

THE GLEN'S ANGLING CLUB
SECRETARY'S REPORT
17th May 2020.

This past year has been another poor year for the rod angler on all our three rivers, The Glendun River, The River Dall and The Glenariff River. Yes, we had a really wet summer and the autumn months were probably one of the wettest years for some time. Lots of salmon were seen jumping in the bay off Cushendun and Cushendall, that maybe our main run, however by the end of the rod angling season approximately 13 salmon were caught by the anglers on the Glendun and 3 caught in the Cushendall River. We don't have actual rod caught figures for the Glenariff River. The first salmon caught during 2019 was on July 12th by Sean McGarry.

The decline in the number of salmon returning to their native river is at an all-time low. Not just in our local rivers, but sadly in many rivers around the world.

The year 2019 was "The Year of the Salmon", maybe we will see some improvement in the numbers of salmon returning to their native river from here on.

Great work is being carried out to try and halt and hopefully reverse the decline. One of the many organisations involved is The Moray Firth Tracking Project. Their aim is to piece together the mystery of what happens to their smolts/smelts, as they migrate downstream and out to sea. On the very first year of their research, as much as 50% of the smolts/smelts failed survive the transition from the fresh to the salt sea water. Almost half are lost before they leave their native river. There could be lots of reasons for these alarming statistics: Predation by Cormorants, Seals, bigger fish, and the pollution in both our rivers and sea.

The objective of "The Missing Salmon Project" is to reverse the ongoing decline in the wild Atlantic salmon.

The plan to reverse this trend is:

1. IDENTIFY THE KEY AREAS OF THE MORTALITY.
2. PRIORITISE THE CAUSES OF THE MORTALITY.
3. CREATE AND IMPLIMENT PLANS TO REVERSE THE TREND.

More information on this research work can be obtained at:

www.atlanticsalmontrust.org

by calling 0131 221 6550

or info@atlanticsalmontrust.org

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) is researching the many possibilities as to why this should be happening and finally taking some steps to discover the many potential reasons why this decline is so serious.

We as an angling club encourage all our members to follow a policy of "Catch and Release" all trout and salmon, that are caught on whatever river you may fish. Indeed, it is now compulsory on almost all rivers and is strongly encouraged on the few remaining rivers that don't strictly apply to this best practice. We, as rod anglers, must play our part in helping conserve the freshwater fish for the future generations.

Unfortunately, due to the Bushmills Salmon, Research Station Office being closed, we have been unable to obtain the figures from the counter on the Glendun River.

Thankfully, our club senior membership has improved slightly since this time last year. However, we still have very few juveniles joining our club.

During November 2019 we were able to do some electro fishing with the help of The Department of Agriculture Environment Rural Affairs (DAERA). based at the Bushmills Salmon Research Station. We concentrated, mostly on the lower parts of the Glendun River. A few salmon were netted, measured, weighed, and of course released. The only highlight was that we netted a 6lb white trout, some fish.

Just as a reminder, the freshwater lake at The Turnagrove Lake on the Drones Road, Armoy, is available for our club members. On arrival, members must show his or her Glens Angling Club, yellow membership card. You can fish all day for a reduced special rate of £10. (Catch and Release). If you want to take fish home, it will cost an additional £3.

The club membership fees for the 2020/21 season are now due.

Non-Locals - £30

Locals (Members living in Cushendun, Cushendall or Glenariffe, - £25

Seniors (60 years and over) - £10

Junior (Under 18) - £1

All members can send their membership card, with a stamped addressed envelope, to my home at Cloneymore B&B, 103 Knocknacarry Road, Cushendun, BT44 ONT. I will return it, as soon as possible after.

Unfortunately, we have lost several of our Club members, friends and family, during this past year. Please keep them and their families in our thoughts, at this time.

I would like to finish by thanking all those persons who have made my position interesting during this past year. Our Club Officers, the Committee, Gary Huston, Jim Haughey (Ulster Angling Federation - UAF), He attends meetings on our behalf, keeping us informed of events at ministerial level, together with arranging the Club Officers and Members insurance, with MEAD Sport & Leisure Limited, Insurance brokers.

To all the staff at the Bushmills Salmon Research Station. Tim Delargy, Teddy Roughlan (DAERA) and Richard Kennedy (AFBI) plus all the others who work tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain the stocks of Salmon & Trout in our local rivers.

I also, thank you, the Club members for all your support during this past year.

Due to the Covid-19 epidemic the AGM and all committee meetings have been cancelled, the current committee members will continue to hold their positions, until we can safely hold our next AGM, perhaps in April 2021.

Please take care and stay safe.

Hugo McCormick

(Hon Sec)

The Glens Angling Club