

Salmon Conservation Fund Report

2010



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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.

2010 represents the fourth 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 €120 was made up of €60 for the license fee and €60 ring fenced for the Salmon Conservation Fund and a snap net licence costing €152 comprises €76 licence fee and €76 Salmon Conservation Fund contribution.

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 2010 Salmon Conservation Fund was opened to applications from contributors to the fund under 2010 Contributors Pilot Scheme (**Appendix V**). Project applications and awards under the pilot scheme are detailed separately in this report.

The implementation committee is made up of both scientific and management staff within Inland Fisheries Ireland (Mr Brian Sheerin - Head of IFI Logistics, Mr William Walsh - Director IFI

Blackrock, Mr Declan Cooke - Inspector IFI Ballina, Dr Paddy Gargan - Senior Research Officer - IFI Swords) 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 Greg Ford - Head of Operations) for final approval.

Projects Approved in 2010

In July 2011 the Implementation Committee received 25 project proposals from Inland Fisheries Ireland requesting a total of €1,115,406.03 (**Appendix II**) and a further 17 project proposals under a Pilot Scheme from external applicants requesting a total of €152,406 (**Appendix III**) under the 2010 fund. The implementation committee recommended 25 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 IV**). Details of the Pilot 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 Awarded Funding in 2010

Funds Awarded

River Eske, Co. Donegal - Phase 2.

€56,000

River bank protection using rip-rap to restore river bank stability and fencing to exclude all livestock from the affected areas along with a tree planting programme at Barnsmore, Donegal Town.

Seals Study.

€39,000

Pilot study of seal predation on salmon stocks in selected Irish rivers and estuaries - Phase 1.

Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit in selected rivers.

€140,224

Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit 2011 in various rivers throughout Ireland currently not meeting their conservation limit.

Bunowen, Co. Galway.

€7,090

Completion of a full Salmon Counter on the river where only a partial counter currently exists.

Cloonaghmore (Palmerstown), Co. Mayo.

€15,733

Works to include shrub pruning, raking out rough/course gravel and the introduction of more suitable spawning gravels. Insertion of random boulders at strategic locations to improve salmon habitat and oxygenate the water. The treatment of tree stumps with a suitable weed killer to inhibit regeneration.

River Boyne, Co. Meath.

€87,500

Installation of a Pit tag reader at Blackcastle to help provide full salmon counts where only partial counters exist.

River Bonet, Co. Sligo.

€10,000

Produce a feasibility study to identify the most suitable site for a fish counter.

River Owenboliska, Co. Galway - Phase 2.	€25,900
Construction of a weir, installation of a logie fish counter, cctv camera, small hut and fencing along this stretch of river.	
River Owengarve, Co. Sligo/Mayo.	€26,790
Restoration of weirs over a two mile stretch of river using large stone or rubble mats creating holding/resting pools upstream to assist migrating salmon and sea trout.	
River Diffreen, Co. Leitrim/Sligo.	€25,678
400 meters of river bank protection comprising of both rock armour and log poles. Improve riparian zone by fencing off approximately 3km of riverbank. Open approximately 1km of heavily tunneled river to assist with an increase in plant life which provide habitat for macro invertebrates which in turn provide an additional food source for juvenile fish.	
River Mague, Co. Limerick.	€36,200
Installation of a resistivity counter on the existing weir at Adare Manor.	
River Newport, Co. Mayo.	€25,000
Carry out a study of sections of the Newport River to establish a suitable site to install a fish counter.	
Total funds allocated to IFI applicants.	€495,115

Pilot Projects Awarded Funding in 2010

Funds Awarded

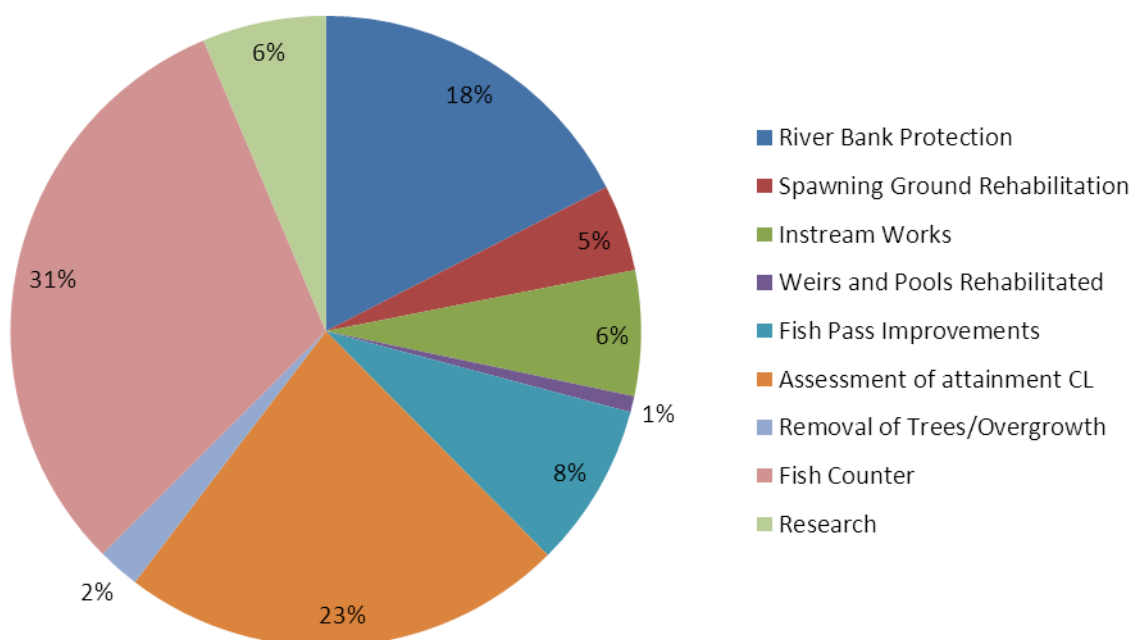
Avonmore River, Co. Wicklow - Hidden Valley Holiday Park. Rathdrum Weir Fish Pass. Construction of a Rock Ramp Fish Pass on the existing Weir to facilitate fish passage improvement.	€8,250
Castletown River, Co. Louth - Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers Association - Placement of rock armour to prevent river bank erosion and siltation of salmon spawning beds. The removal of obstructions to help the passage of salmon to spawning areas. Weir reinforcement to ensure sufficient water flow for salmon passage and further improvement to the work already carried out on spawning areas on the river system.	€11,413
Ballinalough Stream, River Boyne, Co. Meath - Kells Anglers. Spawning enhancement/ Instream structures/ River bank protection/ Fencing/ Riparian zone improvement. Construction of pools and insertion of gravel at tail of pools. Tree pruning and fencing.	€9,950
Blackwater, River Boyne, Co. Meath - Kilbride Angling Club. Fish passage improvement, spawning enhancement, instream structures, fencing and riparian zone improvements.	€15,000
River Nore, Co. Kilkenny - Thomastown Anglers Association. River Bank Protection - Stabilisation of 160 meters of the left river bank below the weir in Thomastown. The right river bank was stabilised in 2010 using rock armour and willow panels.	€10,000
River Sneem, Co. Kerry - Sneem Angling Club. Riparian zone improvement by tree pruning along 200 meters of the river bank above the concrete bridge to allow sunlight to reach the gravel. This will assist with the growth of suitable habitat increasing macro-invertebrate life which provides a valuable food source for juvenile salmon.	€1,200
River Dalua, Co. Cork - Kanturk and District Anglers Association. Instream structures, fencing, riparian zone improvement. Fencing 1km of both river banks whilst providing gates for crossing restricting cattle access to the river and allow recovery of salmon stocks. Provide four water troughs so that cattle have access to clean water without causing disturbance and pollution to the river. Instream random boulders will be inserted to improve river habitat.	€9,800
Doonbeg River, Co. Clare - Doonbeg Fisheries Limited. Spawning enhancement, Instream structures, river bank protection and fencing. This project will seek to enhance spawning and production potential of the Doonbeg River for salmonid populations. This project will provide increased spawning stretches for salmon and sea trout by rehabilitating areas impacted by dredging. River bank protection works will restore river bank stability. Weirs will be reconstructed. Cattle access will be restricted by inserting livestock fencing where necessary.	€13,075

Kilmastualla River (tributary of River Shannon) Co. Limerick - Limerick and District Anglers Association. Spawning enhancement and Instream structures. Rehabilitation of large glide sections by creating pools with stone vortex weirs and providing improved habitat for fish parr and macroinvertebrates by inserting rubble mats at strategic locations.	€8,960
Nenagh River (tributary of River Shannon), Co. Tipperary - Ormond Anglers Association. - Spawning enhancement and Instream structures. Rehabilitation of the Upper reaches of the Nenagh River. Restore areas impacted by dredging and land practices. Inserting spawning gravel and scouring pools in obviously impacted areas. A number of stone weirs will be inserted at low level and retro-fitting of existing stone weirs. Cattle access will be restricted to improve the integrity of the spawning areas.	€8,822
River Fergus, Co. Clare - Ennis and District Anglers Association. Spawning enhancement, Instream structures and Riparian zone improvements.	€8,000
Crolly River, Co. Donegal - Crolly Anglers. Fish passage improvement and riparian zone improvement. Upgrade and improve existing riffle/pool fish pass into the upper reaches of the fishery spawning grounds/holding areas. Selective cutting back of trees and shrubs to allow adequate light penetration to the river bed. This will eliminate the tunneling effect, enhancing habitat for macro-invertebrate life which provides an additional food supply for juvenile salmonids.	€9,500
Glen River (Lackagh) Co, Donegal - Creeslough and District Anglers. Selective river bank clearance. Introduction of spawning gravel, de-compacting of existing gravel and the construction of a number of stone deflectors. Selective river bank clearance along the lower sections of the Owencarrow River upstream of Glen Lough to allow sunlight penetration to the river bed. This will enhance habitat for macro-invertebrate life which provide an additional food supply for juvenile salmonids. Construct and repair fencing to restrict livestock access to the river bank.	€6,300
Total funds allocated to Pilot Scheme applicants	€120,270

Finances for 2010

Funds collected in licence sales in 2010	€579,552
Funds carried forward from 2009	€6,474
Bank interest accrued to 30 th June 2011	€21,326
Total Fund available for distribution	€607,352
Funding allocated to IFI projects under the 2010 fund	€495,115
Funding allocated to Pilot Scheme projects under the 2010 fund	€120,270
Total allocated	€615,385
Funds carried forward to 2011 projects	-€8,033

Funds allocated to Salmon Conservation Projects in 2010



Appendix I

Terms of Reference for Allocation of Salmon Conservation Funds

Salmon Conservation Fund 2010

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. has 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 in 2010

File No	Region	Name of Project	River Name	Estimated Cost	Score	Projects proposed for
920	IFI Ballyshannon	Eske Fishery (Lowermore River) - Phase 2	Eske Lowreymore	€56,000.00	9.3	€56,000.00
2010-11-021	IFI Swords	Pilot Study of Seal Predation on Salmon Stocks in Selected Irish Rivers and Estuaries - Phase 2	4 rivers for selection	€78,000.00	N/A	€39,000.00
2010-11-022	IFI Swords	Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2011	multiple (approx 60)	€140,224.00	N/A	€140,224.00
2010-11-009	IFI - Galway	Bunowen River Fish Counter completion project	Bunowen	€7,090.53	10.3	€7,090.53
2010-11-012	IFI - Ballina	Cloonaghmore River Enhancement Project	Cloonaghmore (Palmerstown)	€15,733.00	10.0	€15,733.00
2010-11-011	IFI Blackrock	Installation of a Pit Tag Reader on the River Boyne – Phase 2	Boyne	€87,500.00	9.7	€87,500.00
2010-11-014	IFI - Ballina	Bonet River Counter Feasibility Study	Garvogue/ Bonet River	€10,000.00	9.7	€10,000.00
2010-11-010	IFI - Galway	Owenboliska Counter Project	Owenboliska	€70,900.00	9.5	€25,900.00
2010-11-017	IFI - Ballina	Owengarve River Weir Restoration	Owengarve	€26,790.22	9.5	€26,790.22
2010-11-013	IFI - Ballina	Difreen River Enhancement Project	Difreen River (flows into Glencar Lake)	€25,678.00	9.25	€25,678.00
2010-11-023	IFI - Limerick	Retro-fitting of the fish counter and weir at Adare Manor, River Maigue, County Limerick	River Maigue	€36,200.00	9.14	€36,200.00
2010-11-020	IFI - Ballina	Newport river counter feasibility study and survey	Newport	€25,000.00	9.0	€25,000.00
Funding availability						€495,115.75
2010-11-015	IFI - Ballina	Grange River Enhancement Project	Grange River	€32,184.00	8.25	funding unavailable
2010-11-004	IFI - Macroom	Spawning Enhancement of Lee River (Tralee)	River Lee	€19,260.00	8.0	funding unavailable
2010-11-006	IFI - Clonmel	Castlecomer Weir Fish Pass Improvement Works	River Dinan	€30,442.00	8.0	funding unavailable
2010-11-008	IFI - Clonmel	Castletown Weir Fish Pass improvement works	River Nore	€37,308.00	8.0	funding unavailable
2010-11-016	IFI - Ballina	Drumcliffe River Enhancement Project	Drumcliffe	€14,173.00	8.0	funding unavailable
2010-11-019	IFI Ballyshannon	Eany Fishery	Eany	€74,767.00	7.75	funding unavailable
Final cut-off point						
2010-11-025	IFI - Limerick	Assessment of the upward migration behaviour of adult Atlantic salmon around the hydro-electric scheme on the lower River Shannon by the use of hydroacoustic tagging technology	Shannon	€108,885.00	7.66	
2010-11-024	IFI - Limerick	River Rehabilitation works for the River Loobagh (Maigue Catchment), County Limerick.	River Loobagh, (River Maigue Catchment)	€28,539.40	7.64	
2010-11-018	IFI - Ballina	Lower Owenmore Development Plan	Owenmore	€10,000.00	6.75	
2010-11-007	IFI - Clonmel	Basin Weir Fish Bye Pass improvement works extension River	River Delour	€111,475.00	6	
2010-11-003	IFI - Macroom	Spawning Enhancement for River Deenagh (Laune system)	River Deenagh (Laune)	€10,869.49	5.66	
2010-11-005	IFI - Macroom	Restore access to spawning grounds on the River Maine	River Maine	€40,636.29	5	
2010-11-002	IFI - Macroom	Angling Pool enhancement for Laune River	Laune	€17,751.10	4.16	
Total Funding requested				€1,115,406.03		

Appendix III

Pilot projects submitted for consideration in 2010

Project Title	Angling Club	River Name	Promoter type	Score	Funding requested
Rathdrum Weir Fish Pass	Lloyd Williams	Avonmore River (Dublin District)	Limited Company	9.7	€8,250
River Bank Protection Phase 5	Dundalk Salmon Anglers Association	River Fane (Dundalk District)	Angling Club	6.5	€4,495
The Castletown River Enhancement Project	Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers Association	Castletown River (Dundalk District)	Angling Club	6.5	€13,675
Ballinlough Stream	Kells Anglers	Ballinlough (Boyne)	Angling Club	8.2	€9,950
Enhancement Spawning Streams Improvements Blackwater Main Channel	Kilbride Angling Club	Blackwater River (Boyne)	Angling Club	8.7	€15,000
Thomastown Weir Left Bank Renewal	Thomastown Anglers Association	Nore	Angling Club	6.5	€10,000
Spawning Enhancement	Sneem Angling Club	Sneem, Co. Kerry	Angling Club	7	€1,200
Restoration of Riparian habitat and water quality of a heavily impacted reach of the river Dalua, Cork Blackwater, Co. Cork	Kanturk and District Anglers Association	River Dalua, Cork Blackwater	Angling Club	7.1	€9,800
Mahers Bend	Tralee and District Anglers Association	Feale	Angling Club	6	€12,000
Wood River (Curragh River) Project, Co. Clare.	Mountshannon Angling Club	Is this the Woodford River (trib of Shannon)	Angling Club	N/A	€2,470
Doonbeg River Habitat Enhancement Project	Doonbeg Fisheries Limited	Doonbeg	Limited Company	9	€13,075
Fisheries Enhancement of the Little Brosna River	Little Brosna & Camcor Fishing Club	Trib of River Shannon	Angling Club	7.7	€9,905
Enhancement of Fisheries Habitat in the River Kilmastulla	Limerick and District Anglers Association	Trib of the River Shannon	Angling Club	8.7	€9,964
Rehabilitation of salmonid production areas in the Nenagh River	Ormond Anglers Association	Nenagh River (trib of Shannon)	Angling Club	8.7	€8,822
Rehabilitation of Fergus - Drehidnagower to Ballycorey Bridge	Ennis and District Anglers Associations	Fergus, Co. Clare	Angling Club	8.6	€8,000
Crollly River Enhancement Programme	Crollly Anglers	Crollly River	Angling Club	7	€9,500
Lackagh Catchment Enhancement Programme	Creelough and District Anglers	Glen River (Lackagh)	Angling Club	9	€6,300
Total Funds requested					€152,406

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

Appendix V

2010 Contributors Pilot 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 drinks 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 maximum of 50% funding or €2,000 whichever is less). A maximum of five (5) studies only to be allowed.

Criteria for assessing projects;

Projects must be initially approved by the IFI River Basin 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; There was €120,000 made available under the 2010 pilot scheme for distribution to successful applicants. Approved projects were either fully or partly funded. The fund was divided between a range of projects across a number of fishery districts to a maximum of €10,000 per project, however there were three projects allocated funds in excess of this amount.