



# ANGLING GUIDE

GAME, COARSE & SEA

---

## FOYLE & CARLINGFORD



A fly fisherman wearing a hat, sunglasses, and a jacket is standing in a river, casting a fly. The background shows a lush green forest and a cloudy sky.

Loughs  
Agency

Gníomhaireacht na Lochanna  
Factrie für Loughs





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# Anglers Guide

## **PARTICIPATION & RISK**

Users of this guide are reminded that angling (as with any water based activity) carries risk. Anglers are encouraged to plan ahead and take the appropriate precautions when fishing, including wearing appropriate life jackets or buoyancy aids when on or near water.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this publication. Loughs Agency cannot, however, accept responsibility for errors or omissions but, where such are brought to our attention, future publications will be amended accordingly. Angling may, by its nature, be hazardous and involve risk. It is recommended to take out personal accident insurance and appropriate liability cover. Users must undertake and act on their own risk assessments and review and update during use. This guide must be used in conjunction with an accurate map and, where appropriate, navigation chart. Neither the publishers, funders, contributors, landowners, site managers, riparian owners nor agents of the aforementioned can be held responsible for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person (or persons) as a result of information, guidance or advice given in (or omitted from) this guide.

## **RIGHT OF WAY**

The representation in this document (map, text or otherwise) of a road, track, path, quay, slipway, mooring or similar is no evidence of right of way.

## **BIOSECURITY**

Reduce the spread of non-native invasive species that threaten our waterways with serious environmental and economic impacts.

- Clean, drain, dry equipment and clothing to prevent the spread of invasive species of fish, shellfish and plants.
- Wash, disinfect and dry tackle, nets, boats, trailers, waders etc. before moving from one water body to another.
- Desiccation (or drying) is effective against most invasive species.
- Ensure all water is drained from a boat (including lockers, bilges etc). Any plants and animals adhering to the hull, anchors, warps etc should be scraped off and put in a bin destined for landfill. Use of 'mufflers' is recommended to disinfect outboard motors.



## EARNING A WELCOME

- Be friendly and polite to local residents and other water users.
- Drive with care and consideration and park sensibly.
- Change clothing discretely, preferably out of public view.
- Gain permission before going onto private property.
- Minimise your impact on the natural environment and use recognised access points.
- Be sensitive to wildlife regarding the level of noise you create.
- Observe wildlife from a distance and be aware of sensitive locations such as bird nest sites, bird roosts and wintering wildfowl and waders.
- Follow the principles of 'Leave No Trace'. For more information visit:- [www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

## ANGLING GUIDES & INSTRUCTIONS

A guide can be arranged for almost all waters by enquiring from the local fishing clubs and tackle shops.

## ACCOMODATION & TOURIST INFORMATION

There are many hotels, bed and breakfast establishments, self-catering accommodation, camp sites and caravan parks. Details are available from the local Tourist Information Office.



# INTRODUCTION

Loughs Agency is one of six North South Implementation Bodies set up under the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement. It operates across both jurisdictions (Northern Ireland and Ireland). The Agency is a key body in the management of inland fisheries and the development of angling across the Foyle and Carlingford areas.

The 'Loughs Agency' covers the water catchment areas of the two border sea loughs of Lough Foyle and Carlingford Lough.

Loughs Agency has produced this angling guide to cover each angling discipline across both catchments of Carlingford and Foyle. These waters provide some of the most affordable sport in these islands for a broad range of anglers.

The Foyle and Carlingford areas are readily accessible, with air routes from most parts of England, Scotland and Wales, as well as flights from several European countries and North America. Ireland is well served by car ferries, too. There are railway stations at Newry and Derry~Londonderry.

The Foyle system covers an area of 4,070 square kilometres stretching across three counties. The rivers of the Foyle system rise in the Blue Stack Mountains of Donegal, the Sperrin Mountains of Tyrone and Londonderry~Derry and the wildness of Inishowen – hills that hold many of the spawning waters of Foyle salmon. The salmon fishing on the Foyle system is famous but there is also excellent wild brown trout angling. Sea trout anglers can get cracking sport out of good runs of sea trout from mid-July onwards.

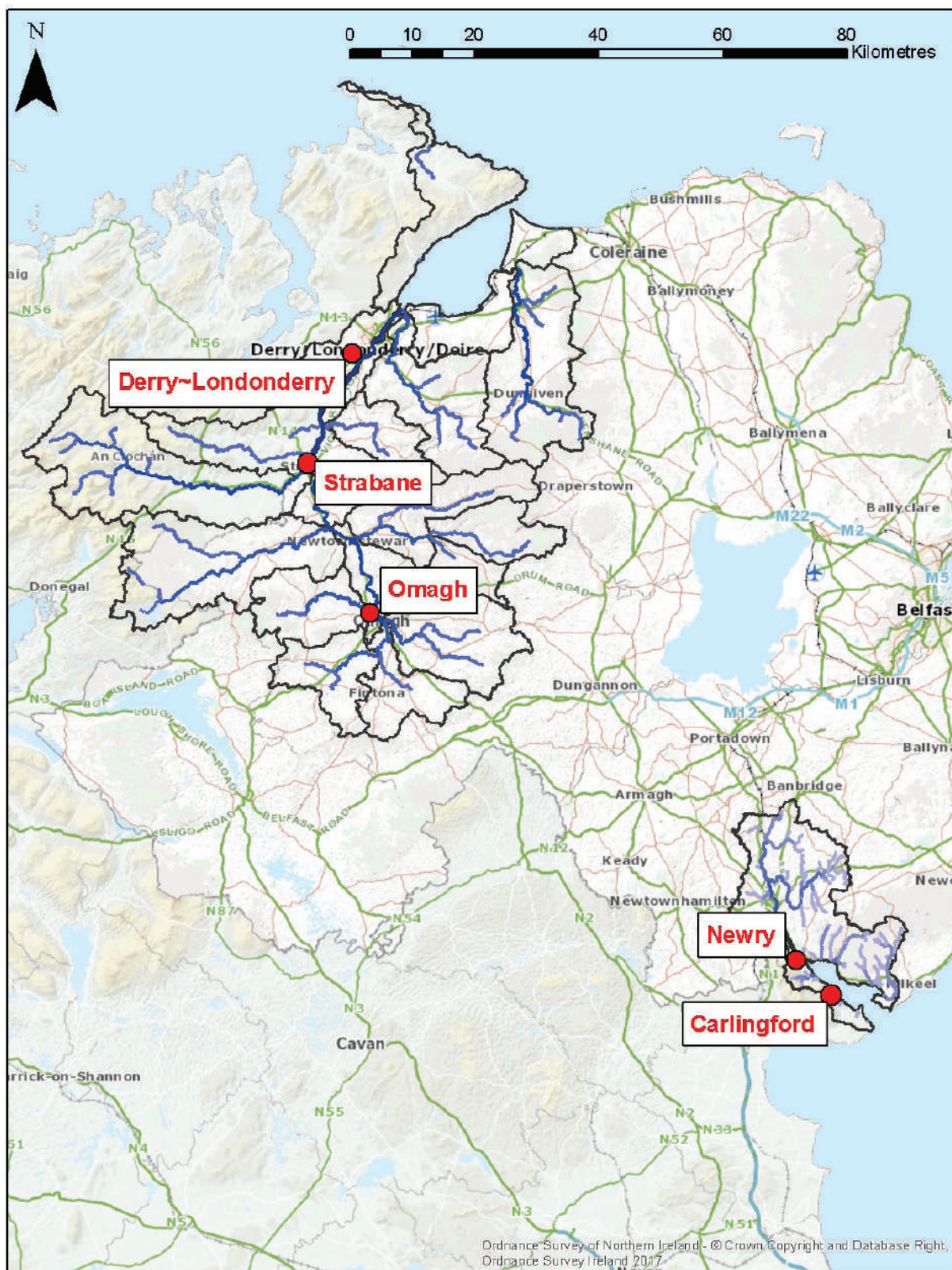
The Carlingford system covers an area of 480 square kilometres also stretching across three counties. The rivers that run into Carlingford Lough rise in the Mourne Mountains of County Down, the Cooley Mountains of County Louth and Slieve Gullion in County Armagh. The fishing in the Carlingford catchment offers wide variety. Sea trout anglers can get good sport out of runs from mid-July onwards on the Whitewater River. There is salmon to be had and some great trout fishing in the rivers and lakes. Coarse and pike fishing is available in the Newry Canal and some of the lakes and, there is superb sea angling from shore or charter boat.

Please remember that access to rivers and lakes is often across private property. Such access is by kind permission of the owner and the continued co-operation of landowners relies on trust, both on the part of the angler and the landowner. Anglers should always respect the environment but also have due regard for the property of others - land, livestock, crops, fences, gates, farmyards, lanes, etc.

**Visit [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org) for the most up-to-date information on permits and licence requirements, tackle shops, club contact details and angling reports.**



# Foyle & Carlingford Catchment



## Advice & Regulations

Guide to prohibited methods –  
for reasons of conservation of fish stocks.

(valid at February 2019)

- Anglers are advised to update themselves on current regulations - information is available from the Loughs Agency and is updated on the Agency website [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org).
- Size limit - game fish - no salmon, brown trout or sea trout of less than 25.4cm may be retained.
- Tagging - salmon and sea trout - anglers must gill tag all salmon and all sea trout over 40cm that are caught and retained, immediately on landing the fish.
- Bag limits - local variations to the season apply - see details elsewhere in this guide):
  - 1st March - 31st May inclusive: bag limit of 1 salmon or sea trout over 40cm on any one day (blue gill tags this period); maximum of 5 in this period.
  - 1st June - 31st October: bag limit of 2 salmon or sea trout over 40cm on any one day (black gill tags this period); maximum of 20 in this period.
  - No more than 4 brown trout or sea trout of 40cm or less (or a combination of both) can be retained on any one day.
- Sale of rod caught fish - a person shall not sell, or offer for sale, salmon or sea trout caught by rod and line.
- Gravid fish - in the interests of conservation, anglers are urged to return gravid fish to the water unharmed.
- Float - no use of a float with bait is permitted for game fishing - other than in conjunction with a single artificial fly (however, see entry below).
- Bubble – fishing with a bubble and fly is permitted.
- The only bait permitted for game fishing in the Foyle and Carlingford areas is earthworm.
- Bait and ground bait - use of shrimp or prawn or live bait is strictly prohibited. Ground bait (including sweet corn) will only be used if fishing for coarse species (however, ground bait is not permitted on DAERA permitted waters nor on the Roe and Faughan systems).
- Coarse fish (including eels) - it is prohibited to kill coarse fish (including eels). However, see regulation on pike below. All coarse fish and eels must be carefully handled and returned to the water unharmed.
- Char - it is prohibited to kill Char.



- Smelt, Shad and Lamprey - in the interests of conservation, anglers are urged to return fish of these species to the water unharmed.
- Pike - there is a bag limit of 2 pike weighing less than 4 kg on any one day. Pike of 4kg or more must be returned to the water immediately and unharmed. There is an exception for specimen pike with a bag limit of 1 specimen pike in any one day (a specimen pike in a river is 9 kg or more; a specimen pike in a lake is 13.6 kg or more).
- Bass - Loughs Agency plans a regulation that will introduce bag limits, size limits and close season for bass.
- Tope - Loughs Agency plans a regulation to prohibit killing of tope.
- Weirs - there is a general prohibition of angling within 5 metres of any weir. This distance may be extended locally (for instance, at Sion Mills, Omagh Weir and elsewhere – check locally).
- Rivers Foyle & Finn - for conservation reasons, the rivers Finn and Foyle have been declared 'catch and release' - single barbless hooks must be used and all fish (trout, sea trout and salmon) must be returned to the water unharmed. Bait fishing whilst game angling is not permitted in the Foyle and Finn rivers.

**Visit [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org) for the most up-to-date information on permits and licence requirements, tackle shops, club contact details and angling reports.**

## Rod Licence & Permits

Anglers can purchase a rod licence on-line by visiting the Agency website and registering as an angler (this will generate a lifelong angler number). Then you can proceed with purchasing a licence, request carcass tags and make your catch returns online.

A rod licence is required to fish on rivers, canals and lakes (known locally as 'loughs') in the Loughs Agency areas. This applies equally to those fishing for trout, coarse fish and salmon.

Licences (game and/or coarse) are available as a season licence (£16.00/€23.50\*), 14 day licence (£8.00/€11.50\*), 3 day licence (£3.50/€5.00\*) and juvenile licence (£2.00/€3.00\*). Holders of a coarse licence can use up to two rods whilst angling for coarse fish. Holders of a game licence can only use one rod whilst angling.

Holders of season fishing licences issued in other parts of Ireland (north and south) can obtain an endorsement from the Loughs Agency that authorises them to fish in Agency waters (£1.00/€1.50\*).

A game licence is valid for the season in which purchased; a coarse licence is valid for the calendar year (that is, it expires on the 31st December, regardless of the date purchased).

In addition to a rod licence, it is a requirement to hold a permit to fish on many stretches of river and on many of the lakes in the Foyle and Carlingford catchments. Guidance is often available from local tackle shops, angling clubs or check with Loughs Agency.

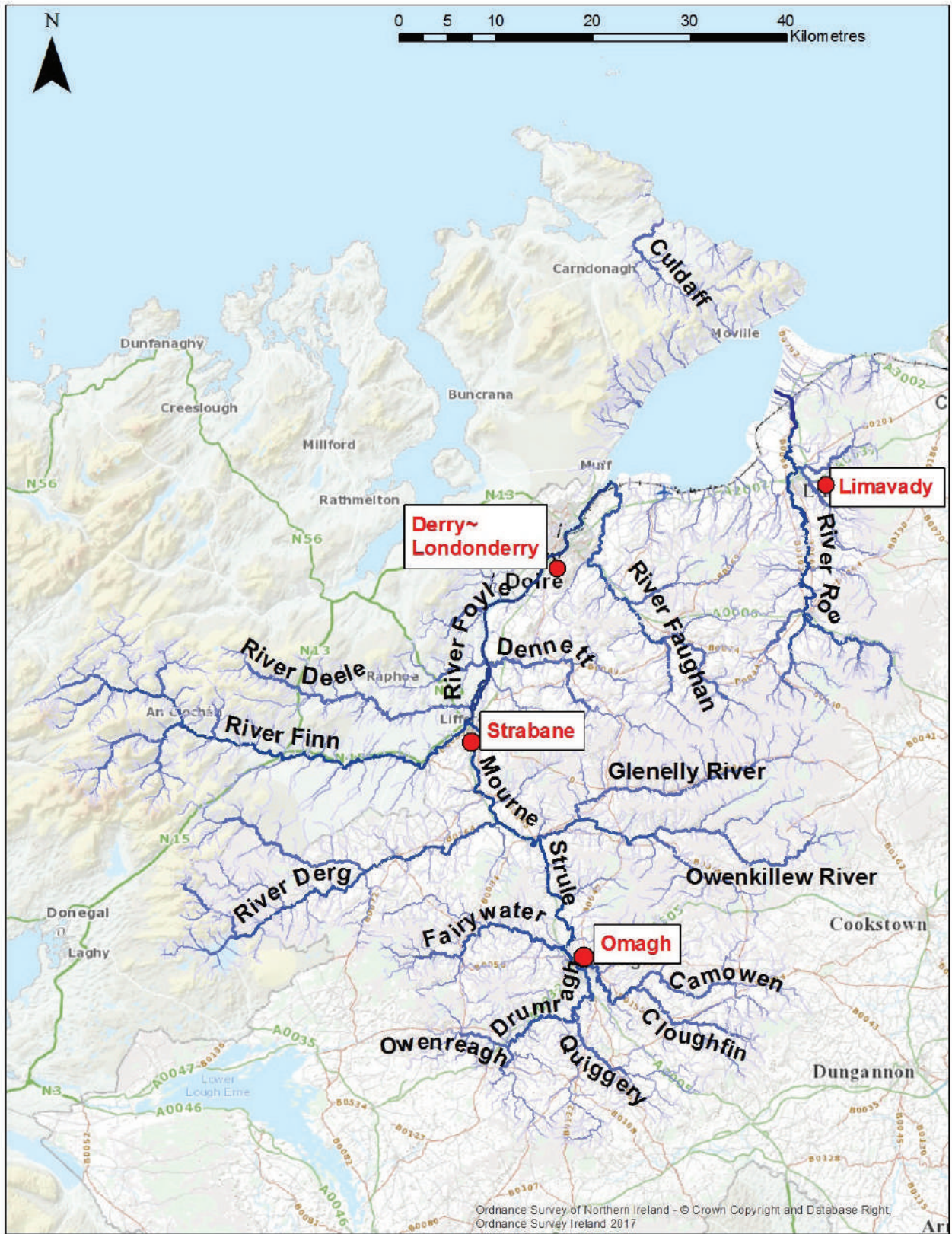
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*\*Subject to change.*



# Foyle Area

## River • Game Angling



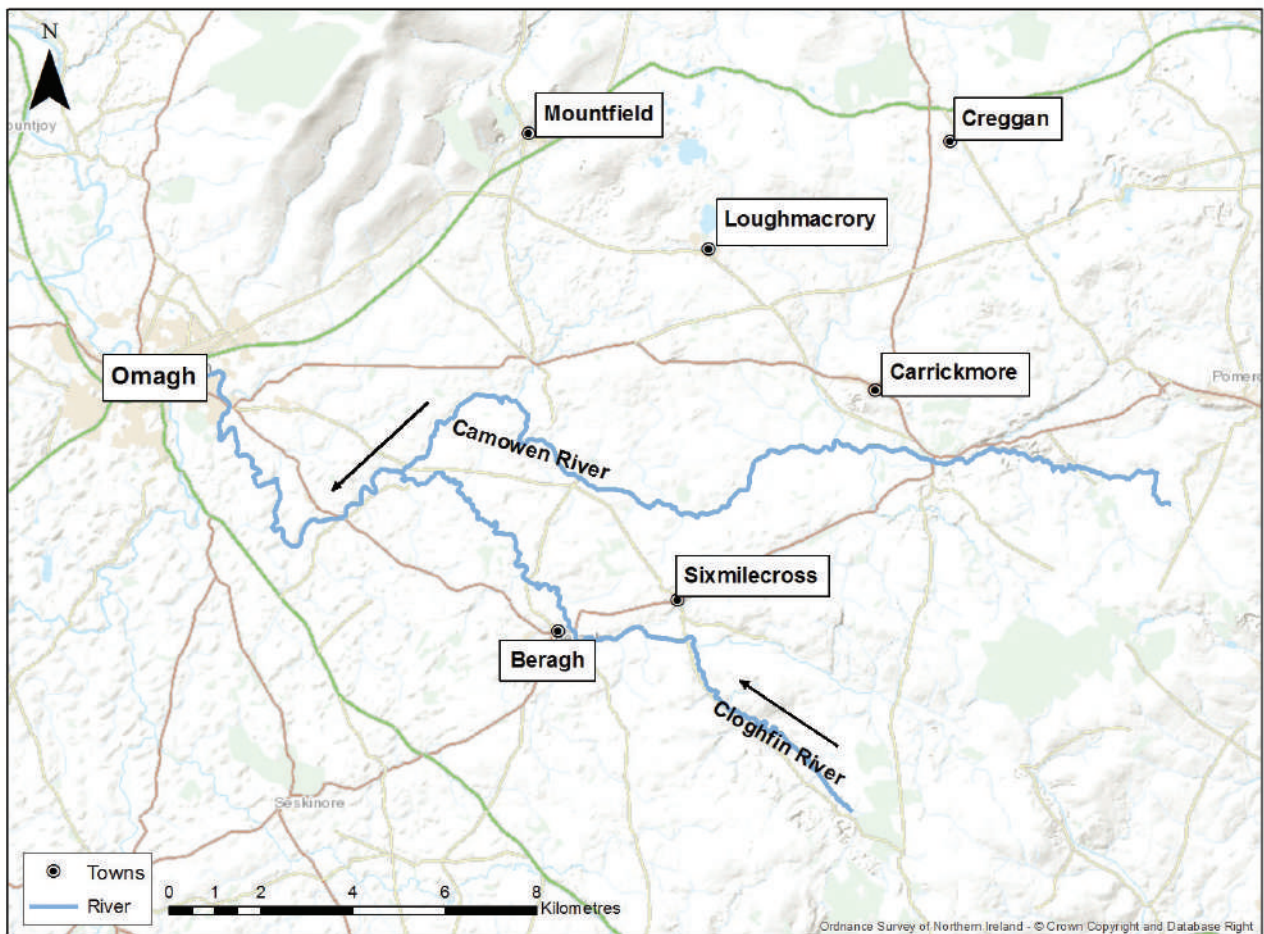
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# Camowen & Cloghfin

Season: 1st April - 20th October

The River Camowen is a medium sized river (5-20 metres width) that has a good run of grilse and summer salmon from late June, depending on flows. The Cloghfin (a tributary of the Camowen) has excellent trout fishing for several miles upstream of its confluence with the Camowen. These rivers run through lush pasture for most of their length.

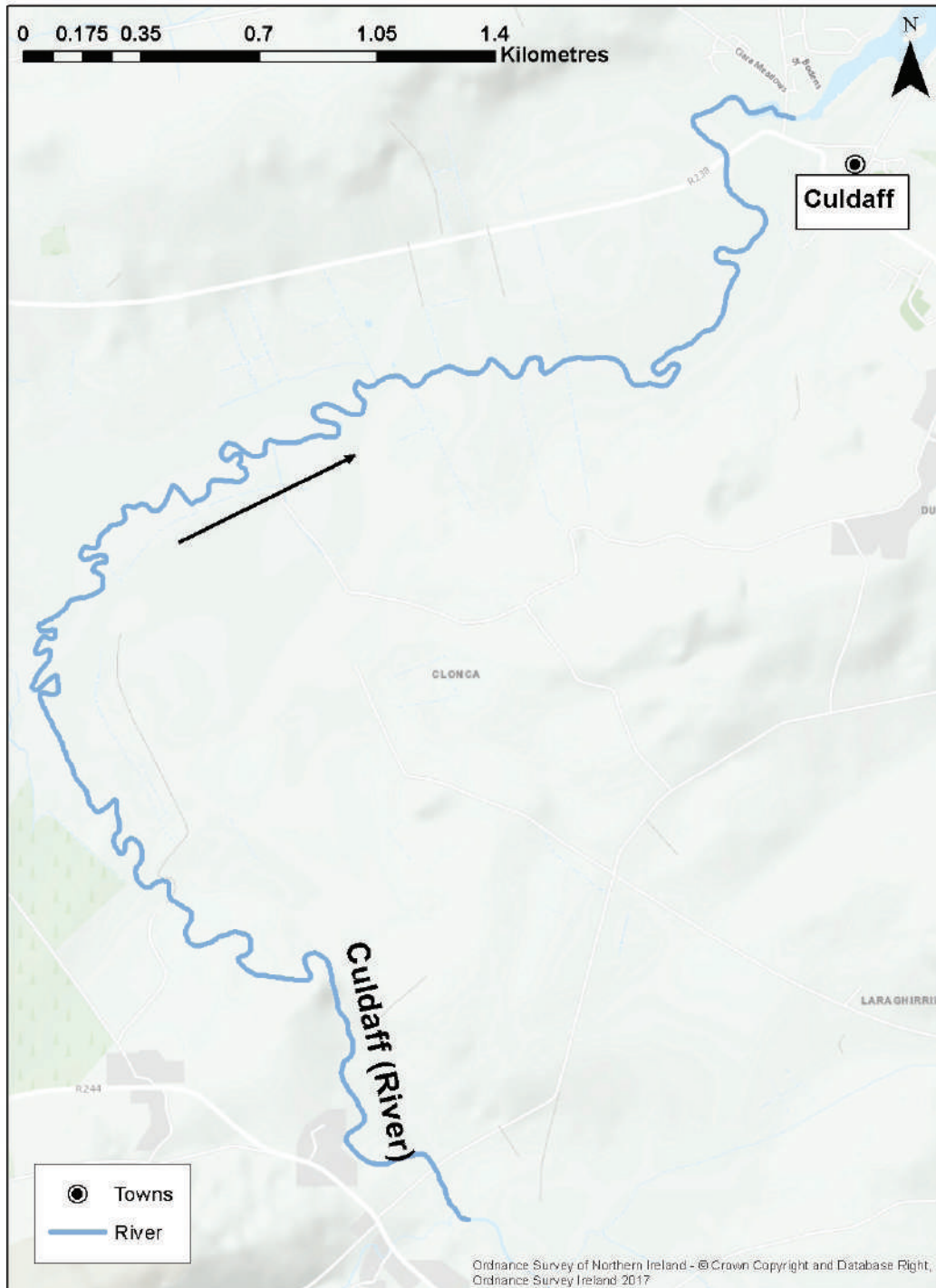




# Culdaff

Season: 1st April - 20th October

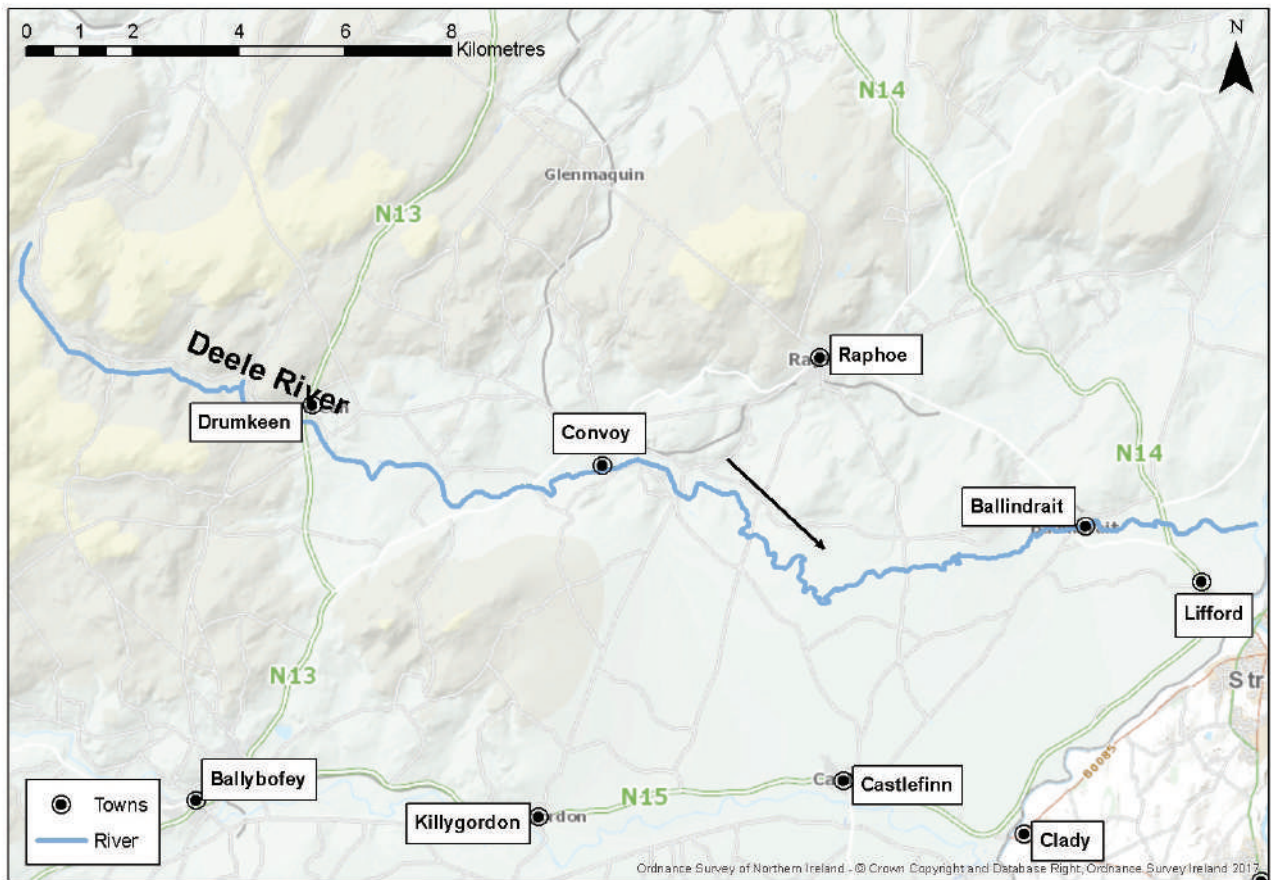
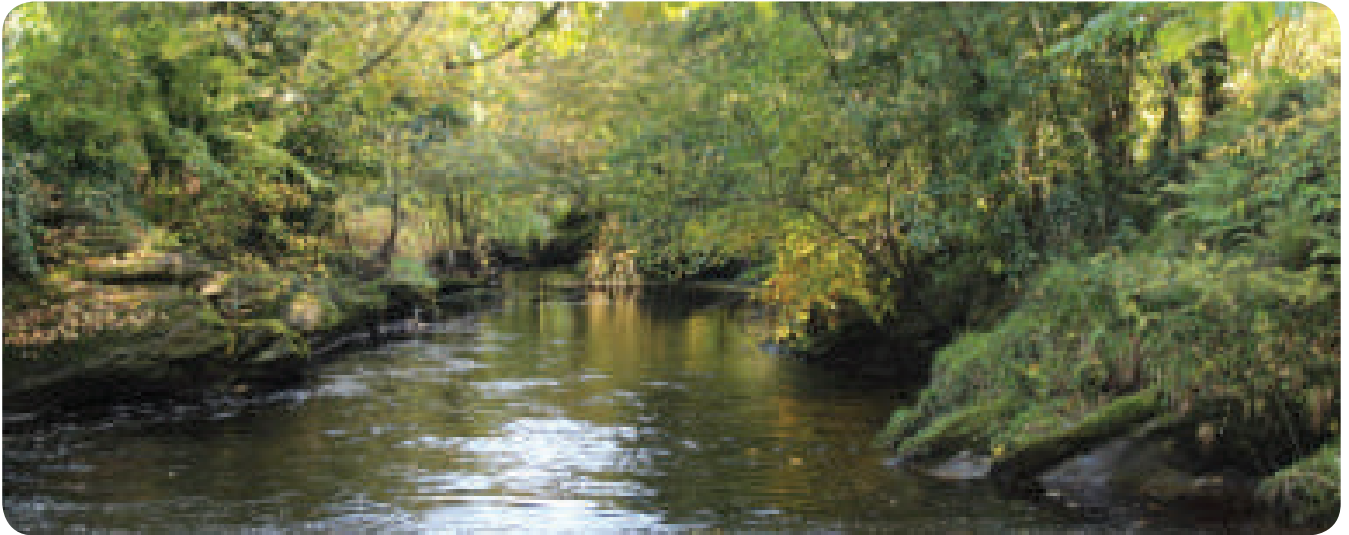
This is a medium sized (5-20 metres width) spate river flowing directly into the Atlantic Ocean near Malin Head, Ireland's most northerly point. In its lower reaches it runs through grazing land and the stretch below the village of Culdaff is a tidal estuary. There is good sea trout fishing from mid-June and salmon arrive by August.



# Deele

Season: 1st April - 20th October

The River Deele flows through the village of Convooy to reach the Foyle (below Lifford). A good brown trout river and traditionally known as an excellent sea trout river from June onwards. The River Deele has a late run of salmon from mid-August to early September.

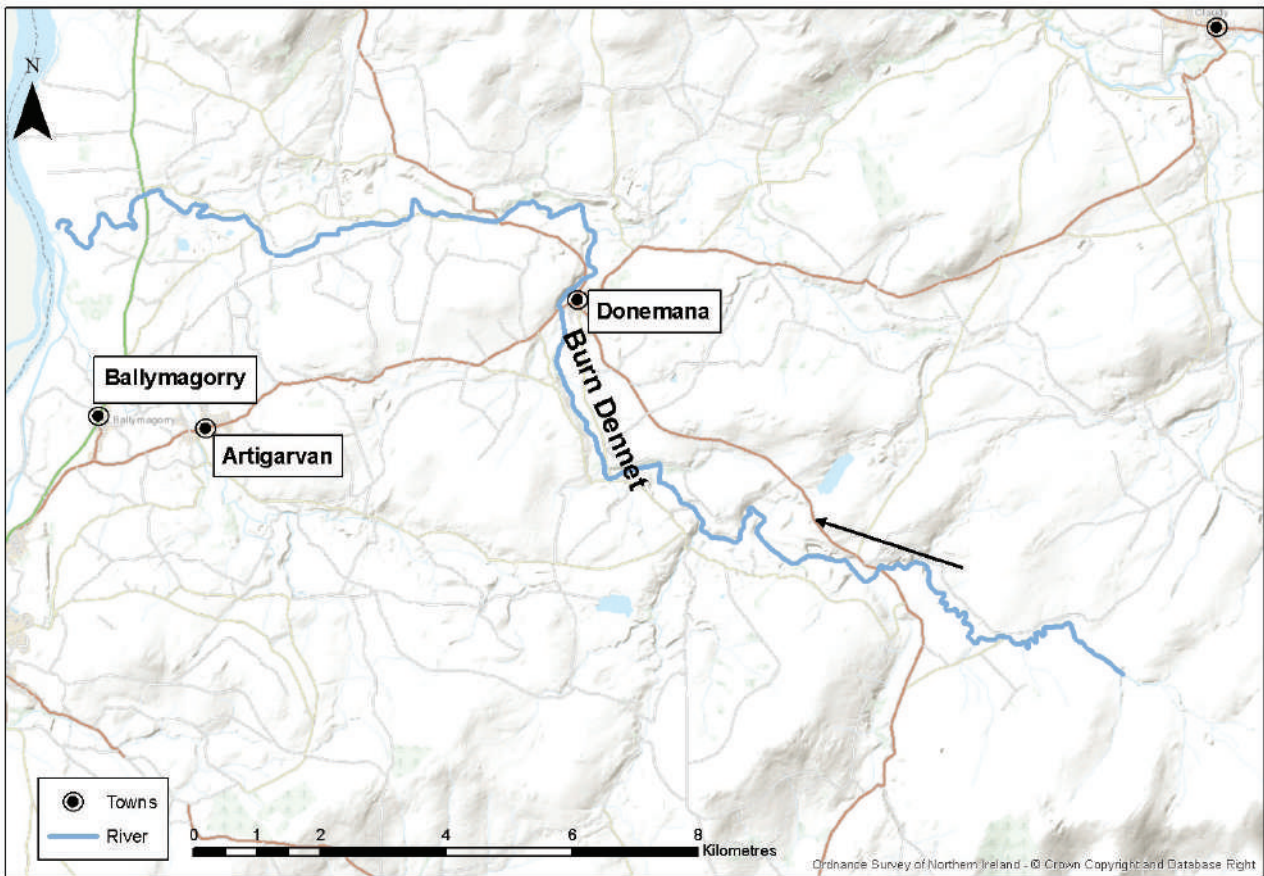




# Dennet

Season: 20th May to 20th October

The Dennet is a medium sized (5-20 metres width) spate river. Rising on the northern flanks of the main Sperrin ridge, the river drops northwards through Donemana village, swinging west through native woodland and pasture before meandering across broad flats to reach the River Foyle. Sea trout peak June to August, with grilse best fished for in July and August and salmon in August and September.

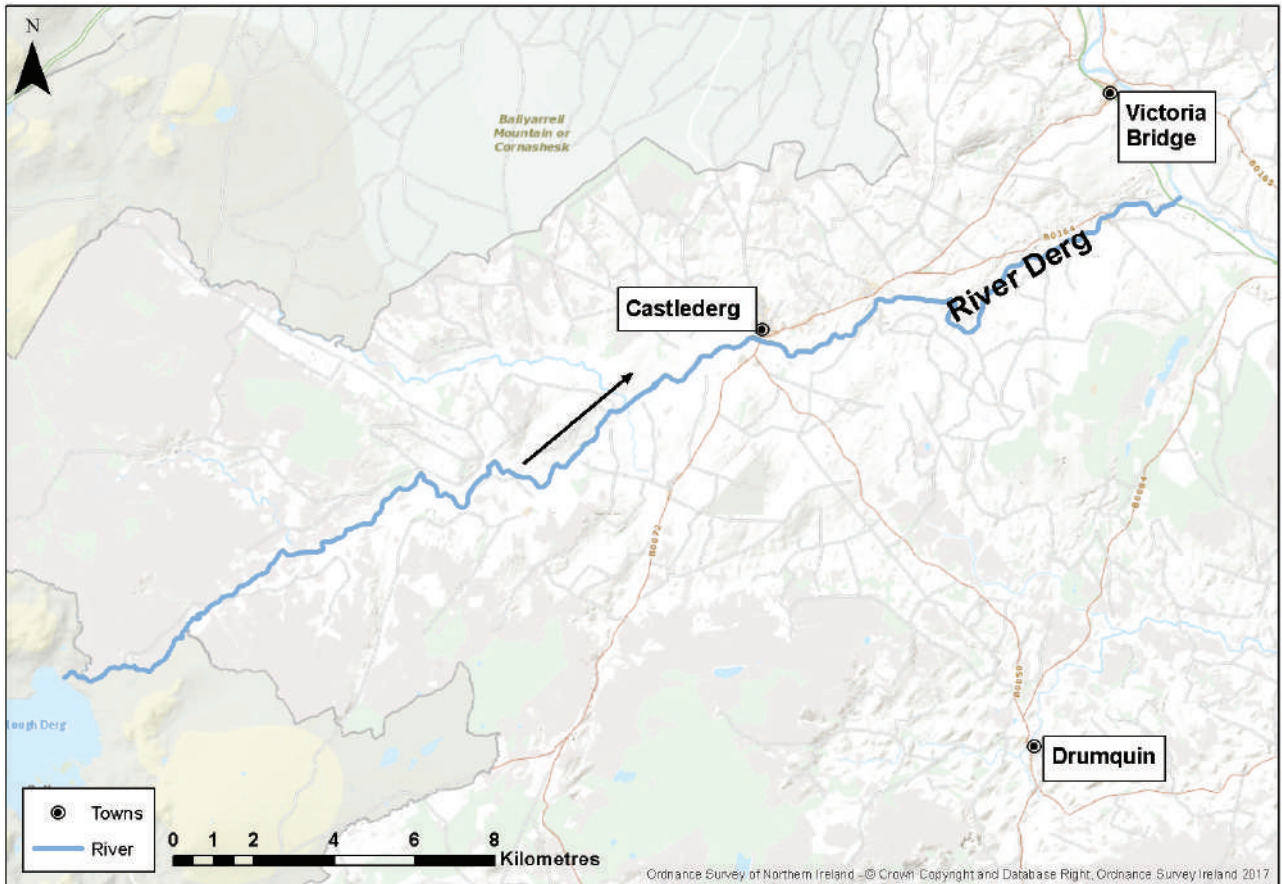




# Derg

Season: 1st April - 20th October

The Derg is a large (10-20 metre width) spate river with a fine head of wild brown trout. It is best known for summer salmon, grilse and sea trout which are generally at their best from late May to August. Some fresh water is required to encourage runs of fish, although grilse and sea trout will edge upstream without a flood. The River Derg has its source high in the Donegal hills, flowing out of the lough of the same name to join with the River Strule to form the Mourne (downstream of Newtownstewart). The upper reaches are mountainous, while the lower stretches flow through pasture and cereal fields.





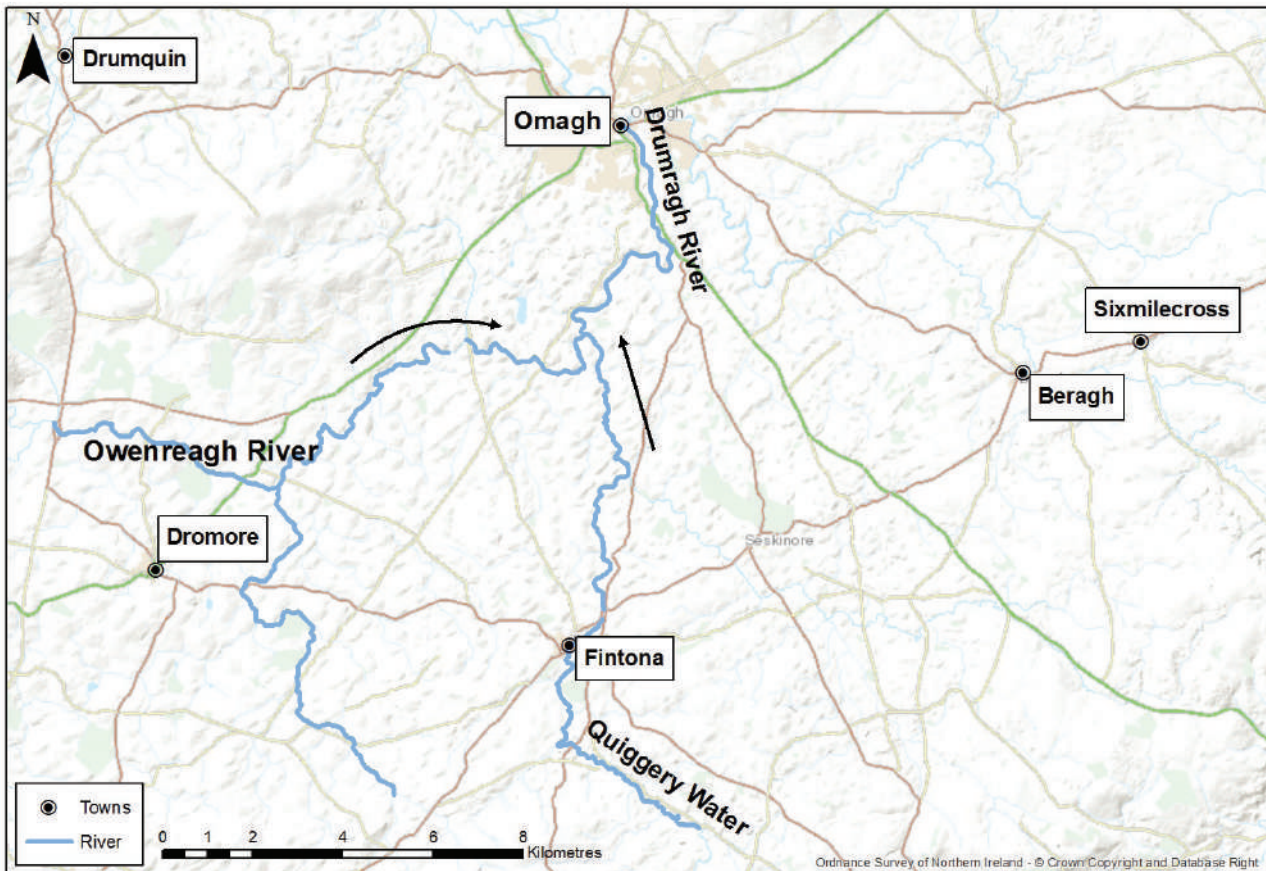
# Drumragh, Owenreagh and the Quiggery

Season: 1st April - 20th October

There is a good head of wild brown trout in the medium sized (5-20 metres width) River Drumragh and its tributaries, the Owenreagh and the Quiggery Water. The Drumragh has excellent brown trout fishing over its entire length with great fly hatches in May and June.

There is good salmon angling and fantastic opportunities for the roaming trout angler, utilising upstream dry fly techniques. These rivers meander through pleasant grassy hills and flat "holms" (a Viking word for a flood plain) for most of their length. Good salmon angling can be found on the lower stretches after a flood.

The Quiggery water winds through pasture to meet the Owenreagh, forming the River Drumragh upstream of Omagh. It still enjoys substantial fly hatch with wild brown trout up to 2lbs taken every year. Spate can bring on the bigger fish in the evening.

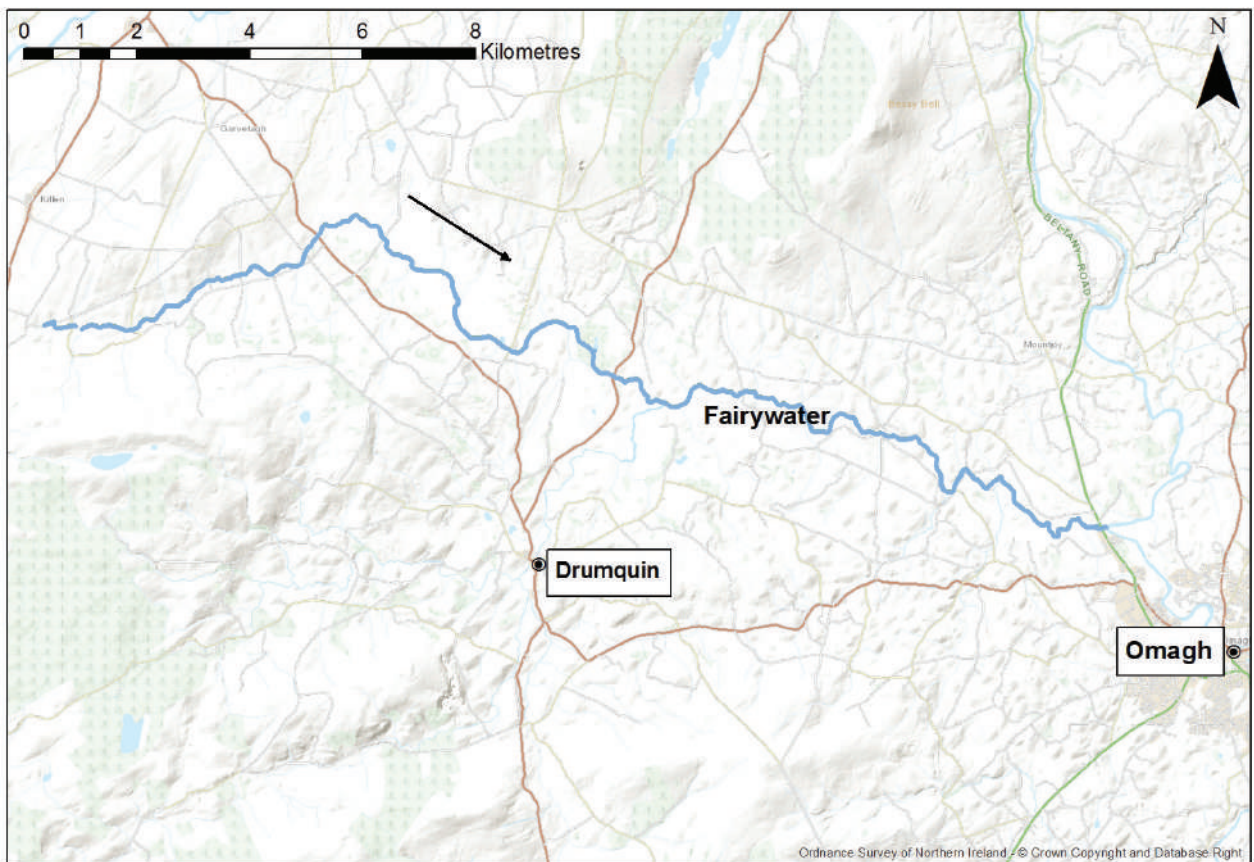




# Fairy Water

Season: 1st April - 20th October

The Fairy Water is a medium sized (5-20 metres width) river that rises in the hills above Drumquin. Some stretches are quite slow flowing, in fact, there is reasonable coarse fishing just above its confluence with the Strule, outside Omagh. There is a good pike population at various points, mainly in the mid-sections around Priests Bridge. The river holds a good population of brown trout and occasional salmon.

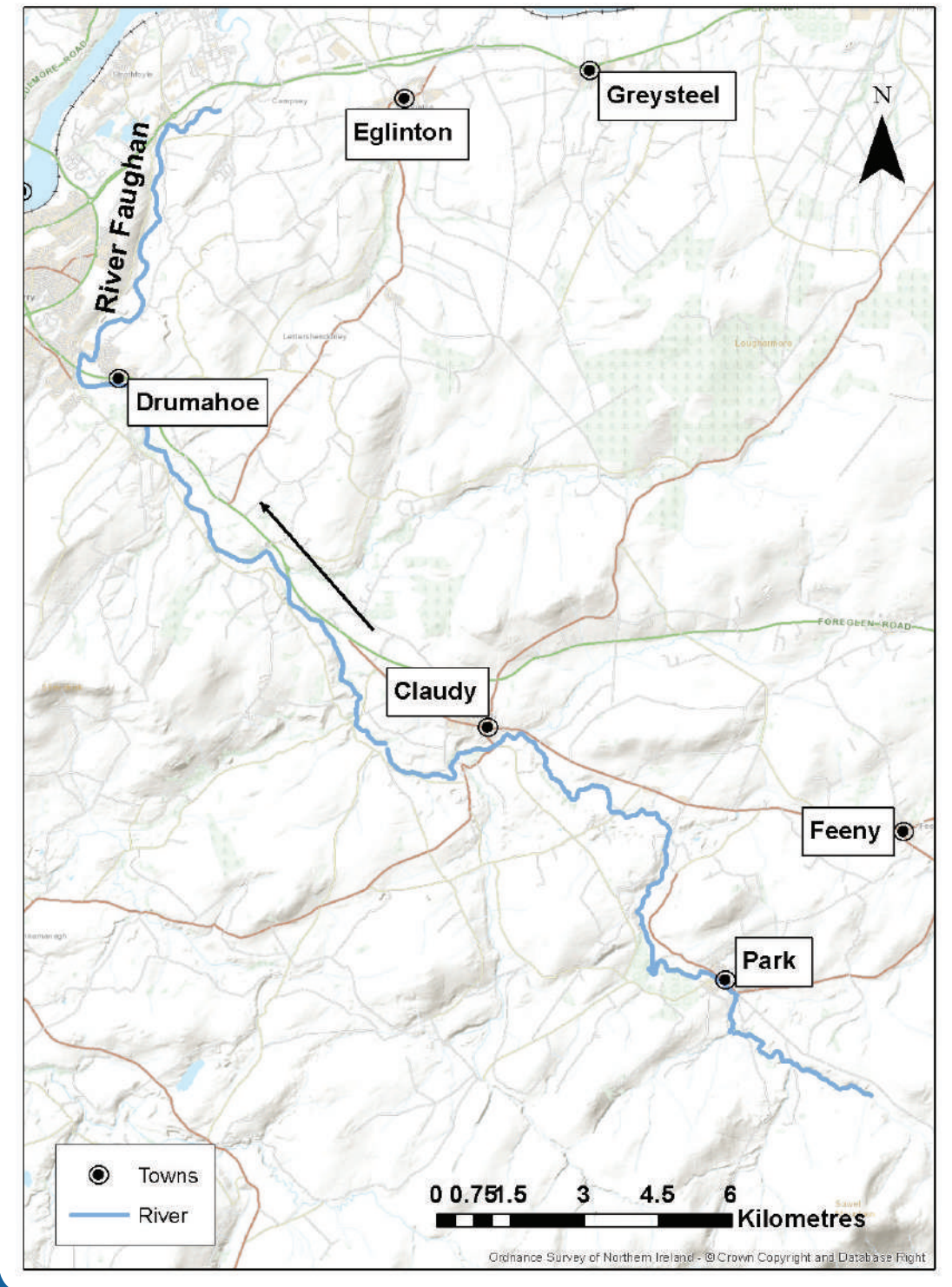




# Faughan

Season: 20th May - 20th October

The medium sized (5-20 metres wide) Faughan rises on the flanks of Sawel, the highest of the Sperrin peaks. It makes its way along a scenic valley through the village of Park, flowing north east by Claudy to Drumahoe where it swings north to enter Lough Foyle (a sea lough off the Atlantic). It is a renowned spate river for salmon and sea trout.

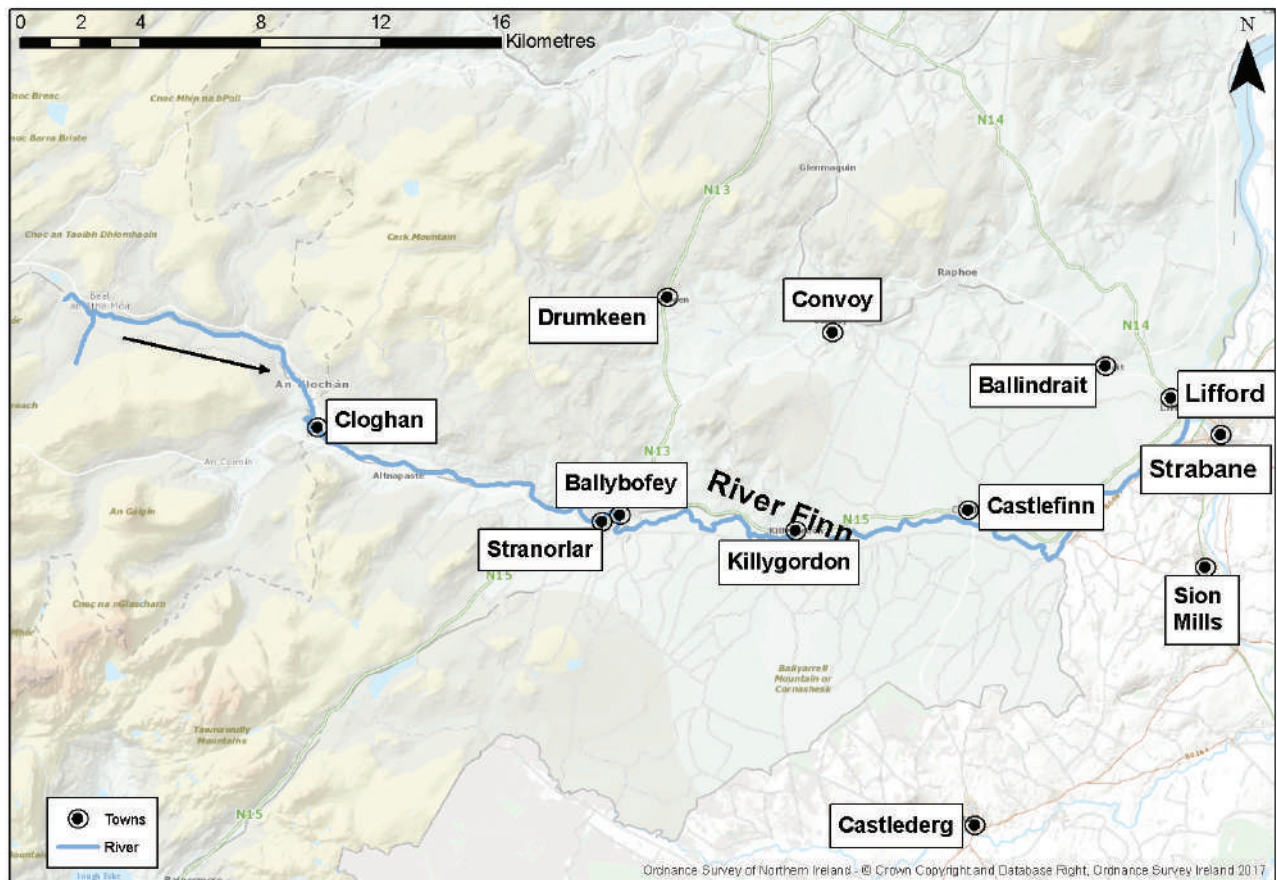




# Finn & Reelan

Season: 1st March - 15th September

The Finn and its main tributary, the Reelan, are famed salmon and grilse rivers rising high in Donegal's Blue Stack mountains. Lough Finn is a long lake in its upper reaches and the river flows from there to drop swiftly over a 50 kilometre length to form the River Foyle (at its confluence with the River Mourne) at Lifford. Well known as a great spate river for spring fish but it also maintains a good head of salmon throughout the season. Sea trout run July to mid-August. The lower sections of this river are tidal with tides of up to three metres. Loughs Agency offers a good value permit for fishing the tidal portion of the lower Finn.



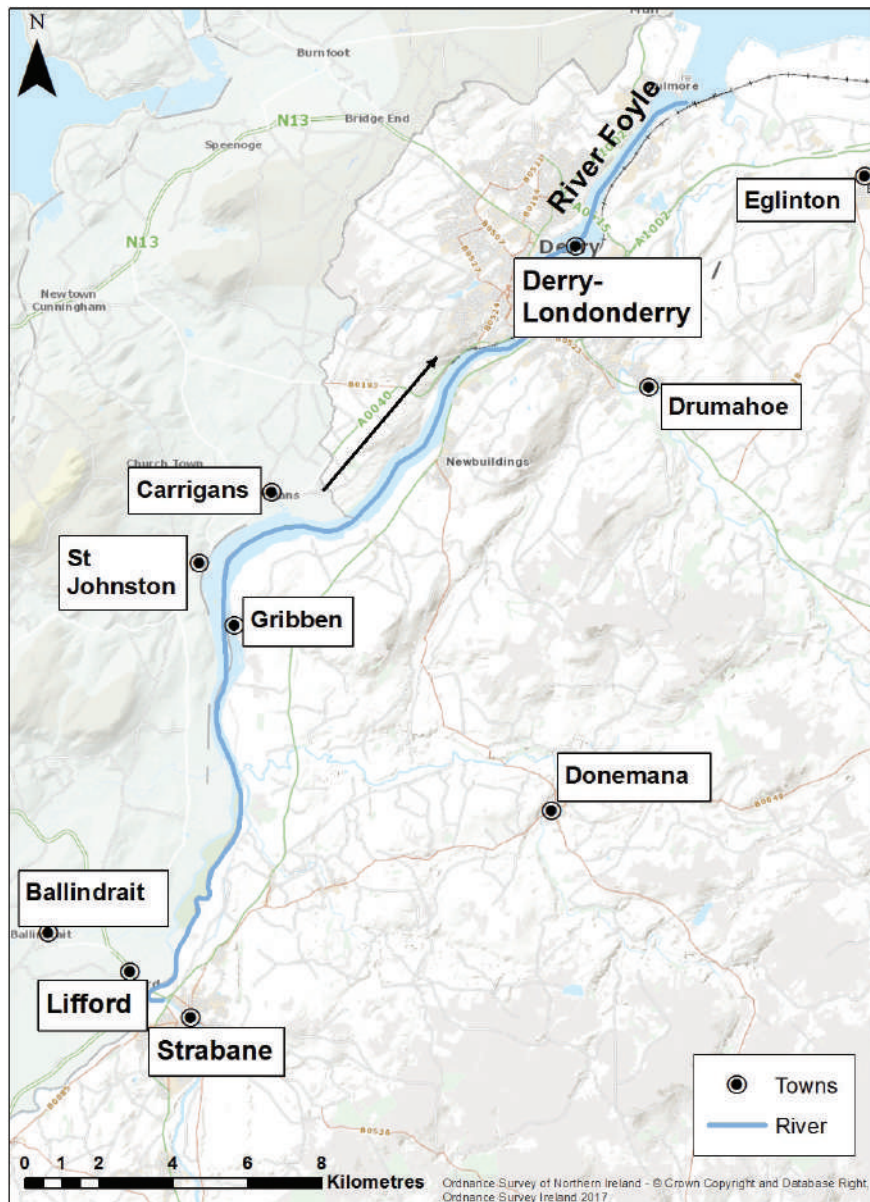


# Foyle

Season: 1st March - 15th September

The Foyle is tidal along its entire length, from the confluence of the Finn and Mourne to Culmore Point where it spills into the vast sea lough of the same name. It is joined by the Dennet and the Deele along its length and it is upstream of the Dennet that the best angling can be had. This stretch is known as the islands. Below Lifford the river splits to flow either side of a 110 hectare island, forming a pool and riffle sequence along both channels. It is a very wide river (30-500 metres) with some remarkably shallow stretches at various points. Be careful if using a boat! With a tide of 4-5 knots, angling tends to be restricted to periods of low flow between tides. Thousands of salmon move along the Foyle, a conduit feeding the Finn, Mourne, Derg and other famous salmon rivers.

A slipway and remains of a historic salmon fishing station ("The Gribben") are located on the Foyle near Bready (County Tyrone). It is possible to arrange launch and recovery of angling boats at this point. However, permission must be obtained from the Loughs Agency well in advance. A Loughs Agency permit is required to fish the Foyle.

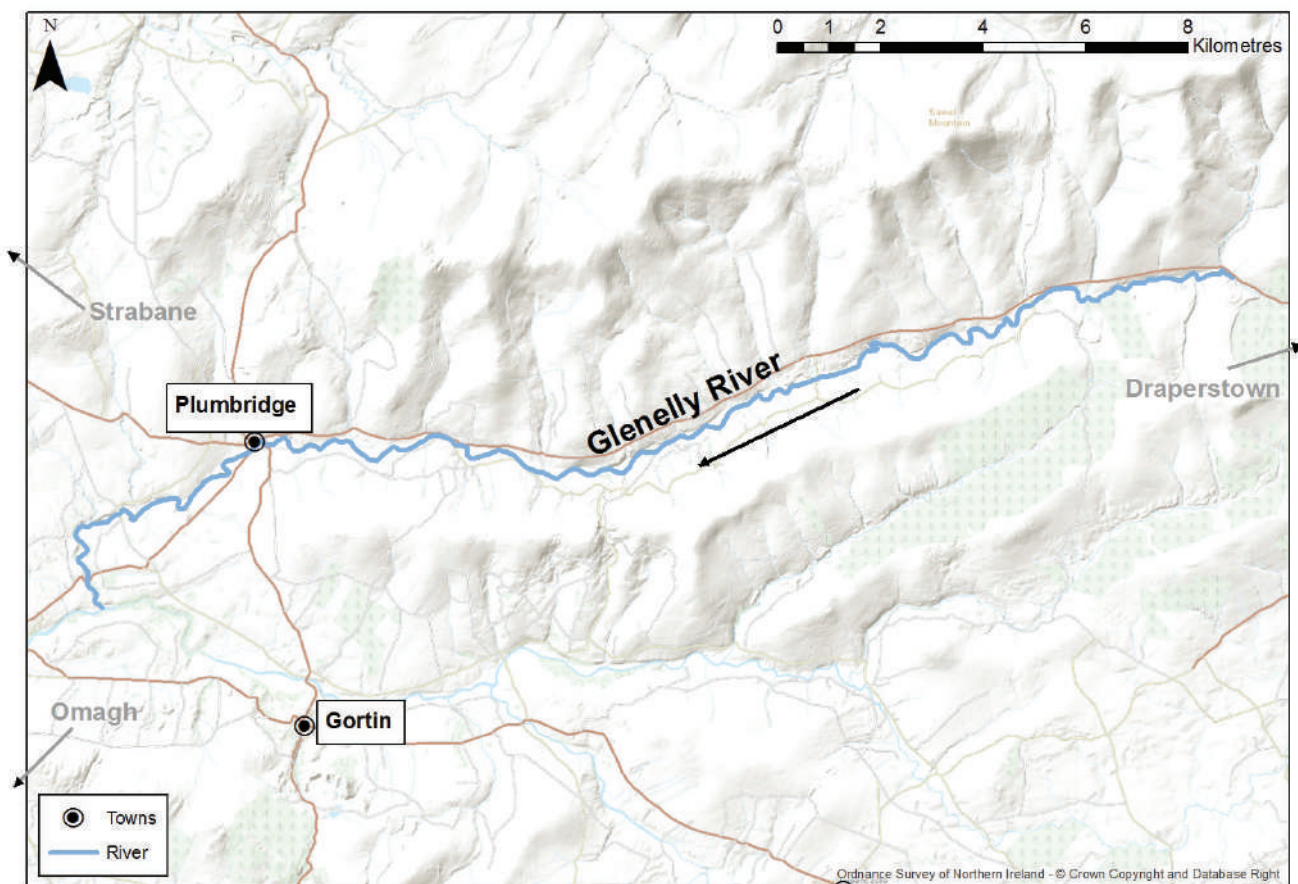




# Glenelly

Season: 1st April - 20th October

The Glenelly rises high in the Sperrin Mountains, running westwards along a glaciated valley to meet the Owenkillew River at "The Meetings" (downstream of Plumbridge). The Glenelly is a spate river (5-20 metres wide) that has small wild brown trout and occasional larger specimens but it is better known for salmon and sea trout fishing. Sea trout is best in June and July while grilse and salmon may be present from mid-June if there is sufficient water. Salmon fishing is often best from August to October.

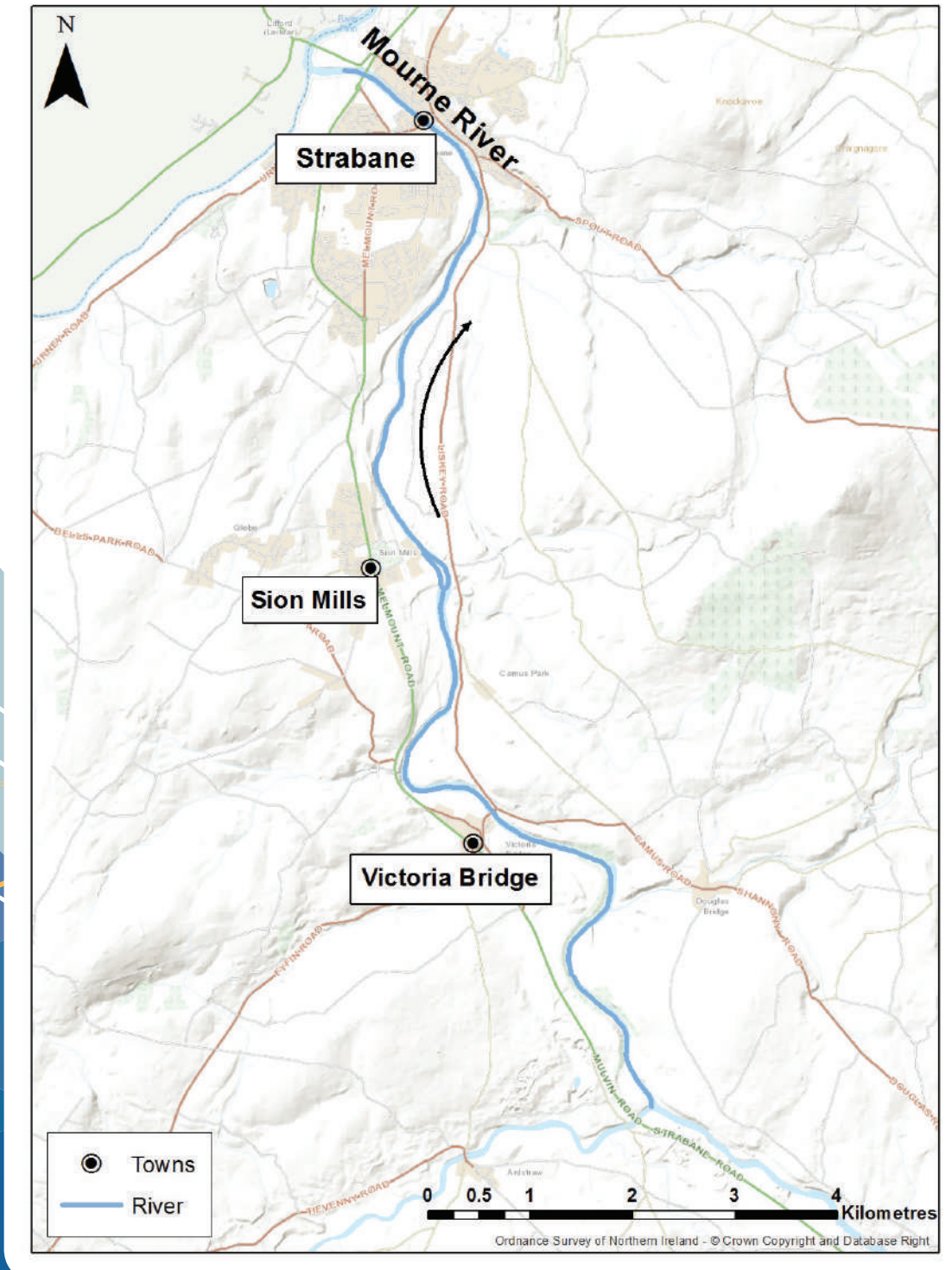




# Mourne

Season: 1st April - 20th October

The River Mourne is a big (20 metres plus width) spate river. It has a run of spring salmon (best April to mid-May), with most grilse and salmon arriving from June to July. Good fishing can still be had into October. Fishing for sea trout is best in June and July. This river does not necessarily require a spate and some anglers would suggest it fishes better in lower water.

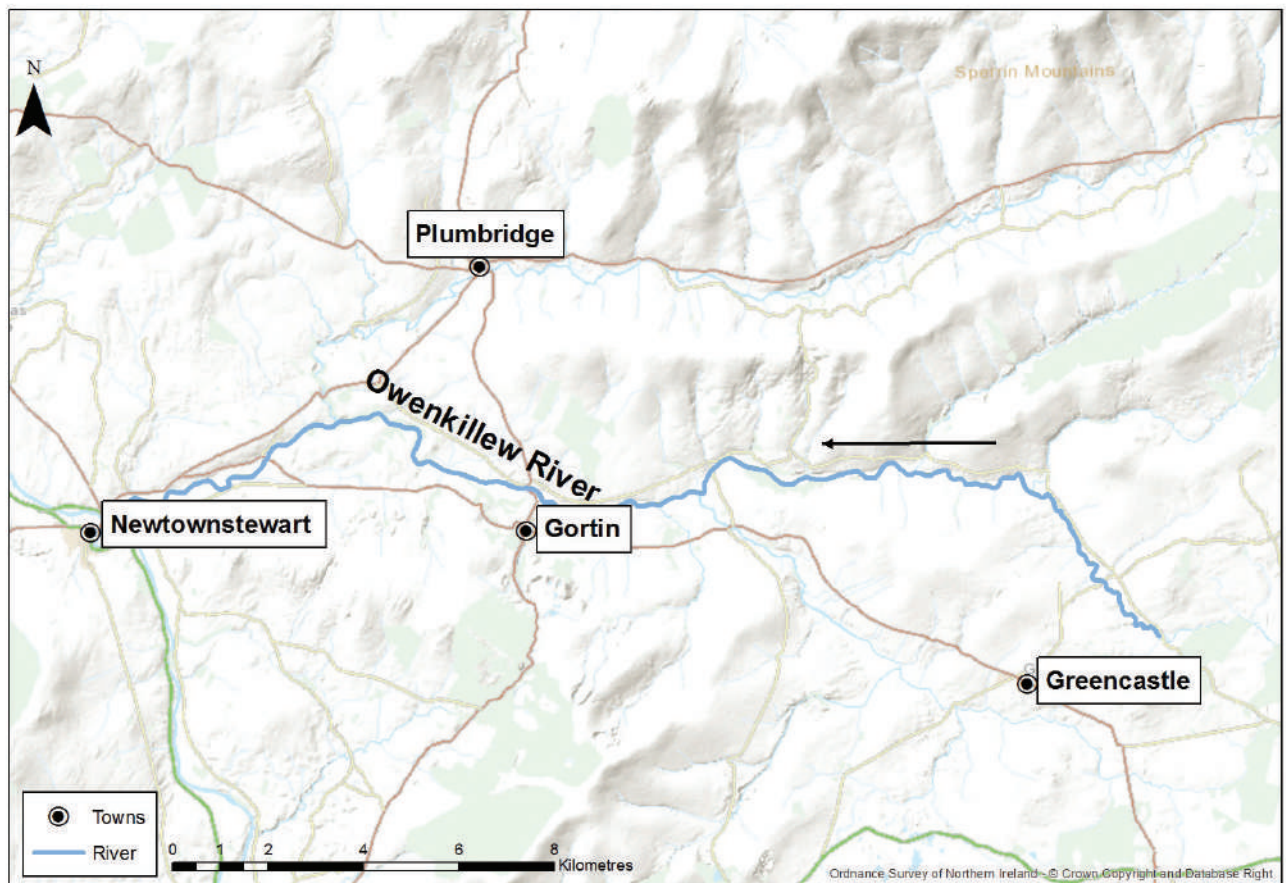




# Owenkillew

Season: 1st April - 20th October

The Owenkillew rises in the midst of the Sperrin Mountains and makes its way through mountain, rough pasture and then broad "holms" (or flood plains). This spate river is noted for its run of sea trout, good grilse and salmon (from mid-July). The medium width (5 - 20 metres wide) Owenkillew also holds good brown trout. The Owenkillew runs west to meet the River Strule near Newtownstewart.

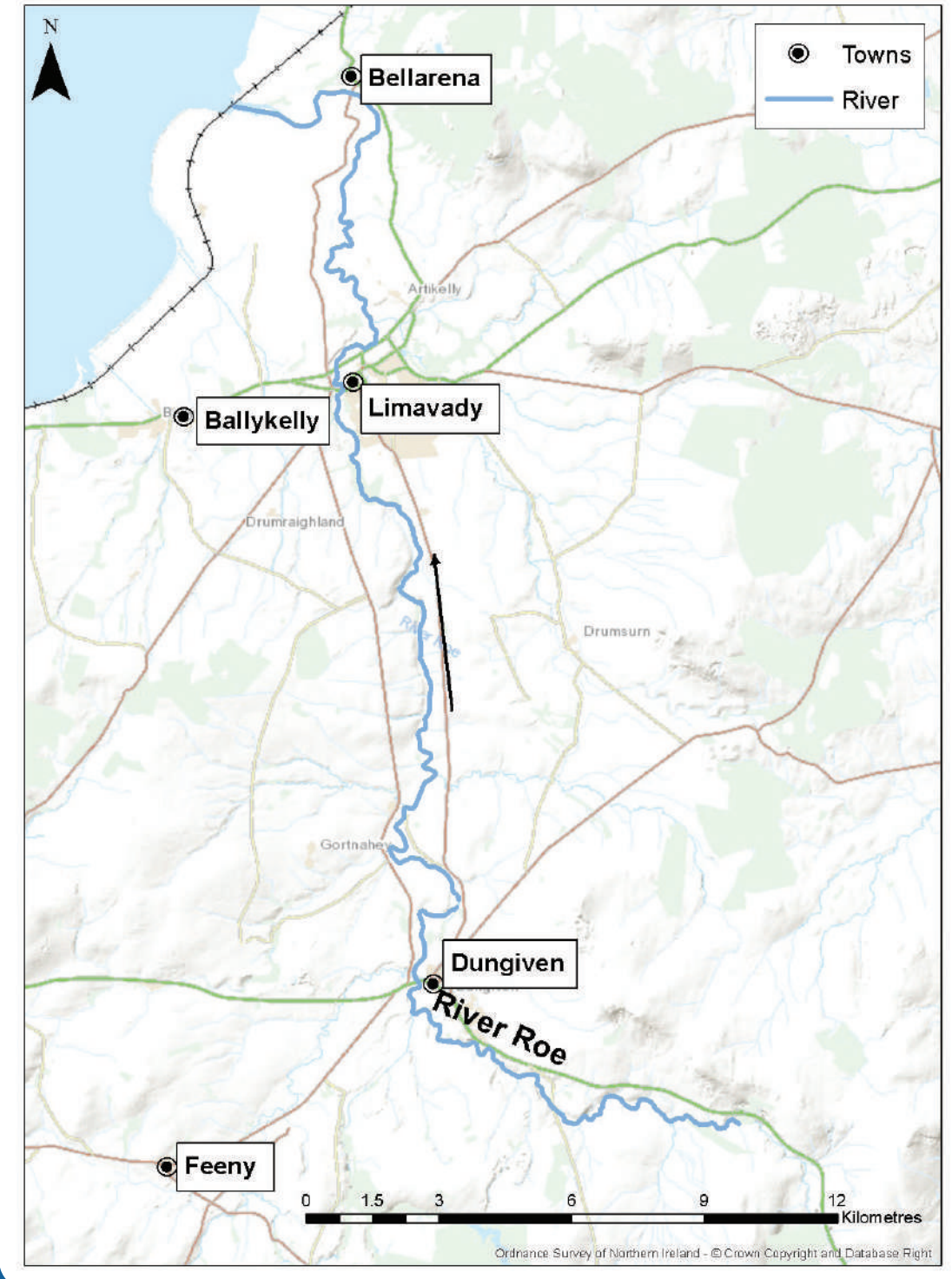




# Roe

Season: DAERA water: 1st April - 20th October  
Roe Anglers water: 20th May - 20th October

The Roe rises high above the Glenshane Pass in the Sperrin Mountains, dropping rapidly to Dungiven. This spate river then makes its way through the beautiful wooded Roe Valley Country Park before meandering across the broad Lough Foyle lowlands. Sea trout fishing starts the season on the Roe, with fine runs from late June to August. Salmon fishing is at its best from August onwards, proving most productive in spate conditions in the mid-section of the river. The Roe discharges directly into Lough Foyle (a sea lough off the Atlantic).

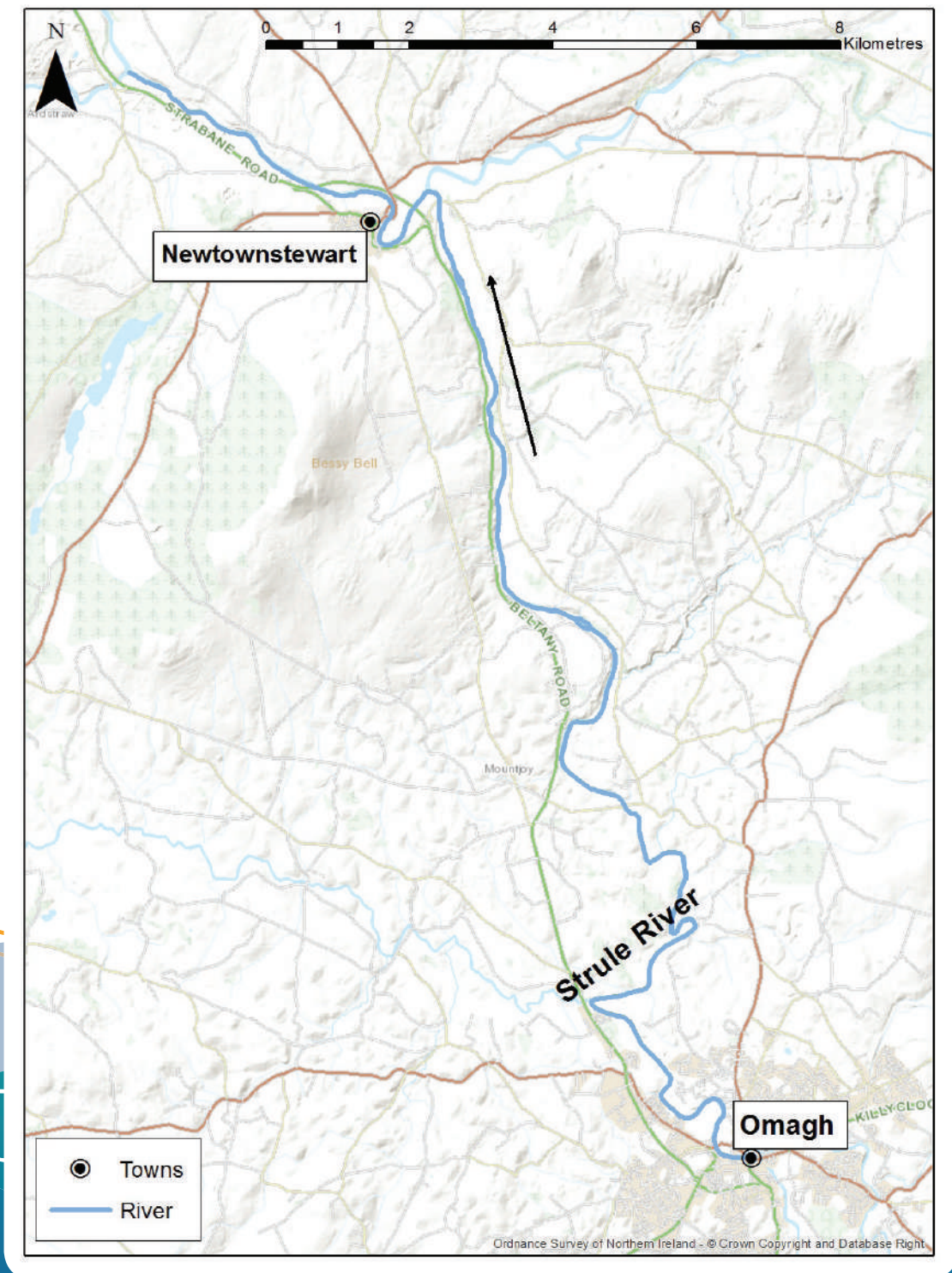




# Strule

Season: 1st April - 20th October

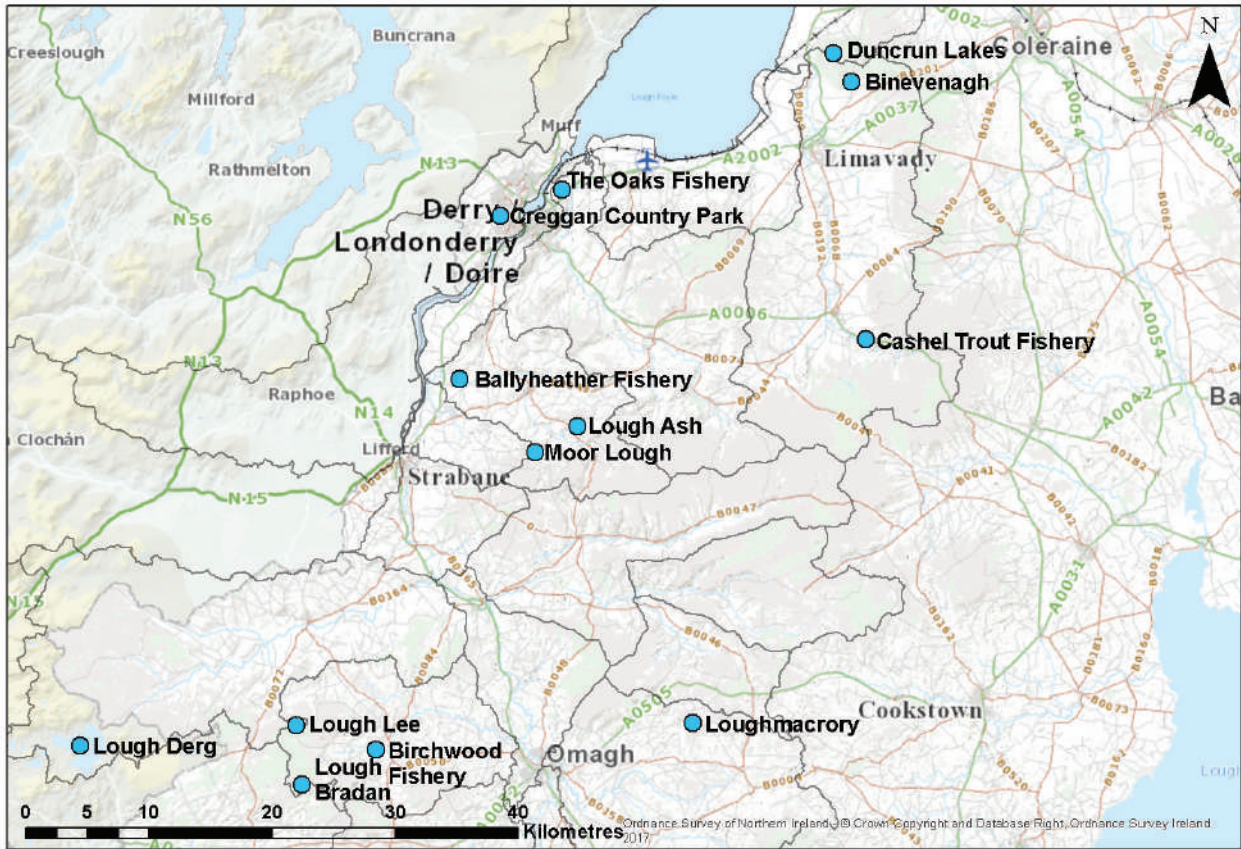
The Strule forms at the confluence of the Drumragh and Camowen rivers in the centre of Omagh. It is a big river (20 metres plus width) and runs northwards for 12 miles, bounded by rich pasture and occasional cereal crops. There is a variety of slow moving water and some fast moving water in its middle and lower reaches. Along its length, it is joined by the Fairy Water and the Owenkillew before meeting the Derg below Newtownstewart to form the River Mourne.



# Foyle Area

## Still Water • Game Angling

There are plenty of natural and stocked stillwater fisheries in the Foyle catchment. Good venues, some wild others with excellent facilities such as toilets and shelter. These venues offer an opportunity for anglers to hone their skills when the rivers are out of condition or when the season is closed.



Visit [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org) for the most up-to-date information on permits and licence requirements, tackle shops, club contact details and angling reports.

**Advice:** Anglers must hold an appropriate licence to fish any still water lakes in the Foyle catchment, including privately owned fisheries. This includes a Loughs Agency licence or DAERA licence with a Loughs Agency (ie Loughs Agency) licence. Some lakes may also require a DAERA licence.



## Ballyheather Fishery

Opened in May 2017, Ballyheather Trout Fishery comprises of two lakes. A 2 acre fly-only lake and a half acre bait fishing lake. The fishery is located just off the main Strabane to Derry~Londonderry road. The main lake has varied topography with an island and plenty of features. The lakes are stocked with rainbow trout up to 9lbs in size and they respond well to Buzzers, Bibios, Black Pennells and Griffith's Gnats (fished dry). There is a small lodge on site to shelter from any weather.

## Binevenagh Lake

*Season: 1st February - 31st December*

This lake lies on a basalt plateau that towers over the Lough Foyle lowlands below. It is stocked with rainbow trout. Access is possible by wheelchair from the car park. This lake is close to the attractions of the North Coast and is only a few miles from the caravan park and beach at Benone. Although part of the DAERA public fishery, Loughs Agency regulations apply. From the shore permitted methods are fly fishing, bubble and fly, spinning and fishing with a single hook baited with earthworms.



## Birchwood

Birchwood Fishery is a trout fishery nestled in the County Tyrone countryside, only one mile out of Drumquin near Omagh. There are 3 man-made lakes regularly stocked with rainbow and steelhead trout ranging from 2lbs to 25lbs. With a crystal clear supply of spring water being fed through all the lakes, it has the perfect trout ready for a good hard fight when hooked in either the two fly lakes or the bait lake.

## Cashel Trout Fishery

Cashel Trout Fishery lies just outside Dungiven amidst the hills of the Sperrins, a designated AONB or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The lake is fed naturally from a tributary of the nearby River Roe. Fly fishing only.

## Creggan Country Park

The fishery at Creggan operates from a former reservoir and is located in Derry~Londonderry, not far from the city centre. The 100 acre site is host to 3 freshwater lakes. Types of fishing permitted: fly and worm only. Boats are available.

## Duncrun Lakes

Duncrun lakes are situated at the foot of the spectacular Binevenagh Mountain on the North Coast of Northern Ireland in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The rainbow trout fishing lakes are nestled in mature woodland of 20 acres close to Limavady, offer excellent fly-fishing and bait fishing whilst the fully equipped lodge provides the angler with a place to rest and recharge after a long day's fishing.

## Lough Ash

*Season: 1st March - 20th October*

Lough Ash nestles in the mountains above Donemana. Enjoying easy proximity to the Plumbridge to Donemana road, this 15 hectare lake is stocked and provides excellent fishing for both brown and rainbow trout. Easy wading and suitable for all age ranges.





## Lough Bradan

*Season: 1st April - 20th October*

Lough Bradan is a beautiful upland lake bounded by forest. It lies 14 miles west of Omagh and has a population of brown trout which rise freely to the evening fall of terrestrial flies.



## Lough Derg

*Season: 1st April - 20th October*

Lough Derg lies amidst the Donegal Mountains, close to where the counties of Donegal, Fermanagh and Tyrone meet. It is famous for its Pilgrimage Island and basilica, known as Saint Patrick's Purgatory. Less well known is that this lake, with over 900 hectares, offers excellent fishing. Shore fishing is possible at a number of locations but boat fishing is recommended. Boat hire and guides are available locally.

## Lough Lee

*Season: March 1st to October 20th*

Lough Lee is an 18 hectare lake located in a wild and beautiful setting among the mountains of west Tyrone. Trout up to a good size are abundant but can be difficult to entice as the water is crystal clear.

## Loughmacrory

*Season: 1st March - 20th October*

Loughmacrory is a 24 hectare lake with a population of wild brown trout. The lake is stocked with rainbow trout, too. Other fish species include perch. Loughmacrory has good facilities including a 1.3 mile walk around the lake, toilets and jetties. The jetties can be utilised by wheelchair users. Guides, coaches and angling packages available. Boat fishing is also permitted.



## Moor Lough

*Season: 1st March - 20th October*

A stocked mountain lake of 16 hectares, providing excellent fishing for both brown and rainbow trout. Moor Lough is signposted off the Donemana to Plumbridge road. There is good access for anglers and it is suitable for all age ranges.



## The Oaks Fishery

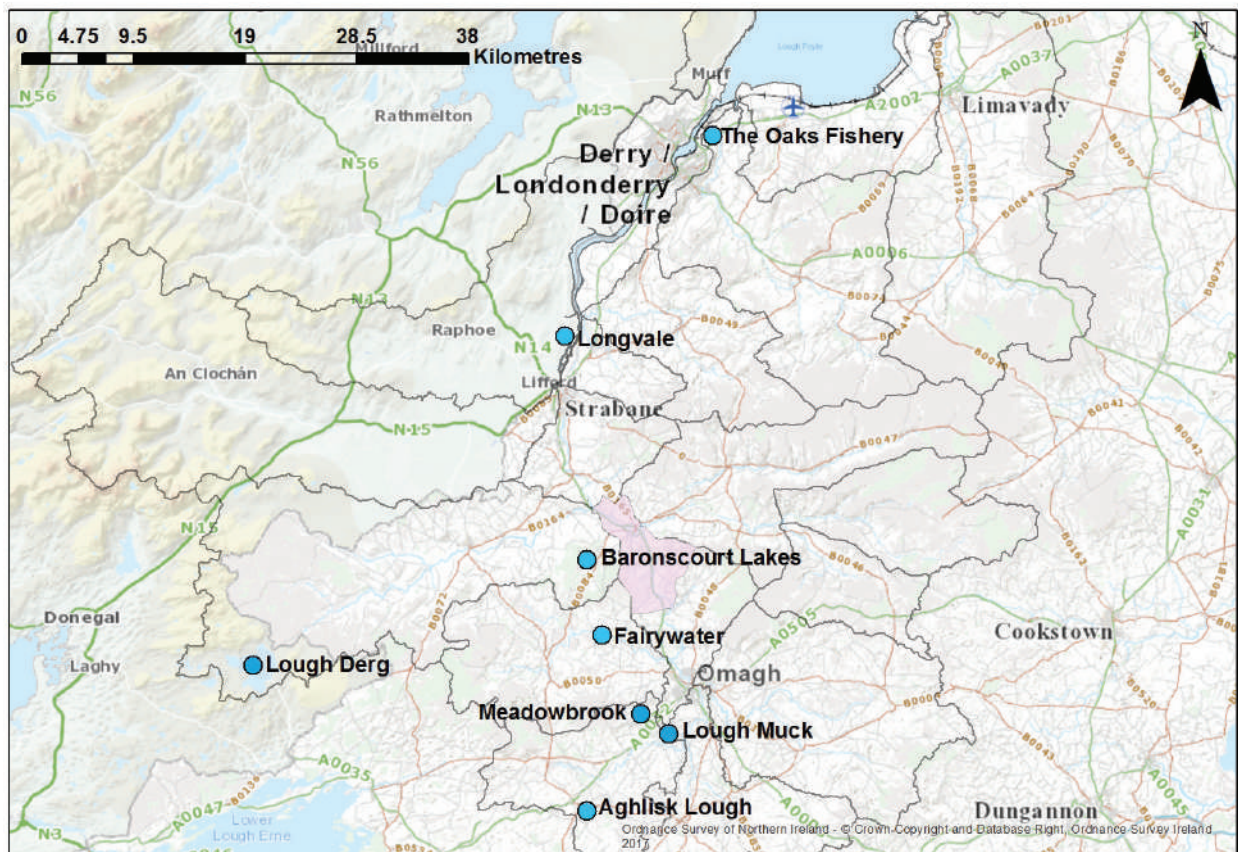
The Oaks Fishery is only a few minutes-drive from the city of Derry~Londonderry towards the City of Derry Airport. The fishery is a natural lake, surrounded by beautiful countryside. Types of fishing permitted: fly and worm only. Guiding and boat hire also available.



# Foyle Area

## Still Water • Coarse Angling

Although the Foyle area is best known for its game fishing, there is some good coarse angling in the area, too. Some established venues are listed in this section but there are other small to medium sized lakes scattered across the region with coarse fishing populations. Remember to seek landowners permission to access and research fishing rights.



Visit [www.loughs-agency.org](http://www.loughs-agency.org) for the most up-to-date information on permits and licence requirements, tackle shops, club contact details and angling reports.

# Baronscourt Lakes

Co. Tyrone

Baronscourt is a beautiful wooded estate in the west of County Tyrone. Amongst the trees lie 3 lakes that offer private coarse fishing for perch, roach and bream, as well as excellent pike fishing. Angling is available to fishermen staying on the estate (a choice of 2 delightful self-catering units, the Governor's Lodge or the Clock Tower).

There are 3 interconnected lakes - Lough Catherine (37 hectares), Lough Fanny (12 hectares) and Lough Mary (6 hectares). The lowest lake (Lough Catherine) discharges into a stream that runs to the River Derg. There are boats available for hire. Shore fishing is very good (wooden jetties have been built on Catherine). In recent times, anglers have explored the lakes using float tubes and enjoyed good sport.

Pike fishing on the lakes is of a high standard and, for a time, the venue hosted the Northern Ireland Pike Fishing Championships. The best time for pike tends to be between April and October. It should be noted that the Estate operates a strict catch and release programme in order to conserve fish stocks.





# The Oaks Fishery

*Derry / Londonderry*

The Oaks Fishery is located only a few minutes drive from the city of Derry~Londonderry.

The lake, surrounded by beautiful countryside, provides a tranquil venue for fishing. In March 2005, 'Big Mary' was caught weighing in at 20.87 Kg. In May 2005, a fish of 18.6 kg was captured, weighed and returned and a specimen claim was accepted by the Irish Specimen Fish Committee. Guiding and boat hire is available.



# Lough Muck

## Omagh

This lake (11 ha) is a few miles outside Omagh. Lying amongst grassy fields, it supports a population of coarse fish (predominantly pike and roach) with most of the angling effort directed towards pike. One side of the lake is readily accessible for some of its length by way of a farm track. There are fishing stands along this shore. The lake is managed by the farmer who owns the surrounding land – a progressive dairy farmer who has won environmental awards. Boats are available for hire. Booking is essential.





## Lough Derg (Pettigo Area)

The lakes (or 'loughs') in the Pettigo area provide good pike fishing from shore and boat and a local permit is required to fish them. Lough Derg, in particular, offers excellent sport. Shore fishing is possible at a number of locations but boat fishing is recommended. Lough Derg has recorded pike up to 13kg but most of the pike landed today weigh in around 3.5 - 4.5kg. A local club manage the lake and a ghillie service and boat hire is available.

## Fairy Water

The Fairy Water is a medium sized river that rises in the hills above Drumquin. Some stretches are quite slow flowing and there is reasonable coarse fishing just above its confluence with the Strule, outside Omagh. There is a good pike population at various points, mainly in the mid-sections around Priests Bridge.

## Aghlisk Lough

Aghlisk lough is a rare eutrophic lake approximately 1.75 hectares in area. It is described as being relatively un-enriched in comparison with other lowland lake types. Angling for pike, perch and roach is available from 3 platforms on the lake, which are necessary due to the large reed beds surrounding the marshy ground in and around the water's edge.

## Meadowbrook Fishery

This fishery consists of two man-made lakes. It is convenient to the town of Omagh, yet nestles in a secluded hollow surrounded by green fields. It has been stocked with roach, perch, bream, tench and carp and tends to fish best during the summer months. Pre-booking is essential

## Longvale

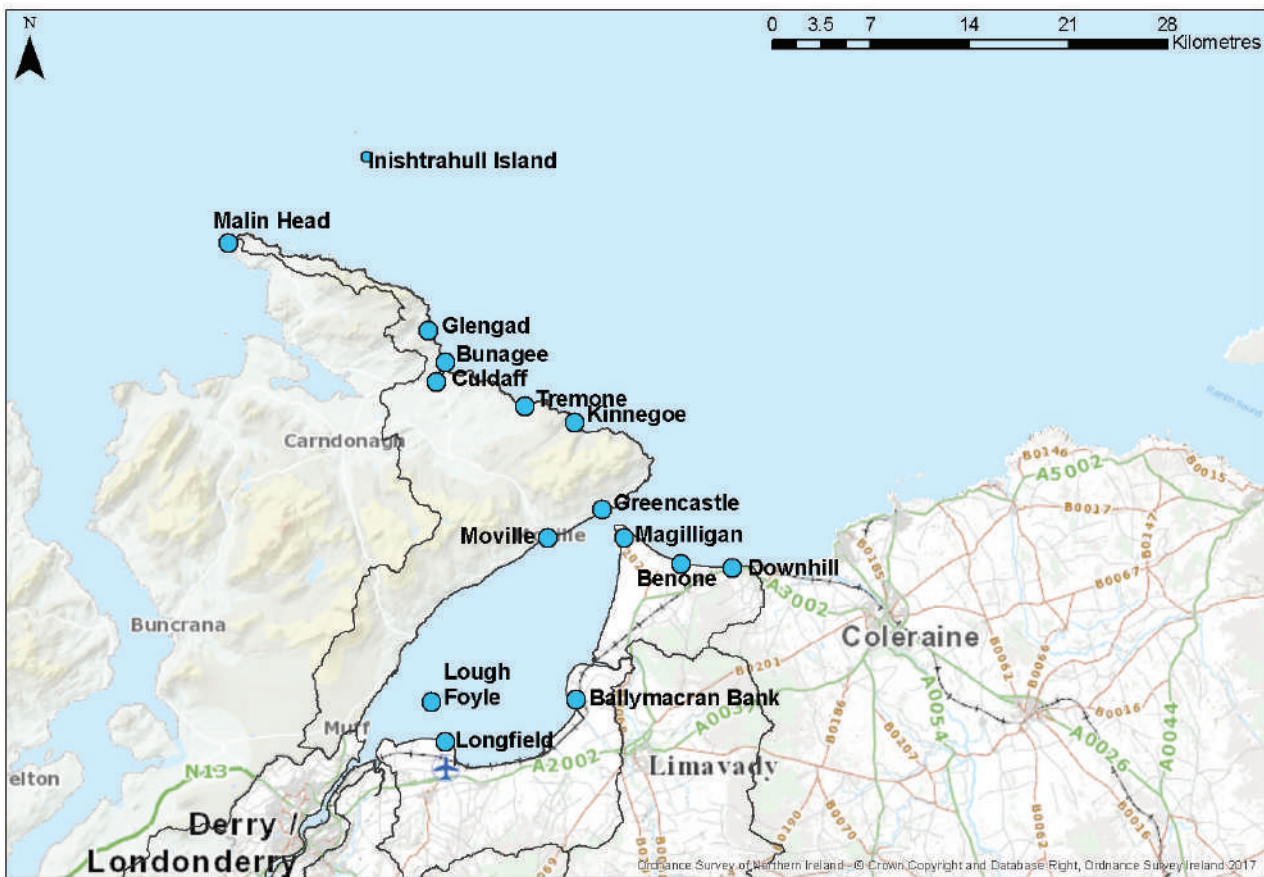
This 3 acre private fishery is located a few miles north of Lifford, Co Donegal. The lake is stocked with pike, roach, rudd, carp and tench. Fishing is by appointment only - please contact the fishery.

# Foyle Area

## Sea Angling

Sea angling in the Foyle area can involve a variety of different techniques. The angler might opt to fish from a boat or may be interested in shore fishing. Then, too, consider location. The mud and shingle bottom of Lough Foyle, the rugged Inishowen coast, the deep waters of Inishtrahull Sound, the waters around the offshore isle of Inishtrahull (Ireland's most northerly point) or the fabulous beach that runs 8 miles to the east from Magilligan Point by way of Benone to the cliffs at Downhill.

Lough Foyle is a sea lough (the estuary of the River Foyle) opening on to the Atlantic Ocean. It forms part of the boundary between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Several rivers run into it, including the Foyle, Faughan and Roe. On the County Donegal shore lie the pleasant fishing villages of Greencastle and Merville, backed by the mountains of the wild and beautiful Inishowen peninsula. On the Derry-Londonderry side, the shoreline was heavily modified many years ago in efforts to 'reclaim' land, resulting in many miles of sea wall in the Eglinton and Ballykelly area. Many anglers fish hereabouts with good catches often resulting. Elsewhere along this coast is salt marsh and sand/shingle/mud strands.





## Deep Sea Angling

The sea angling in the Foyle area is as wide and varied as anywhere in the country with up to 24 species being recorded over two days fishing, from red gurnard to porbeagle shark.

The waters off the coastline running from Inishowen Head to Malin Head have something of a reputation for tope fishing, with fish of 27 kg and over taken most seasons (mid-May through to September). Other noteworthy species include pollack, coalfish, wrasse, conger, spurdog, gurnard, rockling, dogfish, ray, plaice, john dory, codling and whiting. The Inishtrahull Trench runs deep between Malin Head and the island of Inishtrahull, 10km to the north. Wreck fishing in this area (Northern Approaches) is excellent, with many war time wrecks scattered across the sea bed.

There are charter boat operators at Bunagee Pier (Culdaff) and Portrush who can provide fishing trips over the numerous offshore wrecks in the Northern Approaches. This is where German U-boats operated during the two world wars. Hundreds of vessels were torpedoed and sunk off this coastline, including the First World War wreck 'Athenia' (a 9,000 ton cargo liner which lies in 60 metres of water), the Second World War 11,000 ton freighter 'Cumberland' (lying in 55 metres) and the massive 35,000 ton liner 'Justicia' (in 70 metres of water). Many specimen fish have been taken from these wrecks such as ling to over 11kg, coalfish to over 7kg and pollack to over 6kg. Each year, in late August and early September, porbeagle shark to over 45kg have been hooked in the vicinity of these wrecks.

## Shore Fishing

**Malin Head** has several outcrops on the northern shore, offering fishing for pollack, coalfish, wrasse, and occasional conger. The name may seem familiar as Malin is a sea area mentioned in radio shipping forecasts.



As the R242 road winds its way around the headland, it affords spectacular views of the sea, sometimes several hundred feet below. Much of the Head is inaccessible to anglers but the pier on the north-eastern side affords access to deep water at high tide with spinning, float fishing and bottom fishing all possible. There are also several rocky outcrops, which can be accessed on the northern side of the Head, but these should only be approached in dry settled weather and never in northerly winds which can push dangerous waves onto the shore. Fishing in the area produces pollack to over 3.5kg, and ballan wrasse to over 2.25kg. Other possible species are coalfish, conger and dogfish.

**Glengad Head** offers spinning for pollack and mackerel and float fishing for wrasse and coalfish, with bottom fishing from rocky vantage points yielding conger, dogfish and rockling.

**Bunagee Pier** and adjacent rocks offer spinning for pollack and mackerel (in season) and occasional sea trout. Float fishing for coalfish, wrasse and mullet is also possible at Bunagee.

**Culdaff Bay** offers beach fishing (night tides best) for dogfish, turbot, dabs, flounder, sea trout and occasional bass. Catches of 20 flatfish on a tide are not uncommon and the baits which bring best results are sandeel, mackerel strip and lugworm. Conger to almost 20kg have been caught from the western side of Culdaff Bay, while the rocks to the north of the pier yield mackerel, dogfish and occasional codling. There is rock fishing east of the beach for pollack, coalfish



**Kinnagoe Bay** provides excellent whale watching opportunities on occasions. Kinnagoe offers rock fishing at either end of the bay for pollack and wrasse and beach fishing for flounder, dabs, plaice and occasional sole, bass and sea trout. There are dogfish and spurdog in autumn.

**Moville Pier** offers mackerel and mullet in summer, mainly on float fishing, with bottom fishing for conger. The Pilot Pier in Moville offers spinning for mackerel in summer, bottom fishing for flounder, dab, dogfish and occasional ray, garfish and mullet on a float.

**Greencastle** is a busy commercial fishing port and is also the landing stage for the ferry that plies across the mouth of the Lough, connecting with Magilligan. Pier fishing yields conger, mainly bottom fishing at night, while float fishing produces a wide range of species including, wrasse, coalfish, mackerel and mullet in summer. There is a slipway in the harbour where small boats can be launched on most stages of the tide.

At **Tremone Bay** the shore fishing is similar to Kinnagoe but rock fishing is confined to the western end of the bay for pollack, coalfish and wrasse. When the surf is up, beach fishing can be productive over the sandy patches for flounder, dab, plaice and occasional bass and sea trout.

**Longfield Bank** (Donnybrewer Road) close to the City of Derry Airport, offers float fishing for mullet in summer occasional bottom feeding bass and sea trout. Flounder, mackerel and dabs are common and make up the greater part of the catch along any of the marks along this shore.



**Benone Strand** offers seasonal bass, flounder, dogfish, dab, mullet and turbot.



## Small Boat Angling

There are slipways at Malin, Glengad, Bunnagee, Moville, Greencastle along the Inishowen Coast and Culmore Point where the River Foyle flows into the Lough. Check tides to ensure the slipways are viable for launch and retrieval, giving consideration to extreme low tide on springs.

Some anglers tackle tope from small boats (mid-June to mid-Sept) and many more enjoy fishing for other species around the rocky Inishowen coast and within the more sheltered Lough Foyle. An increasing number of anglers are fishing with a fly at sea, mainly for mackerel, pollack and garfish.

The inshore waters between Glengad Head and Dunmore Head will produce red gurnard to over specimen size, plaice, ray, turbot, john dory, codling and whiting have also been recorded. Up to 20 species can be expected in a day.

Many anglers enjoy fishing within the estuary of Lough Foyle and off Benone beach. There is some boat fishing west of McKinney's Bank on the slope running from 10 metres at the Saltpans Buoy down to 18 metres opposite Moville. An increasing number of anglers are fishing with a fly at sea, mainly for bass, mullet and mackerel in the lough. In summer, mackerel shoals enter the Lough and during these periods tope will occasionally be found in the Lough as well. Fishing is usually carried out from an anchored boat, but caution should be exercised at all times as shipping has right of way in the buoyed channel.

### WHEN TO FISH:

<b>Bass:</b>	<i>June - September</i>
<b>Ray:</b>	<i>May - September</i>
<b>Tope:</b>	<i>June - September</i>
<b>Mackerel:</b>	<i>June - September</i>

### TIPS

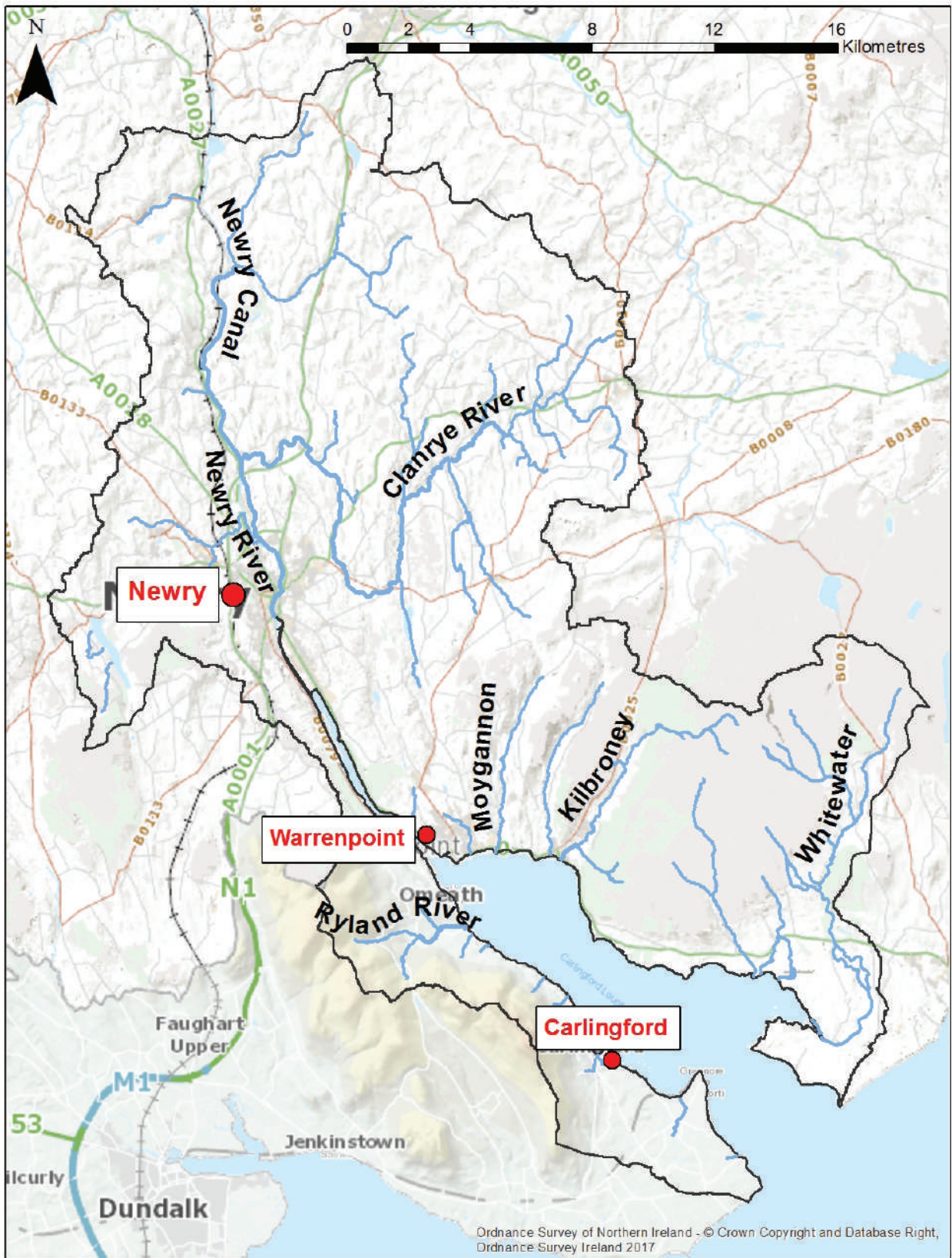
- Take care fishing from rocky outcrops.
- Check tide and weather and beware particularly in wet weather and in a north wind that can push waves onto the shore!
- Take care of tide encroaching across mudflats when fishing Lough Foyle and beware of occasional big waves at Benone/Downhill.

**Advice:** Sea anglers who target game fish in the lough and sea, must either hold a Loughs Agency licence or an Inland Fisheries Ireland or DAERA licence which has been endorsed by Loughs Agency (ie Loughs Agency Endorsement Licence).



# Carlingford Area

River • Game Angling

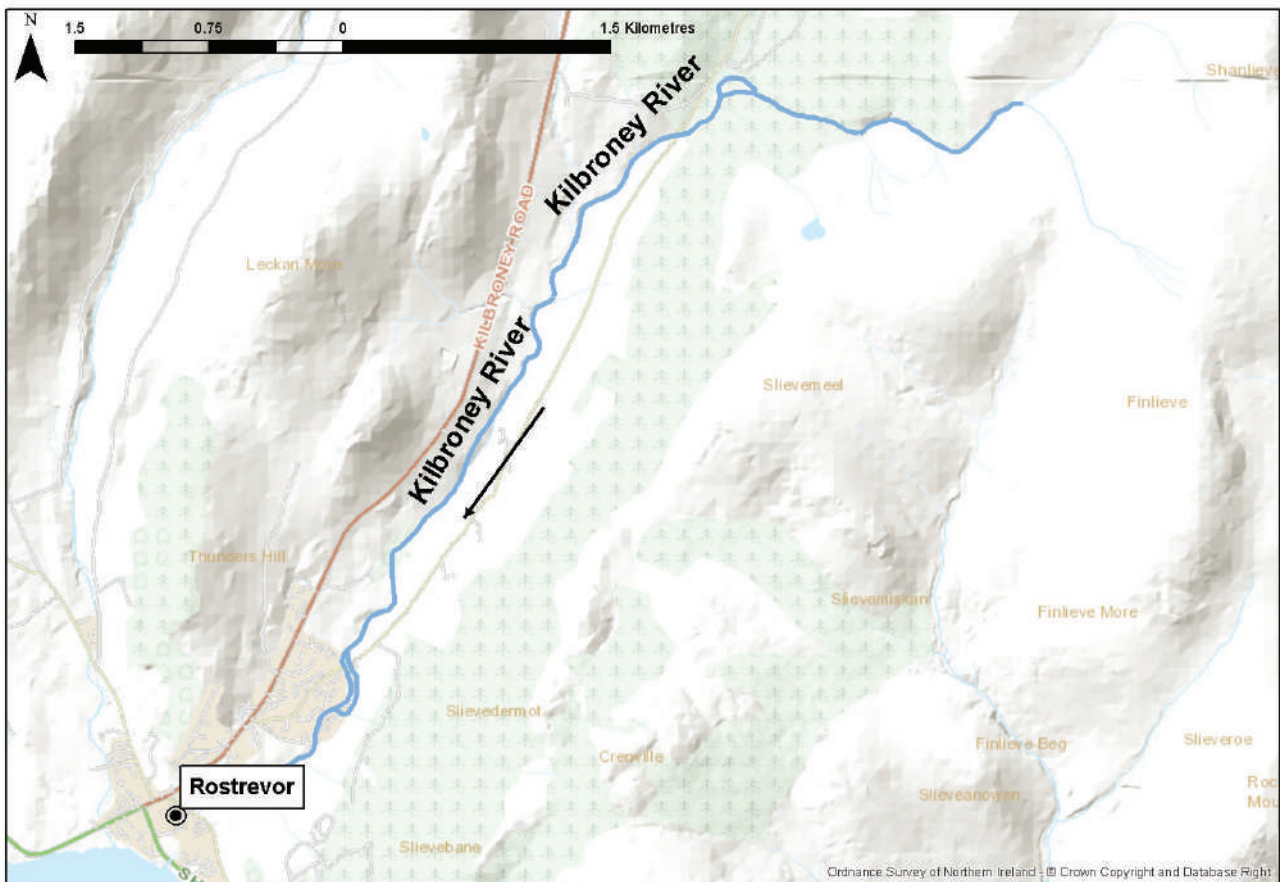




# Kilbroney

Season: 1st March - 31st October

This small (5 metre wide) spate river runs for 5 kilometres along a deep valley. In its final section, the river runs through the 'Fairy Glen' (a beautiful wooded glen) to reach the sea at Rostrevor. There is car parking beside the bridge in Rostrevor and a foot path alongside the river into the glen. The angler will find brown trout and occasional sea trout in these normally crystal waters.

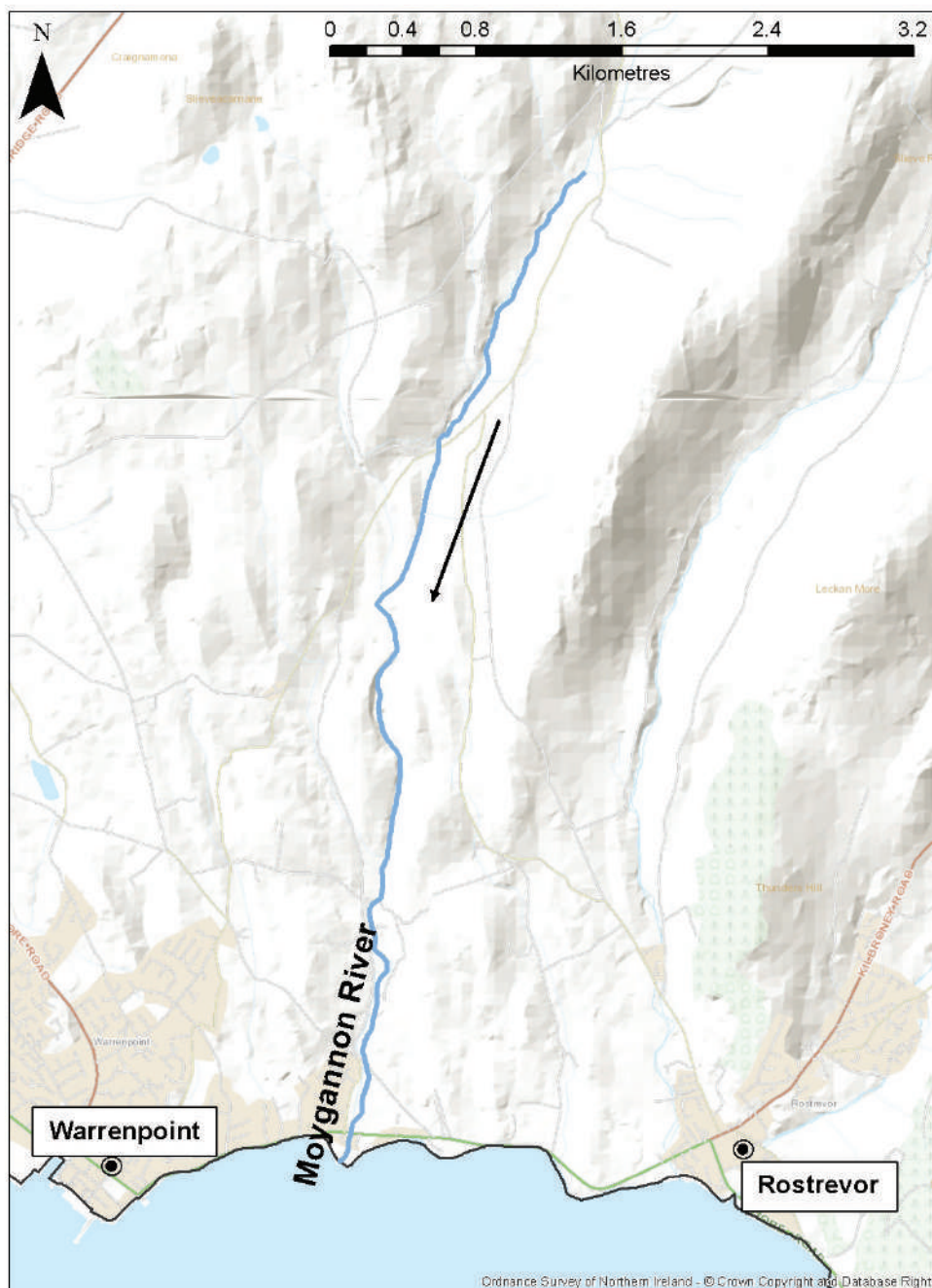




# Moygannon

Season: 1st March - 31 October

This small (3-5 metre) river runs into Carlingford Lough near Warrenpoint. There are small wild brown trout, often visible in the clear mountain water. These fish can offer great sport on a 3 weight rod and stealth and skill are required to lure these wily fish to the fly.



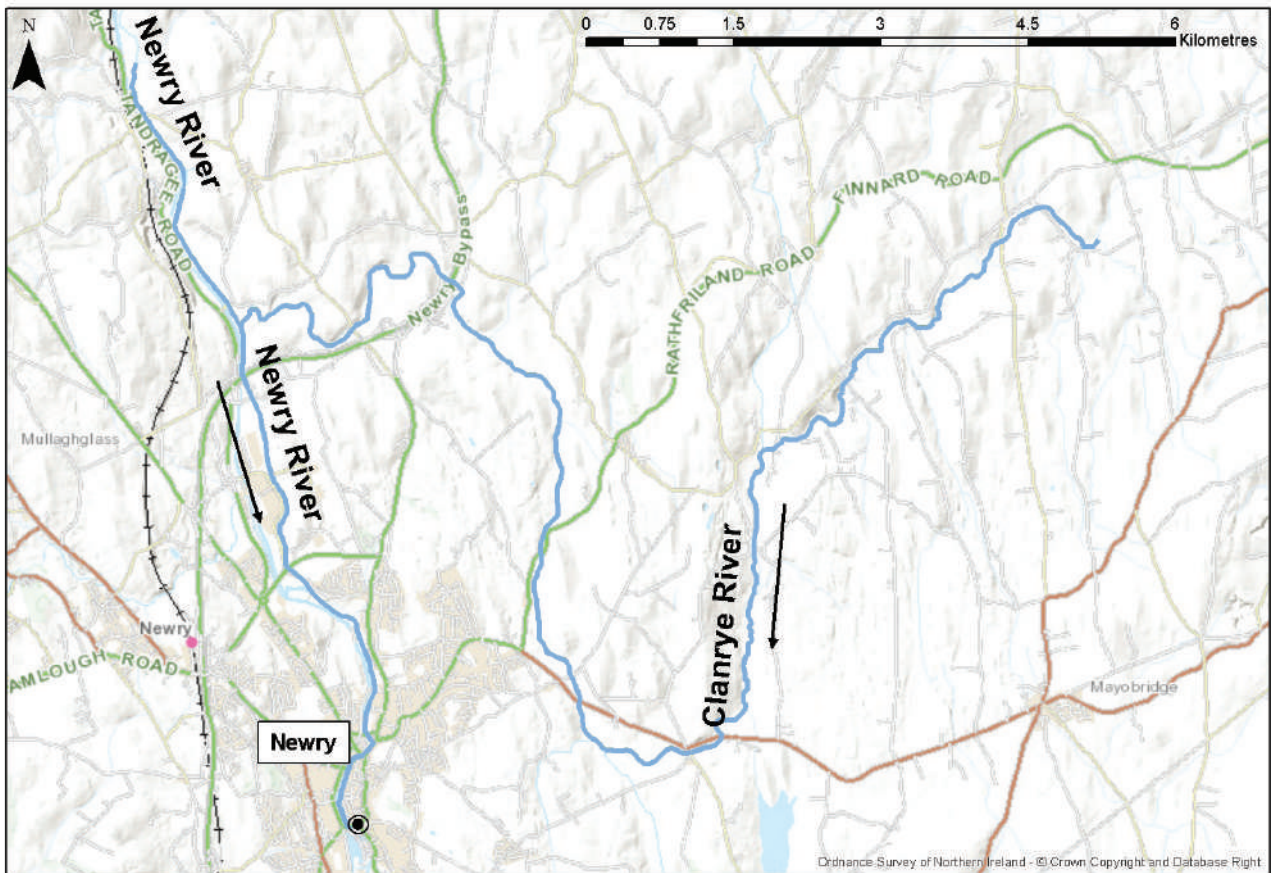
# Newry & Clanrye

Season: 1st March - 31 October

The Newry and Clanrye Rivers combine to flow through Newry (a historic city at the head of Carlingford Lough). It is a medium sized (5-20 metres) river with good brown trout fishing. For most of its length it meanders through rich farmland. Note: There is a closed section 25 metres up and downstream of Thompsons Weir.



**Advice:** Recent legislation defined the mouth of the Newry River as a line from the Warrenpoint breakwater to Omeath. Therefore anglers must now have a rod licence if fishing in locations such as Narrow Water, the estuary and Green Bank, even if you are not targeting salmonids.

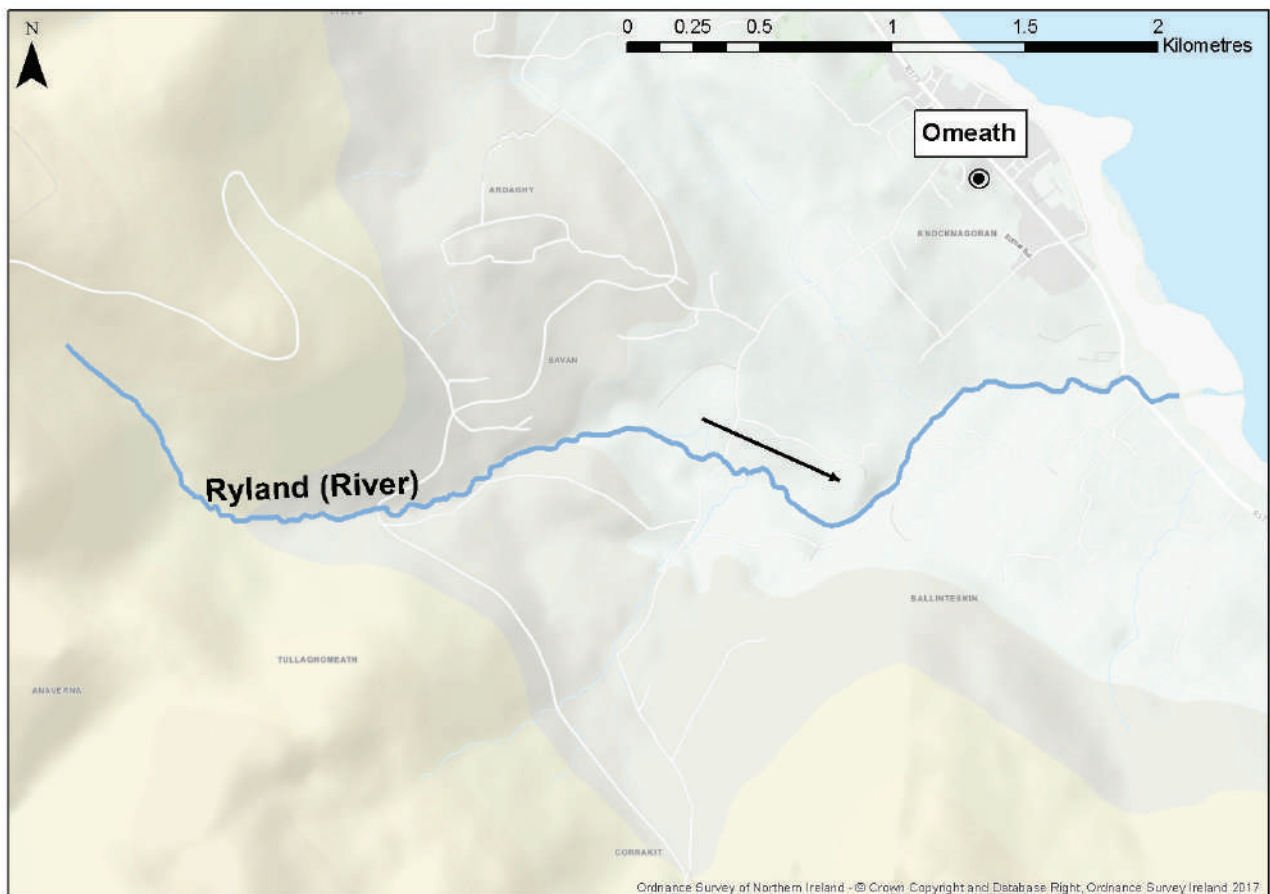




# Ryland

Season: 1st March - 31 October

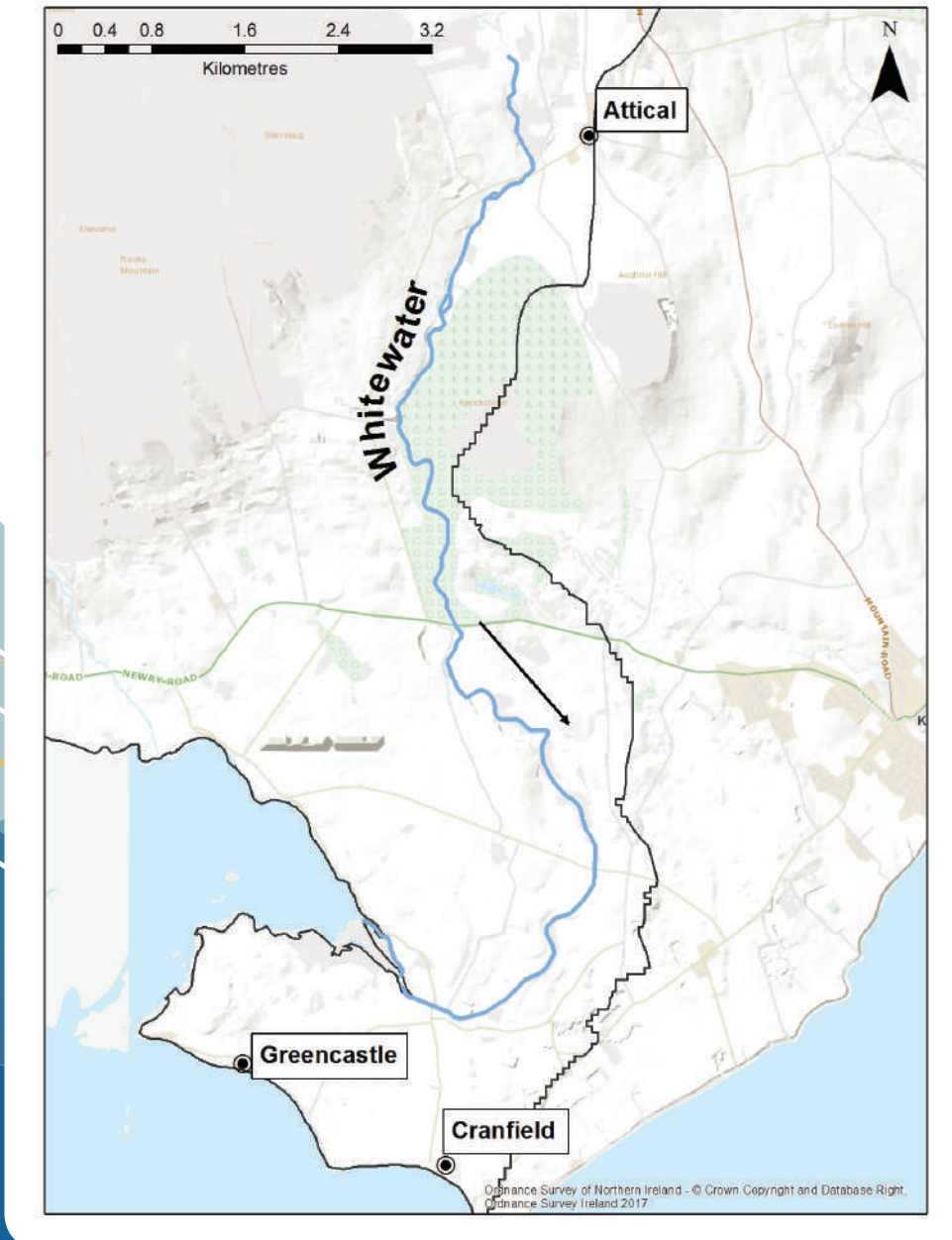
This river rises in the Cooley Mountains of County Louth, spilling down into Carlingford Lough near to the seaside resort of Omeath. There are small brown trout and occasional sea trout. It may be worth fishing the sea pool at dusk or dawn on a favourable tide. At the mouth of the Ryland, a greenway traffic free path follows the shoreline towards Carlingford village.



# Whitewater

Season: 1st June - 31st October

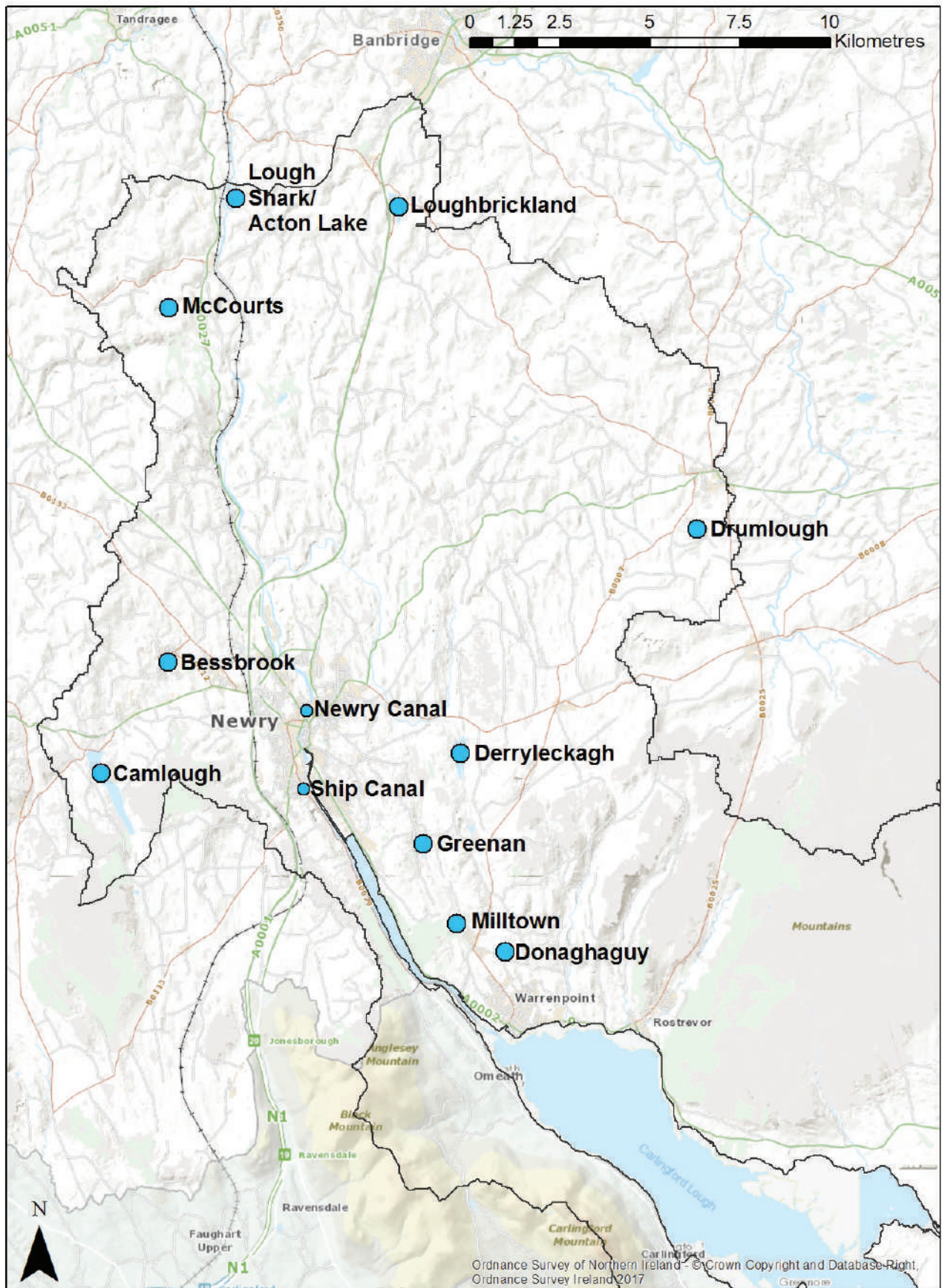
The Whitewater River is best known for a good run of sea trout off the Irish Sea. This 10 mile long (16 kilometre) medium sized (10-15 metres) spate river rises high in the Mourne Mountains. In the upper reaches it is normally 'gin clear', tumbling over boulders along the bottom of a deep U-shaped glaciated valley. In the vicinity of the small village of Attical the landscape changes from open mountains to green fields. The river runs through a wooded valley just upstream of the bridge on the A2, a stretch known locally as 'the Park'. There is a car park beside the bridge and a platform for disabled anglers. Some less able users may find that access is not ideally suited to their needs. Below the bridge the river meanders across the coastal plain to enter Carlingford Lough at Mill Bay, near Greencastle. The river is best known for its sea trout fishing, particularly good from mid-July onwards. Anglers must either be a member of Kilkeel Angling Club or have a day ticket/permit to fish this river.





# Carlingford Area

Still Water • Game & Coarse Angling





## Bessbrook Pond

*Newry, Mourne & Down*

This small 2 hectare (5 acre) lake lies in the heart of the historic 'model' village of Bessbrook and is controlled by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. There is coarse fishing here for roach and perch. Originally a mill pond, it remains shallow.

## Camlough

*Newry, Mourne & Down*

Camlough is a large, disused reservoir controlled by Newry Mourne and Down District Council. It is a long (2.5 kilometres), narrow body of water with an undulating bed. The lake is 72 hectares in area. Pike fishing is best from a boat as there is a sharp drop off which is easily covered if afloat. The lake offers good pike fishing all year round. In the early spring, pike often feed on small roach fry. This is an ideal opportunity to try fly fishing for pike. Guides and boat hire available locally. There are also good sized bream to be had from the shore. Motorists should be aware that there is quite limited car parking available. A permit is not required for this water - although an angler must hold a rod licence.



## Derryleckagh Lake

Derryleckagh Lake is close to the Newry-Mayobridge road. It is a coarse fishery with angling strictly by landowner's permission.





## Donaghaguy Reservoir

This 1.5 hectares (3.5 acres) reservoir is on the outskirts of the seaside resort of Warrenpoint. There is a pleasant walk around the lake with some angling platforms and a local club undertakes regular stocking with rainbow trout. A day ticket is required to fish.



## Drumlough Lake

*Season: GAME 1st March - 31st October*

*COARSE 1st November - 28th February*

Drumlough Lake, located near Rathfriland, is a small, shallow inter-drumlin lake controlled by the Rathfriland Angling Club. It is a stocked trout fishery but also contains some pike and perch. The game season is 1st March to 31st October but the club allows coarse fishing 1st November to 28th February.



## Lough Shark (Acton Lake)

### Newry

This 25 hectare lake lies on the watershed of the Carlingford system, adjacent to the Newry Canal. There is coarse fishing, mainly for bream, roach and hybrids. Access should be with landowners' permission.



## Loughbrickland Lake

### Season: 1st March - 31st October

Adjacent to the Belfast to Dublin road (A1), this lake is stocked with brown trout and rainbow trout. Only orthodox fly fishing is permitted and the season runs 1st March to 31st October. There is a car park at the north west of the 21 hectare lake and a surfaced footpath runs around the western shore from here.



**Advice:** Anglers must hold an appropriate licence to fish any still water lakes in Foyle and Carlingford, including privately owned fisheries. The licence must be either a Loughs Agency licence or an Inland Fisheries Ireland or DAERA licence which has been endorsed by Loughs Agency (ie Loughs Agency Endorsement Licence). Some lakes may also require permits – check locally.



## McCourts Lake

*Season: 1st March - 31st October*

This 5 hectare lake is close to the village of Poyntzpass. Access is by way of the angling club car park only. Newry and District Angling Association control this water and the lake is stocked with brown trout and rainbow trout. Only orthodox fly fishing is permitted.



## Milltown Lough & Greenan Lough

These two lakes are reasonably close together and lie amongst the foothills of the Mourne Mountains. Each can be described as elongated, lying along the bottom of quite narrow valleys. Milltown is 19 hectares in area and Greenan 11 hectares. Coarse fishing for the usual species, including reasonable pike fishing. In the case of each lough, access should be with landowners' permission. There are some platforms at Greenan Lough but care should be exercised if using them as there appears to have been little maintenance.



# Carlingford Area

## Canals

### Newry Canal

#### *Inland from Newry City*

This is a summit level canal with several locks designed originally to 'lift' barges over the watershed between Newry and the Lough Neagh basin. The locks lie open today and there is a flow of fresh water through the canal. On the lower sections the canal is weed grown. The canal is controlled by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. There is coarse fishing for perch, roach, bream and pike.

### Newry Ship Canal and Albert Basin

#### *City and Seaward*

The basin is a broad expanse of water that offers good coarse fishing. Fish tend to move around and can be found at differing locations dependent upon season, temperature, wind etc.

Generally the Albert Basin is a section of the ship canal that fishes very well for roach, perch and the odd decent skimmer from October to December. After then, the fish move into the town stretch and their traditional spawning areas around and beyond Sugar Island.

The old ship canal was built to link Newry to the sea. It runs for 3 miles from the Albert Basin in the town to Victoria Lock where it meets the waters of Carlingford Lough. There is parking in the city of Newry and at Victoria Lock. Several platforms (pegs) have been built along the Newry to Omeath road. Car parking is limited and care is required on this busy length of road. The canal is controlled by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. There is coarse fishing for perch, roach, bream and pike.

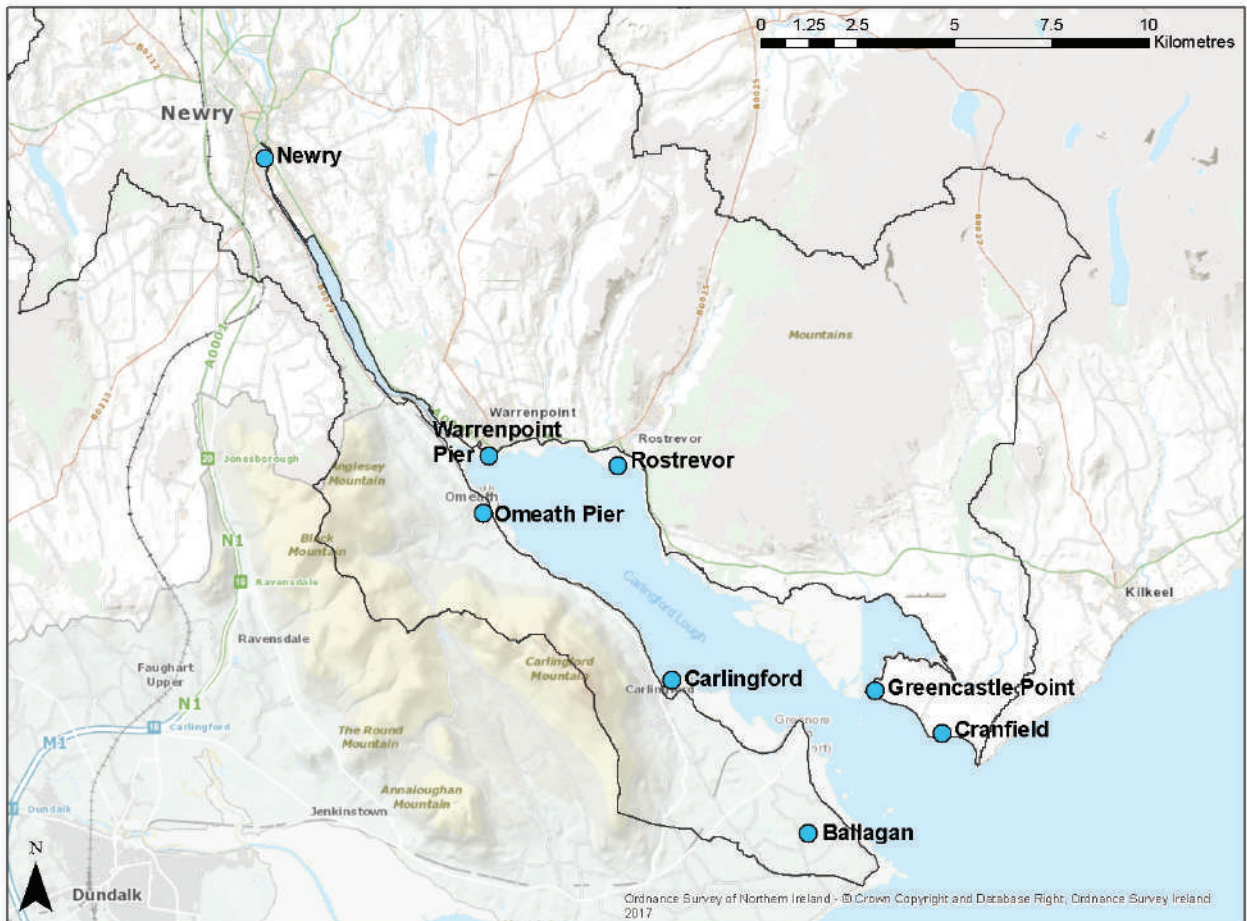




# Carlingford Area

## Sea Angling

Carlingford Lough is a sea lough that opens on to the Irish Sea. Several rivers run into it, including the Whitewater River. On the County Down shore lie the pleasant resort towns of Warrenpoint and Rostrevor, backed by the Mourne Mountains. On the southern (or Cooley Peninsula) shore, the visitor will be impressed by the coastal resort of Omeath, the ancient walled town of Carlingford and the Victorian era streets of Greenore.



## Boat Fishing

Carlingford Lough is a sea lough that opens on to the Irish Sea. On the County Down shore lie the pleasant resort towns of Warrenpoint and Rostrevor, backed by the Mourne Mountains. On the southern (or Cooley Peninsula) shore, the visitor will be impressed by the County Louth coastal towns of Omeath, Carlingford (a village with a wealth of heritage sites stretching back to Norman times) and Greenore.

Sea angling is available along the beautiful coastline that frames this sea inlet - shore, rock and boat fishing - and there are numerous species to be caught! Carlingford Lough, which produced the current Irish record tope, has some excellent fishing during the summer months for ray, spurdog, tope and dogfish.

Carlingford Lough is best known for the superb tope fishing during the summer months. Charter boat services are available from Warrenpoint, Carlingford and Greencastle. Greenore is located on the southern shore of Carlingford Lough.



**Advice:** Sea anglers who target game fish in the lough and sea, must either hold a Loughs Agency licence or an Inland Fisheries Ireland or DAERA licence which has been endorsed by Loughs Agency (ie Loughs Agency Endorsement Licence).



## Sea Angling

The shore around the lighthouse provides excellent sport for an array of species including mackerel, sea trout (game licence required), pollack, spurdog, ray and dogfish. Bass can also be taken in this area with spinning offering best opportunities. Anglers should exercise extreme caution hereabouts, as there are very strong currents close to the shore.



## Shore Fishing

Bottom fishing around Greenore in low water conditions offers dogfish, with spurdog and ray possible in summer. Wrasse can be taken on float gear near the rocks and weedy margins, whilst autumn / winter codling are mostly caught at night. Greenore is a popular spot for mackerel fishing and tackle is available at the Co-op store in Euston Street in the village.

Ballagan point is located south east of Greenore. There is mixed ground, consisting of rock, sand and shingle and it can prove difficult to fish at low tide. Spinning produces mackerel, seasonal bass and pollack at high water. Flounder, rockling, dogfish, conger and ray can be taken in the sandy patches.



The picturesque village of Carlingford produces good catches of mackerel in summer, with flounder and whiting in winter. Other venues produce species such as bass, mackerel, mullet, dogfish, codling, coalfish, pollack, ray and conger. There is also some smooth hound, bull huss and ray.



# Sea Fishing Techniques

## GENERAL ADVICE

Take care and respect the power of the sea. Always wear a life jacket, and, if wading, make use of a wading stick. Always check the weather forecast and tide predictions.

When shore fishing, a fairly heavy weight has to be used to keep the bait anchored in tidal currents and waves. A lob of 30-40 metres will usually reach the deeper water or the surf zone, where the fish are, if fishing from the beach. A specialised rod and reel helps but spinning or carp gear will suffice to get started in this discipline.

When fishing from a boat, the fish are often directly below and there is usually no need to cast, just let the line run out. Anglers use the traditional short boat rods but light tackle boat fishing is becoming popular and probably allows better enjoyment.

Fly fishing anglers should wear a hat and eye protection. Be aware of an on-shore breeze or a gust bringing tackle back unexpectedly.

Bear in mind that any sea trout caught must be returned (unharmred) if the angler does not hold a game licence and tags.

## FLY FISHING

Saltwater fly fishing is growing in popularity for mackerel and bass.

Bass can be found close inshore and in quite shallow water, amongst weed, rocks and tide rips. On the open beach (over clean, sandy ground) a light surf and low light conditions are helpful ideally during cloud cover or at dawn or dusk. Most 7 to 9 AFTM, 9 foot (2.7 m) rods will cover many situations met with.

The angler can avail of a variety of techniques, dependent upon the nature of what is below the surface.

- Boulder beaches - floating lines and surface popping flies is a very good technique
- Weed - bass often feed around weed; when fishing in or close to weed, flies should be fitted with weed guards to help avoid snagging and spoiling the cast
- Clean ground - sand eel and fry patterns work well, fished on either floating lines or intermediates.

## LURE FISHING

Plugs, spinners and sand eel type lures work well.

An 8 to 10 foot (2.4 - 3 m) salmon spinning rod matched to a 10 to 12 pound (4.5 - 5.5 kg) line is recommended. As with fly fishing, a range of techniques will be employed by the angler, specific to the type of ground beneath the waves.

- Open beaches - try either long range plugs or 'toby' style spinners
- Weed - surface popping lures tend to draw fish up from the cover of weed but the angler must be resigned to losing a few lures in the weed (often denser than it appears)

## BAIT FISHING

A light, 3 ounce (85 g) beach casting rod or a 10 foot (3 m) salmon spinning rod should prove adequate. Bait for bass, in order of effectiveness, includes: peeler crab, rag worm, sandeel, lugworm or squid.



# Tope Handling

## CODE OF BEST PRACTICE

Web: [www.save-our-sharks.org](http://www.save-our-sharks.org)

Tope are quite delicate, especially when out of the water. Please remember a gut hooked fish should be avoided by striking early. Releasing a tope at the side of the boat is the preferred method.

It is essential that you are prepared for any eventuality when bringing a tope to the boat. This means having T bars, pliers, wire cutters, tagging kits, weighing slings (if applicable), cameras etc at hand and each person on board knowing what is expected of them.

## HOOK SIZE

The use of bronze finished hooks is the singularly most important factor in the release of hooked sharks, as any hook that has to be left in a fish will dissolve rapidly. Size 6/0 is recommended, either barb-less or with the barb crushed. As lip hooking significantly reduces the likelihood of a hook being left in the fish the use of circle hooks should also be considered.

## TRACES

The trace should be at least 2 metres in length so the tope's tail can't hit your main line. The preferred traces are 25cm of 150lb wire to a swivel and 175cm of 100-150lb mono/braid or 2 metres of 250lb mono straight through.

## WHEN TO STRIKE

The old books used to say, "Strike at the start of the second run", but this will usually lead to a deep hooked fish. Once the tope has started the familiar screaming run, count to six on a big bait (full mackerel) or three on a small bait (fillet size) and wind down firmly into the fish. It is imperative you wind quickly at first to get rid of the bow before lifting the rod to set the hook. A gut hooked fish is usually down to bad angling practise.

## RELEASING AT THE SIDE OF THE BOAT - THE PREFERRED METHOD.

Tope can inflict serious injury if not handled correctly. The recommended option is to release the fish at the side of the boat with a long handled "T" bar. Insert the slit on the bar round the bend of the hook with one hand and pull the line down with the other. Use the weight of the fish to pull out the hook.

## TO LEAVE THE HOOK IN OR NOT?

There are occasions when the tope swallows everything and the hook is out of sight. The best option for the welfare of the fish is to cut the line as close to the hook as possible. The tope will lose the hook eventually (quicker if not stainless steel hooks).

## BRINGING THE FISH ON BOARD

If a fish cannot be satisfactorily released without bringing it on board then the following should be borne in mind. Sharks are cartilaginous and their soft organs lack the support of a mammal type rib cage structure.

It is essential you try and bring the fish in horizontally, with arms supporting the soft abdomen area if possible. For vessels with high gunwales then firmly hold the dorsal fin and tail and lift the fish horizontally. Alternatively a pectoral fin may be used. Dragging a fish backwards over the gunwales is likely to cause lethal damage to the fish.

Once the lead person has firmly grasped the trace, the drag on the reel should be reduced to allow gaining of line, if required, or allow the fish to move if the lead releases/fails to grasp the leader and the fish still has a head of steam. When the tope is brought aboard and placed on the deck, the lead person should then squat around the fish applying enough pressure to restrain it. A wet cloth or towel soaked in sea water should be placed over the head ensuring the eyes are fully covered; this usually pacifies the tope and makes the removal of the hook with a disgorger or long nosed pliers an easier and safer procedure.

Where an angler is fishing alone it is recommended that all fish are released at the side of the boat, either by using a T bar or cutting the line close to the hook.

If the tope is to be weighed, the preferred method is by the use of a weighing sling. The tope should be laid out evenly on the sling (on the deck) the moment it is brought aboard. For photographing and returning the fish, remember to keep the fish horizontal, with the ribcage supported by the arms.

When releasing the tope, hold it into the tide for a short period to get oxygen back into its gills. Once the fish kicks that is a good indication that it has recovered enough to be released.

In no circumstances is the use of a gaff or a lasso type tailer recommended. They are not necessary and both will seriously damage the tope.



## TOPE LENGTH TO WEIGHT CONVERSION

(Reproduced by kind permission of the UK Shark Tagging Programme).

Tope anglers are encouraged not to weigh tope (for reasons of welfare of the fish) unless they have an appropriate weighing sling. Measure length and obtain an estimate of weight using a length to weight conversion chart, similar to the one that follows. Total length is measured from tip of nose to end of tail.

Length (inches)	Weight (lbs)	Length (cm)	Weight (kg)	Length (inches)	Weight (lbs)	Length (cm)	Weight (kg)
24	6	61	3	54	23	137	10
26	6	66	3	56	26	142	12
28	7	71	3	58	28	147	13
30	8	76	4	60	31	152	14
32	9	81	4	62	34	157	15
34	9	86	4	64	37	163	17
36	10	91	5	66	41	168	19
38	11	97	5	68	45	173	20
40	12	102	5	70	49	178	22
42	13	107	6	72	54	183	24
44	15	112	7	74	59	188	27
46	16	117	7	76	65	193	29
48	18	122	8	78	71	198	32
50	19	127	9	80	78	203	35
52	21	132	10				

# CATCH & RELEASE

- Barbless, single hooks should be used on all flies and spinning lures.
- Fish should be played quickly so they are not exhausted.
- Fish should be handled as little as possible, preferably with wet hands.
- Spring salmon and fresh silver fish are especially vulnerable to damage.
- Fish should be kept in the water as much as possible with gills immersed.
- Long nosed forceps/needle nosed pliers help remove hooks quickly.
- Deep embedded hooks which are resisting removal should be cut off as close to the hook as possible rather than causing further damage and stress to the fish.
- Gently support recovering fish in the current (head pointing upstream) until they have regained their balance.
- Never put a finger or thumb inside the gill cover.
- Never squeeze a fish.
- Photographs (if any) should be taken quickly and, ideally, without removing the fish from the water.
- Never weigh a fish, estimate.
- Never tail a fish as this will result in spinal damage.

Estimating Salmon Weight from Length:

Length (inches)	Approx. Weight (lbs)	Length (cm)	Approx. Weight (kg)
20	3	50	1.5
22	4	55	2
24	6	60	2.5
26	7.5	65	3.5
28	9	70	4
30	10.5	75	5
32	12.5	80	5.5
34	15	85	7
36	18	90	8.5
38	21	95	9.5
40	24	100	11
42	27	105	12.5
44	30.5	110	14
46	33.5	115	15
48	36.5	120	15.5
50	39.5	125	18
52	42.5	130	19

## POLLUTION AND ILLEGAL FISHING RESPONSE LINE (24 HR HOTLINE)

Help us to protect wild fish – report pollution, fish kill, unlawful netting or illegal angling to Loughs Agency.

### 24 HOUR HOTLINE

**Northern Ireland:** (028) 7134 2100

**Ireland:** 048 7134 2100

**Text Number:** +44 (0) 7599 808 888



## CATCH RETURN

Anglers are encouraged by Loughs Agency to log their fishing effort, catches and releases when fishing in Foyle and Carlingford on their elicence website. Whenever anyone buys a rod licence to fish for salmon and sea trout in Foyle and Carlingford they are legally obliged to let Loughs Agency know if they have caught fish and how many times they went fishing. This information can be easily recorded through the elicence website.

Anglers are encourage to log their fishing effort, catches and releases on the elicence website throughout the year, rather than wait until the end of the season. Whilst it is a legal obligation to make returns for salmon and sea trout, Loughs Agency are keen to see fishing logs from coarse and sea anglers as well.

The information submitted by anglers is really important because it enables Loughs Agency scientists to understand how many fish are caught, taken or returned back to the river and how much time anglers put into catching those fish. It provides an indication of how well stocks are doing and if we need to take any action should catches take a turn for the worst.

Loughs Agency use anglers returns to manage the fisheries of Foyle and Carlingford. We use the data to screen proposed developments such as roads, hydro, etc that may impact the interests of the fishery. We also use the data to assess the strength of fish runs in the system this year and also for long term trend monitoring.

Have you purchased a Loughs Agency licence?  
Log in with your Angler Number at:  
<https://elicence.loughs-agency.org>  
and update your angling log throughout the season.









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