

## Irish Angling Festivals 2009

IRELAND'S match fishing in Ireland is growing and so is the amount prize money. This year there will be around £340,000 paid out from sponsorship, the return of entry fees and optional pools.

And yet the money isn't the biggest attraction – it is the extraordinary consistency of the fishing and the famous Irish 'craic' that is inevitable when a group of like-minded on holiday.

There are more roach, hybrids, skimmers, bream and perch, throughout the country and they are fodder to the rising number of matchmen opting for real traditional style fishing; some of them spending a month or more 'on the circuit'.

There are angling festivals from April through to October – mainly five-day events from Monday to Friday – covering rivers, lakes and canals; so there is certainly plenty of variety and availability.

Three brand new sponsored festivals have appeared on the 2009 list, the first being the Portumna International on the Lower Shannon with €1,000 sponsorship from Shannon Oaks Hotel.

It is a four-day competition timed to coincide with the rivers very best fishing as masses of big roach and hybrids pack in the Shannon prior to spawning. Anyone looking for a two-week break could extend their stay and compete the following week in the Banagher Festival, which uses the same venues.

Famous Ballinamore in County Leitrim stages its first major angling competition on five different waters around the town from June 8-12, while throwing €1,500 into the pot with a promise to return all entry fees and optional pools.

Thirdly, Killeshandra Angling Club is sponsoring a brand new four day festival on the well know Lough Oughter waters that are capable of chucking up a few really big weights. It starts on July 21.

Interested? Your next step is to contact the various organisers (contact details are shown) to ensure there are tickets available and then organise your travel and accommodation.

### *COARSE Angling Festivals 2009*

#### **April 20-23 Portumna International Angling Festival**

Fishing on the Lower Shannon  
Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717

#### **April 27-1 May Banagher Festival**

River Shannon, Co Offaly

Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717

**April 27-1 May Waterways of Ireland Fermanagh Classic.**

River Erne, County Fermanagh.  
Fermanagh Tourism 0286 6325050  
Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717  
Ireland Travel 01322 559059 or 07736 129627

**May 4-8 Mahon's Festival**

River Erne, Co Fermanagh  
Ireland Travel 01322 559059 or 07736 129627

**May 11-15 Gold Cup**

River Erne, Co Fermanagh  
Ireland Travel 01322 559059 or 07736 129627

**May 18-22 Boswell's Festival**

River Erne, Co Fermanagh  
Ireland Travel 01322 559059 or 07736 129627

**May 25-30 Erne Rose Bowl**

River Erne, Co Fermanagh  
Ireland Travel 01322 559059 or 07736 129627

**May 25-29 Gowna Seniors Festival**

Lakes around Gowna  
Andy Bettinson 07967 690755

**May 30 June 2-4 Prosperous Gala.**

Grand Canal, Co Kildare.  
Dermot O'Farrell 0353 45 868955

**June 1-3-5 Edenderry Festival.**

Grand Canal, Co Offaly.  
Pauric Kelly 00353 86 3503117

**June 1-5 Stena Challenge**

Five different lakes around Gowna & Carrigallen  
Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717

**June 8-12 Ballinamore Spring Festival**

Five different lakes around Leitrim  
Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717

**July 21-24 Killeshandra Angling Festival**

Local lakes  
Telephone 00353 87931 1467

**July 27-30 Belturbet Summer Festival**

Local lakes

Mark Renshaw 00353 87 6166837

**July 31- 3 August Clones Festival**

Local lakes

Donal McQuirk 00353 86 8371169

**August 31-4 September Belturbet Autumn Festival**

Local lakes

Mark Renshaw 00353 87 6166837

**August 31- 4 September Gowna Festival**

Local lakes, Co Cavan

Andy Bettinson 07967 690755

**September 7-11 Tennants Arva Festival**

Local lakes, Co Cavan.

Eamonn Gray 00353 494335127

**September 14-18 King of Clubs**

Cavan and Leitrim Lakes.

Irish Ferries Holidays 08705 171717

**September 21-25 Monaghan Pairs**

Lough Muckno, Co Monaghan.

Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717

**September 21-25 Cootehill Championship**

Local lakes, Co Cavan.

Eileen Smith 00353 49 5553039

Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717

**September 21-25 Carrick-on-Shannon Festival**

River Shannon, Co Leitrim.

Charlotte Fearon 00353 71 9620313

**September 27-2 October Carrigallen Festival**

Local lakes near Carrigallen

Ann McGovern 00353 49 4339938

**Cork Angling Festivals 2009**

Inniscarra Lake

Callaghan's Open (3 days) May 31- 2 June

O, Callaghan's Cup (3 days) June 4- 6

August Open (1 day) August 29

Vintners Cup (3 days) August 30-1 Sep

Ottewill Trophy (3 Days) September 2- 4

Anglers World Holidays 01246 221717

## **USEFUL CONTACTS**

### **Irish Bait & Tackle Limited**

For delivery of maggot, worm, caster and groundbait, to stockists across Ireland. Tel: 00353 499526258 or visit [www.irishbaitandtackle.com](http://www.irishbaitandtackle.com)

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