

## THE MULKEAR RIVER

The Mulkear River rises in the Slievefelim and Silvermines mountains in Co. Tipperary and flows through a picturesque landscape, before joining the River Shannon downstream of Annacotty in Co. Limerick. The main river channel is approximately 21.5 km long, and together with its principal tributaries (Dead, Bilboa and Newport rivers), it drains a catchment area of approximately 650 km². This catchment area spans both Counties Limerick and Tipperary. The watershed consists of upland and lowland areas, typical of many Irish river systems. The upland area is extensive and has many mountain peaks in excess of 400m.

The Mulkear river is one of the finest Salmon angling rivers in the Shannon Catchment and is important in the national context. The river also holds good stocks of small to moderate size wild Brown Trout. Over the years the river has been affected by environmental damage and habitat loss due to a number of drainage schemes, including a major scheme in the 1990's.

There have been a number of environmental initiatives undertaken in the catchment over the last decade. In 1999, the former Shannon Regional Fisheries Board developed a pilot Catchment Management process, focusing on the River Mulkear. The purpose of the process was to develop a model suited to rivers within the Shannon catchment that promotes partnership, creativity and the sharing of resources. One of the outcomes of this process was the Mulkear River Fishery Partnership, set up in 2007 to manage and provide sustainable angling in the River Mulkear. The Partnership brings together four main angling stakeholders to the river, ESB Fisheries (the owners), Inland Fisheries Ireland, Shannon Mulkear and District Anglers Association and Limerick and District Anglers Association.

In 2009, these initiatives were further extended to include the Mulkear EULife Conservation Project. The main objective of this project is to restore through in-stream rehabilitation work, degraded habitats along stretches of the Mulkear River, which forms part of the Lower Shannon Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's). This focuses on Sea Lamprey, Atlantic Salmon and the European Otter.



### ANGLING REGULATIONS OPEN SEASON:

**Salmon:** March 1st to September 30th.  
**Trout:** March 1st to September 30th.

### SPECIES:

Salmon, Small to moderate size wild Brown Trout.

### PERMISSION TO FISH:

To fish the Mulkear River, anglers require an ESB Fishing Permit. In addition, a Salmon Rod Licence is required for Salmon Fishing. These are available at the local outlets – see list.

Alternatively, anglers can purchase their Salmon Rod Licences online. Go to [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info) for further information, or contact IFI's local office **Tel: +353 (0) 61 300 238**.

## MULKEAR RIVER FISHERY PARTNERSHIP

### Four key objectives of the Partnership are to:

- Develop a sustainable operational management structure, operating through partnership and consensus.
- Identify the needs of the fishery and providing sustainable angling for Salmon and Brown Trout in line with scientific advice.
- Ensure 'buy in' from all stakeholders in the catchment in association with the Mulkear Catchment Management Plan.
- Implement a Fishery enhancement Plan.

## PERMIT AND LICENCE DISTRIBUTORS

**ESB Fisheries Office,**  
Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare.  
Tel: **+353 (0) 61 350 598**  
(ESB Fishing Permits)

**Mr John O'Doherty,** O'Doherty's  
News Shop, 12A Musgrave Street,  
Limerick Tel: **+353 (0) 61 316 637**

**Mr Ger Bond,**  
43 Wickham St, Limerick  
Tel: **+353 (0) 61 316 809**

**Mr Patrick Guerin,**  
The Kingfisher Angling Centre,  
Castleconnell, Limerick.  
Tel: **+353 (0) 61 377 407.**

## FISHERY REGULATIONS AND RULES

- Anglers fishing partnership waters require a valid permit and state Salmon Rod Licence.
- Fishing shall be with single Rod and Line only.

- Anglers must respect the rights and property to landowners on land they may have to cross, or whose lands they may occupy when fishing.
- The breaking of hedges or any other damage caused by a permit holder while fishing the partnerships waters will be treated as an offence against the partnerships conditions.

- A Salmon angling permit is issued subject to a full and proper return of the number of all salmon caught being made to the appropriate authority, as indicated on your licence.
- The permit must be available for inspection by any fisheries officer or authorised person on request. Non co-operation or disrespect to Fisheries Officers or authorised persons on partnership waters will be treated as an offence against the partnerships conditions.

- Anyone found in breach of the partnership regulations or conditions may have their permit revoked on the spot and may appeal it in writing to the Mulkear River Partnership, C/O Inland Fisheries Ireland.



### ANGLING ETIQUETTE

Always show respect for other anglers, river users, and the environment you fish in.

Please observe the following code of angling etiquette and country code and abide by the partnership's fishery rules. Enjoy your fishing!

- Consider your safety and wear a life jacket at all times.
- Only use recognized pathways, gate ways and stiles to access the fishery.
- Do not obstruct gates with vehicles or leave farm gates open.
- Seek permission from landowners before crossing private lands and respect farmland and the country side.
- Do not discard litter, hooks, line, etc, bring it home.
- Do not take over a pool on the river to the exclusion of other anglers, keep rotating.



Wild River Trout on the Bilboa River

### CONSERVATION MEASURES

The partnership advise all anglers to recognise the real threat the river system is under in meeting its conservation limit.

- A catch and release policy is recommended whenever possible.
- Fly fishing and spinning is encouraged and are the preferred methods of angling.

### PROHIBITED ANGLING METHODS

- Prawns and Shrimp are prohibited at all times and is the law. Ref: Bye Law No: 871, of 2010.
- It is prohibited to use a gaff or be in possession on the bank of the river.

### PROHIBITED ANGLING AREAS

- Fishing for Salmon and Trout by any means is prohibited within a distance of 50 meters below the Limerick side of the weir at Ballyclough.
- Fishing is prohibited between the Old Bridge and Annacotty Weir from the 1st June.
- Fishing for Salmon and Trout by any means is prohibited within a distance of 100 meters downstream of the Newport Water Works.
- Fishing for Salmon and Trout by any means is prohibited within a distance of 300 meters downstream of Burntmills Bridge.

## BAG LIMITS SALMON

Current bag limits as outlined are based on the National Salmon Angling Bye-Law Regulations pertaining in 2010.

These may change in subsequent years. Please contact Inland Fisheries Ireland for any updates or log on to the website [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

### Salmon

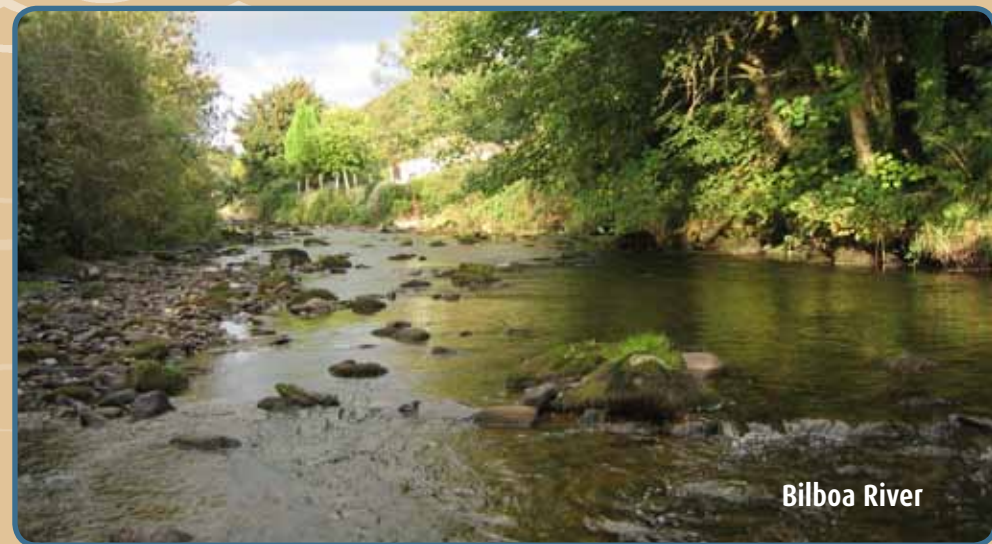


- 10 Salmon per person per season.
- 1 fish from March 1st and 12th May.
- 3 fish per day from 13th May to 31st August.
- 1 fish per day from 1st September to 30th September.
- If bag limit is reached, then anglers can fish catch and release using single barbless hook and no worm fishing.

### BAG LIMITS TROUT

- 3 fish per day per angler.
- Fish must be 26cm (10 inches) or more in size.

### 10 inches



Bilboa River

## RIVER ACCESS

Normal access is at local road bridges. Please seek permission from local landowners before accessing or crossing any private lands.

## ANGLING INFORMATION SALMON FISHING

The Mulkear River offers prime Salmon angling waters. It is more renowned as a grilse river than a spring Salmon river. However, it enjoys a small run of 'springers' in March and April. The run of grilse commences in May, depending on water levels and peaks in June and July. It is classed as a spate river, i.e. it fishes best on a dropping flood. There are many varied angling waters to explore, ranging from fast flowing riffled areas to lovely glides, flats and deep pools. The most productive Salmon fishing waters extends from Drumkeen Bridge on Stretch 1, downstream to Lane's Weir – on Stretch 4 -see the map, a distance of circa 20Km.

There are many pools which derive their names locally and some have anecdotal significance. These are mentioned in the popular angling stretches section of the guide and are also indicated in the map for your added information.

The Flying 'C' is a popular choice of lure and comes in different sizes and colours to suit the water levels and clarity of the river. Popular Salmon flies include a range of shrimp fly patterns, such as Ally's, Cascade, Claret and Silver Shrimps.



Abington weir, Mulkear River

Limerick angler Michael J. O' Brien, deceased, invented a local Salmon fly called the 'Michael Angelo' and is worth getting a copy of, see illustration and fly dressing. This is available in the local Tackle shops.

Hair winged Salmon Flies such as Hairy Mary, Garry Dog, Silver Badger, Blue Charm, Munro Killer and Thunder and Lightning are useful patterns to have in your fly box when visiting the River Mulkear.

The sizes vary from size 6 for high water fishing, down to size 12 for low water. It is recommended to have some yellow colouring in the fly wing when fishing in the peat stained water after a spate. If you are a fly dresser, you could experiment.

As water levels drop following a spate, Salmon fall back into the pools and can be targeted in these conditions using smaller flies, best in the evening time and early mornings. The Mulkear Fishery partnership recommend fly fishing and spinning only, as the preferred angling methods.

Stretches farther up river on the Mulkear, including the main tributaries Killeenagariff and Newport Rivers provide some good late season Salmon angling into September, water levels permitting – see popular angling stretch 1 and stretches A - E on the tributaries listed in the guide.

Anglers are requested to take note that there is a Bye-Law prohibiting the use of prawns and shrimp as bait for

Salmon fishing in the Shannon Region, and this includes the River Mulkear system. Also, we request you to note the prohibited angling areas and fishing methods as outlined in the fishery rules and regulations.

### TROUT FISHING

Trout fishing is available all along the main River Mulkear channel, some particularly noted stretches are at Scart and from Walsh's streams to the meetings – See Stretch 3 on the map. Trout can reach up to circa 35cm or more.

Other good trout waters are on the tributaries and include sections of the Killeenagariff, Newport, Annagh and Bilboa Rivers, as indicated with map icons. Trout in the upper reaches of the river are usually of smaller size, up to 25cm. Most anglers target trout using small flies in accordance with local fly hatches and seasons. Early season flies such as Gold Ribbed Hares Ear are fished in March. During mid season from May to July is the time primarily for the Olives, which can be represented collectively by the Greenwells Glory in different variations. Black gnat is a good choice when the fly is hatching in May.

This is followed by the sedge season, which extends from mid to late season, July to September. Flies are fished in small sizes 12 to 16's, depending on angling conditions and fly selection. Both wet and dry fly fishing methods are practiced. The following flies are worth having in your fly box, i.e.

Gold ribbed Hares ear, winged and hackled, Greenwells Glory (various patterns, winged and hackled), Black Gnat, Iron Blue Dun, Pale Watery, Olive quills (various patterns and colours), Grey Flag and a range of small sedges, Silver, Cinnamon and Brown patterns. For a more extensive list, seek local advice.

Anglers are requested to observe the Trout bag and size limit and to practice catch and release whenever possible, in the interest of conservation.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Should you have difficulty reading any part of this document, please contact our Accessibility Officer,

**Ms Patricia Ryan.**  
**Tel: +353 (0) 61 300 238**

Alternative formats can be made available on request.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This pocket guide was produced by Brian Mc Manus, Inland Fisheries Ireland. IFI wish to thank those who made a contribution. Thanks to Colum Walsh, IFI, for his assistance. A special thanks to Richard Keays, Millbank Angling Centre, William O'Neill, and Neville Atkinson, Shannon Mulkear and District Anglers Association for their considerable advice, input and effort, especially with information on the angling pools and map. Finally, thanks to Lorraine O'Donnell for supporting this project.



Aerial View River Mulkear

### ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this publication. IFI cannot take any responsibility for any error or omission.

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## POPULAR ANGLING STRETCHES & POOLS

This section of the pocket guide provides the angler with more in-depth information on the main angling stretches and Salmon pools available along the river. Local knowledge is very important. The use of a ghillie can be of benefit and is a pleasant experience, particularly for first time visitors. While access is normally at road bridges, other access points are available to prime angling waters. The layout and descriptions of the angling stretches 1-4 listed below consider this.

### STRETCH 1

#### Dromkeen to Brittas Bridge (River Mulkear)

Access is at the road bridges. The stretch fishes best in late season as Salmon move upstream to spawn in September. This is a good stretch for fly and spinning. One of the recognised Salmon Pools is at Furlongs, as indicated Pool 1 on the map.

### STRETCH 2

#### Brittas Bridge via Abington Bridge to Burke's Flats. (River Mulkear)

Access is at the road bridges and at Boher, adjacent to the church on the bend of the road. Cross over a foot stile at 'the joiners'. From here anglers have to cross a field into Burke's Flats. There is some good angling stretches and pools from Brittas Bridge to Abington Bridge, downstream on the left hand side bank via Millbank House and Angling Centre.

Good spots are Croakers hole, which is a good holding pool for Salmon, especially in low water and is a good area for fishing fly and spinner. Next is Boyle's Moate, the Poplars and Phillpott's Pool. There are two other pools which can only be accessed upstream from Abington Bridge on the left hand bank, They are the 'Lawn Pool' and the 'Mill Hole'. The section of river from Abington Bridge to the bend on the river near Boher is very difficult to fish due to excessive over growth of bankside vegetation and overhanging tree cover.

### STRETCH 3

#### Lynch's Streams via Longfield to Canter's Pool at the Railway Bridge (River Mulkear)

This is one of the prime Salmon angling stretches on the Mulkear River, and has much varied angling waters to explore. This section of river is relatively short in terms of distance, but packed with quality Salmon pools, many of which are clumped together and run consecutively, particularly from the Longfield downstream to the railway bridge. Access is at a number of points, including Boher near Burke's Flats, the Longfield and at Scart.

The stretch starts from Lynch's Streams, see pool number 9 on the map. This is a good spot for grilse and trout but is difficult to fish in places, due to the overhanging tree cover. The next pool is Poul Carthy. This is a long deep pool which is good fly and spinning water. Next is the meetings, which is a good holding area for Salmon as they run up the Mulkear and the Killeenagariff River, one of the main tributaries.

Between the meetings and the Longfield provides excellent fly fishing water, good pools 11 to 13 are Gubbin's Streams, Walsh's Streams, and the Haunt. After the Haunt is the Longfield, one of the renowned fishing hotspots for Salmon. There is some road side parking here and access is via a foot stile erected at the field by the Shannon Mulkear Anglers. There is also limited roadside parking at Scart. Fishing is all along the left hand bank, facing downstream. The Scart stretch is ideal for wading with fly and suits the avid fly angler. From the Longfield Salmon pools run consecutively, from Raleigh's Bend down to Canter's Pool at the railway bridge. see pools 14 - 27 on the map.

### STRETCH 4

#### Railway Bridge via Ballyclough Weir, Annacotty Weir to the Cut (River Mulkear)

This is an important Salmon fishing stretch. Access is at the back of the Cherry Picker Company 'Height for Hire' at Ballyclough Bridge. There is single bank fishing only, running along the left hand side bank facing downstream and the right hand bank facing upstream of Ballyclough Bridge. Angling is prohibited for 50 meters downstream of Ballyclough Weir, which is signposted. There are a number of important pools which include 'the Wash' (see Pools 28 to 31 on the map) which starts upstream of Ballyclough Bridge. Farther upstream is Mulcahy's Pool, which is located above the old Mill ruins. The next pool is Mulcahy's Garden Pool. This is identifiable by a concrete pillar in the river on the opposite bank.

## 'Michael Angelo'



### SALMON FLY DRESSING

**TAG:** Round silver wire or tinsel.  
**TAIL:** Golden Pheasant topping or strands of reddish brown body feather.  
**BUTT:** Red or orange floss silk.  
**BODY:** Black Floss Silk ribbed with oval silver tinsel.  
**HACKLE:** Kingfisher blue cock hackle.  
**WING:** Yellow Bucktail topped with a few strands of Red or Orange Bucktail.  
**HEAD:** Black varnish.

Next is Harrison's Streams. Continue upriver to the 50 meter signpost. This is good fly fishing water.

Downstream of Ballyclough Bridge to Annacotty is best suited to spinning. Good early season Salmon fishing is possible downstream of Annacotty Bridge to Lane's Weir. Access to Lane's Weir is from the Rugby Grounds. This is a good early season pool which fishes best with spinner. Salmon fishing is also possible below Annacotty Weir. This fishes only in a dropping flood as Salmon rest in their passage upriver. Anglers should note that angling from Annacotty Weir to the old Annacotty bridge (about 100 meters) is only permitted to 31st May and is prohibited from June 1st to end of season. Access here is at both sides of the old bridge at Annacotty.

## NEWPORT RIVER

After a spate, the water runs off the Newport river faster than the main channel, allowing fishing to take place a day or so before the main Mulkear river.

### STRETCH A

#### Rossaguile Bridge to Newport

Access is at Rossaguile road bridge or at Burntmills. This is a good trout fishing section of river, but can get very over grown and difficult to fish during the summer months. The best bank to fish is the right hand side bank facing upstream from the Burntmills to Rossaguile Bridge. Fishing for Salmon and Trout by any means is prohibited within a distance of 300 meters downstream of Burntmills Bridge.

### STRETCH B

#### Newport River

#### Newport to Annagh Bridge

There is a good stock of trout in this section of river. Access is best from Bunkey Bridge and fishing up and downstream of the bridge, but wading is necessary due to high the banks.

### STRETCH C

#### Killeenagariff River

#### Annagh Bridge to Killeenagariff Bridge

Access is at the road bridges. This is a good salmon and trout fishing stretch but difficult to fish due to excessive bank vegetation in high summer.

### STRETCH D

#### Killeenagariff River

#### Killeenagariff Bridge to Barrington's Bridge

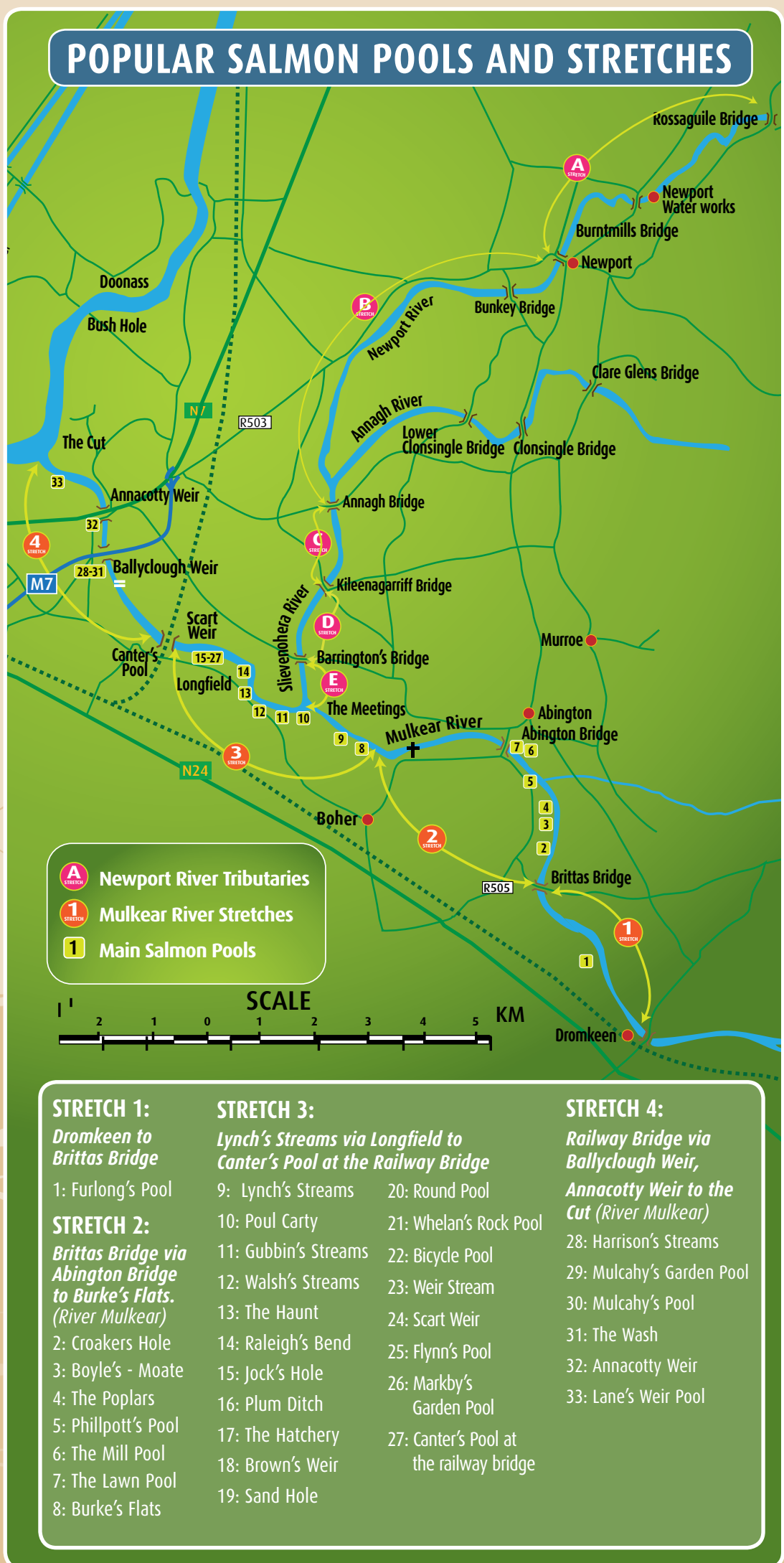
Access is at the road bridges, with road side parking. This is a good Salmon fishing area. There is single bank fishing, downstream on the right hand side bank.

### STRETCH E

#### Killeenagariff River

#### Barrington's Bridge to the meetings

Access is difficult to this area and is rarely fished by local anglers



## LIST OF USEFUL CONTACTS

### ANGLING SECTION

For Angling Information contact IFI's local Angling Section

Tel: +353 (0) 57 912 1777  
Fax: +353 (0) 57 912 1756  
Mob: +353 (0) 87 795 8337  
Email: shrbd@fishinginireland.info  
Website: www.fishinginireland.info

### MULKEAR EU LIFE PROJECT

Contact: Ruairi Ó Conchúir, Project Manager, Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel: +353 (0) 61 300238  
or +353 (0) 87 062 5582

Email: ruairi@mulkearlife.com  
Website: www.mulkearlife.com

### TOURIST INFORMATION

Limerick Tourist Office,  
Arthur's Quay Park, Limerick.

Tel: +353 (0) 6131 7522.

### ACCOMMODATION

Millbank House and Angling Centre, Murroe, Co. Limerick.

Tel: +353 (0) 6138 6115.  
Email: info@millbankhouse.com  
Web: www.millbankhouse.com

For full up to date local listings visit the website [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

### GHILLIES & ANGLING CLUBS

To arrange a Ghillie contact

Mr Richard Keays of Millbank House and Angling Centre see contact details above

Shannon Mulkear and District Anglers Association.

Email: angling.guides@gmail.com  
Mobile: +353 (0) 87 916 4570

Limerick & District Anglers Association, contact Stephen Slattery

Mobile: 087 1321348.  
Email: stephenslattery1000@eircom.net

Mr Patrick Guerin, Kingfisher Angling Centre, Castleconnell,  
Mobile: +353 (0) 87 292 2413.  
Email: paddyguerin@eircom.net

For full up to date local listings visit the website [www.fishinginireland.info](http://www.fishinginireland.info)

