Slaney Fishing Report - Opening Week May 2011

Following a two year closure for salmon fishing on the Slaney anglers returned for the opening day last Thursday 12th May. The river is **strictly Catch and Release** this year. With low water levels prospects appeared to be poor. However, many fishermen were surprised with some excellent sport. The lower part of the river had a reasonable number of fish about but salmon were few and far between in the upper reaches, probably due to the exceptionally low water. In all it is estimated around 40 salmon were taken in the opening week, with most fish in very good condition and in weight averaging 8 to 12 lbs.

The opening day was a perfect day for fishing with cloud and a good westerly wind. Most anglers were equipped with a floating line and small flies. Anglers on Clobemon got off to a great start. Patrick McManmon was the first to land a salmon of 8 pounds while his father Sean hooked and played 3 Springers only to be denied by last minute gasps at the bank by all 3 of them. Eoghan Clear fishing the same beat had 4 good takes but again failed to land a fish. Perhaps the barbless single hooks might be to blame. Brian Stephens fishing on Tombrick was doing his best to get into the action and managed to hook and land a beautiful fresh fish of 10 lbs later in the day. On the next beat up, John Carroll rose one fish five times but it never took hold. At Clohamon, Paddy Syme from Gorey was more successful. In a magical 2 hour spell Paddy landed 4 fish of 8, 9, 10 and 12 pounds, all taken in the same pool on a size 8 yellow shrimp fished on a midge tip line. David Dobbs also had good sport landing 3 fish of 8, 9 and 12 pounds, one taken on a Claret Shrimp and two on the Yellow Shrimp, also taken on a midge tip line. Paul Mosse from Kilkenny also had some excitement managing to tempt three fish but none held on. In the Enniscorthy area Jackie Byrne had five salmon to 18 lbs. Other fisheries along the river seem to be closed, probably due to the season opening so late while other anglers decided not to venture out due to low water.

Following opening day, fish continued to be caught. Those in amongst the action included Virginia Webb from England who had 2 fish for her weekend trip of 8 and 10lbs, Donald Ogilvy Watson had an 8 pounder, Daniel Dobbs had a 10 pounder and Tom Tynan also landed a ten pounder. Well known vet, John Ryan, from Tipperary had an 8 pounder and lost another, while his son, Dr. Jim Ryan, also lost a fish. Downstream Kevin Clayton landed two 9 pounders and Willie O'Connor had an 8 pounder. Johan Van Der Flier from Wicklow landed his first salmon, a magnificent 13 pound beauty, at Clohamon on a small yellow Allys Shrimp. Johan managed to land the fish, weigh it in his net, take a quick photo before returning the fish which he'll remember for the rest of his life.

Reports from Enniscorthy Bridge suggest that at least four salmon were caught, including a 9 lb. fish for Seamus O'Leary and one of 10 lbs. for Nicholas Carroll. At the Bridge there are quite a few fish coming in on each tide but they then follow the tide back to Wexford. All they need is a drop of rain and they'll be on their way to the Wicklow mountains. When it comes, make sure you are on the river as sport should be excellent. For availability on Slaney fishing log on to www.slaneyrivertrust.ie.