

Land-locked lamprey: We need your help!



Lamprey are an elongate, eel-like fish but have no true jaws. Instead they have a sucker-like mouth that they use to attach to host fish. The sea and river lamprey normally live at sea as adults, attaching themselves to a wide range of host species. However, a limited number of non-migratory lampreys were identified from Irish lakes in the late 1950's and early 1960's. These samples were provided by anglers – with a number of valuable results coming from Lough Conn and Lough Derg.

WE NEED YOUR HELP AS AN ANGLER.....



In the last couple of years, we have received many stories of anglers landing fish with an eel-like fish attached. The stories have come mainly from L. Derg during the mayfly season. Similar ones come from L. Conn, again, during the mayfly.

Land-locked lamprey do not go to sea but will attach themselves to host fish in lakes. These hosts may well be the bigger fish present – adult salmon, large brown trout, adult pike or bream. You may well land one attached to your prized fish. Or you may notice round or disc-like scarring marks on the sides of your fish – where the lamprey had been attached.

We are anxious to collect information on both forms of 'evidence' of land-locked sea lamprey and you, the angler, are the best person to help.

What to do: *If you land an angling fish with an eel- like fish attached (see Photo)*

- enjoy your sport fish, either for eating or for catch-and-release BUT
- please retain the other fish for us to carry out a scientific examination
- Put it in a freezer or post it or ring one of our contact numbers to arrange collection
- Remember we need a date, location on the lake and type of fish to which the lamprey was attached



If you notice round or disc-like markings on the fish skin with scarring of flesh we would love to hear from you with a location, number of marks, type of fish etc. A photo via digital camera or camera phone would be particularly helpful. Remember to include date and location of capture.

What to do: *If you land an angling fish with round markings on the skin (see Photo)*

- record of the angling fish size and species
- location and number of marks
- A photo via digital camera or camera phone would be particularly helpful
- Remember to include date and location of capture.

Your help can make this project a success! If you can help us with evidence of markings and/or landed lamprey please contact your nearest Fisheries Board staff listed below:

Contacts:

Shannon RFB: Head Office 061 300238; Ken O' Neill 087 3296306

North Western RFB: Head Office 096 22788; Kevin O'Boyle 087 9622074; Markus Müller 087 2733763; Peter Collins 087 2515424

CFB: Nicola O' Gorman 087 2801423; Sean Rooney 087 6468607; Jimmy King 087 6468608

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