

# Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme

The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme regulates salmon and sea trout fishing in Ireland and is administered by Inland Fisheries Ireland. Please note that the regulations and bye-laws are subject to change. Contact your local Inland Fisheries Ireland office for information on individual rivers.

All salmon rod licence holders must affix a gill tag to all retained salmon (any size), or sea trout (over 40cm).

## 1. BAG LIMITS

There is an angling bag limit of 10 salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40 cm) on rivers where you may catch and retain salmon (Table 1). The bag limits are subject to any quota allocated to a river and its tributaries.

Subject to the maximum annual bag limit of ten fish an angler may take:

- A total of one salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day for the period beginning January 1st to May 11th (three fish in total may be retained for this period).
- Daily Bag Limit: Three salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day from May 12th to August 31st (except where a salmon rod (one-day) ordinary licence is held, 1 fish).
- Daily Bag Limit: One salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40cm) per day from 1st September to the close of the season.
- There is a daily bag limit of three sea trout (under 40cm) per angler per day.
- Please note that it is an offence to kill any sea trout in the Galway, Connemara or Ballinakill Fisheries Districts including at sea from Hags Head in County Clare to Clew Bay (and in any waters flowing into Clew Bay) in the Bangor Fishery District south of a line drawn due east and west through Achill Head.

After the daily bag limit has been taken, anglers are permitted to fish catch and release, using single barbless hooks and anglers may not use worms. The killing and possession of foul hooked fish is prohibited.

On rivers where catch and release is permitted (Table 2):

- anglers may not use worms.
- anglers must use single barbless hooks.
- the fish must be handled carefully and should not be removed from the water prior to release.

On all other rivers (Table 3) angling for salmon (any size) and sea trout (over 40cm) is prohibited.

- The Regulations on the River Avoca prohibit the taking of any sea trout (under 40cm) as well as prohibiting the use of worms as bait and any fish hooks other than single barbless hooks in angling for sea trout (under 40cm) (bye-law no. 890, 2011).
- The River Tor and its tributaries are closed for angling for all species of fish (bye-law no. 311, 2011).
- The Regulations on the River Suir prohibit the use of worms, prawn, shrimp or any other crustacean or artificial forms thereof as bait and any fish hooks other than single barbless hooks (bye-law no. 958, 2017).

## 2. OBTAINING A LICENCE

Anglers can obtain their licence from Inland Fisheries Ireland, any rod licence distributor or online at [fishinginireland.info/salmon/salmon\\_licence.htm](http://fishinginireland.info/salmon/salmon_licence.htm). On payment of the rod licence fee, the angler will be given:

- The relevant rod licence, associated logbook and a plastic wallet for the licence/logbook.
- 3 gill tags where a salmon rod (annual) ordinary, juvenile, district or 21-day ordinary licence is issued up until 11th May and a further 7 gill tags (issued in lots of 3 or 4) from the period 12th May to 30th Sept up to a maximum of 10 gill tags in total provided they demonstrate that they have completed their logbook appropriately.
- 1 gill tag where a salmon rod (one day) ordinary licence is issued up until the close of the season.
- A business reply envelope for return of the logbook and unused tags to the relevant Inland Fisheries Ireland office.

## 3. THE TAG

The tag to be used by anglers is a blue plastic self-locking device (an additional brown tag is also required for certain rivers (refer to Table 1 – Open Fisheries 2018) to ensure angling quotas are not exceeded. Contact the relevant IFI office for details on how to obtain brown tags). Each blue tag is embossed with a code identifying where the tag was issued, the year in which the tag can be used, a security code and a tag serial number.

Anglers should carefully note the following concerning the use of these tags:

- Each rod licence holder will be issued tags for his/her use only. Tags are not transferable between licence holders.
- One tag shall be attached to each salmon (any size) or sea trout (over 40 cm) caught and retained.
- Tags must be attached immediately on landing the fish. These tags shall not be re-used.
- Tags shall be attached through the gill opening and mouth of the fish and securely double locked around the gill cover.
- Additional tags shall be issued on presentation of logbook information showing that the licence holder has used the gill tags issued to him or her, subject to bag limits.
- Lost and accidentally destroyed tags may be replaced upon presentation of a signed declaration completed by the angler and signed by an Authorised Officer of Inland Fisheries Ireland.
- Gill tags shall only be removed from the fish at the time of processing in accordance with the Tagging Scheme Regulations. For the purposes of this scheme processing includes: smoking, marinating or cooking the fish, gutting and freezing the fish or cutting any steaks, cutlets or portions of the fish.

## 4. THE LOGBOOK

On receipt of tags the angler will also receive a logbook. Details of the gill tags issued to an angler will be entered into the angler's logbook by the issuing agent.

Each angler shall:

- Have the logbook in his/her possession while fishing for salmon or sea trout.
- Record all details of their catch in their logbook immediately after tagging the fish.
- Make a catch record even if the fish is released.
- Record details of any lost or damaged tags.
- Declare lost or damaged logbooks to Inland Fisheries Ireland.



# Salmon and Sea Trout Angling Regulations 2018



Iascach Infíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

This leaflet includes information on the status of rivers (open, closed and catch and release), bag limits, obtaining a licence, correct use of logbooks and gill tags.

## 5. RETURNING LOGBOOKS AND UNUSED TAGS

In accordance with the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Regulations anglers are required by law to return their completed logbook (even if there is no catch recorded) and all unused tags to the issuing office of Inland Fisheries Ireland by the 19th October 2018. A business reply envelope is provided for this purpose. Anglers are required to obtain proof of postage and to retain such proof for 12 months.

## 6. PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF ROD CAUGHT SALMON OR SEA TROUT

Anglers are prohibited from selling salmon (any size) or sea trout (any size) caught by rod and line.

These guidelines have been prepared for information purposes only and do not purport to be a legal interpretation. The holder of a rod licence should familiarise himself or herself with section 69 of the Inland Fisheries Act, 2010 (No. 10 of 2010), the current Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations and the Salmon and Sea Trout Conservation Bye-laws.

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Table 1 - Open Fisheries - 2018	
No. 4 or Lismore District	No. 9(2) or Connemara District
Blackwater,	Cashla,
Glenshelane,	Ballynahinch (Owenmore),
Finisk,	No. 10(1) or Ballinakill District
No. 5 or Cork District	Owenglin (Clifden),
Bandon,	Bundorragha (Delphi) (brown tag required – code E4),
Lower Lee,	Erriff (brown tag required – code E4),
Ilen,	Culfin,
Mealagh,	Dawros,
Owvane,	Bunowen,
Coomhola (brown tag required – code W3),	No. 10(2) or Bangor District
Glengarriff,	Carrowmore Lake (brown tag required – code Q3),
Argideen,	Newport River (including Lough Beltra and Crumpaun R.),
No. 7 or Kerry District	Owenduff,
Roughy (brown tag required – code S3),	Glenamoy (brown tag required - code Y3),
Sheen,	No. 11 or Ballina District
Laune,	Moy,
Waterville/Cummeragh/Currane,	Easkey,
Cottoners,	No. 12 or Sligo District
Sneem,	Ballysadare,
Caragh,	Drumcliff R. and Glencar Lake,
Owenmore R.,	Garvogue River (including L. Gill and R. Bonet),
Maine,	No. 13 or Ballyshannon District
Croanshagh,	Drowes,
No. 8 or Limerick District	No. 14 or Letterkenny District
Feale (including Rivers Galey & Brick), (brown tag required – code D4),	Gweebarra (brown tag required – code V3),
No. 9(1) or Galway District	Clady,
Corrib,	

Table 2 - Open Fisheries - Catch and Release Only - 2018	
No. 1 or Dublin District	No. 10(2) or Bangor District
Lower Liffey (downstream of Leixlip Dam), ® ®+	Owenmore R., ®
No. 2 or Wexford District	Shramore, ®
Slaney, ® (Catch and Release from 1 <sup>st</sup> May)	No. 13 or Ballyshannon District
No. 3 or Waterford District	Eany, ®
Barrow,	Glen, ®
Suir,	Oily, ®
Pollmounty,	Bungosteen, ®
Nore,	Duff, ®
No. 4 or Lismore District	Eske, ®
Bride, ®	Owenwee (Yellow), ®
No. 5 or Cork District	No. 14 or Letterkenny District
Adrigole, ®	Leannan, ® (Catch and Release from 1 <sup>st</sup> May)
No. 7 or Kerry District	Lackagh, ®
Blackwater, ®	Crana, ®
Owenascaul, ®	Owenea, ®
Cloonee, ®	Owentocker, ®
Ferta, ®	Gweedore (Crollly), ®
Inny, ®	Tullaghobegley, ®
No. 8 or Limerick District	No. 17(1) or Drogheda District
Mulkear, ®	Boyne, ®-
No. 9(2) or Connemara District	No. 17(2) or Dundalk District
Screebe, ®	Castletown, ®
No. 10(1) or Ballinakill District	Dee, ®- (Catch and Release from 1 <sup>st</sup> May)
Carrownisky, ®	Fane, ®
Owenwee (Belclare), ®	Glyde, ®

Table 3 - Closed Fisheries - 2018	
No. 1 or Dublin District	No. 9(1) or Galway District
Dargle, ®	Clarinbridge, ®
Vartry, ®	Knock, ®
Upper Liffey (upstream of Leixlip Dam), ®-	Aille, ®
No. 2 or Wexford District	Owenboliska, Spiddal, ®
Avoca, ®	Kilcolgan,
Owenavorragh, ®	No. 9(2) or Connemara District
Slaney, ® (Closed until 30 <sup>th</sup> April)	L. na Furnace, ®
No. 3 or Waterford District	No. 10(2) or Bangor District
Owenduff, ®	Owengarve, ®
Mahon, ®	Muingnabo, ®
Tay, ®	No. 11 or Ballina District
Colligan, ®	Brusna, ®
Corrock, ®	Leaffony, ®
No. 4 or Lismore District	Ballinglen, ®
Lickey, ®	Cloonaghmore (Palmerstown), ®
Tourig, ®	No. 12 or Sligo District
Womanagh, ®	Grange, ®
No. 5 or Cork District	No. 13 or Ballyshannon District
Upper Lee,	Abbey, ®
Owenacurra, ®	Ballintra (Murvagh), ®-
No. 7 or Kerry District	Laghy (Stream), ®
Owenshagh, ®	Erne,
Finnihy, ®	No. 14 or Letterkenny District
Feohanagh, ®	Bracky, ®
Owenreagh, ®	Isle (Burn), ®
Emlaghmore, ®	Mill, ®
Carhan, ®	Clonmany, ®
Emlagh, ®	Straid, ®
Lee (Kerry), ®	Owenamarve, ®
Behy, ®	Swilly, ®
Kealinchá, ®	Donagh, ®
Lough Fadda, ®	Culoort, ®
Milltown, ®	Glenna, ®
No. 8 or Limerick District	Glenagannon, ®
Deel, ®	Ray, ®
Aughyvackeen, ®	Leannan, ® (Closed until 30 <sup>th</sup> April)
Doonbeg, ®	No. 17(2) or Dundalk District
Annageeragh, ®	Flurry, ®
Inagh, ®	Dee, ®- (Closed until 30 <sup>th</sup> April)
Fergus,	
Maigue, ®	
Shannon (excluding Mulkear),	
Owenagarney,	
Skivileen, ®	

® Notwithstanding the restrictions in place for salmon (any size) and sea trout (over 40cm), further restrictions prohibiting the use of worms as bait in angling for all other fish species apply in certain closed and catch and release rivers. Anglers may only use single barbless hooks where these restrictions apply.

®- Subject to paragraph ® above, restrictions may not apply to the entire river.

®+ Designated sanctuary areas may prohibit all fishing.

Please refer to IFI website [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie) or your local IFI office for any further changes or amendments.

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