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Standing Scientific Committee on Salmon:

Advice on DAERA area salmon stocks 2025

January 2025

BACKGROUND.

DAERA Standing Scientific Committee (Salmon & Sea Trout)

Following the introduction of new precautionary salmon conservation regulations in 2014, the then Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL) appointed an independent Standing Scientific Committee on Salmon (SSCS) to review stock status annually and advise on conservation measures. Following restructuring of departments in 2016-7 the Inland Fisheries function of DCAL became part of The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the committee now reports to the DAERA Environment, Marine and Fisheries Division. The scientific committee is comprised of a panel of fishery scientists from the Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI), The Loughs Agency and Inland Fisheries Ireland. The annual meeting of the committee was held in January 2024. Its main recommendations for DAERA in relation to 2025 are set out in this summary.

The committee assessed the status of salmon stocks in Northern Ireland (DAERA Area), separating these as far as possible into individual discrete breeding stocks in “primary” and “secondary” salmon rivers, two categories determined by stock size. Stocks were assessed using data available from surveys, counts, and catch returns. Conditions for permitting harvest of salmon from primary rivers (single stock fisheries) and coastal commercial fisheries (mixed stock fisheries), were considered with reference to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) guidelines for the management of salmon fisheries. Precautionary stock levels permitting harvest (= Management Targets) were developed and applied separately to commercial and recreational fishing, taking into account management advice processes in neighbouring fishery jurisdictions where appropriate.

Contents

SECTION 1.

Advice on DAERA Area Commercial Salmon Fisheries.

Management Objectives for DAERA area Mixed Stock Fisheries.

The DAERA area coastal waters commercial salmon fishery represents a Mixed Stock Fishery (MSF) with a number of contributory stocks. The contributory stocks have been previously identified via genetic analysis of samples taken from the fishery (Figure 1). NASCO guidelines indicate that management of homewater MSFs should be based on knowledge of the status of all contributing individual river stocks, and that conservation objectives are best achieved if the fishery targets only stocks at full reproductive capacity. Application of NASCO guidelines to Salmon harvest from the DAERA coastal area MSFs requires that the collective of stocks exploited reaches a threshold level equivalent to the "management target" (MT) of 125% of the "conservation limit" (CL). CL is defined as the maximum sustainable yield as derived from the adult to smolt stock recruitment curve. Importantly, in accordance with NASCO guidelines for commercial MSFs, MT must be attained in all the individual contributing rivers or other stock units potentially exploited. Additionally, this precautionary reference point should be met or exceeded consistently over a number of years before commercial exploitation can be permitted, a stipulation which gives some confidence that targets will continue to be met given unpredictable inter-annual variation in stock levels.

Salmon exploitation by a MSF necessitates a management threshold set at a level above the CL to ensure that there is a high probability of contributing stocks exceeding their CL, in line with NASCO guidelines. A management target of 125% of CL for all the contributing rivers/stock units exploited by the DAERA area MSF has therefore been

adopted as a precautionary reference point. Commercial exploitation might thus be considered permissible should all the rivers contributing to the MSF consistently achieve ≥125% of CL.

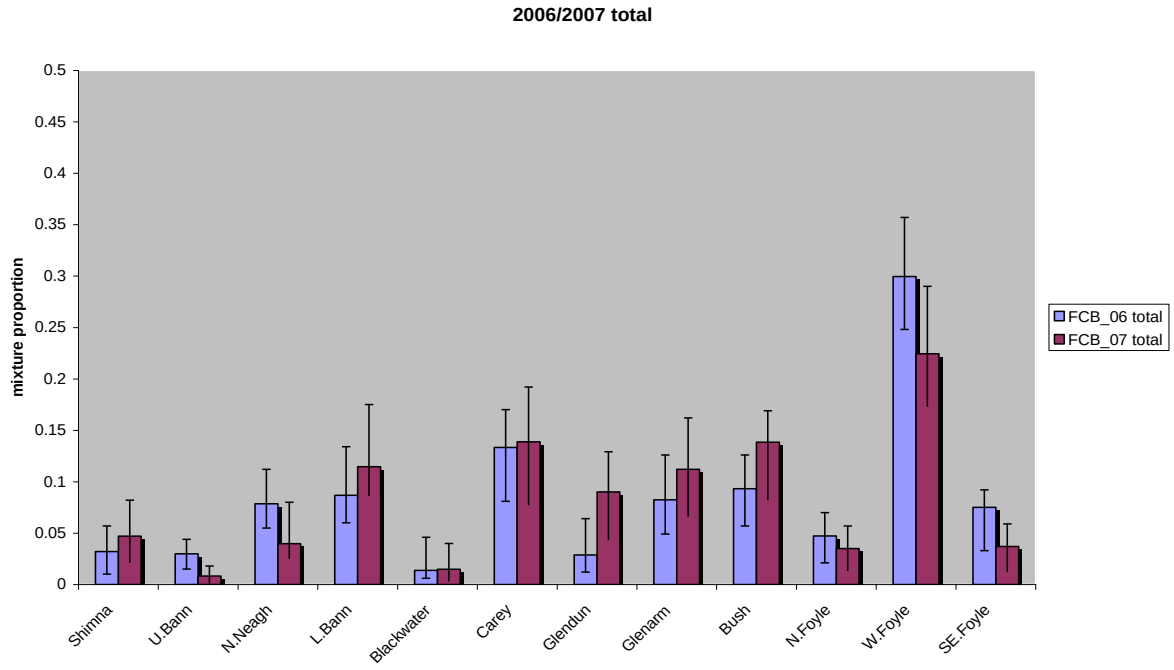

Figure 1. Relative composition of the 2006 and 2007 fishery for Atlantic salmon of all three licence holders in the Co. Antrim area combined. Estimates obtained using the program ONCOR (Kalinowski *et al*. 2008). Bars indicate 95% confidence limits estimated from 10,000 bootstrap replicates of both baseline and admixture genotypes.

Given the range of stocks contributing to the DAERA area commercial salmon fishery, monitoring of stock levels must be:

(1) broad enough to include the diversity of stocks exploited

(2) temporally sufficient to recognise trends in abundance and to ensure stocks are consistently attaining MTs and

(3) temporally relevant to ensure that recent trends in abundance are captured in the assessment process.

Eight monitored indicator stocks with high quality data (e.g. either trap or fish counter datasets) have been selected to reflect the status of stocks contributing to the DAERA area MSF, namely the rivers Finn (W. Foyle), Roe & Faughan (N. Foyle), Mourne (SE Foyle), Lower Bann (L. Bann and tributaries), Bush, Glendun and Shimna. Before commercial exploitation can be considered *all these indicator stocks* must attain a management objective of *≥125% of CL in 3 or more years out of the 5 most recent* years for which data is available.

Status & Advice for DAERA Area Mixed Stock Fisheries 2025.

The current status of the DAERA MSF indicator stocks is outlined in Table 1. The most recent data from 2020-2024 indicates that 3 of the 8 monitored rivers are currently attaining defined Management Objectives. The stock assessment index (fish counter) on the Mourne river is currently under review but is anticipated to be available for future reports. Consequently, under the precautionary management objectives ***the current scientific advice is that no MSF should be prosecuted in the DAERA area in 2025.***

Table 1. Attainment of Management Objective for contributory stocks to the DAERA area commercial Mixed Stock Fishery (MSF).

Indicator Stock/River	**Monitoring Type**	**Time-Series available (No. Yrs)**	**No. years ≥MT (No. Yrs available)**	**Attainment of Management Objective**
Finn	Counter	2020-24 (5)	0 (5)	No
Roe	Counter	2020-24 (5)	4 (5)	Yes
Mourne	Counter	n/a	n/a	Under Review
Faughan	Counter	2020-24 (5)	5 (5)	Yes
Lower Bann[1]	Counter	2020-24 (5)	3 (5)	Yes
Bush	Trap	2020-24 (5)	0 (5)	No
Glendun	Counter	2020-24 (5)	0 (5)	No
Shimna	Counter	2020-24 (5)	0 (5)	No

[1] Note Change of Biological Reference Points on U Bann & Maine have adjusted Lower Bann Management target.

SECTION 2.

Assessment & Advice on DAERA Area Recreational Salmon Fisheries.

Management Objectives for DAERA Area Recreational Fisheries.

The "primary" salmon producing rivers in the DAERA area have been identified, on the basis of population size, as the rivers Bush, Ballycastle, Glendun, Glenarm, Shimna, Agivey, Clady, Lower Bann, Moyola, Ballinderry, Blackwater, Upper Bann, Sixmile, Main, Erne, and the collective group of DAERA area Melvin tributaries.

DAERA have stated that some harvest of fish by angling may be permissible on a primary salmon river should it consistently achieve a MT of ≥115% of CL. "Consistently" is currently defined as when a river attains the Management Target of *≥115% of CL in 3 or more years out of the 5 most recent* years for which data is available. Should a river thus consistently attain MT a precautionary harvestable surplus (managed through carcass tag allocation) can be determined. Note that the MT of 115% of CL for angling fisheries is lower than the 125% of CL set for commercial fishing, recognising the lower exploitation efficiency of angling as compared with commercial fishing. Final allocation of a harvestable surplus can only occur after consideration of all available data (including electric fishing indices) and ratification by the DAERA SSC.

Under the NASCO definition of the precautionary approach, a lack of scientific data *should not* be used as a reason for failing to undertake conservation measures and *where information is lacking managers should be more cautious*. Therefore, a lack of data on

any particular river will reduce the scope for angling exploitation to be permitted on that river.

Table 2 sets out, for the primary salmon rivers of the DAERA area, where and in what quantity a harvest might be permissible for 2025, based on stock level indicators available to the committee. The indicator metric listed for a spawning population is a Management Target (MT) expressed as millions of salmon ova.

Methods used for assessing compliance with this MT are:

1. automated electronic counters (Counter);
2. acoustic telemetry to separate counts to tributary rivers (Tracking);
3. trap data (Trap);
4. extrapolation from rod catch data (Rod Catch); and
5. electric fishing surveys (Electrofishing).

Where there is no or Insufficient data, no assessment (N/A) is recorded. Each river is categorised to a recommended "status" of having a harvestable surplus (HS) or fishable with catch and release only (C&R), dependent on whether or not it has attained the management target stock level in three of the past five years.

In 2024 all fish counters were fully operational and extensive electric fishing surveys were completed across an extensive panel of primary salmon rivers (Figure 2). The electric fishing surveys detected relatively low levels of salmon fry across many rivers in 2024 (Figure 2). Similar to the previous survey year (2023) salmon recruitment was again particularly low on many east coast rivers including the Glendun, Glenarm and Shimna. Last year the authors noted a complete absence of 0+ age class salmon across

all 11 SQ survey sites on the Moneycarragh river (Dundrum Bay) and this recruitment failure was repeated in 2024. This 2 year absence of 0+ age class salmon is of significant conservation concern and may be indicative of imminent extirpation of the Dundrum Bay salmon stock

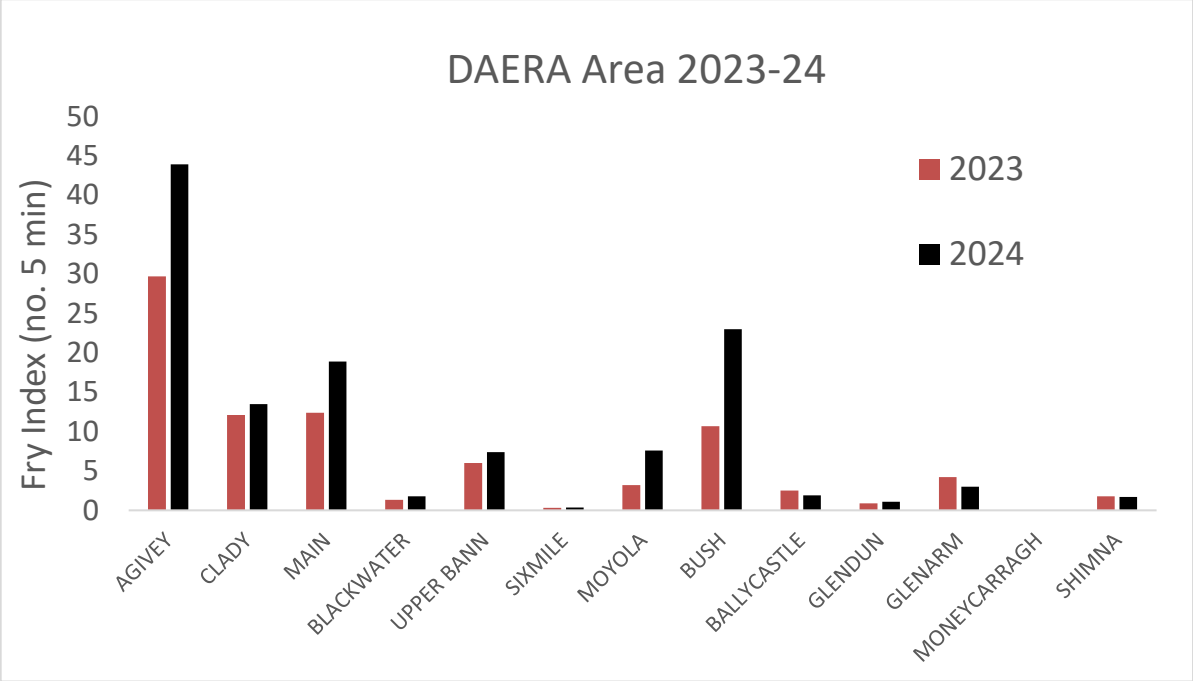

Figure 2. Electric fishing salmon fry indices from DAERA area rivers in 2023-24.

Adult salmon returns were quite variable amongst monitored river systems in 2024. One notable observation was a good return of 1 Seawinter salmon within the Bann system which saw the 3rd highest count on the Portna fish counter (14,716) since 1997. A group of 4 rivers have exceeded their management objectives (Agivey, Clady, Melvin & Blackwater). Two of these rivers (Clady & Blackwater) had the potential to change management status from catch & release to harvest surplus and were therefore further reviewed by the SSC (see below). No harvestable surplus was identified on 11 other primary rivers and one river (Lower Bann) was classed as a Mixed Stock Fishery and

subject to precautionary management to protect the weakest exploited stock in the fishery.

Glenarm River

The SSC noted that the status of the Glenarm river was precautionarily changed from HS to C&R in 2024. This was based on particularly poor recruitment years in 2020 and 2023. Re-analysis of the most recent data (2020-2024) has shown that the river has now dropped below the management target and again exhibited poor 0+ recruitment levels in 2025. Consequently, under the precautionary principle, harvest option should again be suspended for 2025 to protect spawners in the 2025 fishery. The catch allocation will be reviewed again in Jan 2026 for the 2026 fishery.

Clady River

The SSC considered the status of the Clady river, a notable salmon spawning tributary on the Lower Bann. A harvestable surplus was supported by the river from 2015-2023. The river fell below its management objective in 2024 and was managed on a catch and release basis. The assessment for 2025 however indicates that the system has again exceeded MT in 3 out of the most recent 5 year period, additionally the SQ electric fishing data reflects adequate recruitment of juveniles over recent years. Consequently, the SSC recommends that this river is once again offered a HS as set out in Table 2.

Blackwater River

The river Blackwater has attained MT in 3 out of the most recent 5 years. This is mainly a consequence of excellent grilse runs from the Lower Bann in 2020, 2021 and 2024. The SSC however reviewed all available data and note that the electric fishing surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024 exhibited record low juvenile recruitment on the river (a likely consequence of poor spawning runs in 2022 & 2023). Given these exceptionally low recruitment episodes, and therefore the potential vulnerability of the population in future years, the SSC recommends that the river continues to be managed under a C&R basis to protect spawners and facilitate stock rebuilding.

The SSC recommends that in river recreational salmon fisheries the DAERA area in 2025 should be managed as set out in Table 2

Status & Advice for DAERA Area Recreational Salmon Fisheries in 2025.

Table 2. Status of salmon stocks in primary salmon rivers of the DAERA area, assessment data available, and recommendations for harvest or catch and release angling for 2025. C&R = Catch & Release, HS = Harvestable Surplus.

River	Managem. Target (M ova)	Assessment Data		Attainment Managem. Objective	Status	Tags
		Adult	Juvenile			
L. Bann	23.86	Counter	Electrofishing	*MSF*	C&R	-
Main	7.48	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	*C&R*	0
Blackwater	2.47	Tracking	Electrofishing	Yes	*C&R*[2]	0
Sixmile	2.0	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	*C&R*	0
Ballinderry	1.96	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	*C&R*	0
Moyola	2.92	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	*C&R*	0
U. Bann	4.74	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	*C&R*	0
Clady	1.43	Counter	Electrofishing	Yes	*HS*	158
Agivey	2.49	Rod catch	Electrofishing	Yes	*HS*	227
Bush	2.66	Trap	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0
Ballycastle	1.51	Rod catch	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0
Glendun	0.48	Counter	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0
Glenarm	0.44	Rod catch	Electrofishing	No	*C&R*	0
Shimna	0.30	Counter	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0
Melvin	IFI[3]	Rod catch	Electrofishing	Yes	*HS*	108
Erne	IFI[2]	Counter	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0

[2] HS not allocated due to poor recent 0+ fry recruitment levels
[3] Conservation Limit & Adult Stock Assessment produced by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Secondary Rivers	Harvest of *salmon* from secondary rivers is not considered advisable under current conditions.

Secondary Salmon Rivers

Secondary salmon rivers with smaller stocks are more vulnerable than primary salmon rivers due to limited effective population size, are subject to more cautious management and have mandatory catch and release. Should future evidence emerge indicating improved stock status for a secondary river, a full assessment can be conducted to determine if a harvestable surplus may be available. Although the rivers identified as secondary salmon fisheries may have limited salmon populations many do contain productive stocks of migratory trout and some could, in the future, be listed, for example, as sea trout fisheries.

Some secondary rivers are routinely monitored by semi-quantitative electric fishing. A panel of 3 rivers, distributed across Northern Ireland (Articlave, Inver, Moneycarragh), are presented below (Table 3). These sentinel rivers indicate the ephemeral nature of salmon stocks in many smaller catchments with 0+ age class fish only present in 1 out of 9 years on both the Articlave and Inver rivers (Table 3). No salmon fry were recorded in any of these systems during surveys conducted in 2024. It is possible that some of these smaller stocks may be reliant on strayers from larger, adjacent, stocks. In addition to the 3 long term monitored secondary rivers above, electric fishing surveys were also undertaken on the Threemilewater, Quoile river and Kilkeel rivers in 2024 and no 0+ salmon recruitment was observed.

The SSC notes that no 0+ salmon were observed on any secondary rivers in 2024 and that the primary salmon rivers on the East N. Ireland coast (Glendun, Glenarm and Shimna) all displayed very poor recruitment. Salmon numbers generally on the east coast are currently impoverished with multiple recruitment failures evident in recent seasons. Recent work from Wales has indicated that although no fixed threshold exists below which salmon recovery is impossible, the further populations are below their conservation limit and the longer they remain there, the less likely recovery will be (Milner *et al*., 2023). Given the perilous nature of recruitment in East coast rivers it is important that conservation options are considered for these populations, particularly before potential extirpations occur.

River	No Sites	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Articlave	7	0	0	0	1.1	0	0	0	0	0
Inver	14	0	0	1.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moneycarragh	13	0.9	0.6	0.1	2.6	5.0	7.8	1.2	0	0
Kilkeel										0
Quoile										0
Threemile										0

Table 3. Mean annual abundance of 0+ salmon fry across all survey sites on secondary rivers monitored by semi-quantitative electric fishing.

The Welsh authorities have identified 5 potential options to address ongoing pernicious declines in salmon stocks (Milner *et al*., 2023). These options are equally applicable to N. Ireland and include;

1) Restore habitat and environmental quality to allow natural breeding and juvenile rearing to occur unimpeded to produce good quality smolts at the maximum carrying capacity of the catchment.

2) Maximise natural connectivity to allow adults access to spawning habitat and facilitate smolt migration to sea.

3) Protect the spawning stock from any additional sources of mortality, beyond the normal, natural mortality experienced throughout the life-cycle.

4) Support by artificial rearing. *This is advised against without a thorough, critical investigation of the causes of decline and the likely outcomes*.

5) Gene-banking. This can be used as a last resort conservation measure, to secure genetic resources, prior to extirpation of a stock.

The SSC recommends that DAERA instigate additional work to monitor east coast salmon stocks, which should include assessments of effective population sizes. The SSC also recommends that DAERA further consider the implementation of appropriate conservation measures to include securing archival genetic material prior to the potential extirpation of some vulnerable populations.

Emerging Threats to Salmon Stocks in the DAERA Area.

In addition to the standard stock assessment work the SSC can review, consider and comment on data detailing new or emerging threats that may impact salmon stocks within the DAERA area.

Lamprey Predation.

A new monitoring programme was initiated on the Lough Neagh catchment in 2020 which documented a high incidence of river lamprey damage on Atlantic salmon smolts (Kennedy *et al*., 2020). Research was continued across 2021-2024 and samples of smolts were collected and examined from the Lower Bann during the main run in May each year. The overall rate of heavily damaged smolts was the highest encountered in the time-series at >25% (Figure 3). The increased incidence of lamprey marks in 2024 is thought to be associated increased water clarity in Lough Neagh and additional research work into the potential causes and longer-term impact of this damage is ongoing on the Lower Bann salmon stock.

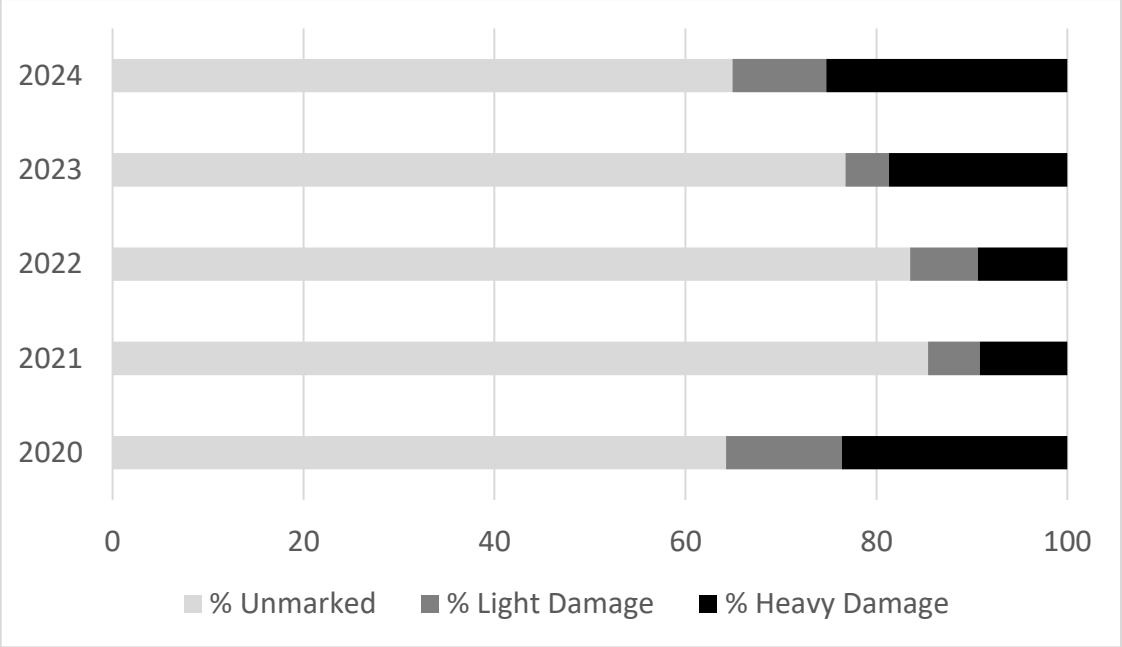

Figure 3. Prevalence of lamprey damage (%) on smolt samples from the Lower Bann 2020-2024

The SSC recommends further work to investigate the increased lamprey damage incidence in 2024 with a critical focus on the potential influence of changing environmental conditions in Lough Neagh.

Section 3

Sea Trout

In 2022 DAERA requested that the SSC provide additional advice on sea trout stocks, to encompass general status and identify new developments, threats and potential research requirements. The main data resource for sea trout are SQ electric fishing derived indices of juvenile (0+) trout recruitment from coastal streams around the DAERA area. Additional time series of 0+ trout abundance have been collated and are reported here. These include 3 sea trout rivers in North-Mid Antrim (Ballycastle, Glendun, Glenarm); 2 in South Antrim (Inver & Threemilewater) and 2 in County Down (Shimna & Moneycarragh) Figure 4.

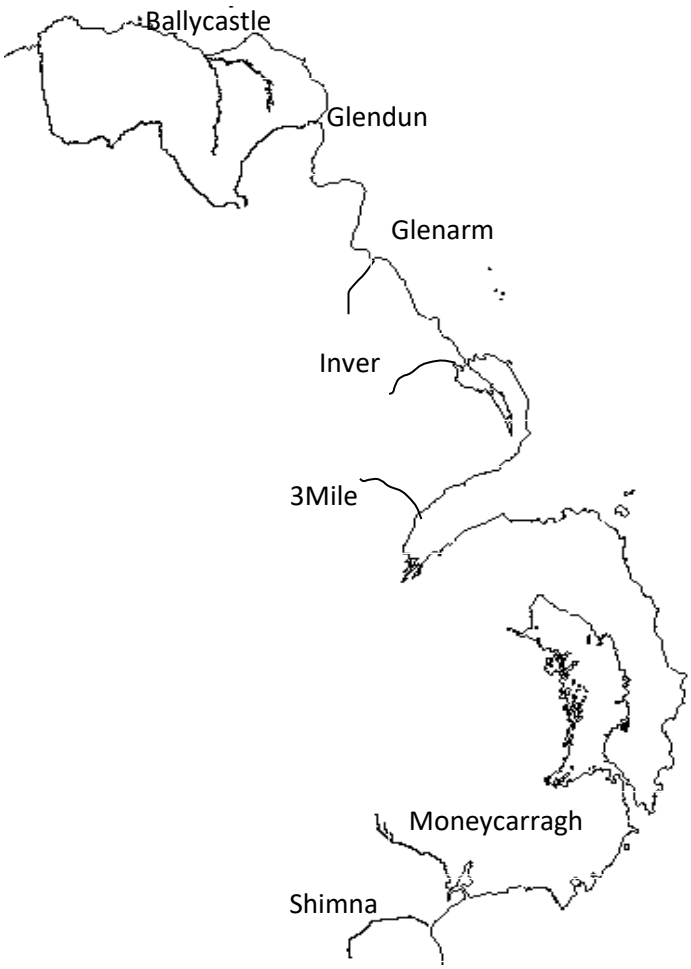

Figure 4. Location of monitored sea-trout rivers in Northern Ireland.

The long-term trend in abundance of 0+ trout fry for each monitoring river was updated to include data from 2024 and was plotted against time and the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient (r) determined. This analysis provided information on the trend of each dataset (Table 4).

Table 4. Sea trout rivers monitored by SQ electric fishing indicating long term abundance trends (*statistically significant trends indicated in italics*).

River	Region	Time-series	Pearson Coefficient r	Trend
Ballycastle	Glens	2009-2024	*+0.68*	+
Glendun	Glens	2002-2024	+0.34	+
Glenarm	Glens	2014-2024	-0.51	-
Inver	Glens	2003-2024[4]	-0.65	-
Threemilewater	Belfast Lough	2004-2024[4]	-0.30	-
Moneycarragh	Dundrum	2005-2024	+0.17	+
Shimna	Mournes	2003-2024	+0.53	+

The rivers in the Northern Glens region (Ballycastle and Glendun) and those in County Down (Moneycarragh & Shimna) exhibited similar broad patterns with long-term increasing trout recruitment (Table 4). The rivers in the mid portion of the range from Glenarm to Belfast Lough all exhibited decreasing abundance trends.

Longer term time series data (>20 years) are available for two sea-trout rivers, the Glendun and Shimna (Figure 5). These stocks provide the best unbroken reflection of juvenile trout production in DAERA area sea trout rivers. Both rivers showed increasing trends over the full time-series. It was also noted, however, that 0+ trout recruitment declined on both rivers in the 2024 survey. Additionally, when the most recent 10 year period is considered in isolation (2015-2024) from the overall time-series, a decreasing juvenile abundance trend is evident.

[4] Partial Timeseries

The longer term paucity of recruitment in the Mid-Antrim region in combination with lower 0+ levels recorded on the Shimna and Glendun in 2024 have resulted in more precautionary catch advice for the 2025 fishery.

The SSC considered that given present data deficiencies and management challenges a limited allocation of 2 sea trout (< 40cm) per angler per year in freshwater was unlikely to compromise stocks.

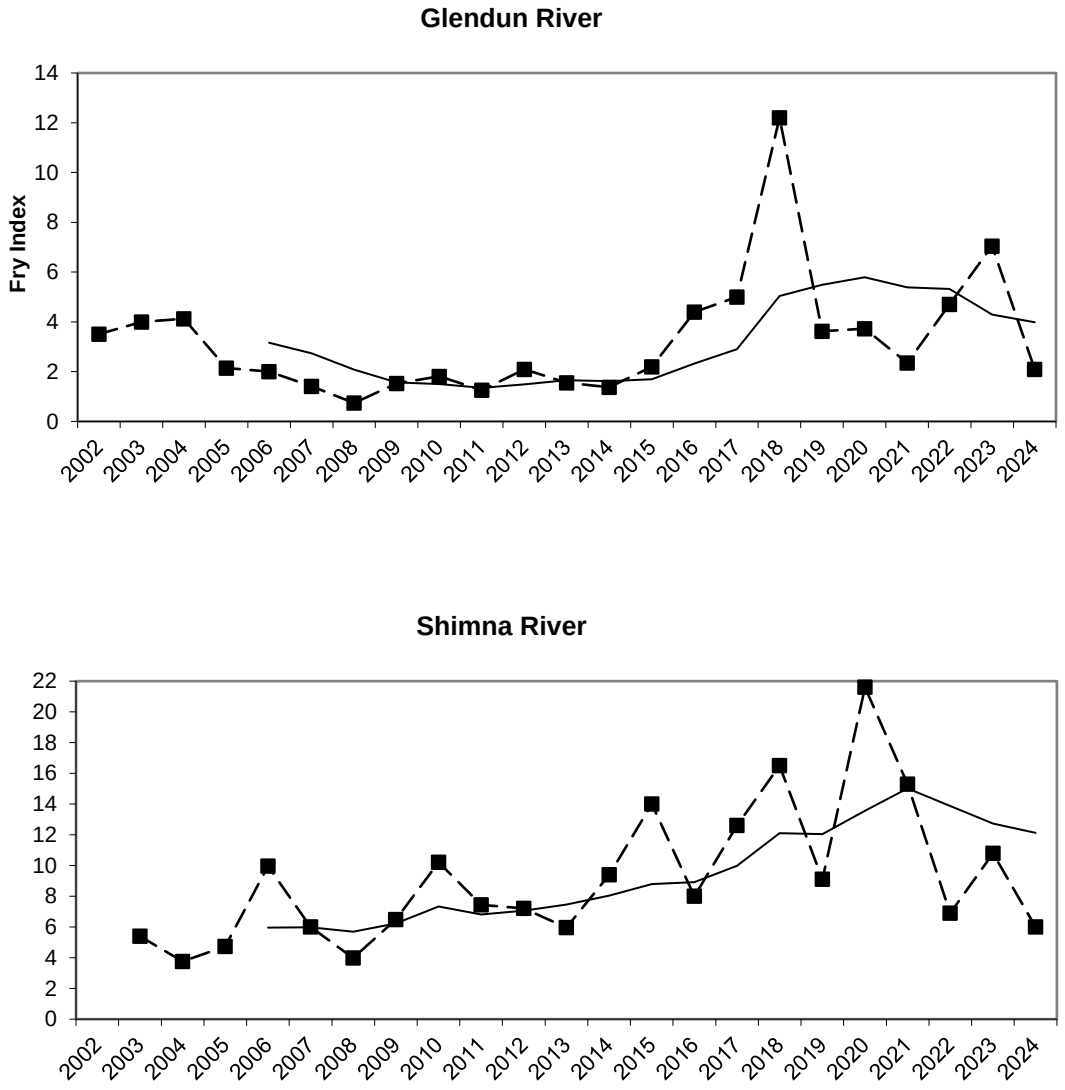

Figure 5. Long term recruitment patterns (mean no. 0+ /5mins) of 0+ trout on coastal streams in DAERA area with 5 y rolling average.

Summary of Main Recommendations from the SSC for 2025.

1. *The SSC recommends that no commercial coastal mixed stock salmon fishery should be prosecuted in the DAERA area in 2025.*
2. *The SSC recommends that catch and release currently remains appropriate on all secondary salmon rivers in N. Ireland.*
3. *The SSC recommends that the Clady river now be offered a small harvestable surplus (158 fish) in 2025.*
4. *The SSC recommends that in river recreational salmon fisheries the DAERA area in 2025 should be managed as set out in Table 2 above. It should be noted that the Lower Bann represents a MSF (Mixed Stock Fishery) and should be managed according to weakest contributing stock, C&R is thus recommended in 2025.*
5. *The SSC recommends that DAERA instigate additional work to monitor east coast salmon stocks, which should include assessments of effective population sizes. The SSC also recommends that DAERA further consider the implementation of appropriate conservation measures to include securing archival genetic material prior to the potential extirpation of some vulnerable populations.*
6. *The SSC recommends further work to investigate the increased lamprey damage in Lough Neagh with a critical focus on the potential influence of changing environmental conditions in the lake.*
7. *The SSC considered that given present data deficiencies and management challenges a limited allocation for consumption of 2 sea trout (< 40cm) per angler per year in freshwater was unlikely to compromise stocks.*

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DAERA Area Standing Scientific Committee – Members 2024-25

A. Boyd	AFBI (Chair, May 2023-)
R.J. Kennedy	AFBI (Secretary)
W. O'Connor	AFBI
M. Millane	Inland Fisheries Ireland
S. McLean	Loughs Agency

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APPENDIX I

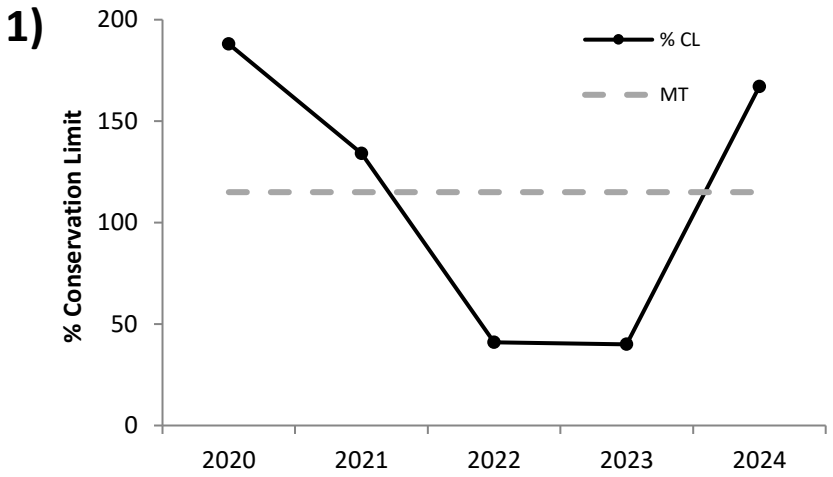
DAERA Area Primary Salmon Rivers – Stock Assessment Data 2020-24 & Management Recommendations for 2025.

River Lower Bann (Lower Bann/Lough Neagh Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	20.74[5] M ova
Management Target	23.85 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Resistivity Fish Counter
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 3/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index - Refer to individual Lough Neagh & Bann Area feeder rivers.



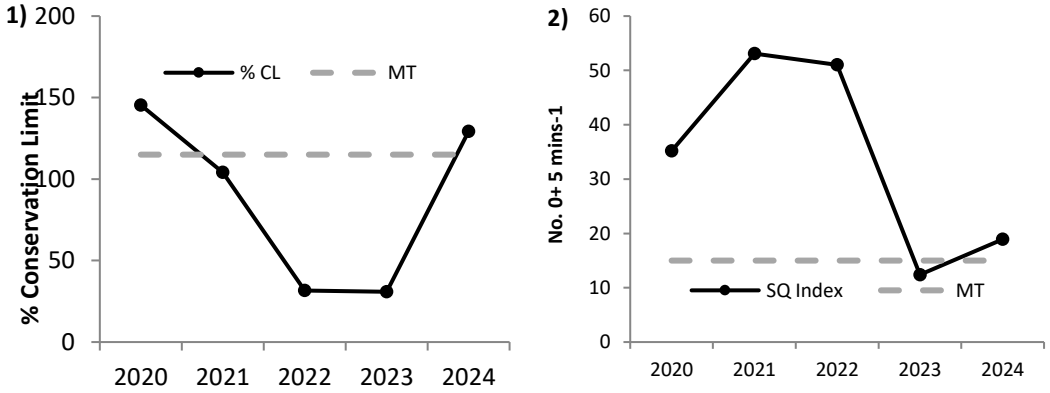
[5] CL reviewed & updated in 2020/21.

River Main (Lough Neagh Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	6.5[6] M ova
Management Target	7.48 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Lower Bann Telemetry Programme
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 2/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0 – Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index 2020-2024 – Moderate -Excellent.



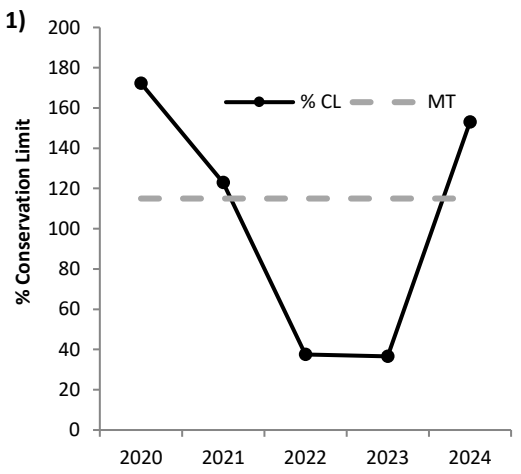
[6] CL reviewed & updated in 2020/21.

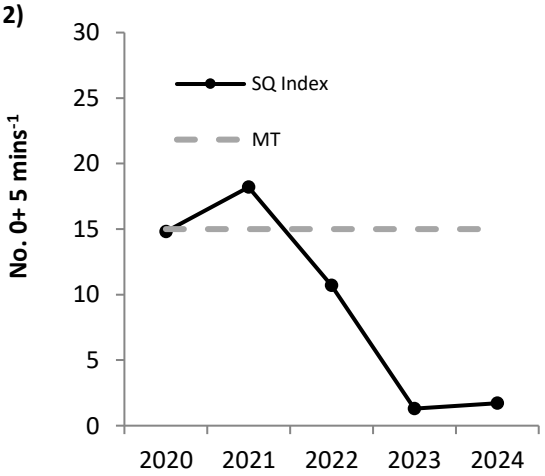
River Blackwater (Lough Neagh Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	2.15 M ova
Management Target	2.47 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Lower Bann Telemetry Programme
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 3/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index 2020-2024 – Moderate-Poor.



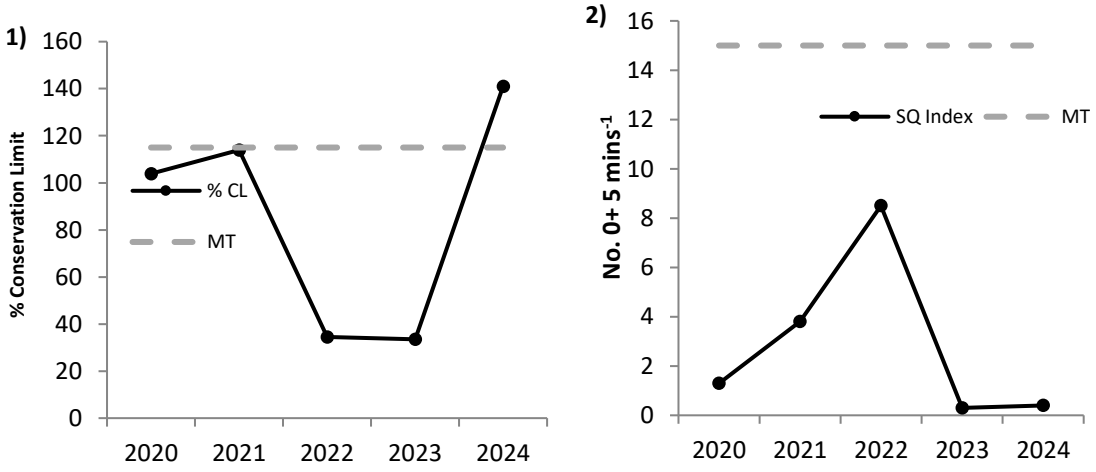


River Sixmile (Lough Neagh Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	1.74 M ova
Management Target	2.0 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Lower Bann Telemetry Programme
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 1/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index 2020-2024 – Poor-Moderate



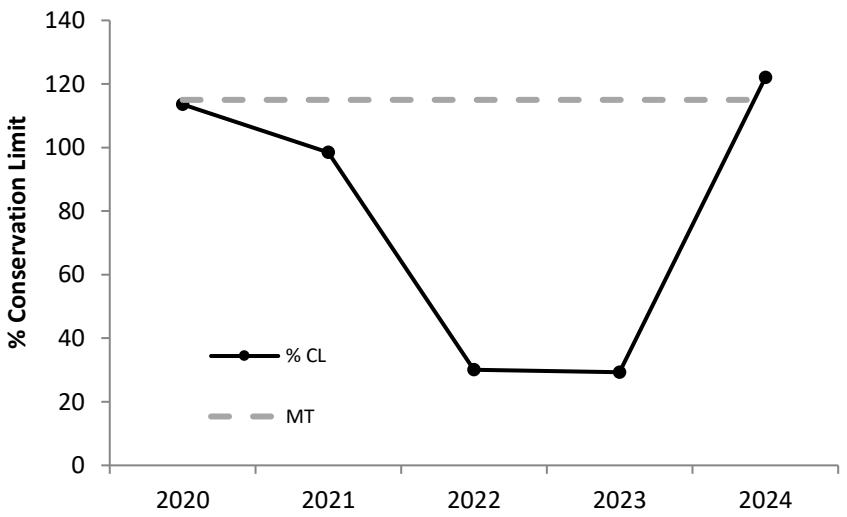
River Ballinderry (Lough Neagh Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	1.70 M ova
Management Target	1.96 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Lower Bann Telemetry Programme
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 1/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – *Not Available 2020-2024*.

1)

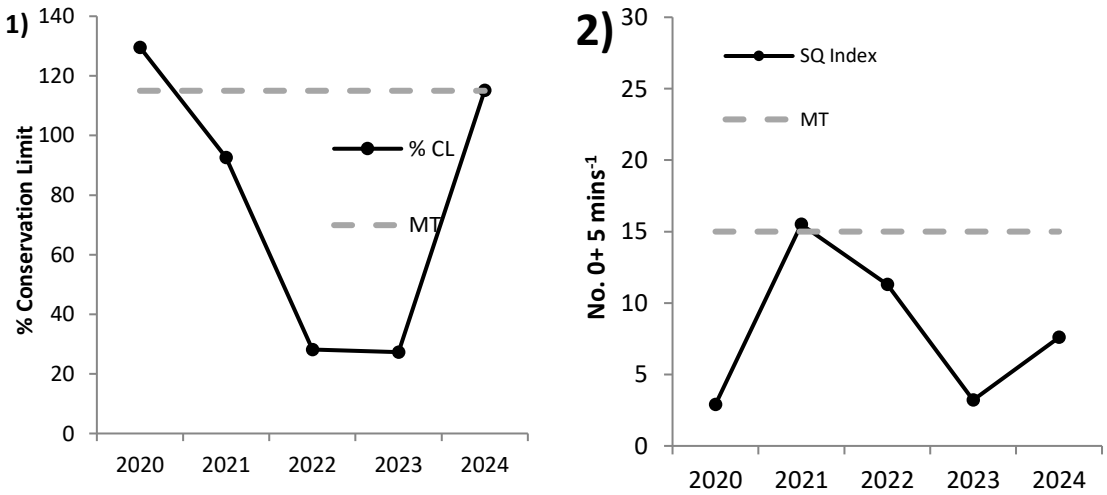


River Moyola (Lough Neagh Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	2.54 M ova
Management Target	2.92 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Lower Bann Telemetry Programme
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 2/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index 2020-2024 – Poor -Moderate.

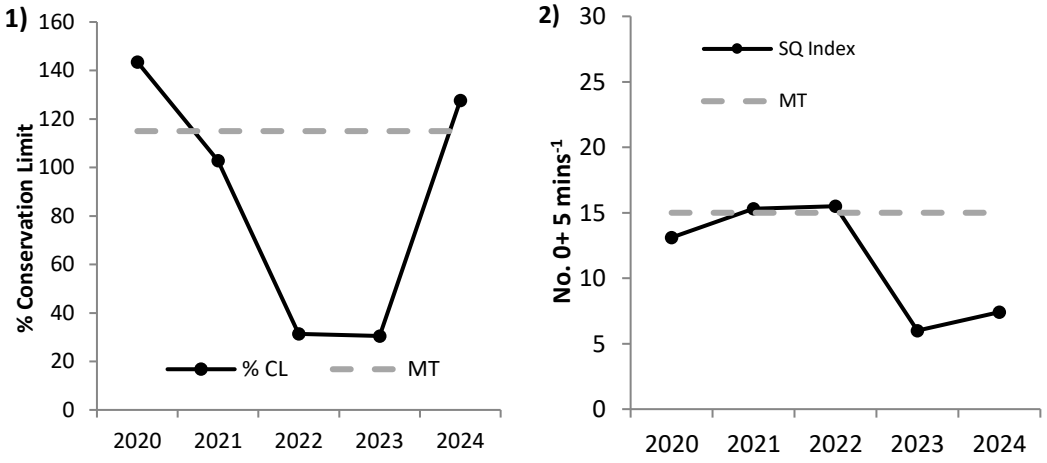


River Upper Bann (Lough Neagh Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	4.12[7] M ova
Management Target	1.98 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Lower Bann Telemetry Programme
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 2/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index 2020-2024– Poor- Good.



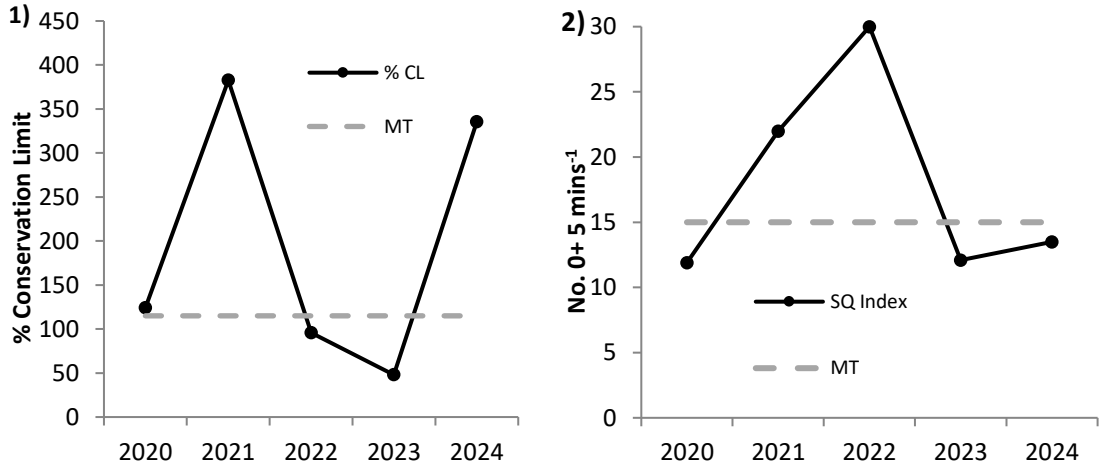
[7] CL reviewed & updated in 2020/21.

River Clady (Lower Bann Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	1.24[8] M ova
Management Target	1.43 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Resistivity Fish Counter
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	*Harvestable Surplus*
Potential Harvestable Surplus	158
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	158

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1. Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 3/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0.
2. Juvenile Recruitment Index – Moderate-Excellent.



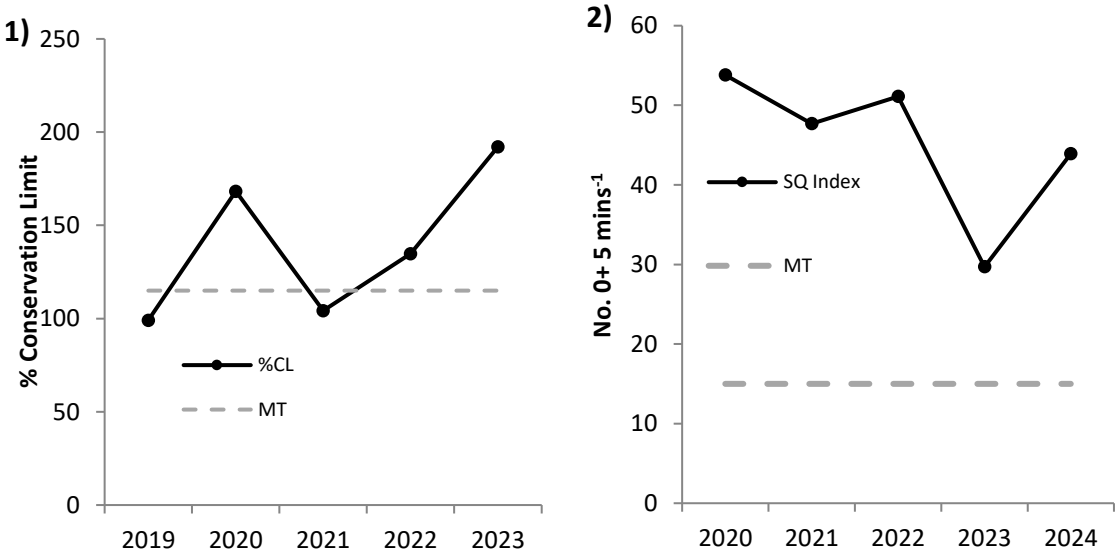
[8] CL based on habitat above the fish counting station at Inishrush.

River Agivey (Lower Bann Area)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	2.16 M ova
Management Target	2.48 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Rod Catch
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	N/A
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Harvestable Surplus
Potential Harvestable Surplus	227
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	227

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2019-2023.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 3/5 years > MT. Harvestable Surplus Available.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – Excellent.

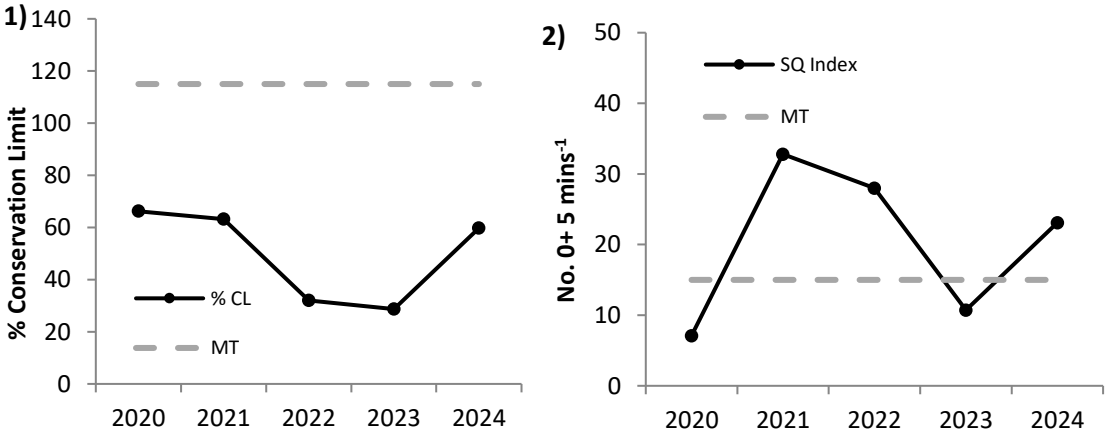


River Bush (Coastal)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	2.31 M ova
Management Target	2.66 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Trap
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Catch returns
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 0/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – Moderate -Excellent.

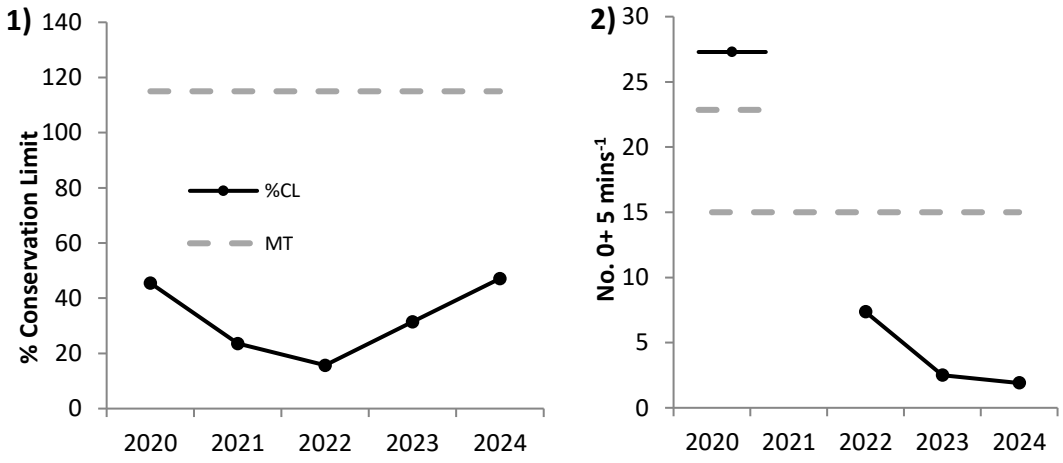


River Margy/Carey (Ballycastle) (Coastal)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	1.31 M ova
Management Target	1.51 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Rod Catch
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 0/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – Moderate-Poor.

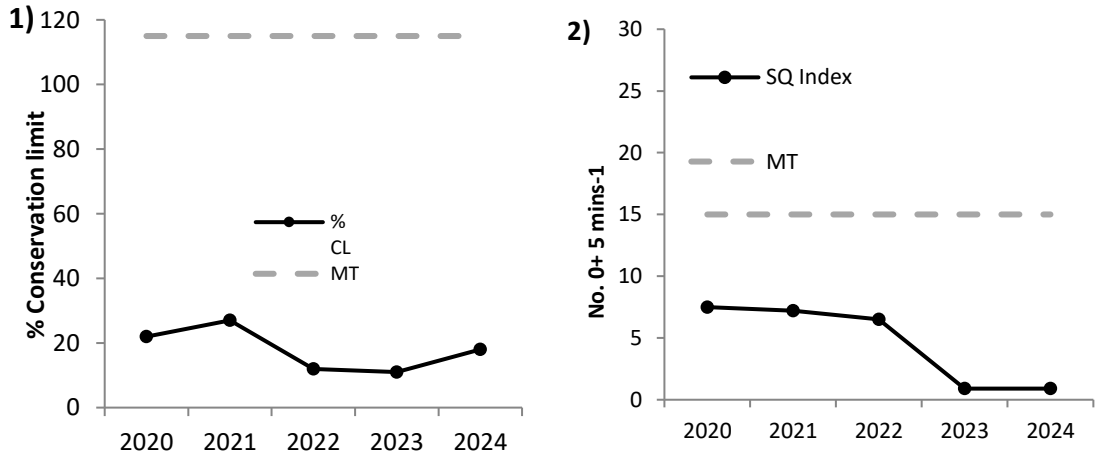


River Glendun (Coastal)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit[9]	0.42 M ova
Management Target	0.48 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Resistivity Fish Counter
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 0/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – Moderate-Poor.



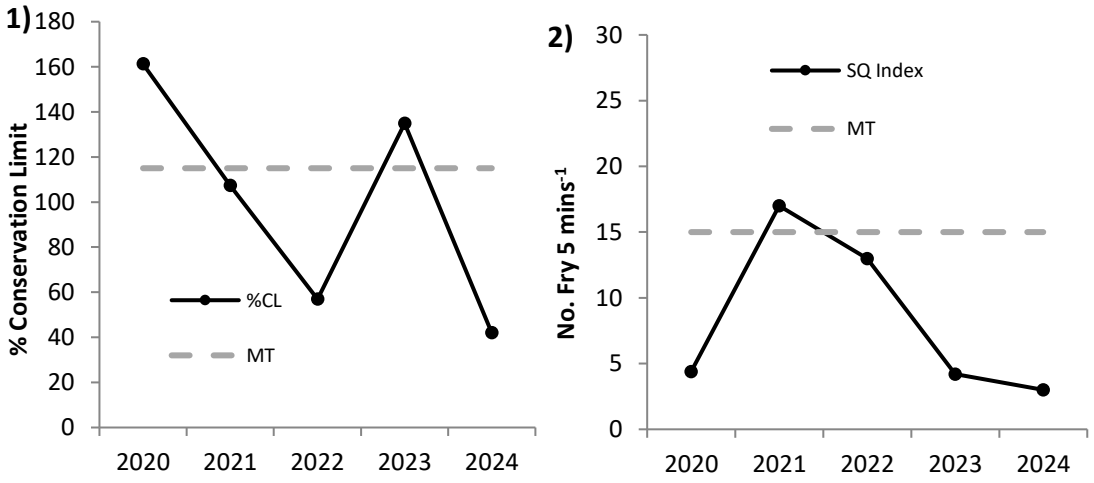
[9] CL based on habitat above the fish counting station at Clady Road.

River Glenarm (Coastal)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit	0.38 M ova
Management Target	0.44 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Rod Catch
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Local catch returns
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 2/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – Moderate-Poor.

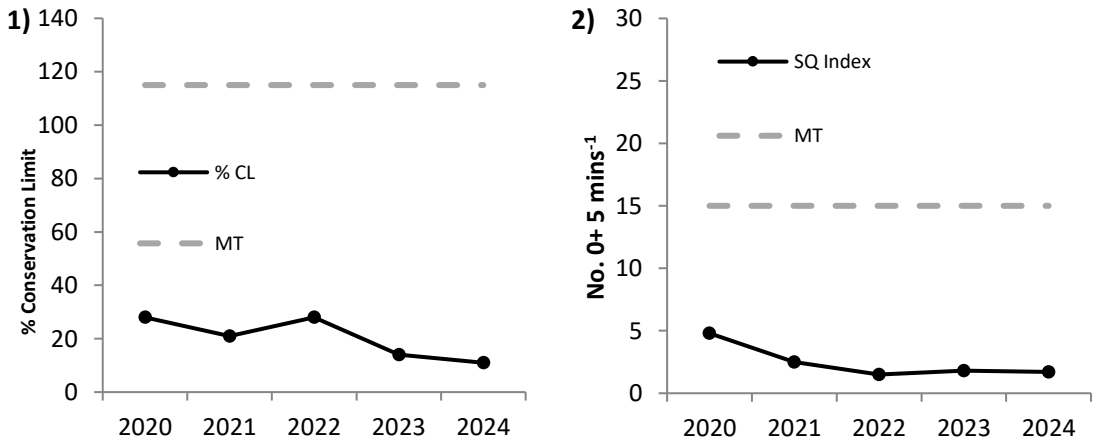


River Shimna (Coastal)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	LCU Survey
Conservation Limit[10]	0.20 M ova
Management Target	0.23 M ova
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Resistivity Fish Counter
Juvenile Abundance	Semi-Quantitative Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	Annual Monitoring
Catch Details	Local catch returns
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 0/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – Poor.



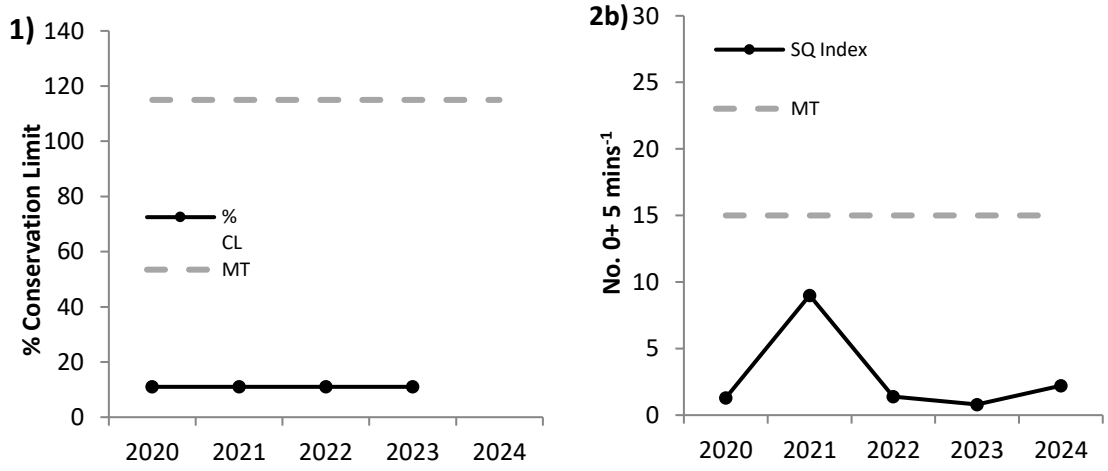
[10] CL based on habitat above the fish counting station.

River Erne (Fermanagh)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	n/a
Conservation Limit	IFI[11]
Management Target	n/a
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Vaki Fish Counter
Juvenile Abundance	SQ Electric Fishing
Biological Characteristics	n/a
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Catch & Release
Potential Harvestable Surplus	0
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	0

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2023.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 0/4 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus 0. Catch & Release.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index – [Ballinamallard Shown] Poor-Moderate.



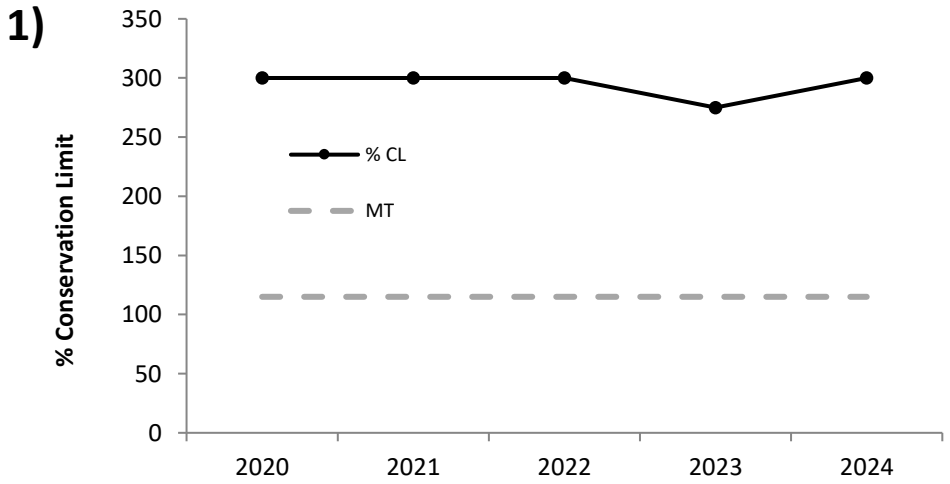
[11] Conservation Limit & Adult Stock Assessment produced by IFI. https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/2023-12/the-status-of-irish-salmon-stocks-in-2024-with-catch-advice-for-2025_0.pdf

Lough Melvin (Fermanagh)

River Characteristics	
Habitat Inventory	n/a
Conservation Limit	IFI[12]
Management Target	n/a
Salmon Monitoring Data	
Adult Escapement	Rod Catch (NI & RoI Combined)
Juvenile Abundance	SQ Electric Fishing (NI)
Biological Characteristics	n/a
Catch Details	Carcass Tagging 2002-13
Conservation Recommendations	
Recommended Fishery Status 2025	Harvestable Surplus
Potential Harvestable Surplus	108 (DAERA Area)
Final Harvestable Surplus (tag allocation)	108 (DAERA Area)

Salmon Stock Assessment for 2025 Fishery. Most recent data series 2020-2024.

1) Adult Salmon Escapement & Compliance against Conservation Limit[13] and Management Target (115% CL). *Outcome*; 5/5 years >MT. Harvestable Surplus Available.
2) Juvenile Recruitment Index N/A.

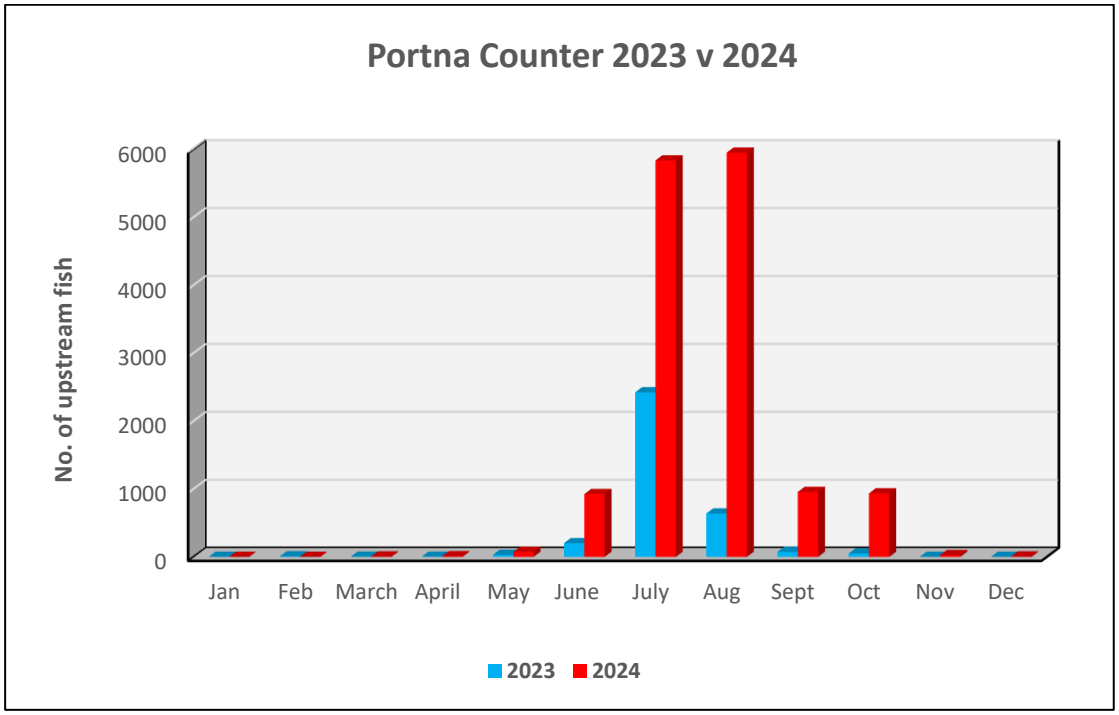


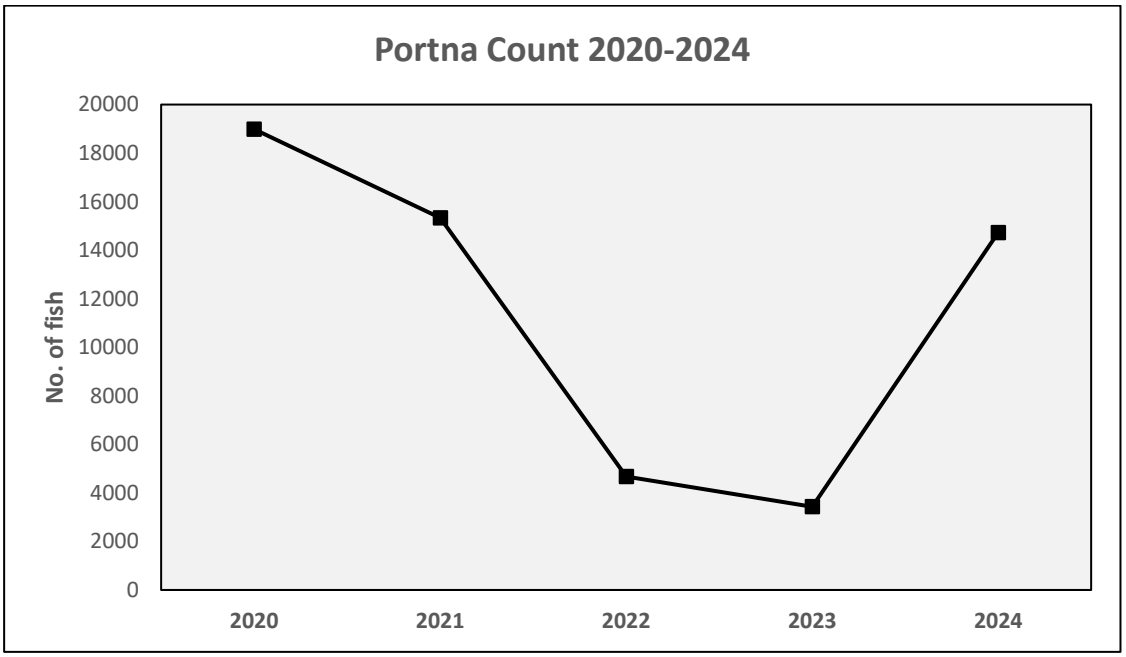
[12] Conservation Limit & Adult Stock Assessment produced by IFI. https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/2023-12/the-status-of-irish-salmon-stocks-in-2024-with-catch-advice-for-2025_0.pdf
[13] CL Compliance for 1SW salmon.

APPENDIX II

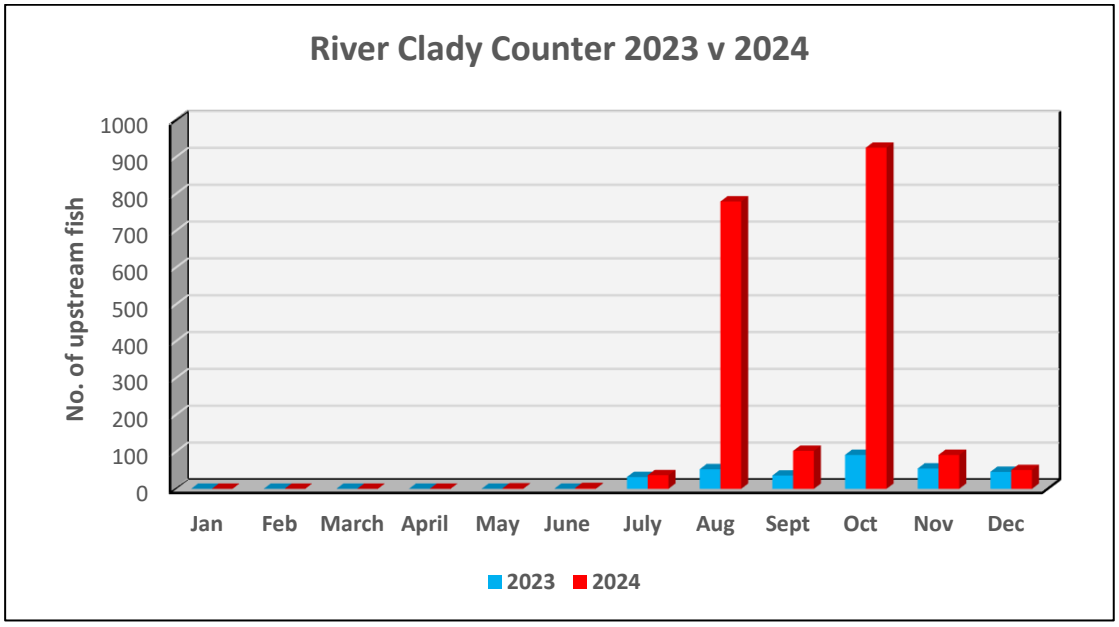
Fish Counter Data & Update 2024

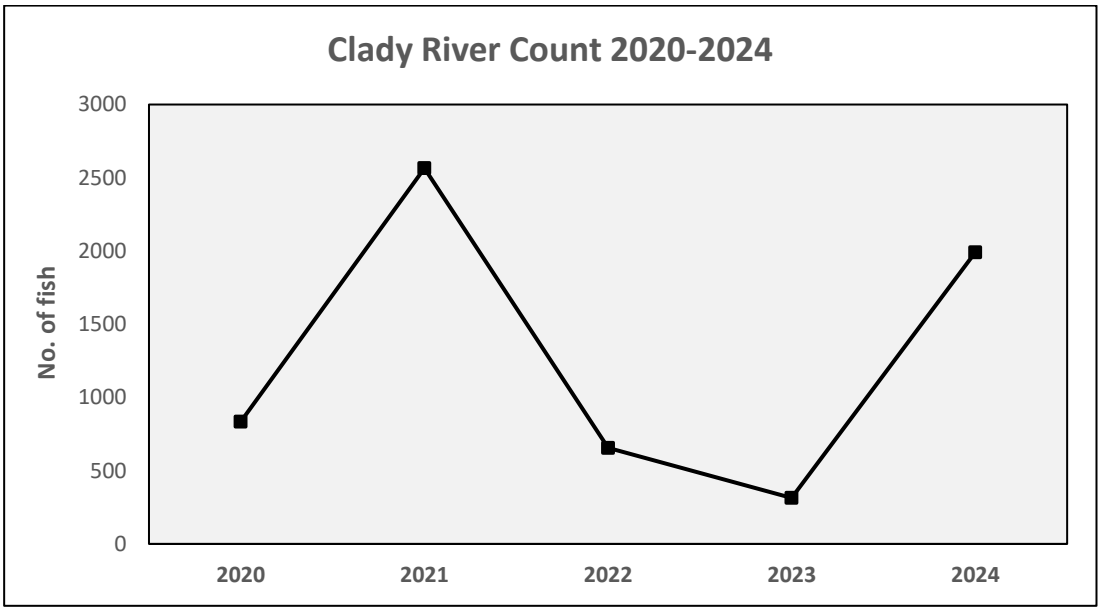
Portna Counter Data & Update



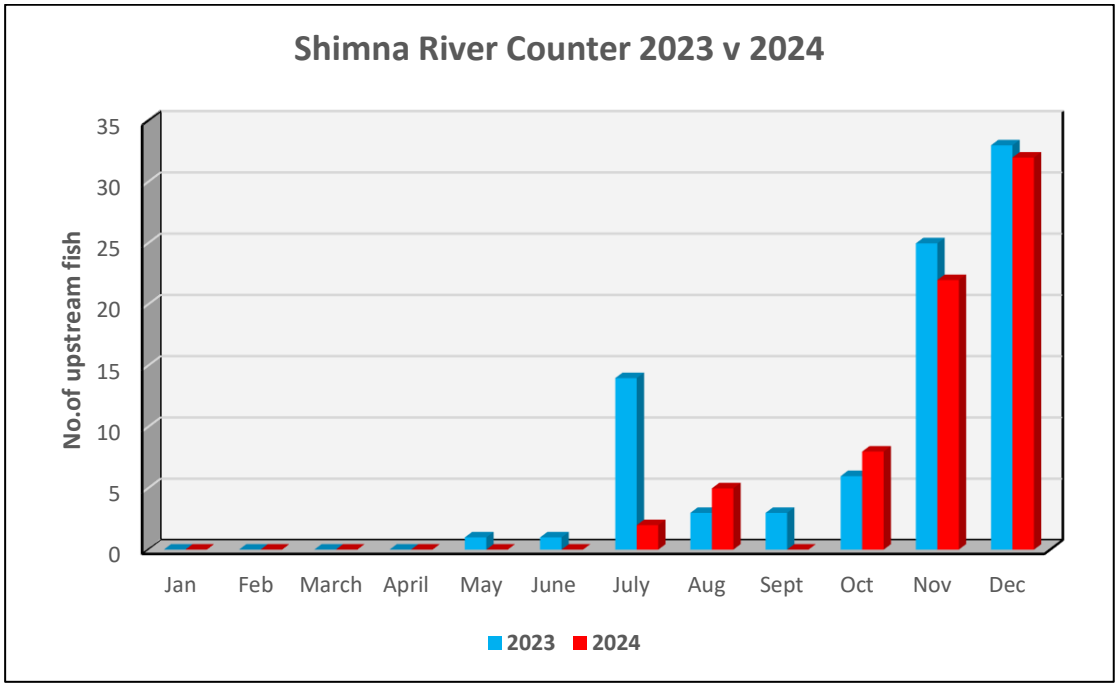


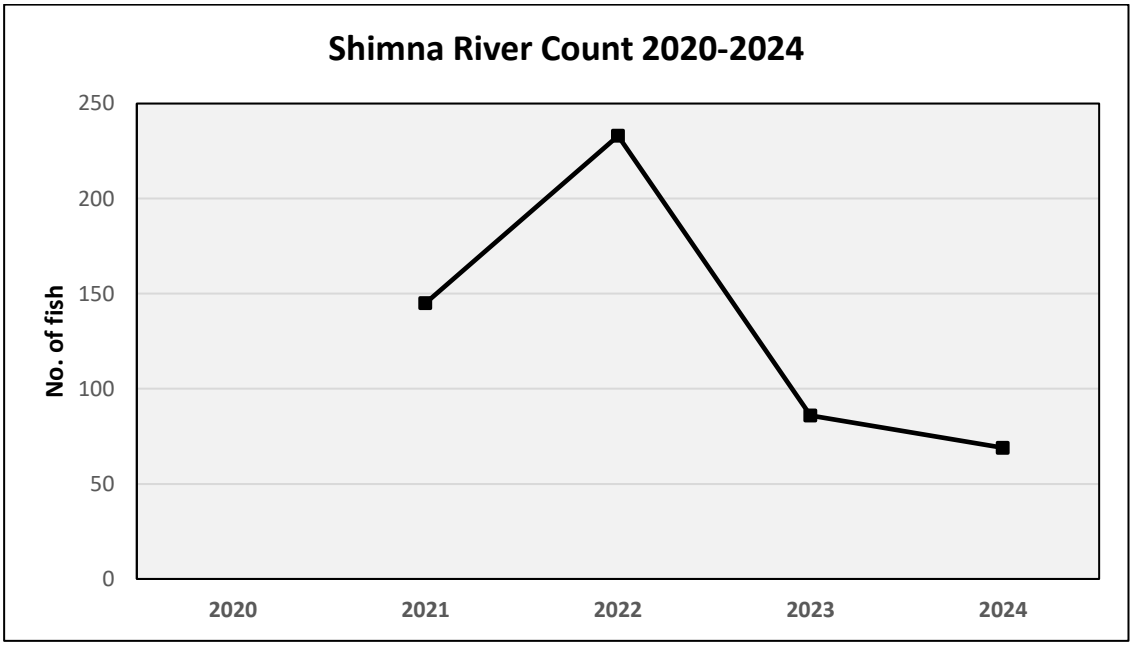
Clady Counter Data & Update





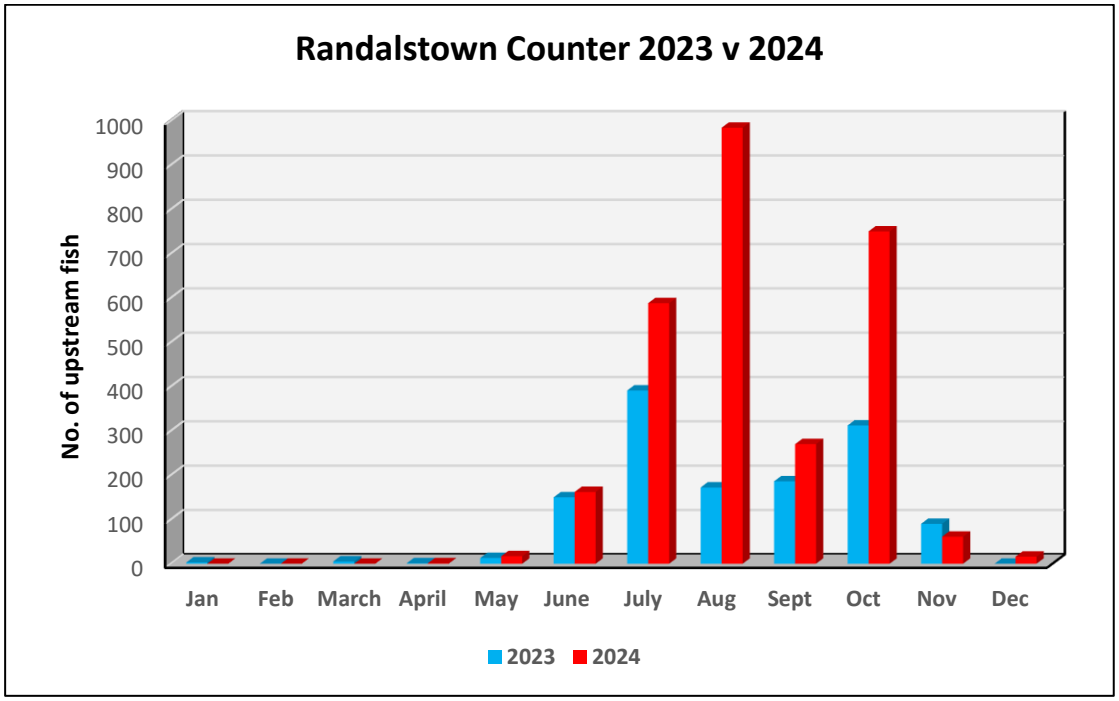
Shimna Counter Data[14] & Update

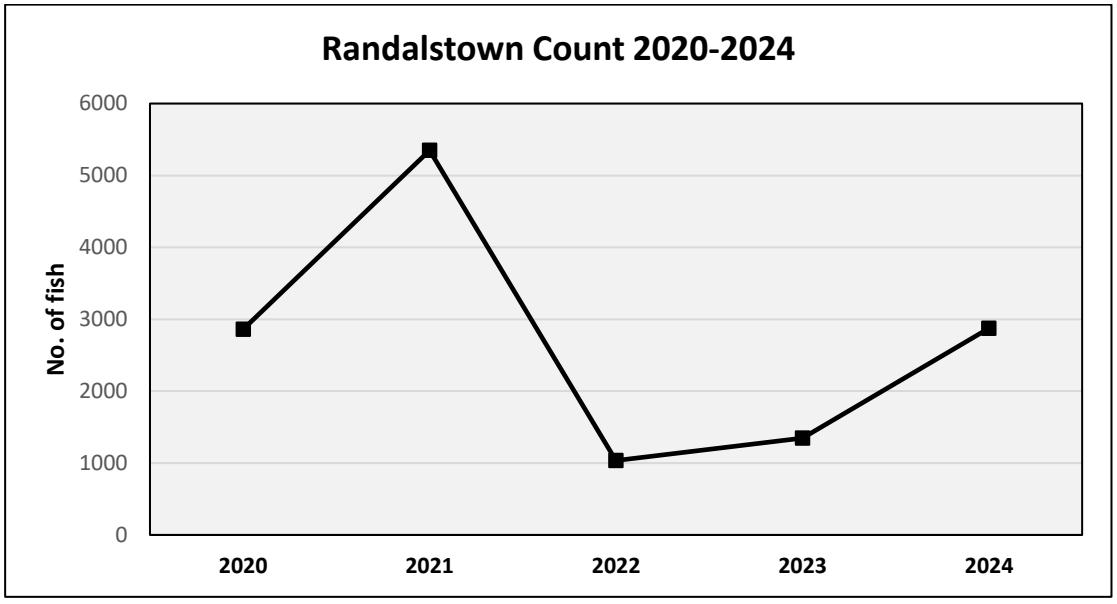




[14] Includes Salmon & Seatrout

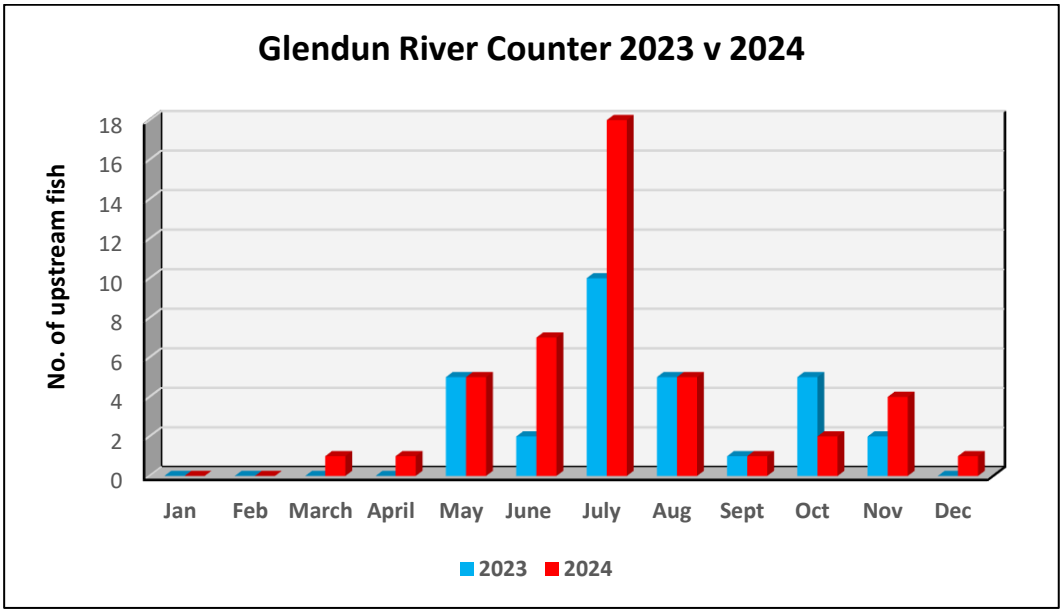
Randalstown Counter[15] Data & Update

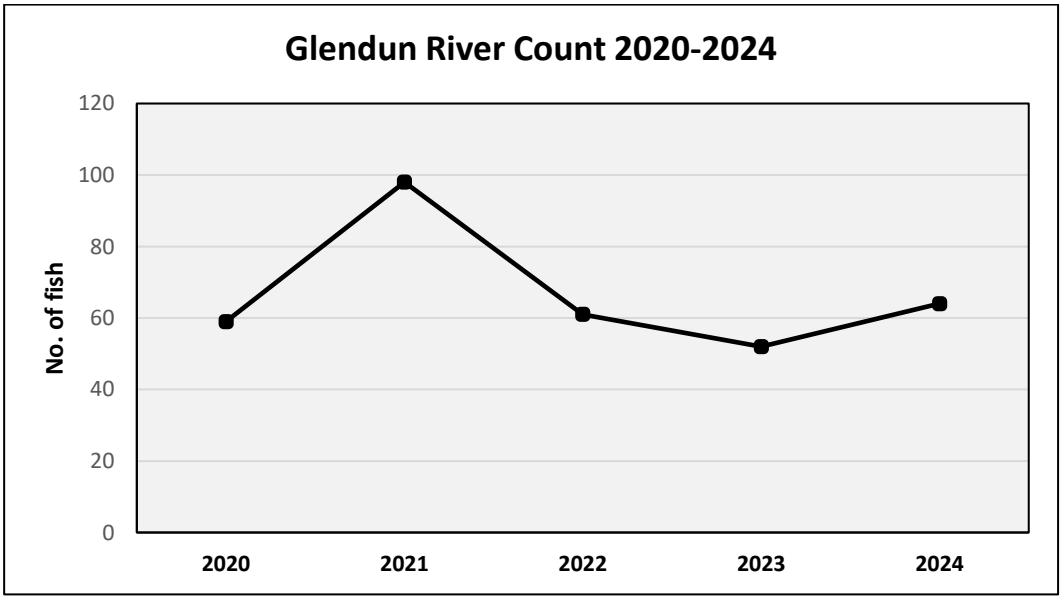




[15] Includes Salmon & Dollaghan

Glendun Counter Data[16] & Update





[16] Includes salmon & seatrout