



The
Blackwater is
your River

Clogher & District Angling Clubs

Gardiner Mitchell



- 👉 Rivers are fascinating but can be dangerous
- 👉 **Always** go with an **adult**

Before the program was started some primary schools were consulted as to what they thought would be most beneficial to their delivery of the CEA Northern Ireland Curriculum at KS2.

Main feedback

The World Around Us - Strand 3:- Place

*(basically concentrating on **Science & Geography**)*

Many primary school teachers want to participate more in environmental studies, but many do not feel that they can carry out practical studies outdoors as they lack:-

- Expertise in identification of fauna & flora
- Safe staffing supervision levels
- Resources
- Sufficient budget
- TIME to plan and carry out



The program was designed and delivered by a biologist who was a former head of science in a school and also a professional photojournalist, angling guide and published author of several major books.



☞ The course was also delivered by a member of Clogher & District Angling Club who is a river bailiff with an intimate knowledge of the local river and its unique flora and fauna.

A synopsis of the course

- ☞ Safety near rivers.
- ☞ The river belongs to you and some day you will be its guardians.
- ☞ The organisms which live in and around the river and why they are found here?
- ☞ The river is an area of special significance - it is the nursery for the young of the Atlantic salmon and the Dollaghan trout unique to Lough Neagh. The vulnerable crayfish, the critical decline of the freshwater eel, etc.
- ☞ The life cycle of the salmon - a fascinating creature.
- ☞ Where do you live? The migration of the salmon from sea to this area i.e. headwaters of the Blackwater - work out their migration route.
- ☞ The migration of the salmon to their feeding grounds off Greenland.
- ☞ It is not only fish which are important - invertebrates and their importance in the food chain.
- ☞ Learning about the crayfish - handling session.
- ☞ Identifying invertebrates - how they can be indicators of water quality
- ☞ Pollution is more than dropping litter - slurry, silage effluent, etc.
- ☞ The need for conservation - returning fish - catch & release.
- ☞ CREATIVE WRITING - a message or poem about some of the organisms.



☞ Where it was viable children were taken outdoors to the river.



Group with their identification charts on the riverbank



Capturing and identifying aquatic minibeasts



☞ Identifying different fish species

Where it was not viable water fauna
was brought into the classroom





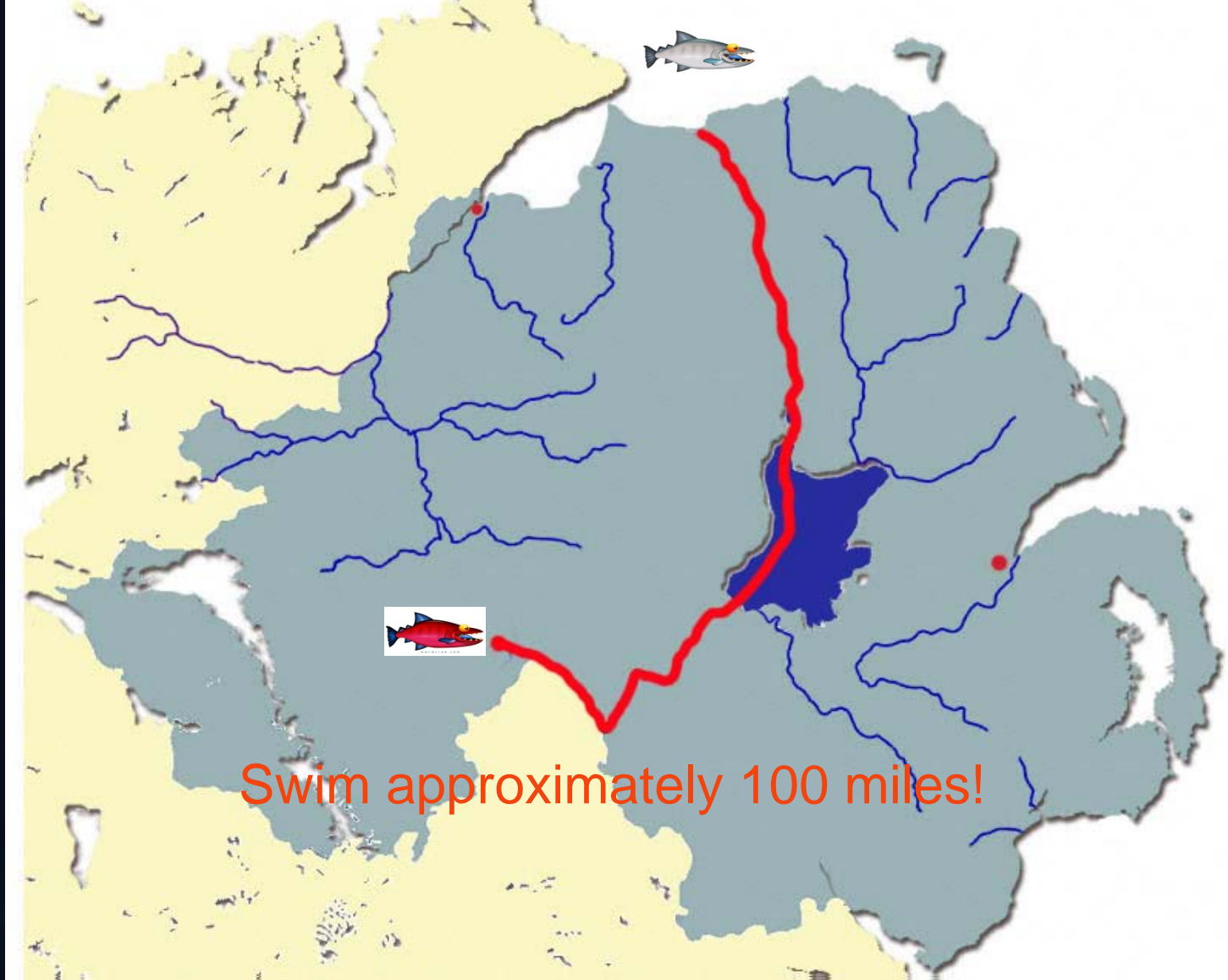
Learning about a wide range of pollution



Capturing and identifying minibeasts in the classroom



👉 Calculating the salmon's migration route from the sea to the spawning beds. A



Swim approximately 100 miles!

☞ Mark on your map with a small dot where you think your school is.

But this is just a small part of their journey. Look where they go to feed when they leave the river!







👉 Does anyone know what this creature is?

The strangest things are dumped in rivers



👉 Look at this image closely and see what is here



☞ The juice which comes out of SILAGE is lethal to fish.

Damselfly



Damselfly nymph



Damselfly Adults