



## Salmon & Sea Trout Recreational Anglers of Ireland

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Dear Secretary / Treasurer,

Once again, a new season is upon us and it's time to shake the dust from the fishing gear and prepare for another year of good sport, let's hope it won't be as wet as last season.

Our 2009 AGM was brought forward to 2010 in line with the constitution change and was held in Limerick to coincide with the Salmon Watch Ireland AGM and the presentations by Central Fisheries Board Scientists on declining salmon stocks.

Although some rivers around the country are not meeting the spawning targets many are, we must make every possible effort to ensure that the return to abundance of salmon and sea trout stocks are achieved. We have begun a process of identifying habitat work for those rivers not meeting their spawning targets. Alan Sullivan has joined with us in our efforts to get development projects off the ground. We intend to apply for funding under the conservation fund for some of this work. We need input from clubs to identify areas of priority and your recommendations and suggestions will be very welcome.

I have enclosed a pamphlet which has all the contact details of the new national executive members. The pamphlet also includes details for affiliation and renewal of insurance for 2010. SSTRAI, as you are aware are affiliated to the Angling Council of Ireland where we represent Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers both on the national and international stage. This representation is conducted through the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO). The ACI will shortly issue its first edition of a Newsletter; this will outline some of the work that is ongoing both at home and abroad.

The ACI have been directed by the Irish Sports Council to ensure all affiliated clubs pay a capitation fee of €2.00 per member through their respective Federations to cover some of the running costs of the organisation. This was supported by all Federations.

The ACI are seeking to fill a full time administrator position at their sports H.Q. office. All other angling disciplines, Sea, Coarse, Pike (Game), and Trout etc., have now contributed and we encourage all our affiliated clubs to ensure payment is made early to ensure a timely submission to ACI. The capitation Fee is a requirement of the Irish Sports Council and ACI must meet all requirements in order to receive grant funding from them.

ACI have also requested all clubs to submit a return of membership (No Names) in the following format Note. (Numbers are based on previous year's membership in the case of existing clubs, for new clubs initial membership register figures are required)

Club Name	No of Males	No of Females	No of Juvenile Males	No of Juvenile Females

This return is not linked in any way with the SSTRAI insurance scheme.



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Some of the benefits of ACI membership are,

- One unified body representing the sport of angling both nationally and internationally.
- The provision of professionally trained Coach Tutors to clubs around the country.
- The roll out of coach training for angling clubs in 2010
- Representation of anglers on the Irish Specimen Fish Committee
- Provision of central mailing system for affiliated angling bodies / clubs
- Provision of administrative office and conference facilities at Sports HQ
- Representation at European Anglers Alliance Salmon & Sea Trout Meetings
- Representation at North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation Meetings

The European Habitats Directive has been responsible for many important changes in Ireland and the EAA have been at the forefront in dealing with all aspects that impact on the sport of angling.

The EAA has also put enormous pressure on the EU to change its policies on the cormorant issue, this has resulted in a landslide vote when 558 MEP's voted in favour of the adoption of a European Cormorant Management Plan to minimise the impact of cormorants on fish stocks, fishing and aquaculture. We are currently working on papers for Hydro electric dams and Fish Passes.

SSTRAI has appointed Martin Mc Enroe as our delegate to represent anglers on the Inland Fisheries Ireland; it will be a very difficult task to have an angler appointed to this board however we will continue in our efforts. The NCFFI have now also supported Martin's nomination for the position.

Keep an eye on the website and I hope you will find the site to be of benefit, I welcome any input from affiliated clubs such as links to good quality or important sites, photographs and interesting articles from around the country.

We have organised SSTRAI Logo baseball caps for members at a cost of only €6.00, if your club is interested in obtaining some, drop me an e-mail or give me a call see details below.

Looking forward to seeing you during the year,

Tight lines for 2010,

*Bob Seward*

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