

# River Feale Angling Map



The Lane Minnow

### 1 - Killocrim & Finuge

1. Healy's Stream  
2. The Cot Hole  
3. Neck of the Cot  
4. The Slope Wall  
5. Galvin's Stream  
6. The Slabs  
7. Naughton's Streams

### 2 - North Kerry Anglers

**Cooke's Fishery**  
1. Healy's Stream  
2. The Cot Hole  
3. Neck of the Cot  
4. The Slope Wall  
5. Galvin's Stream  
6. The Slabs  
7. Naughton's Streams

**Town Fishery**  
A. Naughton's  
B. Latchford's  
C. Tea Lane Pool  
D. Pouleen  
E. Corporals  
F. Stack's Stream  
G. Bridge Pool  
H. Pumphouse

### 3 - North Kerry Anglers

1. Joinings  
2. Matt's Rock  
3. Cummer  
4. Point  
5. Graveyard  
6. Sluice  
7. Doran's Pool  
8. Motor Car Stream  
9. Poulaphillip  
10. Farnogue  
11. Pay-You  
12. The Birches  
13. Jetties

### 4 - Tralee & District Anglers

1. The Birches  
2. Pay-You  
3. The New Stream  
4. Maher's High Bank  
5. The Long Stream  
6. The Rookery  
7. The Mad Stream  
8. Joe's Pool  
9. The Flat  
10. The Garden  
11. O'Keefe's Pool  
12. The Sagart  
13. The Wood Hole  
14. Carroll's

### 5 - Abbeyfeale Anglers

1. Fringford's  
2. Willie Lane's  
3. Rellhan's  
4. Enright's



## THE RIVER FEALE

The River Feale is among the outstanding salmon and sea trout rivers of Ireland. The river rises in the mountain district of North Co. Cork and flows in a westerly direction for 75 km through the county towns of Abbeyfeale and Listowel entering the sea south of Ballybunion. For the final 10 kms of its course, it is known as the Cashen River. Throughout its meandering journey it flows through a picturesque landscape of woodland, heather bogland, fertile valleys and rolling hills. Its main tributaries, which are also notable fishing rivers, include the Galey, Smearlagh, Oolagh, Allaghaun, and Owveg.

The river is managed by Inland Fisheries Ireland who also work with local interested stakeholder groups through a partnership approach with the Feale Initiative. There are several angling clubs on the River Feale with leases and angling rights on certain stretches of the river.



### Abbeyfeale Anglers Association

Approximately 6.5kms of river between Duagh and Abbeyfeale is leased by this club. A description of three of the more popular stretches is given below:

#### The Joinings (No 1 on Map)

This pool starts where the Feale and Allaghaun Rivers meet. It was famous as a Sea Trout pool and is easily accessed on the left hand bank along the GAA field and on the right hand bank from the mart yard but the bank here is overgrown. Another pool, The Spring, can be accessed by going down the path alongside the Waste Water Treatment Plant and this area provides further trout fishing.

#### Mattie Dillon's Car Park (No 2 on Map)

Access to a car park for anglers is about 5kms from Abbeyfeale on the Kilmorna Road to Listowel. This location provides access to three salmon angling stretches.

The Yank's Stream begins at the top of Mattie's land and is a favourite spot for salmon. It is a short but fairly productive stretch.

'The Rock' is just downstream from the Yank's Stream and is one of the hot spots on the river. It provides good fly fishing or spinning. It fishes better from the opposite bank to Mattie's land.

'Connell's Flat' is a long pool just downstream from the car park. It provides good fly water at the top and bottom whilst the mid section is more suitable to bait fishing.

#### Relihan's Inch (No 3 on Map)

This section is reached by an entrance at Kilcara around the bend at the nursing home on the Abbeyfeale - Duagh road. It provides a very long stretch of excellent fly water. Jerome's Pool at the bend towards the top of the stretch, under the high cliff is also a notable area.

Day permits are available from: Tom O'Connell, New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick **Tel: +353 (0)68 31229.**

Also see the club website: [www.abbeyfealeanglersassociation.wordpress.com](http://www.abbeyfealeanglersassociation.wordpress.com)

## SALMON FISHING

The Feale is a fast flowing spate river subject to flooding during periods of persistent rainfall. In times of low flow the water runs clear but it takes on a dark peat stained appearance in a spate. The river is tidal almost to Finuge Bridge and rod and line fishing ends about 3 kms below this bridge. The lower section is dominated by large deep fish-holding pools and these pools extend into the upper reaches of the river, thus making it a productive river throughout its full extent.

This is a large river, with a shifting gravel bed and overgrown, steep banks on many stretches. Wading is necessary in places, especially for fly fishing. Chest waders and a wading staff are essential to enable the angler to fish comfortably. The fishing will change with varying water levels and a reading of these levels may be obtained by accessing 'waterlevel.ie' and keying in Listowel.

The River Feale produces good runs of high quality spring salmon in addition to grilse and sea trout. There are spring fish in the river from opening day on March 1" and the best of the spring fishing is up to mid April depending on water levels.

Grilse begin showing about late June and there is always a dramatic improvement in late July, with very good fishing for larger fish from mid August to the end of the season in September, in suitable weather conditions. The spring salmon average about 9lbs (4kg) and the grilse about 5lbs (2.25kg). The best of the salmon fishing is from the tide up to Abbeyfeale.

The Feale is the home of the 'Lane Minnow' which is made locally, and is a highly successful bait, although traditional Devon minnows and spoons are also popular. In recent times the Flying 'C' in various colours has proved a remarkably effective lure in all conditions. The popular salmon flies are Garry Dog, Blue Charm, Lemon & Grey, Thunder & Lightning, Half Silver and Red, Hairly Mary, Ally's Shrimp, Wilkinson (for a bright day) and the ever popular Cascade. These well known patterns are supplemented by a dressing widely known

in the locality as the 'Halpin' (see panel below) which is said to be an excellent fly on the river late in the season.

## SEA TROUT FISHING

Sea trout enter the system from early May and provide good angling right through to September. The bigger fish arrive both early and late in the season and average 4 – 5lbs (2kg). The peak of the run is from mid June into August and these fish range in size from 0.5lb to 2lbs, averaging 1lb (.5kg).

The sea trout tend to run quickly through the middle stretches and the best fishing is considered to be either below Listowel (where spinning is the most popular method) or above Abbeyfeale in the Brosna/Mountcollins club waters. The best fly fishing is had above Abbeyfeale and on the River Smearlagh. Night-time fly fishing can be very effective. Flies regularly fished include the Silver Doctor, Butcher, Black Pennell, Peter Ross, Teal and Silver and Thunder & Lightning. Medium sink fly lines are generally used.

## BROWN TROUT FISHING

Angling for brown trout is very limited on the Feale. The spate system and lack of adult trout holding areas means they are rarely found greater than 6 inches (15cm) in length. However there is some good brown trout angling on the River Galey particularly near Athea. Membership and day permits are available from Pat McSweeney, Athea Trout Club, **Tel: +353 (0) 87 6126056.**

## CLUB WATERS

About 50% of the main River Feale including sections of the Owveg and Smearlagh Rivers are controlled by angling clubs. They control some of the best angling waters and visiting anglers are advised to organise their fishing through these clubs. Each club offers day tickets for visiting anglers. The rest of the Feale and its tributaries are effectively private fisheries and it is recommended that local advice and direction be sought before accessing any non club-water stretches of the system.



### Killocrim/Finuge Angling Club

This is the lowest club on the system and leases roughly 6.5 kms of water downstream of Listowel from approximately 800m downstream of Finuge Bridge on the Killocrim side of the river to 400m upstream of Scartlea dam on the Finuge side of the river. There is good salmon and grilse angling and fair sea trout angling as the fish run through. Anglers must facilitate each other by the "step and cast" rule at the noted pool "The Wall" to move along as you fish. All foul hooked fish must be returned alive to the river. 'Fly only' is the rule on a stretch of water at Finuge Bridge. Day permits are available with a limit of three per day, from: John O'Sullivan **Tel: +353 (0)68 24700.**

### North Kerry Anglers Association

This club has access to about 15 kms of fishing in the vicinity of Listowel on both the main river and the Smearlagh River. There is good spring Salmon and grilse fishing with good sea trout runs. There are numerous named pools and the 5 most notable ones are described below:

## ANGLING REGULATIONS

### OPEN SEASON:

**Salmon:** March 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> (Please check with Inland Fisheries Ireland (061-300238) for local byelaws that may be in operation, as these may vary annually.)  
**Trout:** March 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>

**SPECIES AVAILABLE:** Salmon, Sea Trout, small Brown Trout.

**METHODS:** All legitimate angling methods are allowed with the exception of prawn/shrimp which is banned. Spinning, worm and fly are all popular for salmon. Local restrictions may apply in certain areas so please check in advance of fishing.

**PERMISSION TO FISH:** All anglers are welcome to fish the Feale. Salmon Rod licences are required to fish the River Feale and its tributaries and can be purchased from official rod licence distributors and also online at [www.salmonlicences.ie](http://www.salmonlicences.ie). See list of list of local outlets below:

Halpin's Fishing Tackle Shop, 24 Church Street, Listowel, Co. Kerry **Tel: +353 (0)68 22392**

Landers Outdoor World, Mile Height, Tralee, Co. Kerry **Tel: +353 (0)66 7126644**

Tom O'Connell, New Street, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick **Tel: +353 (0)68 31229**

Westend Filling Station, Killarney Road, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick **Tel: +353 (0)69 62318**

Pet Barn, Bishops Street, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick **Tel: +353 (0)69 61877**

Club permits are also necessary on some sections as 50% of the River Feale is controlled by angling clubs. See section on club waters for details on where to purchase permits.

Further angling regulations may be applicable so please check [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)

## COUNTRY CODE

Anglers should ensure that gates are closed and that fences are not broken or damaged. Care should be taken with crops and livestock. Litter must not be discarded and no fires are allowed. Vehicles should be parked in designated areas and in such a manner that they do not cause obstruction.

### Tea Lane Pool

One of the most prolific pools in the fishery with an estimated 200 Salmon (spring and grilse) taken from this pool every season. Situated adjacent to the centre of Listowel Town and at the rear of the Listowel Arms Hotel, it should be the first stop for visitors. This pool fishes best in medium to low water conditions. Suitable for fly, spinners or worms.

### The Corporals

Just a little more than a stone's throw below Listowel main bridge and adjacent to Kerry Ingredients Factory. It offers a good fly run past 3 stub groins and into the Powleen Pool. Best fished in high to medium water with fly or a spinning lure. It can be a prolific fishing area and a safe area for apprentice juvenile anglers. The stub groins work well - speeding up the water flow and giving protection to fish resting from the main current.

### Pump House Flats

Set in relatively serene surroundings with only the occasional sound of traffic to break the spell, this is a flat expanse of water just above

## BIOSECURITY

Aquatic Invasive Species and fish pathogens are readily transferred from one watercourse 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. The River Feale is currently free of aquatic invasive species. Anglers have an important role in maintaining this status. We would ask that all anglers inspect and clean their gear prior to fishing on the Feale if that gear has previously been used on another fishery.

Full information on prevention of invasive species is available on our website at: <http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Research/invasive-species.html>  
Or via Invasive Species Ireland at <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/cops/water-users/anglers/>

## ERRORS OR INACCURACIES

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in the guide is accurate, no responsibility will be accepted by Inland Fisheries Ireland for any errors or inaccuracies therein.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Listowel's main bridge and adjacent to Listowel Town Park. Easily accessible for young and not so young anglers, bench seats are available while waiting for the water to be just right. It offers fantastic fishing in high water conditions to those who are willing to put in the time. When the water is right the stretch can produce 6 or 7 salmon a day. Any spinning lure is best in these waters.

### The Joinings

This peaceful and tranquil pool is at the junction of the Feale and Smearlagh rivers. Salmon and sea trout will often pause here before choosing to continue their journey east up the Feale or diverting south into the Smearlagh. Best fished in high to moderate water with a fly or spinner.

### Matt's Rock

Set just below an acute bend on the river with a rocky bottom, this pool is a natural place for fish to hold. Upstream you have Stack's Cliff and "The Point Pool", downstream you have "The Joinings". Best fished from the south side if you are fishing a fly or spinning and from the north side if you are worming. Can be fished in most heights of water but most productive in high to medium water.

The NKAA also controls some fishing on the River Smearlagh and anglers wishing to fish the river should make enquiries with the club.

Permits are available on a daily or weekly basis from Halpin's Tackle Shop, Listowel  
**Tel: +353 (0)68 22392**  
[www.northkerryanglers.com](http://www.northkerryanglers.com)

### Tralee and District Angling Association

Tralee and District Anglers Association has been in existence since 1954 and manages approximately 2km of river between Listowel and Duagh. The fishery access is signposted on the Listowel to Duagh road; turn off at the ESB substation to access a large well surfaced car park approximately 200m from the river.

The waters of the association lie along the floor of the picturesque Feale valley. There are 14 named pools which yield good catches of salmon during the season. All 'key pools'

indicated on the map may be accessed from the private car park. The fishery fishes best at water heights between 350mm and 800mm.

From the car park, access to the river is gained by turning left and walking through Maher's yard. The first pool that greets the angler is **Maher's**. It is one of our largest, measuring 140m in length with varying depths and current speed. It is best fished in medium to high water. Downstream of Maher's is **The New Stream** and **Pay-You**, both high water pools, while the remaining pools are considered medium to low water pools. All pools on the fishery are threaded together by beautiful energetic streams which will hold salmon and trout.

Looking east and upstream of Maher's, the remainder of the fishery contains noted pools such as **The Long Stream**, **Joe's**, **The Garden**, **O'Keefe's** and the upper most fishery **O'Carroll's**. All these pools fish at their optimum when the gauge is reading between 400mm and 600mm. As with the lower part of the fishery the pools are threaded together by fabulous streams and smaller intermediate pools, each on their own will hold salmon and trout.

The fishery is renowned for the quality of its fly fishing water and a selection of flies dressed conventionally, tube or as shrimp style in sizes 6, 8,10,12 will be more than adequate. Recommended colours are as follows:  
**Springtime:** Yellow, Orange, Blue, Highland Green and Silver.

**Summer:** Yellow, Orange, Red, Silver and Gold.  
**Autumn:** Claret, Red, Orange and Gold.

Other baits worth considering in high water conditions are Devon minnows, Toby spoons and Flying-C's.

While the association allows all legal methods of angling, a catch & release policy is encouraged.

Permits are available from:  
Landers Outdoor World, Mile Height, Tralee, Co. Kerry **Tel: +353 (0)66 7126644**,  
Matthew Doady, Colberts Tce., Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick **Tel: +353 (0)68 31983** and  
Joseph O'Keefe, Glenview, Kilmorna, Listowel, Co. Kerry **Tel: +353 (0)87 6391318.**



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