

# Salmon Conservation Fund Report

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2008



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# Background

On December 4<sup>th</sup> 2006, the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Fisheries Board received a Ministerial Direction under section 18A, 19(4) and 20(3) of the Fisheries Act 1980 directing the Central Fisheries Board to “to co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of a programme for rehabilitation of salmon stocks giving priority to rivers below their conservation limits in special areas of conservation which have the greatest prospect of recovery”.

This year represents the second year of the programme and is funded by the proceeds of the salmon conservation fund component of the salmon licence fees. The salmon conservation fund component consists of an additional fee, the equivalent to the cost of the licence, was added to all classes of licence to provide funds for a conservation programme. A Class ‘A’ licence costing €134 was made up of €67 for the license fee and €67 ring fenced for the Salmon Conservation Fund.

The funds raised from the sale of angling and commercial salmon fishing licences are ring fenced and distributed to salmon conservation fund projects across the 17 fishery districts. This follows assessment of applications by the Salmon Conservation Fund implementation committee whilst abiding by the Terms of Reference for the fund (**Appendix I**).

The implementation committee is made up of both scientific and management staff within the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards (Dr Paddy Gargan CFB, Mr Eamon Cusack ShRFB, Mr Declan Cooke NWRFB). Those projects recommended by the implementation committee were submitted to the Management Committee representing the CEO’s of the Regional Fisheries Boards for final approval.

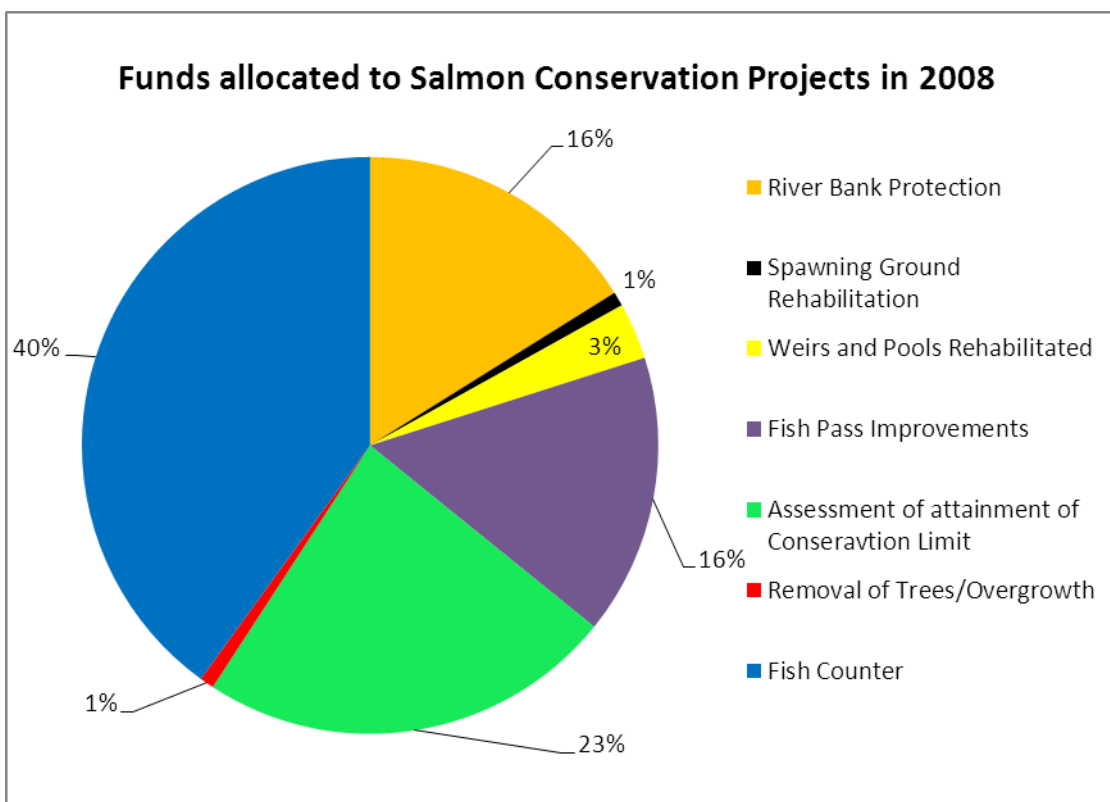
# Projects Approved in 2008

In October 2008 the Implementation Committee received 39 project proposals from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards requesting a total of €2,814,585 (**Appendix ii**) under the 2008 fund. The implementation committee recommended 10 projects which were further approved by the Management Committee. Each project was assessed according to the criteria identified in the terms of reference (**Appendix i**) and a numeric score attached to each criterion (**Appendix iii**). It was proposed that a provisional cut-off point of 9.1 would apply under the 2008 Fund and projects received funding in the following order subject to funding availability;

| <b>Projects Awarded Funding in 2008</b>  | <b>Funds Awarded</b> |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Various Rivers throughout Ireland.</b><br>Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit 2009 in various rivers throughout Ireland currently not meeting their conservation limit. | <b>€180,920</b>      |
| <b>Shranaploya River (a tributary of the Glenamoy River), Co. Mayo.</b><br>Further bank protection and channel restoration on the Shranaploya River.   | <b>€82,865</b>       |
| <b>River Fergus, Co. Clare.</b><br>Build a crump weir and installation of a logie fish counter on the R. Fergus.   | <b>€202,000</b>      |
| <b>Lackagh Fishery, Co. Donegal.</b><br>River bank side clearance and fencing. Installation of weirs on the Fishery.   | <b>€49,000</b>       |
| <b>River Nore, Co. Kilkenny.</b><br>River Nore (basin) fish passage improvement works.   | <b>€60,000</b>       |
| <b>White River, Co. Louth.</b><br>Proposal for a fish pass on the White River.   | <b>€50,000</b>       |
| <b>River Boyne, Co. Meath.</b><br>Feasibility study for a full counter for the River Boyne.  | <b>€20,000</b>       |
| <b>Bunowen River, Co. Galway.</b><br>River Bank protection, Spawning ground improvement and river bank clearance on the Bunowen River.   | <b>€6,800</b>        |
| <b>Dunkellin River, Co. Galway.</b><br>Provide instream structures, river bank fencing and provision of a fish counter on the Dunkellin River.   | <b>€95,000</b>       |
| <b>River Slaney Co. Wexford.</b><br>Instream Work to be carried out on tributaries of the River Slaney.  | <b>€27,500</b>       |
| <b>Total Awarded</b>   | <b>€774,085</b>      |

# Finances for 2008

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Funds collected in licence sales in 2008                       | €697,186              |
| 2007 Funds decommitted and carried forward to 2008/09 projects | €185,216 <sup>1</sup> |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>€882,402</b>       |
| Funding allocated to projects under the 2008 fund              | €774,085              |
| Funds carried forward to 09/10 projects                        | €108,317              |



<sup>1</sup> Some of the funds decommitted under the 2007 fund became available after the 2008 applications were approved and were therefore carried forward to 2009 project allocations.

# Appendix I

## Terms of Reference for Allocation of Salmon Conservation Funds

### Salmon Conservation Fund 2008

In accordance with section 18A of the Fisheries Act 1980 the Minister of State at the Department of Communication, Marine and Natural Resources, with responsibility for inland fisheries, Mr John Browne T.D. directed the Central Fisheries Board to co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of a programme for the rehabilitation of salmon stocks. It was indicated that priority should be given to:

1. Rivers below conservation limit.
2. Rivers which have the greatest prospect of recovery.
3. Remedial works within the remit of the Regional Fisheries Boards where maximum benefit can be expected to accrue.

### Proposed Terms of Reference

- To identify and cost projects which meet the criteria set out above for rehabilitation of salmon stocks.
- To implement priority projects, which meet the criteria set out above, subject to feasibility, funding availability and value for money consideration.

# Appendix II

## Projects submitted for consideration in 2008

| File No                       | Region   | Name of Project   | Proposed Project   | Estimated Cost | Below CL 0-2 | Q-Value 1-5 | Max Benefit 0-4 | Score |
|-------------------------------|----------|---|--|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| 816                           | National | Assessment of attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2009  | This project has four components:<br>1. Catchment-wide electro fishing<br>2. Using PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags to assess full salmon runs where only partial counters exist<br>3. Catch & Release Tagging Studies<br>4. Biological Assessment of Salmon Populations  | €180,920       |              |             | fund            | N/A   |
| 803                           | NWRFB    | Further bank protection and channel restoration on the Shranaploya River, a tributary of the Glenamoy River | Further bank protection and channel restoration on the Shranaploya River, a tributary of the Glenamoy River  | €82,865        | 2            | 4.3         | 3.5             | 9.8   |
| 839                           | ShRFB    | Fergus Fish Counter - Build Crump Weir and installation of Logie fish counter                               | The River Fergus Fish Counting Crump Weir and CCTV system was on the ShRFB Business Plan 2008 to be completed for Q2. The primary focus of this is to measure Salmon Anadromy, however it also counts Lamprey and Eels which can be verified through the associated CCTV.  | €202,000       | 2            | 3.7         | 4               | 9.7   |
| 813                           | NRFB     | Lackagh Fishery   | Glenearagh tributary – selective bank side clearance for 0.5km. in the lower reaches. Glen river - .5 km. above Glen lake needs selective bank clearance and the installation of small low level weirs . alabber river - install weirs below 2 sets of waterfalls on order to pond out area below falls. Owencarrow river – selective bank side clearance for 2.5km, fencing for 1.5km. Owenwee river – Selective bank side clearance for 0.5km. | €49,000        | 2            | 4.5         | 3               | 9.5   |
| 807                           | SRFB     | R. Nore (basin) Fish passage improvement works  | Conduct an engineering survey of existing fish passage. Design such facilities as to improve fish passage. Conduct such facilities to allow fish movement through various flows.   | €60,000        | 1            | 4.3         | 4               | 9.3   |
| 829                           | ERFB     | Proposal for Fish Pass on White River   | Incorporate a Rock Ramp fish pass into existing structure which will open up approx. 12 kilometres for potential spawning/nursery habitat.   | €50,000        | 2            | 3.7         | 3.5             | 9.2   |
| 832                           | ERFB     | Full Counter for the River Boyne  | Proposal is to place a counter at Slane on the River Boyne ideally at Slane.   | €250,000       | 2            | 3.7         | 3.5             | 9.2   |
| 837                           | WRFB     | Bunowen River   | Bank protection - 100m rock armour - Ballyhip. Gravel for spawning beds and Bank clearance - Bunowen.  | €6,800         | 2            | 4.2         | 3               | 9.2   |
| 822                           | WRFB     | Dunkellin River   | Provision of in stream structures – Bullaun. Bank Fencing – Bullaun. Provision of fish counter - Kilcolgan.  | €95,000        | 2            | 3.6         | 3.5             | 9.1   |
| 830                           | ERFB     | Work to be carried out in Wexford District of the ERFB  | Bank Stabilisation to R. Slaney to reduce siltation of spawning beds. Trap salmon smolts at Hydro Scheme at Clohamon for close examination purposes. Radio Tag 30 spring rod caught salmon and track to spawning beds R.Slaney. Improve fish passage in Baltinglass Weir. R. Boro - removal of laurel from river banks. R. Bann bank clearance & improve spawning habitat upstream. Improve spawning beds in R. Owenavorrigh.                    | €27,500        | 2            | 4.1         | 3               | 9.1   |
| PROPOSED CUT-OFF POINT OF 9.1 |          |   |  |                |              |             |                 |       |

| File No | Region | Name of Project   | Proposed Project  | Estimated Cost | Below CL 0-2 | Q-Value 1-5 | Max Benefit 0-4 | Score       |
|---------|--------|---|---|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 823     | WRFB   | Owenbolusice - Spiddal River  | Provision of fish counter – Spiddal River   | €80,000        | 2            | 4.1         | 3               | <b>9.1</b>  |
| 812     | NRFB   | Glanagannon River   | It is proposed to complete selective bank side clearance for 4.5km. Bank side fencing for 2km   | €13,000        | 2            | 4           | 3               | <b>9</b>    |
| 810     | SRFB   | Kilkea Weir Project   | Provide facilities to improve fish passage at the Weir. Survey Site and design structures.  | €23,000        | 2            | 3.4         | 3.5             | <b>8.9</b>  |
| 805     | NWRFB  | Rehabilitation of the Bonet System  | River Bank protection and fencing River Bonet. Spawning gravel levelled and tree tunnelling removed. 150-200m of rock armouring on the Skinneadha River and clear 1.5km of tree tunnelling. Fencing, bank protection and rock armouring on the Owenmore river as well as the introduction of spawning gravel and scrub. Bush clearance on the Shanvaus River as well as rock armouring and fencing. | €35,750        | 1            | 4.4         | 3.5             | <b>8.9</b>  |
| 814     | NRFB   | Lurgy River   | restore the quality of the instream habitat over an extensive length of the Leannan catchment.  | €53,000        | 2            | 3.75        | 3               | <b>8.75</b> |
| 831     | ERFB   | Work to be carried out in Dublin District of the ERFB   | Agitate Gravel on spawning beds of upper R. Liffey. Salmon Tracking programme on River Liffey. Remove excess weed from Wrens Nest stream. Avoca Radio Tracking programme. Improve Fish passage at top of tidal stretch R. Dargle. Remove laurel from R. Vartry. Place boulders in various pools. Carryout instream enhancement works downstream of Ashford R. Vartry                                | €23,000        | 2            | 3.7         | 3               | <b>8.7</b>  |
| 801     | NWRFB  | Rehabilitation of the Oweng   | Restore Stone Weirs, Create pools and introduce spawning gravels  | €36,450        | 2            | 4           | 2.5             | <b>8.5</b>  |
| 838     | WRFB   | Owenwee/Belclare River  | Bank protection - 200m rock armour  | €10,800        | 2            | 4           | 2.5             | <b>8.5</b>  |
| 806     | SRFB   | River Tar Pruning Project   | Conduct partial pruning along river bank to increase fish production  | €12,000        | 2            | 3.85        | 2.5             | <b>8.35</b> |
| 802     | NWRFB  | Further Tree removal an scrub clearance on the Crumpaun River part of the Newport/Beltra system | Further Tree removal and scrub clearance on a 3 km stretch of the Crumpaun River part of the Newport/Beltra system  | €48,000        | 1            | 4.3         | 3               | <b>8.3</b>  |
| 815     | NRFB   | Eske Fishery (Lowerymore River)   | Newly accessible channel for salmon; severe erosion needs to be halted to provide substrate stability to maximise potential production; 2009 – Yr 1 of a 5 yr programme to include rip-rap, fencing, tree planting. Remedy severe bank erosion downstream of falls; 0.5 km of channel to be remediated to include fencing on both banks to exclude sheep.   | €37,500        | 1            | 3.8         | 3.5             | <b>8.3</b>  |



| File No                      | Region | Name of Project  | Proposed Project   | Estimated Cost    | Below CL 0-2 | Q-Value 1-5 | Max Benefit 0-4 | Score |
|------------------------------|--------|--|--|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|
| 836                          | WRFB   | Carrownisky  | Rehabilitation of spawning in main channel   | €2,000            | 2            | 4.2         | 2               | 8.2   |
| 828                          | SWRFB  | River Lee (Kerry) enhancement works  | Enhancement works would involve construction of a low flow channel for summer conditions and create holding/angling pools.                               | €150,000          | 2            | 3.1         | 3               | 8.1   |
| 820                          | WRFB   | Gowla - Owengowla River  | Rehabilitation of spawning Beds. Weed Removal.   | €10,000           | 0            | 4.5         | 3.5             | 8     |
| 811                          | SRFB   | Lismore Fish Counter   | Survey Kings Gap in the Wier at Lismore. Design a fish counter Wier. Construct & Install a fish counter at Lismore Weir.                                 | €480,000          | 0            | 3.9         | 4               | 7.9   |
| 826                          | SWRFB  | Construction of a fish pass at Kilmurry Weir on the River Maine, Co. Kerry | Construction of a fish pass at Kilmurry weir on the river Maine,   | €200,000          | 2            | 3.75        | 2               | 7.75  |
| 818                          | WRFB   | Ballynahinch - Owenmore River  | Bank Protection - Tooreenacoona. Bank Clearance - Tooreenacoona. Rehabilitation of Spawning Beds - Tooreenacoona. Bank Protection & Fencing - Gleninagh. | €75,000           | 0            | 4.2         | 3               | 7.2   |
| 808                          | SRFB   | River Dinan Bank Protection Program  | Bank protection to prevent erosion along 3km of river divan using rock armouring.  | €32,000           | 1            | 3.7         | 2.5             | 7.2   |
| 809                          | SRFB   | River Dinan Fencing Project  | Erect fencing along river bank to prevent cattle access. Improve natural vegetation along river banks in long term.                                      | €15,000           | 1            | 3.7         | 2.5             | 7.2   |
| 827                          | SWRFB  | Improvements to Lough Guitane Weir, Laune catchment, Killarney, Co. Kerry  | To introduce a low flow channel through the weir, and create a flow into the river at all times.   | €250,000          | 0            | 4.45        | 2.5             | 6.95  |
| 804                          | NWRFB  | Further Rehabilitation of Drumcliff/Diffreen System                        | Further Rehabilitation of Drumcliff/Diffreen System. Bank Protection and loosening of spawning gravel.   | €6,000            | 0            | 3.4         | 3.5             | 6.9   |
| 821                          | WRFB   | Corrib Catchment   | Bank protection work   | €75,000           | 0            | 4           | 2.5             | 6.5   |
| 824                          | WRFB   | Corrib catchment - River Clare   | In stream structures & bank fencing - Cloonfad. Improve angler access & weed removal – Dalgan.   | €30,000           | 0            | 4           | 2.5             | 6.5   |
| 819                          | WRFB   | Doochulla River  | Rehabilitation of spawning Beds, Freeing of compacted gravel, Weed Removal   | €5,000            | 0            | 4.5         | 2               | 6.5   |
| 817                          | WRFB   | Ballynahinch - Owenmore - Lower reaches                                    | Rehabilitation of spawning Beds. Improve access for fish to nursery areas. Weed Removal.   | €5,000            | 0            | 4.2         | 2               | 6.2   |
| 825                          | WRFB   | Erriff River   | Rehabilitation of spawning beds & bank clearance.  | €6,000            | 0            | 4.1         | 2               | 6.1   |
| 833                          | WRFB   | Owenglin - Clifden River   | Repairs to fish passage to enable salmon mount impassable waterfall.   | €2,000            | 0            | 4           | 2               | 6     |
| 835                          | WRFB   | Culfin River   | Rehabilitation & creation of spawning beds. Provision of Crump Weir and Logie fish counter   | €85,000           | 0            | 4           | 2               | 6     |
| 834                          | WRFB   | Dawros/Kylemore River  | Bank Protection - Rock Armour  | €10,000           | 0            | 3.8         | 2               | 5.8   |
| <b>Total Funds Requested</b> |        |  |  | <b>€2,814,585</b> |              |             |                 |       |

# Appendix III

The scores were allocated on the following basis;

## ***Conservation Limit***

River below Conservation Limit = 2 points

River between 100% - 120% of Conservation Limit = 1 point

River above 120% of Conservation Limit = 0 point

## ***Prospect of Recovery - Q Values for water quality***

Q1 - indicates very poor water quality with poor macro invertebrate community diversity.

Q5 - indicates very good water quality with high macro invertebrate community diversity.

Q-value of 1 = 1 point

Q-value of 2 = 2 point

Q-value of 3 = 3 point

Q-value of 4 = 4 point

Q-value of 5 = 5 point

Some rivers have multiple Q-values. It was decided that an average Q-value for the entire river be allocated to projects since the entire river should benefit from works carried out.

## ***Maximum Benefit***

The group assigned a score between 1 and 4 to this category on the basis of scientific knowledge and other indices. A score of 4 points = maximum benefit to be gained from conducting rehabilitation projects; a score of 1 point = lesser benefit to be gained from conducting rehabilitation projects.