

MEETING WITH INLAND FISHERIES IRELAND, CLONMEL ON NOVEMBER 13.

The Chairman and Secretary of Slaney River Trust met with IFI personnel to discuss a range of issues. It was felt the Agenda for the meeting and a brief note of the discussion might be of interest to SRT's members, as follows:

1. Clohamon weir rocky ramp pass. A further meeting is to be held with Ciaran Byrne, IFI CEO, to progress this project.
2. New counter for the Slaney. IFI explained a counter on the Barrow is the next priority. IFI remains committed to a Slaney counter after that.
3. Baltinglass weir rocky ramp pass. Progress is very slow.
4. Three hydro schemes on Slaney tributaries which may impede fish passage. Action has been taken on all three.
5. Poaching. SRT felt this was a major problem in 2012. A robust discussion took place on measures to reduce it in 2013 and beyond.
6. Opening of river in 2013. It is likely to open in March 2013 and will be catch and release. SRT feel strongly the river should close at end August.
7. Further co-operation between IFI and SRT was discussed and Slaney logbook returns will be made available to SRT when they have been prepared.
8. Enniscorthy Bridge Pool. SRT has concerns that fish passage may be impeded in low water. IFI outlined the formation of a new association there and the conservation measures it will pursue.
9. DNA analysis of Slaney salmon in 2013. This proposal, prepared by scientists in IFI, was discussed and is to be progressed further.
10. Private waterkeepers. There are too few on the Slaney and SRT will seek to encourage more members to become private waterkeepers.
11. Seal, cormorant predation. Work on the seal project continues into 2013. A report on cormorant predation is on the IFI website.
12. Pollution. SRT was active in reporting and investigating the Bunclody sewage works discharge into the river in spring 2012 and taking steps to lobby the authorities to ensure it can't happen again.
13. SRT will again seek a suitable project to apply for Conservation Stamp funding in 2013 and will apply to IFI under their Sponsorship Scheme for support for another Casting Class on the Slaney – probably on Saturday 22 June.