

Salmon Conservation Fund Report

2011



Table of Contents

Contents	Page
Background	3
Projects approved 2011	5
Finances for 2011	10
Appendix I - Terms of Reference	11
Appendix II - IFI Projects submitted for consideration 2011	12
Appendix III - Contributor Projects submitted for consideration 2011	13
Appendix IV - Scoring method for projects	14
Appendix V - 2011 Contributors Scheme	15

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.

2011 represents the fifth 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 draft net licence costing €358 comprises €179 licence fee and €179 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 2011 Salmon Conservation Fund was opened to applications from contributors to the fund under 2011 Contributors Scheme (**Appendix V**). Project applications and awards under the contributor 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 2011

In May 2012 the Implementation Committee received 15 project proposals from Inland Fisheries Ireland requesting a total of €738,973 (**Appendix II**) and a further 25 project proposals from contributors to the scheme requesting a total of €253,416 (**Appendix III**) under the 2011 fund. The implementation committee recommended 37 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 Contributor 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 2011	Funds Awarded
Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit in selected rivers Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit 2012 in various rivers throughout Ireland currently not meeting their conservation limit.	€99,250
Seals Study Pilot study of seal predation on salmon stocks in selected Irish rivers and estuaries - Phase 2.	€56,000
River Urrin Weir Removal Fish passage improvement works by the removal of a derelict weir at Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.	€11,737
Provision for fish passage at a defunct mill sluice on the River Bunowen Construction of a 'Rock Ramp Fish Pass' to address the major obstacles to fish passage on the River Bunowen, a tributary of the River Suck, at Ahasragh, Co. Galway.	€45,000
Mitigation of Fish Barrier at Annageeragh Falls Fish Passage improvements works 1.8km upstream from Lough O'Donnell at Annageeragh Bridge, Co. Clare.	€25,200
Ennistymon Fish Counter Modification of an old fish counter on the Inagh River at Ennistymon by inserting a logie tubular fish counter system, geovision camera and cctv along with associated secured counter hut.	€18,556

River Liffey Spawning Enhancement	€2,000
The specific proposal is to rake 4 spawning beds on the main channel 1km upstream of Kilcullen, Co.Kildare and the creation of additional spawning grounds by inserting gravel at strategic locations along this section of river.	
River Burren Ballincarrig Fish Passage	€12,201
Funds were allocated to engage a consultant to design a fish passage improvement facility at Ballincarrig, Carlow town, as the existing fish passage is inadequate.	
River Burren Hanover Fish Passage	€15,038
Funds were allocated to engage a consultant to design a fish passage improvement facility at Hannover, Carlow town.	
Pit Tag Counter Phase 3	€24,000
Pit tagging of salmon at the Boyne Estuary which will be released back to the river to enable these fish pass the counting stations upriver to determine 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. This valuable information will enable more informed decision making for the River Boyne where only a partial fish counting system exists.	
Enhancement of salmon production and nursery areas in the River Inny	€40,813
The project aims to enhance known historic salmon spawning areas as part of the overall rehabilitation efforts of the Upper Shannon along the Rath and Moneen/Bishops River, Co Westmeath.	
Castletown Weir Fish Pass Improvement Works River Nore	€74,158
Installation of a rock ramp fish pass to improve fish passage on the River Nore at Castletown, Co. Laois.	
River Barrow Fish Counter Assessment	€59,020
To engage consultants to undertake fish counter design and prepare planning documents for a River Barrow Fish Counter.	
Total funds allocated to IFI applicants.	€482,973

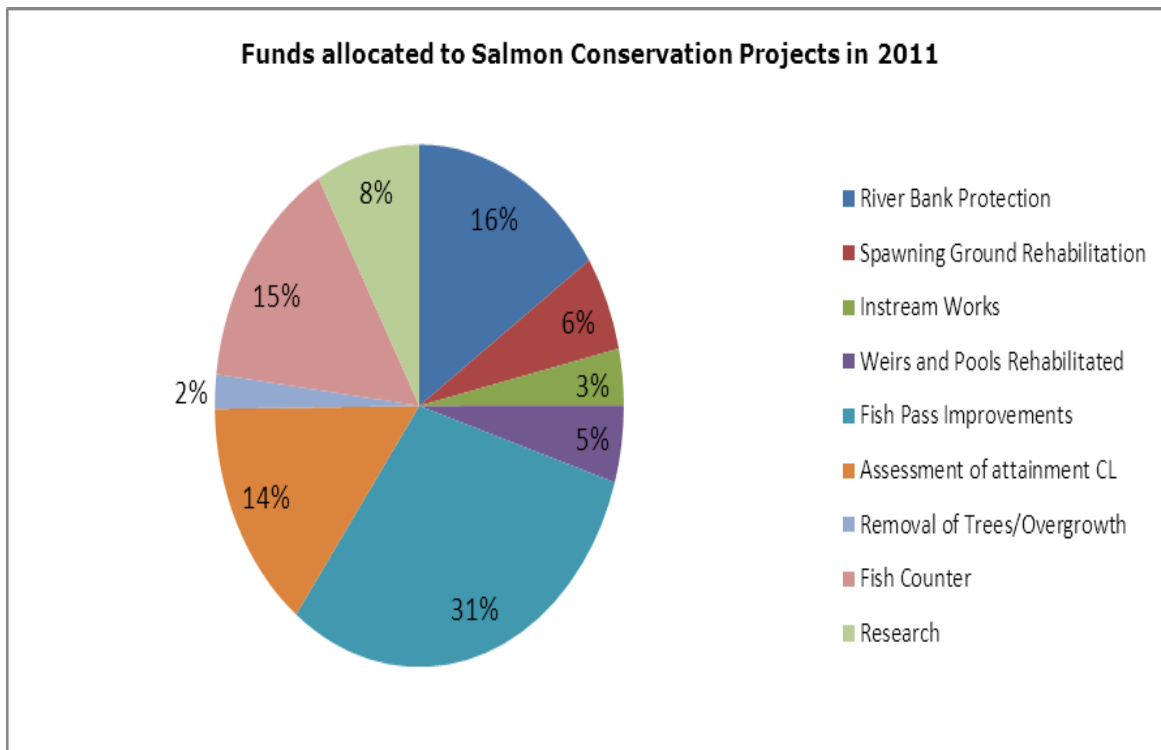
Contributor Projects allocated funding 2011	Funds Awarded
Salmon Habitat Enhancement - River Breaghmore Little Brosna and Camcor Anglers were allocated funding towards fish passage improvements, spawning enhancement, in stream structures, river bank protection and riparian zone improvement on the Breaghmore River (tributary of the River Shannon) at Derrybeg, from Loftus Bridge to below Breaghmore Bridge.	€8,312
River Bank Protection Hidden Valley Funds were allocated towards fencing and riparian zone improvement on the Avonmore River at Hidden Valley Holiday Park, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.	€8,000
Habitat Improvement Works - River Clody/Slaney Slaney River Trust were allocated funding towards fish passage improvement, spawning enhancement, riparian zone improvement and the removal and control of exotic invasives on the River Clody at Bunclody, Co. Wexford.	€9,704
Rehabilitation of Section of Doonbeg River West Clare Anglers were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement, In stream structures, River Bank Protection (200yds) upstream and downstream from Tullycrine Bridge, Kilmihil, Co. Clare.	€10,000
Cregg House Weir Fishpass Funds were allocated towards fish passage improvement works at Carheeney River, tributary of River Fergus, Co. Clare.	€10,000
Rehabilitation of salmon production areas in the River Nenagh Ormond Anglers Association were allocated funds towards enhancement of sections of the upper Nenagh River for Atlantic salmon.	€9,190
Stoneyford River Restoration Stoneyford Anglers were allocated funds towards fish passage improvement, spawning enhancement, In stream structures and river bank protection. This phase of the project will begin at Shanco Bridge to Earl's bridge on the Stoneyford River at Ballivor, Co. Meath.	€9,815
Improvements to Boyne Blackwater Main Channel Kilbride Angling Club were allocated funds towards river bank protection, fish passage improvements, spawning enhancement, in-stream structures, fencing and riparian zone improvement.	€10,000
Mc Cormack's stream Kells Angling Club were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement, in stream structures, river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone improvement at Maperath, Carnaross, Kells, Co. Meath.	€10,000

Borora River Enhancement	€3,797
Kells Angling Club were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement, in stream structures, river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone Improvement at Normanstown, Co. Meath.	
Tullaghobegley River Project	€9,850
Funds were allocated to repair and enhance existing fish passage facilities at the Bawn Pool, Ballyness, Cloughaneely, Co. Donegal on the Tullaghobegley River along with fish passage improvement, spawning enhancement, in stream structures, river bank protection/fencing and riparian zone improvement works.	
Enhancement of salmon production and nursery area in the Kilmastulla R.	€10,000
Limerick and District Anglers were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement, in stream structures and fencing at Cranna Bridge on the main Burgess River at Mogul.	
Glenummera Bank Restoration Project	€3,000
Funds were allocated towards river bank protection 3km upstream of Doo Lough on Delphi system. The purpose of the project is to stabilise the river bank with rock armour.	
Spawning Enhancement	€6,000
Funds were allocated towards spawning enhancement, fencing and riparian zone improvements at Ardshelgiun River (above Poulaphrean) tributary of the River Sneem, Co. Kerry.	
River Restoration Plan for Woodford River, Co. Galway	€10,000
Woodford Anglers Association were allocated funds towards fish passage improvement, spawning enhancement, in stream structures and river bank protection works on Woodford River (tributary of the Shannon), downstream of the bridge, Woodford, Co. Galway.	
Spawning Bed Rehabilitation	€2,700
Costello and Fermoyale Fisheries were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement along sections of the Casla River to increase productivity of salmon and sea trout in this river.	
Castlering/BallyKelly Tributary Enhancement	€6,946
Dundalk Salmon Anglers were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement, in stream works and river bank protection along a 1km section of the Castlering tributary of the River Fane.	
Kylemore Spawning bed Restoration Project	€6,386
Kylemore Fishery were allocated funding towards river bank protection and spawning enhancement along sections of the Kylemore River, at Kylemore Village, Co. Galway.	

River Bank Erosion on River Dinan	€10,000
Nore Suir River Trust were allocated funds towards spawning enhancement and river bank protection works on the River Dinan, in the town lands of Mickalee, Co. Kilkenny. These works will be undertaken as a workshop for the farmers actions group and produce written material on design techniques, maintenance and fencing, statutory and legal obligations and timing of works.	
River Bank Protection of River Moy	€6,682
Funds were allocated towards protection of salmon spawning areas on the River Moy at Carrowgallda, Bohola, Co. Mayo.	
Crolly River Management Programme	€9,700
Crolly Angling Club were allocated funds towards fish passage improvements, riparian zone improvements and river bank clearance along the lower stretches of the Crolly River, Co. Donegal.	
River Oulagh Enhancement Project	€9,873
Abbeyfeale Angling Association were allocated funding towards river bank protection, fencing riparian zone improvement and the removal and control of exotic invasives, on the River Feale at Abbeyfeale to Deagh Bridge and Oulagh tributary to Crathog Bridge, Co Limerick.	
Restoration & Renovation of Flood Damaged Riverbank at Inniscarra	€10,000
Funds were allocated towards 230 metres of riverbank protection at the Blue Hole or the Laurels, Curraghbeg, Ovens, Cork.	
Stampes Park Rehabilitation	€10,000
Thomastown Anglers Association were allocated funds towards river bank protection works on the right hand bank to stabilise the river bank and prevent further erosion causing siltation to the salmon spawning beds.	
Total funds allocated to Contributor Scheme applicants	€199,954

Finances for 2011

Funds collected through licence sales in 2011	€607,704
Funds carried forward from 2010	-€8,033
Funds decommitted under the 2008 Fund and c/f to 2011	€373,868
Total Fund available for distribution	€973,539
Funding allocated to IFI projects under the 2011 fund	€482,973
Funding allocated to Contributor Projects under the 2011 fund	€199,954
Total funds allocated	€682,927
Unallocated Funds carried forward to 2012 projects	€290,612



Appendix I

Terms of Reference for Allocation of Salmon Conservation Funds

Salmon Conservation Fund 2011

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 in December 2006, 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 2011

Region	Project Title	River Name	Funds sought by this application	Score
IFI	Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2012	National Project Covering Approx. 60 salmon rivers	€99,250	N/A
IFI	Pilot Study of Seal Predation on Salmon Stocks in selected Irish Rivers and Estuaries	4 Rivers selected	€56,000	N/A
IFI - Clonmel	River Urrin Weir Removal	River Urrin (tributary of River Slaney)	€11,737	10
IFI- Limerick	Provision for fish passage at a defunct mill sluice on the River Bunowen at Ahascragh	Bunowen (tributary of River Suck)	€45,000	9.5
IFI - Limerick	Mitigation of Fish Barrier at Annageeragh Falls	River Annageeragh	€25,200	9
IFI- Limerick	Ennistymon Fish Counter	Inagh	€18,556	9
IFI - Clonmel	River Burren Hanover Fish passage	River Burren (tributary of River Barrow)	€15,038	8.8
IFI - Clonmel	River Burren Ballincarrig Fish Passage	River Burren (tributary of River Barrow)	€12,201	8.8
IFI - Blackrock	River Liffey Spawning Enhancement	Liffey	€2,000	8.8
IFI - Blackrock	Pit Tag Counter Phase 3	Boyne	€24,000	8.6
IFI- Limerick	Enhancement of salmon production and nursery areas in the River Inny.	Inny (Upper River Shannon)	€40,813	7.2
IFI - Clonmel	Castletown Weir Fish Pass Improvement Works	River Nore	€74,158	6.1
IFI - Clonmel	River Barrow Fish Counter Assessment	River Barrow	€59,020	5.8
IFI - Blackrock	Fish Passage - White River (Dee)	White River (tributary of River Dee)	€6,000	9.5
IFI - Limerick	Detailed design and construction of rock ramp for fish passage at Tarmonbarry Weir, Co. Longford.	River Shannon	€250,000	9.75
Total funds requested			€738,973	

Appendix III

Contributor Projects submitted for consideration 2011

Angling Club	Project Title	River Name	Funding Requested	Score
Little Brosna & Camcor Fishing Club	Salmon Habitat Enhancement	River Breaghmore (tributary of River Shannon)	€8,312	9.4
Hidden Valley Holiday Park	River Bank Protection Hidden Valley	Avonmore (tributary of River Avoca)	€8,000	9.2
Slaney River Trust	Habitat Improvement Works	Slaney	€9,704	9
West Clare anglers	Rehabilitation of Section of Doonbeg River	Doonbeg	€12,650	9
Private Individual	Cregg House Weir Fishpass	Carheeney River, tributary of River Fergus, Co. Clare	€22,500	8.8
Ormonde Anglers Assoc	Rehabilitation of salmon production areas in the River Nenagh	Nenagh (tributary of Shannon)	€9,190	8.7
Stoneyford Anglers	Stoneyford River Restoration	Stoneyford River (tributary of River Boyne)	€9,814.50	8.6
Kilbride Angling Club	Improvements Blackwater Main Channel River Boyne	Blackwater (tributary of River Boyne)	€20,000	8.6
Kells Anglers	McCormacks stream	Blackwater (tributary of River Boyne)	€10,000	8.6
Borora Anglers	Borara River	Boyne	€3,807	8.6
Cloughaneely Ang Club	Tullaghobegley River Project	Tullaghobegley	€9,850	8.6
Limerick & District Anglers	Enhancement of salmon production and nursery area in the Kilmastulla River	Kilmastulla (tributary of the Shannon)	€10,313	8.5
Delphi Fishery Ltd	Glenummera Bank Restoration Project	Glenummera, Delphi	€3,000	7.75
Sneem River Assoc	Spawning Enhancement	Sneem	€6,000	7.5
Woodford Anglers Association	River Restoration Plan for Woodford River, Co. Galway	Woodford (tributary of Shannon)	€10,000	7.5
Costello & Fermoyale Fisheries Co.	Spawning Bed Rehabilitation	Cashla System	€2,700	7.5
Dundalk Salmon Anglers	Castlering/BallyKelly Tributary Enhancement	Fane	€6,946.20	7.4
Kylemore Fishery	Kylemore Spawning bed restoration project	Kylemore	€6,386	7.2
Nore Suir River Trust Ltd.	Bank Erosion	Dinin River (tributary of River Nore)	€10,000	6.8
East Mayo Anglers	Bank Protection of River Moy	Moy	€10,000	6.55
Croly Ang Assoc	Croly River Management Programme	Croly	€9,700	6.5
Abbeyfeale Anglers Assoc	River Oulagh Enhancement Project	Oulagh (River Feale)	€9,872.80	6
Lee Salmon Anglers	Restoration & Renovation of Flood damaged riverbank at Inniscarra.	Lower Lee	€32,100	5.5
Thomastown Anglers Association	Stampes Park Rehabilitation	Nore	€10,000	4.8
Private Individual	Riparian zone improvement.	Newtown River Fishery (tributary of River Suir)	€2,570	n/a
		Funds requested	€253,416	

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

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 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 a 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 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 €10,000 per project.