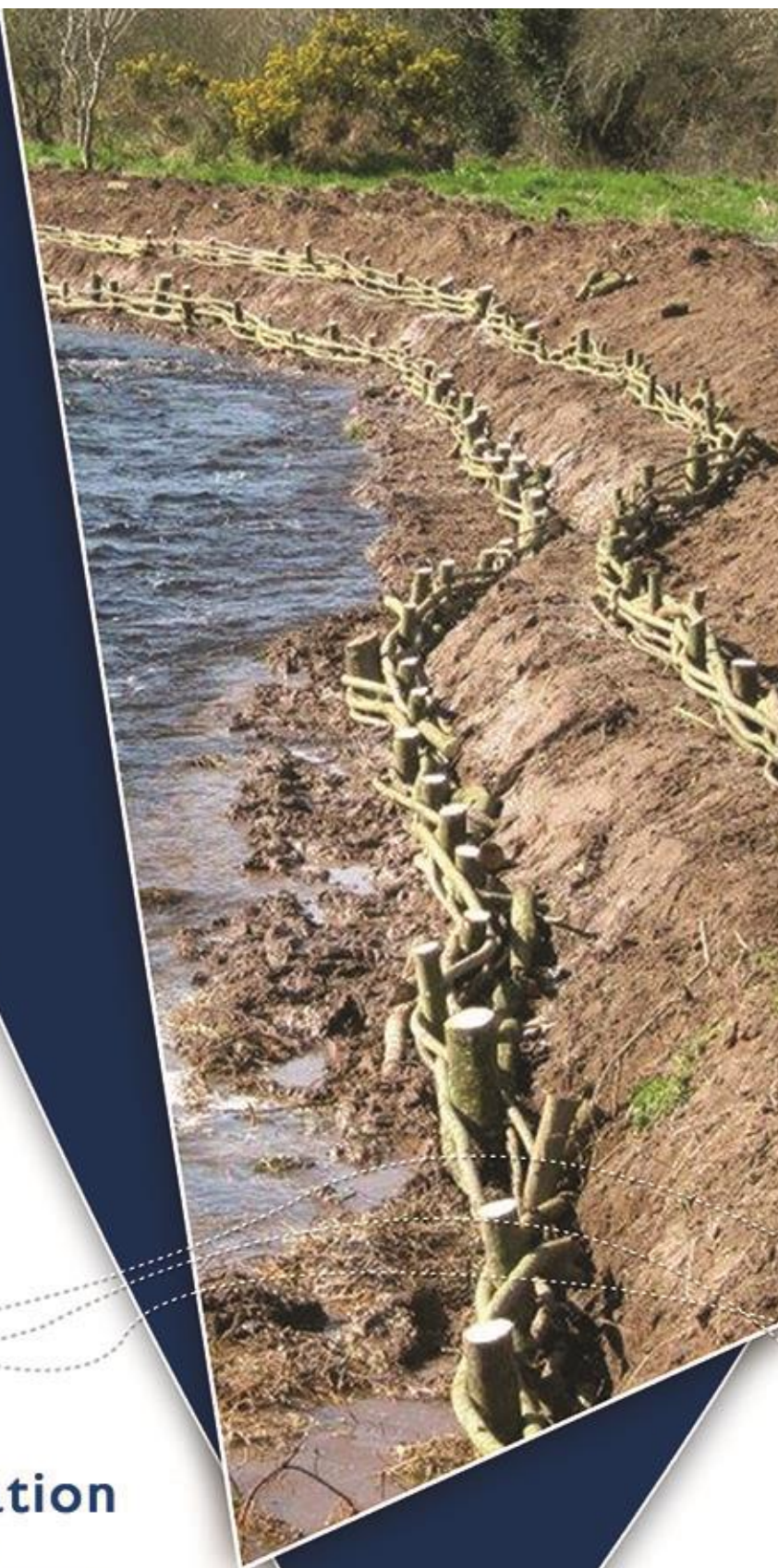


IFI/2014/I-4180



Salmon Conservation Fund Report

2012

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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.

2012 represents the sixth 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.

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 2012 Salmon Conservation Fund was opened to applications from contributors to the fund under 2012 Contributors Scheme (**Appendix V**). Project 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 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 2012

In April 2013 the Implementation Committee received 10 project proposals from Inland Fisheries Ireland requesting a total of €445,375 (**Appendix II**) and a further 19 project proposals from contributors to the scheme requesting a total of €238,906 (**Appendix III**) under the 2012 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 Awarded Funding in 2012	Funds Awarded
Boyne Tagging Project - Phase 4 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.	€26,500
Ennistymon Fish Counter extension Phase 2 Modification of an old fish counter on the Inagh River at Ennistymon.	€4,766
Dunkellin System Enhancement 1-2 Km of river enhancement works to included additional of spawning gravel, creation of pools, riffles and glides where needed, rubble mats, random boulders and fish passage improvement.	€15,000
Donegal Rivers Removal of the shrubbery causing tunneling effect on the Lower Eske, Upper Eany, Oily, Clady, Ray, Tullaghobegley and Swilly as well as fencing of the river banks to restrict livestock access.	€20,020
Lowerymore River Phase 2 River bank protection and riparian zone improvement.	€6,500
Rye River Enhancement Raking of existing gravel and addition of 15 tons of additional gravel to the river to facilitate salmon spawning.	€2,700

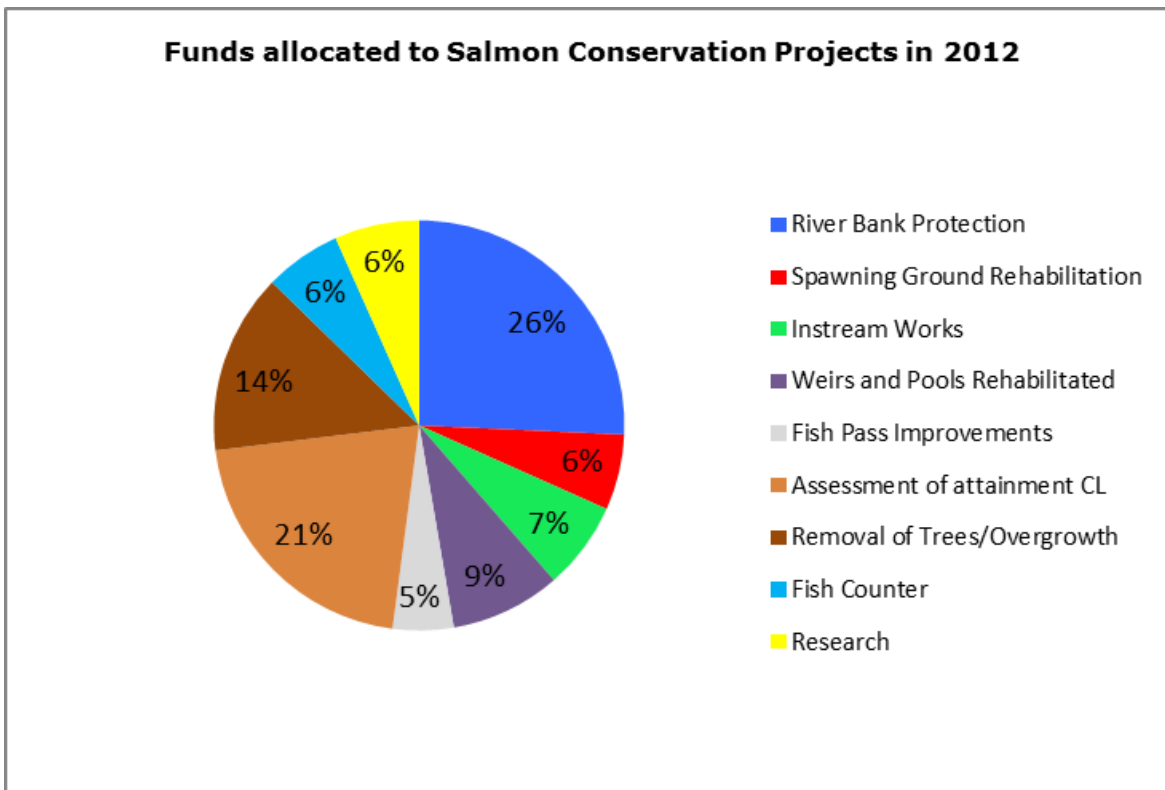
Erriff River Bank Reinstatement Rebuild 60m of river bank downstream of the Erriff bridge using rip rap method.	€16,580
Mulkear Fish Counter Repair and Upgrade Repairs and upgrade of the Mulkear Fish Counter. The installing of new electrodes.	19,202
Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2013 Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit 2013 in various rivers throughout Ireland currently not meeting their conservation limit.	€83,270
Total funds allocated to IFI applicants.	€194,538

Contributor Projects allocated funding in 2012	Funds Awarded
<p>Cruapawn River Tributary Tree pruning Glenisland Angler were allocated funding towards fish passage improvement and Riparian Zone Improvement (tree pruning) over a 2.8 miles stretch of the Glendorrugh/Bracklough River which is completely overgrown and blocked with trees and associated debris impeding the passage of salmon and sea trout to spawning grounds.</p>	€15,000
<p>Lackagh Catchment Enhancement Project Creelough & District Anglers Association were allocated funding as follows; Location 1 - Calaber River Removal of overgrown trees over approximately 1 Km on each bank. Location 2 - Glassnesseareagh River Creelough Co. Donegal will involve removal of waste, trim back vegetation (approx. 400 Mtrs) to facilitate sunlight to the river bed. Location3 - Owencarrow River, Creelough Co. Donegal, trim overhanging branches near the bridge (approx. 150Mtrs) Create breaks in the trees to reduce tunneling effect.</p>	€13,800
<p>Bawn Stream Kells Blackwater Trust were allocated funds to install pools and gravel shoals, 4 drinkers, fencing and random boulders.</p>	€5,000
<p>Trimbletown River Rehabilitation Project Trim Athboy & District Anglers were allocated funds to rehabilitate 600 meters of river between Trimbletown Bridge to Kilnagross bridge on the Trimbletown River a tributary of River Boyne. Works to included placement of paired deflectors, random boulders, pool excavation, rubble mats, cattle drinks, bank improvements, toss existing gravel and add new spawning gravel.</p>	€15,000
<p>Rehabilitation of Salmon Production Areas on Nenagh River Ormond Angling Club were allocated funds to undertake in-stream restoration works and river bank protection. Fencing circa 100Mtrs, Paired deflector width 8mtrs, prune trees 30mtrs, Construct stone vortex 8Mtrs wide, provide rip-rap for 30Mtrs, pruning further trees on left hand bank.</p>	€8,716
<p>Mc Cormack's Stream rehabilitation (Kells Blackwater) Kells Blackwater Trust were allocated funds to install weirs and gravel shoals, erect 400 meters of fencing to restrict livestock access and insert random boulders. 20 tons of stone and 20 ton of gravel required.</p>	€8,500
<p>River Yellow Rehabilitation Navan and District Anglers were allocated funds to install a series of low level weirs and pools, 1 rubble matt and 1 deflector as well as some gravel shoals over 1,200 meters of river.</p>	€13,000
<p>Improvements to Blackwater Main Channel (Phase 3) Kilbride Angling Club were allocated funds towards river bank protection, fish passage improvements, spawning enhancement, in-stream structures, fencing and riparian zone improvement.</p>	€5,000
<p>Stoneyford River Restoration Stoneyford Anglers were allocated funds towards fish passage improvement, spawning enhancement, In stream structures and river bank protection between Shanco Bridge and Earl's bridge on the Stoneyford River at Ballivor, Co. Meath.</p>	€10,000

<p>Castletown River Enhancement Project Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers were allocated funds towards the placement of rock armour to prevent bank erosion and rehabilitation of salmon spawning beds. The removal of obstacles and obstructions to help the passage of salmon spawning and the placement of random boulders.</p>	<p>€15,000</p>
<p>Dalua River Project Kanturk and District Anglers Association were allocated funds towards Spawning Enhancement, River Bank protection, Fencing, Riparian Zone Improvement, Removal & Control of exotic invasives.</p>	<p>€9,500</p>
<p>Revetment Works, River Dinin Project 1 Esker, Co. Kilkenny. The Nore Suir River Trust Esker were allocated funds towards 130 meters of river bank protection to stabilise river bank sections as well restrict livestock access to the river.</p>	<p>€15,000</p>
<p>Revetment Works, River Dinin Project (Gragara) Esker, Co. Kilkenny The Nore Suir River Trust were allocated funds to install a series of upstream deflector barbs on the true left bank and create a defined thalweg in the centre of the river channel. The works also include regrading and stabilisation, using coir erosion mattress and willow, on the left hand bank, saturation planting of fascines and willows will take place on the true right bank.</p>	<p>€15,000</p>
<p>Restoration & Renovation of flood damaged riverbank at Inniscarra Lee Salmon Anglers were allocated funds to restore and reinforce the riverbank at a pool known as Blue Hole or The laurels.</p>	<p>€15,000</p>
<p>Owentisna River Phase 1 Cumann Iascaireachta Sliabh a Liag were allocated funds towards river bank protection works at Abhainn Teisne Townland, Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal a tributary of the Owenteskinny River (part of the River Glen), Co. Donegal.</p>	<p>€15,000</p>
<p>Little Ash Tributary Enhancement Dundalk Salmon Anglers were allocated funds to inset six small weirs with pools for holding juvenile fish and also to form spawning beds in those pools with gravel in place over a 500 meters stretch. The next two hundred meters is a broad shallow run. It is proposed to enhance this area with spawning gravel as it seems to be a natural section of the stream for fish to spawn.</p>	<p>€9,000</p>
<p>Clohamon Weir The Slaney River Trust were allocated funds towards planning application, engineering and assessment works for a proposed rock ramp, smolt pass and associated works with a view to putting a suitable fish counter at the head of the fish pass on the River Slaney at Clohamon Weir, Co. Wexford.</p>	<p>€15,000</p>
<p>Total funds allocated to Contributors</p>	<p>€202,516</p>

Finances for 2012

Funds collected in licence sales in 2012	€555,799
Unallocated Funds carried forward from 2011	€290,621
Funds decommitted under the 2009 Fund and c/f to 2012	€390,724
Total fund available for distribution in 2012	€1,237,144
Funding allocated to IFI projects under the 2012 fund	€194,538
Funding allocated to Contributors under the 2012 fund	€202,516 ¹
Total funds allocated in 2012	€397,054
Unallocated funds carried forward to 2012 projects	€840,090



¹ Less than €200,000 was allocated initially. As some projects did not proceed further projects were allocated funding.

Appendix I

Terms of Reference for Allocation of Salmon Conservation Funds

Salmon Conservation Fund 2012

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 2012

Ref No	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score
IFI Blackrock	Boyne Tagging Project	River Boyne	€26,500	9.20
IFI Limerick	Ennistymon Fish counter Phase 2	Inagh	4,766	9.0
IFI Galway	Dunkellin System Enhancement	Dunkellin	€15,000	8.70
IFI Ballyshannon	Donegal Rivers	Lower Eske, Upper Eany, Oily, Clady, Ray, Tullaghobegley and Swilly	€20,020	8.00
IFI Ballyshannon	Lowerymore River Phase 2	Lowerymore River	€6,500	7.90
IFI Blackrock	Rye River Enhancement	Rye River	€2,700	7.30
IFI Galway	Erriff River Bank Reinstatement	Erriff	€16,580	7.10
IFI Limerick	Mulkear Fish Counter Repair and Upgrade	Mulkear	€20,039	5.60
National	Salmon Conservation Rigid Inflatable Boat	Atlantic Ocean	€250,000	0 ²
National	Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2013	60 rivers	€83,270	N/A
Total Requested			€445,375	

² This application does not qualify under the Terms of Reference for the Salmon Conservation Fund.

Appendix III

Contributor projects submitted for consideration in 2012

Angling Club	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score
Glenisland Anglers	Cruapawn River Tributary Tree pruning	Cruapawn River (Bangor)	€17,025	9.3
Creeslough & District Anglers Ass.	Lackagh Catchment Enhancement Project	River Lackagh	€13,800	9.2
Kells Blackwater Trust	Bawn Stream	Moynalty (trib of Borora)	€6,517	8.7
Trim Athboy & District Anglers	Trimbletown River Rehabilitation Project	Trimbletown River	€15,000	8.7
Ormond Angling Club	Rehabilitation of Salmon Production Areas on Nenagh R.	Nenagh	€8,716	8.7
Kells Blackwater Trust	Upper Blackwater Weir	Blackwater	€620	8.6
Kells Blackwater Trust	Mc Cormack's	Kells Blackwater	€9,366	8.6
Navan Anglers	River Yellow	Yellow River	€14,756	8.6
Kilbride Anglers	Improvements to Boyne Blackwater Main Channel	Boyne Blackwater	€5,000	8.6
Stoneyford Anglers	Stoneyford River Restoration	Stoneyford River	€10,000	8.5
Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers	Castletown River Enhancement Project	Castletown	€16,000	8.5
Trout Angling Club	Dalua River Project	Dalua River (trib of Munster Blackwater)	€10,000	7.1
Nore Suir River Trust	Revetment Works, River Dinin Project 1 Esker, Co. Kilkenny.	River Dinin	€15,000	7
Nore Suir River Trust	Revetment Works, River Dinin Project 2, Esker, Co. Kilkenny	River Dinin	€15,000	7
Lee Salmon Anglers	Restoration & Renovation of flood damaged riverbank at Inniscarra	River Lee	€15,000	7
Cumann Iascaireachta Sliabh a Liag	Owentisna River Phase 1	Owenteskiny River	€23,990	7
Dundalk Salmon Anglers	Little Ash Tributary Enhancement	River Fane	€9,875	6.4
Slaney River Trust	Clohamon Weir	River Slaney	€18,241	6
Development Partnership	River Laune Tidal Stretch and Castlemaine Harbour Setaside	River Laune & Castlemaine	€15,000	0 ³
Total Requested			€238,906	

³ This application does not qualify under the Terms of Reference for the Salmon Conservation Fund.

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 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.

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.