



**Salmon Conservation
Fund Report**

2009



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland



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Background

On December 4th 2006, the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Fisheries Board received a Ministerial Direction under section 18A, 19(4) and 20(3) of the Fisheries Act 1980 directing the Central Fisheries Board “to co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of a programme for rehabilitation of salmon stocks giving priority to rivers below their conservation limits in special areas of conservation which have the greatest prospect of recovery”.

2009 represents the third year of the programme and is funded by the proceeds of the salmon conservation fund component of the salmon licence fees. The salmon conservation fund component consisting of an additional fee, the equivalent to the cost of the licence, was added to all classes of licence to provide funds for a conservation programme. A Class ‘A’ licence costing €134 was made up of €67 for the license fee and €67 ring fenced for the Salmon Conservation Fund.

The funds raised from the sale of angling and commercial salmon fishing licences are ring fenced and distributed to salmon conservation fund projects across the 17 fishery districts following assessment of applications by the Salmon Conservation Fund implementation committee whilst abiding by the Terms of Reference for the fund (**Appendix I**).

The implementation committee is made up of both scientific and management staff within the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards (Dr Paddy Gargan - Central Fisheries Board, Mr Eamon Cusack - Shannon Regional Fisheries Board, Mr Declan Cooke - Northwest Regional Fisheries Board). Those projects recommended by the implementation committee were submitted to the Management Committee made up of CEO’s of the Regional Fisheries Boards for final approval.

Projects Approved in 2009

In February 2010 the Implementation Committee received 25 project proposals from the Central and Regional Fisheries Boards requesting a total of €2,041,626 (**Appendix ii**) under the 2009 fund. The implementation committee recommended 12 projects which were further approved by the Management Committee. Each project was assessed according to the criteria identified in the terms of reference (**Appendix i**) and a numeric score attached to each criterion (**Appendix iii**). It was proposed that a provisional cut-off point of 8.7 would apply under the 2009 Salmon Conservation Fund and projects received approximately 90% of funding requested (rounded down to the nearest €500) in the following order subject to funding availability;

Projects Awarded Funding in 2009	Funds Awarded
Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit in selected rivers Assessment of attainment of salmon conservation limit 2010 in various rivers throughout Ireland currently not meeting their conservation limit.	€162,000
Cormorant and Seals study Pilot study to be carried out in 3-4 catchments nationally to determine their impact on salmon predation.	€72,000
River Glyde, Co .Louth Proposal to install a fish counter at Castlebellingham, Co. Louth.	€107,000
Owenboliska River, Co. Galway – Phase 1 The introduction of spawning gravel, creation of pools, rock armouring of eroding banks, and the construction of stone weirs to enhance spawning and nursery streams on the upper reaches of the Boliska River.	€53,000
River Colligan, Co. Waterford Carryout river bank protection, tree pruning and strategic tree planting at Dungarvan. Provision of instream structures to maintain satisfactory water flow during low water levels.	€22,500
River Lackagh, Co. Donegal Construct a salmon counter upstream of the tidal section.	€128,000,
River Lee (Upper), Co. Cork Investigation of the genetics of salmon populations in the Lee catchment Investigation into downstream smolt turbine mortality. Preliminary investigation of potential engineering solutions for the River Lee dams.	€18,000

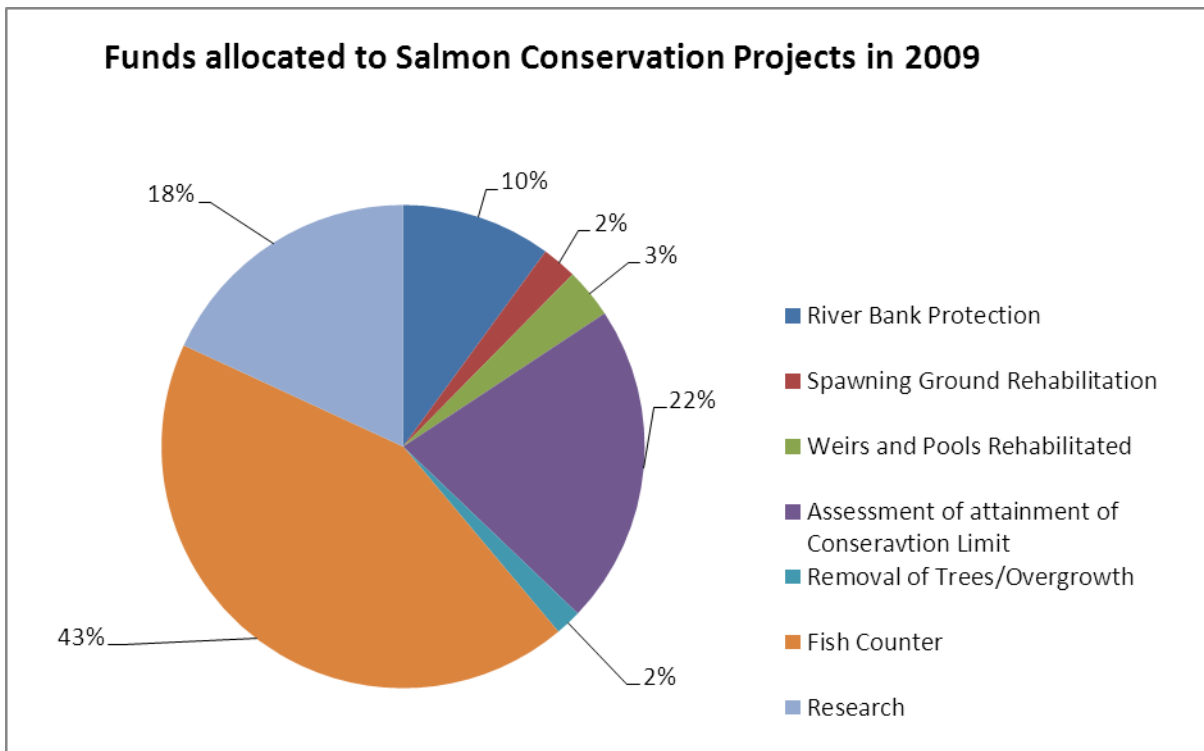
River Eske, Co. Donegal - Phase 1	€45,000
River bank protection using rip-rap to restore bank stability and fencing to exclude all livestock from the affected areas along with a tree planting programme at Barnsmore, Donegal Town.	
Glenagannon River, Co. Donegal	€11,500
Proposed to complete selective river bankside clearance for 4.5km along with river bank side fencing for 2km from Clonmany to Strawbridge Bridge.	
River Nore, Co. Kilkenny	€90,000
Installation of Fish Counter at Thomastown.	
River Shannon, Counties Limerick, Clare, Roscommon, Longford & Leitrim	€27,000
Assessment of barriers to migration on the River Shannon	
Various Rivers	€20,000₂
Marine migration of adult Atlantic salmon from Irish Rivers	
Total Awarded	€756,000

₁ The balance of funding shall be met by the local Angling Club and Private Fishery Owner.

₂ This application was considered for 100% funding from funds decommitted under the 2007 fund following the initial allocation of 2009 funds.

Finances for 2009

Funds collected in licence sales in 2009	€654,157
2007/ Funds decommitted and carried forward to 09 projects	€108,317
Total Fund available	€762,474
Funding allocated to projects under the 2009 fund	€756,000
Funds carried forward to 2010 projects	€6,474



Appendix I

Terms of Reference for Allocation of Salmon Conservation Funds

Salmon Conservation Fund 2009

In accordance with section 18A of the Fisheries Act 1980 the Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, with responsibility for inland fisheries, Mr John Browne T.D. has directed the Central Fisheries Board to co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of a programme for the rehabilitation of salmon stocks. It was indicated that priority should be given to:

1. Rivers below conservation limit,
2. Rivers which have the greatest prospect of recovery,
3. Remedial works within the remit of the Regional Fisheries Boards where maximum benefit can be expected to accrue.

Proposed Terms of Reference

- To identify and cost projects which meet the criteria set out above for rehabilitation of salmon stocks.
- To implement priority projects, which meet the criteria set out above, subject to feasibility, funding availability and value for money consideration.

Appendix II

Projects Submitted for consideration in 2009

Region	River Name	Proposed Project	Estimated Cost	Below CL 0-2	Q-Value 1-5	Max Benefit 0-4	Score
Central Fisheries	National Project covering approx. 60 salmon rivers	Assessment of Attainment of Salmon Conservation Limit 2010. This project has five components: 1. Catchment-wide electrofishing and salmon genetic assessment, 2. Using PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags to assess full salmon runs where only partial counters exist, 3. Catch & Release Tagging Studies, 4. Biological Assessment of Salmon Populations.	€180,200				N/A
Central Fisheries	Pilot study in 3 / 4 catchments nationally and a national census	The Central and Regional Fisheries Board in cooperation with National Parks & Wildlife Service will undertake a pilot study in relation to predation by seals and cormorants on fish stocks (particularly relating to salmon). using a selection	€80,000				N/A
Central Fisheries	Blackwater & Suir	Use of Satellite pop-off tags to investigation marine migration of adult Atlantic salmon from Irish rivers	€20,000				
Eastern	River Glyde	River Glyde Fish Counter at Castlebellingham, Co. Louth	€119,250	2	4.10	4.0	10.10
Western	Owenboliska River	River enhancement works to include the introduction of spawning gravels, creation of pools, rock armouring of eroding banks, and the construction of stone weirs along with the pruning of extensive stretches of riparian vegetation on tributaries on the upper reaches of the Owenboliska system in Co. Galway.	€59,420	2	4.50	3.5	10.00
Southern	Colligan River	Improve riparian zone along main channel, pruning trees and planting where necessary, river bank protection works and instream flow modification structures as outlined in CFB survey of 2000 at Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	€25,100	2	4.25	3.5	9.75
Northern	Lackagh	Construction of a salmon counting facility (fish counter) on the Lackagh River immediately upstream of the tidal section.	€171,730	2	4.00	3.5	9.50
South Western	River Lee (Upper)	Upper Lee scientific research project in support of the rehabilitation of the Upper Lee River	€20,000	2	3.90	3.5	9.40

Northern	Lowerymore River – tributary of Eske catchment	River Bank protection works • Extensive use of rip-rap to restore bank stability in areas where there is very severe erosion . • A major fencing programme to exclude all livestock from the immediate river corridor followed by a tree planting programme. This project is located at Barnsmore, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal.	€50,000	2	3.80	3.5	9.30
Northern	Glenagannon	From Clonmany to Strawbridge Bridge – this river suffers from severe tunnelling along this stretch along with areas of poaching by cattle during the summer leading to localised bank erosion. It is proposed to complete selective river bank side clearance for 4.5km along with 2km of fencing.	€13,000	2	4.00	3.0	9.00
Southern	River Nore	Installation of River Nore Counter at Thomastown , Co. Kilkenny	€100,000	1	3.70	4	8.70
Proposed cut-off Point 8.7							
Southern	Stradbally River (Trib of the Barrow)	Construct a bypass channel around existing weir 1 mile downstream from Stradbally village, Co. Laois	€57,500	2	3.60	3.0	8.60
Eastern	River Slaney	Installation of a fish counter and associated Weir at Clohamon, Co. Wexford	€119,250	2	4.00	2.5	8.50
Southern	Dinan River (tributary of the Nore)	Improve riparian zone along main channel, pruning trees and planting where necessary, bank protection work . Fencing in conjunction with NPWS (Pilot Programme). Project is located near Castlecomber, Co. Kilkenny.	€38,100	1	4.00	3.5	8.50
Western	Owenboliska River	Provision of a fish counter at Owenboliska, Spiddal, Co. Galway along with CCTV cameras to validate fish counts and construction of a small building to accommodate the electronic equipment	€115,000	2	4.50	2	8.50
Eastern	River Boyne	River Boyne Counter - Carry out a study on the assessment methods for the partial fish counter on the River Boyne which could also be used as a model for the rests of the country where only partial counts exist.	€135,910	2	3.75	2.5	8.25
Northern	Ray/Tulloughabegley River	River Ray - It is proposed to complete selective bank side clearance for 1.5km and fencing for 2km. It is also proposed that spawning gravel be de-compacted (using water lance pump) along some sections of this river. Tulloughabegley River - It is proposed to complete selective river bank side clearance for 2km and fencing for 1km. This project is located at Cloughaneely, Co. Donegal	€25,200	1	3.75	3.5	8.25

Western	Carrownisky River	The installation of a crump weir in the main river below Carrownisky bridge to facilitate a logie counter and geovision camera system at Carrownisky Village, Co. Mayo.	€57,951	2	4.00	2	8.00
Southern	River Delour (tributary of the Nore)	Construct a bypass channel around the existing Weir at the Delour/Nore Confluence, Co. Laois.	€65,500	1	4.30	2.5	7.80
Southern	Greese River (tributary of the Barrow)	Construct a rock ramp fish pass at the weir, Kilkea Bridge, Castledermot, Co. Carlow	€22,100	2	3.10	2.5	7.60
SWRFB	River Ilen	Construct a Fish Counting station for the River Ilen	€60,000	1	4.20	2.0	7.20
Western	Erriff River	Erriff river spawning and nursery enhancement project	€8,665	0	4.00	2.5	6.50
North Western	Moy	Refurbishment of River Moy Salmon Weir, Ballina, Co. Mayo.	€400,000	0	4.00	2.5	6.50
Southern	Munster Blackwater	Improve riparian zone along main channel by pruning trees and planting where necessary. River bank protection and fencing upstream of Mallow, Co. Cork.	€67,750	0	4.10	2	6.10
Shannon	Shannon	Assessment of barriers to migration on th the mid and upper Shannon	€30,000	2	3.65		5.65
		Total Funds requested	€2,041,626				

Appendix III

The scores were allocated on the following basis;

Conservation Limit

River below Conservation Limit = 2 points

River between 100% - 120% of Conservation Limit = 1 point

River above 120% of Conservation Limit = 0 point

Prospect of Recovery - Q Values for water quality

Q1 - indicates very bad water quality with poor macro invertebrate community diversity

Q5 - indicates very good water quality with high macro invertebrate community diversity

Q-value of 1 = 1 point

Q-value of 2 = 2 point

Q-value of 3 = 3 point

Q-value of 4 = 4 point

Q-value of 5 = 5 point

Some rivers have multiple Q-values. It was decided that an average Q-value for the entire river be allocated to projects since the entire river should benefit from works carried out.

Maximum Benefit

The group assigned a score between 1 and 4 to this category on the basis of scientific knowledge and other indices. A score of 4 points = maximum benefit to be gained from conducting rehabilitation project; a score of 1 point = lesser benefit to be gained from conducting rehabilitation project.