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Inland Fisheries Ireland Macroom,
Sunnyside House,
Macroom,
P12 X602,
Ireland.

Email: macroom@fisheriesireland.ie

Telephone: +353 (0) 26 41222

Fax: +353 (0) 26 42475



South West of Ireland Sea Angling Guide

Kerry Head - Mine Head



Getting to the South West

Roads: The south west can be accessed by way of the M7 & M8 from Dublin, The N20 & N21 from Limerick and the N25 from Rosslare.

Airports: Ireland's main international airports are at Dublin, Cork, Shannon and Belfast.

Ferry Ports: The south west coast can be easily accessed from Dublin, Rosslare and Cork.

O/S Maps: Anglers may find the Ordnance Survey Discovery Series Map No's 70, 71, 78, 81 & 83 - 89 beneficial when visiting the south west coast. These are available from most newsagents and bookstores.

Maps, layout & design by Shane O'Reilly. Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Text by IFI Macroom, Shane O'Reilly & Norman Dunlop

Photos courtesy of Kevin Crowley, Mike Thrussell, Faite Ireland Content Pool.

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Product Code: P/N: IFI/2020/1-0451 – 005

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This brochure can be made available in alternate formats on request.

For up to date angling reports and information, please log onto our dedicated angling website: www.fishinginireland.info

Tourist Information: Faite Ireland provide information on accommodation, places to eat, attractions, how to get around and much more at www.discoverireland.ie

If you come across instances of poaching, pollution or invasive species, please dial the IFI Hotline immediately: **1890 34 74 24**

Other Useful Links

Air:

www.ryanair.com
www.aerlingus.com
www.dublinairport.com
www.shannonairport.com

Land:

www.irishrail.ie
www.buseireann.ie
www.gobus.ie
www.citylink.ie

Weather:

www.met.ie

Ireland Maps:

store.osi.ie
map.geohive.ie

Sea/Ferries:

www.stena.ferries.org
www.irishferries.com
www.brittanyferries.ie



Be biosecurity aware!

<http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/invasive-species/invasive-species.html>

For information and to report

LO-CALL: 1890 34 74 24

Introduction

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is very pleased to bring you this comprehensive Sea Angling Guide to Shore/Boat/Fly and Kayak fishing in the south west of Ireland. The guide covers a stretch of coastline from Kerry Head at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary to Mine Head in County Waterford. The coastline in this part of Ireland varies from magnificent sweeping bays to rugged inlets to wide estuaries and sandy beaches. The five huge headlands that jut out into the deep Atlantic Ocean are bathed by the North Atlantic Drift and this warm water attracts a wide variety of species to our shores. In all, well over 50 species of sea fish are on offer to the angler ranging from blue shark to sea bass, and from cod to conger.

This guide gives a description of those species along with some of the methods you can use to target them. We also provide a comprehensive suite of maps where the main angling marks are depicted. We hope this guide will give you all the information you need to have a great angling experience here in south west Ireland.



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Angling Information

Contact Inland Fisheries Ireland SWRBD Angling Section for angling support, up to date news, information and details of charter boats, tackle shops and angling guides available in the area.

T: +353 2641 221 W: www.fishinginireland.info E: macroom@fisheriesireland.ie

There are many websites and angling forums on the internet with information on sea angling in Ireland. Probably the best known is www.sea-angling-ireland.org which has comprehensive information on marks, tactics, and a forum where members post reports of catches.

Regulations

There are very few regulations pertaining to sea angling in Ireland, however, there are a couple of points and regulations to note:

There is no closed season for sea fishing in Ireland, (except for sea trout – no fishing from 13 October to 31 December). This is currently under review and may change. A salmon licence is required for sea trout fishing, and bag limits, size limits and other regulations apply.

Bass fishing is also subject to regulation. These regulations are set by the European Union and change regularly so the link below should be consulted before fishing.

You may not troll surface lures at sea for any fish species including any species of Tuna, Shark or Billfish.

Fisheries regulations are subject to change and so anglers should consult this link for the latest information.

<http://fishinginireland.info/regulations.htm>

Tackle Shops

There are many fishing tackle shops in the region that provide equipment and bait for sea anglers. Fresh bait is not difficult to obtain from tackle shops in the region but most local anglers dig their own bait, this guide will also give information on the best places to obtain your own fresh bait. For a list of tackle shops in the region, check www.fishinginireland.info/tackleshops/index.htm

Charter Boats

Charter boats operate from many harbours around the coastline, and typically cater for between 8 and 12 passengers. All charter boats must be licensed by the Department of the Marine, and there are very strict criteria for safety equipment, vessel safety, and skipper training and certification. Charter boats offer access to deep water and offshore marks, and skippers are generally very knowledgeable about the fishing in their area. A good charter skipper will be able to cater for novice and experienced anglers alike, with tackle and instruction provided as standard.

For an up to date list of approved and certified charter boats in the region, consult www.fishinginireland.info/charterboats/index.htm



Clubs and Competitions

The club scene in this region is well established with most large towns having an active angling club, and there is a good calendar of competitions run throughout the year. Joining a club is a great way of learning how to fish, as most clubs organise outings where established members show newcomers all the tricks of the trade. It is also a great way to meet other anglers and learn about the best places to fish, and find out what venues are fishing well. For a list of clubs, with secretaries' contact details and information on competitions, etc., The Irish Federation of Sea Anglers has all this information available on their website at www.ifsa.ie

Safety

Angling is a water based activity with changing conditions and dangers that are sometimes hidden. Drowning is an ever present risk and you should exercise utmost care for your own safety and that of angling partners/buddies.

Please consider the following when going fishing:

- Wear a life jacket.
- Follow advice on warning signs, permits and notices
- Don't take any risks when wading or fishing from boat, shore or bank
- Check the weather forecast and tide tables before you go
- Take time to observe weather, water and tide conditions while fishing
- Fish with a partner/buddy or let someone know where you're going
- Take a fully charged mobile phone in a waterproof case/bag.
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear

For a more detailed guide to safety when angling please visit:

www.fishinginireland.info/safety.htm

Weather Forecasts

Weather forecasts are broadcast daily on RTÉ Radio, television and at www.rte.ie. Check programme guides in the daily newspapers for times. Forecasts are also available on Aertel. Telephone weather forecasts are available from Irish Meteorological Service - Met Éireann at www.met.ie. Wind speeds for the whole day should be carefully checked before venturing out in small boats as weather conditions can vary throughout the day.

Tides

Tide times are published in national papers every day, and can be found online on many websites, for example: www.sailing.ie or www.pocketsizetides.com

There are also many apps available to download for iPhone and Android phones that have tide data.



Ballan Wrasse

Swell/Surf

It is often important to know what sea conditions are likely to be before heading fishing, particularly when fishing rock marks, where large swell can create dangerous waves, or beach fishing, when a nice bit of surf can produce good fishing.

A good website for swell and surf forecasts is www.magicseaweed.ie which is aimed mainly at surfers, but is a valuable tool for anglers to predict surf and swell conditions.

Access and Country Code

Angling marks are sometimes reached by passing through farmland and anglers are generally allowed this access by courtesy of local farmers. If in doubt please ask farmers/land owners for permission to enter on to their land to fish. Please respect their property, light no fires, leave no litter and close all gates. Cars should be parked in designated parking areas where available and should be parked so that they do not cause obstruction.

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.



leave no trace

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/

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, Photo & 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**

Biosecurity

Aquatic Invasive Species and fish pathogens are readily transferred from one watercourse 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.



Angling Methods

Shore Angling

The south west coast of Ireland is renowned as having some of the best shore angling marks in the country. With its sandy beaches and rocky coastline all the sea angling disciplines are well catered for. The district is relatively under-fished, and there are vast stretches of coastline that rarely see a rod. The angler who is prepared to walk a bit to explore new ground will probably be rewarded with excellent fishing. The maps in this brochure offer precise information on the more popular spots but once again if you require additional information please contact us on anglingqueries@fisheriesireland.ie. Ordnance Survey maps and online resources such as google maps are also very good for researching prospective marks, and the OSI website has excellent interactive maps, including aerial photography. These can all help to pinpoint new marks for fishing, and anglers are encouraged to get out and explore the coastline. The interactive maps can be found at www.osi.ie

Charter Boat Angling

Charter boat angling is readily available in the south west and offers an exciting days fishing for all ages. Over half of Ireland's fleet of charter boats are based in this region so there is plenty of choice for the angler. The south western district offers excellent rough ground fishing, with many species available over reefs, rocky ground and wrecks including Pollock, Coalfish, Cod, Ling, Conger Eel and Sharks. There is also plenty of superb clean bottom fishing for Skate & Rays. Travelling to the varied fishing grounds also offers passengers the opportunity to observe the wide range of wildlife such as seals, sea birds and cetaceans which abound in this area. Boat prices range from €400 to €600 per day. Please use only registered charter boats.

Small Boat Angling

Inshore fishing from small boats, especially during the months from May to September, is a growing trend. There is no better means of appreciating the intimate connection between the life of Irish coastal communities and the sea, than to fish from a small boat equivalent in size to the craft that almost all Irish fishermen used until recent times.

Many visiting anglers bring their own purpose-built 14-18 foot boats to a growing number of centres where guidance on where to go, and on safety issues is available. This is the best way of fishing the places which are unexplored by bigger craft or inaccessible to the shore angler. All species are available, and great sport can be enjoyed on the warm days of late summer when using light spinning tackle for mackerel or pollack. One may bottom fish for ray or bigger species or, the adventurous angler can try fly fishing.

Fishing from a small boat driven by a powerful outboard engine requires a careful assessment of weather conditions, but if the angler follows local regulations and advice, and keeps a weather eye open, a safe and enjoyable trip is assured.

There are a number of small boat competitions and festivals around the Irish coast during the summer. One of the best know and longest running is the Cork Small Boat Festival. See link below for more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/corksmallboats/>



Derrynane Beach

Saltwater Fly Fishing

Saltwater fly fishing (SWFF) has become very popular in recent years, and offers anglers a very sporting method of catching sea fish on light tackle. Modern fly rods are so light and responsive that even a small fish can provide great sport, and mackerel are a very popular quarry for fly anglers. SWFF also has the advantage of being able to travel light, and cover plenty of ground. The most common species targeted by fly anglers in the south west are Bass, Pollack, Mullet, Mackerel and Sea Trout. **NB: please remember a State Licence is required in order to fish for sea trout in the sea as is in freshwater.** A typical saltwater fly outfit consists of a rod rated to cast an 8-9 weight line, with a large arbour corrosion-resistant reel suitable for saltwater. Floating, intermediate and sinking fly lines are part of the armoury, and fast-sinking poly leaders are also useful in some situations. Saltwater fly anglers often use a line basket attached to their waist to catch the coils of line as they retrieve. This avoids the line being snagged around their feet on rocks as it is moved around by tide or swell. For bass, large flies that imitate sandeel or sprat work well. Pollack favour large flies that are dressed with red or yellow/chartreuse materials. Mullet are targeted mainly in quiet estuaries with smaller flies that imitate maggots, or pieces of bread, and pre-baiting with bread works well. Some anglers also have success with very small shrimp flies for mullet when they are preoccupied on natural crustaceans. Fly casting takes a bit of practice to master, and a lesson with a casting instructor is recommended. There are many qualified casting instructors around the country, and a list can be found at www.fishinginireland.info/guides/index.htm

Lure Fishing

Lure fishing is basically the art of fishing with artificial lures. These include spinners, plugs and lures of various materials, usually metal, plastic or wood, and in recent years soft plastic lures have become very popular.

Spinning was always a popular pursuit for anglers after mackerel and pollack, as well as bass and sea trout, with metal lures such as small pirks, bar spoons and blade spinners being very popular. In recent years, lure development has accelerated, and there is a vast choice of metal and hard plastic lures available, with different actions, swimming depths, and styles of retrieve.

Soft plastic lures are an even more recent development that have evolved from the successful jellyworms, popular for pollack, and now include a vast choice of soft lures in different sizes and shapes to imitate natural prey in the water. Typically a soft plastic lure is threaded onto a hook, and can be rigged in a number of ways. Texas-style rigging is a popular method, where the hook point remains buried



Soft Plastic Lures

under the skin of the lure until a fish takes it. This method has the advantage of allowing a lure to be fished in heavy weed without snagging, as the hook point is hidden. Soft plastic lure fishing is chiefly targeted at pollack, wrasse and bass, and while wrasse were previously targeted only with bait, soft plastics have proved very successful at targeting them, with the added benefit of less tackle losses, and no need for junk leads! Lure fishing typically involves much lighter tackle, with rods as small as 6-7 feet being used for close inshore fishing with soft plastics. Light 2-3000 sized fixed-spool reels are teamed with these rods, and braid mainline is most effective, as bite detection is far superior to traditional nylon. There are a growing number of articles and blogs on the internet about lure fishing, and a quick Google search will bring up plenty of information for anglers interested in trying it.

Species Hunting

Many anglers like to catch a variety of species, and having the various techniques to target different species is part of the challenge of shore angling. In recent years, targeting mini-species has become popular as anglers seek to challenge themselves further by expanding their range of skills and boosting their species count. This is invariably done on a catch-and-release basis. There are a large variety of mini-species available, including poor cod, corkwing wrasse, rockcook wrasse, goldsinny wrasse, long-spined sea scorpion, tompot blenny, rock goby and more. Most of these species are taken on very small baited hooks, although fishing for them with miniature soft plastic lures is also proving successful.

Specimen Hunting

Specimen hunting has become very popular in recent years. Specimen fish are fish over a certain size (weight or length), that are regarded as trophy fish for that species because of their size. The Irish Specimen Fish Committee (ISFC) is a voluntary organisation, whose main aim is to verify and publicise the capture of specimen fish caught on rod and line in Ireland, from both freshwater and sea. ISFC maintains a record of specimen fish, and publishes an annual report with details of all specimen fish caught for all species that year. There is also an annual awards ceremony.

Specimen fish must be weighed on a certified scales or measured on a measuring mat to be acceptable, and the claim must be verified by the ISFC. Anglers must submit a claim form with all the details of the capture. Anglers whose claims have been accepted qualify for a specimen award, which is a special merit badge for specimen fish, and a silver medal for a record fish. There are also awards for anglers who have caught more than 10 specimens, and more than 10 species. Some species are not eligible for specimen awards due to their rarity, as it is not considered acceptable to target them. Full details of the rules, eligible species and specimen weights, as well as information on how to make a claim, are available from www.irish-trophy-fish.com

In total, there have been 17775 marine specimen fish from Irish coastal waters ratified by the ISFC up to and including 2017. 8462 (48%) of those specimens were caught in the South West of Ireland which highlights the quality of fishing available in the area. There is a list of notable fish for the South West area on page 62.

Kayak Angling

Fishing from a kayak has become more popular in recent years with the development and improvement of both kayaks and the safety equipment needed. Having the ability to launch and fish in areas not easily accessed from the shore has opened up many new possibilities for the adventurous angler.

The Kayak

Kayaks are now common in a variety of sizes and styles to suit every aspect of fishing. The best all round kayak is a “sit on top” style. This allows the user to customize the layout with the accessories they choose to use. Depending on the type of water you are fishing, a kayak of 13 to 14 feet in length is the most comfortable to use.

Equipment

The basic equipment needed to safely fish from a kayak is a waterproof kayak suit or dry suit, a P.F.D. (personal flotation device), hand-held VHF radio or phone in a waterproof container, spare paddle, paddle leash, food and water, emergency signalling device, first aid kit.

Launching

Make sure to check the tides, weather, and sea area forecast for the day you plan to go fishing. Being on a kayak is not like being on a boat. If the wind increases it can make returning to shore difficult and in some cases dangerous. It is strongly advisable to tell at least two people where you are launching from, where you are going, and what time you plan to come ashore.

When launching your kayak, always go through your equipment before getting on to make sure everything is safely attached and that you have not left anything behind. Choose a launch spot that is safe and comfortable to access like a slipway or sandy beach. Avoid launching in a breaking surf as this can capsizes you.

Fishing from a kayak

There are three main types of fishing you can do from a kayak. Similar to boat fishing, you can use an anchor, drift or troll.

1. Fishing at anchor: When fishing at anchor, it is advisable to choose an area that has a sandy bottom to reduce the chance of the anchor getting caught.
2. Drift fishing: Drifting is a great way to cover ground and pick up a variety of fish. If the wind is strong, using a drogue is advisable to slow the speed of the drift down. Over rough ground, use feathers or three up flappers as these won't get snagged as easily as running ledgers.
3. Trolling: Paddling and trolling lures behind the kayak can produce great pollack & bass fishing as you cover more ground than you would drifting.

Always choose a comfortable place to fish that's not too far from shore until you become more comfortable and experienced on the water. Start small, aiming for mackerel, pollack, flatfish, sea trout etc. and work your way up to the bigger species. Remember to always keep your safety in mind.

Kayak fishing equipment

The most common type of rods used are small light boat rods that are easy to handle on the kayak. The short length is also helpful when landing fish as when they come to the surface, they are close to the kayak. A lot of fishing tackle companies are now creating rods suitable for kayaks. Reels are a personal preference. Fixed spool reels are easy to manage and have a fast retrieve, and are perfect for light fishing. When targeting bigger species such as tope, rays, ling and conger, having the power of a multiplier reel is a preferred option for most.

Traces and rigs similar to those used when boat fishing can be used from a kayak, but most prefer to shorten the overall length of the trace due to the lack of space on a kayak. Baited feathers, two or three hook flappers, running ledger and gilling traces are the most popular. Lure fishing with hard and soft lures is also very effective for pollack and bass.

The bait you use depends on the fish you want to catch. The most popular bait is either mackerel or ragworm. Cut the mackerel into thin strips about 2 inches long, and pin them on the end of the hook. For ragworm, thread or pin them on the hook like an earth worm. Big baits will catch big fish but not small fish, however, small baits will catch small fish and big fish. Digging and catching your own bait can prove more successful as fresh bait will always out fish frozen.

Recommended safety equipment

- Dry suit or kayak suit
- Whistle
- Hat, sunglasses, sun cream
- Personal Flotation Device
- Compass or GPS unit
- Flares/Strobe light
- Floating VHF radio
- First aid kit
- 5m of rope for towing/mooring
- Phone in a waterproof bag
- Food and water
- Accurate weather and tide report
- Paddle Leash
- Knife





Tackle & Rigs

Rods & Reels

There are rods to cover all types of angling, species and conditions, and dedicated sea anglers often have a large number of rods to cover all these situations. However, one or two rods can cover most of the shore angling found in the region. For most shore angling, a beach caster of 12-13 feet that can cast 3-6 ounces is required. Either a fixed spool reel or multiplier can be teamed with the rod. A shockleader must always be used when casting weighted traces from the shore. This is a length of heavier line running from the trace up the rod and onto the reel for several turns. The shockleader serves to absorb the shock to the mainline from casting a heavy weight, and prevents "crackoffs" where the mainline parts under the shock of casting and the lead weight and trace can fly off in any direction. A general rule of thumb is to use 10lbs breaking strain for every ounce of lead used, so to cast a 5oz lead use a 50lbs shockleader. Using line that is too light for casting heavy weights is extremely dangerous and should never be done.

For some situations, heavier gear is required – a 12-14 ft rod rated to cast 5-8oz weights, and powerful enough to pull fish out of heavy weed and rough ground. A robust reel is required to be teamed with this gear – certain reels are very popular among anglers for this purpose.

In many situations, a light spinning rod between 8-10 feet is perfectly adequate. Spinning or lure fishing for mackerel, pollack and other species does not require heavy tackle, and a lighter rod will provide more sport when playing fish. Float fishing is also a popular method, and again a lighter rod is perfect for this.

For boat angling, a short rod is usually used, anything between 6-8 feet being most common. Boat rods are rated for the size of fish expected, with the most popular rating probably the 12-20lbs category. This will cover most situations for boat angling, including reef fishing for pollack and other species, and fishing over clean ground for ray and other clean ground species.

For heavier fishing, particularly for shark, a rod rated 30-50lbs is ideal, and for targeting really big fish, like Common Skate, that run to over 200lbs, a 50-80lbs class rod may be needed. Rods should be teamed with appropriate reels and breaking strain line to cope with the expected species. All good tackle shops should be able to offer good advice on tackle.

Weights

There are many different kinds of lead weights, all designed for different purposes. For most sea fishing, anglers will use weights between 1 and 6 ounces, heavier weights are used for distance casting, or for holding bottom in a strong current. Weights come in all shapes and sizes, and different shapes help the weight to move, or not, in a certain way, in a current.

Grip weights have wires attached, which, when engaged help to anchor the weight on the bottom and stop it being dragged in the current. The wires can be disengaged too. Many grip weights also have a bait clip attached, which helps to anchor the baited hook close to the weight during the cast, reducing drag and adding distance.

For most beach fishing close in, a 2 or 3oz lead is sufficient. Flounder and turbot will investigate a moving bait, so a rolling lead that will move around in the surf can be more productive. If the tide rip is strong a heavier lead will be needed, maybe up to 5 or 6oz, and you may need to choose a lead that doesn't move around as much, e.g. a storm lead, pyramid lead, or watch lead. Sometimes twitching the bait back in slowly will create a bit of interest, and a watch lead is good here as it kicks up small clouds of sand each time it is dragged, attracting interest from fish.

Fishing for ray, dogfish and bull huss usually requires a longer cast into deeper water, and as these fish mainly hunt by scent, the bait should not move around much, so that fish can follow the scent trail to the bait. A 4-6oz grip lead is best in this situation, with the wires engaged so that the bait doesn't move in the current.

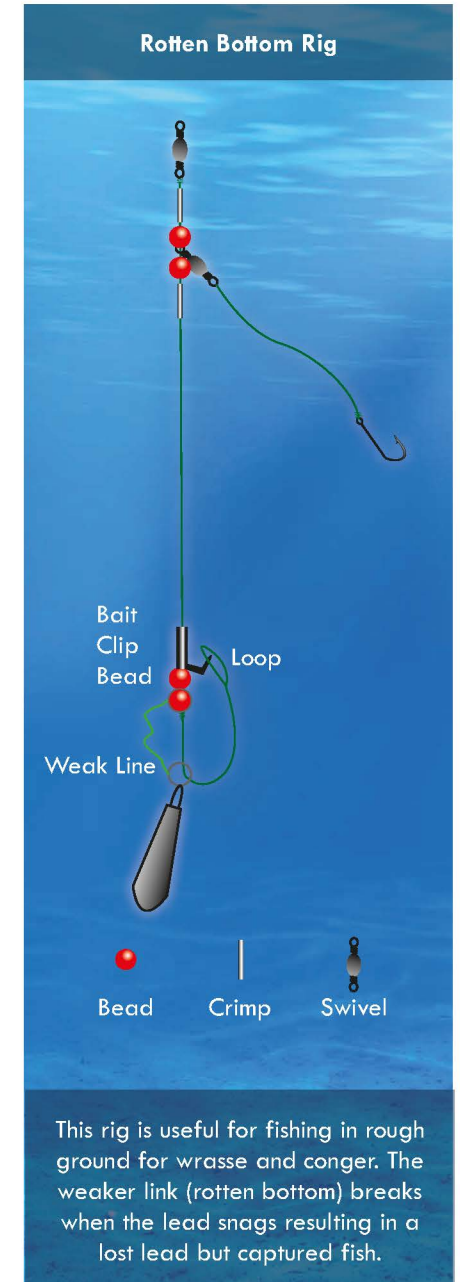
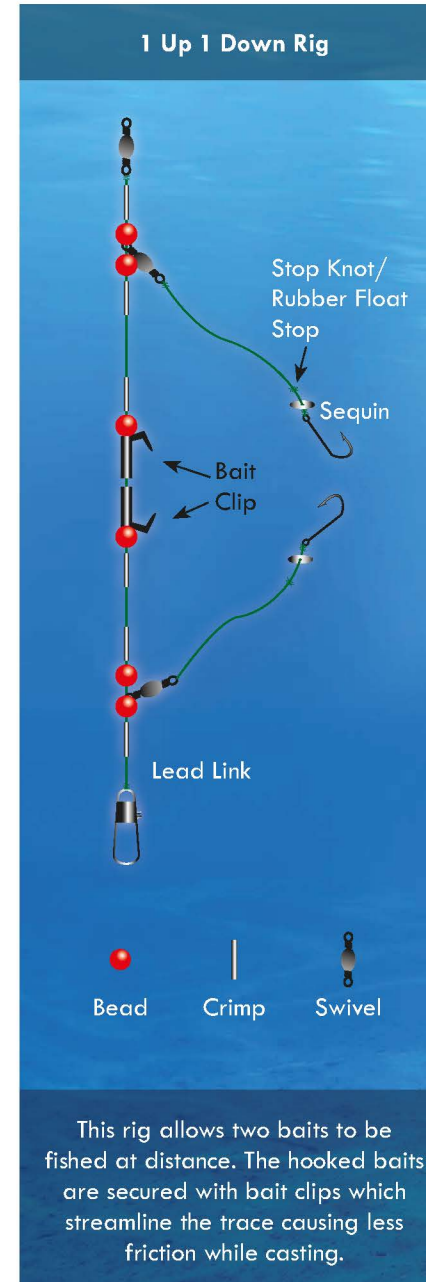
For spinning and float fishing, lighter leads are the order of the day, anything from 1/4oz to 2oz being the norm. Bullet leads with a hollow drilled core slide onto the line and are more streamlined for casting.

Accessories

For every piece of kit the angler needs there are a dozen accessories that will make the experience more efficient, listed below are some of the more important.

- **Knife:** A sharp knife is essential but remember always cut away from your body.
- **Disgorger:** This is very important when the angler wants to practice catch and release.
- **Rod rest:** This is useful when fishing static bottom baits and allows the angler time to perform other activities while still fishing, it also protects their equipment from the elements and damage.
- **Torch:** Essential for night fishing.
- **Tackle box:** Storage of traces, hooks, lures, swivels and other equipment.
- **First aid kit:** This may save someone's life and help prevent infection.

Traces - Shore Rigs



Traces - Shore Rigs

Pennel Rig

Impact Shield
Lead Link

Bead Crimp Swivel

This rig allows a large bait to be fished for e.g. bass, ray or huss. Two hooks secure the bait which allows for better bait presentation and the advantage of a hook either end of the bait.

Pulley Rig

Bead Crimp Swivel

This rig is useful for fishing over rough ground. It allows the lead to be lifted clear of snags when retrieving. It's very useful in rocky gullies when fishing for wrasse & conger and when shore fishing over weed covered rocks for ray & huss.

Traces - Boat Rigs

Lead Head Rig

Bead Crimp Swivel

This configuration is great fished with a spinning rod from a boat on the drift. Cast in the direction the boat is drifting and retrieve as the boat drifts over. It's effective on wrecks or over rough ground for pollack or coalfish.

The Running Ledger

Sea Boom

Bead Crimp Swivel

A running ledger can be used on the drift or down-tiding at anchor when you require your bait to fish tight to the bottom. This can be used in many variations of hook size and baits for all bottom feeding fish.

Traces - Boat Rigs

3 Hook Paternoster



A 3 hook paternoster rig can be used on the drift or down tiding to present a variety of baits at different heights off the bottom. It is also often used with a range of artificial baits or feathers for most whitefish or higher in the water for mackerel or scad.

Conger and Tote Trace



This is much like the running ledger but with the addition of a wire trace as protection against abrasion from sharp teeth.



Bait

Lugworm

Common black lugworm, or blow lug as it is known, can be dug on many sandy beaches and estuaries around the region. Lugworm is an excellent bait for shore fishing, particularly for flatfish such as flounder and dabs. It is also very good for targeting coalfish and whiting. It is often tipped off with a small strip of mackerel or squid to make a cocktail bait, and tipping off helps to keep the lugworm up the hook and makes for better bait presentation.



Mackerel



Mackerel is one of the most common baits used by sea anglers. As an oily fish, it gives off a great scent trail, and can draw fish into an area using their sense of smell. It is an excellent bait for both shore and boat fishing, and takes a wide range of species. It can be fished on its own, or as part of a cocktail bait, and is often used to tip off worm baits.

Ragworm

Ragworm is usually easier to obtain by ordering in a tackle shop but can be dug in many muddy estuaries. Ragworm is mainly a bait for boat anglers, it is rarely used by shore anglers. It can be presented whole, or cut in sections. Even cut into inch long sections it will continue to move on the hook for some time, and it is this movement that often triggers a bite. It is very good for fishing many species especially flat-fish on sandy beaches but can be used over rough ground and reefs, where it is a great bait for Pollock, ballan and cuckoo wrasse, and several other species.

Sandeel

Sandeel shoal in huge numbers during the summer months, and many species feed on them at this time. They are an oily fish and produce good scent. They are mainly used by shore anglers targeting ray, dogfish, bull huss and flatfish. They can be presented whole, or cut in half, and bound to the hook with bait elastic.



Crab is a common bait used in the region, especially when estuary fishing for bass. When it is in the moulting stage it is at its best for most species. Hardback crabs can be used when fishing from rocks, and are a great bait for targeting wrasse.

Squid

Squid can be obtained in most tackle shops, and many seafood shops too. A box of calamari squid is quite cheap, and provides a good supply of bait. Squid is most commonly used in strips to tip off other baits. It provides a visual attractant as the white strip flutters in the current (see photo). Squid can also be used to wrap fish or cocktail baits, such as mackerel and lug, to form a sausage bound with bait elastic to keep it on the hook. The tougher squid helps to protect the bait inside from crabs, and keeps it fishing for longer.



Harbour Ragworm

Harbour rag are better known to anglers as "maddies". They are small, red coloured ragworm found in soft muddy estuaries. Maddies are popular with shore anglers, particularly competition anglers, as they can often be the difference between catching fish and blanking in tough conditions. Maddies are usually fished very close in, in the surf, for flatfish. They are not a suitable bait for power casting, as they are quite soft and fly off the hook. They are hooked through the head on a fine wire hook, usually several at a time, and can be used to tip off other baits. They provide very good movement, and can attract flatfish even in the calmest conditions.

Razor Clam

Razor clams, or razorfish, are long bivalve shellfish found on sandy beaches around the low spring water mark. They can be collected on a low spring tide by pouring salt down their burrow and waiting for the clam to pop up in the sand. This is only possible on the very low spring tides that expose more sand.

Razorfish is a good bait for shore fishing, especially for bass and flatfish. It can be fished on its own, or as part of a cocktail bait with other baits. It is soft, and needs to be bound to the hook with bait elastic for casting.

Mussel/Cockle and Clam

These baits are quite commonly picked up on the shoreline and can at times be very good for catching a variety of species. Mussel is excellent for Cod and Coalfish while Cockle is a great cocktail bait for flatfish. All these molluscs are a great bait for Gilthead bream.



Species

Over 50 species can be landed from shore and boat in the region, from the humble but obliging flounder to blue and porbeagle sharks, and the magnificent common skate.

Flounder: Flounder prefer estuarine/brackish waters and are even found well up in the freshwater stretches of some rivers. They can be caught on most baits with worm and a bit of flash being particularly effective. Flounder generally don't have spots, and they can grow to about 5lb. Specimen size: 2.426lbs or $\geq 45\text{cm}$ (TL)

Dab: This small flatfish has a distinct curved lateral line near the head and scales are rough to touch when brushed backwards towards the head. Dab can be caught from early in the season and will take a wide range of baits. Specimen size: 1.32lbs or $\geq 37\text{cm}$ (TL)

Plaice: Plaice are brownish in colour with well-defined red or orange spots and a row of bony knobs on the head ridge behind the eyes. Plaice like estuarine conditions and mussel beds but can also be caught over sand. Worm baits combined with some colour and flash work best. Specimen size: 2.65lbs or $\geq 48\text{cm}$ (TL)

Black Sole: Soles have a footprint-like outline, very flexible bodies and are slimy to touch. Not common in Irish waters but can be taken on worm baits using small hooks. Often caught close in. Specimen size: 1.32lbs

Turbot: Turbot have diamond-shaped bodies and are a mottled sandy colour. Unlike other flatfish, turbot are a fish eater, and best baits are sandeel and mackerel strip. Much valued as a fish for the table they have become rarer in recent years. Specimen size: 11.02lbs

Brill: Similar appearance to turbot but more rounded in outline and with bony protuberances on its back. Not common but can be caught on fish and worm baits. Specimen size: 3.53lbs

Megrim: Megrim are pinkish brown, occasionally with some temporary mottlings. They are not common and are most often caught off deep-water marks. Specimen size: 1.75lbs

Lesser Spotted Dogfish (LSD): Small and slender, thickly sprinkled with small dark brown spots. Skin is very abrasive and can cause a nasty graze. They hunt in packs, prefer shallow water and can be caught on all baits. Specimen size: 3.25lbs.

Greater Spotted Dogfish (Bull Huss): Larger and stouter in the body than the LSD and often with larger spots. Prefers deeper water and foul ground with fish baits being best. Specimen size: 16lbs or $\geq 125\text{cm}$ (TL)

Spurdog: Blue-grey or brownish with a few pale spots and a claw-like spine in front of each of the two dorsal fins. Generally caught in deep water, most often from boats, using fish baits. Specimen size: 12lbs or $\geq 105\text{cm}$ (TL)

Topo: Small greyish shark, with short triangular pectorals and a short, deep notch in the tail-fin. They travel far and wide and arrive on Irish coasts in early summer. Most often targeted from boat, but they can be caught from some shore marks. Mackerel baits are best, and a heavy trace is required. Specimen size: 40lb or $\geq 155\text{cm}$ (TL)

Smoothound: Small, tope-like shark with, a shallow notch in the tail fin. Smaller fish hunt in packs while larger fish are more solitary. Can be caught on a range of baits but are partial to crab. Specimen size: 9.92lbs or $\geq 103\text{cm}$ (TL)

Blue Shark: A long-distance ocean traveller that visits Irish waters in the summer months the Blue Shark is a vivid blue when first caught. Mostly targeted from a boat where mackerel baits fished on a wire trace in a slick of chum is the go-to tactic. Specimen size: 100lbs or $\geq 185\text{cm}$ (FL)

Porbeagle Shark: Shorter, stouter and less common than the Blue Shark, the porbeagle is an endangered species so anglers that catch one should take care to return it safely to the water. Caught using similar tactics to the Blue Shark. Specimen size: ≥ 180 (FL)

Common Skate: Common Skate have a diamond-shaped body with a pointed nose. These large bottom dwellers are also on the endangered list and have become less common around the Irish coast. Rarely caught from the shore. Large fish baits fished on the bottom over sand using heavy gear and a wire trace are required to land one of these monsters. Specimen size: $\geq 180\text{cm}$ (TL)

Blonde Ray: Diamond-shaped with fawn or brownish upper side, thickly sprinkled with small dark brown spots which extend to the rear of the wings. Prefers calm conditions and sandy ground. Fish baits work best. Specimen size: 25lbs or $\geq 100\text{cm}$ (TL)

Sting Ray: Diamond-shaped with a long, barbed venomous spine where the tail joins the body. This can inflict severe and possibly dangerous wounds. Prefers calm conditions and shallow sandy ground. Fish baits work best. Specimen size: 28.66lbs or $\geq 90\text{cm}$ (TL)

Undulate Ray: Diamond-shaped with undulated wings and a strong pattern of dark lines bordered with a row of white spots on its topside. Will take most baits and prefers slightly deeper water. Tralee Bay is a noted hotspot. Specimen size: $\geq 85\text{cm}$ (TL)

Painted (Small Eyed) Ray: Diamond-shaped with a pointed snout and a sandy brown topside with light lines running parallel to the rear of the wing. Will take most baits, but sandeel & crab can be particularly effective. Specimen size: 10lbs or $\geq 80\text{cm}$ (TL).

Homelyn (Spotted) Ray: Generally resembles blonde ray, but the spots are larger, less numerous and typically do not extend to hind margin of wings. Prefers calm conditions and sandy ground. Fish baits work best. Specimen size: 5lbs or $\geq 65\text{cm}$ (TL)

Thornback Ray: Ireland's most common ray species gets its name from a curved row of spines on the upper surface of each wing. Prefers calm conditions and sandy ground. Fish baits work best. Specimen size: 15.43lbs or $\geq 100\text{cm}$ (TL).

Cod: A hugely popular table fish, cod have suffered from overfishing and are not as common as they once were. Cod will take just about any bait and will also be taken on pirks, jigs and jelly worms/shads. Specimen size: 15.43lbs or $\geq 88\text{cm}$ (TL)

Pollock: One of Ireland's most common sea angling species, the pollock inhabits reefs, wrecks, kelp beds and rough ground. They will take most baits and will also readily take soft plastic lures and flies tied to imitate baitfish. Specimen size: 12lbs or $\geq 82\text{cm}$ (TL).

Coalfish: Similar in appearance to pollock but with silver flanks and a straight lateral line. They also inhabit the same areas as pollock and can be caught using much the same methods. Specimen size: 13.23lbs or $\geq 86\text{cm}$ (TL).

Whiting: Very common around the Irish coast, particularly later in the year when they move closer to the shore. Can be taken on most natural baits, and fishing at night produces best results. Specimen size: 3lbs.

Pouting: This small, deep-bodied member of the cod family is common around the Irish coast but is not generally targeted by anglers. They will take most natural baits, and the bigger specimens tend to be caught from a boat. Specimen size: 3lbs.

Hake: A deep-water fish that likes wrecks and reefs but is not common in Irish waters. They will take most baits and prefer larger offerings. Specimen size: 4.85lbs or $\geq 68\text{cm}$ (TL).

Ling: This eel-like fish is another that prefers deep water wrecks and reefs. Strong gear and big fish baits are needed to tackle the larger specimens, which are most often caught from boats. Specimen size: 25lbs.

Haddock: Primarily offshore species that is less common than it was due to it being a sought-after table fish. Prefers rough ground and strong currents where it can be taken on most natural baits. Specimen size: 5.51lbs or $\geq 63\text{cm}$ (TL).

Bass: Much sought after fish prized for its fighting qualities, it is common all around the SW coast and can be taken from beach, rock and estuarine marks. Natural baits work well, but lure fishing is extremely popular and fly fishing is also possible. Specimen size: 10lbs or $\geq 75\text{cm}$ (TL).

Garfish: Long, slender, sandeel like fish with a long, toothed, snipe-like bill. They are common all around the coast and tend to move about with mackerel shoals. Small spinners or small strips of mackerel are the best baits. Specimen size: 2.205lbs or $\geq 89\text{cm}$ (TL).

Tub Gurnard: The largest of our gurnards, the "Tub" is distinguished by its large, blue-rimmed, pectoral fins. Mostly taken from a boat using mackerel strips on Hokkais or similar rigs. Specimen size: 4.41lbs.

Red Gurnard: Smaller and more vividly red than the Tub with smaller pectorals, the Red Gurnard is common in Irish waters. It is a bottom-dwelling fish preferring sandy ground and is most often caught from a boat. Will take most natural baits, and the addition of a small spoon helps. Specimen size: 2lbs.

Grey Gurnard: The smallest of our gurnards, the Grey Gurnard is drabber in appearance than its larger relations. Common around the coast and can be targeted using similar methods to the Red Gurnard.

Ballan Wrasse: A tough, deep-bodied fish that inhabits inshore and offshore reefs, wrecks and kelp beds. Can be very varied in colour from drab browns to vivid blues and greens. Will take most natural baits and will also take small shads/jelly worms. Specimen size: 4.75lbs or $\geq 48\text{cm}$ (TL).

Cuckoo Wrasse: Males are orange, with vivid blue heads and vivid blue lines along the sides; females are reddish, with three dark spots on the back, under and behind the soft dorsal. Loves very rough ground and can be caught on most baits. Specimen size: 1.25lbs or $\geq 35\text{cm}$ (TL).

John Dory: A deep-bodied fish with a large head and huge, protrusible mouth and a prominent dark spot on the side. They like reefs and rough ground and are often taken when targeting pollock. Will take fish baits and can also be taken on jelly worms. Specimen size: 4lbs.

Scad: Shape somewhat like a mackerel, but body more compressed. Common around the coast and often move in tandem with mackerel shoals. Usually taken with Hokkais or baited feathers when targeting mackerel. Specimen size: 1.5lbs.

3 Bearded Rockling: Two barbels on the snout and one under chin make this small eel-like fish easily identifiable. Yellow-brown to reddish in colour, dappled with dark brown spots or blotches. A bottom feeder that likes foul ground and can be caught close in using fish baits. Specimen size: 1.75lbs.

Bluefin Tuna: This endangered species is becoming increasingly common off the Irish coast, and they are now being tagged and released as part of an IFI run research project [Tuna CHART](#). Only boats with a Bluefin licence are allowed to fish for them, which is usually done by trolling artificial squid on dedicated trolling gear.

Anglerfish: A huge head and wide mouth with numerous long teeth make the anglerfish instantly recognisable as does the worm-like 'lure' on a ray that projects over the mouth. They are usually caught while targeting other bottom-dwelling fish. Specimen weight: 17.64lbs

Conger eel: This large eel inhabits inshore and offshore reefs and rocks, wrecks, piers, harbour walls & jetties. It is targeted using fresh mackerel or other fish baits. Specimen size: 40lbs or $\geq 165\text{cm}$ (TL).

Monkfish/Angel shark: Looks like a cross between a shark and a skate and is often confused with the angler fish. Once quite common, it is now exceedingly rare, and those that are taken are taken when targeting other bottom-feeding species using fish baits. Specimen size: $\geq 125\text{cm}$ (TL).

Grey (Thick Lipped) Mullet: The largest of our mullet species, the grey mullet is common on the Irish coast and gets one of its names from the thick upper lip used for scraping food from rocks. They patrol in shoals and feed on just about anything but can be very shy and difficult to tempt. They are often caught using float tactics similar to freshwater anglers, using bread or small pieces of fish. Specimen size: 5lbs.

Exotic Species

Trigger Fish: Autumn visitor with a plate-like appearance that has a diet similar to wrasse. Specimen size: 3.25lbs

Gilthead Bream: Blunt head with a noticeable gold bar across eyes, body silver in colour. Often taken on crab or worm baits. Specimen size: 3.08lbs.

Golden Grey Mullet: The smallest member of the Mullet family, silver in colour with a noticeable golden spot on the gill plate. They are most often caught on small ragworm baits or baited spoons. Specimen size: 1.5lbs

Thin Lipped Mullet: Very similar to Thick Lipped mullet but lips are noticeably thinner, and the body is more elongated. Taken using similar methods to thick lipped mullet. Specimen weight: 3.31lbs.

Mini Species

Launce

Tadpole fish

Poor Cod

Dragonette

Topknot

Tompot Blenny

Shore Rockling

Black Goby

Goldsinney Wrasse

Rock Cook Wrasse

Short Spined Sea Scorpion

Long Spined Sea Scorpion

5 bearded Rockling



Angling Marks

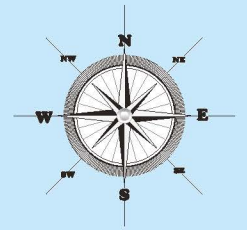
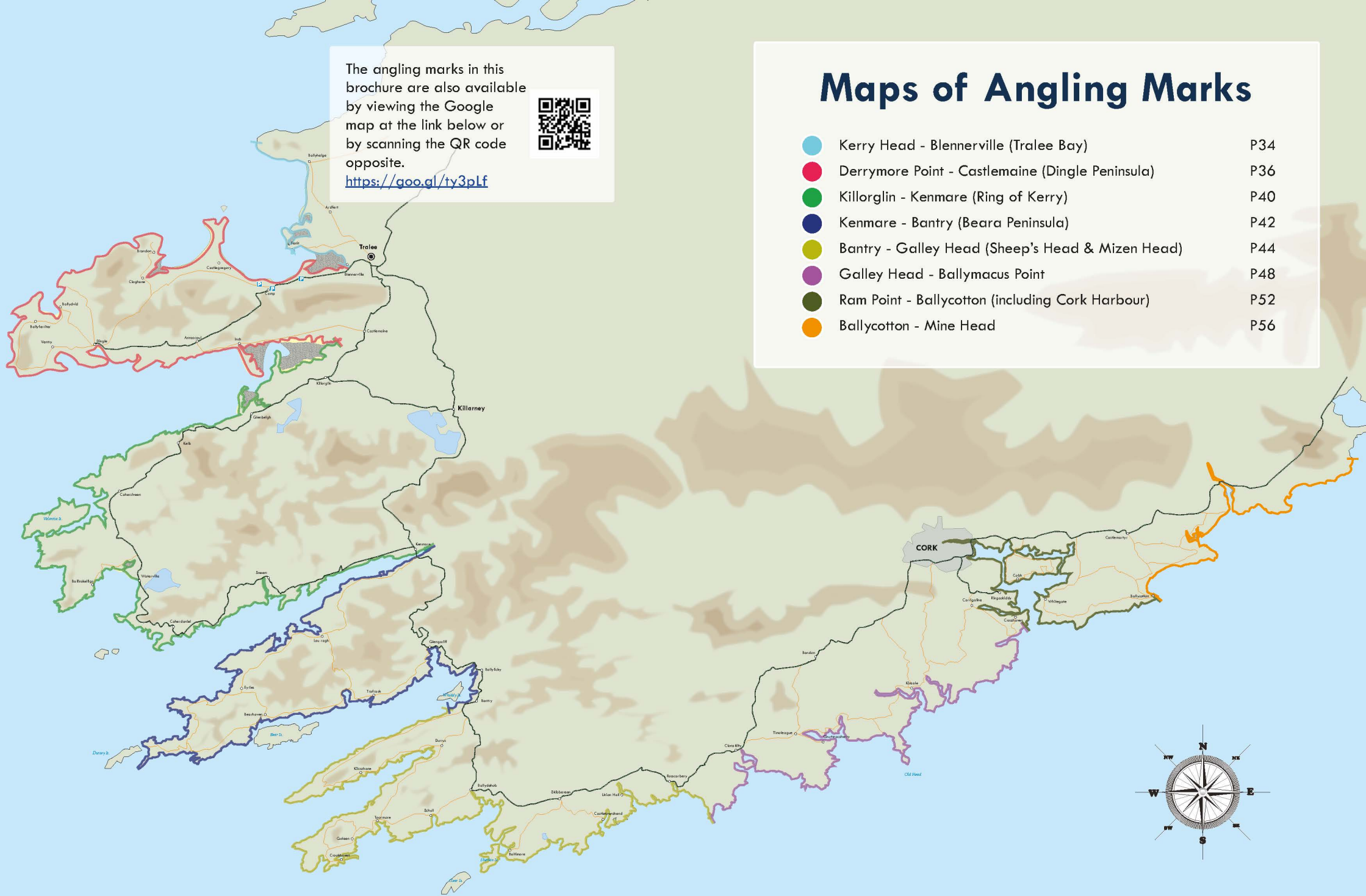
The angling marks in this brochure are also available by viewing the Google map at the link below or by scanning the QR code opposite.

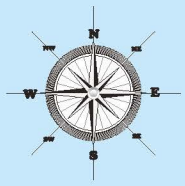
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Maps of Angling Marks

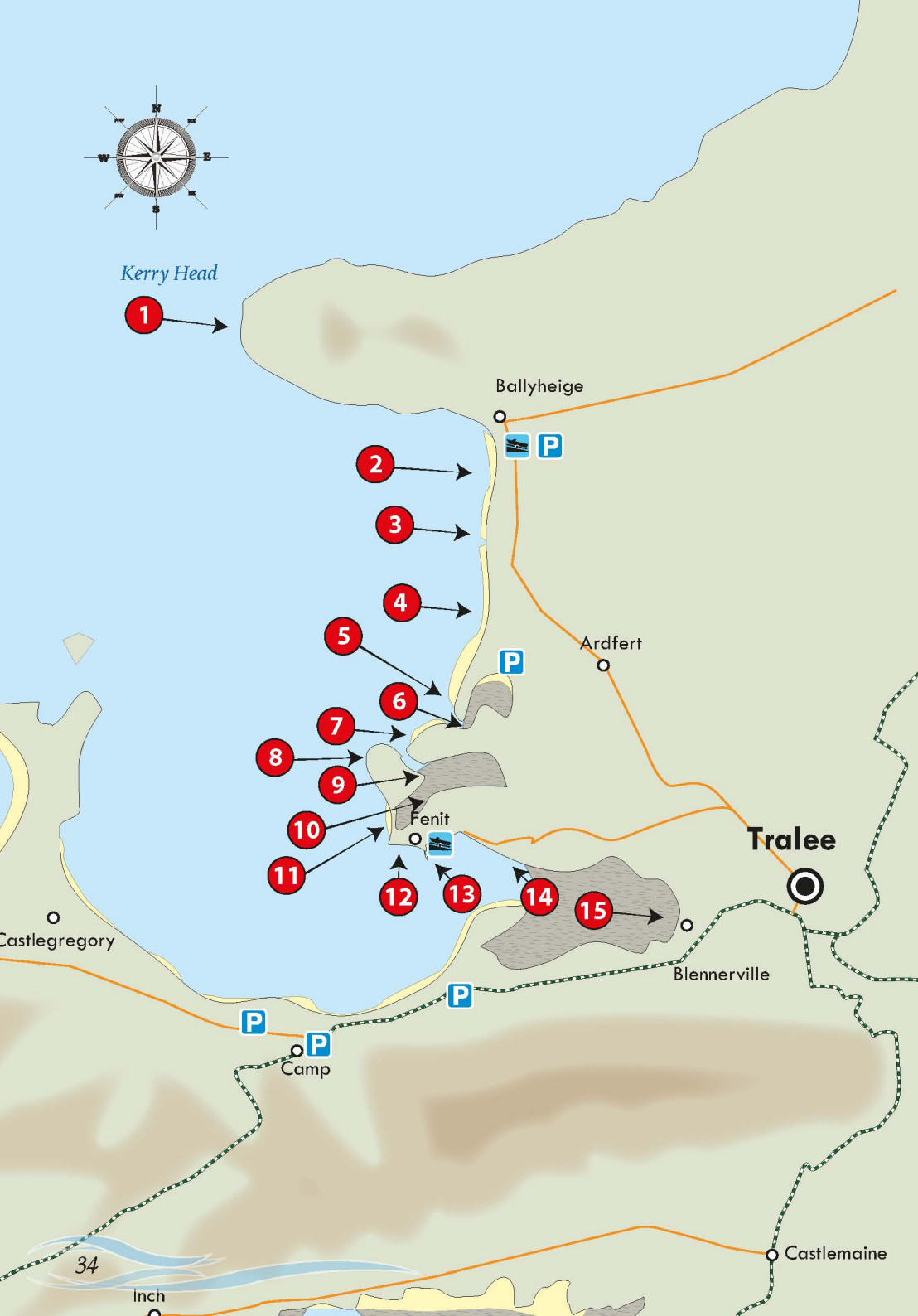
- Kerry Head - Blennerville (Tralee Bay) P34
- Derrymore Point - Castlemaine (Dingle Peninsula) P36
- Killorglin - Kenmare (Ring of Kerry) P40
- Kenmare - Bantry (Beara Peninsula) P42
- Bantry - Galley Head (Sheep's Head & Mizen Head) P44
- Galley Head - Ballymacus Point P48
- Ram Point - Ballycotton (including Cork Harbour) P52
- Ballycotton - Mine Head P56





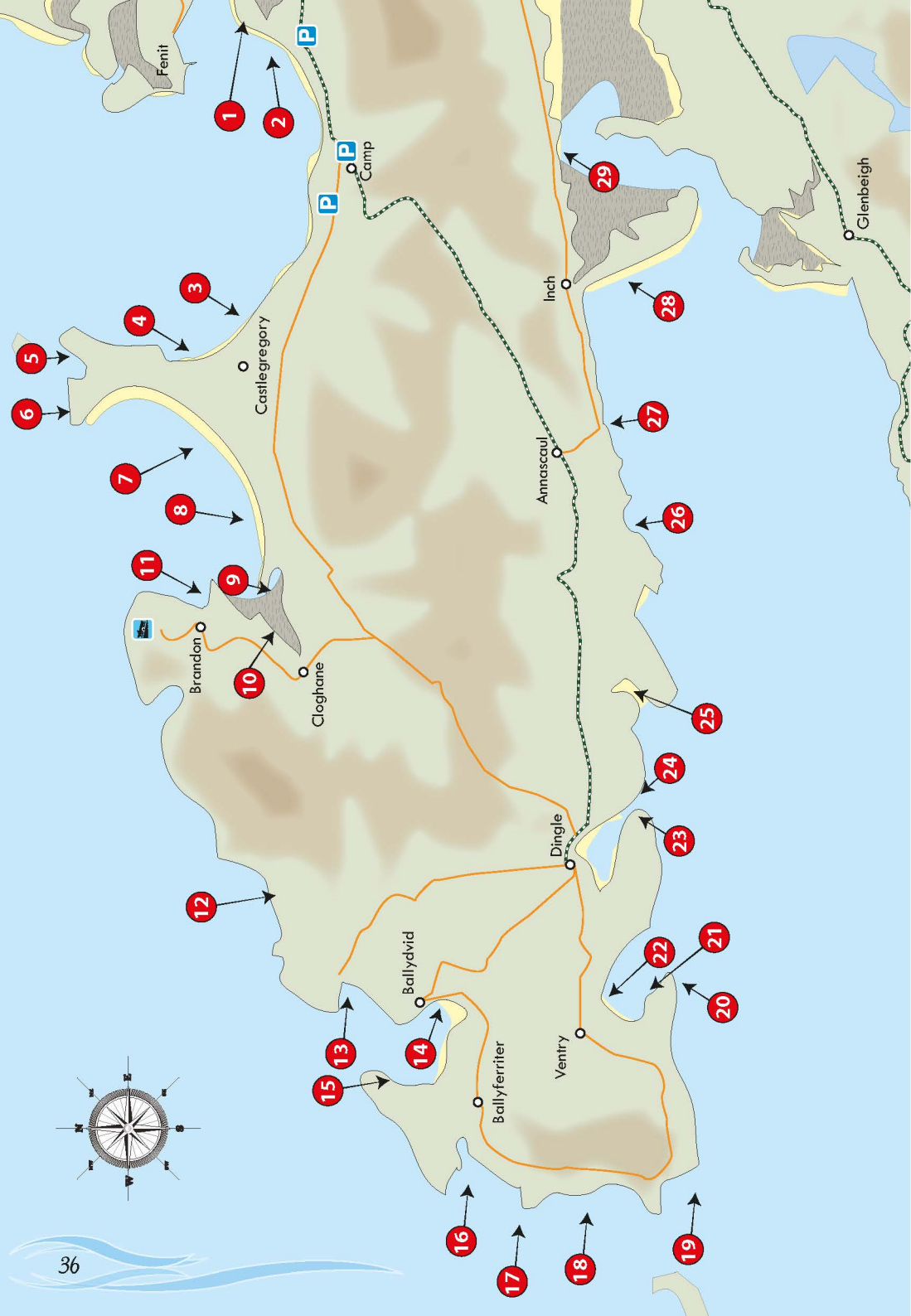
Kerry Head

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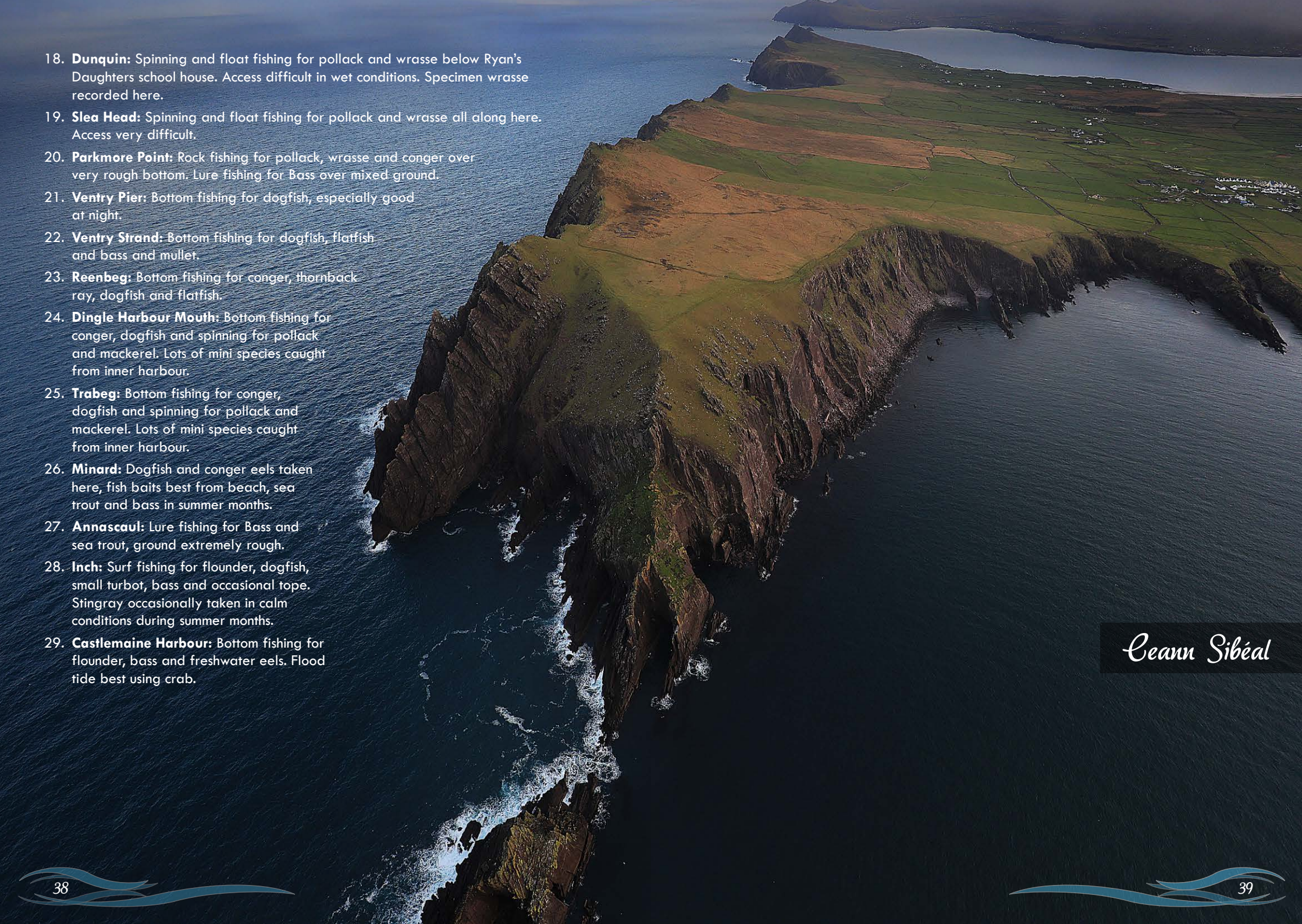
Kerry Head - Blennerville (Tralee Bay)

1. **Kerry Head:** About 5kms northwest of Ballyheigue, there is a left-hand fork off the main road. Follow this road until it reduces onto a track. Continue along the track until the left-hand fork and park here. A 400 metre walk to the northwest leads to a rocky outcrop. Access can be difficult in wet conditions, so care should be taken. This is an excellent spot for ballan wrasse to 5lbs. Spinning for Mackerel and pollack and bottom fishing for dogfish is possible. Bull huss and conger over the rough ground using fish bait is also possible. All stages of the tide are suitable. These rocks should not be approached in onshore winds or heavy sea swells.
2. **Ballyheige:** Surf fishing for flatfish and some bass. Flood tide best.
3. **Black Rock:** Spinning from rocks on seaward side for some bass, last of ebb to early flood. Bottom fishing to north east of rock at high water for flounder, small turbot and bass. Danger of being cut off on spring tides.
4. **Banna Strand:** Surf fishing all along beach for flounder, turbot and bass.
5. **Carrahane Channel Mouth:** Bottom fishing for flounder, turbot, painted ray and bass. Spinning in channel for bass and sea trout. Late ebb and early flood.
6. **Poll Gorm:** Bottom fishing for small turbot, flounder, bass, tope and ray. Spinning from rocks to west for sea trout and bass.
7. **Round Castle:** Fishing from rocks into channel for flounder, small turbot, bass and occasional ray. Flounder and bass (surf fishing) from beach. Flood tide best.
8. **Fenit Island:** Spinning and float fishing from rocks for pollack, bass and wrasse.
9. **Barrow Harbour Channel:** Bottom fishing for dogfish, flounder, bass and occasional tope on southern side. Also spinning for some bass. Late ebb to early flood best.
10. **Barrow Harbour (Inner):** Bottom fishing for flounder, plaice and some bass. Float fishing for mullet in channel at high water.
11. **Fenit Island Strand:** Bottom fishing for flounder and bass. Night tides best.
12. **Fenit Pier Beach:** Bottom fishing for flounder, dogfish and bass. Night tides best. Lure fishing on rocks near lighthouse.
13. **Fenit Pier: (Inner)** Bottom fishing from viaduct for dogfish, flatfish, ray and bass. Conger and small pollack from rocks on seaward side of viaduct. (Outer) Bottom fishing for flatfish, ray, dogfish, whiting and conger at extreme end and seaward side. Occasional tope, monkfish, and common skate have been taken here. Good mullet fishing on inside of pier using small pieces of fish offal.
14. **The Spa:** Bottom fishing for stingray, undulate ray, painted ray, thornback ray, dogfish, flounder and conger, peeler crab and fish baits best on flooding tide. Care needs to be taken as tide floods fast.
15. **Blennerville Channel:** Bottom fishing during flood and high water for flounder and some bass. Specimen bass recorded here.

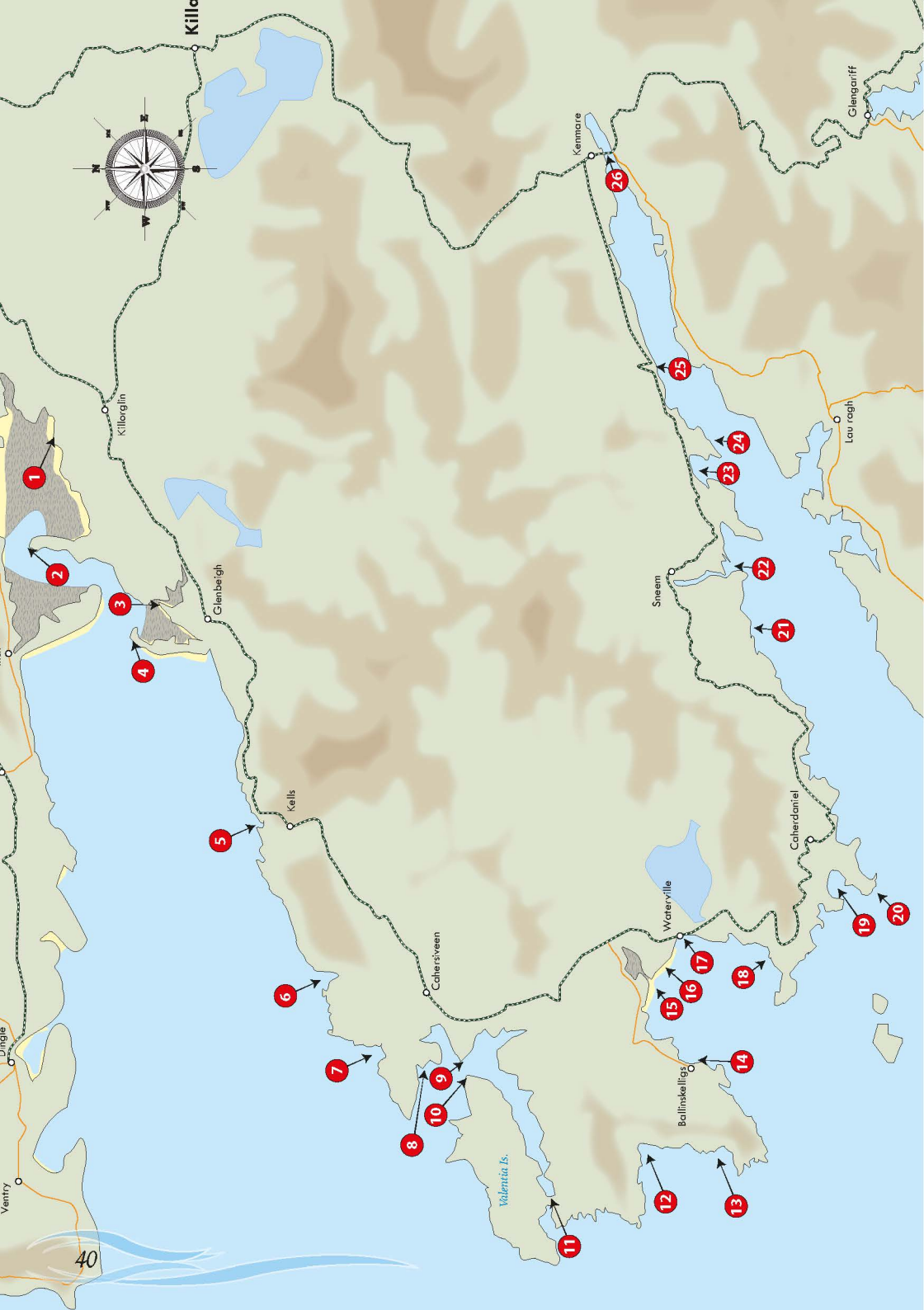


Derrymore Point - Castlemaine (Dingle Peninsula)

1. **Derrymore Point:** Fish on a flooding tide for tope, stingray, undulate ray, thornback ray, painted ray, dogfish, flounder and bass. Access difficult, peeler crab and fish baits best.
2. **Derrymore Strand:** Surf fishing for flatfish, ray and bass.
3. **Castlegregory Beach:** Fishing for flounder, dogfish, painted ray and bass near stream.
4. **Lough Gill Rivermouth/Sandy Bay:** Fishing for flatfish, dogfish and bass at high water. Further north at Sandy Bay, painted, thornback, sting rays and dogfish are taken from the car park during the last of the flood and high water. Specimen sting ray recorded here. Fish baits best.
5. **Kilshanig:** Fishing for bass and stingray in sandy gullies with crab baits, this area can be very weedy at times depending on prevailing winds.
6. **Fahamore:** Bottom fishing, float fishing and spinning for conger, wrasse and pollack over rough ground.
7. **Stradbally:** Good surf fishing for bass, flounder, painted ray, coalfish and sea trout can also be caught here on small fish baits.
8. **Brandon Bay Beach:** Surf fishing all along this beach for flatfish and bass. Painted ray taken during night tides in summer and autumn months. Sandeel and worm baits best.
9. **Cloghane Estuary:** Good lugworm beds in this area.
10. **Cloghane:** Spinning and bottom fishing for good flounder and bass on flooding tide. Many specimen flounder recorded here and crab best bait.
11. **Ballyquin Beach:** Surf fishing for flatfish, lesser and greater dogfish and bass. Live sandeel can be gathered here.
12. **Brandon Creek:** Rock fishing on eastern shore for conger, wrasse and lesser and greater dogfish. Spinning for pollack and mackerel. This mark can be dangerous with Atlantic swells rolling in.
13. **Feohanagh:** Rock fishing for wrasse and conger and spinning for pollack. Specimen wrasse recorded here.
14. **Ballinrannig:** Surf fishing for flounder and bass.
15. **Dun an Oir:** Float fishing on western side of Smerwick Harbour for wrasse, also spinning for pollack.
16. **Ferriter's Cove:** Bottom fishing for flounder, dab, bass and dogfish. Fishing near stream on last of flood and high water has produced specimen flounder.
17. **Clogher Head:** Very good wrasse from northern side of headland. Irish Record taken from here. Care must be taken in wet and windy conditions, as access is very difficult.

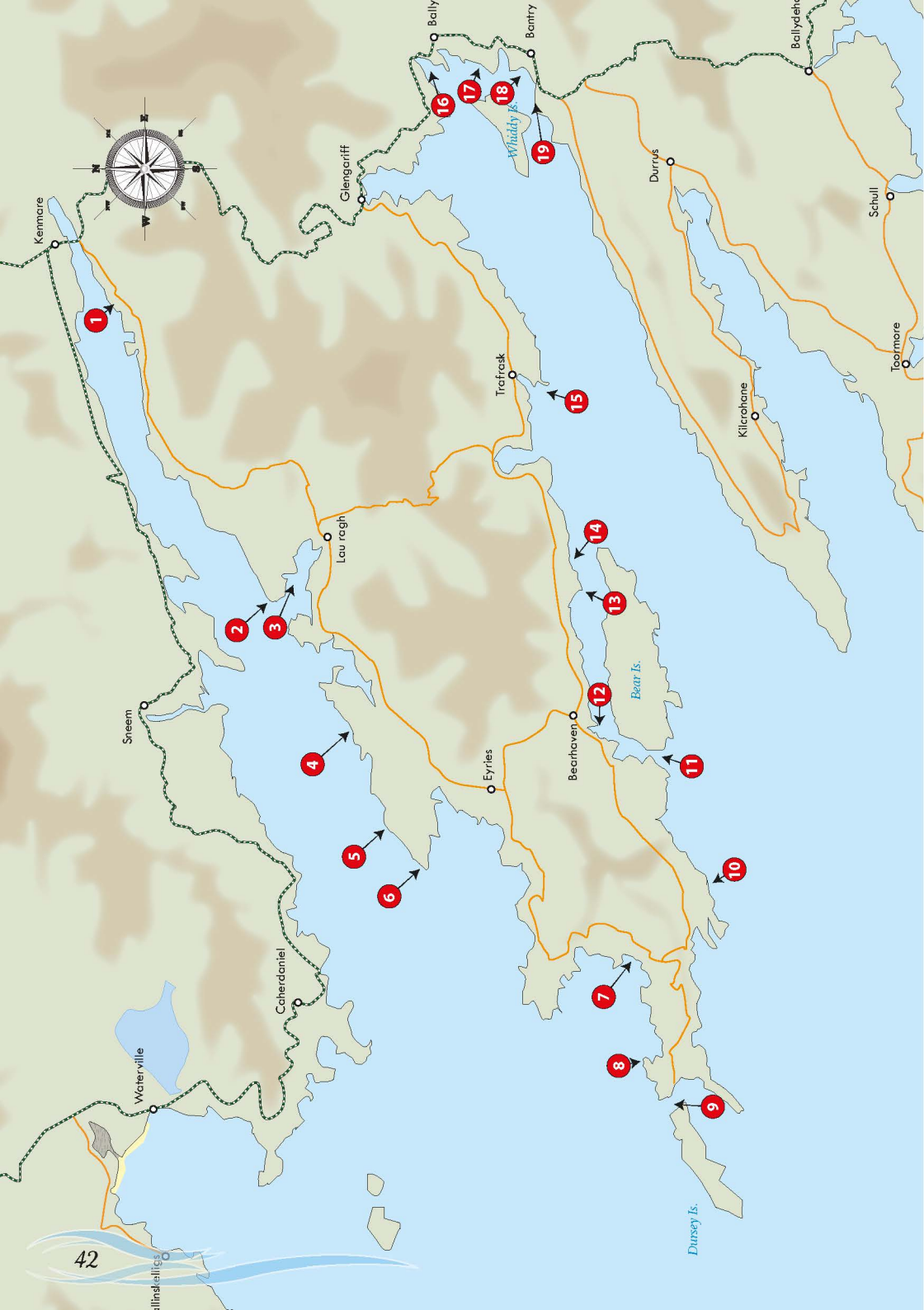
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18. **Dunquin:** Spinning and float fishing for pollack and wrasse below Ryan's Daughters school house. Access difficult in wet conditions. Specimen wrasse recorded here.
19. **Slea Head:** Spinning and float fishing for pollack and wrasse all along here. Access very difficult.
20. **Parkmore Point:** Rock fishing for pollack, wrasse and conger over very rough bottom. Lure fishing for Bass over mixed ground.
21. **Ventry Pier:** Bottom fishing for dogfish, especially good at night.
22. **Ventry Strand:** Bottom fishing for dogfish, flatfish and bass and mullet.
23. **Reenbeg:** Bottom fishing for conger, thornback ray, dogfish and flatfish.
24. **Dingle Harbour Mouth:** Bottom fishing for conger, dogfish and spinning for pollack and mackerel. Lots of mini species caught from inner harbour.
25. **Trabeg:** Bottom fishing for conger, dogfish and spinning for pollack and mackerel. Lots of mini species caught from inner harbour.
26. **Minard:** Dogfish and conger eels taken here, fish baits best from beach, sea trout and bass in summer months.
27. **Annascaul:** Lure fishing for Bass and sea trout, ground extremely rough.
28. **Inch:** Surf fishing for flounder, dogfish, small turbot, bass and occasional tope. Stingray occasionally taken in calm conditions during summer months.
29. **Castlemaine Harbour:** Bottom fishing for flounder, bass and freshwater eels. Flood tide best using crab.

Ceann Sibéal



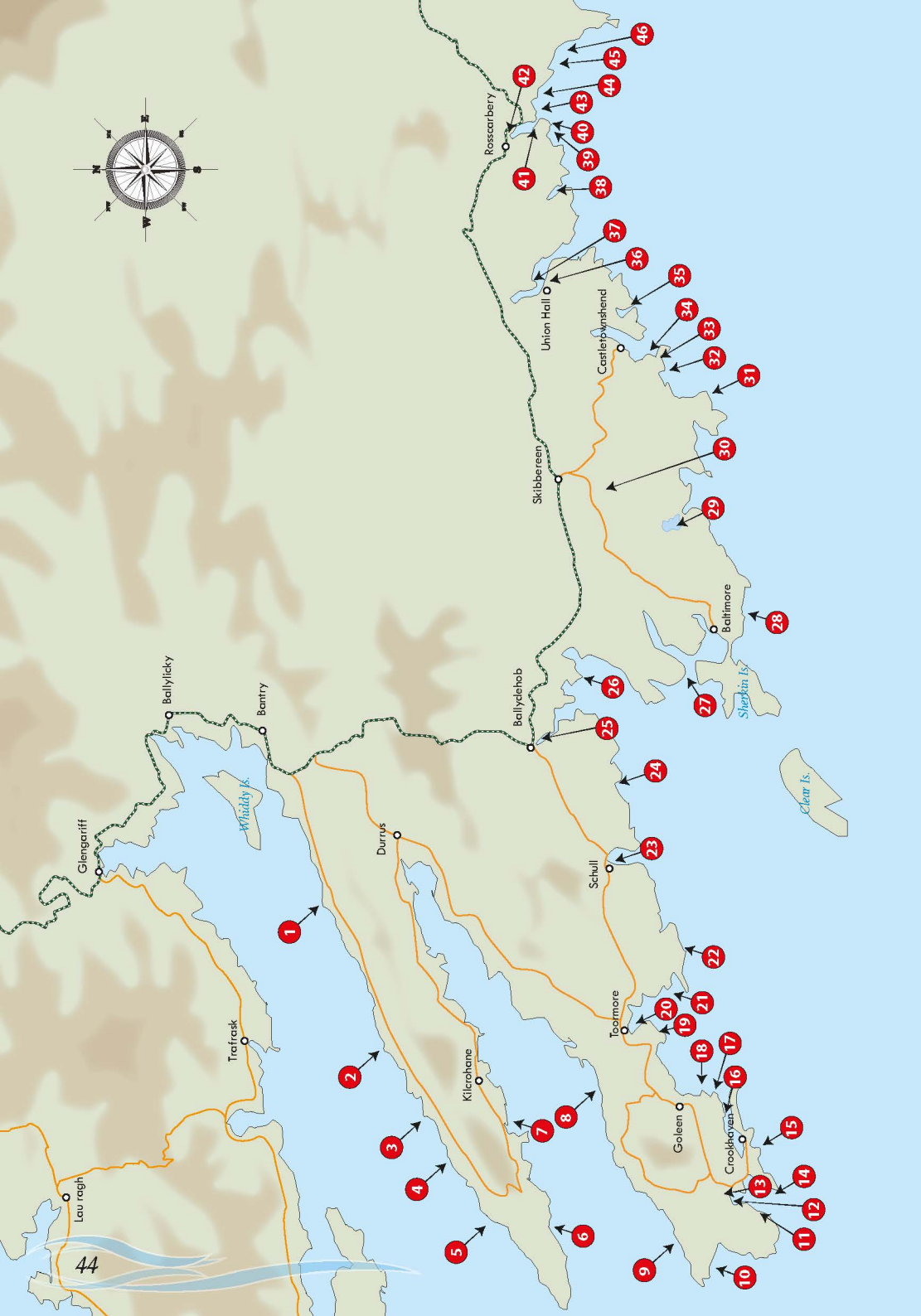
Killorglin - Kenmare (Ring of Kerry)

1. **Ballycasane Pier:** Bottom fishing for flounder and bass.
2. **Cromane Point:** Bass while spinning on early flood. Bottom fishing for flounder on eastern side of point.
3. **Rossbehy Creek:** Spinning for seatrout. Bottom fishing on seaward side of gap in old causeway at Rossbehy Creek for flounder and bass.
4. **Rossbeigh Point:** Surf fishing on beach and at point for flounder and bass. Occasional tope and ray in calm conditions.
5. **Kells Bay:** Rock fishing for pollack, wrasse and dogfish. Specimen trigger fish recorded here.
6. **Coonana Harbour:** Rock fishing on western shore for pollack, wrasse, trigger fish and mackerel.
7. **Cooncrome Harbour:** Pier fishing for flatfish, rockling, trigger fish and conger.
8. **Lough Kay:** Beach fishing for flatfish and occasional ray.
9. **Reenard Point:** Pier fishing for dogfish and mackerel.
10. **Valentia Harbour:** Bottom fishing for rockling, bull huss, dogfish, ray and conger. Float fishing for mullet in harbour.
11. **Portmagee:** Bottom fishing and spinning for dogfish and small pollack from bridge. Float fishing for mullet off pier and bottom fishing for conger.
12. **St. Finian's Bay:** Surf fishing for flounder and some bass. Lure fishing for bass from rocks on southern side of bay.
13. **Bolus Head:** Rock fishing for wrasse pollack and mackerel.
14. **Ballinskelligs:** Fishing from beach for mullet & bass.
15. **Inny River Mouth:** Surf and beach fishing at river mouth and from beach for flounder and bass.
16. **Smugglers:** Lure fishing over rocky ground for bass.
17. **Waterville:** Beach fishing below car park for flounder, plaice and bass.
18. **Hogs Head:** Rock fishing for pollack, wrasse and mackerel.
19. **Derrynane:** Surf fishing for flatfish and bass.
20. **Lams Head:** Rock fishing for pollack, wrasse, dogfish, occasional conger and mackerel.
21. **Gleesk:** Rock fishing for wrasse, pollack, dogfish, conger and occasional ray.
22. **Oysterbed Pier:** Bottom fishing for conger, ray, wrasse and mullet.
23. **Tahilla Cove:** Bottom fishing for ray and dogfish.
24. **Rossmore Island:** Rock fishing for wrasse, pollack and mackerel.
25. **Blackwater Harbour:** Bottom fishing and spinning for ray, conger, pollack and specimen spurdog from the rocks to the west of the pier, best baits are mackerel and sandeel.
26. **Kenmare Pier:** Spurdogs and occasional thornback ray recorded here, mackerel and bass from bridge.



Kenmare - Bantry (Beara Peninsula)

1. **Dawros:** Spurdog, thornback ray and dogfish on flooding tides, fish baits best.
2. **Killmackilloge Point:** Fishing for mackerel, pollock, wrasse and conger.
3. **Bunaw:** Pier fishing for conger eels and mullet, fish baits best.
4. **Foialthuggig:** Bottom fishing for conger, spinning for pollack and float fishing for wrasse.
5. **Eskaphreaghau:** Spinning for pollack and float fishing for wrasse. Bottom fishing for conger and bull huss on fish baits.
6. **Kilcatherine Point:** Spinning for pollack and float fishing for wrasse. High water best.
7. **Ballydonegan Strand:** Bottom fishing for bass and flounder on sandy beach at mouth of stream. Bottom fishing from pier for dogfish, rockling and conger. Lugworm and crab best baits.
8. **Dursey Rocks:** Good wrasse fishing on north western side of cable car also spinning for pollack and mackerel. Conger, ling and mullet on fish baits.
9. **Dursey Sound:** Float and bottom fishing for wrasse and spinning for pollack.
10. **Matthew's Rocks:** Spinning for pollack and float fishing for wrasse. Bottom fishing for conger.
11. **Piper's Rocks:** Park your car near the end of track and walk half a mile down to point opposite lighthouse on Bear Island. Float and bottom fishing for wrasse. Spinning for mackerel and pollack. Deep water towards the channel.
12. **Castletownbere Harbour:** Bottom fishing for conger from the pier. Float fishing for mullet using small pieces of fish offal.
13. **Coarrid Point:** Bottom fishing for ray, dogfish, conger and three bearded rockling. Fish bait best.
14. **Bank Harbour:** Bottom fishing for flatfish on flooding tide. Floatfish for mullet at high water.
15. **Shot Head:** Spinning for mackerel and pollack and float fishing for wrasse.
16. **Coomhola Estuary:** Bottom fishing on late flood and high water for flounder. Soft or peeler crab best.
17. **Reenydongan Lake:** Bottom fishing at mouth of lake for dogfish and flounder and some thornback ray. Late flood and high water best.
18. **Bantry Pier:** Bottom fishing for conger and dogfish. Night time best for conger and the pier has a light. Good mackerel fishing from pier.
19. **Beach Strand:** Clean steep-to beach beside airstrip. Excellent bottom fishing for thornback ray, dogfish, flatfish and bull huss. Best baits mackerel and sandeel. Lure fishing for bass can also be productive here. Razor fish at low water springs. Approach the beach via the path and avoid traversing the airstrip.



Bantry - Galley Head (Sheep's Head & Mizen Head)

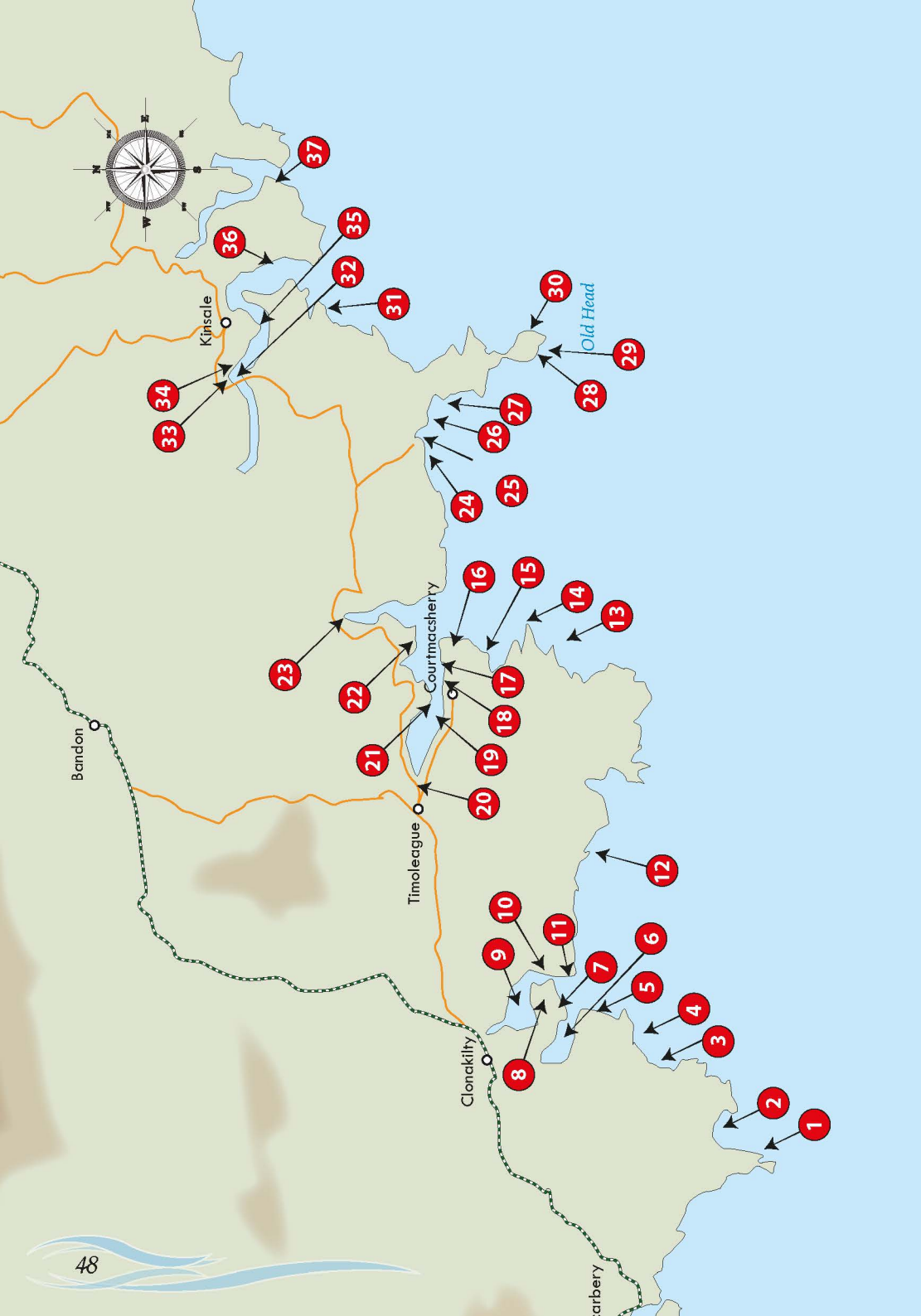
1. **Gerahies Pier:** Float fishing for mullet and ground baiting is essential. Bottom fishing for conger and night time best. There is a light on the pier.
2. **Goat's Path:** Spinning for mackerel and pollack and float fishing for wrasse with crab, shrimp or worm baits.
3. **Collack:** Float fishing for wrasse. Good wrasse taken from here on crab baits, also spinning for pollack.
4. **Glanroon:** Float fishing for wrasse within the confines of the cove. Spinning for pollack and mackerel and float fishing for wrasse on seaward side of cove.
5. **The Cove:** Spinning for mackerel and pollack, also float fishing for wrasse. Bull huss and conger on bottom fished baits.
6. **Folibeg:** Float fish for wrasse and spinning for pollack and mackerel.
7. **Dooneen Pier:** Bottom fishing for conger, rockling, dogfish and occasional bull huss.
8. **Leighillaun:** Bottom fishing for dogfish and occasional conger. Floatfishing for wrasse. Spinning for pollack and mackerel. Flood tide best.
9. **Tour Pier:** Spinning for pollack and mackerel. Float fishing for wrasse. Bottom fishing for conger. High water best.
10. **Dunlough Bay:** Spinning from jetty for pollack and small coalfish. Bottom fishing for conger and wrasse. High water most productive.
11. **Valid Creek:** Spinning from pier for coalfish, pollack and mackerel. Floatfishing for wrasse. Bottom fishing over mixed ground for codling, conger and occasional plaice, bass and ray.
12. **Barley Cove:** Surf fishing from north and east beaches for codling, flounder and bass, dab and plaice. Spinning from rocks for seatrout and bass.
13. **Barley Lake:** Bottom fishing from road bridge for flounder and mullet (ground baiting essential). High water best. Spinning in channel for occasional seatrout. Dusk on a flood tide most productive.
14. **Brow Head:** Deep water close in. Steep climb down, can be dangerous in wet conditions. Spinning from rock platforms for pollack and coalfish, conger and bull huss on fish baits. Float fishing for wrasse.
15. **Galley Cove:** Spinning from outer rocks for pollack and coalfish. Bottom fishing from inner rocks over mixed ground for flounder, dogfish, bullhuss, conger, occasional codling, small turbot and ray.
16. **Coast Guard Slipway:** Bottom fishing for flounder, dab, dogfish and occasional ray. Flood tide best.
17. **Rock Island Slipway:** Bottom fishing from rocks over sand for ray, dab, codling and dogfish. Spinning for pollack and mackerel. Floatfishing close to rocks for wrasse. Flood tide best.
18. **Spanish Point:** Spinning between point and reef for pollack and coalfish. Floatfishing for wrasse. Southern side of point most productive at high water.

19. **Ballyrisode Point:** Deep water close in. Spinning for pollack and coalfish. Float and bottom fishing for wrasse. Best at high water.
20. **Toormore:** Fishing from rocks on both sides of channel for wrasse, dogfish, bullhuss and flounder. Flood tide best.
21. **Derryleary:** Spinning from rocky outcrops for pollack. Bottom fishing in gullies for wrasse and occasional conger.
22. **Ballybrack:** Spinning for pollack and bottom fishing for wrasse from rocks facing Goat Island.
23. **Schull Pier:** Bottom fishing from head of pier for flounder. Floatfishing for mullet. Spinning for small pollack and occasional seatrout. High water best.
24. **Rossbrin Cove:** Bottom fishing from pier for flounder. Spinning for occasional seatrout. Floatfishing for mullet. Ground baiting essential. High water only.
25. **Ballydehob Harbour:** Bottom fishing in channel on eastern shore of island for flounder and spinning for seatrout, last two hours of ebb and first two hours of flood. Danger of being cut off at high water. Spinning for seatrout and bottom fishing for flounder between road bridge and old railway bridge, two hours either side of high water.
26. **Castleview:** Bottom fishing from point for flounder, dogfish and bass. Low water to high water best. Also spinning for sea trout at high water.
27. **Ilen Mouth:** Bottom fishing for flounder, dogfish and bass. Spinning for sea trout at high water, also float fishing for mullet.
28. **Trafraska:** Spinning for pollack and mackerel at high water. Float fishing for wrasse.
29. **Lough Hyne:** Lough Hyne has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation and anglers cannot keep fish caught in the lough. We would ask anglers to respect it's status as an SAC and minimise fishing effort in the area.
30. **Ilen River:** Float fishing for mullet at low water in channel beside main road upstream of bridge. Ground bait with bread flakes.
31. **Toe Head:** Spinning for pollack and mackerel. Float fishing for wrasse and bottom fishing for conger and bull huss on fish baits.
32. **Sandycove:** Bottom fishing for flatfish and dogfish at all stages of the tide. Spinning for pollack on rocks to the west.
33. **Horse Island Channel:** Bottom fishing for lesser spotted dogfish, bull huss and conger in channel. Moving left out of the channel area, flatfish and occasional ray are taken at low water. Spinning for coalfish and pollack on flooding tide.
34. **Battery Point:** Spinning and bottom fishing for pollack, flatfish and dogfish at low water.
35. **Blind Harbour:** Spinning for pollack and mackerel and float fishing for wrasse. Bottom fishing for flatfish, dogfish and occasional ray.
36. **Union Hall Pier:** Bottom fishing for flounder and spinning for mackerel on the outside of pier. Mullet and bass in estuary. Late ebb to early flood.

37. **Glandore:** Bottom fishing for dogfish, flatfish and bass.
38. **Mill Cove:** Bottom fishing for flounder and dogfish. Spinning for sea trout. Late ebb and early flood best.
39. **Rosscarbery:** Spinning and float fishing for pollack, mackerel and wrasse on headland behind Rosscarbery Pier. High water best.
40. **Rosscarbery Pier:** Lure fishing for mackerel and bass. Bottom fishing for flounder, gilthead bream, thick lipped/thin lipped/golden grey mullet, dogfish and bass. Flood tide and high water best.
41. **Rosscarbery Boat Slip:** Bottom fishing for flounder and gilthead bream. Spinning and bottom fishing for bass. Early flood to high water best for flounder. Float fishing for all the mullet species at low water in channel above boat slip and ground baiting is essential.
42. **Rosscarbery Road Bridge:** Float fishing both sides of road bridge for mullet. Ground bait with flakes of bread.
43. **Warren Strand:** Bottom fishing for flounder. Spinning and bottom fishing for flounder, gilthead bream, all the mullets and bass at channel end, early flood and late ebb. Surf fishing on main beach at cliff end for flounder and bass. Ray and dogfish taken during the summer months, especially at night. Low water and high water best.
44. **Owenahincha Strand:** Surf fishing for flounder and bass. Golden grey mullet can be caught here on harbour ragworm. Low water and first of ebb.
45. **The Long Strand (West):** Surf fishing for flounder and bass. Low water and first of ebb best. Spinning off rocks at western end for bass.
46. **The Long Strand (East):** Surf fishing for flounder and bass especially at river mouth. Occasional codling in the winter months. Low water and first of ebb.

Owenahincha Strand





Galley Head - Ballymacus Point

1. **Galley Head:** Spinning from rocks for pollack and mackerel and float fishing for wrasse with crab or worm baits.
2. **Redstrand:** Surf fishing for flatfish, dogfish, golden grey mullet, gilthead bream and bass.
3. **Dunnycove Bay:** Bottom fishing for flatfish, dogfish and bass. Distance casting produces ray. All stages of the tide.
4. **Dunnycove North:** Bottom fishing for flounder, dogfish and bass. Also spinning for pollack.
5. **Muckross Head:** Bottom fishing for flounder and bass. Last hour of ebb and first two hours of flood. Float fishing and spinning at high water.
6. **Muckross Estuary:** Bottom fishing for flounder and bass. Early flood.
7. **Virgin Mary's Point:** Bottom fishing, spinning and float fishing for bass and flounder. Gilthead bream occasional catch. All stages of the tide.
8. **Clonakilty Estuary:** Bottom fishing for bass, golden grey mullet, thick lipped mullet, gilthead bream and flounder. Last of ebb and first two hours of flood.
9. **Clonakilty Estuary:** Bottom fishing into channel for flounder, thick lipped mullet, golden grey mullet, gilthead bream and bass, early flood to high water. Crab best bait.
10. **Ring Harbour:** Drift lining sandeel/crab/shrimp for bass plus bottom fishing for flounder, gilthead bream, mullet and bass, early flood and late ebb. Specimen flounder/bass recorded here.
11. **Bar Rock:** Spinning and bottom fishing for bass, gilthead bream and flounder. Last hour of ebb and first two hours of flood. Bass over 16 lbs. have been recorded here.
12. **Barry's Cove:** Spinning and float fishing for pollack, mackerel and wrasse. Bottom fishing for conger either side of beach.
13. **Barry's Point:** Rock fishing for pollack, wrasse, mackerel and dogfish.
14. **Quarry Point:** Rock fishing for pollack, wrasse, mackerel and dogfish.
15. **Broadstrand Bay:** Beach fishing for bass and flounder.
16. **Land Point:** Spinning for pollack, bass and mackerel, bottom fishing for dogfish.
17. **Courtmacsherry Strand:** Beach fishing for bass, gilthead bream and flounder. Codling in the winter months on worm and crab baits.
18. **Courtmacsherry Pier:** Bottom fishing for conger, bass, mullet and flounder.
19. **School House:** Fishing into channel for bass, gilthead bream, mullet and flounder, late ebb to early flood best. Specimen bass and flounder recorded here.
20. **Timoleague:** Bottom fishing and driftlining for bass in pool below Argideen River Bridge and in channel. Two hours either side of high water best. Floatfishing for

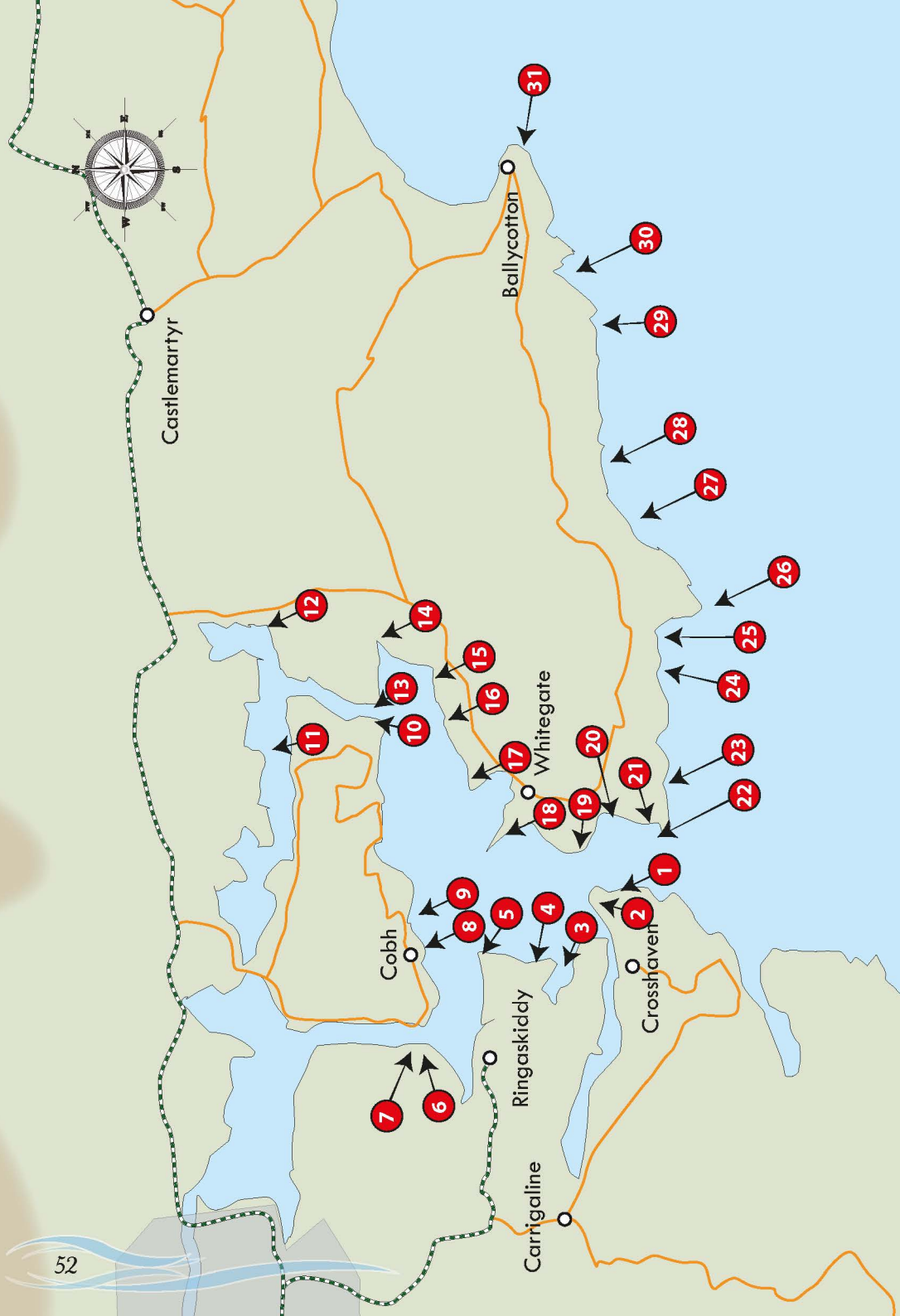
mullet from quay wall and bottom fishing for flounder. Specimen bass and flounder recorded here.

21. **Burren Pier:** Bottom fishing for bass, gilthead bream and flounder. First three hours of flood best. Specimen flounder recorded here. Crab can be picked here in weeds, some anglers have traps for crab in this area and shouldn't be interfered with without permission.
22. **Harbour View:** Spinning and bottom fishing from rocks over sand for bass, flounder, codling and occasional painted ray. Bottom fishing for flounder.
23. **Kilbrittain Creek:** Fishing in pools on either side of road for flounder and mullet and spinning in channel for seatrout and bass.
24. **Laherne Rocks:** Floatfishing on first two hours of flood tide for bass and wrasse, codling in the winter months. Danger of being cut off by rising tide.
25. **Garretstown Strand:** Surf fishing for bass and flatfish. Stretch of beach adjacent to Laherne Rocks best. Good surf necessary. Specimen flounder recorded here.
26. **Gorlaun Rock:** Spinning for bass and seatrout. Dusk most productive on flooding tide.
27. **White Strand:** Surf fishing for bass and flatfish especially at mouth of stream. Good surf necessary,
28. **Gorm Cove:** Rock fishing for wrasse, pollack, dogfish, mackerel and occasional conger. Access via rock steps.

29. **Lighthouse (South East):** Rock fishing for pollack, coalfish, mackerel, wrasse, occasional dogfish and conger. Access difficult.
30. **Gunhole Cove:** Rock fishing for pollack, coalfish, mackerel and occasional wrasse.
31. **Sandy Cove:** Fishing from rock outcrops on southern shore over sand for dogfish and flatfish. Lugworm can be dug here.
32. **Old Bridge:** Bottom fishing and driftlining for bass and flounder. Crab baits best. High water best.
33. **Gully Bridge:** Mullet in lagoon and flounder in main river. Bottom fishing and driftlining for bass in tidal flow under road. Late ebb of early flood best.
34. **Jagoe's Point:** Spinning for seatrout, ebb tide at dusk most productive. Bottom fishing for flounder and bass. Crab baits best.
35. **New Bridge:** Fishing into deep water at southern end of bridge for codling, pollack, coalfish, whiting, dogfish, flounder and bass. Two hours either side of high water best.
36. **Middle Cove:** Bottom fishing for dogfish, bull huss and occasional ray and codling. Fish baits best.
37. **Ballymacus Point:** Spinning for mackerel and pollack.



Inchydoney Beach



Ram Point - Ballycotton (including Cork Harbour)

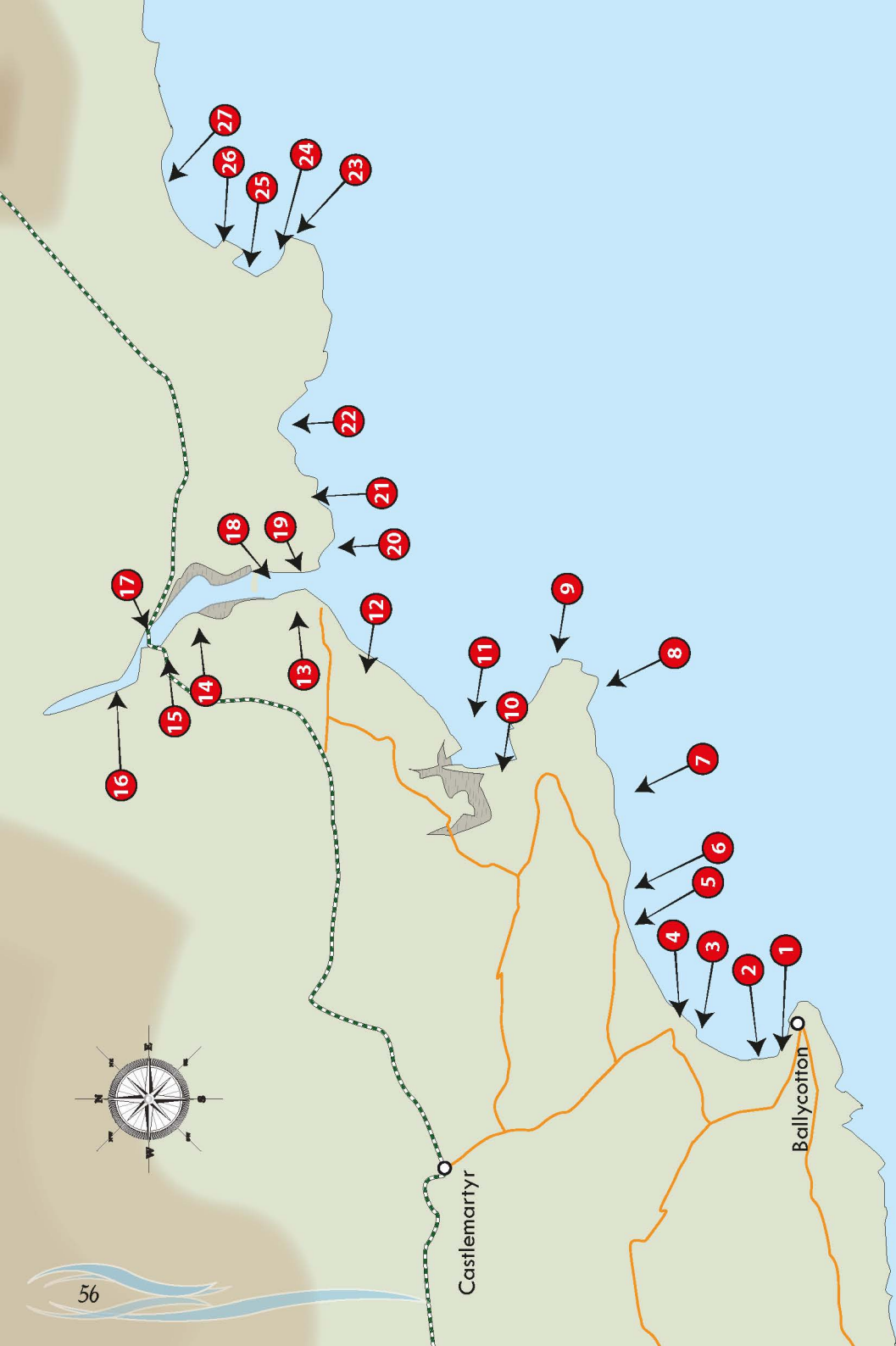
1. **Ram Point Strand:** Spinning, float fishing and bottom fishing for bass. Bottom fishing for ray and dogfish. Flood and ebb tide best.
2. **Camden:** Bottom fishing for ray, bass and dogfish.
3. **Lough Beg:** Bottom fishing for flounder, bass and mullet.
4. **Lough More:** Bottom fishing for bass, flounder, plaice and occasional ray.
5. **Paddy's Point:** Spinning for bass. Bottom fishing for flounder, ray and dabs. Crab bait produces best results.
6. **Monkstown Pier:** Conger, small pollack and wrasse. Bottom fishing for flounder and dabs. Codling and whiting November to February.
7. **Sea Wall:** Bottom fishing for codling, November to February. Bottom fishing for conger, ray, dabs and dogfish, June to September.
8. **Deepwater Quay:** Bottom fishing for conger, ray, codling, whiting, dabs, flounder, coalfish and three bearded rockling. Best baits: crab, fish bait and mussel. Specimen flounder, dabs, whiting and three bearded rockling recorded here.
9. **Lynch's Quay:** Bottom fishing for codling, dabs and coalfish from November to February. Bottom fishing for flounder, dogfish and ray during summer months.
10. **East Ferry Mouth:** Spinning for bass. Bottom fishing for flounder, dogfish and excellent ray fishing.
11. **Brown Island:** Bottom fishing for thornback ray, plaice, flounder, bass and dogfish. Crab and fish bait best. Start of flood' tide for flatfish most productive.
12. **Bawnard:** Mullet and gilthead bream can be caught here along with bass.
13. **Gold Point:** Spinning for bass and seatrout at slipway. Bottom fishing for rays and dogfish. Specimen bass have been recorded here.
14. **Saléen Estuary:** Mullet, bass and flounder. Lugworm and crab can be gathered here.
15. **Rostellan Estuary:** Flounder, bass and mullet caught here, lugworm and ragworm can be dug here.
16. **Lower Aghada Pier:** Bottom fishing for flounder, dabs and dogfish. Conger at night. Occasional codling November to February. Float fishing for mullet.
17. **Whitegate Bay:** Bottom fishing for bass, gilthead bream, golden grey mullet and flounder.
18. **Corkbeg Strand:** Bottom fishing for bass, dogfish, occasional ray and flounder.
19. **White Bay Rocks:** Spinning for bass, small pollock and mackerel from rocks.
20. **White Bay:** Surf fishing for bass, flatfish, dogfish and occasional ray. Specimen plaice recorded from here.
21. **Canavan's Point:** Float fishing/lure fishing for bass. Spinning for pollack and mackerel.

22. **Roche's Point:** Spinning for bass, pollack and mackerel. Bottom fishing for conger and three bearded rockling. Float fishing for wrasse. Specimen bass and wrasse recorded here.
23. **Trabolgan Strand:** Surf fishing for bass, flatfish and dogfish.
24. **Guileen:** Lure, float fishing and bottom fishing for bass, flatfish, wrasse and pollack.
25. **Inch:** Bottom fishing for bass, flatfish and codling. Sandeel available in season. Specimen bass and flounder recorded here.
26. **Power Head:** Spinning and float fishing for mackerel, pollack and wrasse. Bottom fishing for bass and flatfish.
27. **Ballybrannigan:** Bottom fishing for bass & flatfish. Float & lure fishing for bass on 1st quarter of flood.

28. **Ballycraheen:** Surf fishing for bass and flounder, lure fishing for bass, pollock and mackerel from rocks on eastern side.
29. **Ballylanders:** Lure fishing for bass, pollock and mackerel, bait fishing for wrasse on crab baits.
30. **Ballyandereen:** Spinning & float fishing for pollack & wrasse. Bottom fishing from the right side over sand for flounder, bass, codling & coalfish.
31. **Ballycotton:** Shore anglers will find the harbour area to be a top class fishing location. Mullet are common in the summer months and fish of over 3kg have been caught on small float fished fish strips. Flounder and dabs on worm baits over sand, conger and rockling in harbour walls.



Ballycotton Harbour



Ballycotton - Mine Head

1. **Silver Strand:** At the southern end near the rocky ground, congers of over 20lb have been taken. Bass are fairly common on a flood tide over sand and specimen flounder of over 2.8lb have also been recorded there. Codling and coalfish in the winter months.
2. **Ballymona:** From the beach at the entrance to the lagoon, surf fishing, two hours either side of high water for bass, flounder and codling. Spinning for occasional seatrout. Specimen painted ray have been recorded here.
3. **Ardnahinch:** Bottom fishing for thornback/painted ray, flounder, conger, codling and bass. Night tides best, particularly in mid summer. Lugworm can be dug on the beach close to the Shanagarry car park.
4. **Garryvoe:** Garryvoe Strand is one of the best known shore fishing locations on the south coast, and has an awesome reputation for its consistent specimen fish returns. Several bass and painted ray over the specimen weight of 10lb are captured almost annually, while specimen flounder to over 2.4lb and dogfish of 3.5lb have also been taken.
5. **Ballinwilling:** Bottom fishing from rocks at the seaward end of Ballinwilling Reef for dogfish, rockling, flounder, painted/thornback rays and bass. Casting out over sand gives best results. To the left of the car park peeler and soft crab can be collected in summer. Bottom fishing in front of the car park on Ballinwilling Strand will return bass, flounder, conger and coalfish. Bass and flounder are also probable while fishing between the stream and the outflow from the marsh with codling also possible in autumn and winter months. The top baits on this stretch are crab, lugworm and mackerel.
6. **Ballycrennane:** At the eastern end, fishing is influenced by the rock, weed and sand mixture, so rough ground species such as, coalfish, rockling, conger, ballan and corkwing wrasse can be expected. Bass can also be taken on plugs or spinning tackle at high water in spring and summer, while codling usually turn up to bottom fished baits, in autumn and winter. As one moves west, so the beach becomes cleaner, and is made up mainly of sand. When surf is running, bass and flounder can be expected in autumn and codling in winter. In the calmer summer conditions, dabs, plaice, thornback ray, painted ray and dogfish are all present. Lugworm are plentiful in the sand on the beach and can be dug easily. Sandeel can also be dug up in summer, particularly at low tide on springs
7. **Ballymackeragh:** The rocks at Ballymackeragh, particularly on the eastern side of the small headland, offer several productive vantage points for wrasse, dogfish, rockling and bass in summer. Codling and coalfish can also be taken there in late autumn. The best baits are crab, lugworm, mackerel and squid.

8. **Old Signal Tower:** On the southern corner of Knockadoon Head a narrow road runs towards an Old Signal Tower. The ground below the tower is of weed and rock, interspersed by a number of sandy patches, over which spinning and float fishing can be carried out for pollack, mackerel and wrasse. Bottom fishing will produce conger, cod and coalfish.
9. **Knockadoon Pier:** Spinning at high tide is successful for pollack and mackerel (in season). Float fishing produces mullet but prior ground baiting will afford best chances of success. Dogfish, ballan and corkwing wrasse are also common around the pier as are a whole community of mini species including tompot blenny and black goby. Small boat fishing locally around Capel Island is for codling, wrasse, pollack, conger, coalfish, with baited feather lures offering best opportunities.
10. **Pillmore Estuary:** Inside Pillmore Estuary below the R633 road, spinning in the channel on a flood tide will produce bass and seatrout. Bass to 10lb and flounder to 3lb will also fall to bottom fished crab baits. Spring tides can be difficult to fish at Pillmore due to the large amount of floating weed that is carried along with them. This can lead to high losses of tackle, so tides like this should be avoided.
11. **Pillmore Strand:** At the northern side of the entrance to the Womanagh River estuary, a flooding tide will yield bass, mullet, gilthead bream, flounder and occasional plaice, with codling showing in winter. Spinning in the channel will also occasionally result in seatrout. Below the Pillmore car park, lugworm are plentiful on the channel banks and can be dug easily.
12. **Redbarn Strand:** The 5km long, south east facing Youghal or Redbarn Strand is a popular, shore fishing and tournament stretch which features a number of events every year. This is also a favoured beach with day trippers and tourists so fishing is mainly restricted to off peak holiday periods or on night tides when relative peace and tranquillity prevail. The beach is best fished on a flood tide and catches tend to peak when the water is well aerated by a rolling surf. Bass, painted ray and flounder are the main quarry but match anglers enjoy the annual inshore migration of codling and coalfish from October to December. Crab and lugworm are the most popular baits there.
13. **Youghal:** Shore fishing from the quays and Green Park Corner (opposite Walter Raleigh Hotel) is best on a flooding tide for flounder, bass, codling, plaice, conger, painted ray and dogfish. In mid summer night tides are generally most productive and crab, sandeel, mackerel and ragworm are the best baits.
14. **Dyke Wall:** Immediately to the south is an old Dyke Wall which protects a large area of marsh, known as the Youghal Mudlands from high tides. This runs south to the old Carpet Factory Pier. Fishing on this stretch is for flounder, codling, plaice and bass. Crab is by far the best bait while bottom fishing although spinning at several spots along the wall and pier is also worth trying for bass.
15. **Road Bridge:** On the western shore only a few hundred metres beyond the bridge, and before the N25 bypass the Tourig River flows below Rincrew Bridge and into the main Blackwater channel. Spinning at high water produces bass and seatrout, while bottom fishing turns up flounder, codling and eels.



Redbarn Strand

16. **The Abbey:** Codling, bass and flounder are all available from this mark, best baits crab and lugworm.
17. **Old Bridge:** Bottom fishing from here two hours either side of high water will yield flounder, bass, and codling on crab and worm baits while spinning will account for small pollack. Between the old bridge and new Youghal Bridge, soft and peeler crab can be collected at low tide in spring and early summer. In good years there may be a second "peel" in July or August.
18. **Ferry Point:** Ferry Point is a spit of land running at right angles to the main shore, creating a narrows along the eastern shore. This has traditionally been one of the most consistently prolific shore angling locations on the south coast. The main beach is of steep shingle which fishes best from half way up the flood tide, through high water and two hours into the ebb. Codling and flounder are the main target fish in winter and spring, with bass, plaice and dogfish showing in summer. Bottom fishing from the point for an hour at slack water, at low tide, can also provide excellent flounder fishing with fish to over 3lb possible. Spinning into the fast water of the narrows, also accounts for seatrout and mackerel at high water. Conger are also commonly taken on night tides at the angle of the beach close to the rocks, below the Monatrae House access. The slipway at Ferry Point is accessible at all stages of the tide, but care must be taken if using a car to launch or recover, as this area can be covered in a thin film of weed making for very slippery conditions. When strong winds are blowing downriver, care should also be exercised, to avoid boats being pushed on to the stony beach adjoining the slipway.
19. **East Point:** From East Point to Monatrae House, casts into the channel of 80 to 120 metres, will produce bass, dogfish and occasional plaice and ray in summer and flounder, codling and eels in autumn and winter. Crab can be collected along the foreshore.
20. **Mangan's Cove:** Bottom fishing over mixed ground yields bass, ray and dogfish on crab, sandeel and ragworm baits in summer. Lugworm and crab are the best baits for flounder and codling in autumn and winter. Crab can also be collected there in spring and early summer. As the coastline swings north into the Blackwater estuary, the rough ground gives way to mud and sand at about 50 metres.
21. **Calliso Bay:** Calliso Bay is less than a kilometre in length but it throws up a wide range of species annually. Surf fishing with crab or sandeel baits, over sand, produces bass, flounder and dogfish. Bottom fishing over mixed sand and rock at the eastern end yields conger, wrasse and rockling while spinning in late summer and autumn accounts for bass and seatrout.
22. **Whiting Bay:** The beach at Whiting Bay faces almost due south and takes on surf conditions when the wind is in that quarter. Fishing can be carried out from either side of the car park, but to the west, the beach is cleaner and contains less stone and weed. Numerous specimen fish have been taken there including plaice of almost 6lb and a one time Irish Record bass of 17lb! Sandeel, crab and ragworm are the best baits.
23. **Ardmore Head:** Spinning and float fishing from the rocks on Ardmore Head will produce pollack, mackerel (in season), ballan and corkwing wrasse, seatrout and occasional garfish. On the southern side of Ram's Head there are a number of vantage points where rock fishing is available. The best marks are Fr. O'Donnell's Well, Fallawaderra and Fall an Iaran. All these sites produce pollack and mackerel while spinning, wrasse on float fishing tackle using crab or ragworm baits, and occasional conger on bottom fished baits of squid or mackerel. As the rocky ground of Ram's Head begins to give way to sand at Goat Island so the fishing also changes. Bottom fishing produces bass, dab, flounder, dogfish and coalfish while spinning at high tide yields mackerel (in season) and occasional seatrout.
24. **Cliff House:** Small boats can be launched from the slipway at Ardmore Pier to fish in depths up to 40 metres. Cod of over 20lb have been caught here over mixed ground and whiting, pouting and ray are common. There are several wrecks within easy striking distance of Ardmore including the 1330 ton steamer "Kenmare" which went down south of Ram's Head in 1915 and the "Comita" of Glasgow which sank east of Ram's Head in 1917 following a collision with a mine. Conger, ling, and pollack can all be expected over local wreck sites with the very real possibility of a specimen fish being taken. Bottom fishing from the pier has produced bass, sole, plaice, ray and dogfish. Spinning has accounted for seatrout and mackerel, while mullet are also possible on float fished or free lined baits.
25. **Ardmore Beach:** This beach fishes best during the hours of darkness as it is popular with water sports enthusiasts during the day. Painted and thornback ray, plaice, flounder and sole are all possible.
26. **Black Rocks:** Between Ballyquin and Ardmore Bay to the south, is an area of low rock and boulder known as the Black Rocks where plug fishing and spinning has yielded bass to almost 11lb, pollack to over 6lb and mackerel in summer. Bottom fishing produces dogfish and occasional conger.
27. **Ballyquin Strand:** Ballyquin Strand is about 8km west of Mine Head and has a huge reputation for turning up Irish Record and Specimen fish. Some notable captures over the years have included painted ray of over 11lb, plaice over 6lb, black sole of 4lb, lesser spotted dogfish of and flounder of 3.5lb. Thornback ray, bass and dabs can also be expected there. A flooding tide into darkness is the best period particularly from June to September, when crab, sandeel, mackerel and ragworm baits will all take fish.

List of notable fish from the South West (Kerry Head to Mine Head)

| Species | Weight (kg) | Port/Area | Date | Captor |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
| Angler Fish | 33.11 | Tralee Bay | 01/06/1980 | James Boyd |
| Bass | 7.75 | Youghal | 27/04/1977 | Malcolm Tucker |
| Black Sole* | 2.87 | Ballycotton | 28/12/1986 | Edmund Cull |
| Bluemouth* | 1.32 | Caherciveen | 28/07/2008 | Sue Tait |
| Brill | 2.04 | Cork Harbour | 03/10/2015 | Paul Twomey |
| Bull Huss | 10.80 | Kenmare | 17/09/2003 | Perry Dumay |
| Coalfish (Saithe)* | 15.10 | Castletownshend | 30/08/2003 | Roger Barham |
| Cod* | 19 | Ballycotton | 1921 | I.L. Stewart |
| Conger Eel* | 32.65 | Valentia | 1914 | J. Green |
| Dab* | 1.06 | Cork Harbour | 02/10/2002 | Mick Duff |
| Flounder | 1.93 | Brandon Bay | 02/11/1994 | Michael Nolan |
| Garfish (B. belone)* | 1.73 | Cork Harbour | 28/05/2007 | Stephen O'Neill |
| Garfish (B. svetovidovi)* | 0.50 | Courtmacsherry | 05/08/1994 | Eric Leijten |
| Gilthead Bream* | 3.51 | Dingle | 17/08/2013 | Jeremy Coleman |
| Gurnard - Grey | 1.13 | Youghal | 23/09/1973 | Finbar O'Neill |
| Gurnard - Red | 1.39 | Cork Harbour | 08/07/2009 | Philip Horgan |
| Gurnard - Tub | 5.05 | Brandon Bay | 30/08/2003 | George Dyland |
| Haddock* | 5.39 | Union Hall | 21/02/2010 | Anthony Santry |
| Hake | 8.76 | Kinsale | 27/07/1968 | Geoffrey Saunders |
| Halibut | 36.32 | Valentia | 08/07/1962 | L. Moncrieff |
| Herring | 0.35 | Cork Harbour | 26/02/2010 | Dan Lynch |
| John Dory | 2.99 | Ballycotton | 09/08/1960 | K. W. Foott |
| Lesser Spotted Dogfish* | 1.93 | Valentia | 26/07/1982 | Cor Heinis |
| Ling* | 24.94 | Cork Harbour | 3/1/2004 | Ailbhe O'Sullivan |
| Mackerel* | 1.87 | Ballycotton | 18/09/1979 | Ulrich Plassmann |
| Megrim | 1.21 | Cork Harbour | 17/10/1993 | John Dennehy |
| Mullet - Golden Grey* | 1.52 | Cork Harbour | 15/08/2018 | Stephen O'Neill |
| Mullet - Thick-Lipped* | 4.12 | Cork Harbour | 26/09/1993 | Cay Heerwagen |
| Mullet - Thin-Lipped * | 2.95 | Cork Harbour | 15/07/2018 | Noel Lane |
| Plaice* | 3.73 | Ballycotton | 23/01/1982 | Edmund Cull |
| Pollack* | 8.75 | Ballycotton | 1904 | J.N. Hearne |
| Pouting | 1.96 | Cork Harbour | 17/09/2000 | David Ian Black |
| Ray - Blonde* | 16.78 | Cork Harbour | 10/10/2004 | Paul Tennant |
| Ray - Cuckoo | 2.25 | Ballycotton | 01/08/1982 | William Cunningham |
| Ray - Electric | 32.89 | Cork Harbour | 19/08/1993 | David-A. Lefranc |
| Ray - Homelyn* | 3.76 | Cork Harbour | 28/09/1983 | Edmund Cull |
| Ray - Painted * | 7.81 | Garryvoe | 29/08/1994 | Edmund Cull |
| Ray - Sting* | 33.20 | Tralee Bay | 19/05/1999 | Michael Wall |
| Ray - Thornback * | 16.78 | Kinsale | 28/05/1961 | M. J. Fitzgerald |
| Ray - Undulate* | 8.16 | Tralee Bay | 11/06/1977 | Ann-Marie Liedecke |
| Ray's Bream* | 2.84 | Valentia | 26/08/1978 | Martin Sarney |

Records valid up to 2017

List of notable fish from the South West (Kerry Head to Mine Head)

| Species | Weight (kg) | Port/Area | Date | Captor |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|---------------------|
| Red Sea Bream * | 4.25 | Valentia | 24/08/1963 | P. Maguire |
| Scad* | 0.89 | Clonakilty | 06/09/1986 | Raymond McCarthy |
| Shark - Blue | 73.94 | Kinsale | 14/09/1972 | C. J. Gillam |
| Shark - Porbeagle | 136.98 | Kinsale | 25/07/1970 | Murt Lucey |
| Shark - Six-Gilled | 69.85 | Kinsale | 28/08/1968 | Andrew Bull |
| Skate - Common* | 100.2 | Ballycotton | 1913 | T. Tucker |
| Skate - White | 58.29 | Tralee Bay | 02/07/1972 | Colin Ikin |
| Smooth-hound | 6.12 | Tralee Bay | 04/06/2016 | Terry Jackson |
| Spurdog | 9.98 | Kenmare | 01/06/2001 | J. W. Kraaijeveld |
| Stone Basse* | 5.32 | Baltimore | 14/07/2005 | Tony Rainer |
| Three-Bearded Rockling | 1.05 | Youghal | 18/09/1988 | J. Millea |
| Tope | 27.22 | Tralee Bay | 12/05/1970 | Frank Brompton |
| Torsk | 4.78 | Caherciveen | 19/05/1996 | Joe Hardy |
| Trigger Fish* | 2.54 | Blasket Sound | 07/09/2006 | Bob Moss |
| Tuna - Albacore | 29.96 | Caherciveen | 05/09/2007 | Henry MacAulay |
| Turbot* | 15.42 | Cork Harbour | 09/06/1982 | Frank Fleming |
| Whiting* | 2.23 | Kenmare | 19/03/1981 | Michael J. O'Connor |
| Ballan Wrasse | 4.83 | Kenmare | 31/08/2009 | Andre de Nooijer |
| Cuckoo Wrasse | 0.77 | Youghal | 22/10/2015 | Ray O'Sullivan |

Records valid up to 2017

All figures supplied courtesy of the © Irish Specimen Fish Committee. Figures indicate the top weight recorded in the South West for each species of fish. Current Irish records are marked with an asterisk *.