

Salmon Conservation Fund Report

2014



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Background

On December 4th 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”.

On July 1st 2010 Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) was formally established as the agency responsible for the conservation, protection, management, marketing, development and improvement of our inland fisheries and sea angling resources. IFI also coordinates and implements the Salmon Conservation Fund programme.

The 2014 fund represents the eighth 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, added to all classes of licence to provide funds for a conservation programme. A Class ‘A’ licence costing €100 in 2014 was made up of €50 for the license fee and €50 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 following assessment of applications by the Salmon Conservation Fund Implementation Committee whilst abiding by the Terms of Reference for the fund (**Appendix I**). The 2014 Salmon Conservation Fund was opened to applications from contributors to the fund, under the 2014 Contributors Scheme (**Appendix V**). Applications and awards under the Contributors scheme are detailed separately in this report.

The implementation committee made up of both scientific and management staff within Inland Fisheries Ireland (Mr Declan Cooke - Inspector IFI Ballina, Dr Paddy Gargan - Senior Research Officer - IFI Citywest, Ms Karen Delanty - Research Officer - IFI Citywest) and one external member (Mr Bob Seward - Angling Council of Ireland). Those projects recommended by the implementation committee were submitted to the Management Committee (Suzanne Campion - Head of Business

Development, Dr Cathal Gallagher - Head of Research and Development and Greg Ford - Head of Operations) for final approval.

IFI would like to thank all stakeholders who have participated in the scheme to date. The application process and rigorous governance requirements have been adhered to and many projects are now complete whilst some others have seen their completion dates extended. The Scheme is continuously under review and IFI are looking at ways of updating the scheme to ensure the best use of funds applied to the conservation and future survival of our wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout stocks. IFI will welcome additional proposals from new and existing participants seeking funding under the next round of Salmon Conservation Fund.

Projects Approved Under 2014 Fund

In June 2015 the Implementation Committee received 13 project proposals from Inland Fisheries Ireland requesting a total of €555,556 (**Appendix II**) and a further 16 project proposals from contributors to the scheme requesting a total of €239,212 (**Appendix III**) under the 2014 fund. The implementation committee recommended 26 projects in total 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 IV**). Details of the Contributors Scheme can be obtained in **Appendix V**. Projects were ranked in order of numeric score and funding allocated in the following order subject to funding availability;

IFI Projects Allocated Funding - 2014 Fund*	Funds Allocated
National Salmon Conservation Assessment 2015 Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit 2015 in various rivers throughout Ireland currently not meeting their conservation limit.	€117,890
River Boyne Atlantic Salmon Pit Tagging Project 2015 Wild Atlantic salmon will be intercepted at the Boyne Estuary under IFI supervision then pit tagged prior to release unharmed back to the river. These fish will ascend the fish pass upstream, where a pit tag reading station will register data from the pit tagged salmon. The data will be intercepted from the reading station by IFI staff and used towards assessing the percentage of salmon passing over the Weir and those passing through the partial salmon counter. The results obtained from this survey will be collated to give more accurate scientific and management data for the River Boyne for future use. This valuable information will enable more informed decision making for the River Boyne where only a partial fish counting system exists.	€8,634
Curly Hole Rehabilitation Project, River Boyne. This project will involve river bank protection works, where the river is currently being eroded by the flow of water. Works will also include excavation of a thalweg to deflect the flow of water away from the eroding river bank to allow a more natural flow of water located at Townley Hall, Tullyallen, Drogheda, Co. Louth.	€16,863
Provision of consultancy services for design of Fish Pass, at White River, Drummin Mill, Dunleer, Co. Louth.	€13,000
Provision of consultancy services to provide a site assessment for a fish counter on the River Glyde at Tallanstown, Co. Louth.	€3,000
Lackagh Counter Funding has been secured to construct a salmon counting facility on the Lackagh River at a spot below the outfall from Glen Lough and upstream of the tidal section at Creeslough, Co. Donegal.	€210,069

<p>Clondulane Weir Removal Project IFI wish to appoint a consulting engineer to assess the most feasible options to decommission the Weir on the River Blackwater at Clondulane, Fermoy, Co. Cork.</p>	<p>€53,475</p>
<p>Fish Pass Improvement Works at Castletown Bridge on River Douglas, (Barrow Tributary). A rock ramp fish pass and river bank protection works will be undertaken in co-operation with Laois County Council on the River Douglas at Castletown Bridge, Ballylynan, Co. Laois.</p>	<p>€8,000</p>
<p>Improve Fish Pass at Clashdog Bridge (Clodiagh Tributary, River Suir), Clonea, Co. Waterford. A rock ramp fish pass and river bank protection works will be undertaken in co-operation with Waterford County Council on the River Clodiagh at Clonea, Co. Waterford. This will open a further 6 kilometers of habitat for salmon spawning and nursery.</p>	<p>€6,000</p>
<p>Bank Protection Kings River, Callan, Co. Kilkenny. Works will involve river bank protection using rock armour and willow weaved panels, to create a gentle profile and re-inforce with biodegradable matting to secure the river bank from further erosion. There will also be selective pruning of vegetation and removal of woody debris from within the channel along with planting of willow slips. The root system of these willows which will bind soil particles and support the river bank long term.</p>	<p>€21,500</p>
<p>Clare River Enhancement Site 1 Clare river, downstream from Dalgan Bridge. Works will involve 600m of both river bank protection and fish passage improvements at Carton, Co. Galway. Site 2 Clare River, upstream & downstream of Milltown Bridge. Various in-stream works to include fish passage improvement and spawning enhancement over 300m of the Clare river upstream and down-stream of Milltown Bridge, Milltown, Co. Galway.</p>	<p>€52,744</p>
<p>Dunkellin River Enhancement - Raford - 2015 This project will involve various instream works, spawning enhancement and river bank protection over 2kms of the Dunkellin River between Raford Farm Bridge upstream and downstream for 1km at Kiltullagh, Co. Galway.</p>	<p>€38,891</p>
<p>Total funds allocated to IFI applicants.</p>	<p>€550,066</p>

*subject to meeting all conditions of the fund

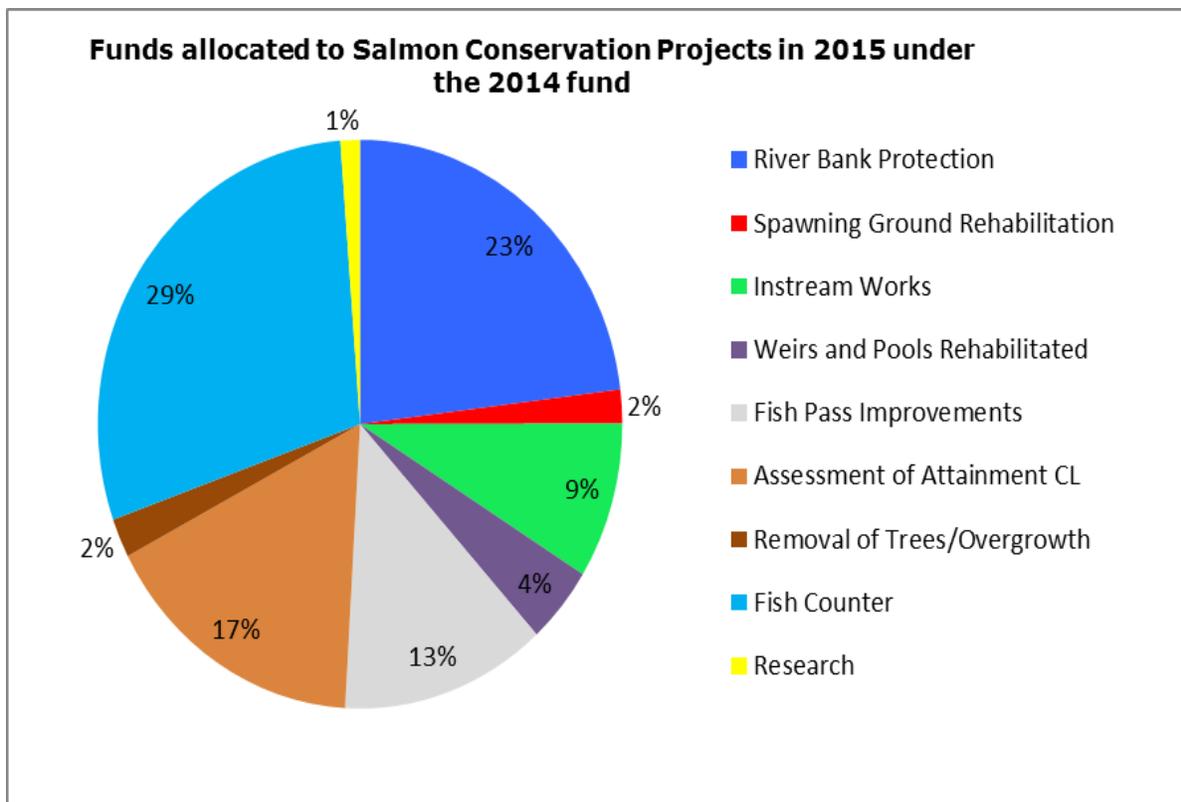
Contributor Projects allocated funding - 2014 Fund*	Funds Allocated
<p>Glenturk River Rehabilitation - Phase 2 Bangor Angling Club were allocated funding towards the removal of exotic invasives and shrub pruning over 2km of the Glenturk River (tributary of Carrowmore Lake) at Glenturk Beg, Ballina, Co. Mayo.</p>	€15,000
<p>Glenamoy River Rehabilitation - Repair rock armour and silt removal Glenamoy Community Angling Association were allocated funding towards river bank protection on the Srahnaploya river the main tributary of the Glenamoy. Works will also include the removal of gravel that has accumulated on the opposite side of the river and re distribution back upstream into the spawning areas.</p>	€10,830
<p>Lislea River Enhancement - Phase 2 Kells Blackwater Trust were allocated funding towards fencing and cattle drinkers to prevent livestock accessing the river and trampling salmon spawning grounds. Works will also include importing suitable spawning gravel and various in stream works to benefit salmon spawning and provide additional habitat for juvenile salmon.</p>	€14,757
<p>Trimblestown River Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2 Trim, Athboy and District Anglers were allocated funding for river bank protection by fencing off parts of the river bank to prevent livestock access to spawning beds. Works will also involve in stream rubble mats, boulder placement, paired deflectors, river bank improvement at Trimblestown Bridge downstream towards the confluence with the River Boyne at Trimblestown, Kildalkey, Co. Meath.</p>	€15,000
<p>Enniskerry Salmon Project Enniskerry Angling and Conservation Association were allocated funding for the removal of existing gravel throughout the river currently causing obstruction to spawning beds and to prevent future possible flooding at Powers court Demesne, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow.</p>	€2,000
<p>Yellow River Phase 3 Navan & District Anglers were allocated funds towards spawning enhancement, instream structures, river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone improvement to the Yellow River (tributary of Kells Blackwater, River Boyne) at Gibbstown, Navan, Co. Meath.</p>	€14,262
<p>Upper Blackwater (Tributary of River Boyne) Kells Anglers were allocated funding to erect 420 Metres of fencing, erect a number of styles and facilitate cattle drinkers along the fence line. Works will also include river bank reinforcement, following damage by livestock at Ryefield, Virginia, Co. Cavan.</p>	€4,402

Improvements to Martry River (tributary of Blackwater) Kilbride Angling Club were allocated funds towards spawning enhancement, instream gravel and deflectors, rock armour, fencing, styles and tree pruning at Hurdlestown, Martry, Co. Meath.	€15,000
R. Laune - Brodericks Rock Pool Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association were allocated funding for river bank protection using rock armour at the intersection of Gwestin with the Laune, Ballymalis, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.	€15,000
R. Laune - O'Connor Fishery Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association were allocated funding for river bank protection on the River Laune Main Channel right bank at Coolroe South, Killorglin, Co. Kerry.	€15,000
River Bank Protection works on the River Suir at Neddans, Ardfinnan, Co. Tipperary. William O'Grady was allocated funding to use soft engineering methods to prevent further erosion of the river bank and where possible to re-establish a natural bank. These works to be undertaken using a number of methods including large woody debris, willow weaving, willow planting, regrading of the banks and the use of biodegradable material on the River Suir Main Channel at Neddans, Ardfinnan, Co. Tipperary.	€15,000
Little Brosna Project Roscrea and District Angling Club were allocated funding for the construction of 7 V-notched weirs from downstream of the fish farm for a distance of 600 metres, 2 sets of alternating deflectors, 6 metres each of river bank protection and placement of random boulders at strategic locations within this section of river at Loughanauatta, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.	€9,000
Rehabilitation of Salmon Spawning areas on Nenagh River Ormond Anglers were allocated funding for spawning enhancement, instream structures, river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone improvement on the Upper Nenagh River at Latteragh, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.	€12,963
Tree Pruning & Construction of Weirs to Derroober River. Woodford Anglers Association were allocated funding for tree pruning and construction of 18 No. Weirs from Derroober Bridge southwards for 450 metres to Derroober River, Woodford, Co. Galway.	€10,000
<p style="text-align: center;">Total funds allocated to Contributor applicants</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">€168,214</p>

*subject to meeting all conditions of the fund

Finances - 2014 Fund

Funds collected in licence sales in 2014	€512,248
Unallocated Funds carried forward from 2013 fund	€809,164
Total fund available for distribution under the 2014 fund	€1,321,412
Funding allocated to IFI projects under the 2014 fund	€550,066
Funding allocated to Contributors under the 2014 fund	€168,214
Employers Liability and Public Liability Insurance	€12,705
Total funds allocated under the 2014 fund	€730,985
Unallocated funds carried forward to 2015 fund	€590,427



Appendix I

Terms of Reference for Allocation of Salmon Conservation Funds

Salmon Conservation Fund 2014

In accordance with section 18A of the Fisheries Act 1980 the Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, with responsibility for inland fisheries, Mr John Browne T.D. directed the Central Fisheries Board (now Inland Fisheries Ireland) 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 River Basin Districts 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

IFI Projects submitted for consideration under the 2014 fund

Ref	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score
National	National Salmon Conservation Assessment 2015	Selected rivers throughout Ireland.	€117,890	N/A
ERBD	River Boyne Atlantic Salmon PIT Tagging Project - Phase 4	Boyne, Co. Meath.	€8,634	8.7
ERBD	Curly Hole Rehabilitation Project, River Boyne	Boyne, Co. Meath.	€16,863	7.7
ERBD	Provision of consultancy services to proposed Fish Pass, White River at Drummin Mill, Dunleer, Co. Louth.	Dee, Co. Louth.	€13,000	9.3
ERBD	Provision of consultancy services to provide a site assessment for a fish counter on the River Glyde.	Glyde, Co. Louth.	€3,000	7.6
ShRBD	Feasibility Study for Galey Fish Counter	River Galey, Co. Kerry.	€5,490	3.9
NWRBD	Lackagh Counter	Lackagh, Co. Donegal.	€210,069	10.2
SWRBD	Clondulane Weir Removal Project (River Blackwater)	River Blackwater, Co. Cork.	€53,475	6.5
SERBD	Fish Pass Improvement Works at Castletown Bridge on River Douglas, (Barrow Tributary), Co. Laois.	River Barrow, Co. Laois.	€8,000	9.6
SERBD	Improve Fish Pass at Clashdog Bridge (Clodiagh Tributary, River Suir), Clonea, Co. Waterford.	Suir, Co. Waterford	€6,000	10
SERBD	River Bank Protection at Kings River, Callan, Co. Kilkenny.	Nore, Co. Kilkenny	€21,500	9.2
WRBD	Clare River Enhancement	Corrib, Co. Galway	€52,744	7.0
WRBD	Dunkellin River Enhancement - Raford - 2015	Dunkellin, Co. Galway.	€38,891	9.0
Total Requested			€555,556	

Appendix III

Contributor projects submitted for consideration under the 2014 fund

Angling Club	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score
Bangor Angling Club	Glenturk River Rehabilitation - Phase 2	Glenturk River, Co. Mayo.	€25,000	8.0
Glenamoy Community Angling Association	Glenamoy River Rehabilitation	Glenamoy River, Co. Mayo.	€10,830	6.0
Kells Blackwater Trust	Lislea River Enhancement - Phase 2	Lislea, Co. Cavan.	€14,757	8.0
Trim, Athboy and District Anglers	Trimblestown River Rehabilitation Project - Phase 2	Trimblestown River (Tributary of River Boyne), Co. Meath.	€15,000	7.5
Enniskerry Angling and Conservation Association	Enniskerry Salmon Project	Dargle River, Co. Wicklow.	€4,000	9.0
Navan & District Anglers	Yellow River - Phase 3	Yellow River, (tributary of River Boyne), Co. Meath.	€14,262	8.0
Kells Anglers	Upper Blackwater	River Blackwater (tributary of River Boyne)	€4,402	7.8
Kilbride Anglers	Improvements to Martry River	Martry River (trib of Kells Blackwater, Co. Meath.	€15,000	8.5
Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association	R. Laune - Brodericks Rock Pool	River Laune, Co. Kerry.	€18,422	6.0

Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association	R. Laune - O'Connor Fishery	River Laune, Co. Kerry.	€29,806	7.0
Simon Harris UCC	A study of the quantitative predation of sea trout and Atlantic salmon by the Eurasian Otter in SW Ireland	Argideen River, Co. Cork.	€25,770	0
Lee Salmon Anglers	River Lee - Restoration and renovation of flood damaged fishery at Inniscarra	River Lee, Co. Cork.	€15,000	4.0
William O'Grady	River Bank Protection works on the River Suir	River Suir, Co. Tipperary.	€15,000	8.7
Roscrea & District Angling Club	Little Brosna Project	Little Brosna (tributary of River Shannon).	€9,000	8.5
Ormond Anglers Association	Rehabilitation of Salmon Spawning areas on Nenagh River	Nenagh River, Co. Tipperary.	€12,963	9.0
Woodford Anglers Association	Tree pruning & construction of weirs to Derroober River	Derroober River, Co. Galway.	€10,000	8.0
Total Requested			€239,212	

Appendix IV

Scoring method for projects

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 bad 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, therefore an average Q-value was allocated to relevant projects.

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 project; a score of 1 point = lesser benefit to be gained from conducting rehabilitation project.

Appendix V

2014 Contributors Scheme

Who can apply; Contributors to the Salmon Conservation Fund which may include angling clubs, commercial fishermen and fishery owners with an interest in a salmon fishery.

What can be funded?

- **Fish passage improvement.** (E.g. removal of barriers, modification of weirs etc.)
- **Spawning enhancement** (addition/raking of gravel or cleaning of existing substrates)
- **Instream structures** (weirs, deflectors, rubble mats, random boulders etc.)
- **River Bank protection** (rock armour, log revetment etc.)
- **Fencing** (protection of river banks including fences, stiles, cattle drinkers etc.)
- **Riparian zone improvement** (tree pruning and strategic tree planting)
- **Removal and control of exotic invasives** (e.g. Rhododendron, Japanese knotweed, Asian Clam)
- **Feasibility studies** (which lead to future projects under the above headings to a maximum of 50% funding or €2000 whichever is less). A maximum of five (5) studies only to be allowed.
- **A Screening for Appropriate Assessment**, if required, may be funded to a maximum of €500. If this leads to a requirement for an Appropriate Assessment, 3 written quotes shall be required and may be funded at the discretion of IFI.

Criteria for assessing projects;

Projects must be initially approved by the IFI Director prior to being assessed by the evaluation committee. Projects are assessed and scored on an 11 point scale as per Appendix IV.

Amount of funding available; A total fund of €200,000 was available for distribution to eligible applicants fully or partly funded to a maximum of €15,000 per project.