



A Shore & Small Boat Sea Angling Guide to the Shannon District

Hags Head to Kerry Head & The Shannon Estuary



Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Foreword

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is very pleased to bring you this comprehensive Sea Angling Guide to Shore and Small Boat Fishing in the Shannon River Basin District (ShRBD). This guide covers the coastline from Hags Head in Co. Clare to Kerry Head in north Co. Kerry, and includes the Shannon Estuary. Inland Fisheries Ireland presides over inland fisheries. Our responsibilities include the protection, conservation, development, management and promotion of Ireland's inland fisheries and the sea angling resource.

You will find the guide a definitive source of angling information which will facilitate both domestic and tourist anglers in planning a fishing trip. We fully describe all inshore and offshore fishing areas, including GPS references for the shore angler, whilst offering a variety of angling venues to suit all abilities, experience and angling preferences.

Speciality fishing, such as Salt Water Fly-Fishing and Specimen Hunting, is becoming increasingly popular in the District in recent years and features prominently in the guide.

The Shannon River has the largest estuary in the country and this makes it unique in providing much sheltered, all-weather fishing opportunities especially for the shore angler, the small boat enthusiast, and competition organisers.

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee verify many trophy-size fish each year. This District boasts the Irish Record Bass of 17lb 13ozs which was caught on Doughmore Beach in Co. Clare in 2000. This remains the current Irish Record. Regularly recurring species featuring in the specimen fish records over the past decade include Wrasse and Trigger Fish at the Bridge of Ross and other shore marks around the coast. Carrig Island in Co. Kerry has the potential to produce a specimen Tope from the shore, truly a great challenge for any shore angler! The largest fish ever caught on rod and line in Britain and Ireland was recorded off the Co. Clare coast - a huge Six Gilled Shark measuring almost 4 metres (13 feet) in length. This is a new Irish record which was ratified by the Specimen Fish Committee in 2009.

Finally, to facilitate you with your fishing plans, IFI provides an angling support service by telephone and email. We publish regular angling updates online and advertise local charter boats, tackle shops and other angling service providers who can assist you further.

We hope you find this booklet of assistance and that you enjoy your fishing trip to our district. **TIGHT LINES!**

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Our Services to You

For anglers who require angling assistance, Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) provides an angling support service by telephone and email. Anglers visiting the region can get up-to-date sea angling information, both shore and charter boat reports which are regularly published on our website during the season. To facilitate you with your holiday plans, we provide advertised listings of local accommodation, charter boat operators, tackle shops and angling guiding services available in the area. For further information email: shrbd@fishinginireland.info or visit our website www.fishinginireland.info

Centres of Excellence

There are four designated Centres of Excellence in the Shannon District which are geared to make your fishing holiday one to remember. These are located at Liscannor, Kilrush, Carrigaholt and Kilbaha.

Conservation

A tagging and conservation programme is in place for Blue Shark, Tope, Ray and Skate and we would encourage all anglers to take part.

It is prohibited to take and kill more than two Bass on any one day (Bass Bye-Law No. 667). The minimum overall size limit of 40cm for Bass applies, taken from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail. Closed season is from 15th May to 15th June where fishing is prohibited. Please remember these conservation measures are in place to protect the species so that good sport can be enjoyed by all in the future.

Fishing Licences

A State Rod Licence is not required for Sea Fishing. However, if you are targeting Sea Trout in the salt, you will need a State Licence which covers Salmon and Sea Trout. Please visit our website www.fishinginireland.info for further information, as regulations are subject to change.

Safety at Sea

Regrettably, people get injured or tragically lose their lives while fishing. Most accidents can be avoided by following some simple safety points. We provide safety information in the guide for shore and boat anglers to consider before embarking on a sea fishing trip. Think Safety – Be Safe. Enjoy your fishing!



Angling Etiquette and Country Code

You are requested to respect the rural environment, private property and other anglers. Please ensure that you do not leave litter; close all gates; respect farmland and seek permission if crossing over private lands to your fishing mark. Do not discard fishing line, hooks or shot as they may be injurious or even fatal to animal wildlife and birds. Beware of livestock while crossing lands.

Accessibility

This guide is designed to assist people with poor or impaired vision. Should you have difficulty reading any part of the document, please contact our Accessibility Officer Ms. Patricia Ryan tel: 061 300 238. Alternative formats can be made available on request.

Errors, Omissions, Inaccuracies

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided here is accurate at the time of publication. No responsibility will be accepted by IFI for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies.

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Section 1
Salt Water Angling



Introduction to Salt Water Angling

Inland Fisheries Ireland welcomes you to the Shannon District which provides fishing for all anglers – whether you are a novice with little or no experience or a well-seasoned angler, the District has angling to interest you. Families are particularly welcome with many interesting things to do apart from fishing, such as cruising the majestic River Shannon, visiting old abbeys and castles, hill walking, cycling, golf and horse riding.

A resident school of about 70 bottle nosed dolphins has become a major tourist attraction at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary and they are always glad to welcome visitors to their rich feeding grounds.

Angling Services

Many of the Charter Boat operators offering services for Deep Sea and Inshore Fishing carry all the tackle on board which can be hired. For shore angling there are a number of Tackle Dealers where you can obtain the necessary equipment. These services are available in the main centres which include Kilkee, Kilrush, Carrigaholt, Kilbaha, Liscannor, Ennis, Listowel, Tralee and Limerick City.





Speciality Fishing

Anglers nowadays are willing to explore new and refined methods of angling to add another exciting dimension to their sport. Fly fishing for marine species is catching on fast and becoming very popular. Specimen hunters are a class of angler always up for a challenge and target areas known to produce trophy size fish.

Saltwater Fly Fishing

Saltwater fly fishing offers a very sporting method of catching fish on light balanced tackle. Anglers can travel light and cover a large area. Species to be targeted include Bass, Garfish, Pollack, Mullet, Scad and Mackerel.

A typical Salt Water Fly Rod is about 9 ft. long, WT 8-9, with a salt-waterproof reel capable of holding fly line WF 8-9. Fly Lines should include floating, sinking and intermediate. Flies that imitate Sandeel or Sprat work well for Bass, Garfish and Pollack. Big flies in red or yellow are used to catch Pollack.

Areas to fish are estuaries, reefs and the ends of beaches in calm weather. Harbours offer the chance of catching Mullet with flies that imitate maggots or bread. Suitable marks for salt water fly fishing include the mouth of Poulnisherry Bay where Mackerel, Bass, Mullet and Garfish can be targeted. Pollack can be caught in the gullies at The Bridge of Ross. Fly fishing is possible at either end of Doughmore Beach in calm conditions. At the southern end of Doughmore beach there is a sea pool which can be fished at low water and early flood for Bass. There is very good Pollack fishing from the flat rocks at Kiltrellig near Kilbaha. There are many more marks awaiting discovery!

Anyone interested in taking up this new and exciting method of sea angling is advised to take fly fishing lessons beforehand, as there are some fundamentals that must be mastered. Check with your freshwater colleagues. The rewards will be well worth it!



Irish Specimen Fish Committee & Trophy Fish

The Irish Specimen Fish Committee is a voluntary organisation whose main aim is to verify and publicise the capture of specimen (i.e. trophy) fish caught on rod and line by anglers in Ireland, both in freshwater and at sea. The Committee also ratifies Irish record rod-caught fish.

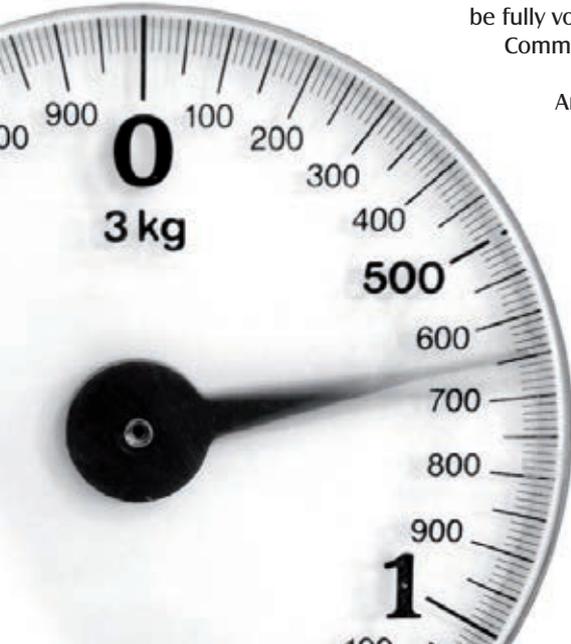
The Committee consists of representatives of the Irish Angling Federations, Government Departments and official organizations interested in angling. Its objective is to verify, record and publicise the capture of large fish on rod and line in Irish waters.

A list of specimen fish is published annually by the Committee. Only fish which can be fully vouched for as to weight and species can be accepted and listed by the Committee.

Anglers whose claims have been accepted by the Committee will be awarded Special Merit badges in the case of Specimen Fish and Silver Medals in the case of Record Fish. Specimen Fish Certificates will also be issued in respect of all ratified claims. Only one merit badge will be awarded to any angler per annum even where multiple claims are received.

Special badges are awarded to anglers who have caught specimens of ten or more species and a special badge is issued each year for fish of exceptional merit though not of record size.

Full details of the rules, the eligible species and weights, how to make a claim or to download a claim form go to:
<http://www.irish-trophy-fish.com/>



Specimen Hunting

There is such a variety of shore, rock, pier and estuary fishing available that the opportunity of capturing a Trophy Fish or indeed a new Irish Record is a distinct possibility.

The current Irish Record Bass of 17lbs 13ozs. was caught at Doughmore Beach and from this beach also a former Irish Record Painted Ray was captured. Specimen Wrasse have been caught from Kerry Head right around the coast to Liscannor. Specimen Trigger fish are now turning up in summer along the coast from Loop Head as far as Doonbeg.

There are many creeks and harbours where it is possible to catch Specimen Mullet. Large Mullet turn up at the piers in Carrigaholt and Kilbaha. Occasional Sting Ray are caught in Poulnasherry Bay and a Specimen is a possibility. Carrig Island in Co.Kerry has the potential to produce a Specimen Tope from the shore, truly a great challenge for any shore angler!

Areas where Specimen Fish can be caught from the shore

Bridge of Ross	Wrasse, Triggerfish
Doughmore Beach	Bass including current Irish Record, Painted Ray (Irish Record 1979), Lesser Spotted Dogfish
Ballard	Wrasse, Triggerfish
Kilkee	Flounder
Poulnasherry	Sting Ray
Kerry Head	Wrasse



List of Specimen Fish caught in the Shannon District since 2000.

Species	Weight	Angler	Place of Capture	Date	Remarks
Bass	17lbs 13ozs	E. Naughton	Doughmore	21/10/2000	Current Irish Record
Red Gurnard	2.14lbs	F. Lammers	Loop Head	01/08/2000	
Tub Gurnard	5.25lbs	A. Vos	Kilrush	24/07/2000	
Sting Ray	46lbs 4ozs	G. Doyle	Killadysert	23/07/2000	
Rockling	2lbs 2ozs	J. O'Sullivan	Moneypoint	05/11/2000	
Red Gurnard	2lbs	A. de Gier	Loop Head	25/08/2001	
Rockling	1.8lbs	C. de Gier	Moneypoint	20/08/2001	
Rockling	1.77lbs	M. Uijen	Moneypoint	10/05/2001	
Ballan Wrasse	5.67lbs	B. Ryan	Ross	31/07/2001	
Rockling	1.9lbs	B. Smit	Moneypoint	15/05/2002	
Rockling	1.85lbs	B. Smit	Moneypoint	15/05/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	2.9kg	P. Bolger	Kerry Head	23/08/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 8ozs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	08/09/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 7ozs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	02/09/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 4ozs	M. Hennessy	Kerry Head	31/08/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 4ozs	M. Hennessy	Kerry Head	31/08/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 4ozs	M. Hennessy	Kerry Head	08/09/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 4ozs	E. Power	Kerry Head	08/09/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 2ozs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	08/09/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs	B. Ryan	Bridge of Ross	21/08/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	2.25kg	P. Bolger	Kerry Head	23/08/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	4lbs 13ozs	E. Power	Kerry Head	08/09/2002	
Ballan Wrasse	2.165kg	P. Bolger	Kerry Head	22/08/2002	
Bass	11lbs 8ozs	J. Boland	Spanish Point	23/11/2003	
Bass	10lbs 1ozs	C. McFadden	Spanish Point	29/11/2003	
Rockling	1lbs 15ozs	C. McDaid	Moneypoint	04/03/2003	
Ballan Wrasse	6lbs	B. Buckley	Kerry Head	14/09/2003	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 14ozs	B. Buckley	Kerry Head	14/09/2003	
Ballan Wrasse	2.65kg	M. Hennessy	Kerry Head	14/09/2003	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 7ozs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	10/08/2003	

Species	Weight	Angler	Place of Capture	Date	Remarks
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs 2ozs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	10/08/2003	
Ballan Wrasse	4lbs 13ozs	M. Lordan	Kerry Head	29/08/2003	
Rockling	1.75lbs	P. Teijmant	Moneypoint	22/08/2004	
Triggerfish	3.28lbs	B. Ryan	Kilbaha	08/09/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	6lbs 12ozs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	27/08/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	6lbs 2ozs	P. O'Sullivan	Kerry Head	07/07/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	2.476kg	B. Ryan	Doonbeg	28/09/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	2.432kg	B. Ryan	Doonbeg	29/06/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	2.34kg	M. Flannery	Ballyreen	20/09/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	2.272kg	B. Ryan	Doonbeg	14/06/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs	S. McLoughlin	Kerry Head	25/08/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	5lbs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	27/08/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	4lbs 14ozs	J. Reeves	Ballyreen	10/10/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	4lbs 14ozs	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	27/08/2004	
Ballan Wrasse	4lbs 13ozs	S. O'Sullivan	Kerry Head	26/06/2004	
Cuckoo Wrasse	1.26lbs	D. Wardley	Loop Head	15/08/2004	
Cuckoo Wrasse	1.25lbs	D. Wardley	Loop Head	15/08/2004	
Scad	1.55lbs	G. Doyle	Kilrush	31/10/2004	
Scad	1.65lbs	G. Doyle	Kilrush	31/10/2004	
Bass	10.8lbs	G. Doyle	Shannon Estuary	18/11/2004	
Tub Gurnard	3.54kg	K. Hollywood	Carrigaholt	17/09/2005	
John Dory	2.55kg	D. Schipper	Loop Head	30/07/2005	
Rockling	1.95lbs	M. Droogor	Moneypoint	04/08/2005	
Scad	1.65lbs	N. Broek	Kilrush	14/08/2005	
Tope	50.55lbs	G. Doyle	Kilrush	14/10/2005	
Tope	19.75kg	C. de Swerdt	Beal Bar	29/07/2005	
Ballan Wrasse	2.25kg	M. Flannery	Poulsallagh	21/08/2005	
John Dory	2.34kg	F. Klaassen	Carrigaholt	04/09/2006	
John Dory	1.884kg	M. Beville	Carrigaholt	24/06/2006	
Scad	.73kg	L. Longmore	Kilkee	28/07/2006	
Scad	.758kg	S. Dickson	Carrigaholt	31/08/2006	

List of Specimen Fish caught in the Shannon District since 2000 (Continued...)

Species	Weight	Angler	Place of Capture	Date	Remarks
Scad	.730kg	E. Power	Carrigaholt	15/07/2006	
Ballan Wrasse	2.4kg	B. Ryan	Doonbeg	09/09/2006	
Ballan Wrasse	2.268kg	P. Bolger	Doolin	22/07/2006	
Spurdog	5.5kg	A. O'Sullivan	Kerry Head	04/09/2007	
Pollack	5.52kg	T. Paczkowaski	Carrigaholt	26/08/2007	
Triggerfish	1.588kg	E. Trill	Black Head	07/09/2007	
Ballan Wrasse	2.523kg	B. Ryan	Bridge of Ross	19/07/2007	
Ballan Wrasse	2.353kg	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	17/10/2007	
Ballan Wrasse	2.296kg	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	10/09/2007	
Ballan Wrasse	2.31kg	P. Fox	Doonbeg	14/10/2007	
Ballan Wrasse	2.268kg	I. Mulligan	Kerry Head	10/09/2007	
Ballan Wrasse	2.211kg	B. Ryan	Bridge of Ross	11/09/2007	
Ballan Wrasse	2.155kg	B. Ryan	Bridge of Ross	21/08/2007	
John Dory	1.845kg	Steve Allen (UK)	Carrigaholt	10/06/2008	
Scad	0.72kg	Adrian Rahill	Carrigaholt	26/09/2008	
Whiting	1.64kg	Martin O'Gorman	Carrigaholt	17/10/2008	
Whiting	1.62kg	Marco Lagos (NL)	Carrigaholt	06/08/2008	
Whiting	1.52kg	Declan Ryan	Carrigaholt	14/06/2008	
Whiting	1.51kg	L. van Lotten (NL)	Carrigaholt	08/09/2008	
Whiting	1.42kg	Ger Zanthoer (NL)	Carrigaholt	20/09/2008	
Ballan Wrasse	2.551kg	Ian Mulligan	Kerry Head	25/09/2008	
Ballan Wrasse	2.495kg	David Ryan	Bridge of Ross	16/08/2008	
Ballan Wrasse	2.495kg	J. Campbell (UK)	Bealnalicka, Doonbeg	31/08/2008	
Ballan Wrasse	2.41kg	John Waldron	Carrigaholt	27/04/2008	
Ballan Wrasse	2.325kg	Ian Mulligan	Kerry Head	25/09/2008	
Ballan Wrasse	2.268kg	Bill Ryan	Bridge of Ross	14/08/2008	
Ballan Wrasse	2.155kg	Edmond Dantes	Bridge of Ross	24/09/2008	
Red Gurnard	1.02kg	T. Beran(D)	Carrigaholt	15/09/2009	
Red Gurnard	1.00kg	J. Hagens (NL)	Carrigaholt	05/10/2009	
Red Gurnard	0.98kg	S. De Wit (NL)	Carrigaholt	07/09/2009	
Red Gurnard	0.94kg	K Gyorf	Carrigaholt	29/08/2009	

Species	Weight	Angler	Place of Capture	Date	Remarks
Golden Grey Mullet	0.88kg	B. Ryan	Moneypoint	19/07/2009	
Six Gilled Shark	480kg	J. Waldis (CH)	Carrigaholt	16/06/2009	Irish Record
Whiting	1.54kg	I. Aston	Carrigaholt	04/10/2009	
Whiting	1.37kg	K. Gyorfi	Carrigaholt	29/08/2009	
Whiting	1.36kg	A. Boyce	Carrigaholt	25/07/2009	
Bass	6.20kg	William Rothwell	Lahinch Strand	09/04/2010	
Dogfish - Spur	6.86kg	Philip Barry	Kerry Head	26/07/2010	
Whiting	1.62kg	Rob Weenink	Carrigaholt	28/07/2010	
Garfish (B. bellone)	1.04kg	Hans-Peter Wittmann	Carrigaholt	03/09/2010	
Garfish (B. bellone)	1.05kg	Simon De Wit	Carrigaholt	07/09/2010	
Garfish (B. bellone)	1.02kg	Ed Van Duijn	Carrigaholt	09/09/2010	
Wrasse - Ballan	2.30kg	Bill Ryan	Doonbeg	22/09/2010	
Bass	4.93kg	Mike Enright	Balybunion	14/11/2010	
Bass	5.71kg	Derry Buckley	Beal Point	16/11/2011	
Spurdog	5.92kg	John Barry	Carrigaholt	20/08/2011	
Spurdog	5.67kg	Phillip Barry	Kerry Head	28/07/2011	
Red Gurnard	1.25kg	Thomas Doherty	Loop Head	07/08/2011	
Red Gurnard	0.98kg	Stefan Rabbitt (UK)	Carrigaholt	11/08/2011	
Ballan Wrasse	2.38kg	James O'Malley (UK)	Bridges of Ross	09/09/2011	
Ballan Wrasse	2.21kg	Bill Ryan	Bridges of Ross	09/09/2011	
Ballan Wrasse	2.15kg	Bill Ryan	Ross, Kilbaha	03/07/2011	
Red Gurnard	0.92kg	Bernard Singleton (UK)	Carrigaholt	18/06/2012	
Spurdog	5.73kg	Piet Dijkmans (NL)	Carrigaholt	17/08/2012	
John Dory	2.31kg	Koen de Brieve (B)	Carrigaholt	26/07/2012	
Ballan Wrasse	2.67kg	Philip Barry	Kerry Head	02/09/2012	
Ballan Wrasse	2.31kg	Ronald Surgenor	Bridges of Ross	05/09/2012	
Ballan Wrasse	2.27kg	Bill Ryan	Bridges of Ross	22/09/2012	
Ballan Wrasse	2.19kg	Philip Barry	Kerry Head	02/09/2012	
Ballan Wrasse	2.18kg	Bill Ryan	Bridges of Ross	27/09/2012	
Cuckoo Wrasse	0.61kg	Michael Kraus (D)	Carrigaholt	26/08/2012	

NB: Specimen weights are as replicated from the original Irish Specimen Fish Committee reports over the past decade, hence the different conversion units expressed in the table.

Recommended Sea Fishing Tackle

Rod	Reel and Line	Use	Target Species
2 - 3 metre graphite or Kevlar spinning rod.	Freshwater type fixed spool reel loaded with 2 - 4.5kg monofilament line.	Float fishing, spinning or plug fishing from piers, harbour walls, rocks or in estuarine channels.	Sea Trout, Bass, Mullet, Mackerel, Coalfish, Pollack, Garfish.
2.5 - 2.8 metre graphite fly rod rated 8 to 10 weight.	Saltwater fly reel loaded with fly line suitable for saltwater use.	Fly fishing from rocks, piers and in estuaries.	Sea Trout, Bass, Garfish, Mackerel, Pollack.
3.3 - 3.7 metre graphite bass rod with a casting weight of 80 - 112 grams.	Small multiplying reel or medium fixed spool reel loaded with 5.5 - 8 kg monofilament line.	Bait fishing on surf beaches, in estuaries or from rocks.	Bass, Sea Trout, Flounder, Dab, Wrasse, Pollack.
3.7 - 4 metre graphite beach rod with a casting weight of 140 - 170 grams.	Small to medium multiplying reel or medium to large fixed spool reel loaded with 7.8 - 12 kg monofilament line and having a shock leader of 18 - 25 kg mono.	Rock, pier, estuary or beach fishing where distance casting is necessary.	Ray, Dogfish, Bull Huss, Cod, Tope.

Recommended Sea Fishing Tackle (Continued...)

Rod	Reel and Line	Use	Target Species
1.80 - 2.20 metre graphite boat rod of line class 2.7 kg - 4.5 kg.	Small multiplying reel loaded with 2.5 - 4.5 kg monofilament or braided line.	Boat fishing in shallow to moderately deep water.	Plaice, Dabs, Gurnard, Wrasse, Rockling, Whiting.
1.80 - 2.20 metre graphite boat rod of line class 4.5 kg - 6.8 kg.	Small to medium multiplying reel loaded with 4.5 - 6.5 kg monofilament or braided line.	Boat fishing over offshore reefs, sand banks and wrecks.	Pollack, Coalfish, Cod, Haddock, Ray, Turbot, Ling.
1.80 - 2.20 metre graphite boat rod of line class 9.0 kg - 13.6 kg.	Medium to large (up to 4/0 size) multiplying reel loaded with 9 -13 kg monofilament or braided line.	Boat fishing in deeper water and over deep wrecks and reefs.	Blue and Porbeagle Shark, Skate, Tope, Conger, Ling.
2.20 -2.80 metre graphite uptide boat rod to cast 80 - 225 grams	Medium multiplying reel loaded with 6.8 - 8 kg monofilament line and having a shock leader of 18 - 25 kg.	Boat fishing in shallow water, where casting baits away from the boat yields best results.	Ray, Tope, Bull Huss, Bass, Dogfish.

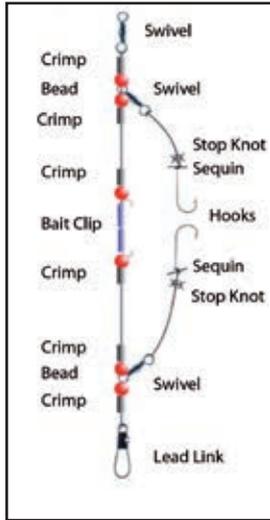
Popular Sea Fishing Rigs

The main fishing rigs as illustrated are a sample of what can be used and are popular in the Shannon District.

Great sport can be had fishing with lead-headed Shads in the deeper water.

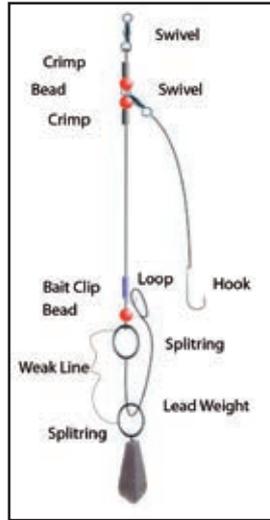


Shore Rigs



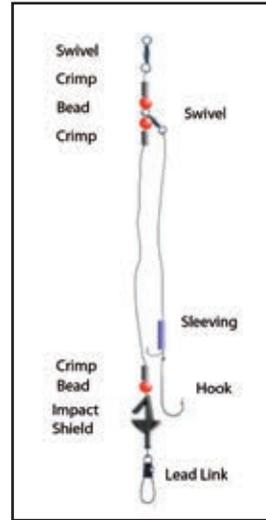
1 Up 1 Down Rig

This Rig allows two baits to be fished at distance. The hooked baits are secured with bait clips which streamline the trace causing less friction when casting.



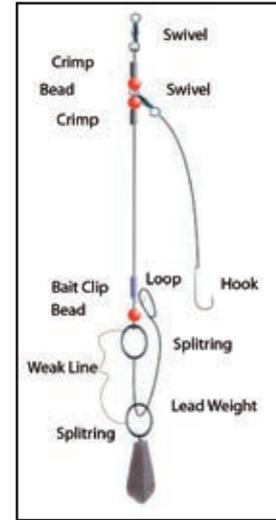
Rotten Bottom Rig

This Rig is useful for fishing in rough ground for Wrasse and Conger. The weaker link (rotten bottom) breaks when the lead snags resulting in a lost lead but a captured fish!



Pennel Rig

This Rig allows a large bait to be fished for Bass, Ray, Huss. Two hooks secure the bait which allows better bait presentation and the advantage of a hook at either end of the bait.



Pulley Rig

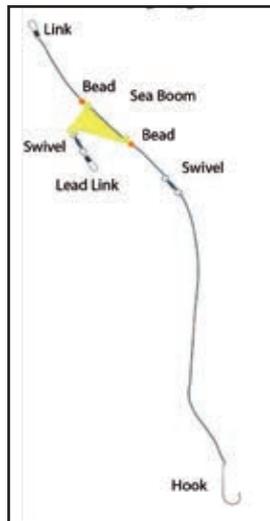
This Rig is useful for fishing over rough ground. It allows the lead to be lifted clear of snags when retrieving. It's very useful in rocky gullies when fishing for Wrasse and Conger and when shore fishing over weed-covered rocks for Ray and Huss.

Boat Fishing Rigs & Traces



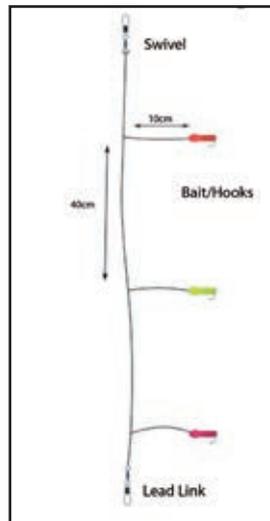
Shad on Lead Weight

This configuration is great fished with a spinning rod from a boat on the drift. Cast in the direction the boat is drifting and retrieve as the boat drifts over. It's effective on wrecks or over rough ground for Pollack or Coalfish.



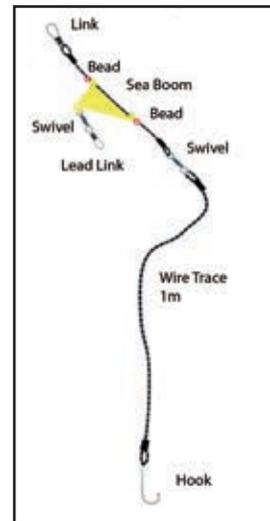
The Running Legier

A running legier can be used on the drift or down-tiding at anchor when you require your hook to fish tight on the bottom. This can be used in many variations of hook size and baits for all bottom feeding fish.



Three Hook Paternoster Rig

A 3 Hook Paternoster Rig can be used on the drift or down-tiding to present a variety of baits at different heights. It is also often used with a range of artificial baits or feathers for most Whitefish or higher in the water for Mackerel or Scad.



Conger and Boat Trace

This is much like the running legier, but with a wire hook trace as protection against loss due to sharp teeth!

Types of Salt Water Baits - Marine Worms, Fish Bait, Shellfish and Crabs

Lugworm

Lugworms are abundant in estuaries and on most sheltered beaches throughout the country; the presence of lugworm is recognised by the spaghetti-like spiral of sand which they leave on the foreshore at low tide.

Trench digging for an hour or so with a garden fork will normally produce enough worms for a day's fishing. Lugworm are normally associated with fishing for Flounder, Wrasse and Dabs from the shore, but they are also effective in attracting Codling and Whiting while inshore boat fishing.

Ragworm

Red and King Ragworm are common on the eastern seaboard but rare on the west coast of Ireland. Anglers wishing to use these baits must be prepared to carry a supply with them. Ragworm can be an excellent bait when shore or boat fishing for Flatfish, Whiting, Pouting, Codling and Dogfish. White Ragworms or Herringbone Rag are common and are particularly effective when used in conjunction with other baits such as lugworm or Mackerel strips.

Large White Ragworm or 'Silvers' are rare and very localised in their distribution throughout the country. They are usually found in clean, coarse sand in the vicinity of the low spring tideline, particularly where masonry worms (which have little use as bait) are located.



Crab

Crab can be used in almost any sea angling situation from shore fishing, where they are effective for all species, to inshore boat fishing for Ray, Flounder, Dogfish and Codling. The common shore or green crab moults its shell at least once a year, usually prior to mating. This generally takes place in May or June, although moulting crabs have been found as late as October in some places. 'Peelers' or soft crabs can be collected along sheltered shores, particularly where there is an abundance of serrated wrack which provides good cover for them. Crab is a popular bait with shore or inshore boat anglers. Hermit Crab (*Eupagurus*) can be collected in rock pools or in a pre-baited drop net from a pier wall. Hermit are a good bait for Bull Huss, Cod, Ray and Flatfish from boats but, because of the softness of the tail section, are very difficult to cast from the shore.

Types of Salt Water Baits - Marine Worms, Fish Bait, Shellfish and Crabs (Continued...)

Shellfish

Shellfish are a very valuable bait when fishing for specific species or fish with soft mouths (e.g., Mullet).

Cockles can be gathered on the outer coastline of Clare and Kerry and are a good standby for shore and inshore fishing, especially when Flatfish are the quarry. They are also a very good bait for larger fish when used in a 'cocktail' with lugworm or ragworm. Cod and Whiting find this combination very attractive.

Clams of several types can be found around the Irish Coast but only one is recognised as a true angling bait. The Common Gaper which is oval shaped and dark grey to black in colour is found in muddy creeks and estuaries. It can be detected by searching for a keyhole-shaped depression in the mud. The hole is created by a long syphon with which the gaper filters small food particles out of the water. Clams can be dug up with a garden fork and when the syphon is removed, provide a very good boat angling bait for a number of species. Used in combination with lugworm or ragworm, it is also a useful shore angling bait for Bass and Flatfish.

Mussels can be collected from most rocky shorelines, but because of the softness of their flesh, should be tied to the hook with shirring elastic (elasticised thread). This is effective when beach fishing on the east coast or rock angling in the west.



Fish Baits

All forms of oily fish are useful to both the boat and shore angler, particularly when seeking the larger predators such as Shark, Tote, Monkfish and Skate.

Mackerel is the most important of all sea angling baits, and can be used for almost every species of fish from both boat or shore. It can be used in strip form for Turbot, Megrim, Pollack, Coalfish or Gurnard. It is used in last form (the tough tail section) for Ray, Bull Huss and Spurdog, while half or whole Mackerel is used for Tote or Skate.

Types of Salt Water Baits - Marine Worms, Fish Bait, Shellfish and Crabs (Continued...)

Mackerel can be bought in most fish shops in season or can usually be caught while spinning on rocky outcrops on the western coastline, e.g. (Kilkee or Doonbeg). While boat fishing, a string of brightly coloured Mackerel feathers is employed to catch Mackerel in numbers.

Herring is seldom caught on rod and line but is important bait for many species of fish. Herring can usually be bought fresh in most fishmongers or supermarkets and has the advantage that it freezes better than Mackerel and does not go soft after thawing. Works well in combination with other baits, particularly red ragworm.

Sandeel is an excellent bait for estuarine Sea Trout and Bass and for Turbot, Dogfish and Rays from the boat. Sandeel can be collected by the Cornish system known as "Vingelling" in the wet sand with an old bill hook. The bill hook should be pulled in a sweep through the top six inches of sand and when a Sandeel is located, it will wriggle out to the surface.



Speed and dexterity are then called on to grab the Sandeel and place it in a bucket. Sandeel will stay alive in a bucket of cool aerated sea water for several days. Beal Strand is a known location for Sandeel.

Section 2: Sea Fish Species Index

19

Species of Fish

20

Includes notes on best baits and best marks for each species



Section 2
Sea Fish Species Index

Species of Fish

1 Bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

This blue-backed, silver cousin of the American striped bass is one of Ireland's most sought after sport fish. It is equally at home in the turmoil of an Atlantic surf beach or in the quiet of an estuarine backwater. A protected species by law, it has a bag limit of 2 fish per angler in any 24 hour period and minimum size of 40 cms.

Best Baits: Sandeel, peeler crab, lugworm. Good sport on Lures & also Salt Water Fly Fishing.

Best Marks: Doughmore Beach, Lahinch, White Strand, Poulnasherry Bay, Cashen Estuary



Closed Season: 15th May to 15th June

2 Blue Shark (*Prionace glauca*)

There are five species of shark which anglers may encounter in Irish coastal waters. They are the Mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), Thresher (*Alopias vulpinus*), Six Gilled (*Hexanchus griseus*), Porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and the Blue (*Prionace glauca*).

Shark fishing is more popular during the summer months.

Best Baits: Mackerel, squid. **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



3 Bull Huss (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*)

Also Known as the Greater Spotted Dogfish, this inshore member of the Shark family can be regularly caught from stony kelpy ground. It is a scavenger that can be caught on natural fish baits. It responds well to prebaiting and grows to over 20lbs in weight. This species requires heavy duty shore tackle which means trace line up to 60lb breaking strain to combat its teeth. The fish readily takes squid/fish cocktails with a minimal amount of attractors on the trace.

Best Baits: Mackerel, Sandeel, squid **Best Marks:** Poulnasherry Bay, Cappagh Pier, Aylevarroo, Glin



4 Coalfish (*Pollachius virens*)

Coalfish are common over reefs and deep water wrecks on all coasts. They can grow to a maximum of 15kgs, with an average age of circa 8 years. It is similar to Pollack but upper and lower jaws are the same length. Coalfish are also known as Saithe and Coley. Anglers can target this fish by bottom fishing with feathers or artificial lures on wrecks or on rough ground.



Best Baits: Mackerel, Shads **Best Marks:** Bridge of Ross, Kilkee south, Ballard & Boat Fishing

5 Codling (*Gadus*)

Codling are the grilse of the Cod species; they tend to inhabit the inshore waters around the coasts of Ireland throughout the year. A Codling is any fish of the Cod species up to 6lbs in weight and can be found on inshore reefs and sandbanks. Its diet includes crabs, worms, squid and small fish and it freely takes most natural and artificial baits presented to it. It can be caught from the shore especially during winter and early spring, particularly after a winter storm when it feeds up on natural baits dislodged during the adverse weather.



Best Bait: Lugworm, mussel **Best Marks:** Carrigaholt Pier, Doonaha (winter), Aylevarroo & Boat Fishing

6 Cod (*Gadus morhua*)

Common on most coasts and unlikely to be mistaken for any other species, even though the colour of adults varies. Caught over a wide range of seabed from reefs and wrecks to areas of shingle and sand and in many of the larger estuaries. Cod are available throughout the year, but generally peak fishing times are May and June (boat angling) and December and January (shore fishing).



Best Bait: Mackerel, crab & squid **Best Mark:** Boat Fishing

Species of Fish (Continued...)

7 Conger Eel (*Conger conger*)

Dorsal, caudal and anal fins are continuous and it has no pelvic fins. Dorsal begins about level with tip of pectoral. Body is rather stout and muscular. The Conger Eel has a large mouth with the upper jaw the larger and grows to over 100lbs. It can be caught offshore, inshore and in lower reaches of large estuaries.

Best Baits: Mackerel **Best Marks:** Carrigaholt Pier, Kilkee Pier, Cappagh Pier, Aylevarroo, Tarbert & Boat Fishing



8 Dab (*Limanda limanda*)

The Dab is one of the more commonly caught flatfish around our coasts, growing to almost 3lbs in weight. It is an attractive and tasty addition to the anglers catch. The species can be caught on sandy gravelly ground and feeds on mollusc/worm and fish baits; it also responds well to beads and attractors on the trace. It can be caught throughout the year but moves to deeper water to spawn during the months of February and March.

Best Baits: Lugworm, ragworm, Mackerel strip
Best Marks: Doughmore Beach, Seafield, Carrigaholt Pier and Beach, Letter Strand



9 Lesser Spotted Dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*)

This fish is a member of the Catshark family and frequents shallow sandy seabeds. It is the most common of the catsharks and is known to almost every sea angler as it is usually caught by mistake rather than design. Its skin is very rough and can cause abrasion if handled without care. This fish is most commonly caught on fish baits but will readily take any natural bait. It can grow to almost 5lbs in weight and gives a good account of itself when caught on light tackle.

Best Baits: Mackerel, Sandeel
Best Marks: Poulnasherry Bay, Carrigaholt Beach, Cappagh Pier, Carrig Island & Boat Fishing



Species of Fish (Continued...)

10 Flounder (*Platichthys flesus*)

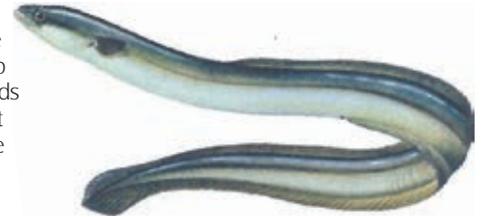
Eyes and colour normally on the right side, but 'reversed' examples are more common amongst flounders than among other flatfishes. Conspicuous enlarged, rough, hard scales on head ridge, anterior part of lateral line and along bases of dorsal and anal fins on the eyed side. Dark brown to greenish-grey, sometimes with vague orange spots; blind side is uniform, opaque white. It grows to about 2.26kg (5lbs) and often occurs in fresh water well above the limits of the tide.



Best Baits: Lugworm, ragworm **Best Marks:** Querrin Shore, Doughmore Beach, Seafield

11 Freshwater European Eel (*Anguilla anguilla*)

The eel has a long snake-like appearance with small gills and pectoral fins. The dorsal, anal & tail fins are continuous. It can weigh up to 4kgs. Males grow to 50cm & females to 100cm. Eels have been aged up to 40 years but their normal lifespan would be between 7-15 years. They have no pelvic fin. The eel feeds mainly on insect larvae, crustaceans and small fish. Unlike most other freshwater fish, the eel spawns at sea, believed to be the Sargasso Sea in the North Atlantic Ocean east of Bermuda. The larvae of eels are carried by the ocean currents to the shores of Ireland where they enter the rivers. At this stage they are called elvers. They remain in freshwater for 7-15 years before migrating back to the spawning grounds.



! EEL FISHING, BOTH ANGLING & COMMERCIAL, IS NOW PROHIBITED UNDER BYE-LAW AS A CONSERVATION MEASURE, DUE TO DECLINING STOCKS.

12 Garfish (*Belone belone*)

This Needlefish is found all around our coastline and offers sport to both shore and boat anglers. It is primarily a pelagic species living in the upper layers of the ocean. There are two species swimming off our coastline: *Belone belone* and *Belone svetori*. These fish are quite popular when fishing for Blue Shark as the rubby dubby groundbait trail works very well to attract Garfish which can be caught by fishing small strips of Mackerel under a float.



Best Baits: Mackerel strips **Best Marks :** Bridge of Ross, Ballard, Kerry Head & Boat Fishing

Species of Fish (Continued...)

13 Gurnard (Triglidae)

There are three species of Gurnard which are generally found in Irish Waters. Grey Gurnard (*Eutrigla gurnardus*) which grows to about 3.5lbs; Red Gurnard (*Aspitrigla cuculus*) which grows to about 4lbs and Tub Gurnard (*Trigla lucerna*) which grows to over 12lbs. Gurnards are bottom-living fish, normally found on sandy or muddy bottoms in depths of 50-150 feet.

Best Baits: Mackerel, crab. **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



14 Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)

Haddock have a relatively small head with a chin barbel. They are dark green-brown on the back while a greyish silver on the sides. They are found mainly in deepish water on most coasts over a bottom of sand and mud. They grow to a maximum length of 76cm although are usually smaller. They feed exclusively on bottom-living animals. They are marketed as fresh, smoked or frozen fish and are popular for commercial fishermen. The best angling methods are bottom fishing with 'soft' baits i.e. mussel, lugworm or Mackerel.

Best Baits: Mackerel, crab. **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



15 John Dory (*Zeus faber*)

This fish is a true oceanic loner but at times can be caught with some regularity; they congregate for breeding and food. Often found in the vicinity of headlands, the fish ambushes its prey by swimming slowly up to it and extending its almost telescopic mouth at lightening speeds to engulf some small fish. It is much sought after by the commercial sector for its prized flesh and can grow to 14lbs plus but smaller fish of 3 to 5lbs are more common. It can be caught on strips of Mackerel, Sandeel or Garfish reeled slowly; it has also been known to take shads.

Best Baits: Mackerel. **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



Species of Fish (Continued...)

16 Ling (*Molva molva*)

Long, eel-like member of the cod family which has a large barbel under the chin and a mouth of sharp teeth; olive or red-brown in colour, sometimes mottled. A very popular sport fish, particularly with wreck and reef anglers. Ling is almost exclusively a boat-caught fish. Grows to about 22kg (50lbs).



Best Bait: Mackerel, squid **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing

17 Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*)

Very common on all coasts in summer when they can be taken by both boat and shore anglers in very large numbers at times. Easily identified by dark, wavy stripes on green upper body and silver undersides. Mackerel are an important bait fish when fishing for other species.



Best Bait: Mackerel feathers

Best Marks: Bridge of Ross, Dunlicky near Kilkee & Boat Fishing

Good sport: Salt Water Fly Fishing suitable marks at Kilbaha and low rock marks at Ballard.

18 Monkfish (*Squatina squatina*)

Large, ugly, squat cartilaginous fish which resemble a cross between a Shark and a Skate; dark brown in colour. Localised in distribution but common at one time in several bays on the west coast of Ireland i.e. Blacksod Bay, Clew Bay and Tralee Bay. Monkfish grow to about 100lbs and is also known as Angel Shark.



! SPECIES UNDER THREAT

Species of Fish (Continued...)

19 Mullet

There are three members of this family caught with some regularity around our coastline: the Grey Thick Lipped (*Chelm labrosus*), Thin Lipped (*Liza ramada*) and Golden Grey Mullet (*Liza aurata*). All species exhibit similar characteristics and are equally difficult to catch. It is one of the most sporting fish to swim around our coast and has attained almost cult status among some anglers in this country. Thick Lipped Mullet can grow to over 12lbs, Thin Lipped to almost 5lbs and Golden Grey's the smallest, the biggest reaching almost 3lbs in weight. All species can be caught on float-fished bread, fish strip and harbour ragworm; they are also known to take artificial flies.

Mullet, Grey - Best Bait: Mackerel pieces, bread. **Best Marks:** Carrigaholt Pier, Kilbaha Harbour
Mullet, Golden Grey - Best Baits: Small spinners, Mepps. **Best Marks:** Moneypoint



Grey Mullet - Ground Baiting Advised.

20 Painted Ray (*Raja microocellata*)

Also known as Small Eyed Ray, this fish lives close to or on the sea bed. It feeds predominantly on small fish or crustaceans. It is quite commonly caught from the shore from May to November. This is a scrappy fish that can grow to almost 20lbs in weight and is known to inhabit areas close to the shoreline in very shallow water. It feeds well at night and with a moderate surf running. In deeper water it is known to inhabit sandbanks and stony shallow reefs.

Best Baits: Mackerel or Sandeel **Best Mark:** Doughmore Beach where specimens have been recorded. An Irish Record Painted Ray was caught from this beach.



21 Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*)

Plaice are typical Flatfish in that both eyes are found on the right side of the head. The eye side is a brown colour marked with bold red or orange spots. Plaice is a very important fish to the commercial industry though anglers often catch it. They are common on most coasts, particularly the north and east coasts. They usually grow to around 50cm. Plaice can naturally age to 30 years. They are bottom-feeding fish, and usually feed on molluscs, crustaceans and worms.

Best Baits: Lugworm, ragworm, crab **Best Marks:** Lahinch, Doonaha, Tarbert



Species of Fish (Continued...)

22 Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*)

Very popular sport fish. Can be taken from both boat and shore on the western coast. Common over areas of rough ground, reefs and sunken wrecks. It is easily identified from its near relation, the coalfish, by the protruding lower jaw and by the shape of the lateral line which is bent over the pectoral fin. Tail is not forked; usually brown or bronze on back and flanks. It grows to over 9.07kg (20lbs). Specimen weight: 5.4kg (12lbs).

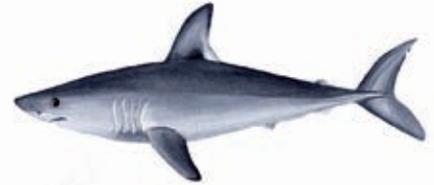
Best Baits: Sandeel, Mackerel. **Lures:** Dexter Wedge, Jelly Worms
Best Marks: Bridge of Ross, Pollack Holes Kilkee, Kerry Head & Boat Fishing
Good sport Salt Water Fly Fishing



23 Porbeagle Shark (*Lamna nasus*)

Stout body, gill slits and eye rather large. Tail fin is set vertically, with the upper lobe somewhat the larger, a keel on each side of the tail column and a smaller secondary keel on the tail below it. Second dorsal is small, placed over the anal fin. Teeth are long, slender with (in the adult) small secondary cusps at their base. The Porbeagle Shark can be brownish or greyish and can grow to over 400lbs.

Best Bait: Pollack & Mackerel **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



24 Pouting (*Trisopterus luscus*)

Once considered a pest when fishing for other species, this hungry little fish is very obliging when it comes to novice angling. It is a member of the Cod family and usually found in large shoals around reefs and wrecks. It will regularly take all natural baits and grows to around 5lbs in weight. Juveniles of this species can be caught from the shore but must not be confused with a close relative the Poor Cod. The two species can be distinguished by the loss of scales on the hands when handling Poor Cod.

Best Baits: Mackerel strips, lugworm **Best Marks:** Bridge of Ross, Ballard, Kerry Head & Boat Fishing



Species of Fish (Continued...)

25 Scad (*Trachurus trachurus*)

Also known as Horse Mackerel, this fish is not even related to the Mackerel family: in fact it is in a family of fish known as Jacks. It is easily caught when located and will readily take both artificial and natural baits. It grows to about 4lbs in weight and is bronze in colour and for its size can be quite sporting in nature. This fish is not so popular in this country as a food fish but, when eaten raw as sashimi, is one of nature's delicacies.

Best Baits: Mackerel strips, Feathers

Best Marks: Bridge of Ross, Castle Point, Ballard, Kerry Head & Boat Fishing



26 Spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*)

Once known as Rock Salmon in the chip shops of the U.K., this member of the Shark family was nearly fished to extinction; it is now protected and is relatively common all around our shores. It is rarely caught on artificial baits but will take natural baits whenever presented close to it. It can grow to approximately 25lbs in weight and gives a good account of itself on light tackle. Rarely caught from the shore, the Spurdog is usually fished for in specific areas near deep water by charter boats.

Best Baits: Mackerel **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



27 Skate (*Raja*)

Three species of skate have been recorded by anglers around the coast - White Skate (*Raja alba*) (specimen weight 54.3kg, 120lbs); Long-Nosed Skate (*Raja oxyrinchus*) and Common Skate (*Raja batis*) (weight suspended). In the interests of conservation, the Irish Specimen Fish Committee removed the Common Skate from its list of acceptable species in 1976. Since then, all Common Skate taken by anglers have been returned alive to the water.

Best Baits: Mackerel, Coalfish **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing **UNDER CONSERVATION**

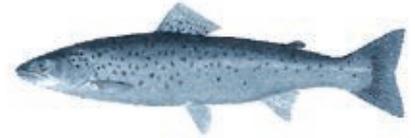


Species of Fish (Continued...)

28 Sea Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

The Sea Trout is the silvery migratory form of the Brown Trout. Found in coastal rivers and lakes, the Sea Trout differs from Salmon by having a larger head, a less streamlined appearance, a straight tail and more dark spots above and below the lateral line. They can grow up to 60cm long and weigh up to 8kg. They usually spend 2-3 years in freshwater and can spend up to 6 years feeding at sea, returning each year to spawn. Juvenile Sea Trout feed on plankton, insects and crustaceans whilst Sea Trout at sea feed on a wide range of marine life like Sandeels and Sprat. They can be caught on Rod and Line using fly, spinning, worming and dapping. A State Licence is required for Sea Trout.

Best Baits: Sandeel **Best Marks:** Liscannor, Poulnasherry



29 Ray (*Raja*) (Sting Ray)

Popular with boat and shore anglers and often confused with skate; those with more rounded discs and short noses are generally termed ray. Normally a summer species, they are available from May to October. Anglers may encounter the following species: Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*), Blonde Ray (*Raja brachyura*), Homelyn Ray or Spotted Ray (*Raja montagui*) and Torpedo Ray or Electric Ray (*Torpedo nobiliana*).

Best Baits: Mackerel, Sandeel **Best Marks:** Poulnasherry Bay, Cappagh Pier



30 Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*)

Thornback Ray (*Raja clavata*) can be found in Poulnasherry Bay when crabs are plentiful. This means frequent rebaiting to keep ahead of the crabs which rob the bait intended for Thornback Ray.

Best Baits: Mackerel, Sandeel

Best Marks: Carrigaholt, Poulnasherry Bay, Aylevaroo, Kilcolgan Strand, Carrig Island East & Boat Fishing



Species of Fish (Continued...)

31 Three Bearded Rockling (*Gaidropsarus vulgaris*)

Superficially suggestive of a small ling. Principal characteristics are: a single dorsal fin with a low vibratile membrane in front of it set in a chink in the back; one anal fin; two barbels on snout and one under chin. It is yellow-brown to reddish in colour, dappled with dark brown spots or blotches and grows to about 2lbs.

Best Baits: Mackerel Strips, lugworm **Best Marks:** Bridge of Ross, Ballard, Kerry Head



32 Tope (*Galeorhinus galeus*)

Medium sized shallow-water shark. Greyish in colour with short, triangular pectorals and deeply notched tail fin. Very popular sport fish, particularly with inshore boat anglers. Male fish to 30lbs are often encountered in 'packs' but much larger females are either 'loners' or are found in small groups and grow to about 36kg (80lbs).

Possible from the shore at Doughmore, Poulnasherry, Aylevarroo and Carrig Island West
Best Baits: Mackerel **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



33 Trigger Fish (*Balistes capricus*)

This ocean wanderer really is one of the summer's welcome visitors when, known for its fighting prowess, it is actively pursued by anglers around the south and west coasts. This is the bully boy of fishes and will fight off other species in its immediate vicinity. It gets its name from the bony spine on its dorsal fin which acts as an anchor if it manages to get into a crevice while fighting an angler. It also possesses some formidable teeth which it uses to detach limpets and mussels from rocks and of course nip an unsuspecting angler.

Best Baits: Crab, limpet **Best Marks:** Bridge of Ross, Ballard
Many Specimen Trigger Fish have been recorded from both venues.

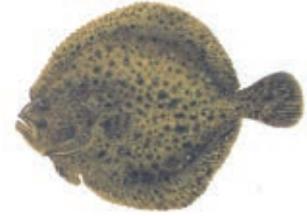


Species of Fish (Continued...)

34 Turbot (*Psetta maxima*)

Turbot are large flatfish and are regarded as one of the major prizes of Irish sea angling and they are also highly regarded for the table. The upper side is a mottled brown with numerous bony lumps or tubercles. The body is diamond shaped. Turbot can grow to over 18kg (40lbs). Specimen weight: 8.16kg (18lbs).

Best Baits: Mackerel, Sandeel **Best Marks:** Doughmore Beach, Seafield, Letter Strand & Boat Fishing



35 Undulate Ray (*Raja undulata*)

This rare and beautiful species lives in very few pockets of seabed around Ireland. It once was regularly caught in the waters of Tralee Bay but its numbers have dwindled so much that it is now considered an endangered species and should be returned if caught. The species grows to around 20lbs in weight and feeds primarily on fish, crab and squid. It is often targeted at night as it feeds well during the hours of darkness.

! SPECIES UNDER THREAT



36 Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*)

This little fish is another member of the Cod family that travels in large shoals and will eagerly take both natural and artificial baits. It grows to about 5lbs in weight but is more commonly caught under 3lbs. During the winter it can be caught from piers and beaches when night fishing.

Best Baits: Mackerel & lugworm **Best Marks:** Boat Fishing



Species of Fish (Continued...)

37 Wrasse (*Labridae*)

Large family of deep bodied, hard scaled fish. Two species are of interest to Irish anglers: the Ballan Wrasse (*Labrus bergylta*) which grows to about 4.5kg (10lbs) and the colourful Cuckoo Wrasse (*Labrus mixtus*) which grows to around .9kg (2lbs). Both are very common in Irish waters particularly where there are rocky areas of weed-covered reef.

Best Baits: Crab, lugworm, limpet

Best Marks: Bridge of Ross, Ballard, Kerry Head & Boat Fishing

Many Specimen Wrasse have been recorded from these venues.





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Foynes to Kerry Head	60



Section 3

Shore Angling Guide

Shore Angling in the Shannon District

The Shannon River Basin District offers a wide variety of fishing venues, boasting over 40 recognised shore angling marks with an abundance of fish species available along its extensive coastline.

Some shore marks might be difficult to locate: therefore we also provide the GPS co-ordinates of each mark for users of Satellite Navigation.

There are four distinct areas described in this guide

- **LISCANNOR TO DOONBEG**
- **KILKEE TO KILRUSH**
- **KILRUSH TO CROVRAGHAN**
- **FOYNES TO KERRY HEAD**



The summer and autumn provides the greatest variety of fish. For the discerning angler there is a wide variety of shore mark types to choose from which will suit all angling methods, interests and physical abilities.

They include:

GENTLE SANDY BEACHES

ROCK PLATFORMS THAT SHELVE INTO DEEP WATER

QUIET HARBOUR PIERS, WHERE ANGLERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES HAVE EASY ACCESS

WILD ATLANTIC STORM BEACHES

DRAMATIC ROCK MARKS LIKE KERRY HEAD AND THE BRIDGE OF ROSS WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO CATCH LARGE WRASSE OR TRIGGER FISH, BOTTOM FISHING OR FLOAT FISHING INTO DEEP GULLIES

SHELTERED ESTUARY FISHING IN POULNASHERRY BAY, BOTTOM FISHING FOR THORNBACK RAY AND SPINNING FOR BASS

PIER FISHING FOR CONGER, MULLET AND RAY AT PLACES SUCH AS KILTEERY OR CARRIGAHOLT PIERS

SURF FISHING FOR BASS AT DOUGHMORE BEACH OR LAHINCH WHERE SPECIMEN FISH HAVE BEEN RECORDED

MANY SAFE FLAT ROCKS WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPIN FOR BASS AND POLLACK

A GREAT VARIETY OF VENUES ARE SUITED TO SALT WATER FLY FISHING FOR BASS, MACKEREL, POLLACK AND GARFISH AND ARE DESCRIBED IN THE GUIDE.



Safety Points while Shore Angling



SHORE ANGLERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF TIDE TIMES AND LEVELS TO AVOID BEING CUT OFF BY THE INCOMING TIDE ON PROMONTORIES, ROCKS AND SOME BEACHES.

ROCK FISHING SHOULD NEVER BE APPROACHED IN WET CONDITIONS AS ROCKS CAN BECOME SLIPPERY AND DANGEROUS UNDERFOOT. SUITABLE FOOTWEAR SHOULD BE WORN SUCH AS HIKING BOOTS OR TRAINERS. RUBBER BOOTS AND LEATHER SOLES ARE UNSUITABLE ON ROCKS ESPECIALLY IN WET CONDITIONS.

ROCK FISHING SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN ONSHORE WINDS OF OVER FORCE 5.

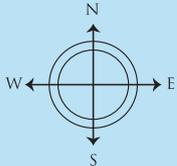
OBEY LOCAL 'NO FISHING' SIGNS AS THESE ARE PLACED IN AREAS KNOWN TO BE DANGEROUS DUE TO SUDDEN SWELLS AND DANGEROUS TIDES.

**IF IN DIFFICULTY CONTACT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES
TELEPHONE 999 OR 112**





Liscannor to Doonbeg - Map 1



- NATIONAL ROADS
- MAIN ROADS
- PRIMARY ROADS
- SECONDARY ROADS
- DISTANCE
- PARKING LOCATIONS
- BOAT SLIPWAY
- SHORE FISHING
- CAR FERRY
- AIRPORT
- FERRY
- BAIT POINT LOCATIONS
- SHORE MARKS
- LIGHTHOUSE
- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



Shore Marks & Fish Locations

1: Liscannor Beach: 1/10/28

2: Lahinch Beach: 1/10/21

3: Cregg Beach: 1/7/10/17/22/23/37

4: Freagh Beach: 7/17/22/31/37

5: White Strand (Travaun): 17/22/37

6: Spanish Point: 1/10/22

7: Seafield Pier: 1/10

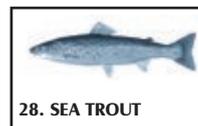
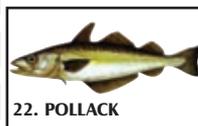
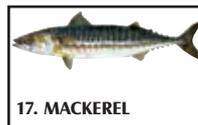
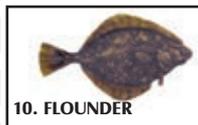
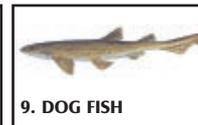
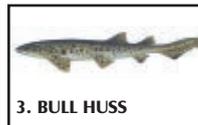
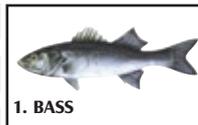
8: Lough Donnell: 1/10

9: Doughmore Beach: 1/3/9/10/20/34

10: White Strand (Killard): 1/7/10/22/37

11: Bealnalicka/Ballard Bay: 7/22/33/37

Map Fish Index



REFERENCE SEA FISH SPECIES INDEX CHAPTER FROM PAGE 19 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Liscannor to Doonbeg - Map 1

1 Liscannor Beach

 1/10/28

 GPS

52° 55' 57" N 09° 25' 24" W

This beach is on the Liscannor side of the River Inagh. Parking is at the lay-by just beyond the Pitch and Putt Course. The fishing area is 200 metres east of the car park towards the mouth of the River Inagh. Bass and Flounder are found in suitable surf conditions. It is best fished in early flood to high water, using lugworm and Sandeel. At high water, anglers can spin with artificial lures for Bass and some Sea Trout in the main channel.

Bait Point A: Lugworm can be dug at the mouth of the river and east of Liscannor Pier.

2 Lahinch Beach

 1/10/21

 GPS

52° 56' 02" N 09° 20' 54" W

This beach is very popular with bathers and surfers. Large crowds use this stretch below the promenade during the summer months. There is a new pathway above the high water mark leading to the far end of the beach towards the River Inagh. There are good parking facilities on the promenade. The flooding tide to high water in suitable surf conditions is the best time to fish for Flounder, Bass and some Plaice, using lugworm, ragworm and Sandeel. Night fishing around high water can produce Bass.

3 Cregg Beach

 1/7/10/17/22/23/37

 GPS

52° 55' 17" N 09° 21' 01" W

This small beach is about 1.5kms south of Lahinch and you can park at the track junction at the head of the beach. The beach only fishes well in good surf conditions for Bass and Flounder, using lugworm and Sandeel on the flooding tide. During calm conditions, Flounder can be caught where the freshwater stream enters the sea. The best time to fish is the first three hours of the flood tide using a baited spoon and lugworm. At Green Island, Mackerel, Pollack, Conger, Wrasse and Porbeagle Shark can be caught from the shore.

Bait Point B: Some lug can be dug on the beach; crab and mussel around The Iron Well

Liscannor to Doonbeg - Map 1 (Continued...)

4 Freagh Point

 7/17/22/31/37

 GPS

52° 52' 34" N 09° 26' 04" W

Access is by a stile beside a gate at a sharp corner of the road. There is parking 50 metres from the gate on the Lahinch side. A short walk across a field brings you to a rocky outcrop with deep channels and gullies. Bottom fishing is available on the rough ground for Conger and Rockling, using Mackerel bait. Also float fishing for Wrasse using lugworm and crab and spinning for Mackerel and Pollack. This venue is not suitable in rough or heavy swell conditions. It produces the best results at high water.

5 White Strand (Travaun)

 17/22/37

 GPS

52° 52' 01" N 09° 25' 37" W

Situated 2km northwest of Milltown Malbay, this small sandy beach fishes best in moderate surf conditions for Flatfish and occasional Bass. Access is easy with good parking facilities and is popular with bathers in July and August. The two rocky headlands either side of the beach offer the opportunity to spin for Pollack and Mackerel, but float fishing for Wrasse is best.

6 Spanish Point

 1/10/22

 GPS

52° 50' 36" N 09° 25' 58" W

This beach is on the southern side of the Point and has easy access and good parking at the head of the beach. This is a surf beach and the main area is south of the Black Rock. Fishing the flooding tide using lugworm and Sandeel produces Flatfish and Bass. There is also the opportunity to spin for Pollack from the Black Rock at the northern end of the beach.



Liscannor to Doonbeg - Map 1 (Continued...)

7 Seafield Pier



52° 48' 32" N 09° 29' 26" W

Seafield Pier is 3kms south west of Quilty. It offers easy access and plenty of parking areas at the head of the main beach. The more popular fishing mark is the surf beach on the southern side which has rocky outcrops at the northern end. The main target species here are Flounder and Bass with the flooding tide producing the best results, using lugworm, ragworm and fish bait. Anglers can also fish on the more sheltered northern side and again it fishes best in moderate surf conditions. This is also a good area to fish plugs for Bass and in calm conditions is suitable for salt water fly fishing for Bass. Some Flounder have also been taken at high water from the pier.

Bait Point C: Lugworm and soft & peeler crab at the mouth of the Doonbeg River nearby on the southern side.

8 Lough Donnell



52° 46' 27" N 09° 28' 57" W

This long, sandy beach is 3km south of Seafield and access is from the northern end. Turn right off the main road and then left up a track through a farmyard and park at the left hand side, 100 metres from the beach.

Lough Donnell is behind the sea wall with an outlet onto the beach. The focal point here is the freshwater outlet and bottom fishing, using lugworm and Sandeel, produces Flatfish and Bass on the flooding tide. This beach fishes best in moderate surf conditions and in general sees very little angling pressure.

9 Doughmore Beach



52° 44' 44" N 09° 30' 14" W

This beach mark fishes well for Flounder, Bass, Ray, Bullhuss and Turbot. Fishing is best at either end of the beach, particularly the last two hours of ebb and first two hours of flood, best on neap tides and fishing two hours before high water on spring tides.

There is a sea pool on the southern end near a reef which is suitable for salt water fly fishing for Bass. In calm weather it is possible to spin from the beach for Bass. There is a Public Car Park at the southern end. Specimen Dogfish, Bass and Painted Ray have been caught from this beach. The Irish Record Bass of 17lbs. 13ozs was caught on this beach in the year 2000.

Liscannor to Doonbeg - Map 1 (Continued...)

10 White Strand (Killard)



1/7/10/22/37



52° 44' 52" N 09° 33' 05" W

This picturesque sandy beach is situated 4km west of Doonbeg. It offers easy access with ample parking. This north-facing beach will only fish well in suitable surf conditions for Bass and Flounder. Fishing into darkness on the flooding tide produces the best results. Lugworm and fish bait are the usual baits. Angling pressure is very light and there are no winter results from this venue as yet. Lugworm is available on the beach.

There is a sloping reef on the right hand side from where it is possible to spin for Bass. Wrasse can also be caught from the tip of this reef at low water.

A twenty minute walk to the left of this beach brings you to a long reef from where it is possible to spin for Pollack and bottom fish for Conger and Wrasse.

Bait Point D: Some lugworm can be dug on the beach.

11 Beanalicka, Ballard Bay



7/22/33/37



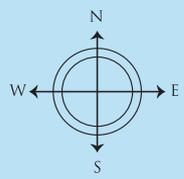
52° 44' 15" N 09° 36' 04" W

A few kilometres south of the Blue Pool, west of Doonbeg, there is excellent sheltered and safe rock fishing for Wrasse, Triggerfish, Pollack and Conger. Crab and lugworm are best for Wrasse and Triggerfish. Specimen Wrasse and Triggerfish have been recorded from this area.



Please note that the Blue Pool itself is NOT a safe place to fish due to sudden and unexpected swells and lives have been lost here.

Kilkee to Kilrush - Map 2



-  NATIONAL ROADS
-  MAIN ROADS
-  PRIMARY ROADS
-  SECONDARY ROADS
-  DISTANCE
-  PARKING LOCATIONS
-  BOAT SLIPWAY
-  SHORE FISHING
-  CAR FERRY
-  AIRPORT
-  FERRY
-  BAIT POINT LOCATIONS
-  SHORE MARKS
-  LIGHTHOUSE
-  CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



Shore Marks & Fish Locations

12: Kilkee Pier: 7/17/22/37

13: Kilkee (South): 1/4/17/22/37

14: Castle Point: 7/12/17/22/25/31

15: Bridge of Ross: 7/17/22/31/33/37

16: Kilbaha Pier: 7/19

17: Rinevella: 1/9/10/17

18: College Strand: 7/9/10/30

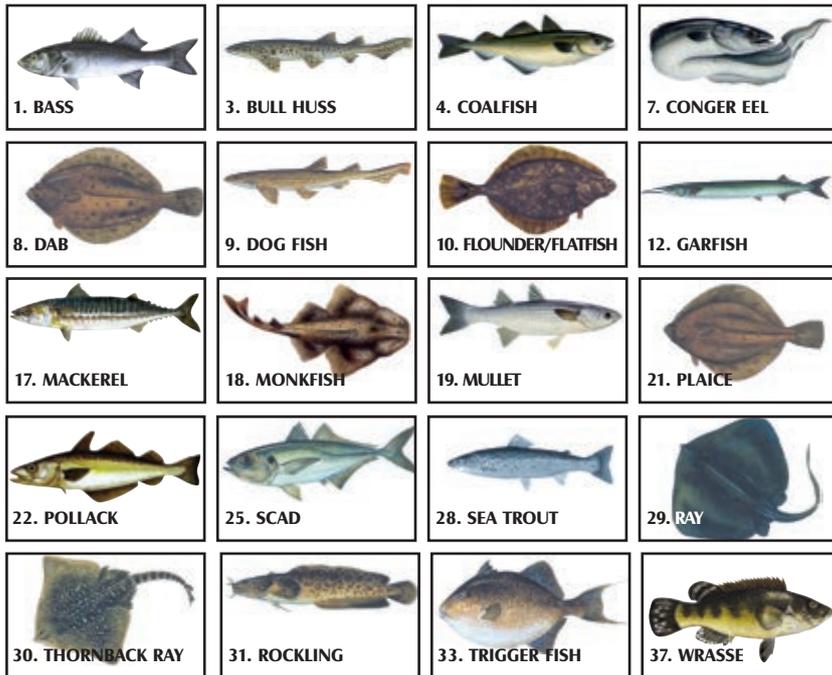
19: Carrigaholt Pier & Beach: 3/7/8/9/10/19/22/37

20: Doonaha: 1/3/9/10/21/31

21: Querrin: 1/9/10/12/17

22: Poulnasherry Bay: 1/3/10/18/28/29/30

Map Fish Index



REFERENCE SEA FISH SPECIES INDEX CHAPTER FROM PAGE 19 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kilkee to Kilrush – Map 2

12 Kilkee Pier

 7/17/22/37

 GPS

52° 41' 02" N 09° 38' 59" W

Kilkee Pier is on the north side of the main beach below the town of Kilkee. There are no problems with access or parking. This is an ideal location for holiday anglers where they can spin for Mackerel and Pollack at high water and bottom fish for Flatfish and occasional Bass using lugworm and fish bait. Some large Conger have been caught from the pier at night. Wrasse and Conger can be caught from the rocks behind the pier.

 **Please observe the NO FISHING signs opposite the Golf Links and at the Diving Boards as these areas are prone to dangerous swells.**

Bait Point E: Some lugworm can be dug on the beach at either end.

13 Kilkee (South)

 1/4/17/22/37

 GPS

52° 40' 39" N 09° 39' 06" W

The south side of the main beach at Kilkee produces Flounder and occasional Bass and Coalfish in winter. A fresh water stream runs at Edmonds Point and the ideal fishing time is the flooding tide in suitable surf conditions using lugworm and fish bait. There is a car park at the end of the coast road south of the town. The rocky outcrops are suitable for spinning for Bass, Pollack and Mackerel and float fishing for Wrasse.

14 Castle Point

 7/12/17/22/25/31

 GPS

52° 39' 21" N 09° 43' 12" W

Castle Point is situated on a spectacular drive 4.5km southwest of Kilkee. There is a Public Car Park. The track down to the fishing mark is rough and stony. This is a productive rock mark where anglers can spin for Pollack and Mackerel and float fish for Wrasse. Conger and Rockling are taken on the bottom using Mackerel bait on rough ground. This is a popular mark with local anglers and is a good mark for Mackerel in season. Some Herring, Scad and Garfish are also caught here.

Kilkee to Kilrush - Map 2 (Continued...)

15 Bridge of Ross



7/17/22/31/33/37



52° 35' 24" N 09° 52' 02" W

This very good rock mark is 1.5km north of Kilbaha. It is signposted and there is a car park. There are deep channels and gullies and some large Wrasse are taken here up to specimen weight of 4.75lbs using lugworm and crab. Other species taken here are Pollack, Mackerel, Conger, Rockling and in the summer months, Trigger Fish. Specimen Trigger Fish have been recorded here in recent years. There are other rock marks 400 metres north of here. Special care must be taken in rough and wet weather conditions.

16 Kilbaha Pier



7/19



52° 34' 11" N 09° 51' 45" W

Kilbaha is situated half-way between Carrigaholt and Loop Head. Access is easy with car parking near the pier. On the outer side of the pier, fishing for Conger is available over the rough ground and can be especially productive at night. This is an ideal venue in stormy weather conditions, as it provides comfortable fishing with reasonable shelter. Mullet can be taken in the harbour on tiny fish strips but ground baiting beforehand is necessary.

17 Rinevella



1/9/10/17



52° 35' 12" N 09° 43' 55" W

This beach is situated 3km southwest of Carrigaholt. Access is good as the road runs along the head of the beach. Species taken here are Bass, Dogfish and Flatfish at the western end using fish bait and lugworm. This area sees very little angling pressure and other species may be available. There is some lugworm at the eastern end. The best time to fish this beach is at low water and the first three hours of the flood. Mackerel shoal into this bay in the summer months and it is an ideal venue for salt water fly fishing for Mackerel and Bass. This is also a good venue to fish for Bass using plugs.

Bait Point F: Some lugworm can be dug on the beach.

Kilkee to Kilrush - Map 2 (Continued...)

18 College Strand



7/9/10/30



52° 35' 17" N 09° 42' 17" W

This venue is situated 2km south of Carrigaholt. Access to this beach is near the Irish College. Parking is limited and the roads are narrow. A sea wall runs the full length of the beach and the main fishing area is 300 metres from the college. This sandy beach is interspersed with low, rough patches and should be studied at low water to select fishing spots. Species caught here are Thornback Ray, Dogfish, small Conger and Flatfish. Baits normally used are fish bait, crab and lugworm; early flood and the first three hours of the flood seem to produce the best results. Thornback Ray can be caught here in winter months.

19 Carrigaholt Pier



52° 36' 00" N 9° 42' 07" W

Carrigaholt Beach



52° 36' 28" N 09° 42' 27" W



3/7/8/9/10/19/22/37

This pier is located about 0.5km to the east of the village and there is limited car parking on the pier. Bottom fishing onto clean ground produces Ray, Flounder, Dabs and Dogfish using lugworm, crab and fish bait. Spinning and float fishing produces Pollack and Wrasse. Mullet frequent the harbour and can be taken on fish strips. Ground baiting beforehand is necessary. Some large Mullet to specimen weight of 5lbs are present. At night, Conger can be taken on the outer wall of the pier over rough ground. This is an ideal location for sheltered fishing in bad weather. The beach opposite the pier produces Ray, Flatfish, Bullhuss and Dogfish on the flooding tide.

Bait Point G: Soft/peeler crab can be collected on the reefs inside the outer pier at low water. Lugworm can be dug opposite the slipway at the inner pier.

Kilkee to Kilrush - Map 2 (Continued...)

20 Doonaha



1/3/9/10/21/31



52° 37' 06" N 09° 38' 30" W

Doonaha is situated about 6km east of Carrigaholt. There is a cove immediately south of Doonaha and access to the beach is via a series of concrete steps.

The beach is approximately 250 metres long at low water and is interspersed with rocky patches. Bottom fishing on the flood tide produces Bass, Bull Huss to 8lbs, Dogfish, Three Bearded Rockling, Plaice and Flounder. Mackerel and lugworm are the best baits and the optimum period is from half flood to high water.

Bait Point H: Some lugworm can be dug on the beach.

21 Querrin



1/9/10/12/17



52° 37' 39" N 09° 35' 16" W

Querrin Pier is approximately 3km to the west of Poulnasherry Bay. It is a sandy inlet with a long raised bank on the seaward side. There is a choice of fishing spots here. Fishing off the small pier using lugworm, crab and Sandeel produces Flounder and occasional Bass with the last two hours of the flood tide being the best period. Bottom fishing can be carried out at all stages of the tide on the eastern side of the spit of land for Flounder, Dogfish and occasional Bass. Mackerel and Garfish enter the creek at the pier in the summer months and can be taken spinning or salt water fly fishing with the chance of an occasional Bass.

Bait Point I: Some lugworm can be dug along the side of the channel at low water. Crab can be collected in the weed. Razor clams can be collected from the strand during low water on big spring tides.

Kilkee to Kilrush - Map 2 (Continued...)

22

 52° 38' 30" N 09° 32' 52" W

 1/3/10/18/28/29/30

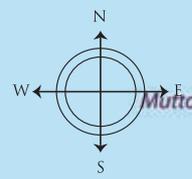
Fishing can be carried out on either side of the estuary mouth. Access is easy and parking is available on both shores. The best periods to fish are during the last two hours of the ebb, the first two hours of the flood tide and around high water. Thornback Ray and Bull Huss can be taken on Mackerel or Sandeel. When the crabs are busy frequent re-baiting is necessary but the rewards can be worth it! Flounder and Bass can be expected while bottom fishing with lugworm and crab. Garfish enter the bay in summer months and can be caught on small spinners or by salt water fly fishing. The tide here is very strong owing to the 'bottle neck' effect at the mouth of the bay and, when it is 'running', the only practical fishing methods are spinning or free-lining for Bass and occasional Sea Trout. Stingray and Monkfish have been recorded from the slacker water inside the estuary.

Bait Point J: Soft & peeler crab on the southern shore of Poulnasherry Bay about 1.5km from Kilrush.

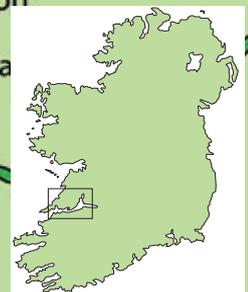
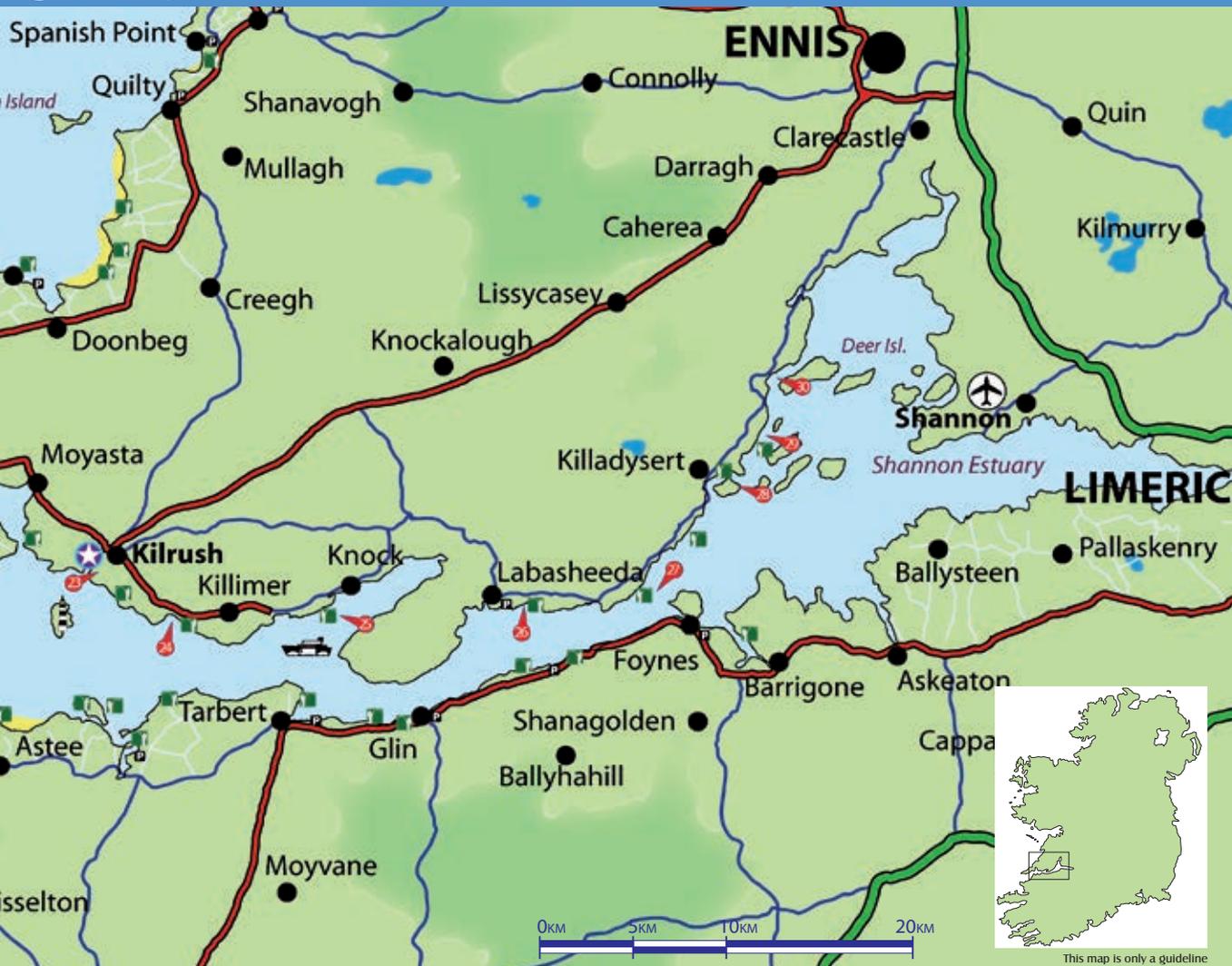




Kilrush to Crovraghan - Map 3



- NATIONAL ROADS
- MAIN ROADS
- PRIMARY ROADS
- SECONDARY ROADS
- DISTANCE
- PARKING LOCATIONS
- BOAT SLIPWAY
- SHORE FISHING
- CAR FERRY
- AIRPORT
- FERRY
- BAIT POINT LOCATIONS
- SHORE MARKS
- LIGHTHOUSE
- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



This map is only a guideline

Shore Marks & Fish Locations

Map Fish Index

23: Cappagh Pier: 3/7/9/22/30/36/37

24: Aylevaroo: 3/5/7/9/30/32/36

25: Killimer Beach: 3/7/9/30

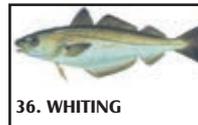
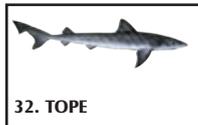
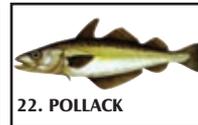
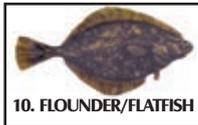
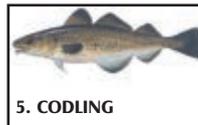
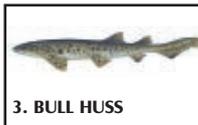
26: Aillroe: 3/7/9/30

27: Shannakea: 3/7/9/30

28: New Quay: 3/7/9/30

29: Killadysert: 10/19

30: Crovraghan: 3/7/9/10



REFERENCE SEA FISH SPECIES INDEX CHAPTER FROM PAGE 19 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kilrush to Crovraghan – Map 3

23 Cappagh Pier



3/7/9/22/30/36/37



52° 37' 43" N 09° 29' 54" W

Cappagh Pier is situated about 1km on the southern side of Kilrush. It has good access and parking is available adjacent to the pier. There is deep water at the end of the pier and catches of Conger, Dogfish, Whiting, Wrasse, Bull Huss, Thornback Ray, Stingray and small Pollack are available. Mackerel and Sandeel are the most productive baits. The pier is extremely popular with swimmers, local anglers and general holiday makers during the summer months and angling space is usually at a premium.

24 Aylevaroo



3/5/7/9/30/32/36



52° 37' 01" N 09° 28' 38" W

Aylevaroo Point is a prominent piece of high ground 1km southeast of Cappagh Pier. The road runs around this point and there is parking on the roadside. There are several access points from which to climb down onto the lower rocks. The water is quite deep and bottom fishing produces Bull Huss, Thornback Ray, Dogfish and small Conger. Tope are a possibility here during summer months. During the winter, local anglers catch Codling and Whiting using ragworm and lugworm. Fishing can be carried out at all stages of the tide. During the summer months, however, this is a very popular bathing place, so anglers are advised to exercise extreme caution to avoid accident

25 Killimer Beach



3/7/9/30



52° 36' 54" N 09° 22' 53" W

Immediately east of the Killimer Ferry slipway is a long beach which is relatively free of rock and weed. The beach is very comfortable to fish from as it is out of the main stream of tide. Catches of Bull Huss to 9 lbs, Thornback Ray to 8 lbs, Conger and Dogfish are taken here. Mackerel is the most productive bait, especially for Bull Huss and Ray. Crab bait also works well, especially for Conger and the flood tide is the most productive period. There is a car park at the ferry terminal.

Kilrush to Crovraghan – Map 3 (Continued...)

26 Aillroe

 3/7/9/30



52° 37' 16" N 09° 13' 55" W

Aillroe lies about 5km to the east of Labasheeda village on the coast road. The road runs close to the shore here and access to the rocky beach is through a small white gate. Parking is limited on the side of the road. This is a very comfortable venue with bottom fishing onto clean ground and deep water producing Thornback Ray, Bull Huss, Conger and Dogfish. Generally the flood tide is the best period and, when using Sandeel and Mackerel baits, good quality fish are available.

27 Shannakea

 3/7/9/30



52° 37' 14" N 09° 12' 16" W

Shannakea is 6km east of Labasheeda. Access is via a tarred road to a small car park near the shore. Bottom fishing for Thornback Ray, Conger, Bull Huss and Dogfish is generally successful. Most fish are taken on Mackerel and crab baits. The flood tide is best and the beach is fairly clean, with little weed or rock on it.

28 New Quay (Inishmurray Quay)

 3/7/9/30



52° 39' 09" N 09° 06' 38" W

2.5km on the west side of Killadysert take a left turn at the cross roads which will lead to the shoreline and quays. Fishing from the eastern end of the quay produces Bull Huss, Thornback Ray, Conger and Dogfish. The fishing is consistent at all stages of the tide and Mackerel and crab are the best baits. Bull Huss to over 10lbs are possible here and these big fish prove difficult to lift up the quay wall. It is imperative that anglers should carry a drop net with them.

Kilrush to Crovraghan – Map 3 (Continued...)

29 Killadysert



52° 40' 11" N 09° 06' 04" W

Just below the town of Killadysert lies the winding Killadysert Creek. A road runs down to an old quay wall where there is ample space for parking. Flounder are plentiful and crab bait fished in the main channel on the flooding tide produces best results. Float fishing for Mullet is also possible at high water but ground baiting is essential. Fishing is not possible when the tide is out.

30 Crovraghan Pier



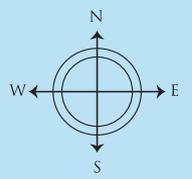
52° 41' 17" N 09° 04' 06" W

This fishing spot is 3km on the north east side of Killadysert. Travelling out from Killadysert take the 2nd right turn and follow the narrow road down to the pier. There is parking here and the fishing location is the channel running past the pier. Using fish bait, crab and lugworm, this channel fishes best on the first four hours of the flood tide. Species caught here are Bull Huss, Dogfish, small Conger and some good sized Flounder.

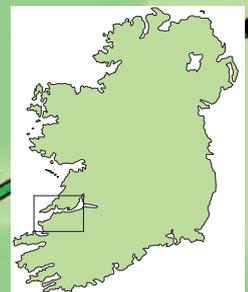




Foynes to Kerry Head - Map 4



- NATIONAL ROADS
- MAIN ROADS
- PRIMARY ROADS
- SECONDARY ROADS
- DISTANCE
- PARKING LOCATIONS
- BOAT SLIPWAY
- SHORE FISHING
- CAR FERRY
- AIRPORT
- FERRY
- BAIT POINT LOCATIONS
- SHORE MARKS
- LIGHTHOUSE
- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



This map is only a guideline

Fish & Beach Locations

Map Fish Index

31: Foynes: 5/7/9/30/36

32: Loghill: 3/7/30

33: Kiltteery Pier: 3/7/8/9/10/21/30/32

34: Glin Beach & Pier: 3/7/9/30

35: Barrett's House Strand: 3/7/9/10/30

36: Tarbert: 1/7/8/9/10/19/21/31/32

37: Kilcolgan Strand: 3/5/7/9/10/36

38: Saleen Pier: 10

39: Carrig Island East: 3/9/10/30/37

40: Carrig Island West: 3/9/22/32/37

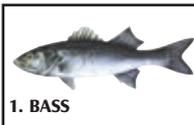
41: Letter Strand: 3/8/9/10/34

42: Beal Point: 1/8/9/10

43: Cashen Estuary: 1/10/28

44: Ballingarry: 7/17/22/37

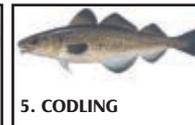
45: Kerry Head: 3/7/9/17/22/37



1. BASS



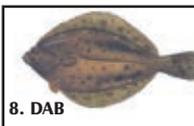
3. BULL HUSS



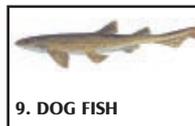
5. CODLING



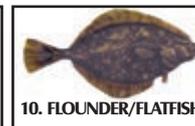
7. CONGER EEL



8. DAB



9. DOG FISH



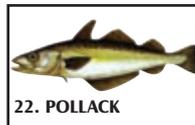
10. FLOUNDER/FLATFISH



17. MACKEREL



19. MULLET



22. POLLACK



30. THORNBACK RAY



21. PLAICE



28. SEA TROUT



32. TOPE



31. ROCKLING



34. TURBOT



36. WHITING



37. WRASSE

REFERENCE SEA FISH SPECIES INDEX CHAPTER FROM PAGE 19 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Foynes to Kerry Head - Map 4

31 Foynes

 5/7/9/30/36



52° 36' 47" N 09° 06' 41" W

The pier is now closed to the public. However, just to the west of Foynes main pier is a car park and swimming pool. Immediately below the car park is the main shipping channel which is some 60 metres deep. A 70 metre cast will reach the deep water where catches of Thornback Ray, Conger, Dogfish and Codling can be expected. The Ray fishing is particularly good here with fish to 10lbs recorded on peeler crab. Whiting can be caught in winter at night in calm weather at high tide.

Bait Point K: Soft/peeler crab can be collected on the beach west of the swimming pool at low water.

32 Loghill

 3/7/30



52° 35' 41" N 09° 11' 41" W

There is very deep water near the wood. Bottom fishing is possible for Conger, Bull Huss, and Thornback Ray. Best time to fish is near high water. This is an exposed location in bad weather. Parking is located immediately after crossing the river, on the right hand side.

33 Kilttery Pier

 3/7/8/9/10/21/30/32



52° 35' 41" N 09° 13' 25" W

Kilttery is 1.5km west of Loghill on the main Foynes/Tarbert coast road. A turn north off the main road leads to a stone pier and car park. Bottom fishing using fish bait, crab and lugworm produces Thornback Ray, Flounder, Dab, Plaice, Bull Huss, Dogfish, Conger, occasional Smooth Hound and Tope. This location offers a wide variety of species. Many fish can be caught in darkness, even when the water levels are low, so a drop net is essential. During daylight hours, the flooding tide to high water is the best period.

Foynes to Kerry Head - Map 4 (Continued...)

34 Glin Beach

 3/7/9/30

Glin Pier



52° 34' 29" N 09° 17' 00" W

A stretch of beach extends east of the pier for approx 1.5km along the main Limerick coast road. There is ample parking in the layby. Access to the pier is good and plenty of parking available near the pier. Species caught here are Thornback Ray, Bull Huss, Dogfish and Conger.

The usual method is bottom fishing using fish bait, crab and lugworm on the flooding tide. Glin Pier fishes well at high water. Fishing is from either side for Dogfish, small Conger, Flounder and Whiting using fish bait, lugworm and ragworm.

35 Barrett's House Strand

 3/7/9/10/30



52° 34' 17" N 09° 18' 33" W

This beach is situated on the main coast road from Glin to Tarbert just beyond Glin Castle. Parking and access is by the sea wall where the road leaves the shoreline. This venue is a match stretch and is a 300 metres walk from the access point. Species caught here are Thornback Ray, Bull Huss, Conger, Dogfish and Flounder, using crab, fish bait and lugworm. The first half of the flood produces the best results.

36 Tarbert

 1/7/8/9/10/19/21/31/32



52° 35' 14" N 09° 21' 34" W

There are two piers at Tarbert. The main pier is used in conjunction with the Tarbert-Killimer Ferry and the other is an older construction. Bottom fishing is carried out on a flooding tide from the main pier in relatively slack water for Flounder, Dabs, Three Bearded Rockling, Plaice and Dogfish using crab and lugworm. Fishing in darkness produces Conger at both piers. The main pier is best fished at slack water because of very strong tides in the area. Conger Eels up to 20lbs can be caught with large fish baits fished beside pier walk. The old pier fishes best in darkness. The hot water outlet from the power station is a Bass mark, methods spinning or bottom fishing. Mullet are present including the Golden Grey variety.

Bait Point L: Soft/peeler crab under the weed beside the road leading to the pier. Also some lugworm.

Foynes to Kerry Head - Map 4

37 Kilcolgan Strand

 3/5/7/9/10/36



52° 34' 35" N 09° 27' 24" W

From Tarbert, take the Ballylongford coast road and travel 4kms, turning right at Kilcolgan Strand signpost. At the end of this road, there is a car park with access through a field onto the beach. Fishing is on both sides. This is a weedy stretch leading onto mud interspersed with rocky outcrops. The best of the fishing is at low water and the first three hours of the flood using fish bait, crab and lugworm. Species caught here are Dogfish, Bull Huss to 12lbs, Conger, Flounder, Codling, Whiting and a possibility of Thornback Ray.

38 Saleen Pier

 10



52° 33' 38" N 09° 28' 03" W

Saleen Pier is situated about 1.5km west from the Kilcolgan Strand turnoff on the Tarbert-Ballylongford coast road. There is ample parking space on the pier. This is a Flounder 'hotspot' and by fishing on the flood tide with crab bait, large numbers of Flounder can be intercepted as they travel up the channel.

Bait Point M: Soft/peeler crab on weedy beach inside pier.

39 Carrig Island East

 3/9/10/30/37



52° 34' 21" N 09° 29' 50" W

Carrig Island is situated about 3kms north west of Ballylongford. Access is via the bridge onto the island and immediately after the bridge, a right turn leads down to the fishing mark. Park 100 metres from the turn and walk across two fields to the beach opposite the B&B. Parking is limited at the roadside. Bull Huss, Thornback Ray, Dogfish and Flounder can be caught here using fish bait, crab and lugworm on the flooding tide to high water. There are several rough patches to the left of the beach which should be given a wide berth if tackle losses are to be avoided. About 400 metres to the left there is a point which produces Ballan Wrasse, Dogfish and Bull Huss.

Foynes to Kerry Head - Map 4 (Continued...)

40 Carrig Island West

 3/9/22/32/37

 GPS

52° 34' 33" N 09° 30' 25" W

Having crossed the bridge onto the Island, turn left and drive as far as the track permits. Take care while driving as the track has rough ground. On the western side of a ruined fort lies a rocky point. Fishing onto clean ground into quite deep water produces Bull Huss, numerous Dogfish, Ballan Wrasse and small Pollack. Occasional Tope have been encountered there and it is very close to one of the best boat marks for this species. Other species include Ray and Conger. The flood tide to high water is best using fish bait, crab and lugworm.

Bait Point N: Lugworm in mud/sand near the track on west side of the island. Also soft/peeler crab.

41 Letter Strand

 3/8/9/10/34

 GPS

52° 34' 23" N 09° 34' 47" W

The first turn north after the village of Astee leads to Letter Strand. Anglers park cars on the beach itself. This is a shallow, sandy beach and the best time to fish is at low water to half flood for Bull Huss, Ray, Dogfish, Flounder, Dabs and occasional Turbot. Mackerel, crab and lugworm are the best baits. Tope is a possibility in spring.

Caution: If driving along the beach, watch out for soft sandy patches, as cars regularly get into difficulty on this beach.

42 Beal Point

 1/8/9/10

 GPS

52° 34' 26" N 09° 37' 51" W

Beal Point is situated on the most northwesterly tip of Co.Kerry. The road down to the car park and the beach is on the western side of the Point. The fishing is similar to Letter Strand with catches of Dogfish, Flounder and Dabs. Occasional Bass can also be expected. The flood tide is best using lugworm and small white ragworm.

Foynes to Kerry Head - Map 4

43 Cashen Estuary

 1/10/28

 GPS

52° 29' 12" N 09° 40' 35" W

The northern side of the Cashen Estuary is reached by driving south past Ballybunion Golf Club and taking a right at the bend in the road to reach the carpark. There can be good fishing for Bass when conditions are suitable, particularly at the extreme mouth of the estuary. The flooding tide and lugworm is the best combination. Inside the estuary mouth and just below the carpark, there is excellent Flounder fishing on the flooding tide with crab bait producing the best results. Sea Trout can be targeted on a flooding tide.

Bait Point O: Lugworm on the beach near pier. Soft/peeler crab under the weed on north side of estuary.

44 Ballingarry

 7/17/22/37

 GPS

52° 25' 54" N 09° 49' 27" W

About 10kms west of Ballyduff is Ballingarry. Take the last turn before the main road swings away from the coast and drive down past several houses until the road ends at a farmyard. Please seek permission to park and access this mark at the farmhouse. A walk of 300 metres leads to the point. Local anglers use this mark for spinning for Pollack and Mackerel. Float fishing for Ballan Wrasse and bottom fishing for Conger is possible. Care should be exercised in wet conditions.

45 Kerry Head

 3/7/9/17/22/37

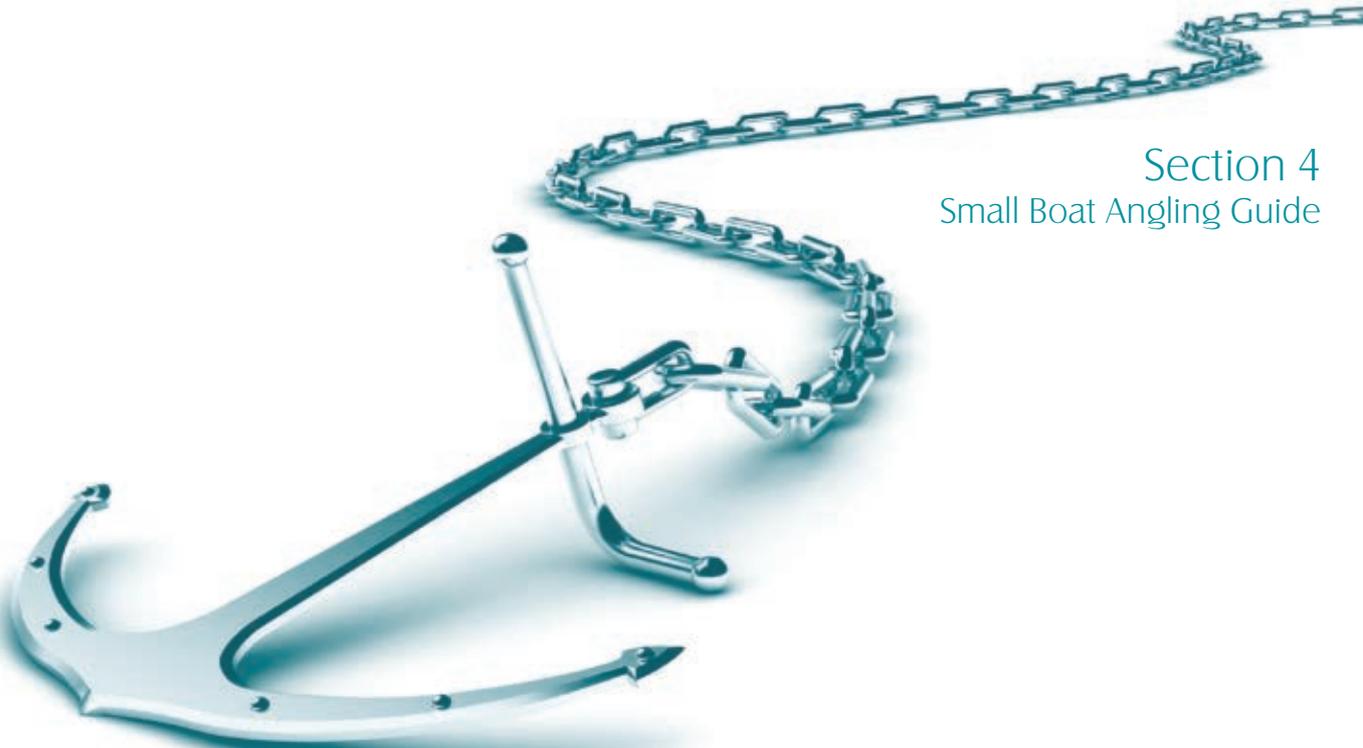
 GPS

52° 25' 11" N 09° 55' 58" W

About 5kms northwest of Ballyheigue, there is a left-hand fork off the main road. Follow this road until it reduces onto a track. Continue along the track until the left-hand fork and park here. A 400 metre walk to the northwest leads to a rocky outcrop. Access can be difficult in wet conditions, so care should be taken. This is an excellent spot for Ballan Wrasse to 5lbs. Spinning for Mackerel and Pollack and bottom fishing for Dogfish is possible. Bull Huss and Conger over the rough ground using fish bait is also possible. All stages of the tide are suitable. These rocks should not be approached in onshore winds or heavy sea swells.



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Small Boat Safety Points	71
Boat Fishing Areas and Maps	
The Shannon Estuary - Limerick City to Kilcredaun East	72
The Mouth of the Shannon Estuary - Kilcredaun to the Open Sea	74
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Section 4
Small Boat Angling Guide

Small Boat Angling Guide

Small boat angling has become increasingly popular in recent years. One of the unique aspects of our district is the coastal extent of the Shannon Estuary which can provide all-weather and all-year-round fishing opportunities for the small boat enthusiast. This makes it an ideal district for running small boat competitions. Small boat fishing is available from Carrigaholt to Killadysert for Thornback Ray, Bull Huss, Bass, Dogfish, Conger, Pollack and Rockling. There are several slipways around the coast where a boat can be launched, see list below. When launching, always exercise caution; check suitability; and seek local advice if necessary before using any slipway listed here.

LISCANNOR	LABASHEEDA MARINA
SPANISH POINT	KILLADYSERT MARINA
QUILTY	BUNRATTY
DOONBEG	LIMERICK
KILKEE	FOYNES (High Water Only)
KILBAHA	CARRIGAHOLT
GLIN (High Water Only)	KILLIMER
TARBERT	SALEEN - BALLYLONGFORD



Chartering a Boat

Anglers utilising charter boats should ensure that the craft is fully licensed and in possession of a current **Certification Standard** awarded by the Marine Survey Office and its insurance cover is valid. If in doubt ask to see this.

Small Boat Safety Points

! All anglers intending to go to sea should always wear a lifejacket and small boat users should also carry a flare pack in their kit, together with a VHF radio and/or mobile phone, compass and an auxiliary engine.

IT IS THE LAW.

Anglers using small boats should check the weather forecast and inform someone ashore of their intended departure, time of returning and of the area which they plan to fish.

Local advice as to hazards and dangers should always be obtained in advance of a trip.

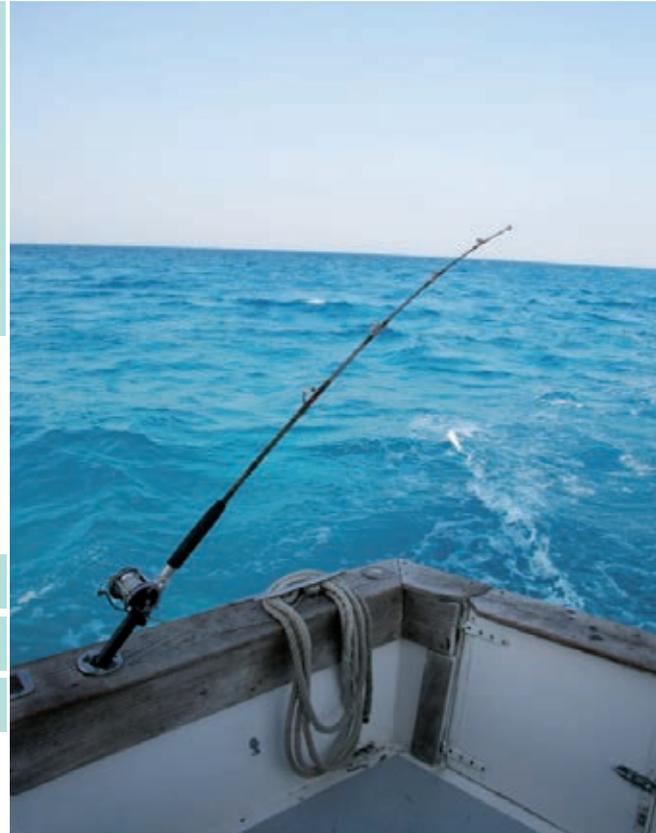
Boat Fishing Areas

For boat users, the Shannon District is best described by dividing it into 3 distinct fishing areas

THE SHANNON ESTUARY FROM LIMERICK CITY TO KILCREDAUN EAST

THE MOUTH OF THE SHANNON ESTUARY FROM KILCREDAUN TO THE OPEN SEA

OPEN SEA FROM LOOP HEAD TO HAGS HEAD



The Shannon Estuary - Limerick City to Kilcredaun East

This estuary of tidal water stretches nearly 100 kilometres from Limerick City to the headland of Kilcredaun. However, most boat fishing would take place in the lower 16 kilometres, west of the ferry slip at Tarbert. There is a deep channel running along its southern shore with depths to over 30 metres.

While there are some muddy/sandy bank patches, a lot of the bottom is quite stony and is swept by strong tides. Indeed these tides can reach 6 knots and the resultant overfalls can catch out the unwary boatman. It is otherwise a sheltered fishing area, famous for its Tope fishing. Other common species are Thornback Ray, Dogfish and Bull Huss. A bit more application can result in catches of Conger Eels, school Bass and some small Pollack, Codling and Whiting. Mackerel also come up river to this area from late June until late September.



-  NATIONAL ROADS
-  MAIN ROADS
-  PRIMARY ROADS
-  SECONDARY ROADS
-  DISTANCE
-  PARKING LOCATIONS
-  BOAT SLIPWAY
-  CAR FERRY
-  DOLPHIN WATCH
-  FERRY
-  LIGHTHOUSE
-  MUDDY GROUND
-  SANDY GROUND
-  ROCKY GROUND
-  PEAKY GROUND
-  REEFS
-  BOAT FISHING MARKS
-  AIRPORT
-  CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

FISH SPECIES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE CAUGHT IN THIS AREA

Probable Fish:

**TOPE, RAY, MACKEREL, DOGFISH,
BULL HUSS, ROCKLING**

Possible Fish:

**GURNARD, WHITING, CODLING, BASS, CONGER,
STINGRAY, DAB, FLOUNDER**

The Mouth of the Shannon Estuary - Kilcredaun to the Open Sea

The Shannon opens out and meets the Atlantic Ocean west of Kilcredaun and its west-most boundary is a line which runs from Loop head to Kerry head. The eastern side has a bar running from north to south off Ballybunion. Much of the bar is less than 20 metres.

To the west of the Kerry coast, the bottom is quite rocky for up to 2kms off land and has a strong tidal run along this part of the estuary. Due to its exposure to strong winds and tide, this area can be turbulent and should be avoided in adverse weather by the small boat angler. In the centre of the channel the bottom is mostly sandy but turns more to gravel to the south of Kilbaha. On the Clare coast the bottom gets rocky from Kilclogher heading west towards Loop Head which gradually deepens to approx 50 metres.

Fishing off Loop Head is influenced by the many currents which converge off this point in open sea. Southwest of Loop Head, the bottom is mostly rocky and leading slowly into foul ground.

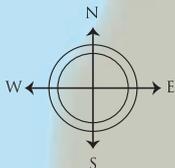
In some places, from about 8-9 kilometres out, there are rock peaks that rise 20 metres from the bottom. In this area there are also some small patches of gravel. The depth is generally 70 to 80 metres.

Further south is the Kerry Head Shoal with water of around 30 metres. West of this shoal the bottom is all quite rocky and again reaching to over 70 metres.



	NATIONAL ROADS
	MAIN ROADS
	PRIMARY ROADS
	SECONDARY ROADS
	DISTANCE
	PARKING LOCATIONS
	BOAT SLIPWAY
	CAR FERRY
	DOLPHIN WATCH
	FERRY
	LIGHTHOUSE
	MUDDY GROUND
	SANDY GROUND
	ROCKY GROUND
	PEAKY GROUND
	REEFS
	BOAT FISHING MARKS
	AIRPORT
	CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Open Sea - Loop Head to Hags Head – Map 3



This map is only a guideline





Open Sea - Loop Head to Hags Head

From Loop Head the Clare coast runs in a northeast direction, past Kilkee, Quilty, Liscannor and the Cliffs of Moher to Hags Head. There is a belt of rocky bottom along most of this coast. However, along Doughmore, between Doonbeg and Mutton Island and again in Liscannor Bay, the bottom is quite sandy. Further off you have a great selection of ground although never as peaky as the ground southwest of the Loop.

Just north of the Loop the ground is rocky. Small rock peaks with sandy patches develop as you get 3 to 4km off the land. To the northwest of the Loop, about 2.5km off shore, there is an area with a sandy/muddy bottom. This area stretches 10-12kms to the west with little patches of rock here and there. North of this there is a large area with a stony bottom. All this area has a depth ranging from 70 to 90 metres. This stony ground runs all the way north in a line running west from Donegal point. From here the ground gets quite patchy with areas of sand, gravel and stone. The bottom then changes to muddy/sandy and this large area stretches all the way to the Aran Islands to the north, providing some of the best prawn fishing grounds on the west coast.

FISH SPECIES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE CAUGHT IN THIS AREA

PROBABLE FISH:

COALFISH, COD, CONGER EEL, SPUR DOGFISH, DOGFISH, BULL HUSS, GARFISH, TUB GURNARD, RED GURNARD, HADDOCK, LING, MACKEREL, POLLACK, POUTING, RAY, BLUE SHARK, SKATE, SCAD, WHITING, BALLAN WRASSE, CUCKOO WRASSE

POSSIBLE FISH:

ANGLER FISH, BASS, BLACK SOLE, BRILL, DAB, GRAY GURNARD, HAKE, JOHN DORY, MEGRIM, PLAICE, PORBEAGLE SHARK, SIX GILLED SHARK, TORSK, TURBOT

BUT MOST OF ALL NEVER FORGET THIS GROUND'S ABILITY TO SURPRISE!



Popular Small Boat Fishing Marks - Shannon Estuary

While weather and the state of the tides have a big effect on the fishing in this area, some of the more well known boat fishing marks are as follows:

1	BALLYLONGFORD BAY	RAY, DOGFISH
2	BEAL BAR	TOPE
3	CARRIGAHOLT BAY	RAY, TOPE, DOGFISH
4	CORLIS POINT	TOPE, BULL HUSS
5	QUERRIN/ MOUTH OF POULNASHERRY	RAY, BULL HUSS, DOGFISH
6	EAST OF SCATTERY ISLAND	RAY, DOGFISH, SMALL CONGER EELS
7	MONEYPOINT	CONGER EELS, BASS



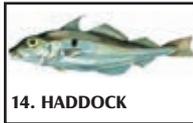
X SEE MAP ON PAGE 72, 74 & 76



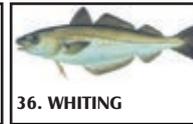
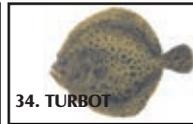
Fish Species Associated with Types of Fishing Ground



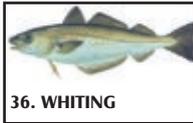
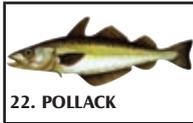
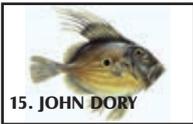
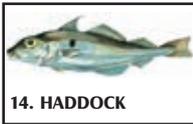
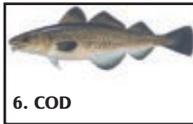
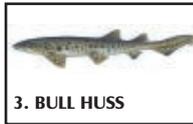
Muddy Ground: Dogfish, Gurnard, Haddock.



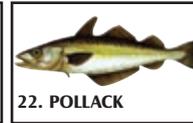
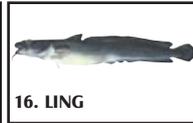
Sandy Ground: Dogfish, Plaice, Ray, Turbot, Whiting.



Rocky Ground: Bull Huss, Cod, Conger Eel, Gurnard, Haddock, John Dory, Ling, Pollack, Turbot, Whiting, Wrasse



Peaky Ground: Coalfish, Pollack, Ling.



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IFI Angling Section	
Irish Federation of Sea Anglers	
A Comprehensive Guide to Saltwater Fishing in Ireland	
Weather – Meteorological Service Ireland	
Tides & Tide Tables	
Tourist Information	
Irish Whales and Dolphins	
Access by Sea, Air, Land	



Section 5 Useful Information

Useful Travelling Contacts & Information Resources

If you come across instances of poaching, pollution or invasive species, please dial the IFI Hotline immediately: 1890 34 74 24

IFI Limerick Office

Contact Inland Fisheries Ireland's Limerick Office for angling support, up-to-date news, information and details of advertised Charter Boats, Tackle Shops and Angling Guides available in the area.

T: +353 (0)61 300238

F: +353 (0)61 300308

W: <http://www.fishinginireland.info>

E: shrbd@fisheriesireland.ie

Irish Federation of Sea Anglers

Lists of Secretaries of Clubs, Competitions - Provincial and National and lots more topics of interest:

<http://www.ifsa.ie/>

A Comprehensive Guide to Saltwater Fishing - Boat and Shore around Ireland

<http://www.sea-angling-ireland.org/>

Weather – Meteorological Service Ireland

<http://www.met.ie>

Tides & Tide Tables

<http://www.pocketsizetides.com>

<http://www.sailing.ie>

Tourist Information

<http://www.tourismireland.com>

<http://www.failteireland.ie>

<http://www.shannon-dev.ie>

Irish Whales and Dolphins

<http://www.iwdg.ie>

Access by Sea, Air, Land

Sea

<http://www.irishferries.ie>

<http://www.brittanyferries.ie>

<http://www.stenaline.ie>

<http://www.fastnetline.com>

Air

<http://www.aerlingus.ie>

<http://www.dublinairport.com>

<http://www.shannonairport.com>

<http://www.aerarann.ie>

<http://www.kerryairport.ie>

Land

<http://www.irishrail.ie>

<http://www.buseireann.ie>

