

Salmon Watch Ireland

18 March 2025

Marine Institute – Annual
Report 2023 – Page 136

Salmon and Sea Trout
Counts Burishoole

Fish Census Provisional
Overview for 2023

The Report demonstrates the range of data collected from the 2023 fish census, including the number of fish caught, the number of fish released, and the number of fish lost. The data is presented in a table format, with columns for the number of fish caught, the number of fish released, and the number of fish lost. The data is presented for the years 2022 and 2023, and for the months of January, February, and March.

Species	Salmon	Sea Trout	Other	Total
2022	100	50	10	160
2023	120	60	15	195

Salmon and Sea Trout Counts Burishoole

Salmon Watch Ireland
18 February 2025

Collapsing of Atlantic salmon stocks

Salmon Watch Ireland is a charity that works to protect and promote the sustainable management of the Atlantic salmon fishery in Ireland. The charity is currently facing a crisis, with the collapse of the Atlantic salmon stocks in Ireland. This has led to a significant loss of income for the charity, and it is now facing a financial crisis. The charity is currently seeking donations to help it survive and continue its work.

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Waterville Fishery: A look back at research in the period 1980 - 1986

It is calamitous that the fishery now has few sea trout and to repeat this research may not be possible today. Certainly, a situation which can be rescued but only with your help.

Authors of Study: Edward Fahy and Ruary Rudd

The Currane, Co. Kerry, Sea Trout Fishery (1980-1986)

Overview

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of the unique **Waterville sea trout stock in Lough Currane, Co. Kerry**, covering the years **1980 to 1986**. The research examines **growth patterns, genetic characteristics, environmental influences, and angling statistics**, providing valuable insights into **Ireland's largest sea trout fishery**.

Key Findings

- Unique Genetic Traits:** The Waterville Seatrout population is distinct due to its **high diversity of age categories**, with evidence suggesting a close relationship with **ferox trout**, a long-lived brown trout strain.
- Longevity & Growth:** These trout are **relatively long-lived**, contributing to **larger average sizes** compared to other Irish sea trout populations.
- Recruitment & Productivity:** The main driver of population fluctuations is the **annual recruitment of post-smolt trout**. Growth in freshwater is influenced by the **length of the growing season**, whereas **marine growth conditions remain unclear**.
- Stock Monitoring:** Over the seven-year study period, stock changes were **tracked using angler-reported catches**, providing insights into weight-to-length relationships, condition factors, and sex ratios.
- Influence of Environmental Conditions:** Data suggests that **weather patterns**, particularly the **growing season length**, play a significant role in **juvenile trout survival and migration**.

Fishery Performance & Angling Data

- Waterville's sea trout are the largest in Ireland** but catch numbers per angler tend to be lower.
- The **average sea trout weight** in Currane was **consistently higher** than in other Irish fisheries.
- Spring runs of older fish** extend the angling season, making Currane an attractive but challenging fishery.

- Comparisons with **Burrishoole (Co. Mayo)** suggest **similar recruitment trends**, supporting the role of environmental factors in trout production.

Conclusion & Implications

The study highlights the **exceptional nature of the Waterville sea trout fishery**, emphasizing the importance of **long-term monitoring and conservation**. Given its **genetic uniqueness and vulnerability to introgression**, careful management is necessary to **preserve this rare and valuable stock**.

This research provides a **valuable reference** for fisheries management, angling communities, and conservation efforts aimed at sustaining **Ireland's premier sea trout fishery**.

Read the Full Report Here: [Waterville Sea Trout](#)

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