

# Angling in Ireland

## The Product

Every Region in Ireland can offer a quality angling product, whether it be sea angling, coarse angling or game angling. The main attractions of Ireland as an angling destination are its' relatively clean waters (estimated 14,000 km of rivers and 5,600 km of coastline) supporting an excellent quality and quantity of fish, and a welcoming and uncrowded atmosphere. Further development and maintenance of these fisheries in a pollution free environment will undoubtedly attract far more anglers to our shores thereby creating further enterprise opportunities. Angling attracted 93,000 visitors to Ireland in 2004. The majority of these anglers utilise self catering or B & B accommodation close to their preferred angling location. Opportunities to service the angling market exist in a wide range of areas such as accommodation, boat and equipment hire, boatman services, providing bait etc.

## Coarse Fish

**Species : Bream, Rudd, Roach, Tench, Dace, Eels, Perch & Carp.**

Main locations - river Shannon and tributaries, mainly in midlands. Parts of the west and south-east, and the Erne catchment to the Munster Blackwater valley. The vast majority of coarse angling takes place from a river or canal bank or specially constructed platforms on lake shores.

## Pike

Pike are present in most of our coarse fisheries and Ireland is generally regarded as the most suitable destination in which to fish for the larger specimen fish. In particular, pike will be found in the Shannon system with associated lakes, the midland lakes and generally in lakes, rivers and canals throughout the country. Irish pike generally grow faster and mature earlier than in other EU countries. The pike is a predator fish and most Irish pike habitats would also contain excellent stocks of fodder fish. This is probably the main reason for the excellent condition and renowned fighting qualities of the Irish pike. Angling is from river-bank or shore of smaller lakes. Boats are available for hire on the larger lakes. There are a number of angling festivals and competitions throughout the country which attract extra numbers of foreign anglers each year.

## Game Angling

**Species : Trout** (Brown Trout, Gillaroo, Sonaghan, Ferox, Sea Trout, Rainbow Trout)

**Salmon:** (Springers, Grilse, Summer Salmon).

While all our coarse fish were introduced to the country, the Trout, Sea Trout and Salmon are indigenous native fish who have managed to survive for thousands of years. This, despite the fact that trout and salmon require a more fragile eco-system and purer water quality than coarse fish in order to survive. Brown trout are still widely available throughout the country although the quality of the angling and the size of the fish available varies enormously.

## Sea Angling

**Species: (shore)** Bass, Ray, Flounder, Sole, Conger, Wrasse, Dogfish, Plaice, Dabs and Mullet.

**(Deep Sea)** Shark, Tote, Cod, Pollack, Coalfish, Ling, Conger, Ray, Skate and Turbot.

A fleet of specially built tourist board approved angling launches are strategically located around the Irish coast. These boats are operated by experienced skippers can cater for from 4 to 12 anglers, and can be hired by the day or week. Most of Ireland's sea angling reputation is based on charter boat fishing.



## Fact Sheet No. 12 May 2006

*This is one of a series of Fact sheets on potential income generating activities.*

*All fact sheets are available in the Advisory Section of the Teagasc Website [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)*

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For the past few years, however, small boat fishing and shore angling are attracting a growing number of visitors. The main attractions of sea angling for tourists to Ireland are the wide range of venues and species available and the large number of specimens taken each year. Hotels around the coast, guest houses and B & B's would be the normal type accommodation availed of. There are a large number of sea angling festivals/competitions which attract tourists from abroad each year.

### **The Market**

Several marketing groups have been established to promote angling in Ireland, i.e. Game Angling Ireland West, Sea Angling Ireland, Coarse Angling Ireland West, and Ireland's Unspoilt Angling Waters. Specialist accommodation providers are represented on these groups and actively participate in marketing promotions to Britain and mainland Europe. The typical angling tourist may visit for a holiday of one or two weeks duration, or a shorter period of a few days with friends. Britain is the most important market for anglers to Ireland followed by mainland Europe.

### **Costs Associated with Angling for the Tourist and Tourism Provider**

**Tourist:** A Fishery Co-op annual share certificate is a legal requirement for all anglers in the Northern and Shannon Fishery Board areas, but is voluntary in all other areas.

**Rates as follows:** Annual Share Certificate €15.24, 21-Day €6.35, 3-Day €3.81

**State Licence:-** A state licence is required for salmon and sea trout fishing.

**Rates :** (Adult - All Regions - Full Season) €31.74  
(Juveniles - all districts, Full Season) €10.16  
(One District - Full Season) €15.24  
21 Day Licence (Tourist) €12.70  
1 Day Licence (Tourist) €3.81

### **Permits:**

Most Salmon and some sea trout and brown trout fisheries are privately owned and a permit is also necessary. Salmon - permits can cost between €12.70 and €127 per day depending on the fishery. The average cost per day for trout would be €6.35, but most trout angling is free.

Boat, engine and boatman fee per day costs from €120 for everthing, hire of boat engine and boat man.

Boat and engine only cost €40.00

Boat only cost €25.00

### **Deep Sea Angler**

Average costs of hiring a boat with capacity for 12 anglers.

Per angler per day cost €33.01

Charter daily cost €253.95

Min. weekly charter cost €1,270

### **Tourism Service Provider** (all prices include 21% VAT)

**2006** costings for the range of Fibreglass Boats are as follows:

19' Fibreglass ("Anglers Fancy") Lake Boat = from €2,500 (extras cost more)

17' Fibreglass ("Anglers Fancy") Lake Boat = from €2,000

15' Fibreglass ("Anglers Fancy") Lake Boat = from €1800

Johnson 5 hp Outboard Engine = €1,016 Yamaha Outboards

Johnson 6 hp Outboard Engine = €1,300 are also popular

Johnson 8 hp Outboard Engine = €1,460 and priced similarly

Johnson 9.9 hp Outboard Engine = €1,800

Johnson 15 hp Outboard Engine = €2,200

Boat Trailers cost from €1,000

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