

Aasleagh Lodge & Erriff Fishery

Newsletter 2016

253 Wild Reasons to Fish the River Erriff

Welcome to the first fishing newsletter under the new management of Delphi Resort who have taken over the running of the Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh lodge since May 2015. It was a hectic first year and Osgur who joined us as Fishery Manager at the end of May, has given us a blow by blow account of last season later in this newsletter.

During the off season all the bedrooms have been thoroughly and tastefully refurbished with a view to improving your stay at this Victorian Fishing Lodge. We have also decided to open the fishing season earlier this year on the **17th March** – look out for some of the up and coming early bird specials. Every season, the fishing beats book up quickly, especially Beat 9, so to avoid disappointment please book - info@aasleaghlodge.ie or phone: (+353) 095 42252 - well in advance to secure your favourite fish spot!



What's New 2016

➤ Angling Courses on the River Erriff

Join Jason O'Riordan & Ken Whelan for a weekend of salmon fishing on the Erriff River this April!

The Beginners & Improvers Course takes place the weekend of **22 - 24 April 2016**:

- 2 x nights B&B at Aasleagh Lodge
- 2 x Lunches
- 1 x Evening Meal
- Free fishing as part of the course—practice what you've learned!
- Quality instruction by Jason O'Riordan and Ken Whelan who will explain and demonstrate:
 - Salmon behaviour throughout the season
 - Fishing Tackle & Fly/Lure Selection
 - Correct casts for fishing situations
 - Spinning tackle and correct lure choice
 - Fishing techniques & Fish location

Limited spaces - booking early is advised to avoid disappointment!

➤ Special Offer for Groups and Angling Clubs

New - for groups of eager fishermen or clubs, why not book the entire Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh Lodge for you and your mates to enjoy? A treat of a life time! For the months of March, April and May only - a special offer of **€299 per person sharing** for a minimum booking of 20 guests. The package includes:

- 2 x nights B&B at Aasleagh Lodge
- 2 x Lunches
- 2 x three course dinners
- 2 x full days fishing (excludes state salmon & sea trout license)

➤ Angling Season Opens March 17th

Also new this season is the introduction of a **flat daily rate of €95** per rod across the season. This was done to avoid misunderstanding and disappointment. The Erriff River is a jewel amongst Ireland's finest salmon and sea trout rivers, not only for sport but also for its picturesque scenery, which makes fly fishing very exciting and provides high expectations on every cast.

The sport starts in **17th March** and runs strong until September. We look forward to you joining us.

To avoid disappointment, we would strongly recommend you book your fishing holiday today – info@aasleaghlodge.ie or phone: (+353) 095 42252.

Thanks to all the IFI staff who helped us throughout our first season with the smooth running of Aasleagh Lodge and protection of the Erriff Fishery. A big thank you to the staff in the Rural Social Employment Schemes and the Community Employment Schemes for their excellent work on the grounds of Aasleagh Lodge and maintaining access to the Erriff banks. We would also like to thank the local land owners for their continued co-operation and support, along with all the staff of Delphi Resort and Aasleagh Lodge who have made the year the success that it was. Lastly but by no

means least, to **thank all our customers** who came to visit us last year and we hope to see you all this season. **Tight lines!**

2015 at a Glance...

Wet summer produces regular spates for the anglers!

The first salmon was caught by local angler Peter Coyne on the 28th of April. It was a nice fish of 5.75lbs and was caught from the falls on beat 9.

➤ **MAY**

The well known Irish fly-tyer Peter O'Reilly had the next salmon on the 5th of May, this fish weighed 9.9lbs and was taken from the falls pool using a Felix Dolan.

Rami Tormala from Finland caught what turned out to be our heaviest fish of the season on the 9th, it weighed 15.5lbs and was caught on the most successful pattern of the season the Cascade. This fly accounted for a large proportion of the total catch by the end of the season.



On the 19th Michael Devery had a fine sea-trout of 2lbs which he caught and released from the lower garden pool.

David Hawley caught what we believe to be the first grilse of the season from the Erriff on the 28th, it weighed 3.25lbs and came from the middle garden pool, this was the first salmon caught under the new fishery manager.

Martin Ceillier had a fine 10.5lbs salmon from the middle garden pool on a silver stoat's tail on the 29th which gave him a good fight before coming to the net.

Martin Ceillier with his 10.5lbs salmon

➤ **JUNE**

The month of June accounted for 17 salmon. Dr. Eoin Bresnihan caught a fine salmon of 9.25lbs on the 2nd which was taken on a Cascade from the Gauge pool.

This was followed up the next day by Michael Shortt who caught a 7lbs salmon from the bridge pool on beat 9. Michael Haughton's party of 4 from the UK landed 1 salmon for their visit weighing 4lbs on the



6th. The water then dropped and fishing was quiet until Selby Knox landed a 4lbs grilse on the 19th on a sunray shadow. This fish came from the falls pool in low water conditions. A small rise in water levels got the fish moving over the next few days with 6 fish caught over a 4 day period. Tom and Barbara Buzzoto (USA) (oppositet) had a fish each on the 22nd weighing 5lbs and 8.5lbs respectively and Colin Watterson had a nice 5lbs grilse from the falls pool on a Moy green. The 30th was a busy day with 5 of our anglers catching 6 salmon between them. Raphael Amat (below) caught 2 of these weighing 3lbs and 6.25lbs from the middle garden using a Cascade and a black and purple shrimp of his own tying. Local anglers Bryan Graham and Stewart Woodhead fished the evening and caught 1 grilse each weighing 5.4lbs and 4.5lbs, both of these fish came from the Sea pool. Overall



June was a fairly dry month little did we know what lay in store for us for the rest of the summer!

➤ JULY

The month of July gave us regular spates which ensured the returning grilse could enter the system at any time they choose. We had an average water height of just under 1.1m for the month which was what many described as an ideal water height for fly-fishing. The regular spates ensured that even with a rise in water levels often the water did not get

that coloured. The total catch for the month was 135 salmon of this 48.6% of the wild catch was returned.

The 1st week of July produced 10 salmon and a few sea-trout. The largest sea-trout was 1.25lbs and was caught by Tudor Davies. The heaviest salmon of the week was 8lbs and was caught by local man Peter Coyne on a Gaynor's glory from the middle garden pool. Christian Seidal (Germany) had 3 salmon for his stay weighing 7.5lbs, 6lbs and 4.5lbs all of



which he released. Peter Coyne with his 8lbs salmon (opposite).

The 8th saw Jenny Anderson (right) catching and releasing the heaviest sea-trout of the season estimated at 4lbs from beat 6, this fish was caught on a cascade.

Ribein Grandmougin and Benoit Grandmougin from France fished on the 8th and Ribein managed to land 2 salmon weighing 8lbs and 9lbs on a Cascade. After Ribein's successful day they decided to fish the morning of the 9th and Ribein was again rewarded for his efforts with 2 more salmon estimated at 10.6lbs and 5.8lbs on a Moy green and an Ally's shrimp. Hopefully next year will see Benoit sharing in some of the luck.

From the 12th to the end of the month the fishing really stepped up a gear with total daily catches for the river ending up in double figures on some days. Enda o'connell and Jim Stafford both had 3 salmon in 1 day on the 12th. Enda's grilse weighed 6.5lbs,4lbs and 4lbs and Jim's weighed 4.5lbs,4.25lbs and 3.75lbs. Andrew Beattie had 13 grilse for his week 7 of which he released which equalled his personal best on this fishery. Enda O'Connell had 9 grilse for his week 4 of which he returned and his wife Rosemary had 2, one of which weighed an impressive 8lbs most of these fish were taken on Cascade's and Ally's shrimps.



Gerard Garnier had 8 grilse for his week ending on the 17th mostly caught on what he likes to call the 'froggy cascade', these fish came from beats 2 down

as far as beat 9. He returned to us on the 25th and had a most memorable day catching 10 salmon between 3lbs and 8lbs all on an Ally's shrimp. As he said himself conditions could not have been more perfect.

Gerard Garnier with a fine brace of salmon (right). On the 21st Neil Spellacy returned a fine salmon of 9lbs from the Colonal's run on beat 6, which was taken on a black shrimp. Peter Denvir from Northern Ireland stayed with us for 3 days and much to everyone's delight on his last day he caught 2 grilse on a Cascade weighing 5.25lbs and 5lbs

➤ **AUGUST**

The wet summer continued through August giving us an average water height of nearly 1.1m again for the month. This was quite exceptional for a spate river such as ourselves. Tobias Sterns' party of 4 finished up their visit on the 3rd with a total of 13 grilse the largest weighing 5.75lbs and 2 sea-trout to 1.5lbs.

The next 10 days proved successful for many anglers with fish coming from beats 4 down to 9. More notably catches included Mark Broughton's 3 grilse in 1 day on the 4th weighing 2lbs, 3lbs and 5lbs all on an Ally's shrimp. Bernard King's 2 grilse for an evening on the 4th. Tom Harrington's 4 fish on the 5th and Neil Spellacy's 4 fish on the 8th. While the average size dropped to around 3lbs for this period it provided the anglers with some great sport.



The catches during the second half of the month were more erratic with the best of the fishing being on the 27th, 28th and 29th which accounted for 12 fish. Some of these catches included Arthur Muckion who had a fine 13lbs salmon along with a 4.25lbs grilse on the 27th on a Cascade, Ian Ferris who had 1 for an evening and another the next morning weighing 4.5lbs and 5lbs and John Monaghan who had 2 grilse on the 29th weighing 5.75lbs and 6lbs from the schoolhouse run on beat 3 and Altamot's dam on beat 6.

➤ SEPTEMBER

The first 10 days of September the water was a lot lower than we had been used to for the previous 2 months with an average water height of around 0.72m. In what might be considered tough conditions Jean francois Calvar and Jean jacques Calvar (France) persevered and caught and released 4 grilse up to 4lbs and 10 sea-trout in the 1lb – 1.5lbs bracket which was great to finally see. Richard McClay, Michael McWhinney and Colin Watterson at the upper garden pool with Colin proudly holding his 5lbs grilse (above left).

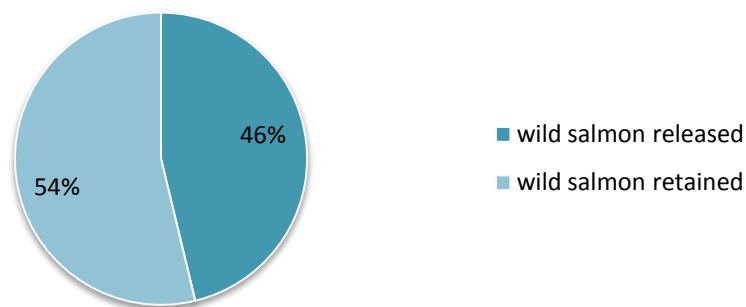


Saturday 12th brought a huge flood down the river up to 3.2m in height which stopped all fishing and a flood on Monday 14th meant the river was again unfishable. For the last 2 weeks of the season the fish seemed to have more on their minds than taking the anglers offerings, 1 angler had as many as 7 takes in 1 afternoon but could not get them to stay on, it was thought at the time that the fish were coming short to the fly, the reason for this is still a mystery? There were some exceptions however during this period like Bill Sullivan (USA) who had 3 small grilse on a collie dog from the middle

garden pool on the 20th and Luc Montaudon and Johnny Betts who both had a grilse each weighing 3.5lbs and 3lbs respectively from the sea pool on the 25th. Finally the sea-trout run was very poor this year with only 36 sea-trout recorded for the season, hopefully this was just a bad year and not a sign of things to come.

Interesting Statistics from 2015

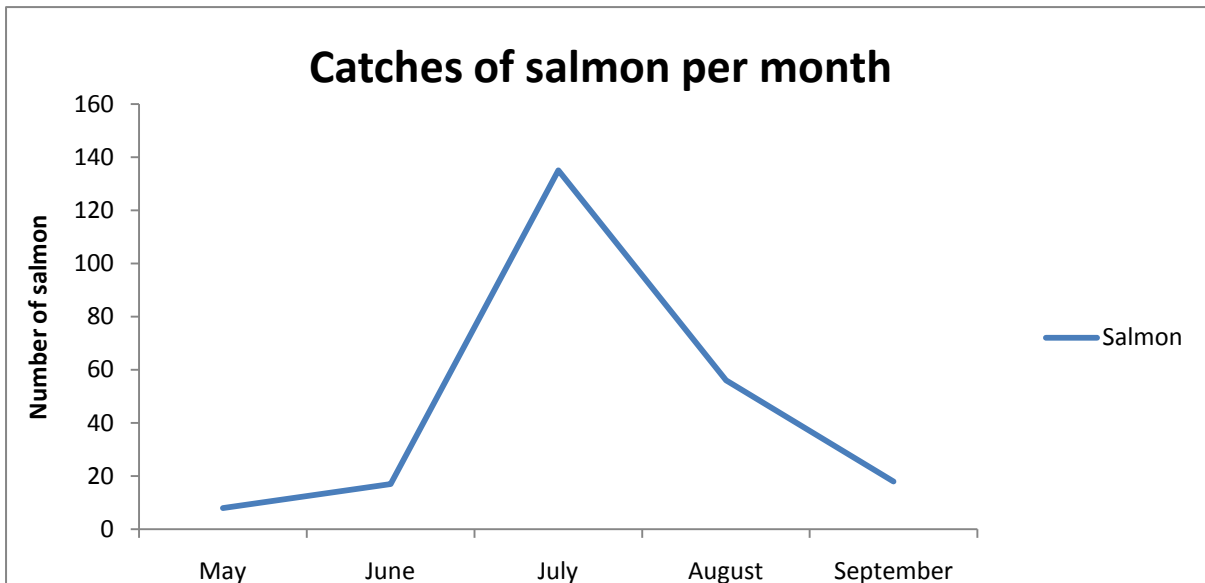
Wild salmon catch and release % for 2015



Top ten heaviest salmon for 2015:

DATE	ANGLER	BEAT NO.	POOL	FLY	SALMON	RELEASED
09/05/2015	Rami Tormala	9	Lower garden	Cascade	15.5lbs.	no
27/08/2015	Arthur Muckion	9	Falls	Cascade	13lbs.	no
26/07/2015	John Casey	5	Joyce's sands	Garry dog	12lbs.	yes*
29/07/2015	Gerard Garnier	9	Sea pool	Cascade	12lbs.	yes*
04/08/2015	Joe Burke	5	The hill	Bann shrimp	12lbs.	yes*
09/07/2015	Ribein Grandmougin	9	Lower garden	Moy green	10.6lbs.	yes*
19/05/2015	John Phelan	9	Lower garden		10.5lbs.	no
29/05/2015	Martin Ceilier	9	Middle garden	Silver stoats tail	10.5lbs.	no
18/07/2015	Brian Shaw	8	Coronation	Blue charm	10lbs.	no
18/07/2015	Peter Coyne	9	Bridge	Ally's cascade	10lbs.	no

* released fish are estimated weights



Monthly catches 2014 vs. 2015

Month	Salmon 2014	Salmon 2015	Sea trout 2014	Sea trout 2015
May	6	8	1	1
June	10	17	98	1
July	53	135	138	15
August	64	56	80	4
September	24	18	31	15
Total:	157	235	348	36

% of salmon caught on each beat

BEAT	No. Salmon	% of catch	C.P.U.E.
9	181	77.03	0.34
8	13	5.54	0.06
7	2	0.83	0.02
6	13	5.54	0.05
5	8	3.41	0.03
4	1	0.43	0.03
3	12	5.11	0.1
2	3	1.28	0.09
1	0	0	0
unknown	2	0.83	
Total:	235	100	

Top 5 most effective flies

Rank	Fly
1st	Cascade
2nd	Ally's shrimp
3rd	Collie dog
4th	Curry's red shrimp
5th	Silver stoat's tail

Yearly Salmon catch statistics

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	10 Year Average
400	270	185	107	374	528	320	270	157	235	285

Yearly Sea-trout catch statistics

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	10 Year Average
64	178	155	210	260	291	264	198	348	36	200