News

The programme of upgrading of facilities at Aasleagh Lodge and the Erriff Fishery continued in 2009 with the addition of an effluent treatment plant! Over the past 8 years virtually all the facilities at the Fishery and Lodge have been improved and upgraded. In 2010 we will be looking towards a new fisheries management structure and organisation with the amalgamation of all 8 Fisheries Boards into one new organisation – Inland Fisheries Ireland. We look forward to the new challenges that this will bring and hope that it will further ensure the development, protection and enhancement of the Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh Lodge.

Following the recent cottage replacement which has been extremely popular, the two cottages are now available 12 months of the year. The accommodation in the cottages are some of the best available anywhere and they would appeal to anyone looking for a break in this most amazing location not just for fishing. The accommodation in the Lodge is also of a very high standard and all guests are looked after by the very attentive staff. It’s now time for a visit to this magnificent unspoilt location!

The Erriff fishery is one of the jewels in the West of Ireland with its many moods from a quiet gentle river to a thundering spate! There are few rivers like it and it is a wonderful escape for relaxation and angling enjoyment. This coming season additional grilse should also be available to be caught on Beat 9 when fish that are part of a scientific experiment return following their release in 2009 - in this experiment a total of 20,000 smolts were released. This will no doubt provide for some fantastic exciting fishing on Beat 9 commencing in June. The Falls Pool is probably one of the most exciting pools to fish for salmon anywhere in Ireland.

Now that Broadband has arrived at Aasleagh we will be able to update our website on a daily basis with all the latest news on availability, weather and fish runs - watch out for Special Packages including exclusive fishing on Beat 9 early in the season. In fact we are also hoping to add a webcam during the course of the year so you can see the conditions on the river at the click of a button!

The 2010 First Fish Incentive!

In order to encourage more anglers to compete for the first salmon we are offering the following incentive for 2010! Fishing is free until the first fish is caught – although you must book with the fishery manager. If the first fish is caught in the first 15 days of April we are offering dinner bed and breakfast for two for one night at Aasleagh Lodge. If the first fish is caught in the last two weeks of April we are offering either dinner for two or bed and breakfast for two to the successful captor. If the fish is photographed and released we will throw in a bottle of Champagne! If the first fish is not caught until May we are offering a free day’s fishing on the Erriff to the captor! So come on – Galway is only 2 hours from Dublin there is no excuse!!

July Best Month of the Season.

The fishery got off to a good start in May with several excellent fish taken towards the end of the month - literally by only a handful of anglers – the reason no fish were taken earlier is that the river was not fished. The counter showed that there were a substantial number of good sized springers upstream of Aasleagh Falls by the end of May. More spring fish entered the system in June accompanied by grilse. The end of May and June now represents an excellent opportunity for anglers to get that most prized fish of all a springer fresh on the Erriff – in fact in 2009 the return in June was very good given the low fishing effort on the river.

In line with most rivers in Ireland the grilse run came late and was somewhat disappointing in 2009 – this late trend was also reflected in the commercial draft net fishery which operates in
the Killary. The run peaked in July and August a picture which is
mirrored throughout the west of Ireland - the main run of 650
salmon entered the river during this period. However anglers
wishing to have the opportunity of catching the larger fish
fresh should not keep chasing the grilse run they should avail
of angling earlier in the season.

Salmon continued to pass through the counter during the first
half of September but water levels on the river fell during the
latter half of the month leading to a drought and catches
reflected accordingly. Overall the grilse run like the previous
year was late and this was also reflected in returns from the
commercial draft net fishery which operates in the Killary.

Sea Trout News

The number of sea trout kelts migrating through the Tawnyard
trap decreased from 344 in 2008 to 196 in 2009. The number of
sea trout smolts increased from 1,084 to 2,152 during the same
period this year. Angling pressure has decreased significantly
on Tawnyard Lough in recent years with a recorded catch of
only 18 sea trout in 2008. this increased to 87 in 2009. The rod
catch of sea trout on the Fishery was 210 for the season which
included fish up to 2 lbs. (See Table for monthly catches). A
boat is available on Tawnyard Lough from July – especially for
those looking for a day of relaxation away from the river.

Erriff quota for 2010

The Erriff is an “open river” for the 2010 season. This means that
anglers can still catch and keep salmon unlike other rivers
where catch and release are the order of the day such as the
Bunowen. The river, similar to all recent years will have a quota
which is part of the overall quota for the Delphi; Erriff and the
Killary commercial draft nets. The Erriff fell short of its quota for
the rod catch (quota 200 – rod catch 107) in 2009. The quotas
are based on the river achieving its ‘conservation limit’ and the
calculations on the run in the river is based on an average run
over the previous 5 years. The regulations for 2010 provide for
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 for an angler throughout the country. Thereafter
there will be a bag limit of 3 fish per day with a maximum of 10
salmon which can be killed by an angler 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

- Due to the tardy angling effort early in the season the first fish
  of the season was taken by Mr. S. Woodhead, U.K. on the 21st.
  May on a Hairy Mary in the Garden Pool on Beat 9! – For the
  2010 season as are offering an incentive for catching the first
  salmon- see later.

- Mr. J. McCullough, Irl. caught the second fish of the season
  weighing 11.25lbs. it fell to a Cascade in the Garden Pool on the
  23rd. May.

- Local angler Mr. M. Coyne caught the third fish of the season
  on a Cascade in the Coronation Pool on Beat 8.

- Mr. Brian Marshall and son Tim took a fish each in the Garden
  Pool and Falls Pool on the 8th. and 10th. of June.

- Mr. & Mrs. T. Hughes UK. Took a fish each on their first visit to
  the Fishery.

- Mr. J. Dardis, Irl. took a fresh grilse from the Dog Pool on the
  20th. June.

- Beat 6 produced two fish for Mr. D. Gaffney, Irl. on 20th. June.

- Mr. P. Hunt, Irl. caught a fresh run10.5lbs. fish on a Cascade in
  the Colonel’s Pool on Beat 6 on the last day in June.
Highlights of Summer Fishing

• The first fish caught in July fell to Mr. U. Mantle, Irl. It weighed 9.5lbs. and was caught on a Cascade in Mickey’s Run on Beat 7.

• Master James Muckian took a fresh run grilse of 5.75lbs. in the Glenanane Stones on Beat 7.

• Mr. Cook, UK. had 2 grilse on Beat 9 on the 7th. July.

• Dr. Kerschbaumer, Ger. Took a fish of 9.5lbs. on a Cascade in the Glenanane Stones on Beat 9.

• Regular French angler Mr. G. Garnier had 8 fish for his visit - Best 10.25lbs. from Glenanane Stones and 9.5lbs. from the Dog Pool on Beat 2 and a grilse of 6.25lbs. from Poleen on Beat 4.

• Mr. R. Butler, UK. had 2 grilse from the Black River run and Cattle Pass on Beat 1.

• Mr. R. Rusby took a fresh grilse from the Falls Pool on a Garry Dog.

• Mr. P. Hunt, Irl. caught one of 5.25lbs. taken on a Cascade from Poleen on Beat 4. Mr. Cook, U.K. had 2 fish from Beat 9.

• Mr. J. Keogh had a fish of 5.5lbs. taken on a Bann Special from the Glenanane Stones on Beat 7.

• Mr. P Hagan took a grilse in Humps & Hollows on Beat 6. on a Shrimp Fly.

• Mr. O. Hollonger, U.K. took one of 8.5lbs. on Beat 8.

• A Stoats Tail was successful for Mr. C. Muller, Germany taking a fish 7lbs. from The School House on Beat 3.

• Mr. D. Johnk, Germany took a fish of 7.25lbs. from the Colonels Pool on Beat 6 on a Curry Red Shrimp.

• Mr. J. Langdon Party, had 5 fish best 8.5lbs, taken by Mr. P. Thorpe in the School House Pool on Beat 3 and Mr. J. Theobald took a 7.5lbs. also in the School House.

• Dr. E. Bresnihan, Irl. took one of 5lbs. from the Sally Pool on Beat 7 on a Shrimp Fly.

• Dr. A. Poynton, Irl. had a fish of 4.5lbs. from the lower Garden Pool on Beat 9 and his brother Gareth released a 10lbs. fish in Gowlans taken on an Orange Shrimp.

• Mr. F. Crawford had 4 fish best 7lbs. taken on a Cascade in the Dog Pool on Beat 2.

• Mr. M. Connery had 2 fish from the Coronation Pool on Beat 9.

• Mr. J. Donlan, had one of 7lbs taken in the Generals Reach on Beat 8. Local angler Mr. D. Brinklow, took one of 9.25lbs on a Cascade in the Coronation Pool Beat 8.

• Mr. C. Pringle took one of 6.5lbs. from the Black Banks on Beat 6 on a Cascade.

• Mr. H. Rodrigue, France had 2 taken on a Willie Gunn and Cascade from Poleen and Glenanane Stones.

• Mr. Boutonnet, France, took one of 5lbs. from the Black Banks.
Highlights of Autumn Fishing

- Mr. M. Odin, Fr. took an 8.25lbs. on a Cascade from Beat 7.

- August was the wettest month recorded for many years and as such water levels were exceptionally high during the month and the river unsettled at times.

- Fresh fish including many double figure fish were recorded moving upstream through the counter at Aasleagh Falls during the many spates throughout the month.

- First week of August produced 15 fish.

- Mr. B. Cotton N. Ireland just 92 years young caught 3 fish for the week taking 2 from the Coronation Pool on Beat 8 and the other from Poleen on Beat 4.

- Mr. M. Broughton, UK. caught three for the week all from Beat 9 on a Cascade and Alley Shrimp.

- Mr. H. O’Connell, Derbyshire, U.K took a 5 lbs. fish from the Coronation Pool on Beat 8 on a Cascade.

- Mr. R. Adams, N. Ireland. took a sparkling fresh 5.5lbs. fish from the Falls Pool on Beat 9.

- The 15th. was a memorable day for Mr. Luca & Giovanna Montanari Rome, Italy, Luca introduced their son Francesco to the Erriff River and he caught his first ever salmon on a Garry Dog on the White Rock Run on Beat 7.

- Mr. A. Muckian, Irl. and his son James took a fish each from the School House on Beat 3 and Jenkins on Beat 5.

- Mr. A. Holden, Irl. caught 4 fish for the week best 7.5lbs. taken in the Colonel’s Run on Beat 6.

- Mr. S. Jones, Dublin took a fresh run grilse from the Garden Pool on a Cascade.

- Local angler Mr. S. Fleming released a fish estimated at 6lbs. taken on a Cascade in the School House on Beat 3.

- The Coronation Pool produced a 5lbs. fish for Mr. G. Bartlett, UK.

- Mr. J. McCullough, Dublin caught 3 fish releasing fish of 6 lbs. and 10lbs. respectively taken in the Broken Bridge and Colonels Pool and retained a fresh grilse taken in the Square Pool on Beat 9.

- Mr. T. Hughes, UK, with a 10.25lbs salmon taken on Beat 9

- Mr. J. Steel, N. Irl. caught a fresh run grilse from the Falls Pool on Beat 9.

- Humps & Hollows on Beat 6 produced 4.5lbs. fish for Mr. E. Murphy, Dublin.

- Mr. R. Daly, Dublin had 3 for the week – best fish 7.25lbs. taken in the Broken Bridge Pool on Beat 5.

- Mr. K. Glynn, also from Dublin had 2 fish from the Falls Pool Beat 9 and Glenanane Stones on Beat 7.

- The Garden Pool produced a fresh run grilse for Dr. M. Downes, Dublin taken on a Cascade on the morning of the 7th.

- Mr. J. Makinson, U.K. took 2 fish from the Coronation Pool and Black Banks on Beat 6 on a Shrimp Fly and Stoats Tail and another from the Quarry Pool on Beat 2.

- Mr. R. Devriese, Belgium fishing Beat 5 on the 11th. had a grilse from the Broken Bridge Pool and lost a very large fish the same day.
Highlights of September Fishing

- Best fish of the month a fresh run fish of 9 lbs. was taken by Mr. G. Pratchett, London on an Alley Shrimp in the Bridge Pool Beat 9 on the 3rd. Graham also returned another fish of 6lbs. the same day on Beat 6.

- Mr. N. Chambers, Bristol had 5 fish for the week – from Beats 7, 8 and 9 mainly to Shrimp patterns.

- Mr. S. Knox, also from Bristol had one each from the Falls Pool and the Holly Pool on Beats 8 & 9.

- Mr. A. Mathews, Irl. returned a grilse caught in the Sand Hill on Beat 5 on an Orange Shrimp Fly.

- Mr. C. Jeanguillaume, France had a grilse on a Stoats Tail on Beat 7.

- Mr. F. Hompesch, Germany caught 2 fish on a Cascade in the Guage Pool on Beat 9 and the Coronation Pool on Beat 8 on the 16th. & 18th. of the month.

Tawnyard & Derrintin Loughs

Sea trout and brown trout fishing was more productive this year with some 87 sea trout and numerous brown trout to half a pound recorded on Tawnyard Lough. The best bag was 14 sea trout taken by Mr. G. Westropp, UK. in one day. Derrintin Lough produced 72 brown trout during September to small wet flies – the Daddy Long Legs being the most productive fly and proved to be an excellent venue for action. A great place to bring young people learning the art of fly fishing and this needs to be utilised more!

Management Changes in the Fisheries Service.

In line with government policy the 7 Regional Fisheries Boards and the Central Fisheries Board are to be amalgamated into one National Agency – Inland Fisheries Ireland. This will see many changes in the fisheries service over time but it is unlikely to impact significantly on the management operations in the Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh Lodge and Cottages in the 2010 season. We hope that this new incentive will ensure the protection of the natural wild fish resource into the future.

Water Levels Aasleagh Guage April-Sept 2009

Monthly Salmon & Sea Trout Catches 2009

<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>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>*28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>*87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes 87 Sea Trout taken on Tawnyard Lough.
Ranched Salmon caught on Erriff River 2009

There were 7 adipose fin clipped salmon were caught by anglers on the river during the season – however none of these contained any micro-tags.

Catch & Release

A total of 18 fish were released by anglers this season - this is 16% of the rod catch. Beat 9 accounted for 5 fish released and an additional 13 fish were released 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.

Tawnyard Lough Sea Trout Research Programme 2009

The trapping operation on the outflow from Tawnyard Lough commenced on 1st March and continued until the 31st May. The main run occurred during April when there were very suitable water conditions. The run of sea trout kelts decreased from 344 the previous year to 196 this year. Numbers of sea trout smolts increased significantly from 1084 the previous year to 2152 this year. The number of salmon smolts also increased from 738 to 928 this year. The monthly numbers of fish migrating downstream through the trap were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Salmon</th>
<th>Sea Trout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>1018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>1739</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The commercial catch of Salmon for the Killary draft net fishery was 140 – approx 50% of the catch were multi–sea-winter fish. The quota was 400 salmon.

Fish Counter Data 2009

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<td>1739</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Erriff Electro-fishing Programme

Electro-fishing has been undertaken on the Erriff catchment for the past three years during summer when salmon fry are available to be counted. Working to a new standard five minute electrofishing programme the assessment in 2007 gave an average of 27 salmon fry per five minute fishing. This reflected the run of over eighteen hundred salmon in 2006. An average of 23 salmon fry was found in 2008 after a run of 2,104 salmon in 2007. The result of the 2009 survey revealed a salmon fry average of only 16 fry. This lower average is likely to reflect the smaller salmon run of 1,371 salmon in 2008. Scientific advice indicates that rivers with a salmon fry average of 17 or more are likely to be meeting their salmon conservation limit and while the 2009 survey result is lower than in previous years, it indicates that the Erriff was still likely to be meeting its conservation limit.

Obituaries

We extend our sympathy to Dr. Margaret Downes and family on the passing of her husband Desmond. Both Margaret and Desmond had fished the Erriff for the past 20 years. We also extend our sympathy to the relatives of Helmut Hack from Germany who also passed away during the season.

Top 10 Heaviest Salmon 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J. McCullough Irl.</td>
<td>22nd May</td>
<td>Garden Pool B9</td>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>11.25lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. P. Hunt, Irl.</td>
<td>20th June</td>
<td>Colonel’s Pool B6</td>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>10.5lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. T. Hughes, U.K.</td>
<td>18th June</td>
<td>Upper Garden B9</td>
<td>Silver Stoat</td>
<td>10.25lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. G. Garnier, Fr.</td>
<td>13th July</td>
<td>Glenanane Stones B7</td>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>10.25lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. G. Poynton, Irl.</td>
<td>24th July</td>
<td>Gowlans Pool B3</td>
<td>Shrimp Fly</td>
<td>10lbs R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. N. Chambers, Irl.</td>
<td>4th Sept</td>
<td>Square Pool B9</td>
<td>Shrimp Fly</td>
<td>10lbs R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. J. McCullough, Irl.</td>
<td>26th Aug.</td>
<td>Broken Bridge B5</td>
<td>Spinning</td>
<td>10lbs R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. U. Mantle, Irl</td>
<td>4th July</td>
<td>Mickey’s Run B7</td>
<td>Shrimp Fly</td>
<td>9.5lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Kerschbaumer, G.</td>
<td>12th July</td>
<td>Glenanane Stones B7</td>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>9.5lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. G. Pratchett, U.K.</td>
<td>3rd Sept</td>
<td>Bridge Pool B9</td>
<td>Ally Shrimp</td>
<td>9.0lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgements

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 wish to extend a special work of thanks to 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 Michael Kane and his staff engaged in the Rural Employment Scheme and to Killian Dunford and the FAS Staff for the general maintenance and improvements of the Lodge grounds.

It is not possible for Aasleagh Lodge to function without the dedication and commitment of all staff. In that regard a very special work of thanks goes to Mary, Martin Joe and Donavin all of whom are vital to the efficient running of the Lodge and Fishery. I would also like to thank the Assistant CEO of the Board Amanda Mooney for jumping into the breach during the season to help out at Aasleagh when I was off on sick leave for a number of weeks.

James Stafford
Manager
Erriff Fishery and Aasleagh Lodge
River Erriff: Angling Rates

April 1st - May 14th: €45 per rod, per day. €250 per week - 6 days.
May 15th - June 25th: €60 per rod, per day. €320 per week - 6 days.
June 26th - August 27th: €70 per rod, per day. €400 per week - 6 days.
August 28th - September 30th: €55 per rod, per day. €300 per week - 6 days.

Derrintin and Tawnyard Loughs
Angling enquiries to Fishery

Aasleagh Lodge: Accommodation Rates

Weekly Half Board 7 Nights (PPS) * (ensuite) €699
Daily Half Board (PPS) * (ensuite) €100
Bed & Breakfast (PPS) - (ensuite) €65
Bed & Breakfast (PPS) - (standard room) €50
Bed & Breakfast - (3 people in triple ensuite room PPS) €55
Single Room Supplement €20 per night
Killary Suite supplement €10 per person per night
Dinner €40 Packed Lunch €10

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

Special Packages Available for rest of year by arrangement

Aasleagh Cottages: Rates

(Property hire only, Electricity Extra)

January to May: €350 per week
June to September: €650 per week.
October to December: €400 per week.
Short term breaks and long term lettings 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: Contact James Stafford, Aasleagh Lodge, Leenane, Co. Galway, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)95 42252 Email: erriff.fish@iol.ie
Fax: +353 (0)95 42361 Web: www.aasleaghlodge.ie