



Institute of Fisheries Management

IFM 48th Annual Conference

“The BIG Fish”



Hilton Hotel, Belfast.
October 10th – 12th 2017

Tuesday October 10th. 9.30 – 17.20

| <i>Opening Session</i> | | |
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| Session Chair: | | |
| 09:30 | Robert Rosell, Ireland Branch Chair | Welcome |
| 09:40 | TBC | Official Conference Opening |
| 10:00 | Paulo Prodohl, Queens University, Belfast | <u>John Gregory Memorial Lecture</u> |
| 10:30 | Steve Axford, IFM | Fisheries data, sound science and fake news. |
| 10.50 | Break | |
| <i>Session 1. Tagging and Telemetry</i> | | |
| Session Chair: Ryan Mowat. RS Aqua | | |
| 11:20 | Richard Kennedy, Agri Food and Bioscience Institute Northern Ireland (AFBI) | The use of acoustic telemetry in the management of salmonid stocks in Northern Ireland. |
| 11:40 | Joel Rees-Jones, Natural Resources Wales | The influence of sluice gate operation on the migratory behaviour of Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> (L.) smolts |
| 12:00 | Marcus Walters, Deveron, Isla and Bogie Rivers Trust | Migration pathways, speed and mortality of Atlantic salmon smolts in a river and the near-shore coastal marine environment. |
| 12:20 | Matt Newton, Atlantic Salmon Trust | The marine migration of Atlantic salmon - observing the unseen |
| 12:40 | | Panel Q&A |
| 12.50 | BREAK | |
| <i>Session 2. Catchment Impacts</i> | | |
| Session Chair: Seamus Connor. DAERA | | |
| 14:00 | Ben Strachan, Ulster University | Slow invasion of Lough Neagh by <i>Dreissena polymorpha</i> (Zebra mussel) |

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| 14:20 | Gareth Davies, Environment Agency | Understanding the risks: Science underpinning the management of invasive non-native fishes. |
| 14:40 | Ian Stewart Russon, APEM | Provision of fish passage in the Worfe catchment |
| 15:00 | Padraic O'Malley, Inland Fisheries Ireland | Ireland's Fish Counter Programme and Management of the Data. |
| 15:20 | | Panel Q&A |
| 15:30 | BREAK | |

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| <i>Session 3. Environmental Change</i> | | |
| Session Chair: | | |
| 16:00 | Nicola Teague, APEM Ltd | Development of a model to associate changes in river flow and wetted area with potential impacts upon deposited shad eggs |
| 16:20 | Lynda Connor, Inland Fisheries Ireland | Potential climate change impacts on Arctic char <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> L. In Ireland |
| 16:40 | Ian Winfield, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology | Long-term fish and fisheries monitoring in Cumbria, UK: where carps, charr, coregonids and climate change collide |
| 17:00 | Rossa O'Briain, Inland Fisheries Ireland | Implications of a warming climate for brown trout populations inhabiting different river types |
| 17:20 | | Panel Q&A |
| | BREAK | |

17.40 IFM Annual General Meeting

All IFM members are invited to attend. The agenda, and minutes of last years meeting, will be available in advance on the IFM website and in hard copy at the conference.

19.30 IFM Annual Conference Dinner. To be held at the Belfast Harbour Masters Office.

Wednesday October 11th 9.15 – 17.45

| <i>Session 4. Catchment Management</i> | | |
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| Session Chair: | | |
| 09:15 | Nathy Gilligan, Office of Public Works | Flood management in Ireland |
| 09:35 | Hamish Moir, CBEC | Natural Flood Management and the secondary benefits to instream ecology and fisheries |
| 09:55 | Joe Larscheid, American Fisheries Society | Restoring and Enhancing Trout Fisheries in Iowa: A Fisheries Management Success Story |
| 10:15 | Alec Rolston, Dundalk Institute of Fisheries Management | Catchment management |
| 10:35 | Martin Butler, Inland Fisheries Ireland | Managing <i>Lagarosiphon major</i> in Lough Corrib |
| 10:55 | | Panel Q&A |
| 11.05 | BREAK | |
| <i>Session 5. Lake Fishery Management</i> | | |
| Session Chair: Robert Rosell. AFBI and IFM Ireland Branch | | |
| 11:35 | Graeme Pierson, Environment Agency | Why not just take a dip? – A new approach to lake fish sampling for monitoring and management. |
| 11:55 | Jon Grey, Wild Trout Trust | Fuel for Lake Fisheries |
| 12.15 | Ash Girdler, A.G.A.Group | Lake Fishery Management. More Muck Less Money |
| 12:35 | Andy Hinds, Fishtrack Ltd | Pike management in the Norfolk Broads |
| 12.55 | | Panel Q&A |

13.15 – 17.45 Field Trips (packed lunch provided)

Trip 1. Lough Neagh fisheries Co-Operative.

At almost 400KM squared in surface area, Lough Neagh is the largest Lake in the British isles, and is home to commercial fisheries for eel, perch, pollan, trout, bream and roach. Delegates will be collected by coach and taken to the headquarters of the Lough Neagh Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd at Toomebridge, Co Antrim.

Staff of the Co-operative will give a guided tour of the co-ops fish processing and facilities, and talk about the long standing tradition of eel and scale fish fishing with a focus on sustainable harvest. They will discuss working with DAERA inland fisheries management and AFBI to inform diversification of operations toward maximising value from all species within science based sustainable management plans.

River Flow conditions permitting the annual Silver eel run should be underway.

Trip 2. Guided tour of Strangford Lough

Strangford Lough is an internationally important wetland and sea lough. It was northern Ireland's first Marine Conservation Zone and is a Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area. It has one of the strongest tidal races in the world with the tide exchanging through the narrows between the villages of Portaferry and Strangford. The lough has many islands and islets and the surrounding countryside is famous for its drumlin dominated landscape.

The tour will include a stop on the shore where we will meet a WWT guide who will interpret the significance of the ecology of the lough including its international importance as a staging post for migratory birds. The tour will then progress to Portaferry where we will have the chance to tour the Department of Environment Agriculture and Rural Affairs fishery protection vessel the Queen of Ulster. We will take the short ferry trip across the narrows to Strangford before completing the lap of the lough with a final stop on the western shore to view the drumlin landscape, a relic of the last ice age.

Interpretation on the local fisheries including Sea trout will be provided by local resident and IFM Ireland Branch Chair Robert Rosell.

19.30 – 22.00 The IFM Irish Social. The Dark Horse Pub, Cathedral Quarter, Belfast.

Thursday October 12th 9.15 – 15.40

| <i>Session 6. Transitional Waters</i> | | |
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| Session Chair: | | |
| 09:15 | Steve Colclough, IFM | Work of the Estuarine and Marine Specialist Section of the Institute |
| 09:35 | Kathryn Nelson, Sussex IFCA | Supporting marine spatial management using a multiparameter approach to assess ecosystem value and fishing intensity |
| 09:55 | Alan Barr, RPS | Dublin Port – the challenge of expansion within a sensitive marine environment |
| 10:15 | Amy Pryor, Thames Estuary Partnership | Coastal Partnerships and the need for collaboration across freshwater/marine boundaries |
| 10:35 | Trevor Harrison, Northern Ireland Environment Agency | Fish Monitoring in Northern Ireland's Transitional Waters |
| 10:55 | | Panel Q&A |
| 11:05 | Break | |
| <i>Session 7. Evidence</i> | | |
| Session Chair: Ian Winfield. Centre for Ecology and Hydrology | | |
| 11:35 | Dennis Ensing, Agri Food and Bioscience Institute Northern Ireland | Biogeography of Irish freshwater fish fauna |
| 11:55 | Andy Harrison, Bournemouth University | Conserving fishes with cryptic ecologies: Is Common Standards Monitoring for lampreys fit-for purpose? |
| 12:15 | Ronan Matson, Inland Fisheries Ireland | Moving from multiple pass depletion to single pass timed electrofishing for fish community assessment in wadeable streams |
| 12:35 | Eric Gillies, CBEC | The relationship between fluid mechanics and salmonid spawning habitat in gravel bed rivers |
| 12:55 | Adam Brown, Substance | Sea Angling 2016 – a survey of catches and expenditure by recreational sea anglers in the UK |
| 13:15 | | Panel Q&A |
| 13:25 | Lunch | |
| <i>Session 8. Action</i> | | |

| Session Chair: David Bunt. IFM | | |
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| 14:20 | Ken Whelan, Atlantic Salmon Trust | Angling development challenges and emerging solutions across a range of countries |
| 14:40 | Shaun Leonard, Wild Trout Trust | An odyssey: habitat improvement in river fisheries |
| 15:00 | Genevieve Madgwick, Natural England | What role do fish communities play in lake nature conservation? |
| 15:20 | | Panel Q&A |
| 15:30 | David Bunt, IFM | Conference wrap up |
| 15:40 | CONFERENCE CLOSE | |