

ANGLING (Fresh Water): The Corrib is the largest lake in Eire, second in all Ireland to Lough Neagh, & is about 68 sq. miles in area. Nearly 150 islands, those at the north end being thickly wooded, enhance the beauty of the scenery & provide very welcome shelter in squalls & bad weather. It has been said to provide the best all-round free fishing in Great Britain or Ireland. L. Corrib is noted mainly for its brown trout & pike &, to a lesser degree, salmon. It also contains perch &, according to the "Angler's Guide", char, rudd & bream, though these latter three are never mentioned by local anglers.

The potentialities of trout fishing in the Cong, or northern, area of the lake are said to be excellent, but constant re-stocking seems very desirable, if not probably essential, since a great many fry are lost owing to the

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summer-time drying-up of many of the small streams & holes near Cong. The permeable nature of the cavernous limestone rock here is responsible for great losses in fish & fry which find their way into the maze of subterranean channels by which the waters of Loch Mask flow into the Corrib. The benefits derived from the Oughterard Hatchery (trout) are undenied, & numbers of marked trout from there are caught in the northern portion of Corrib, but, in the opinion of Cong anglers, further development on those lines is most desirable, if a high standard of catches is to be maintained. The nearest part of the lake is 1/2 ml. from Cong.

The best trout fishing is "on the dap", when the Mayfly rises, usually May & June. The first rise generally occurs in the third week of May & the May-fly persists for 3 to 4 weeks. Granted suitable conditions, the trout take avidly to the May-fly & catches of 10 to 20 trout per rod are expected each day. This year, 1945, the May-fly rose unusually early, about 10th May, & has not gone yet (9th June), being now expected to last for perhaps another week (to 15th June).

Next best season for trout is from the end of August through September, when there is a good rise to the Daddy Longlegs. Wet & dry flies also are very effective at this season. There is quite good trolling & wet fly fishing in between seasons.

Wet & dry flies are used in the early part of the year but are not much use before early May. Average weight of brown trout is 1 lb. but catches of fish weighing up to 7 lbs are quite common & fish up to 20 lbs. have been caught. Specimens of 15 lb trout are preserved at the hotels.

Popular flies are: Invicta, Connemara Black, Claret & Jay, &, in Sept., Olive & Green, Golden Olive, Orange & Green & other dry Olive flies - all size 10.

Salmon are not nearly so plentiful as trout, but salmon-fishing is quite fair during May & first week of June. Ordinary salmon flies are suitable. Average weight, about 10 lbs.

Pike & perch are very numerous in the lake & the former are obtainable up to 30 lbs. They (pike) are generally caught on the troll.

Fishing is entirely free on the lake. Accommodation at Cong (Ashford Castle & village).

Cong Angling Association members fish the northern portion of Loch Corrib. Chairman is Mr. Harry Harris, & Secretary is Mr. Micheal Ryan, both of Ryan's Hotel, Cong. Membership Fee: 2/6 per annum.

The Association holds an annual Trout-Angling Competition, Fly, on the Lake, usually 2nd week of May. Entrance fee for competition is 15/- & a size limit of 10" (12" recommended for 1946, but not decided) is imposed in respect of all fish caught. The Association recommends that a size limit be officially imposed by the authorities.

Lough Mask, nearest point of which is about 2 1/2 mls N.E. of Cong, is famous for the sporting gillaroos which it contains in great abundance. These average somewhat smaller than Loch Corrib's trout & are caught mostly on the troll, but the number of fish caught in a day on Loch Mask is generally much greater than on the other lake. The trout rise very well to the wet flies, which are the same as those used on Loch Corrib, viz., Invicta, Connemara Black, Orange & Green, Claret & Jay, Golden Olive, &, in Sept., other dry Olives - all size 10; the Yellow Wasp also is very good on L. Mask.

The May-fly generally is on the rise about one week earlier than on L. Corrib, the first rise usually taking place about the 2nd week of May; it lasts for 3 to 4 weeks - during which catches of 20 to 30 fish per rod per day are not rare. This is the best season on the lake. The Daddy Longlegs is also very effective at end of Aug. & during Sept.

Brown Trout average about 3/4 lb.

Salmon are not very plentiful, though they are occasionally caught with the usual flies. Average, 10 lbs. Best season for salmon is May/June.

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There is very good pike fishing on L. Mask, as also for perch. Fishing is entirely free.

Accommodation is available at Cong. Angling Club is at Ballinrobe.

Boats & boatmen are so numerous around Cong as to make the task of listing them very arduous. Besides, most of them have working agreements with the local Hotels, where boats & boatmen may be engaged at 15/- (2 rods if desired) per day, plus boatman's lunch.

Cross River: This little river, which flows through Cross (Cong 3 mls) to Lough Corrib, affords really good fishing for trout, averaging 1 lb, though often much larger.

Best season is early spring, when the ordinary river-flies are suitable.

In June & July the wall-fly is effective. Fishing on this stream is free.

Trout angling on Cross River would be greatly improved were the mouth cleared of the accumulated silt which chokes the passage of the water.

Accommodation at Cong, 3 miles.

Cong River & Pools in the neighbourhood: The visible flow of this river & its shorter tributaries is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. & of this, the portion at Ashford Castle is preserved by Mr. Huggard, Ashford Castle Hotel. The stream contains Brown Trout & in much smaller numbers, Salmon, Pike & Perch.

Otherwise fishing is free & the river contains some trout weighing up to 5 lbs - averaging about 1 lb.

Best fishing is in the early spring, with ordinary river flies. In June-July the wall-fly is useful. This stream flows by the village, where accommodation is available.

Numerous uprisings of the subterranean channels connecting Lochs Mask & Corrib form big pools, sometimes making small streams until they are swallowed up in the great caverns in the limestone rock. These may be fished for trout under similar conditions as on Cong River. All are free & several of these holes are found within $\frac{1}{2}$ ml of the village.

GOLFING: Ashford Castle Hotel Course (9-hole) - A small course, somewhat more than 2,000 yds long, but considered fairly sporting for its size. It is laid out on the old Deer Park, near the Castle, amidst lovely wooded surroundings on the N.E. shore of Loch Corrib.

There is no clubhouse, but the Hotel (licensed) is nearby. Green fees (Visitors): Per day 2/-; per week 10/-.

SHOOTING: This locality has long been famous for the excellent shooting obtainable in the great woods, & some coverts here provided best sport in England or Ireland for woodcock. Since then the great estate of Ashford & other wooded properties have been divided or changed hands, but the shoots may still be classed amongst the best.

There is good free rough shooting outside the demesne & according to season, a good bag of woodcock, pheasant, snipe, duck, or teal may be collected.

~~There is a large bog near Cross village, is particularly good to teal, duck & snipe, & the Neale Bog for duck & snipe. Woodcock & Pheasant are found plentifully at Garracloon, between Cross & The Neale, & there is very good duck shooting on the turloch (pond) here; shooting here also is free.~~

The Salthouse Bog, near Cross village, is particularly good to teal, duck & snipe, & the Neale Bog for duck & snipe. Woodcock & Pheasant are found plentifully at Garracloon, between Cross & The Neale, & there is very good duck shooting on the turloch (pond) here; shooting here also is free.

Dowagh property, Cross, is preserved by Capt. Browne & contains very good woodcock & pheasant.

Some thousands of acres, mostly woods, of the great Ashford Estates are preserved by Lord Oranmore & Browne, who owns the shooting rights there & arranges private shooting parties on terms.

Mr. Huggard, Ashford Castle Hotel, controls shooting rights

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SPORTS & GAMES (cont'd.)

G.A.A.: The Neale G.F.C. (Junior) - no proper field.

HANDBALL: There is a Handball Alley at Cong, but there is no Club.

BOWLS: There is a Private Putting Green at Ashford Castle Hotel - for residents only.

LAWN TENNIS: Mr. Arthur O'Connor's Court (Hard Double) at Cong (6d. per person per game).
Private Courts (Grass) at Ashford Castle Hotel - for use of residents only.

CROQUET: Private Lawn at Ashford Castle Hotel - residents only.

BILLIARDS: Private Table at Ashford Castle Hotel - residents only.

TABLE TENNIS at Ashford Castle Hotel - private.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Trout Fly-Angling Competition on Loch Corrib - usually 2nd week in May - promoted by Cong Angling Association.