

FISHERIES

ESB has the capacity to produce 220 MW of electricity by harnessing the power of five rivers, enough to power 180,000 homes with clean renewable energy every year. As this activity impacts on fish migration, we work hard to conserve and protect the fish in those rivers.



WHAT WE DO

CONSERVATION

Since the 1920s, ESB has acted responsibly in the area of fish conservation in managing, conducting and preserving the fisheries on the rivers on which we operate dams.

COMMUNITY

Working with key stakeholders, we carry out river development work aimed at improving river habitats for fish species. This work improves the instream habitats for fish species as well as bankside access for anglers.

IRISH RIVERS & FISH



We operate programmes on the **RIVERS SHANNON, ERNE, LEE, LIFFEY AND CLADY/CROLLY** that protect eel and salmon stocks on these rivers. On the Shannon for instance, we protect fish habitats and enable migration through the addition of spawning gravels, rock and boulders, along with the construction of weirs and fish passes to bypass man-made in-river structures. Fencing to prevent livestock access to the rivers, along with improvements to public access, have also been added.



BREAM



TENCH



ROACH



RUDD



PERCH



CARP



EEL

We operate a **TRAP AND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME** for migrating silver eel. Juvenile eel coming from the Atlantic are captured in elver boxes and released into freshwater habitats upstream of the stations. When fully grown the adult eels move downstream and are captured in large river nets. They are released downstream of the stations where they continue their ocean migration.



SALMON

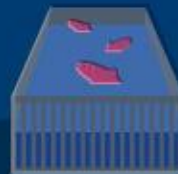
We maintain and operate **FISH PASSES AND HATCHERIES** that help conserve stocks of salmon on these rivers. Salmon stocks on the vast majority of European and Irish rivers have declined dramatically in recent decades – primarily due to declining stocks and marine survival rates of less than 5% – so it's essential that we continue to support the population.



It takes **14-19 YEARS** for juvenile eels to grow to adulthood, and commence their migration to the Sargasso Sea.



Approximately **7.5 million elvers** are captured and safely released on an annual basis.



In **1958** the **PARTEEN HATCHERY** was opened on the Shannon and was the first hatchery in Ireland to rear Atlantic Salmon.



3 SALMON CONSERVATION HATCHERIES are currently operated by ESB on the Shannon, Lee and Erne rivers.



5,000KM are covered by eels during their **MIGRATION** from Ireland to the Sargasso Sea.



WE EXCEED OUR EU AND NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS in relation to eel migration through our 'Trap and Transport' Programme.



8 FISH PASSES AND LIFTS have been built to allow all fish to travel freely along the rivers.



Approximately **600,000 SALMON FRY** and 90,000 salmon smolts were released from the Parteen Hatchery in 2016.

BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE

ESB is committed to Ireland's environment and natural landscape, with sustainability as our core value. We focus significant resources on waterways and fish conservation to ensure their accessibility and enhance their amenity value.



LOCAL

Riverbanks are safer and more accessible with stiles, footbridges, gates, fencing and signage.



NATIONAL

Our rivers attract many visitors. Good fishing and clean rivers ensures these visitors return.



GLOBAL

We help combat declining stocks by maintaining fish populations and ensuring the sustainability of all species in our waters.

WE WORK TO ENHANCE IRISH RIVERS AND PROTECT FISH STOCKS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO ENJOY!