With the quota for the Fishery increased from 329 in 2007 to 500 salmon for the 2008 season we were very optimistic that the 2008 season would be a good one. The run of Spring fish continued to be low but as the Erriff is primarily a grilse fishery this is not unusual.

Similar to the last few years the grilse run was late and this was reflected in the counter records and the catches of the commercial draft net fishery which remains fishing from the shore of Killary Harbour. This delayed arrival of the grilse was a feature in the majority of rivers throughout the country with one particular exception – the Corrib and Galway fishery where an excellent run of salmon was recorded throughout the summer.

In a significant number of Irish rivers the run of salmon entering fisheries was down on the previous year. Overall despite the later arrival of the fish fishing conditions were ideal throughout the summer with the river boosted by regular spates.

The grilse run peaked on the 30th July with 238 salmon passing upstream through the counter on that day – this reflected a period of lower water conditions followed by a flood and the build-up of the fish in the bay and estuary were clearly awaiting the opportunity to run the river.

August Best Month of the Season

In 2008 the Erriff recorded a wild salmon rod catch of 185 salmon. The neighbouring Delphi fishery while recording a higher catch of salmon for the year in terms of ranched and wild fish their wild fish component remained at 100 fish – similar to the previous year - with the ranching operation accounting for 390 salmon.

The somewhat disappointing wild fish catch on the Erriff in 2008 may have been in part due to high temperatures and the low flow rates of April/May 2007 when smolts were migrating thus leaving the smolts stressed when entering the fjord. Furthermore the smolts from the Erriff remain exposed to lice for longer periods in their acclimatizing and departure from the fjord each year but particularly in a dry migration period.
The number of sea trout kelts migrating through the Tawnyard trap increased from 186 in 2007 to 344 in 2008. The number of sea trout smolts decreased from 2,146 to 1,084 during the same period this year. Angling pressure has decreased significantly on Tawnyard Lough in recent years with very few anglers venturing to this beautiful Lough to fish. The recorded catch of sea trout for the season on Tawnyard Lough was just 18 trout. The rod catch of sea trout on the Fishery was 148 for the season which included fish up to 2 lbs. See Table for monthly catches.

The Erriff will be open for salmon fishing again in 2009 but will again be subject to a quota in a similar manner to 2008. There will be a quota for the common estuary of the Delphi and Erriff rivers which will be shared between the commercial draft nets and the two rod and line fisheries. Although the Erriff fell short of its quota regarding the rod catch (quota 500 – rod catch 185) quotas are based on a 5 year average run of salmon through the counter. At the time of going to press, it looks as though there will be an allowance of one salmon per day from the start of the season until the 12th of May up to a maximum of three salmon for the period (nationwide). Thereafter there will be a bag limit of 3 fish per day with a maximum of 10 salmon retained for the entire season. September will have a bag limit of one fish per day – any additional fish caught will be on a catch & release basis.

**Highlights of the Early Season**

- First fish of the season a grilse was taken by Mr. Herve Chadenat, France on a Cascade from the Falls Pool, Beat 9 on the 1st June.
- Mr. B. Marshall, U.K. caught two Springers on a Ruby Shrimp in The Colonel’s Pool and Broken Bridge Pool during the first week of June.
- Mr. S. Knox, U.K. caught the third Springer of the season on a Red Shrimp Fly in the Broken Bridge Pool on the 5th June.
- Mr. A. Patrick, U.K. caught a fish of 5.75lbs in Doyle’s Pool on the 23rd June.
- An Apache Shrimp was successful for Mr. J. Dardis, Kildare who took a grilse of 5.25lbs. from Poleen Beat 4 on 27th of the month.

**Highlights of Summer Fishing**

- Mr. P. Huggard, fishing the Erriff for the first time had three fish in one day – best 8.5lbs. taken on a Cascade from the Falls Pool Beat 9 on the 1st July.
- The Colonel’s Pool on Beat 6 produced a fish of 9.25lbs. taken on a Thunder & Lightening for Mr. Mr. H. Everett, U.K.
- Mr. F. Crawford, Irl. caught 2 fish best 9lbs. from the Quarry Pool Beat 2.
- Mr. M. Coyne, Leenan caught a 9.75lbs. fish on a Shrimp Fly from the Quarry Pool.
- Mr. T. Stern, Austria caught a sea liced 8.25lb. fish in the Falls Pool Beat 9.
- Mr. A. Thorley, U.K. caught a sea liced 5lbs. on Beat 9 on a Shrimp pattern.
- Mr. G. Garnier, France caught 4 fish best 12lbs. from the Dog Pool on Beat 2 the spring fish was returned to the water.
- It was a first-ever salmon on 11th July for Mr. J. Casanova, France caught in the Falls Pool on a Cascade.
- Mr. J. Lanagan O’Keeffe Irl. released a fish estimated at 11lbs. on Beat 5.
- Mr. N. Fenton, N. Irl. took a 5.25lbs. fish from the Black Banks on a Stoats Tail.
- Mr. P. Sheehan, Irl. caught a fish of 5.75lbs. from the Otter Pool Beat 7 on a Black/Yellow Fly on the 22nd of the month.
- Mr. R. Daly, Irl. caught 2 fish both from Broken Bridge Beat 5.
- The Sea Pool Beat 9 produced 2 sea liced fish for Mr. K. Glynn.
- Dr. P. Masterson took a fresh run fish from the Upper Garden Pool.
- Mr. L. Flaherty Irl. Chairman of the Board caught a grilse in the Holly Pool.
- Mr. A. Beattie, U.K. took 3 grilse from the Falls Pool and Sea Pool on a Cascade.
- Mr. D. Harrison, U.K. caught 3 fish on a Cascade on the 30th July.
- Mr. A. Glenden, Irl. had a grilse from the Coronation Pool on an Alley Shrimp.
- Mr. L. Gilsenan, Irl. caught 2 fish - best 13.5lbs. taken on a Blue Badger from Beat 5.
**Highlights of August Fishing**

- Mr. M. Odin, Fr. took an 8.25lbs. fish on a Cascade from Beat 7.
- Mr. P. Roberts, Wales caught 2 sea liced fish of 4.5lbs. & 5.5lbs. on a Black Pennel and Cascade from the Washing Pool and Garden Pool on 2nd August.
- Mr. M. Broughton, U.K. caught 3 fish best 7lbs. and 9lbs. on a Hairy Mary and a T. & L. both on Beat 5 and Mrs. M. Broughton released a fish taken in the Coronation Pool on Beat 8.
- Mr. E. Murphy, Irl. had 3 fish best 5.25lbs. taken in Jenkins Pool on Beat 5.
- It was a first ever salmon for Mr. C. Fitzgerald, Irl. on 9th August – the fish was caught on a Shrimp Fly on Mickey’s Run Beat 7 - a second fish followed later the same day.
- Mr. J. Weait and Mrs. M. Commander, U.K. caught 4 and 2 fish respectively - best 6lbs. taken in the Holly Pool Beat 8.
- Mr. B. Holloway and Mr. J. Makinson caught 5 and 4 fish respectively – best fish 9lbs. taken on an Alley Shrimp on Yellow Banks Beat 5.
- Mr. G. Thurlow, U.K. caught a fish on Doyle’s Pool Beat 6 and his son Oscar caught his first two salmon of 4.75lbs. and 7.25lbs. from the Falls Pool and Sally Pool on Beats 9 and 7.
- Mr. A. Kyd, U.K. caught 6 fish for the week best 5.25lbs. from School House Beat 3 on a Shrimp Fly.
- A Shrimp pattern was successful for Mr. J. Barry, Irl. who caught 4 fish (returned 2) on Yellow Banks and Broken Bridge on Beat 5.
- Mr. K. Wickham and Mr. N. Wickham had 2 fish on a Collie Dog from the Holly Pool on Beat 8.
- Mr. M. Lewis and Mr. R. Locke, U.K. on their first visit to the Erriff had 5 fish from the Black River Run on Beat 1 on the 10th. & 11th. of Sept.
- Mr. P. Bodenan, Irl. caught 3 fish on Beat 6 - best 7lbs. and also released 3 sea trout best 2lbs.
- Mr. A. Replat, France on his first visit to the Erriff had 2 fish best 5lbs. on Beat 6.
- Mr. M. Cunnane, Irl. released a 7lbs. fish taken on a Cascade in the Bridge Pool on Beat 3.
- Mr. F. Hompesch, Germany caught two fish for the week both taken on a Cascade from Jenkins on Beat 5 and Kings Pool on Beat 4.
- Doyleys Pool on Beat 6 produced a fresh run fish for Mr. A. Caffrey, Kildare.
- Mr. M. Kane, Irl. released a fish of 7 lbs. taken in the Coronation Pool on Beat 8.
- Mr. D. Chambers, Irl. had two fish in one day from King’s Pool on Beat 4.
- Mr. D. Donegan, Irl. caught one of 6.5lbs. from the Sea Pool on a Willie Gunn and another from the General’s Reach on Beat 8 taken on a Collie Dog.
- Mr. P. Tuffin, U.K. released a fish taken on a Shrimp pattern on Beat 9.
- The Sea Pool produced the last fish of the season for Mr. H. Lloyd, Donegal - the fish was fresh run and weighed 6.25lbs.

**Highlights of September Fishing**

- Mr. J. Beveridge U.K. on his first visit to the Erriff took a sea liced grilse of 5.25lbs. from the Falls Pool on the 2nd on a Willie Gunn and Mrs. P. Beveridge caught a fish which was also sea liced from the Black Banks the following day.
- Mr. Graham U.K. released a fish taken on the Black Banks.
- Mr. N. Chambers and Mr. S. Knox, Bristol caught 5 grilse for the week from Beats 5, 7 and 8. 
- Mr. Meral, France on his first visit to the Fishery retained a fish taken on the Black Banks and released another fish taken on a Black Pennel.
- Mr. T. Stafford caught 2 sea liced fish in 2 casts in the Bridge Pool Beat 9 and released a fish taken on the third cast on a Willie Gunn with the water level reading 1.6 meters on the Aasleagh Guage on 26th. August.
- Mr. M. Cunnane, Irl. released a 7lbs. fish taken on a Cascade on Beat 3.
- Mr. F. Hompesch, Germany caught two fish for the week both taken on a Cascade from Jenkins on Beat 5 and Kings Pool on Beat 4.
- Doyleys Pool on Beat 6 produced a fresh run fish for Mr. A. Caffrey, Kildare.
- Mr. M. Kane, Irl. released a fish of 7 lbs. taken in the Coronation Pool on Beat 8.
Beat Number Percentage of Salmon Catch

| Above Beat 1 | 1 | 0.05% |
| 1 | 5 | 3.0% |
| 2 | 9 | 5.0% |
| 3 | 15 | 8.0% |
| 5 | 31 | 16.5% |
| 6 | 33 | 17.5% |
| 7 | 20 | 11.0% |
| 9 | 59 | 32.0% |
| **Total** | **185** | **100.0%** |

**Monthly Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Salmon</th>
<th>Sea Trout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>*51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>*32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>185</strong></td>
<td><strong>148</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes 18 Sea Trout taken on Tawnyard Lough.

**Nationality of Anglers Fishing the Erriff Fishery 2006, 2007 & 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>35.25%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>36.25%</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>39.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Spring Fishing Packages 2009**

In addition to the normal ‘Spring’ Salmon fishing in April/June - Spring Fishing Packages will also be available during this period. The packages will include 7 days half board accommodation at Aasleagh Lodge 3 days fishing on the Erriff River and 2 days on the Moy Fishery (Ridge Pool and Clongee Fishery). In addition there will be a day on the Galway Fishery. Applications for bookings must be received before 28th. February 2009 as there are only a limited number of rods available. (See Tariff 2009 for special rates.)

**Catch & Release**

A total of 35 fish were released by anglers this season - this is 19% of the rod catch. Beat 9 accounted for 8 fish released (14%) and an additional 27 fish (21%) on the other beats above Aasleagh Falls. Recent research carried out by the Central Fisheries Board has shown a very high survival rate (97%) of fly caught salmon released after capture.

**Aasleagh Cottages**

The new Cottages were completed and ready for occupancy by the end of May. The Cottages are more modern in design and have been furnished with high quality furnishings. This is in contrast to the Lodge where we have endeavoured to retain the older furniture as the house has important historical significance.

We have received excellent reviews of the new Cottages from anglers as well non fishing guests. In a recent assessment by Failte Ireland the Cottages were awarded a four star rating. Each Cottage can accommodate a total of four people in two ensuite rooms. The rooms can be configured as either twin bedded or a super king double. The kitchen, dining and living area are open plan and have wonderful views of Killary Harbour. In 2008 some parties seeking extra comforts booked the two Cottages for the week. The cottages are available for rent throughout the year including weekend breaks and longer periods.
The trapping operation on the outflow from Tawnyard Lough commenced on 1st March and continued until the 31st May. Last year the main run occurred during April but this year it was more spread out throughout the three migration months. The run of sea trout kelts increased from 186 the previous year to 344 this year. The monthly numbers of fish migrating downstream through the trap were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Sea Trout Kelts</th>
<th>Sea Trout Smolts</th>
<th>Salmon Kelts</th>
<th>Salmon Smolts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>1084</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>738</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**First Ever Salmon 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sophie Moore</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Square Pool</td>
<td>Spinning</td>
<td>10.25lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. C. Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Mickey’s Run</td>
<td>Shrimp Fly</td>
<td>4.5lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar Thurlow</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Falls Pool</td>
<td>Spinning</td>
<td>4.75lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Jones</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Bridge Pool</td>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>1.5lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darragh Jones</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Bridge Pool</td>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>3.5lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Tuffin</td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Sea Pool</td>
<td>Fly</td>
<td>4.0lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Water Levels Aasleagh Gauge July/Sept. 2008**

The run peaked on 30th July with 238 salmon through the counter in the one day.

**Commercial Catches 2008**

The commercial catch of Salmon for the Killary draft net fishery was 876 which achieved its full quota - however the season was extended for an extra 5 fishing days to achieve this.

**Electro Fishing Survey, 2008**

An Electro-Fishing survey on the River Erriff was carried out in September 2008. This method highlights the abundance of salmon fry throughout the catchment, accessible to salmon and reflects the previous year’s total salmon run.

Previous methods to estimate the abundance of spawning on River’s was measured by taking redd counts on sections of river. However, during high water conditions it proves difficult to collect a precise picture of what spawning has taken place.

Electro Fishing during summer months in riffle areas of a river’s catchment highlights the spawning success from the previous season. This method known as Catchment Wide Fishing is now used to assess all salmon rivers in Ireland. The data provides a baseline to determine if a river is meeting its conservation limit and if a surplus exists for exploitation.

The average number of Salmon fry captured from river Erriff sites in 2008 was 23. This was slightly down on the 2007 figure of 27.

A total run of 2274 in 2007 showed the river was above its conservation limit of 1299 salmon. Counter figures from 2008 show the Erriff is still above CL.

High numbers of salmon fry were captured on the main channel upstream of Drummin village, Beat’s 1 to 7 and a section of the Derrycraft River. The main channel from Beat 1 to Beat 7 was most productive showing consistent good numbers of salmon fry at each site.
We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have assisted with the smooth running of the Lodge and the protection of the fishery during the year. We thank Inspector Arthur O’Malley and staff for all the protection work carried out on the fishery and at sea during the year. We also thank both the Staff of FAS and the Rural Employment Scheme for the work carried out of the Lodge grounds and Fishery during the year.

It is not possible for Aasleagh Lodge to function without the dedication and commitment of all staff. In that regard we thank Mary, Ashleigh, Martin Joe and Donavin all of whom are vital to the efficient running of the Lodge and Fishery.

James Stafford, December 2008
Due to the declining number of sea trout in the Connemara area a statutory ban on the taking of sea trout was introduced in 1990. Accordingly, all fish are returned alive.

### Terms and Conditions

1. Anglers fishing the river must be in possession of a valid fishing permit and a State Salmon Rod Licence. Licences are available at the Fishery. Anglers must fish in accordance with the provisions of the Fisheries Acts 1959-2000 and the Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Regulations 2008 and any other relevant Bye Laws.

2. A day permit allows for fishing from 9.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

3. Fly fishing only between 9.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

4. Anglers who have not caught a salmon on the fly are permitted to use worms between 5.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. on all beats, and may use spinners on Beats 1 and 2 only.

5. **As a conservation measure for spring salmon, angling methods are restricted to fly only during April and May.**

6. The Manager will determine when spinning is allowed under high water conditions and under these conditions a daily bag limit may be imposed.

7. Generally there is a limit of one fish per rod per day using worms. This limit also applies to anglers availing of spinning concessions on Beats 1 and 2. Any changes are at the discretion of the Manager.

8. At the discretion of the Manager, Prawn/Shrimp fishing may be permitted between 5.00pm and 7.00pm during periods of dry weather. A bag limit of 1 fish per rod will apply in these circumstances.

9. Use of a gaff for landing fish is prohibited.

10. Residents of Aasleagh Lodge and Aasleagh Cottages may, after 8.00 p.m., go on the Beat allocated for the following day, using fly only. Early morning fishing, on the Beat allocated, may be permitted under certain conditions but the Manager’s permission must be obtained in each case beforehand.

11. Fish which are hooked outside the mouth must be returned alive to the water.

12. The River Erriff is located in sheep country. Dogs are not allowed on any Beat. Dogs are not permitted in Aasleagh Lodge or Aasleagh Cottage or in the adjoining grounds.

13. Anglers must enter the Beat at the Beat sign. Always use pathways, stiles and footbridges, which are provided for your convenience. There is no vehicle access to the river bank.

14. Close all gates and do not leave litter. Do not obstruct gateways by parking cars opposite gates.

15. All small fish, particularly brown trout and salmon parr should be returned carefully to the water.

16. Every angler must complete the Creel Census Sheet on a daily basis.

17. Anglers found in breach of these rules may have their fishing permits cancelled.

18. **The W.R.F.B. and the Erriff Fishery reserve the right to refuse admission.**

19. **The Board cannot vouch for the safe state of the fishery at any time due to changing weather and water conditions and the possible presence of hidden and unknown dangers. Anglers are warned to exercise the utmost care for their own safety and that of others using this fishery. This offer is issued on the strict understanding that the Board’s duty to you and members of your Party is limited to that owed to “Recreational Users” under the Occupiers’ Liability Act 1995.**

20. **The Minister may consider the introduction of additional conservation measures which may be introduced before or during the season.**
**TARIFF 2009**

**River Erriff**

*April 1st – May 12th:* €50 per rod, per day. €300 per week - 6 days.

*May 13th – June 26th:* €70 per rod, per day. €420 per week - 6 days.

*June 27th – August 28th:* €80 per rod, per day. €480 per week - 6 days.

*August 29th – September 30th:* €60 per rod, per day. €360 per week - 6 days.

**Derrintin and Tawnyard Loughs**

*Angling enquiries to Fishery*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aasleagh Lodge</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Half Board 7 Nights (PPS) * (ensuite)</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Half Board (PPS) * (ensuite)</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed &amp; Breakfast (PPS) - (ensuite)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed &amp; Breakfast (PPS) - (standard room)</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed &amp; Breakfast - (3 people in triple ensuite room PPS)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Room Supplement €30 per night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Killary Suite supplement €15.00 per person per night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dinner €40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Packed Lunch €10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Package for rest of year by arrangement</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes full Irish breakfast, and evening dinner. PPS -Per person sharing*

**Aasleagh Cottages:**

Property hire only, Electricity Extra.

January to May: €450 per week. June to September: €800 per week.

October to December: €450 per week.

Short term breaks and long term lettings may be considered outside the normal holiday season by arrangement.

**Deposits** are required upon acceptance of booking and are non refundable.

**Accommodation:** 50% deposit on booking.  **Fishing:** 50% deposit on booking.

**Balance:** Payable one month in advance of arrival date.

*Enquiries to: James Stafford, Manager, Aasleagh Lodge, Leenane, Co. Galway.*

Phone +353-95-42252. Fax +353-95-42361. Email: erriff.fish@iol.ie Website: www.wrfb.ie