

SALMON & SEA TROUT RECREATIONAL ANGLERS OF IRELAND



Secretary's Annual Report

Annual General Meeting 2011
Bob Seward

2011

AFFILIATED TO ANGLING COUNCIL IRELAND, NASCO, EAA,



European Anglers Alliance



North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation



Coaching Ireland



Irish Sports Council



Equality Authority (Coaching People with disabilities)



SSTRAI

25 Shanowen
Rathcormac
Co. Cork

E-mail secretary@sstrai.ie
Phone 00353 85 8436459

Annual Secretaries Report

I wish to begin by thanking the SSTRAI National Executive for their full support throughout 2011, they have been a great team to work with. The unity of the organisation has allowed us develop a clear strategy with defined goals, aims and objectives going forward in 2012.

I am delighted to report there were no accidents recorded in 2011 and again wish to take this opportunity to remind all anglers to ensure that safety is given serious consideration in planning and participation in all aspects of our angling sport. Health & Safety and Child Protection should be the first items on the agenda of all club meetings. The SSTRAI Club Safety Policy was completed in 2011 and is now available to all affiliated angling clubs.

In association with the Angling Council of Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Angling for Youth Development (Ireland) (AFYD), we have developed a wading safely and river rescue training programme that we are rolling out through as part of our coach professional development plan 2012.

SSTRAI have had many meetings throughout the year and our delegates represented the federation at numerous associated meetings and events throughout the country and abroad in Scotland, England and Finland.

During 2011, SSTRAI delegates held three executive positions on the Angling Council of Ireland namely, Bob Seward Secretary, Martin Mc Enroe as Vice Chairman and Alan Nolan as assistant Secretary.

We have worked hard on behalf of SSTRAI and have made a very positive contribution to the success of the ACI. Based upon our own SSTRAI administrative procedures the ACI is now in very good standing with the Irish Sports Council and Coaching Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland. It is now anticipated that we shall see a substantial increase in funding from the ISC in 2012. SSTRAI through the ACI continue to be represented on the committee of Comhairle Na Tuaithe (Rural Recreation Section) and I continue represent anglers interests as the marine leisure activities sector representative on the Strategy Group of the Board alongside Failte Ireland and Leader Ireland, National Parks & Wildlife, OPW etc. This provides us with great opportunities for direct contact and to participate in the decision making processes that impact on our sport. Luke Boyle along with Bob Wemyss are working along with Salmon Watch Ireland and keep us informed of any new developments.

SSTRAI executive members meet six times during the year for committee business. The meetings have been very productive and have kept us on track. In addition to the committee meetings 2011 there was several working group, delegate and Sub-group meetings dealing with various issues such as,

Habitat restoration,

River development projects,

Clarification on scientific advice in relation to closed rivers

Coaching meetings

ACI meetings

Inland Fisheries Ireland meetings

Setting up of Angling for Youth Development (Irl)

IFI Something Fishy Programme training Lough Owel Angling Centre.

Coach Professional Skills Training (First Aid) (Child Welfare Training) (Coaching People with Disabilities CPD)

Game Angling Instructors Association (GAIA) 4 Training days on Single and Double Handed Fly Casting in Kilsheelan.

GAIA Professional Casting Instructors certification for coaches, 3 newly qualified instructors.

Coaching people with disabilities throughout Ireland in association with ACI and the Equality Authority.

NASCO meetings in association with ACI

European Anglers Alliance meetings in association with ACI

Anglers face great challenges apart from dwindling salmon stocks and river closures in many regions. SSTRAI has developed a good working relationship with Inland Fisheries Ireland during 2011. We have not received the representation at Board level that we desire however, we will continue to work towards that.

Angler representation at this level is critical to the survival of our sport as we see it and the recently introduced controversial Bye-law 888 proves this to be true. Following a recent meeting with Dr. Ciaran Byrne and Dr. Cathal Gallagher we hope our recommendations for change will be taken on board. IFI have in 2011 announced the availability of €200,000 for salmon habitat restoration work during 2012. This fund is open to all clubs who wish to take on a project of this nature. Up to €10,000 will be available per project and this can be used as seed capital for Leader funding enabling the completion of much larger projects.

SSTRAI recommended this initiative to IFI and strongly recommend clubs to get involved. Martin Mc Enroe and I will assist any club with their proposal and can facilitate working with the other groups such as local IFI, NP&W, County Councils, ESB etc. to ensure properly completed applications are submitted. Certain criteria must be met before funding can be approved, this is necessary to ensure managers and contributors to the scheme get value for money.

IFI have also announced that some funding is available for schemes that will encourage new beginners into angling sport

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) announced the launch of its 2012 Sponsorship Programme. Applications are invited, by January 27th, 2012 from organisers and event promoters that will support the aims of the IFI sponsorship programme. Details of both these schemes are available on the SSTRAI website www.sstrai.ie and at www.inlandfisheriesireland.ie websites.

The issue of Fish Farms and Sea Lice is ongoing and has gained the international interest it deserves. The National Implementation Group Report on a strategy for improved pest control on Irish salmon farms, (Known as the DAFF report on Sea lice) was released in 2011. It highlighted significant issues in relation to many finfish farm sites. IFI slammed the report and expressed strong concerns that they were not involved in the report. Despite having responsibility for policing and monitoring of regulatory control in the industry and having the internationally recognised expert knowledge from their scientific group, they were ignored. Ireland is now contemplating widespread increase of salmon farming among others and this has the potential to do untold damage to wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout stocks.

At the recent Ocean Silver conference in London organised by the Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST), the experts many of whom are Irish scientists painted a picture of what is happening to our Salmon during the marine phase of their lifecycle. Professor Ken Whelan Research Director AST, spoke on the SALSEA project and what they have learned from it to date.

Some interesting facts such as the 70° North Latitude Line, this has been identified as a critical line. Mackerel and Herring feed predominately below this line, however salmon go through this and may become bait fish for Cod, Shark, Whales, Seals etc. It was also discovered most fish reside in the upper 10 Mtrs. and may be caught by trawls close to the surface.

Scientists used Coded Wire Tags (CWT) on mainly juvenile fish. SALSEA coordinated very extensive surveys that covered a large part of the distribution of Salmon during the summer months.

In the Northern areas the water has warmed and mackerel and herring were now moving above the critical line feeding on what was the salmon's diet and only food source.

By-catch from the Pelagic fisheries may account for up to 200,000 smolts been taken per year.

It was noted salmon stocks migrating west of Greenland were doing very well and those East of Greenland were doing very poorly. From this we can expect very large and very small salmon returning in 2012.

What can we do, recording of salmon catch is essential, and Ireland is well advanced in this area in comparison to many other North East Atlantic countries.

New fishing technologies from trawl to hold must be developed and introduced, at present nothing is seen until it is landed on deck and the By-catch is then discarded. New technologies should also be tested in future studies to prove their effectiveness in conservation.

Dr. Philip Mc Ginnity UCC spoke on Salmon genetics DNA and Gnome, his advice was that managers, geneticists and scientists need to get together to ensure work is done together and shared. Current management programmes should identify individual genetic strains

To protect the future of salmon, many individual populations now identified through genetics must be protected. By protecting all, we spread the risk of extinction in local populations and include the most vulnerable elements. This is the precautionary approach.

Niall O Maoileidigh, Marine Institute spoke on the ICES Working Group. They are not optimistic on the recovery of Salmon. The working group advises NASCO and they recommend the precautionary approach not catch and release. The fact that Ireland has the tagging and logbook scheme in place as part of its salmon management programme, we can safely open rivers that are above their conservation limit. In regard to hatcheries the advice was, where you have salmon no hatcheries are advisable, where you have no salmon they could be considered.

Niall Greene of Salmon Watch Ireland gave the anglers view on salmon stocks and current management practices.

EUROPEAN ANGLERS ALLIANCE

The European Anglers Alliance is working hard on our behalf on issues such as Sea Lice, Aquaculture, Cormorants and Hydro Electric Dams, Water Abstraction, Special Areas of Conservation, European Habitats Directive among others. This is an excellent platform to progress issues of concern that are not alone an Irish Issue but are European Wide. SSTRAI continues to put issues forward through our representative on the Angling Council of Ireland.

Invasive Species

As you may have seen on the website new invasive species have been reported and IFI have asked all anglers to be aware and report sightings to them, this can provide very important information on the spread.

IFI issued the following alert - Disinfection of Angling Equipment, Boats and Boating Equipment and Invasive Species

Disinfection of Angling Equipment (Leaflet)

Disinfection of boats and boating equipment (Leaflet)

Disinfection of boats and boating equipment (Poster)

Invasive Species Alert - Asian Clam

Invasive Species Alert - Killer Shrimp

Invasive Species Alert - Water Primrose In 2011 SSTRAI through the ACI arranged an information event in Silversprings Hotel Cork, juvenile fish for food as they threaten natural habitat

These are available through the SSTRAI website link to IFI. Mark Corps IFI Education Officer has asked clubs to use Fisheries Awareness Week 2012 to remove Himalayan Balsam from the areas affected, clubs that are affected can contact me directly or their local IFI office for additional information.

Biodiversity & Bio-security

SSTRAI's ACI delegates continue to work with the other colleges of angling in the development of a Biodiversity and Bio-security programme. A code of conduct is being developed that will be rolled out through the angling organisations. The document will outline the definitions, set out our national policies for anglers including policies for boat angling. It will deal with issues such as invasive species, habitat, boats, angling equipment, and the movement of live fish, flora etc and seeking legislative change to the Fisheries Bill.



Angling Council of Ireland

SSTRAI is a very proactive member of the ACI. The ACI is the governing body for five different branches of the sport of angling throughout the island of Ireland namely, Sea Angling, Coarse Angling, Pike Angling, Trout Angling, Salmon and Sea Trout Angling. These may be divided in to three general categories, sea, game and coarse.

The ACI committee includes officers from each of the National Angling Governing Bodies affiliated with the ACI. All ACI Executive Officers are elected from the committee at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the ACI constitution.



Angling Council of Ireland

13 Joyce Way Park West Business Park, Dublin 12

AGM

The annual general meeting took place on Sat 12th of March 2011:

All SSTRAI Officers attended

All affiliated organisations were very well represented; the extended meeting room at Sports HQ was packed to capacity with many representatives left standing.

Guest speakers included Troy Reneker of the Irish Sports Council, Michael McGeehin Director Coaching Ireland and Ethna Murphy of Failte Ireland.

ACI Coaches were presented with framed coaching certificates and International angling competitors were presented with certificates of achievement for representing their country in international angling. The IFSA had an exceptional year winning gold and were declared World Shore Angling Champions.

Bob Seward, Martin Mc Enroe and Alan Nolan were the SSTRAI appointed delegates to the ACI.

The following were elected at the AGM

President Hugh O Rorke IFSA

Chairman Eamonn Moore TAFI

Vice Chairman Martin Mc Enroe SSTRAI

Secretary & Safety Officer Bob Seward SSTRAI

Assistant Secretary Alan Nolan SSTRAI

Treasurer John Crudden NCFFI

Children's Officer Der Casey

Coach Officer Tom Lillis IFSA

Anti Doping Officer Peter Flahive IFSA

The following organisations were affiliated during 2011

Salmon and Sea Trout Recreational Anglers of Ireland

Trout Anglers Federation of Ireland

Irish Federation of Pike Angling Clubs

Irish Federation of Sea Anglers

National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland

Irish Charter Boat Skippers Federation

Game Angling Instructors GAIA

Association of Professional Game Angling Instructors APGAI

Association of Professional Game Angling Instructors APGAI (Irl.)

Angling For Youth Development (AFYD Scotland)

Meetings

- The ACI held several meetings and additional business days during the year, minutes of these meetings are retained on file and are not for general distribution, however an overview of the business conducted during the year is detailed hereunder.

Irish Sports Council. The committee held two meetings with the Irish Sports Council during 2011, John Tracey and Troy Reneker attended. John Tracey acknowledged the work of the ACI and that we had come a long way. We now have all the corporate governance structures required by the Irish Sports Council and that he was very happy to support us financially in 2012. On reviewing the funding application for 2012, Troy Reneker said the capitation fee of €2.00 needs to be reviewed; in particular when one federation (TAFI) only paid in half of the fees, this had a negative impact on the remaining coaching programme for 2011. Bob Seward explained that TAFI had large expenses for international competition earlier in the year and that TAFI would pay the remaining €17,000 in Q4 2011. Unfortunately TAFI withdrew from the ACI in Q4 and the final payment was not received.

Annual and Half Yearly Submissions & Reports

ACI is required to submit a half yearly report and an annual grant application form in order to obtain grant aid each year. These reports are very detailed and include a detailed works programme that is linked to the ACI Strategic Plan. A coaching programme approved by and agreed with Coaching Ireland. We are also required to submit fully audited company accounts and a budget for the works plan based on own income and ISC grant. A register of membership is also required with the submission and includes gender balance, youth and associate membership details.

The Coaching plan is dependent on approval of all course material designed and developed by ACI being fully approved by Coaching Ireland. To date we have Foundation Level and Level 1, CPD courses, Coaching People with Disabilities, First Aid, Risk Assessment & Water Safety.

ACI Strategic Plan initiatives are now well advanced and close to 60% complete and well on target.

ACI Website

The ACI website is updated frequently and you can keep yourself up to date on events with local and international news. There are links to all affiliated federations sites by clicking on the relevant logo. <http://www.anglingcouncilireland.ie>. Any content or recommendations for the site would be very welcome.

Coaching Courses

An “Introduction to Coaching” is now available to all ACI coaches. This will be used for the introductory level training courses, keep an eye on the website for details. You may also apply directly to me via e-mail secretary@sstrai.ie or by phone or mail. The coaching programme will be published within the next few weeks. There are 8 ACI coach tutors qualified to run these courses and they will be conducted throughout the country. When the timetable for the courses is completed all affiliated organisations will be informed, watch the web site also for details www.anglingcouncilireland.ie.

European Anglers Alliance

John Crudden was the ACI delegate to the European Anglers Alliance and he represented all the National Angling Organisations. John was also appointed to the Executive of EEA, this showed his commitment and their appreciation of his work in this regard. John in his executive capacity has also been selected to be EEA's delegate to NASCO. John is stepping down in 2012 as he has received a part time position with EAA. A new EAA delegate will be elected at the AGM in 10 of March 2012.

Other Areas of work

The ACI is currently involved in the following issues,

- **Water Abstraction**
- **Bio-security**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Cormorant Issues**
- **Pollution Control**
- **IFA matters**
- **ACI Membership Cards**
- **Inland Fisheries Ireland**
- **Child Protection: Appointment and training of Child Liaison Officers**
- **New Club Welcome Pack**
- **Club Safety Policy**

The ACI as an organisation needs the support of all affiliated organisations to function effectively on their behalf and this requires input at all levels from clubs.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped in 2011 and wish you all a great season for 2012.



Bob Seward
Hon Secretary
Salmon & Sea Trout Recreational Anglers of Ireland