**Opening of Galway Fishery**

**The Galway Fishery will open on 1st February 2021 subject to Public Health guidelines in place at that time. The Covid- 19 Pandemic precludes the holding of the Annual Opening Day event in 2021. Booking applications will continue to be processed on the Fishery.**

* Only angler’s resident within the prescribed travel distance (Level 5 currently 5km) will be allowed to fish on Galway Fishery beats.
* Anglers will be permitted to fish for a maximum period of 4 hours in any one day.
* Permits will be available for 4 hour slots during an angling day and all bookings must be made in advance
* All booking and permit purchasing will be carried out remotely, on-line or by phone
* A maximum of 6 anglers on the Galway Weir, 2 on the New Beat will be allowed during any one time/slot.
* Designated parking at the Fishery will be provided and supervised by staff, with adherence to social distancing strictly implemented.
* With regard to the use of Sluice Barrage Walkway (controlled by the Office of Public Works) to access the east bank of the Galway Weir. Only one person at any one time will be allowed to ensure social distancing guidelines are observed.
* High Bank Permits for Galway City Residents will be issued on an annual basis under the normal pricing structure All relevant regulations regarding social distancing and duration of angling allowed will apply. Payment for permits and licences must be contactless. Bag limits will apply, as will current angling regulations.
* Anglers must travel and fish alone, no non-angling persons will be allowed on the beat or bankside.

Information on anglers (i.e., Name/Address/contact details, angling dates/times will be retained for an agreed period for contact tracing purposes. All data will be captured and held by IFI in compliance with GDPR regulations.

* Toilet facilities will be available for use, but canteen, changing area’s and tackle storage facilities will NOT be available to anglers.
* An outdoor sanitation station will be available at the Galway Weir for hands, angling apparel and fishing gear.
* All anglers must provide and wear their own personal flotation device while fishing on the Fishery.
* Anglers are expected to land and tag their own fish where applicable.
* All anglers must maintain appropriate social distancing (2m) at all times from staff and other anglers.
* OPW Beat; (Up-stream of Weir) Permits for this Beat will not be issued at this time as adherence to social distancing guidelines would be difficult to maintain.