012	No. of Incidents in each month from all RBDs	Engine	Boat	Number of Nets	Total combined length of Nets seized (in metres)	Fishing Rods	Rod and reel	Fish	Other
SEPT	51	1 Stroke haul	1 Boat	49	2,022	10	6 reels	9 Bass 6 coarse fish 2 Salmon 1 Trout	2 Fixed Floating lines & artificial flies. 1 Tackle Bag & Bait box, 1 Cage. 1 person apprehended
OCT	18	1 electric outboard		18	785.5	11	2	4 Coarse fish	
NOV	9			5	123.7	2	3	1 Salmon	2 persons apprehended 1 Spear
DEC	6	1 Stroke haul		6	301.8				
Total	396			397	24,540m	129	22		

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