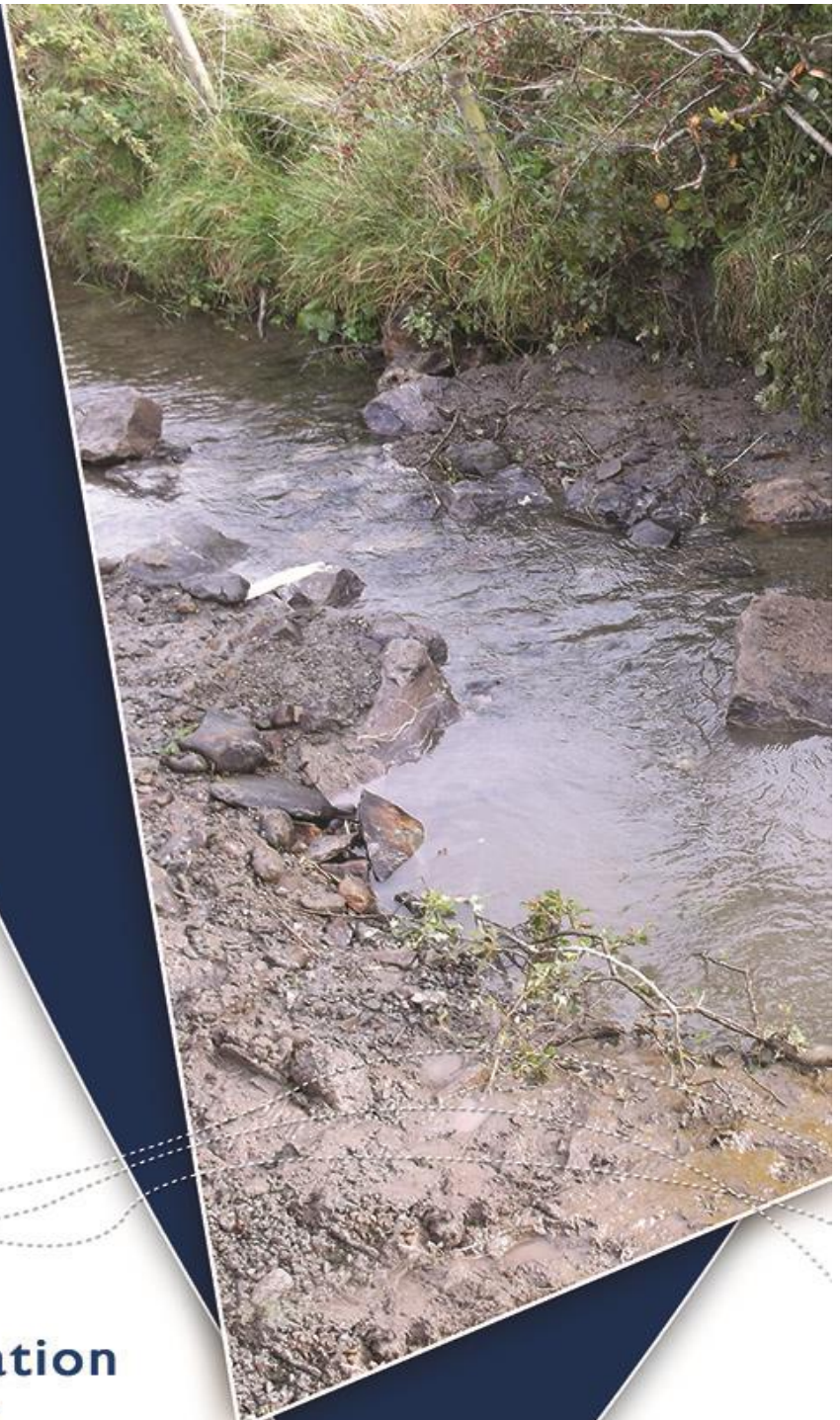


IFI/2014/I-4237



Salmon Conservation Fund Report

2013



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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 2013 fund represents the seventh 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 2013 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 2013 Salmon Conservation Fund was opened to applications from contributors to the fund under the 2013 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 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 currently 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. Once the review process is complete, IFI will welcome additional projects from new applicants and current participants seeking funding from the updated Salmon Conservation Fund.

Projects Approved Under 2013 Fund

In April 2014 the Implementation Committee received 16 project proposals from Inland Fisheries Ireland requesting a total of €683,300 (**Appendix II**) and a further 30 project proposals from contributors to the scheme requesting a total of €333,440 (**Appendix III**) under the 2013 fund. The implementation committee recommended 39 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 - 2013 Fund*	Funds Allocated
Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2014. Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit 2014 in various rivers throughout Ireland currently not meeting their conservation limit.	€83,270
Lackagh Fishery Salmon Counter (ancillary Works), Co. Donegal. €10k approved for ancillary works initially at Creeslough, Co. Donegal, with capital works to be reviewing following successful completion of ancillary works. The Lackagh River is listed as having one of the highest priority requirements for a counter by the Standing Scientific Committee for salmon.	€10,000
Boluisce Stream Enhancement, Co. Galway. This project will focus on salmon spawning enhancement by the introduction of over 100 tonnes of gravel at strategic locations throughout the main river channel at Seecon, Finnaun, Co. Galway, on the Ardderroe River at Letter, Cloose, Co. Galway and on the Uggil River at Uggil, Letter, Cloose, Co. Galway (both tributaries of the main river channel).	€9,830
Multeen River Instream Management Programme 2014, Co. Tipperary. This project will involve selective pruning of vegetation over a 2 kilometer stretch on either river bank at Dundrum, Co. Tipperary; along with the removal of fallen trees that have fallen into the river causing blockages to the passage of fish over 100 meters of river length; river bank protection works will be undertaken over a distance of 200 meters in sections of 50 meters using willow weaving and tree planting.	€15,000
The River Fergus Fish Counter, Ennis, Co. Clare. This proposed counter will be located upstream of the Mill Bridge Ennis, Co. Clare and provide a partial count of migrating salmon upstream.	€30,264
Boyne Tagging Project - Phase 5, Co. Meath. Wild Atlantic salmon will be intercepted at the Boyne Estuary under IFI supervision which will then be pit tagged before released back to the river. This will 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	€12,400

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.	
Fish Pass Modification on Rye water (tributary of River Liffey), Co. Kildare This project will facilitate more efficient fish passage of salmon into the upper reaches of the Rye Water at Carton Estate, Co. Kildare.	€5,200
Dunkellin River Enhancement Kiltullagh 2014, Co. Galway. Spawning enhancement and instream works will take place over 1.5kms of the Dunkellin River between the M6 Motorway Bridge & Kiltullagh Bridge at Kiltullagh.	€16,850
Consultancy for proposed fish pass on the White River, Dunleer, Co. Louth. Works will include the assessment of new site for proposed fish pass on the River Glyde at Tallanstown, Co. Louth.	€4,000
Spawning Enhancement River Liffey, Co. Kildare. A track machine will be used to decompact and rake existing gravels on the main channel of the River Liffey at Ballymore, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.	€3,100
Enhancement works on the River Kiline (Shiven Catchment), Co. Galway. This project involves the creation of pools, construction of stone vortex weirs, major pruning works and removal of obstacles and flood impacting structures/debris from the river channel. It also involves spawning enhancement, stock control/access through fencing and cattle drinkers. Fish passage will be improved by the removal of debris and impediments (including poor fencing/gates across river and fallen trees) and the deepening of thalweg at selected locations from Kingstown Bridge (Kentstown) to Newvillage Bridge (Boherbannagh) on the River Kiline, (Shiven Catchment, a tributary of the River Suck), Newbridge, Co. Galway.	€34,512
River Shannon Barriers Study - Phase 2 This project involves surveying of the remaining sub-catchments on the lower Shannon (Rivers Feale, Mulkear, Fergus and Deel). Survey remaining sites on the River Suck, Inny and Brosna; Survey any missed sites (bridge aprons mostly) on the mid Shannon catchments (Hind, Camlin, Cross, Feorish); Photograph and geo-reference all sites; Creation of a database for loading into IFI national database, with links to photographs; Liaise with IFI barriers group on developing final barriers assessment field sheet; Liaise with IFI barriers group on cross-referencing SNIFFER methodology used in Northern Ireland.	€20,628
Owengowla Fish Counter Project, Co. Galway. This project involves the construction of a three channel crump weir in the river to replace the existing up stream trap.	€30,415
Corrib enhancement 2014, Co. Galway. This project involves 800 metres of river bank protection and fencing. Riparian Zone improvement will involve the removal of Giant Rhubarb, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed.	€65,044
Total funds allocated to IFI applicants.	€340,513

*subject to meeting all conditions of the fund

Contributor Projects allocated funding - 2013 Fund*	Funds Allocated
<p>Lislea River Enhancement, Co. Cavan Kells Blackwater Trust were allocated funds towards spawning enhancement, instream structures, river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone improvement on the Lislea River (tributary of Kells Blackwater, River Boyne) at Mahera, Virginia, Co. Cavan.</p>	€14,939
<p>Spawning & Pool Enhancement 2014, Co. Wicklow. The Varray Anglers Conservation Club were allocated funds towards spawning enhancement works on the River Varray at the Devils Glen & Rosanna, Ashford, Co. Wicklow.</p>	€4,795
<p>Yellow River Rehabilitation Phase 2 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>	€15,000
<p>Improvement to Blackwater Main Channel (Phase 4) Kilbride Angling Club were allocated funds towards spawning enhancement, instream gravel and deflectors, rock armour, fencing, styles and tree pruning downstream of Donaghpatrick, Tatestown, Navan, Co. Meath.</p>	€15,000
<p>Borora Enhancement Phase 2 Borora Anglers were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement, instream structures, river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone improvement on the Borora River (tributary of Kells Blackwater, River Boyne) at Normanstown, Carolanstown, Kells, Co. Meath.</p>	€5,755
<p>Fish passage improvement on the Glendorrhagh River, Co. Mayo. Glenisland Anglers Co-Op Society were allocated funding towards the removal of barriers and fish passage improvement along stretches of the Glendorrhagh/Bracklough River (tributary of Newport River) which are completely overgrown with trees at Newport, Co. Mayo.</p>	€15,000
<p>River Tar Enhancement Programme (Pruning) Clonmel Tourism Ltd were allocated funding towards the removal of tunnelling on a 6km stretch of the River Tar (tributary of River Suir) from Castlegrace Bridge to Goats Bridge, Upstream of Newcastle, Southwest of Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.</p>	€12,000
<p>Carna River Rehabilitation Carna Angling Club were allocated funding towards fish passage improvement and spawning enhancement, upstream from Lough Scannive on the Carna River, Rusheennam, Connemara, Co. Galway.</p>	€5,188
<p>Rosnaree Fishery Restoration Rosnaree Fishery were allocated funding towards river bank protection and spawning enhancement on the Rosnaree Fishery, Lower Boyne River, Rosnaree, Slane, Co. Meath.</p>	€3,171
<p>Drumsalagh Instream Enhancement Project Dee & Glyde Angling Development Association were allocated funding towards the construction and maintenance of new and existing weirs and deflectors. Works will also include riverbank protection and raking of existing spawning</p>	€3,116

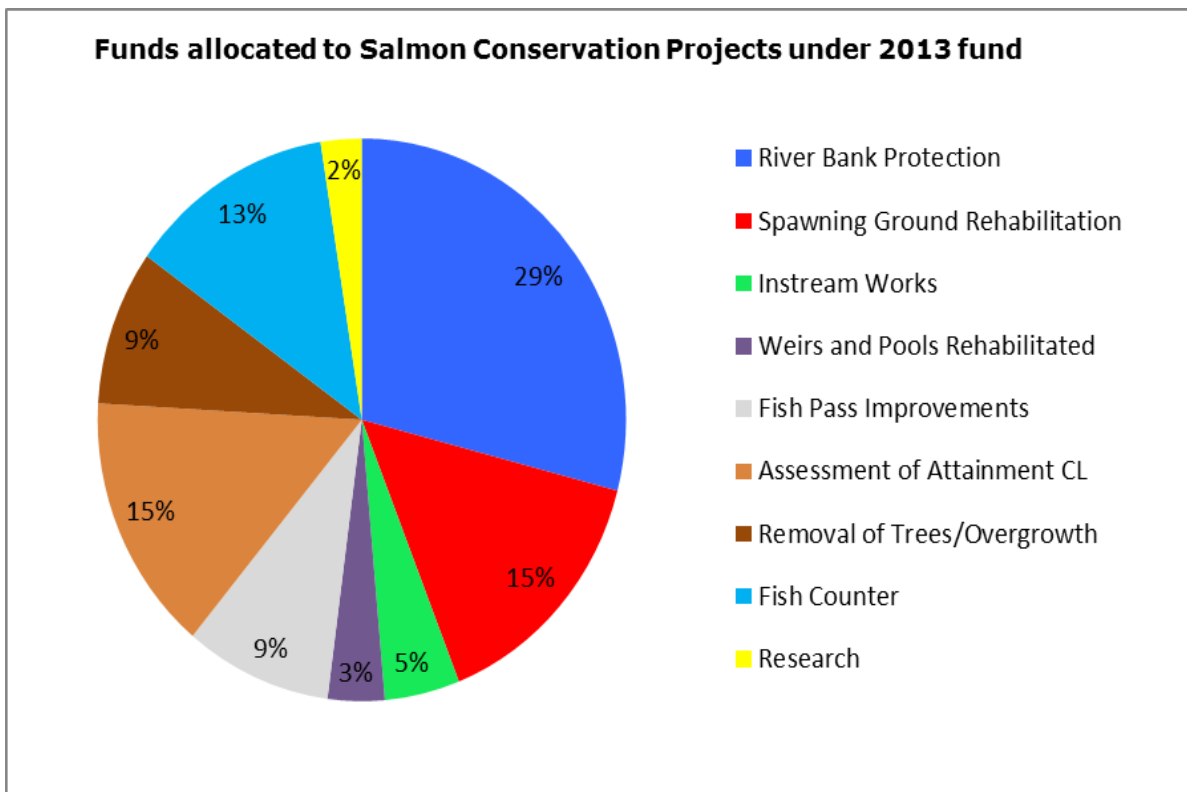
gravel over 1km of stream on the Drumsalagh River (tributary of River Glyde) at Drumsalagh, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan.	
Rehabilitation of Salmon Spawning Areas on the Nenagh River Ormond Anglers were allocated funding for spawning enhancement, instream structures, river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone improvement on the Upper Nenagh River at Latteragh, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.	€7,952
Castletown River Project Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers were allocated funding towards tree pruning, river bank protection, the construction of weirs and deflectors and spawning enhancement on the Castletown River from Court bridge to Coffin Bridge, at Killing, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	€5,448
Killary Instream Salmon Enhancement Project Dee & Glyde Angling Development Association were allocated funding towards river bank protection, construction of weirs and spawning enhancement over 2km stretch of the Killary Stream (tributary of River Dee) at Ricetown and Yellowleas, Lobinstown, Co. Meath.	€12,642
Owentisna River Phase 2 + Fish Passage Construction on the Crow River & Bank Enhancement, Glen River Cumann Iascaireachta 'Sliabh a Liag' were allocated funding for river bank protection, fish passage improvement and instream boulders to the Rivers Crow, Crove and Glen, at Meenaneany, Carrick, Co. Donegal.	€15,000
Arcin Fishery Restoration Project Funds were allocated to a private fishery owner for the construction of a number of small weirs, riparian zone improvement and spawning enhancement on the 600m of river from the main Ballynahinch River to Aircin beg lake at Derradda West, Roundstone, Co. Galway.	€6,000
DeVesci Estate Bank Protection Works Funds were allocated to a riparian owner for 600m of riparian zone improvement, 300m of river bank protection and 800m of river bank fencing to prevent livestock encroachment on the River Nore Main Channel at Knapton, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.	€15,000
Clearing and opening end of Gurteeney River Woodford Anglers were allocated funding towards fish passage improvement of 650m of the lower Gurteeney River at Woodford, Co. Galway.	€5,700
Glenturk River Rehabilitation Works - Phase 1 Bangor Angling Club were allocated funding towards the removal of exotic invasives and shrub pruning over 2.7km of the Glenturk River (tributary of Carrowmore Lake) at Glenturk Beg, Ballina, Co. Mayo.	€15,000
Dooghta River Enhancement Works Cornamona & District Anglers Association were allocated funding towards Instream structures (3 vortex weirs), 200m of river bank protection, 410m of fencing, riparian zone improvement to include the removal of Japanese knotweed and repairs to existing weirs on the Dooghta River (part of Corrib System) at Crimlin, Cornamona, Co. Galway.	€12,750
Spawning Bed Rehabilitation Costello & Fermoyle Fisheries were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement on the Cashla River at Costello and Fermoyle Fisheries, Costello, Co. Galway.	€392

Owenriff Protection Oughterard Anglers Association were allocated funding towards the construction of 10 Vortex Weirs at 30m intervals along with reinforcement of 300m of river bank using rock armour to protect against erosion and destabilisation of the Corrib River at Letterfore, Recess, Co. Galway.	€10,000
Castlering River Development on the River Fane Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers were allocated funding towards river bank protection, construction of three deflectors along a 200m stretch of the river along with a single weir towards the rear. Gravel will then be placed above this pool and below the weir to enhance spawning potential on the River Fane at Castlering, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	€4,654
Calcified Gravel on Rivers Yellow and Martry Kells Blackwater Trust were allocated funding towards spawning enhancement on the Rivers Yellow and Martry (tributary of Kells Blackwater, River Boyne), Co. Meath.	€750
Crana River Fishery Development Plan Bunrana Angling Association were allocated funding towards river bank protection, fencing and riparian zone Improvement on the Crana River, Bunrana, Co. Donegal.	€15,000 (provisional)
Dromrahan (Rockforest Fishery) Improvements Mallow Salmon Angling Association were allocated funding towards the construction of a number of small weirs, fencing and the clearing of bankside vegetation on the Munster Blackwater (main channel) at Rockforrest, Mallow, Co. Cork.	€11,231 (provisional)
Total funds allocated to Contributor applicants	€231,483

*subject to meeting all conditions of the fund

Finances - 2013 Fund

Funds collected in licence sales in 2013	€541,070
Unallocated Funds carried forward from 2012 fund	€840,090
Total fund available for distribution under the 2013 fund	€1,381,160
Funding allocated to IFI projects under the 2013 fund	€340,513
Funding allocated to Contributors under the 2013 fund	€231,483 ¹
Total funds allocated under the 2013 fund	€571,996
Unallocated funds carried forward to 2014 fund	€809,164



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 2013

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 2013 fund

Ref	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score
National	Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2014	Selected river through Ireland	€83,270	N/A
NWRBD	Lackagh Fishery (Salmon Counter)	Lackagh	€209,000	10.2
WRBD	Boluisce Stream Enhancement	Owenboluisce River	€9,830	10.0
SERBD	Multeen River Instream Management programme 2014	Tributary of River Suir	€15,000	9.7
ShRBD	River Fergus Fish Counter	River Fergus	€30,264	9.1
ERBD	River Boyne Atlantic Salmon Pit Tagging Project Phase 4	River Boyne	€12,400	9.0
ERBD	Fish Pass Modification on Rye water at Carton	Rye Water, River Liffey	€5,200	8.8
WRBD	Dunkellin River Enhancement Kiltullagh 2014	Dunkellin River	€16,850	8.8
ERBD	Consultancy services to proposed fish pass, White River at Drummin	White River, Dee	€4,537	8.7
ERBD	Spawning Enhancement River Liffey	River Liffey	€3,100	8.6
ShRBD	Enhancement works on the River Kiline (Shiven Catchment), Co.	River Kiline	€34,512	8.5
SHRBD	River Shannon Barriers Study - Phase 2	Lower Shannon	€20,628	8.3
WRBD	Owengowla Fish Counter Project	Gowla River	€30,415	7.5
WRBD	Corrib enhancement 2014	Corrib River	€65,044	6.5
NWRBD	Gweebarra Fishery (Fish Counter)	Gweebarra	€128,250	5.1
ERBD	Assessment of Emyvale Weir	Mountain Water	€15,000	3.8
			Total Requested	€683,300

Appendix III

Contributor projects submitted for consideration under the 2013 fund

Angling Club	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score
Kells Blackwater Trust	Lislea River Enhancement	Lislea River	€14,939	10.0
Vartry Anglers Conservation Club	Spawning & Pool Enhancement 2014	River Vartry	€4,795	10.0
Navan & District Anglers	Yellow River Rehabilitation Phase 2	Yellow River	€15,000	9.8
Navan & District Anglers	Lower Blackcastle & Blackwater Rehabilitation (Withdrawn)	Lower Blackwater (River Boyne)	€15,000	9.7
Kilbride Angling Club	Improvement to Blackwater Main Channel (Phase 4)	Kells Blackwater	€15,000	9.5
Borora Anglers	Borora Enhancement Phase 2	Borora River (tributary of Kells Blackwater, River Boyne)	€5,755	9.4
Glenisland Anglers Co-Operative Society	Glenisland Anglers Co-Op Society	Glendorrigh/Bracklough (tributary of Newport River)	€15,000	9.4
Clonmel Tourism Ltd	River Tar Enhancement Programme (Pruning)	River Tar (tributary of River Suir)	€12,000	9.3
Carna Angling Club	Carna River Rehabilitation	Source to Sea	€5,188	9.0
Rosnaree Fishery	Rosnaree Fishery Restoration	Rosnaree Fishery, River Boyne	€3,171	8.9
Dee & Glyde Angling Development Association	Drumsalagh Instream Enhancement Project	Drumsalagh River (tributary of River Glyde)	€3,116	8.8
Ormond Anglers	Rehabilitation of Salmon Spawning Areas on the Nenagh River	Nenagh	€7,952	8.6

Dundalk & District Brown trout Anglers	Castletown River Project	Castletown River	€5,448	8.5
Dee & Glyde Angling Development Association	Killary Instream Salmon Enhancement Project	Killary Stream (tributary of River Dee)	€12,642	8.5
Little Brosna & Camcor Anglers	Instream Enhancement for Rock River (Little Brosna) - referred to Midland Fisheries Fund	Rock River (tributary of Little Brosna)	€7,908	8.5
Cumann Iascaireachta 'Sliabh a Liag'	Owentisna River Phase 2 + Fish Passage Construction on the Crow River & Bank Enhancement, Glen River	Owentisna, Crow and Glen River (all part of the R.Glen (Ballyshannon))	€15,000	8.4
Anglers Return Lodge	Arcin Fishery Restoration Project	Mouth of the Ballinahinch River	€6,000	8.0
Individual	DeVesci Estate Bank Protection Works	River Nore	€15,000	8.0
Woodford Anglers	Clearing and opening end of Gurteeney River	Gurteeney River	€5,700	8.0
Bangor Angling Club	Glenturk River Rehabilitation Works - Phase 1	Glenturk River (trib of Carrowmore Lake)	€25,000	8.0
Cornamona District Anglers Association	Dooghta River Enhancement Works	Dooghta River (part of Corrib system)	€12,750	7.8
Costello & Fermoye Fisheries Company	Spawning Bed Rehabilitation	Cashla River	€392	7.3
Oughterard Anglers Association	Owenriff Protection	Corrib	€10,000	7.2
Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers	Castleryn River Development on the River Fane	River Fane	€4,654	7.0
Kells Blackwater Trust	Calcified Gravel on Rivers Yellow and Martry	Yellow River & Martry River (tributary of Kells Blackwater, River Boyne)	€750	6.8

Ltd Company	Mount Falcon	River Moy	€12,930	5.0
Castletown Productions	Atlantic Salmon - Lost at Sea	Selected locations across the North Atlantic	€15,000	0.0
Individual	Application for planning permission for bank protection works on the River Suir, upstream of Clonmel Counties Tipperary and Waterford	River Suir	€10,000	0.0
Buncrana Angling Association	Crana River Fishery Development Plans	Crana River	€39,850	Pending
Mallow Salmon Angling Association	Dromrahan (Rockforest Fishery) Improvements	Munster Blackwater (main channel)	€17,500	Pending
Total Requested			€333,440	

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

2013 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.