Minding our Watercourses
Salmon and trout spawn on gravels in winter – lamprey spawn on gravels in late spring/summer
Coarse fish lay their eggs in weedy parts of the channel in spring/early summer
Salmon and trout use riffles in the first year and move to deeper water as they grow larger
Minnow and stickleback like slow flowing habitat in rivers big and small
Coarse fish and larger trout and pike will be found in deeper pool areas
Juvenile lamprey live buried in silty margins of watercourses

Three habitat types in watercourses:

**Riffle** - Spawning area and major source of food for fish
**Glide** - Smooth flow, over-hang of grasses gives cover to fish
**Pool** - Deeper slow flow, resting areas for adult trout, pike

Buffer Zones between the water and the land

- Fencing and providing alternative source of water
  - Avoids damage to the river bank and bed
  - Reduces siltation
  - Prevents fouling with pathogens
  - Prevents escape of N and P
- Native trees along watercourses
  - Stabilise the bank
  - Natural buffer zone
  - Important habitat for birds
  - Control instream temperature and weed growth
  - Shading/shelter for livestock
- Buffer Strips
  - Intercept silt, nutrients and improve bank stability
- Invasive plant species
  - Smother out smaller native species
  - Leave large bare areas in winter soil erosion
  - Longterm seed bank in the soil

Report infestations of invasive species www.fisheriesireland.ie or 1890 243474 / 1890 24FISH.
River Crossings

River crossings by bridge or box-culvert are preferred fisheries solutions. Pipe culverts and fords can block fish passage. Machinery in the channel can damage eggs of salmon, trout and lamprey.

Working in Watercourses - consult Inland Fisheries Ireland first

Fish and their spawning grounds are protected under the Fisheries Acts (1959 – 2010). In-stream works should not be carried out without prior consultation and approval of IFI

- Do not disturb the non-working bank slope
- Do retain vegetation at water’s edge
- Do leave working bank slope intact
- Do remove vegetation and silt material from the open channel only
- Do not remove stone or gravel
- Do place spoil along the bank outside the bank-full line, spreading thinly
- Do leave a buffer of 20m at the downstream end of a drain to act as a silt trap

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