

Angling
Ireland



River Inny Angling Guide

Introduction

The River Inny spans a large catchment area, rising near Oldcastle in County Meath and flowing for 88km via Lough Sheelin to its confluence with the River Shannon at Lough Ree. Much of the Inny runs over limestone, making it a productive river which supports good stocks of various fish species including trout, roach, bream, perch, tench and pike. It is regarded as a mixed fishery, with game, coarse and pike angling being popular at various points along its course, attracting both domestic and international anglers. The river varies in depth from 1.5m to 3m and is easily accessible for most parts, particularly at bridges, and the main lake systems are well serviced with boat launching points. Key coarse angling locations include the Red Bridge area and Coolnagun Bridge. Popular fly angling locations include Ballymahon and Abbeyshrule. Trout angling is very popular on the main Inny lakes such as Sheelin & Derravaragh, and also on the adjacent Loughs Owel & Ennell. Quality pike angling can also be found on these lakes and on the slower stretches along the main channel of the river.

Access Points

Red Bridge – This is a popular coarse and pike fishery with many match angling events held here. The venue can produce good bags of roach, bream, roach-bream hybrids, perch & tench. From Red Bridge to Lough Ree is slow and deep (navigable from Lough Ree) and is typical coarse fish and pike angling water. Much of the area from Red Bridge upriver to Shrule is also slow and suited to coarse and pike fishing. The best of the coarse fishing tends to be later in the year, from October through December.

Shrule Bridge to Ballymahon – This area is a productive wet and dry fly trout fishery. There is over 2km of fast flowing water which is accessible throughout. The faster water extends for a further 2km upriver of the town of Ballymahon. Trout fly angling is popular here throughout the season from March 1st to September 30th. Weighted nymph rigs are most popular as are small olives, small grey dusters and black klinkhammers, at certain times. There are car parking facilities adjacent to the river at Ballymahon.

Ballymahon to Newcastle Bridge – The first 2km above Ballymahon Bridge presents good fly fishing territory in fast moving water. Heading upstream to Newcastle Bridge, the flows are slower and the deeper water produces good coarse and pike angling.

Newcastle to Abbeyshrule – This is predominantly slow deep water favoured by coarse and pike anglers. Car parking facilities are available at Newcastle Bridge and a newly developed walkway has been created along the western bank. It fishes best for coarse fish in early summer and again in October/November. The Royal Canal is accessible upstream of Newcastle, presenting further opportunities for the coarse and pike angler.

Abbeyshrule Village – The Inny at Abbeyshrule presents both trout and coarse fishing areas upstream and downstream of Abbeyshrule village. Trout of 2lb are not uncommon on the fly here. Bank fishing for pike is popular upstream to Ballynacarrow Bridge with pike up to 10kgs recorded, spinning from the bank. Smaller pike are recorded in the vicinity of the aqueduct at Abbeyshrule. This area has good stocks of perch, roach, bream, and tench.

Ballycorkey Bridge – Ballycorkey Bridge provides good access to both banks of the Inny. This is one of the more productive pike angling stretches with pike in excess of 10kg present. The main methods for pike angling are spinning artificial lure and suspended deadbait. Coarse fishing is also popular in this location with good bags of perch, roach, bream and tench recorded. It fishes best from September onwards. Although a more popular pike and coarse angling location, trout catches have been recorded along this stretch also. Coarse and pike angling is the predominant activity above Ballycorkey as far as Lough Iron.

Lough Iron – Access to Lough Iron is difficult and boat angling is the only option. Access by boat is from the main River Inny. It has been known for the occasional wild brown trout but the main target species is pike. The lake is surrounded by dense reed beds, providing good cover for pike and fish in excess of 10kg are present. Lough Iron is a fantastic wildlife sanctuary afforded special protection under the EU Habitats Directive for species of duck, geese and plover.

Ballinalack – The River Inny at Ballinalack is predominantly a pike and coarse fishery. Access is good from Ballinalack downriver along the east bank. Spinning for pike from the bank is the most popular method of angling, downriver towards Lough Iron and upriver to Lough Derravaragh. Coarse angling is popular in this location also, with good bags of perch, roach, bream and tench recorded.

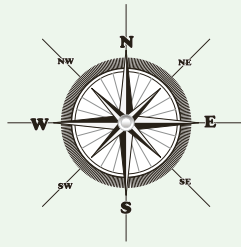
Inny Bridge (New Bridge) – Upstream of Ballinalack, good access is provided at Inny Bridge, which is located just outside the village of Multyfarnham. Inny Bridge lies close to the outfall of Lough Derravaragh, downstream from the 'roach hole' and this area is popular for pike and coarse angling. It provides extensive access for bank fishing on the right hand side upstream and on the left hand side downstream.

Coolnagun Bridge – Access here is on the right hand side upstream and on the right hand (opposite) side downstream. It is a productive spot for coarse anglers with the best of the fishing in the spring. Pike are present too with the best fishing in the winter months.



Red Bridge

River Inny Angling Map



Longford

Permits

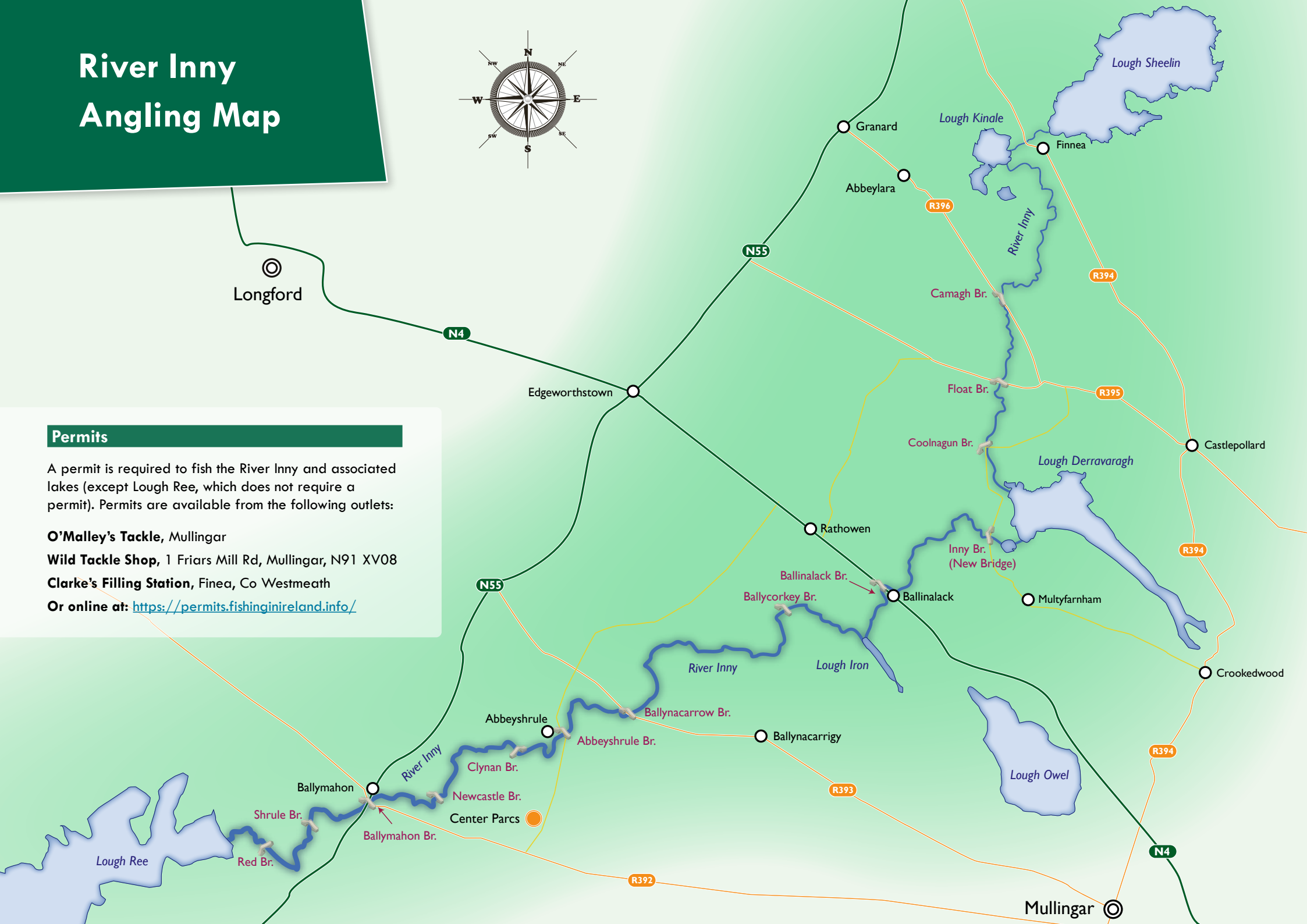
A permit is required to fish the River Inny and associated lakes (except Lough Ree, which does not require a permit). Permits are available from the following outlets:

O'Malley's Tackle, Mullingar

Wild Tackle Shop, 1 Friars Mill Rd, Mullingar, N91 XV08

Clarke's Filling Station, Finea, Co Westmeath

Or online at: <https://permits.fishinginireland.info/>



Competition Stretch – The section upstream of Coolnagun Bridge is known as the ‘Competition Stretch’ as it was developed in the 1980’s as a match fishing destination. It fishes well for coarse fish year round but peak fishing time is in April and May. Pike are also present year round and it is a popular destination for pike anglers in the winter months.

Float Bridge – There is access at float bridge on both banks, upstream and downstream of the bridge. It produces good coarse fishing, particularly from October through December and pike are present year round.

Lakes on the Inny system

Lough Sheelin is the first lough on the Inny system and is regarded as one of Ireland’s top wild brown trout lakes. It produces a very large average size of fish, with trout to 10lb caught most years. The prime fishing is in late May and early June when the mayfly hatch peaks, and fishing the spent gnat late into the evening is the preferred method.

Lough Kinale is immediately downstream of Lough Sheelin and is mainly fished for pike. It can only be fished by boat and access is via Finea and via a slipway at the eastern side of the adjoining Derravaragh Lough.

Lough Derravaragh is a popular pike and trout angling location. Trout angling is more popular in the northern shallow sections, with fish averaging 1.5lb but larger fish up to 6lb are present. Pike lure fishing is popular throughout the lake, with fish in the double figures common and fish in the mid 20lbs a regular occurrence.

Lough Iron is located downstream of Ballinalack bridge on the River Inny. It is a narrow lake fringed with dense weed beds and holds good numbers of large pike and a good stock of coarse fish. Access is only by boat.

Lough Ree is a fantastic mixed stock fishery, offering a variety of angling all year round. Fly fishing for trout is popular from April to September and the mayfly fishing can be very good. Trout in excess of 20lbs have been landed and fish of 2lbs to 6lbs are common. It is a very well regarded pike fishery capable of producing fish in excess of 30lb. Coarse angling is more common from the banks at Lanesboro (north Lough Ree) and Athlone (bottom of Lough Ree) and all-access facilities are available at both locations. (No permit is required to fish Lough Ree).

Other lakes nearby

Lough Ennell is situated 5 km south of Mullingar. It is renowned for its stock of wild brown trout and is also highly recommended for pike fishing.

Lough Owel is situated 4 km north west of Mullingar. It holds a good stock of wild and stocked brown trout averaging approximately 1.5 lbs.

Further information on all related fisheries can be found at www.fishinginireland.info



Rules & Regulations

Open season (trout)

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| River Inny | 1 st March – 30 th September |
| Lough Ennell | 1 st March – 12 th October |
| Lough Owel | 1 st March – 12 th October |
| Lough Derravaragh | 1 st March – 12 th October |
| Lough Ree | 1 st March – 30 th September |

Open season (pike and coarse fish)

There is no open/closed season for coarse fish or pike. They can be fished all year round.

Bag limits

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Trout | 2 fish daily bag limit |
| Pike | 1 fish up to 50cm daily bag limit |
| Coarse fish | 4 fish up to 25cm |

Size limits

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Trout | 36cm on Loughs Ennell, Derravaragh, Ree and Owel; 25cm on the River Inny |
| Pike | up to 50cm |
| Coarse fish | up to 25cm |

Other Regulations

- Live baiting is strictly prohibited.
- Eel angling is prohibited.
- Catch and release for all species is encouraged.



We all have a responsibility to fish sustainably, to ensure our fisheries can be enjoyed by future generations. Please practice Catch & Release for the majority of the fish you catch. Make sure to ‘Check, Clean & Dry’ your equipment when moving between fisheries to help stop the spread of invasive species. For more information see: <https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/what-we-do/research/research-theme-biosecurity>





Driving times to the Inny

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Galway | 1.5hrs |
| Dublin | 1.5hrs |
| Belfast | 2.5hrs |
| Cork | 3hrs |
| Rosslare | 2hrs 45 min |

Getting to the River Inny

The Inny can be accessed by taking the M4 from Galway (1.5 hrs) via Athlone; taking the M4 from Dublin (1.5 hrs) via Mullingar; taking the M1 and N52 from Belfast (2.5 hrs) via Ardee & Mullingar; taking the M8 and N80 from Cork via Tullamore or taking the M11 and M4 from Rosslare, via Dublin.

Disclaimer

Every effort has been taken to ensure accuracy in the compilation of this publication and associated maps and web pages. Inland Fisheries Ireland cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions therein. Some sporting activities may by their nature be hazardous and involve

risk. It is recommended in such cases to take out personal accident insurance. While many operators would have public liability insurance it is always advisable to check with the establishment or operator concerned as to the level of cover carried.

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