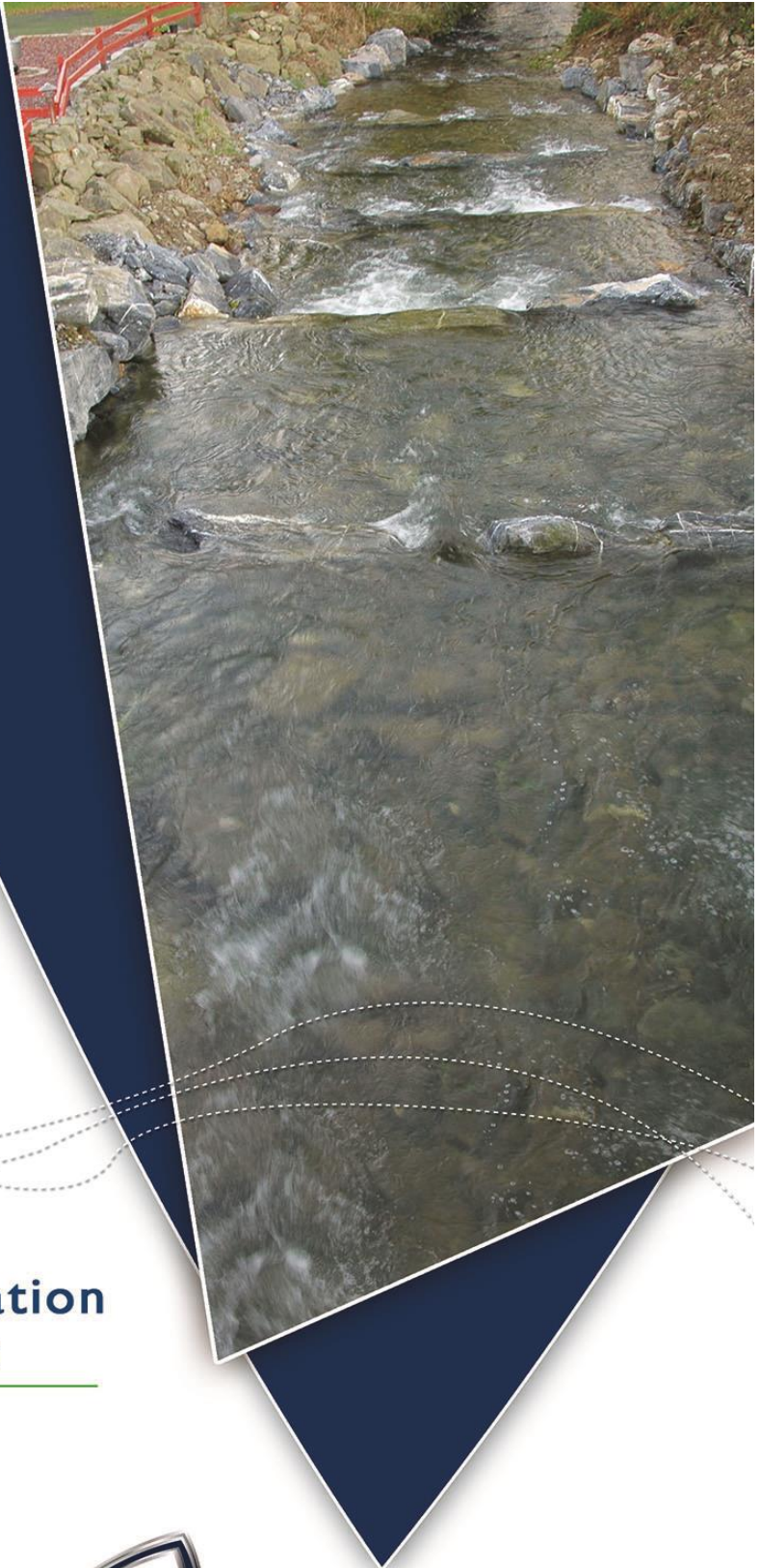


IFI/2016/1-4338



**Salmon Conservation  
Fund Report**  

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*2015*



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# Background

On December 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2015 fund represents the ninth 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 2015 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 2015 Salmon Conservation Fund was opened to applications from contributors to the fund, under the 2015 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 2015 Fund

In May 2015 the Implementation Committee received 6 project proposals from Inland Fisheries Ireland requesting a total of €368,865 (**Table 1**) and a further 25 project proposals from contributors to the scheme requesting a total of €283,700 (**Table 11**) under the 2015 fund. The Evaluation Committee recommended 26 projects (from a possible 31) 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 II**). Details of the Contributors Scheme can be obtained in **Appendix III**. Projects were ranked in order of numeric score and funding allocated in the following order subject to funding availability;

**Table 1 - Inland Fisheries Ireland projects submitted for consideration under the 2015 fund**

Ref	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score	Funds Allocated
WRBD	River Erriff SAC Protection Project	Glenancally, Leenaun, Co. Galway.	€17,500	7.1	€17,500
National	National Salmon Conservation Assessment 2016	Selected rivers throughout Ireland.	€118,621	N/A	€84,215
ERBD	Restoration works on the River Boyne at the Curly Hole, Oldbridge, Co. Meath,	Boyne, Co. Meath.	€135,938	7.5	€50,000
ERBD	Construction of a fish pass to a weir on the Kells Blackwater, a major tributary of the Boyne, at Martry, Co. Meath.	Kells Blackwater at Martry Mill, Martry, Co. Meath.	€58,490	8.5	€46,000
SWRBD	Mink eradication on River Lee	River Lee, Tralee, Co. Kerry	€3,910	N/A	€3,910
National	Rotary Screw Trap	Selected rivers throughout Ireland.	€34,406	N/A	34,406
<b>Totals</b>			€368,865		€236,031*

\*subject to meeting all conditions of the fund

**Table II - Contributor projects submitted for consideration under the 2015 fund**

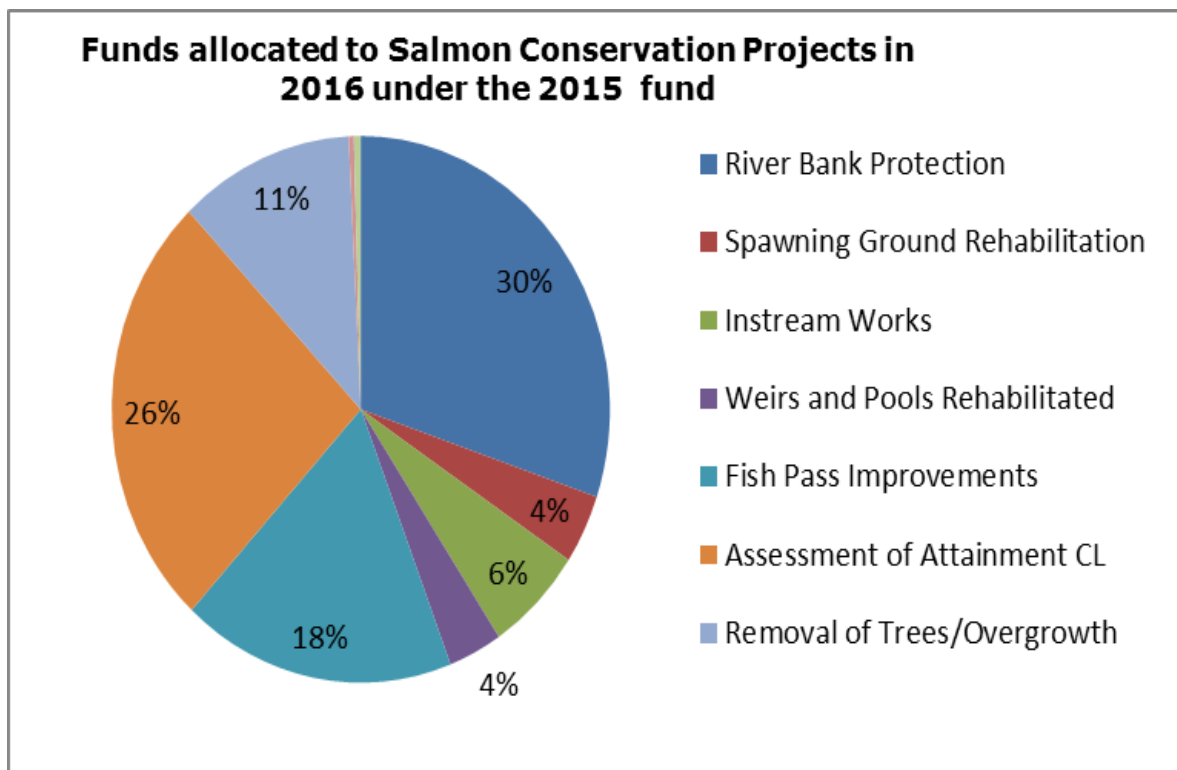
Angling Club	Project Title	River Name	Funds Requested	Score	Funds Allocated
Glenault Syndicate	Altnabrocky River - protection of spawning areas	Upper catchment of Altnabrocky River, tributary of the Owenmore River	€15,000	9.0	€15,000
Munster Blackwater Salmon Anglers Assoc.	Upper Blackwater Development	River Blackwater	€15,000	7.0	€15,000
Lower Owenmore Development Association	River Bank protection - Lower Owenmore	Lower Owenmore River	€15,000	8.8	€15,000
Roscrea & District Angling Club	Little Brosna Project - Phase 2	Little Brosna	€9,000	9.0	€9,000
Kilbride Anglers	Martry River Improvements 2016	Martry River (tributary of Kells Blackwater)	€15,000	7.5	€15,000
Kells Anglers	Carnaross Project (Kells Blackwater)	Kells Blackwater (Boyne),	€15,000	8.0	€15,000
Buncrana Anglers Association	Crana River Salmon Conservation (Owenboy tributary) Application 2016	Owenboy River - Tributary of Crana River	€15,000	8.5	€15,000
Dundalk & District Brown Trout Anglers	River Fane Enhancement Project	River Fane	€4,892	8.6	€4,892
Ballisodare Fishing Club Ltd	Development of Lackagh & Kilmorgan (Unshin System) Ballisodare	Ballisodare	€15,000	6.4	€15,000
Bangor Angling Club	Muingnakinkee River (Glencullen Tributary) Rehabilitation Works	Muingnakinkee River (Glencullen Tributary) & Carrowmore Lake Catchment	€15,000	6.8	€15,000
River Easkey Angling Association	River Easkey Development Project (Phase 1)	River Easkey	€15,000	N/A	0
East Mayo Anglers Association	East Mayo Anglers Feasibility Study	River Moy	€2,000	5.0	€2,000

Sliabh League Anglers	Glen River - Gravel Pit Pool Phase 1	Glen	€15,000	7.5	€15,000
Marine Institute	Repair of the Mill Race Channel to re-establish fish passage on the Burrishoole River.	Burrishoole River (Shramore)	€15,000	7.0	€15,000
Brian Curran	South Connemara Fisheries	Crumlin River, Owenriff and Knock River	€10,000	N/A	0
Cregmore Athenry Anglers	Cregmore - Trees & Cattle Drink - Clare River (Corrib) Galway	River Clare, Galway	€6,600	4.8	€6,600
Cairde na Chláir	Cairde na Chláir - Trees & Cattle Drink - Clare River (Corrib) Galway	River Clare, Galway	€10,335	N/A	0
Ormond Anglers Association	Rehabilitation of Salmon Spawning areas on Nenagh River 2016	Nenagh/Ollatrium River (tributary of Lough Derg)	€20,672	8.0	€15,000
Ballyhoura Development Ltd	The River Loobagh Catchment Invasive Species Control Pilot	River Loobagh (trib of River Maigue)	€4,000	7.6	€4,000
Bandon Angling Association/ Club	River Bandon Bank Restoration at Deasy's Turn	River Bandon	€9,957	6.0	€9,957
Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association	Phase 2 - R. Laune - O'Connor Fishery	River Laune	€14,806	N/A	0
Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association	Phase 2 - R. Laune - Brodericks Rock Pool	River Laune	€3,422	N/A	0
Laune Salmon and Trout Anglers Association	Application for funding of Planning App and Project Mgt.	River Laune	€9,225	N/A	€5,000
Waterville Lake & River Trust SCF Application	Temperature loggers to establish a long-term catchment-wide water temperature monitoring network in a prime salmonid catchment.	Currane Catchment	€1,543	6.0	€1,543
Ormond Anglers Association	Detunnelling a section of the Upper Nenagh River	Nenagh/Ollatrium River (tributary of Lough Derg)	€12,248	7.5	€12,248
<b>Total Requested</b>			<b>€283,700</b>		<b>€220,240*</b>

\*subject to meeting all conditions of the fund

# Finances - 2015 Fund

Funds collected in licence sales in 2015	€508,221
Unallocated Funds carried forward from 2014 fund	€590,427
<b>Total fund available for distribution under the 2015 fund</b>	<b>€1,098,648</b>
Funding allocated to IFI projects under the 2015 fund	€236,031
Funding allocated to Contributors under the 2015 fund	€220,240
Employers Liability and Public Liability Insurance	€12,965.40
<b>Total funds allocated under the 2015 fund</b>	<b>€469,236.40</b>
Unallocated funds carried forward to 2016 fund	€629,411.60





# Appendix I

## Terms of Reference for Allocation of Salmon Conservation Funds

### Salmon Conservation Fund 2015

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

## 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 III

## 2015 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 initially available for distribution to eligible applicants fully or partly funded to a maximum of €15,000 per project. Due to funding availability and demand for funding a number of additional projects were approved over and above the €200,000 threshold.