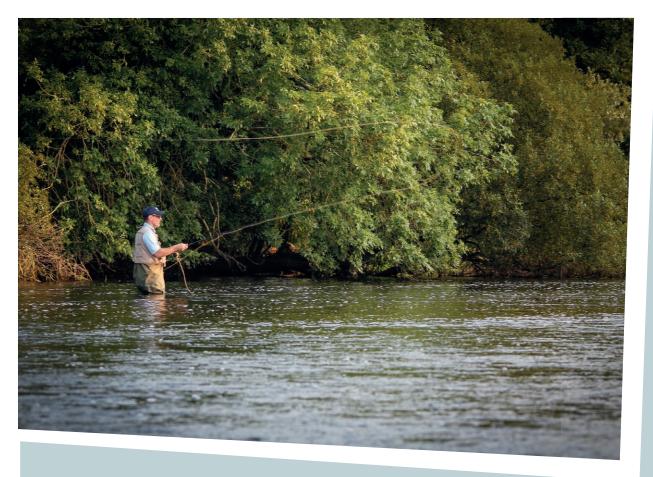




TROUT ANGLING
ON IRISH RIVERS



INTRODUCTION

Brown trout are the most common angling species native to Ireland and are found in nearly all of our watercourses. Their abundance is due to a number of factors, including Ireland's relatively cool climate, the presence of large limestone deposits providing good trout habitat, a proliferation of gravel which is essential for spawning and a historic lack of competitors and predators. The fact that trout are so widely dispersed throughout the country means that you are never too far away from a trout stream or the possibility of casting a line...

Irish river trout are entirely wild and so present the trout angler with a real test of their skills. We do not stock our rivers and while this may make trout fishing a bit more challenging, there is nothing that compares to catching wild fish in a wild environment.

Despite trout being widespread, many of our rivers are relatively under-fished. There is a strong tradition of lough (lake) fishing for trout in Ireland which means that many of our rivers are overlooked in the early part of the season, when the lough fishing is

at its best. There is also a great tradition of salmon angling in Ireland, and trout fishing is often neglected on rivers where both species are present. All this means that the trout angler will rarely be troubled by overcrowding on any of our rivers and can often spend a day fishing without encountering another angler.

This brochure contains some basic information to help you get started on your Irish trout fishing adventure. There is a short description of the basics of river trout fishing in Ireland and a brief introduction to some of the main fisheries that consistently produce good fishing. The map on the flip side of this brochure highlights these fisheries and the key towns in which you could base yourself.



There is much more detailed information on the www.fishinginireland.info website and on the accompanying Google map: https://goo.al/RPsWTS

FISHING SEASONS

The early part of the season in March & April is usually characterised by cold weather and cold water. As a result, fly hatches, when they occur, tend to be in the warmer part of the day from midday until about 3 p.m. and fishing should be concentrated in this period. At this time of year finding rising fish can be difficult and sub-surface methods using wet fly or weighted nymphs to search the water are often the most productive. However, there can be some

prolific hatches of large dark olives from April onwards and this can lead to some very good dry fly fishing. Other flies hatching in the early season include medium olives, small dark olives and iron blue duns.

As the days lengthen and get warmer in May and June, fly hatches become more abundant and the productive fishing period can extend from morning through to evening. The variety of insect life also increases at this time of year as mayflies begin to hatch on some rivers and these are accompanied by pale wateries, yellow evening duns, sedges/caddis and two important terrestrial flies: the hawthorn fly and the black gnat. By the end of June into the start of July, it is possible to encounter feeding fish throughout most of the day. As the range of food on offer increases, trout can become quite selective, honing in on a particular species of fly or even on a certain stage of the fly (nymph, emerger, dun or spinner). Both sub-surface methods and dry fly fishing can be productive and the 'klink & dink or dry/dropper' approach with a weighted nymph anchored below a Klinkhammer style fly can be a very effective method for taking fish throughout the water column.

As we move further into July and on into August, daytime activity tapers off and the fishing tends to be concentrated into the 2-hour period before and into dusk. This can be some of the most exciting fishing of the year, as the previously tranquil, sun-soaked river, suddenly comes alive with feeding trout and for a short period, the angler is spoilt for choice as to which fish to cast to. It can also be quite technical fishing, as trout can quickly change from feeding on nymph, to dun, to spinner. If you get it right, you can have a super evening's fishing. If you get it wrong, you can leave the river wondering about what could, and probably should, have been...

Towards the back end of the season, in late August and September, the daytime fishing picks up again as the evening fishing (for resident trout) becomes less productive. However, on some rivers, at this time of year, the resident stock of river trout is often bolstered by an influx of larger lake trout that migrate from the lakes into the rivers to spawn. These trout, with local names such as 'Croneen' or 'Dollaghan', are most often taken in late evening or even into darkness using tactics and flies that are more akin to sea trout fishing.

EOUIPMENT

Irish rivers are small by international standards and so they can be fished with relatively light tackle. An eight or nine-foot rod rated AFTM 4 or 5 will be able to cover most angling situations while lighter/shorter rods will be preferable on the smaller streams & tributaries. Line choice is nearly always a floater and one would only use a sink tip if fishing streamers through deep pools. A pair of breathable waders & boots, wading jacket and a wading stick are a necessity on many rivers as bank access is often poor and wading is generally the most productive way to fish.

OPEN & CLOSED SEASONS

The open season for river trout varies depending on where in Ireland you are fishing. Rivers begin to open for the season on various dates in March and all rivers will be open by April 1st. At the back end of the season, all rivers will be closed for fishing by 30th September. Due to the variance in open/closed seasons, it is advised that anglers intending to fish a particular river in March or September check in advance to ensure that the river is open. Fishing is completely closed from October to the end of February.

ACCESS, LICENCES & PERMITS

In Ireland, you do not need to buy a state licence to fish for brown trout. Trout fishing on rivers is most often controlled by local angling clubs who usually lease the fishing rights for a few kilometres of river and make day tickets available to the visiting angler. These tickets are usually no more than $\leq 10 - \leq 20$ and can usually be purchased in a local shop.

CATCH & RELEASE

We all have a responsibility to protect and conserve our fisheries so that they can be enjoyed by future generations. Most fisheries face multiple threats including pollution, water abstraction and illegal fishing, all of which have a negative impact on fish stocks. For that reason, we would ask that all anglers consider practicing Catch & Release for the majority of fish they catch. Record any trophy fish with a quick photo and then carefully return to the water. Remember: #CPRsavesfish

OTHER METHODS

Fly fishing is the most popular method of fishing for trout in Ireland but there are other methods that can be just as effective. Spinning with light tackle using very small lures/soft plastics or even a dead minnow can work very well and can be more practical than fly fishing where rivers have heavy bankside vegetation/tree growth. Worm fishing, where allowed, is also very effective. Care should be taken to prevent damage to fish by multiple/deep hooking when using either of the above methods and anglers should always consider using barbless hooks.



GUIDING

There are a relatively small number of guides specialising in river trout fishing in Ireland and, if possible, it is advisable for an angler visiting a venue for the first time to hire a guide for at least a day or two. Fishing with a guide will take a lot of the guesswork out of your fishing trip as the local knowledge will help you to catch more fish. You will need to contact and make your own arrangements with guides and to help with this, there is a list of angling guides available at:

www.fishinginireland.info/guides/index.htm

FURTHER INFORMATION

Angling Information

This guide provides a basic introduction to river trout angling in Ireland and gives a summary of some of the key angling hotspots you can visit. However, there are a number of additional resources where you can find more detailed and up-to-date angling information. Firstly, there is a dedicated angling website which has more detailed information on individual fisheries and service providers at: www.fishinginireland.info

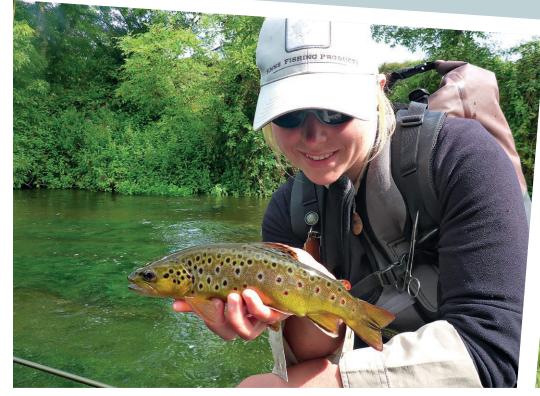
If you are planning on fishing in Northern Ireland or on the Foyle and Carlingford area on either side of the border you should consult:

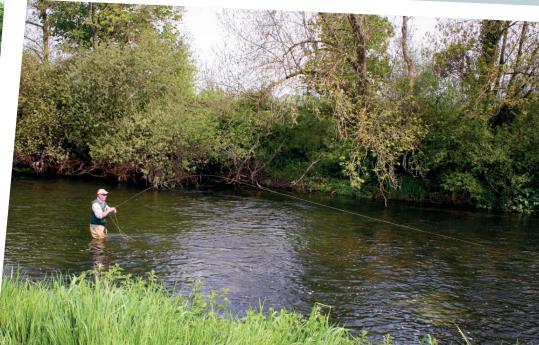
www.ufishireland.org/

IFI also produces a weekly Angling Update which provides up-to-date reports on what anglers are catching and where. You can sign up to be emailed the weekly Angling Update by emailing contact@fisheriesireland.ie

General Tourism

Ireland also has a general tourism website <u>www.ireland.com</u> that will help you plan your trip to Ireland, providing a wealth of information on travel and accommodation as well as information on things to do and see while visiting the island.





Leave No Trace

Please adhere to the seven principles of Leave No Trace Ireland:

Plan ahead and prepare; Travel and camp on durable surfaces; Dispose of waste properly; Leave what you find; Minimise campfire impacts (be careful with fire); Respect wildlife;

Be considerate of other visitors.

Vehicles should be parked in designated areas and in such a manner that they do not cause obstruction.



Anglers should fish responsibly and sustainably – where possible use single barbless hooks and practice no-weight, "in the water" catch and release.

www.leavenotraceireland.org

Biosecurity

Aquatic Invasive Species and fish pathogens are readily transferred from one water-course to another on angling tackle, boats and protective clothing. These can be very damaging to resident fish stocks, the aquatic habitat and the general environment. We would ask that all anglers inspect and clean their gear prior to travelling to Ireland to fish.

Full information on prevention of invasive species is available on our website at:

www.fisheriesireland.ie/Research/invasive-species.html

Or via Invasive Species Ireland at

http://invasivespeciesireland.com/cops/water-users/anglers/

Disclaimer

Every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this publication and associated maps and web pages. Inland Fisheries Ireland cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions therein. Some sporting activities may by their nature be hazardous and involve risk. It is recommended in such cases to take out personal accident insurance. While many operators would have public liability insurance it is always advisable to check with the establishment or operator concerned as to the level of cover carried.

Acknowledgements

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

Top Pick Fisherie

The River Suir rises on the Devil: Bit mountain in Co. Tipperary and drains large continent before flowing into the sea near Waterfoot. It is a long river (18 km in the right in standards, with plenty of Initiations, and it is regarded by mmy as lebeland it is their tout arream. If lither well long must of Inlands when of Thurle objects, Colden, Catif, Ardinan, Clomel and Carrick on Suir all subsets from which to explore the river. It gets all the Ity hactes you would expect from ever flowing over flowers and in the lower reaches of the Suir, Including the first, Nine, Tan on the Categories and I finder well throughout the associa. There are a number of influence on the lower reaches of the Suir, Including the first, Nine, Tan Orden Suir and Categories and the Categories and Categories and

2) The Boyne Valley is one of Ireland's most historically significant and scenic areas and the River Boyne, from which the valley gets its name, is also one of Ireland top trout rivers. This makes the area a perfect base for those withing to combine falling with other family /tourism based activities. At over 100km in length and with numerous tributaries, each worth fishing in its own right, the Kirver Boyne should be high on the list for only note angles viring Ireland. The rivers over limestone for much of its course, giving it abundant fly hatches throughout the season. The key towns on the system are Navan, Trim and Kells, any of which would provide a condother for execution the area.

3) Upon Blackweter. Heading north from Macroson, Co. Cork, one soon encounters a number of small streams that from part of the Upon Blackweter system. This Blackweter is one of bleadful best-index collation stream, but have list set will known in that the Upon Blackweter system but some mail tour streams that are we worth exploring for the adventurous fly angles. Using the town of Millitered or Komuk as a bare, there are number of small streams whithe early reach, including the blackwet in the part of the

4) The Kirv Nore, a siter river of the Sule; particularly known as a salmon river but it has passed acts, of wild brownies what are after overleaded when the salmon's particular to th

5) The Rive Liffey, which flow through Dublis, is on excellent troat stream once you get outside the capital city. The best of the troat fishing is upstream of the root of Exhibiting through the towns of Sardfrian, Clamp, Nethridge and Bollymore Eutrosc. Here is a large reservoir & Myord-electric power station above Bollymore Eutrosc and the flow of the river is controlled critifically as a result so the river is subject to unanother interest or facility and the state of the river is subject to unanother interest or and the flow of the river is controlled critifically as a result so the river is subject to unanother interest or facility and the result is subject to unanother interest or facility and the result is subject to unanother interest or descriptions. The result is subject to unanother interest or facility and the result is subject to unanother interest and the result is subject to the result in the result is subject to the result in the result is subject to the result in the result in the result is subject to the result in the result in the result is subject to the result in the result in the result is subject to the result in the result in the result

6) Dee, Glyde & Fane: These three rivers drain into the Irish sea to the south of Dundalis town on the east acost of Ireland. They are relatively small rivers but they all contain good stocks of trout and they are well worth faithing if you are visiting the area. The Fane is probably the most accessible of the three rivers and it frishes best upstream of Knock Bridge as far as Cultaville Bridge.

7) The River Sullane rises on the Cotk/Kerry border before flowing in a southwaterly direction through the town of Bollyvourney and Mozroom and Joining the River Lee at Corrigadrohild Reservoir. The best of the fishing is downstream of Bollyvourney and access in found amount the bridges which cross the river from the reservoir in the substantial program of the reservoir in the substantial program of the reservoir in the Sullane is within easy reach of the ever-paper in the substantial river and the reservoir. The Sullane is within easy reach of the ever-paper in the substantial river and program planting to with the cross.

10) The River Bandon, which enters the sea of include, is within expreech of onybody visiting Cark City and its environs or for hose traveilling. He Wild Attentive (Ny. The Bandon is a great pame fishery, providing good fishing for solonous, and control and proven tout. It is a very senior for, if, flowing through a last valley and with good control and provided the follow in Course between the towner of Bandon and Damonous; the control of the Common of the

9) The Little Brossen rises near the town of 80-zero in Co. Tipperary and flows north-westwards via the town of Birr onto its confluence with the Kere Shamon near Meellek. It is a relatively small river but has good stocks of free rising brown trout loog list length. In main tributory, the Kiver Comco, joins the Brossn or Birr and olso contains good tooks of front. Both these rivers are probably more renowned for the larger trout that migrate up into the river from loogh Derg towards the tail end of the section. These trout, known locally as "Conceni" overage about 11b and a cegenerally fished for at dusk using wet fly on sink tip lines to fish the deeper pool to the contract of the contrac

110 The River Rabe (Tow into Lugh Mode does to the town of Ballimon's CAMPO, It is counted to the town of Ballimon's CAMPO, It is religioned access throughout and the fathings fit see will open a counter service. The overage size of resident roat is quite large and they are generally free intring. Fowersh the end of the season, he number of troot in the Robe are baltered by a run of troot man for the season, he must be for the counter of the counter of the season, he number of troot in the Robe are baltered by a run of troot most Lughd Mode have the very to their spowning badd. There is good fly water clong the river, particularly around Constoper and Hollymout and continuing the counter of the counter of the season of t

11) The River Annalee is part of the Erne system and flows westwords from Shercock to Bullersbridge in Co. Cavan. I hav good hatches of bluewinged olives and midges and also has a good hatch of maryly. Bonkide access can be difficult but the river has a number of shallow stretches which are ceally waded. The best of the fishing is suptreanol Bollyhaise as far as Tullyvin and the easiest access acceptaints and for a ratio of the same points are found around the bridges.

IRELAND/NORTHERN IRELAN

The listend of Ireland consists of two separate countries. The Republic of Ireland (allos known as Eire or Southern Ireland) and Northern Ireland; and Northern Ireland; are three sporting of the Ireland Ireland; and the Ireland Ireland; and the Island of Ireland; Island Fisheries Ireland, and Ireland; Irelan

This brochure only provides information on fishing in IFI controlled waters in Ireland. Anglers wishing to fish in Loughs Agency or DAERA controlled water should check the relevant website for information before fishing.

DAERA: www.nidirect.gov.uk/informationand-services/outdoor-recreation-and-sport/

Loughs Agency: www.ufishireland.or



