



Department of  
**Culture, Arts  
and Leisure**

[www.dcalni.gov.uk](http://www.dcalni.gov.uk)

# Salmon and Inland Fisheries

## Annual Report 2008





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under 22 (1) of the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966  
by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

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## CONTENTS

### Salmon and Inland Fisheries

Background to Inland Fisheries	3
Salmon Conservation	3
Eel Conservation	4
Public Angling Estate	5
Promotion and Development	6
River Bush Salmon Station	7
Movanagher Fish Farm	8
Advisory Work	9
Water Abstraction and Fish Passes	9
Scientific and Technical Investigations	10
Derelict Waters Applications	13
EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme – The Angling Development Programme	13

### Commercial Fishing

Salmon	14
Eels	14
Fishing Vessel Grants	14

### Public Expenditure on Fisheries

Expenditure and Receipts	14
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## Other Developments

Review of Public Administration	15
Stakeholder Forum	15

## Legislation

New Byelaws introduced under the Provisions of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966	15
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## Salmon and Inland Fisheries Statistics

River Bush Adult Salmon Returns and Wild Smolt Run	18
Fish Stocked from Bushmills Hatchery on behalf of Angling Clubs	18
Salmon catches on the River Bush Special Stretches	19
Fish Stocked from Department's Fish Farm (Movanager)	19
Commercial Salmon catches on Inland Waters	20
Commercial Eel catches on Inland Waters	20

## Financial Statistics

Angling Permit and Day Ticket Sales	17
DCAL Grants for Inland Boats	20
Expenditure and Receipts under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966	21

## SALMON AND INLAND FISHERIES

### Background to Inland Fisheries

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure is responsible, under the provisions of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 as amended (the Fisheries Act) for the salmon and inland fisheries of Northern Ireland except the Foyle and Carlingford catchments which are the responsibility of the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission. However the Department retains overall policy responsibility for salmon, eels and certain conservation and development responsibilities in the Loughs Agency area. The Department is also responsible for the Fisheries Conservancy Board for Northern Ireland (FCB), a Non-Departmental Public Body established under the Fisheries Act with responsibility for the conservation and protection of fisheries. The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) undertake research and monitoring into salmon and freshwater fisheries which is funded by the Department; this monitoring provides the scientific basis for conservation and management of the resource.

### Salmon Conservation

International scientific monitoring programmes have shown that Atlantic salmon populations are currently low and many are below safe biological limits. Numbers of salmon returning to many Northern Ireland rivers are too low to be sustainable. Research suggests that a range of inter-related factors have contributed to the poor status of the stocks including degraded in-river habitat, pollution, drainage works and predation by cormorants and seals. Significantly reduced survival at sea in recent years gives considerable cause for concern, especially when considered with the other threats to coastal and freshwater survival. DCAL has a responsibility to conserve salmon by managing impacts, including angling and commercial fisheries. Work to manage these impacts is given high priority and is on-going.

This worrying trend is mirrored around the sphere of North Atlantic countries and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), an intergovernmental body established by treaty drawing its membership from the USA, Canada, Greenland, the European Union and other countries, has encouraged its members to adopt a precautionary approach to salmon management. Officials from the Department, together with fisheries scientists from AFBI, form part of the EU delegation to NASCO.

In response to the call for a precautionary approach the Department pursues a strategic approach to attempt to address the decline. The strategy is based on NASCO resolutions and agreements founded on the precautionary approach and principles of sustainability. The core concept is to establish spawning targets at a river and regional level to ensure that in most rivers in most years sufficient adult salmon are spawning to maximise output of smolts from freshwater. Rivers are monitored for salmon numbers and where targets are not being attained the reasons are researched and a programme of measures designed to address them is adopted.

## **Eel Conservation**

The European eel stock has been in rapid decline since around 1980. This long term decline continues to show no sign of recovery and is a matter for considerable concern. A number of causes have been suggested including changes in ocean climate, habitat loss, predation, hydroelectric turbine mortality, over-exploitation, pollution and parasites.

The European Commission adopted European Eel Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 in 2007 which aims to establish measures for the recovery of the European eel stock.

The Regulation requires the establishment of Eel Management Plans for each eel river basin, of which there are three in NI. This will demonstrate that at least 40% of the biomass of adult eels from each river basin, relative to the best estimate of the potential escapement in the absence of human activities affecting the fishing area or stock, are escaping to spawn. Northern Ireland submitted three Eel Management Plans to the European Commission through DEFRA in December 2008. These Plans outline the proposed management measures to tackle the decline in the European eel population and to meet the specific conservation objective for silver eel escapement.

Work is on-going in conjunction with other UK departments, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in ROI and the commercial eel industry to meet the requirements of this Regulation.

## Public Angling Estate

The Department has powers under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 to acquire and improve facilities for angling. This has been achieved through the provision of a Public Angling Estate. The total number of fisheries available to the public in 2008 was 64 of which 29 were still water trout fisheries with a total area of approximately 633 hectares, 4 wild trout loughs and 14 stretches of game fishing rivers totalling over 76 kilometres in length. For coarse fishing there were 8 lakes with a total area of 211 hectares and 6 stretches of river and canal fishing totalling 31.5 kilometres. In addition there were 3 mixed fisheries as well as Upper and Lower Lough Erne, which provided a further 15,534 hectares of mixed game and coarse fishing.

Following a considerable increase in the number of permit sales over the period 2003 to 2005 (11.5%) the demand levelled off in 2006. Permit sales in 2007 began to increase again with an overall rise of 13%, this increase was sustained in 2008.

Individual permit sales are shown in Table 1.

Overall the value of permit sales rose by 3%.

The operation of the special day ticket salmon beats at Bushmills provides anglers with the opportunity to enjoy first class salmon angling. It also provides reliable information on anglers' catches. The number of day tickets sold on the River Bush Special Stretches decreased slightly. There was a 3% increase in the value of sales. Details of the number of day tickets sold on the special stretches and the number of salmon caught are shown in Tables 1 and 4 respectively.

The Department continued its stocking programme on game waters as in previous years. The production cost of fish stocked into Department fisheries in the year ending 31 March 2008 was £284,656. The sizes and numbers of fish stocked during the year are shown in Table 5 together with the figures for the previous year. Table 5 also provides details of stockings of private fisheries.

A website promoting the Public Angling Estate continued to be developed during 2008. The website [www.dcal-fishingni.gov.uk](http://www.dcal-fishingni.gov.uk)\* provides a background to angling in Northern Ireland and a guide to all the fisheries in the Public Angling Estate. It is particularly aimed at tourist anglers. It also has publications, educational, travel and permit information and latest news pages.

\* With effect from August 2010 the information provided by DCAL Angling website can be found at [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

The Department continued its programme of works to upgrade the facilities at some of the most popular waters in the Public Angling Estate. New fishing stands were provided on the Erne at Tirraroe with a project started on Killyfole reservoir to provide fishing stands including two for disabled anglers. DCAL involvement in the Coarse Classic and Pike Classic competitions contributes to attracting increasing numbers of anglers.

In the East work at Lough Money was completed to improve disabled parking and access as well as improved access along the western shore. Stiles and footbridges were improved at Ballykeel. Work to improve the access road and car park at Spelga was carried out. In preparation for a new fish stocking system a slipway was constructed at North Woodburn reservoir. This system will be introduced in 2008 and operate throughout the Public Angling Estate. It will reduce stress and handling of fish and enable fish to settle to provide an improved angler experience.

## **Promotion and Development**

Officers from the Department attend annually a selected number of angling fairs across Europe and the rest of the UK. Experience over recent years has indicated which events represent the best opportunity to promote the Public Angling Estate and angling in general to the widest possible potential customer base. In 2008 DCAL staff attended a total of 8 promotional angling fairs including events in Paris, Holland and England.

Angling Clubs and other fishery owners and operators were supported in improving fisheries during the year both through the provision of advice and guidance and by the issuing of permits under Section 14 of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 to capture, culture and stock fish.

The Department continued to work in partnership with the Loughs Agency and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board on a study into the Social and Economic Impact to Northern Ireland and the cross border Foyle and Carlingford Catchments of Recreational Fisheries, Angling and Angling Resources. The main objective of the study is to identify and quantify the economic and social impact, both current and potential to Northern Ireland from angling activities. It identifies the current and potential social and economic contribution of fisheries, angling and angling resources and angling tourism to Northern Ireland and so provides a basis for reviewing and refreshing current strategy in this regard. The Social and Economic Impact of Recreational Angling in Northern Ireland report was published in 2007.

## River Bush Salmon Station

The Department, supported by AFBI scientists, continues to operate the River Bush Salmon Station; primarily in support of the River Bush salmon research project. This project was set up in 1973 by the former Department of Agriculture, as a long-term study into the dynamics of a wild salmon population and to investigate the factors influencing those dynamics. The long-term data series on survival of wild salmon during the freshwater and marine phases of the life cycle are used to provide advice to the Department on the status of stocks on this river and provides an index for NI salmon stocks in general.

Information from the project on conservation requirements for salmon and on exploitation of salmon stocks at sea is central to the Department's Salmon Management Strategy and also contributes to assessment of salmon stocks at international level, through the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

Fish trapping facilities at the station allow accurate counts of upstream migrating adult salmon and downstream migrating juveniles (smolts). In 2008 a total of 2,536 adult salmon were recorded at the trap. Of these, 1,528 were of wild origin and were released upstream, the remaining 1,008 were retained at the hatchery as brood stock. During the months of March, April, May and June 2008, 16,713 wild smolts were recorded passing through the station, compared to 20,525 in 2007. Details of adult returns and wild smolt runs for the last ten years are shown in Table 2.

The hatchery provides fry and parr for stocking, if necessary, directly into the upper reaches of the River Bush, and tagged smolts for release directly from the Station. This stocking programme provides additional information on marine survival of hatchery reared smolts. During the year, a total of 582,000 fry were stocked into the river during the springtime with a further 108,500 parr in August and September. Additionally, 45,867 smolts were released from the hatchery.

The hatchery continues to support local angling clubs wishing to improve the fish stocks in their rivers through supportive breeding programmes. Club members from a number of angling clubs, with the assistance of the Department, catch salmon, sea trout and brown trout brood stock from their rivers and transport them to the station where they are stripped of their ova. The resulting fry are then stocked into underutilised habitat in the river of origin. This programme ensures the genetic integrity of the native stock is retained. Details of fish stocked as part of this programme are shown in Table 3.

Groups of people interested in salmon conservation, particularly school parties and angling clubs are welcome to visit the station and can be given a conducted tour of the facilities. Bookings should be made in advance by contacting hatchery reception. An open day was held on 4th July 2008 and members of the public were able to see at first hand the valuable salmon conservation work carried out at the station.

## **Movanagher Fish Farm**

Movanagher Fish Farm is located on an island between Movanagher Canal and the Lower River Bann, near Kilrea. The farm covers an area of about 4 hectares, comprising long concrete raceways, concrete and fibreglass tanks, a substantial hatchery facility and a small administrative building.

The farm produces brown and rainbow trout to supply the Department's angling estate. A carp breeding program has also been established and the first generation of carp were spawned from brood stock on site in summer 2007.

Water is supplied directly from the River Bann by gravity to the various tanks, supplemented with borehole water pumped directly into the hatchery. An aeration tower ensures that the latter is well oxygenated and dissolved nitrogen removed before use. The borehole water, being very clean and of constant temperature, is used primarily in the hatching and early development of the fry. It is also of considerable value during the warm summer months in order to keep fish cool. Ova are produced annually from brood fish, which are specially selected for the purpose. When the young fish are suitably developed, usually one or two years old, they are transported live in oxygenated tanks and stocked into various fisheries which make up part of the Public Angling Estate around Northern Ireland. All fish stocked were "catchable sized" (25cm +) and contribute directly to angling opportunities for both local and visiting anglers. Details of fish stocked from the fish farm are shown in Table 5.

The farm also supplies small quantities of fish to private angling clubs and fisheries. Additionally, the Department, to support the work of various voluntary, disabled and community groups, also supplies fish on a charitable basis for a variety of angling competitions.

Staff at the fish farm offer free technical advice on fish husbandry techniques, stocking and conservation issues to organisations and interested members of the public.

Visitors have always been welcomed at the farm, particularly school groups. Prior appointment is necessary in order to ensure that all health and safety requirements are in place and to ensure staff are available on specified dates.

There is suitable access to enable visits from people with disabilities to some areas of the farm. A picnic area with tables and seats has been provided which can accommodate around thirty people.

## **Advisory Work**

Department technical staff routinely provide advice and guidance on matters relating to the conservation, protection, development and improvement of salmon and inland fisheries to angling clubs, fishery owners, and a range of other water users and interested parties. Advice is provided to the range of authorities who control and regulate activities that might impact on salmon, eels and freshwater fish and to the two statutory fishery conservation and protection authorities. This includes providing input to the development of environmental policies and regulations generally across government that have the potential to improve fisheries. Staff contribute to inter-departmental groups taking forward the implementation of the EU Water Framework and Habitats Directives, for example.

Arrangements for the provision of technical advice, guidance and support to DARD Rivers Agency to ensure protection of fisheries from possible damage arising from their drainage maintenance programme were operated successfully in 2008. This is a key relationship in ensuring the productive capacity of wild fish stocks is maintained.

Opportunities to restore or enhance fish habitats are taken forward through the co-operative approach established under the terms of the Service Level Agreement formalised in 2004. The Agreement builds on arrangements in place since the early 1990's and makes explicit the role of Fisheries Officers and the obligations on both parties to ensuring its effective implementation.

## **Water Abstraction and Fish Passes**

Section 54 of the Fisheries Act requires persons who wish to build dams and weirs, or repair existing weirs in rivers, to construct fish passes for the free passage of fish. All fish pass designs and specifications must be submitted to the Department for approval before a pass is constructed.

Sections 58 and 59 of the Fisheries Act impose certain closure periods where water is being abstracted from a river or lake. This facilitates the passage of fish and requires grids and gratings to be placed at water abstractions and return points. The Fisheries Act also allows the Department to issue exemptions certificates from these requirements. The exemptions are used to introduce modern fishery protection measures.

In 2008 the Department continued its review of exemption permits issued under Sections 54, 58 and 59 of the Fisheries Act to ensure that the most appropriate fishery protection measures were included in the permit conditions. The Department implemented refreshed guidelines in this regard during 2008.

Advice and assistance was provided to colleagues in Environment and Heritage Service who administer complementary powers under water abstraction and impoundment regulations in 2008.

## **Scientific and Technical Investigations**

Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) salmon and freshwater fisheries scientists work closely with the Department's technical staff to provide scientific support and advice across a range of policy and management issues.

### ***Salmon***

#### ***River Bush Marine Survival Project***

Work continued on assessing the smolt run in 2008. Efforts directed to the micro-tagging of ranched salmon smolts were continued at an enhanced level which will contribute to the SALSEA marine research programme. Stock assessments of adult escapement and marine exploitation continued with subsequent calculation of marine survival smolt cohorts. 2008 work included a review of population and behavioural dynamics in relation to environmental conditions over time.

The work being conducted for this project is of strategic importance not only for DCAL but also in the context of international understanding of marine survival of salmon through NASCO and the SALSEA project.

### *Other Salmon Management Activity*

Fish counters were operated on the Rivers Blackwater, Main, Glendun and Moneycarragh during 2008 to assess compliance with river specific conservation limits derived from the River Bush stock recruitment studies. Spawning success on the Shimna River was also assessed using rod catch data. Electric fishing surveys were also conducted on these rivers during 2008 to determine juvenile salmon abundance as a measure of freshwater performance. This data combined with information on catch from logbook returns and on habitat quality and quantity, informs actions required to rationally manage stocks.

### *River Lagan Salmon Re-introduction Experiments*

The River Lagan salmon re-introduction experiments have been running since 1991. This project has taken the River Lagan salmon population from a period of 200 years of extinction to the beginnings of a self-sustaining stock. Wild salmon are now breeding at a number of sites. The level of stocking and intervention is kept to a minimum to maximise the potential for natural regeneration.

The project has resulted in highly positive publicity with the salmon being adopted by Belfast City Council and Laganside as a symbol of health and regeneration. River Lagan salmon will now be managed as part of the NI resource.

### ***Ecological Classification Systems for Freshwater Populations***

During 2008 all field site surveys commissioned under the North South Share River Basin Management Project established to inform implementation of the Water Framework Directive were completed. The programme covered an area of circa 40 lake sites in Northern Ireland and contributes to both DOE and DCAL management information databases.

The success of the programme has led to the further development of acoustic survey techniques and transfer of lake fish methods to deep navigable rivers. These surveys are capable of revealing the true fish population which is largely hidden by day.

### ***Lough Neagh Eel Fishery***

The fishery is facing increasing pressure from low market prices and internationally declining stocks. A project to assess the sustainability of the fishery was initiated in 2007, although adverse weather conditions in that year resulted in unusable data capture. The project continued into 2008, when the process to develop an Eel Management Plan was started.

Recruitment was monitored through data from traps. Monthly samples were obtained from the packing station for market size eels. 1,000 silver eels were tagged to provide an estimate of escapement.

The previously unknown pathological agent which caused migrating eels to develop lesions when held in storage or delayed from migrating was identified as a secondary aeromonid bacterial infection common in fish under stress.

### ***Lough Erne Fish Populations***

The population dynamics of the Lough resulting from the ecological effect of the zebra mussel infestation appear to be stabilising at a new equilibrium state. Total biomass is the highest on record since surveys started in 1992.

Perch are reproducing and recruiting more successfully but suffer high mid-life mortality. Roach recruitment and early life survival had reduced but this is compensated by reduced later life mortality. These species account for 90% of total fish biomass.

Pike, trout and bream are all present albeit at lower levels relative to perch and roach.

Additional open water netting trials on the Lough were conducted in addition to normal margin sites. The results suggest that the rare pollan stock is still present and is reproducing successfully.

### ***Ecological Impacts of Zebra Mussels***

Specific research to include current and future zebra mussel examination until 2010 has been identified and commissioned by DCAL, DARD, AFBI and QUB.

## **Derelict Waters Applications**

The Department has powers under the Fisheries Act to approve an application by anyone who wishes to improve a derelict water for angling, either for their own use or for public angling. The applicant must submit proof that the owner of the fishing rights cannot be found and provide a scheme for the development of the fishery. The Department having established that no fishery owner can be identified or that no person has substantial objections may approve the scheme for a period up to 15 years.

There was one application received under this scheme in 2008, however the owner of the water was identified therefore the application was void.

## **European Union Peace and Reconciliation Programme – The Angling Development Programme**

In December 2001 DCAL announced that EU funding of €7.45m (approximately £5m) was being made available under the Water Based Tourism Measure 1.2(a) of EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace II) to develop angling and water based recreation projects. Administration of these awards was concluded in 2007. A total of £4.6m grant aid was awarded to 49 angling projects. Technical staff continued to advise these projects to ensure this investment was capitalised upon. These projects were designed to improve game, coarse and sea angling, as well as providing angling facilities.

## COMMERCIAL FISHING

### Salmon

The 2008 commercial salmon catch was 1,817 (3,834kg) compared with 2,647 (6,178kg) in 2007. Table 6 shows the quantities and values of reported commercial salmon catches over the last 5 years.

In 2008 there were two drift nets, two fixed nets and one tidal drift net operating in the FCB area. The figures in Table 6 show catches in the FCB area. The catches for the Foyle and Carlingford areas are shown in the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission's Annual Reports.

### Eels

The total estimated catch of yellow and silver eels during 2007 was 446,000kg compared with 383,232kg in 2008. Approximately 94% of the Northern Ireland eel catch is taken from Lough Neagh and the remainder from Lough Erne. The eel industry is valued at approximately £2 million and supports up to 130 licensed commercial eel fishermen. The main method of catching yellow eels is by long lines. Many of the fishermen also employ helpers to assist in the fishing operation. The quantity of eels caught is shown in Table 7.

### Fishing Vessel Grants

The Department, under the provisions of the Freshwater Fishing Vessels (Grants) Scheme (NI) 1982, operates a grant scheme for new fishing vessels or new engines. The rate of grant is 25%, up to a maximum of £3,000. Table 8 shows the total amount of grant aid paid out in the year ended 31 March 2009.

## PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON FISHERIES

### Expenditure and Receipts

The Department's expenditure and receipts under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 for the year ended 31 March 2009 are shown in Table 9.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

### Review of Public Administration

Following the decision under the Review of Public Administration (RPA) in 2006 to abolish the Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB) and transfer its functions and staff to DCAL, work has continued on progressing legislation to achieve this outcome. As the Board was established under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966, provisions to amend the Act have been included in the draft Public Authorities (Reform) Bill being taken forward by OFMDFM to address a number of issues. The Bill was introduced to the NI legislative timetable on the 16th June 2008 and is timetabled to receive Royal Assent in February 2009. The FCB provisions within the Bill should be commenced by June 2009.

### Stakeholder Forum

As the FCB was the representative forum for salmon and inland fisheries interests in NI (other than the Loughs Agency area), the Department is also considering how stakeholders will be represented after the abolition of the Board. To this end, a public consultation was carried out between December 2007 and April 2008 to seek stakeholder views on the role, structure and composition of a new Advisory Forum. The outcomes have now been agreed and can be viewed on the DCAL angling website at [www.dcal-fishingni.gov.uk](http://www.dcal-fishingni.gov.uk)\*

## LEGISLATION

During 2008 the following Regulation and Byelaws came into operation:

#### *The Eel Fishing (Licence Duties) Regulations (NI) 2007 (SR 2007 No. 472)*

These Regulations, which came into operation on the 1st January 2008, increased the level of duties for commercial eel fishing licences by the rate of inflation (4.4%).

#### *The Fisheries (Amendment) Byelaws (NI) 2007 (SR 2007 No. 471)*

These Byelaws came into operation on the 1st January 2008 and increased the level of duties for angling and commercial licences by the rate of inflation (4.4%) for the incoming fishing season. The list of rainbow trout waters for which there is no

\* With effect from August 2010 the information provided by DCAL Angling website can be found at [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

annual close season was also amended. The format of an angling licence was also amended to include an entry for the holder's date of birth to assist in licence holder identification.

*The Fisheries (Amendment) Byelaws (NI) 2008 (SR 2008 No. 318)*

These came into operation on the 15th September 2008 and reduced the number of pike which can be taken by anglers in any one day from 2 to 1.

*The Fisheries (Conservation of Coarse Fish) Byelaws (NI) 2008 (SR 2008 No. 319)*

These Byelaws came into operation on the 15th September 2008 and introduced a bag limit of 4 coarse fish for anglers in any one day. Any coarse fish taken of a size greater than 25cm should be returned to the water. In addition, no-one should have in their possession more than 4 rod-caught fish to use as bait when fishing for pike.

Table 1

## DCAL Angling Permit and Day Ticket Sales

TYPE OF PERMIT/ TICKET		2007	2008	% DIFFERENCE	2007	2008	% DIFFERENCE
		NUMBER SOLD			VALUE £		
<b>Permit Sales</b>							
Game Fishing	Annual	1,752	1,680	-4%	88,721	88,654	0%
	14-Day	37	60	+62%	472	766	+62%
	3-Day	2,228	2,111	-5%	9,491	8,993	-5%
	Local	1,238	1,244	+0.5%	46,883	49,225	+5%
	Juvenile	3,581	3,410	-5%	6,088	5,797	-5%
	Senior Citizens	2,103	2,286	+9%	26,855	29,192	+9%
	Anglers with Disability	1,482	1,631	+10%	18,925	20,828	+10%
	14-Day combined	262	282	+8%	5,127	5,998	+17%
	3-Day combined	1,769	1,879	+6%	12,808	14,581	+14%
	Coarse Fishing	Annual	1,175	1,199	+2%	21,996	23,464
14-Day		8	4	-50%	61	31	-49%
3-Day		104	150	+44%	398	575	+44%
14-Day combined		1,320	1,141	-14%	19,087	18,439	-3%
3-Day combined		867	714	-18%	5,904	5,234	-11%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17,926</b>	<b>17,791</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>262,816</b>	<b>271,777</b>	<b>+3%</b>
<b>Day Ticket Sales</b>							
River Bush	Town Stretch	524	470	-10%	14,869	13,426	-10%
	Leap Stretch	472	273	-42%	8,432	6,018	-29%
	New Stretch	403	513	+27%	7,739	9,590	+24%
	Dundarave Stretch	297	284	-4%	4,712	5,406	+15%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,696</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>35,752</b>	<b>34,440</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>TOTAL SALES</b>		<b>19,622</b>	<b>20,871</b>	<b>+6%</b>	<b>298,568</b>	<b>306,217</b>	<b>+3%</b>

Figures in green = monetary values shown for 2008 are accurate, but should not be compared directly to 2007 as the VAT element was calculated incorrectly. Permits are subject to VAT whereas licences are not.

**Table 2**

**River Bush Annual Adult Salmon Returns and Wild Smolt Run 1999 to 2008**

YEAR	ADULTS TO THE TRAP	WILD SMOLTS
1999	1,084	11,921
2000	1,192	16,451
2001	1,724	14,853
2002	1,584	11,600
2003	1,112	19,494
2004	1,080	23,389
2005	1,475	22,792
2006	1,527	18,785*
2007	4,825	20,525
2008	2,536	16,713

\* Updated from figure published in the 2006 Annual Report.

**Table 3**

**Details of Fish Stocked Out by DCAL in Co-operation with Angling Clubs in 2008 (Bushmills Hatchery)**

	NUMBER OF SALMON FRY
Upper Bann	20,000
Glenarm	15,000
Clady	18,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53,000</b>

Table 4

## Fish Caught on the Restricted Stretches of the River Bush in 2008

STRETCH	2006 SALMON	2007 SALMON	2008 SALMON
Town	110	362	311
Leap	44	126	122
New	52	72	47
Dundarave	48	100	54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>534</b>

Table 5

## Fish Stocked from the Department's Fish Farm (Movanager)

	BROWN TROUT				RAINBOW TROUT			
	DEPARTMENTAL WATERS		PRIVATE WATERS		DEPARTMENTAL WATERS		PRIVATE WATERS	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Eyed Ova (Under Yearlings) 0+	150,000	110,700	31,040	0	31,040	0	1,200	0
Yearlings 1+ and Older Fish	101,200	72,600	6,980	3,500	6,980	46,500	0	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>251,200</b>	<b>183,300</b>	<b>38,020</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>38,020</b>	<b>46,500</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,000</b>

**Table 6**

**Quantities and Estimated Values of Salmon Caught in Northern Ireland 2004 – 2008**

YEAR	WEIGHT KG	VALUE £	AVERAGE PRICE £/KG
2004	5,663	45,304	8.00
2005	8,120	73,080	9.00
2006	5,526	66,312	12.00
2007	6,178	74,136	12.00
2008	3,834	46,000	12.00

These catches do not include salmon caught in the Foyle catchment, which are mainly landed in the Republic of Ireland.

**Table 7**

**Quantities of Eels Caught in Northern Ireland 2004 – 2008**

YEAR	WEIGHT KG
2004	493,017
2005	434,000
2006	346,000
2007	446,000
2008	383,232

**Table 8**

**DCAL Grants to Fishermen (for Boats)**

YEAR	AMOUNT PAID £
Total up to 31 March 2006	£5,650.00
Total up to 31 March 2007	Nil
Total up to 31 March 2008	£3,125.00
Total up to 31 March 2009	£4,075.00

Table 9

## Expenditure and Receipts under the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966

	Y/E 31 MARCH 2008 £	Y/E 31 MARCH 2009 £
Expenditure		
River Bush Salmon Station	169,030	141,356
Movanagher Fish Farm	188,903	164,481
Bailiffing of DCAL Waters	85,191	64,330
Public Angling Estate	205,290	286,607
Research & Monitoring (including Salmon Management Plan)	756,743	1,109,972
Inland Boat Grant Scheme	3,125	4,075
Eel Fisheries Development *	-	-
FCB Revenue Support	479,314	677,660
FCB – Grant	150,000	150,000
FCB Funding Deficit *	-	-
Development of Angling Waters *	-	-
Conservation & Protection *	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,037,596</b>	<b>2,598,481</b>
Receipts		
Sales of Fishing Permits	261,535	236,094
Sales of Fish from Fish Farm	11,017	11,677
Other Receipts	2,052	392
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>274,604</b>	<b>248,163</b>

\* Comparison with previous year is not possible.







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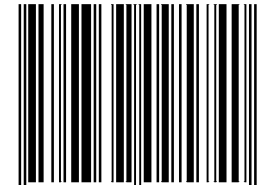
Photo 1: Pike caught on the Public Angling Estate

Photo 2: Fishing stand at Lough Money

Photo 3: Fishing on Castlewellan Lake

Photo 4: Electrofishing

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