



Angling
Ireland

**COARSE ANGLING
IN IRELAND**



INTRODUCTION

Ireland is one of the top coarse angling destinations in Europe and every year anglers come to the Emerald Isle from around the UK and Europe to try and catch that elusive 100lbs+ bag of wild Irish coarse fish. With over 12,000 lakes or loughs on the island, Ireland has a wealth of wild coarse fisheries which are both widespread in number and wide-ranging in diversity, from large loughs with huge shoals of bream and hybrids to intimate ponds containing tench and rudd. As well as these, there are the myriad of medium sized loughs, a number of rivers and over 300km of canals running across Ireland; these fisheries provide a variety of options for the match angler, the pleasure angler, the specialist and the specimen hunter alike.

The most popular coarse angling target species include bream, roach, roach/bream hybrids, perch, tench and rudd. Dace and carp are also present in some fisheries but they are not widespread. The Irish freshwater environment is so rich, and the climate so temperate that none of these species need any help from man in terms of stocking

or habitat management; nature provides the ideal environment for each without interference. Angling pressure in Ireland is also low so even the best fisheries are not overcrowded and it is quite possible to spend a day fishing on a wild fishery in Ireland without even seeing another angler. On the other hand, if you enjoy the hustle, bustle and banter of competition fishing, there's a full calendar of matches and festivals from March through to October, enabling you to test your angling skills against the best of the rest...

Of course, it's not all about the fishing. Ireland is a beautiful country and the scenery of the Irish countryside can be breath-taking, making it a fantastic place to spend some time enjoying the natural environment. Then, after a long day fishing (and maybe even a keepnet full of big bronze bream, tench and hybrids), where better to go to celebrate than to a genuine Irish pub where you can share your fishing stories over a pint or two...

This brochure contains some basic information to help you get started on your Irish coarse angling trip. There is a short description of coarse fishing in Ireland and a brief introduction to some of the fisheries that consistently produce quality fish. The map on the flip side of this brochure highlights these fisheries and the key towns in which you could base yourself.



There is much more detailed information on the www.fishinginireland.info website and on the accompanying Google map: <https://goo.gl/NCxRte>

SEASONS

Ireland has a mild climate and no closed season for coarse fishing which means that it is possible to fish for coarse species all year round. However, the best fishing can be had from April to June before and after spawning and, then again, from mid-August through to the end of October. The long days of summer can be rewarding for those who are willing to fish into the night or from first light in the morning. Whatever the season there is always a good chance of rain so come prepared; the good news is that big bream and hybrids love dull days and choppy water so don't let the forecast put you off. If you do find yourself fishing a warm, still, summer's evening, then try a waggler fished close to the lilies for some hard fighting Irish tench or a pinch of breadflake on light tackle for a beautiful Irish rudd.

COARSE ANGLING FESTIVALS AND COMPETITIONS

Ireland has seen a resurgence in the popularity of coarse angling festivals and international competitions in recent years with up to 60 being held annually across the country. Irish angling festivals are unlike those held in other countries in that entry is open to anglers of all abilities, and there is no requirement to go through a qualifying process; this means that all entrants are in with a chance of claiming top prize. Irish festivals generally consist of 3 to 5 days of competition fishing, with good hospitality and great banter, making them the ideal angling holiday for the high numbers of UK and continental anglers who return annually to participate. The festivals are usually run voluntarily by coarse angling clubs and local communities across Ireland; All sponsored money and prizes, pools and section pools are 100% paid out.

Favoured methods for festival anglers depend on conditions and venue, but anglers usually prefer pole or waggler to target silvers (which are present in very large numbers and make up the bulk of most bags) or feeder at distance with a long hook-length to try and pick off a few larger bream or hybrids; favoured baits include maggot, caster and chopped worm but bring corn, bread and pellet to cover all the angles. Top venues for coarse angling events in Ireland include Inniscarra Reservoir in county Cork, Lough Muckno in Monaghan, Loughs Oughter and Gowna in Cavan, Lough Garadice in Leitrim, Templehouse Lake in Sligo and the Erne system near Enniskillen. These venues have all undergone infrastructural improvements to allow anglers much better access to swims with drive-to-peg access available for many of the larger events. For more information on Irish festivals see here: <http://www.fishinginireland.info/coarse/coarseevents.htm>

ANGLING GUIDES, SERVICE PROVIDERS & BOAT HIRE

There are a small number of guides and service providers operating in Ireland who specialise in coarse fishing and it is a good idea for an angler visiting a venue for the first time to contact one of these. This is particularly the case with the larger loughs as a guide will have the local knowledge of the water and the fish holding areas which will greatly increase chances of hooking up. You will need to contact and make your own arrangements with guides and to help with this, there is a list of angling guides available at:

www.fishinginireland.info/guides/index.htm

Fishing on the large sized loughs in Ireland can be very productive using a boat and fish finder to locate the large shoals of fish, and there is a list of boat hire locations available here:

www.fishinginireland.info/boathire/lakes.htm

REGULATIONS

The majority of coarse angling in Ireland does not require a licence/permit. Coarse fish species are protected by law and there are restrictions as to what/how many fish an angler may take. As these regulations are subject to change, we advise all anglers to consult the latest regulations using the following link prior to fishing: <http://fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm>

CATCH & RELEASE

We all have a responsibility to protect and conserve our fisheries so that they can be enjoyed by future generations. Most fisheries face multiple threats including pollution, water abstraction and illegal fishing, all of which have a negative impact on fish stocks. For that reason, we would ask that all anglers consider practicing Catch & Release for the majority of fish they catch. Record any trophy fish with a quick photo and then carefully return to the water. Remember: [#CPRsavesfish](#)



FURTHER INFORMATION

Angling Information

This guide provides a basic introduction to coarse angling in Ireland and gives a summary of some of the key angling hotspots. However, there are a number of resources where you can find more detailed and up-to-date angling information. Firstly, there is a dedicated angling website which has more detailed information on individual fisheries and service providers at: www.fishinginireland.info

If you are planning on fishing in Northern Ireland or on the Foyle and Carlingford area on either side of the border you should consult:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/outdoor-recreation-and-sport/angling

and

www.ufishireland.org/

IFI also produces a weekly Angling Update which provides up-to-date reports on what people are catching and where. You can sign up to be emailed the weekly Angling Update by emailing contact@fisheriesireland.ie

General Tourism

Ireland also has a general tourism website www.ireland.com that will help you plan your trip to Ireland. It provides a wealth of information on travel and accommodation as well as information on things to do and see while visiting the island.

Leave No Trace

Please adhere to the seven principles of Leave No Trace Ireland:

Plan ahead and prepare; Travel and camp on durable surfaces; Dispose of waste properly; Leave what you find; Minimise campfire impacts (be careful with fire); Respect wildlife;

Be considerate of other visitors.

Vehicles should be parked in designated areas and in such a manner that they do not cause obstruction.



Anglers should fish responsibly and sustainably – where possible use single barbless hooks and practice no-weight, “in the water” catch and release.

www.leavenotraceireland.org/



Biosecurity

Aquatic Invasive Species and fish pathogens are readily transferred from one water-course to another on angling tackle, boats and protective clothing. These can be very damaging to resident fish stocks, the aquatic habitat and the general environment. We would ask that all anglers inspect and clean their gear prior to travelling to Ireland to fish.

Full information on prevention of invasive species is available on our website at:

www.fisheriesireland.ie/Research/invasive-species.html

Or via Invasive Species Ireland at

<http://invasivespeciesireland.com/cops/water-users/anglers/>

Disclaimer

Every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this publication and associated maps and web pages. Inland Fisheries Ireland cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions therein. Some sporting activities may by their nature be hazardous and involve risk. It is recommended in such cases to take out personal accident insurance. While many operators would have public liability insurance it is always advisable to check with the establishment or operator concerned as to the level of cover carried.

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FISHERIES

Large Loughs

For the truly massive shoals of bream & hybrids that Ireland has long been famous for, the really large loughs of the Shannon system such as Rea, Derg and Allen, or venues on the Erne system are the places to explore. It must be said that large 100lb+ catches are less frequent these days due to a number of factors, including improving water quality and hybridisation of bream, so the angler has to work hard to get trophy bags of fish. These loughs are huge and can be daunting for any angler not used to fishing large venues. Long range feeder fishing or waggler fishing at depth using the preferred methods here and patience, perseverance and a long term approach is called for. It often takes a few days of quiet waiting before the shoals find the bait. A big shoal of bream or hybrids will make short work of whatever you have to offer and plenty of groundbait and loose-feed may be required to keep their heads down in your swim. One piece of advice you often hear from the experts is to bring plenty of bait. If possible, pre-baiting your swim in advance of fishing can lead to quicker results. Angling service providers in some areas will pre-bait a venue in advance of your visit once the necessary arrangements are made. Information on this type of service is available at: www.fishinginireland.info/guides/index.htm

Medium and Small Loughs

There are thousands of smaller sized coarse loughs to choose from and it would not be uncommon for the visitor to be the only angler fishing one of these for fish that have probably never been caught before. If the angler chooses the right base, in counties like Carlow, Leitrim, Monaghan, Roscommon, Longford, Fermanagh or Clare, there can be dozens of quality fisheries to choose from, all within a twenty minute drive. The smaller loughs are easier to tackle than the larger loughs and you can usually fish relatively close in, using a pole or waggler setup. These areas are popular venues for competitions and festivals so it is wise to check locally for advice on the best locations. As ever, the local pub or tackle shop (sometimes the two are combined...) can be the best place to ask. Access to these fisheries is normally good with ample car parking and fishing stands provided on the most popular ones.

Rivers and Canals

The most famous coarse angling river in Ireland is also the longest: the mighty River Shannon which runs over 360km long. The Shannon is a slow, wide river, only dropping 1.8 metres in the first 250km of its course. It has abundant stocks of all the major coarse fish species although its big bronze bream are what gives the river its reputation. Fishing on the main stem of the Shannon is free and access is very good for large parts of its length. Improved water clarity on the Shannon system has seen many specialist anglers target big bream in the hours of darkness, the time when the really big fish come on the feed, so if these 'bin-lids' are your preferred species, the Shannon is a major tributary of the Shannon system. The River Suck also deserves a mention as it is a major tributary of the Shannon bordering the counties of Galway and Roscommon for much of its course. The Suck holds all of the same species as the Shannon itself but a permit is required to fish it.

Ireland has long been famous for its bream and hybrids but other species have started to make in on the action. For the specialist angler the Shannon also holds excellent stocks of tench and, in places, beautiful golden rudd. The river Barrow in Kildare and Carlow, which has always had a reputation for producing perch to over 3lbs in weight, also has big shoals of roach and dace as does the River Blackwater at Fermoy.

Canal fishing can be very productive with a number of options available. The Shannon-Erne Waterway in Leitrim and Fermanagh, is an excellent coarse fishery with easy access and is well worth a trip. Also, within a short drive of Dublin, the Royal and Grand canals (including the Barrow Navigation) are easily accessible and have good stocks of most of the key species. Water clarity has improved greatly on the Royal & Grand canals in recent years meaning that fish have become far more wary. Finding areas with good cover, fishing on dull and blowy days and/or fishing through dusk and into night-time are tactics that will often yield better results.

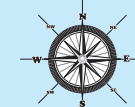
IRELAND/NORTHERN IRELAND

The island of Ireland consists of two separate countries: the Republic of Ireland (also known as Eire or Southern Ireland) and Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK. As a result of this, there are three separate agencies that control fishing on the island of Ireland: Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) which controls the majority of the fishing in the Republic of Ireland, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) which controls most of the fishing in Northern Ireland, and the Loughs Agency, which controls the fishing on the Foyle and Carlingford systems that span the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. These areas are marked on the adjacent map.

This brochure only provides information on fishing in IFI controlled waters in Ireland. Anglers wishing to fish in Loughs Agency or DAERA controlled waters should check the relevant website for information before fishing:

DAERA: www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/outdoor/recreation-and-sport/angling

Loughs Agency: www.ifishireland.org/



● Coarse Angling Centre



Angling
Ireland

A green four-leaf clover is positioned to the left of the word "Ireland". A thin, curved green line starts from the bottom of the clover and sweeps under the word "Ireland".