



**International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

**ICR(20)13**

***Report on Inland Fisheries Ireland's National Salmon Scale Project during  
the International Year of the Salmon***





### IFI National Salmon Scale Project

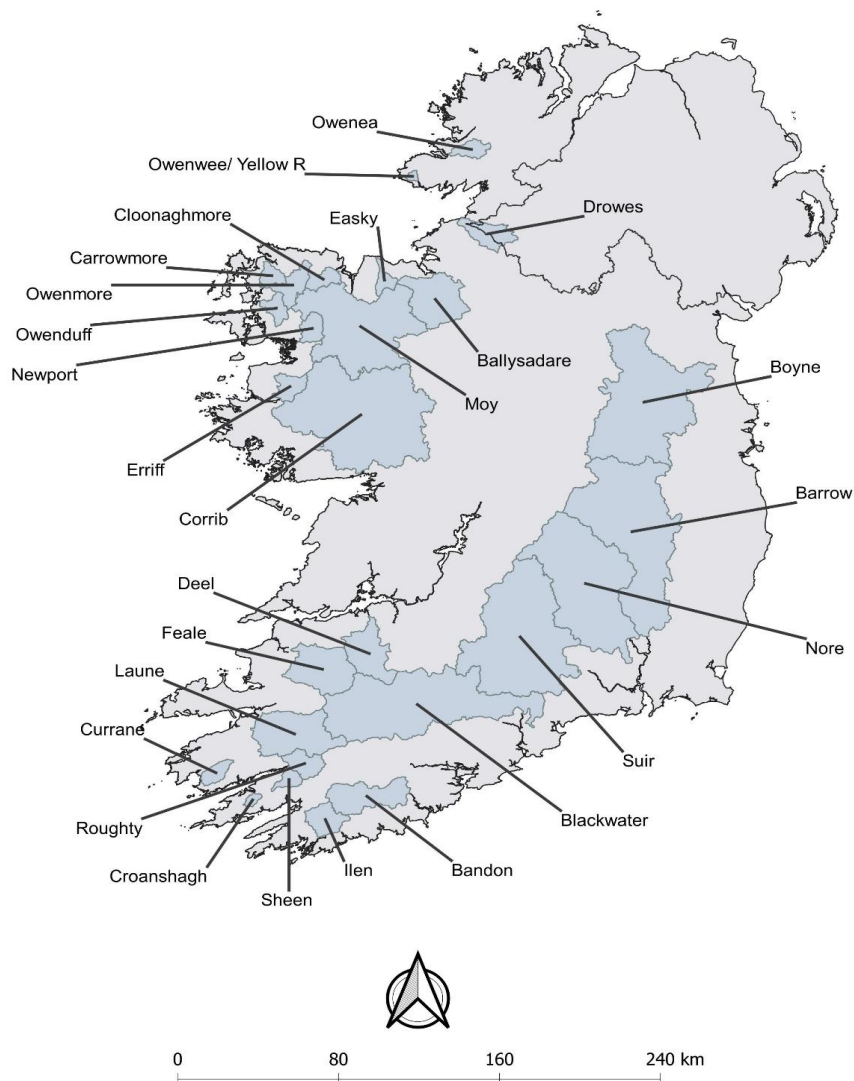
As part of Inland Fisheries Ireland's efforts connected with the International Year of the Salmon all anglers applying for Salmon licences in 2019 were invited to contribute to citizen science project by collecting and returning salmon scales to IFI. These would contribute to the already existing salmon scale database maintained by IFI which has been collected from commercial draft net fisheries, anglers and from research projects. To date the collection consists of 19,300 scale samples from a total of 38 river systems in Ireland.

**Table 1: Summary of Salmon Scales received in 2019 from IYS citizen science project.**

<b>River</b>	<b>Scales samples received</b>
Corrib	536
Moy	230
Owenmore	68
Erriff	63
Carrowmore	18
Drowes	11
Ballasadare	9
Suir	6
Feale	6
Laune	6
Newport	5
Nore	5
Ilen	5
Owenwee (Yellow)	3
Cloonaghmore	3
Owenduff	3
Blackwater (Munster)	3
Roughty	3
Bandon	3
Owenea	2
Easky	2
Barrow	2
Deel	2
Boyne	1
Currane	1
Sheen	1
Croanshagh	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>997</b>

Leaflets with instructions and envelopes were sent out along with salmon licences, and a poster was produced and distributed. Anglers were encouraged to collect scales of Salmon captured and return them for analysis, including details of length, weight, sex, capture location and details of predation and net marks and sea lice presence. Many anglers responded to the request and to date 997 sets of scales have been returned from 27 river systems throughout the country. Highest returns of scales were received from the river Corrib, Owenmore, Carrowmore Lake, Moy and Erriff Rivers.

Map 1: Highlighting fisheries from which scales were received as part of the IFI Citizen science project.





# NATIONAL SALMON SCALE PROJECT



## Anglers can make a difference...Get Involved

2019 is the International Year of the Salmon and throughout the year a number of initiatives are being run to raise awareness of the dramatic decline in salmon stocks in the North Atlantic. Anglers have witnessed this decline first-hand, as, over the years, many of our rivers have become depleted of salmon with consequent restrictions on fishing.

As part of the International Year of the Salmon, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) are encouraging anglers to get involved in a nationwide citizen science project to collect salmon (and sea trout) scales from their catches and submit them to the National Salmon Scale Archive (NSSA) hosted by IFI. This initiative aims to increase the scale resource available to researchers for ongoing scientific assessments to better understand the biology and ecology of Irish salmon and sea trout in our rivers. Scales provide important information on age/growth characteristics, and juvenile and marine life history. Scales can be taken from both retained and catch & release fish.

Click on the following link for further information on the project and see overleaf for details on how you can contribute: [www.fisheriesireland.ie/salmonscales](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/salmonscales)



INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF THE SALMON



Íoscach Inliré Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland