

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1967Statistics on catch (1960-66), tagging (1966) and capture (1960-66)  
of Atlantic salmon in Eire

by Eileen Twomey  
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries  
Dublin

The attached statistics include all the available data from 1960 to 1966. Tables 1 to 4 give some idea of the fluctuations in salmon and grilse catches since 1960. All fish captured up to the end of May are classed as salmon whereas fish captured from June onward are classed as grilse. This, it is considered, is a correct assumption from the scale reading results available from a representative number of rivers throughout the country. The only data available in catch-per-unit effort is the total catch in avoirdupois together with the number of fishing engines engaged. This gives a rather dubious figure for catch-per-unit effort and may not be acceptable.

The only tagging data available (Table 5) are for 2,971 kelts and 41 clean fish tagged in 1966 and a sample of 15,000 hatchery reared smolts tagged on the Shannon River. The tag used for smolt tagging was not considered to be very satisfactory and it may be as well to discount these results. The smolts were released as one-year olds in March 1966. There will be no results from these taggings until June or July 1967, since the River Shannon is, on the main, a grilse river.

The only available data on capture of salmon at sea (Table 6) is from what is termed "open sea" drift nets. These nets capture salmon up to a maximum distance of seven miles from the coast.

Catch Statistics.

Table 1. Export in Cwts. of salmon.

Years	Total	January/May No. %	%	June onwards No. %	%
1960	10,920	3,280	30.0	7,640	70.0
1961	9,054	2,218	24.5	6,841	75.5.
1962	18,834	2,571	13.6	16,263	86.4
1963	23,417	5,405	23.1	18,012	76.9
1964	22,642	5,050	22.3	17,592	77.7
1965	19,420	4,687	24.1	14,733	75.9
1966	17,159	4,285	24.9	12,874	75.1

Table 2. Division of arrivals of salmon at Billingsgate market, London.

Year	Total	January/May No. %	%	June onwards No. %	%
1961	8,116	1,525	18.8	6,591	81.2
1962	11,933	1,483	12.4	10,450	87.6
1963	14,277	2,917	20.4	11,360	79.6
1964	14,519	3,233	22.3	11,286	77.7
1965	19,038	2,589	28.6	6,449	71.4
1966	11,212	2,502	22.3	8,710	77.7

Table 3. Numbers of salmon sold in the Dublin wholesale fish market.

Year	Total	Jan/May No.	Percentage	June onwards No.	Percentage
1960	45,421	9,192	20.2	36,229	79.8
1961	42,316	7,926	18.7	34,390	81.3
1962	131,215	12,514	9.5	118,701	90.5
1963	104,475	15,577	14.9	88,898	85.1
1964	111,866	14,068	12.6	97,798	87.4
1965	101,728	13,191	13.0	88,537	87.0
1966	98,950	13,487	13.6	85,463	86.4

Table 4. Catch returns from the nearest 1,000 lb for commercial engines together with number of licences issued, and average catch per licence.

Year	Catch in 1,000 lbs.	No. of licences issued	% Mean Catch per commercial licence.
1960	1,134	1,195	950
1961	1,153	1,121	1,030
1962	2,606	1,180	2,210
1963	2,495	1,289	1,940
1964	2,623	1,523	1,720
1965	2,453	1,273	1,700
1966	2,406	1,842	1,250

% to nearest 10 lbs.

Table 5. Tagging data for 1966.

<u>Type of fish</u>	<u>No. tagged</u>	<u>Recaptures</u>	
		<u>Home waters</u>	<u>Greenland</u>
Smolts	15,000	-	-
Clean Salmon	41	1	-
Kelts	2,972	40	-

Table 6. Captures of salmon at sea. Details of landings from open sea drift nets (May to August).

	<u>No. of fish landed</u>	<u>Mean catch per engine</u>
1960	28,620	325
1961	22,588	224
1962	58,547	563
1963	60,197	456
1964	68,423	430
1965	98,397	520
1966	94,555	516