

2011 Redd Count at 1,182 2nd best in last 10 years

IFI carry out an annual count of the redds on the river as part of the process of trying to estimate the actual level of stock in the river.

Its importance is limited by the impact of weather conditions at spawning time as high water makes it very difficult to see and count the redds and spawning activity in wider parts of the main river may not be visible. Thus while a comparison between individual years may not be valid the overall trend over the years is important as an indicator of the relative health of the stock.

This is particularly so in the absence of a fully functioning counter (the counter at Clohamon provides only a partial count) and in recent years with no angling or net returns available due to the closure of the fishery.

The 2011 count has returned 1,182 redds, which while still well below 2007's 1,801 redds is the second best in the last 10 years and considerably up on 2010's disappointing count of 635.

This in the context of anecdotal reports of very poor returns in some other rivers in particular the Nore. The [full series of counts over the past 15 years](#) is shown on a separate page and is well worth studying.

While the increase in spawning is to welcomed there is still a very long way to go before the Slaney salmon run is returned to the levels it had before the arrival of UDN and high seas netting in 1966.

With the river open for catch and release in 2012 and anglers once again on the bank in march anglers have a major role to play in being vigilant and help protect damage from pollution and poaching. In particular they need to ensure all anglers are adhere to the rules of catch and release and the requirement to use single barbless hooks for all fishing on the river