

River View

The latest news from the Inishowen Rivers Trust

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Inishowen River Guardians wins major funding for 2021

The IRT are delighted to be one of the recipients of Rethink Ireland's **Innovate Together Fund**, securing €59,471 to deliver a new training programme for 2021. This funding will enable the Trust to employ a training co-ordinator who will be responsible for liaising with expert facilitators, developing a schedule and creating new ways of learning as we adapt to our Covid world. As part of this new 'blended learning' approach, we are also engaging the services of a film maker to create instructional videos. If you would like to apply for either of these roles, you can download the job specs from our website. Deadline for applications is 26th Jan 2021.



If you are interested in taking part in any of the courses, please contact us by sending an email to inishowenriverstrust@gmail.com. Courses are likely to start in April but courses booked out very quickly the last time so it's a good idea to get your name in early! This will ensure you are sent the list of modules before they go live on social media.

Through the courses we hope to offer as much practical experience as we can through projects such as the one we completed on the Glennagannon River in September 2020. This project involved building a natural revetment on the river banks to prevent erosion and make the banks more resilient to flooding. It was a rewarding experience and has worked a treat! Thank you to all the landowners and volunteers who engaged on this project that was funded by LAWPRO.



Volunteering with the Trust

Getting involved with the Inishowen Rivers Trust is easy! All you need to do is sign up using our **Volunteer Registration** form (see Downloads section of our website). Or send us an email and we can add you to our **mailing list**. Our volunteers are casual (just turn up!) or trained. Trained volunteers are those that complete courses in the Inishowen River Guardians Programme.

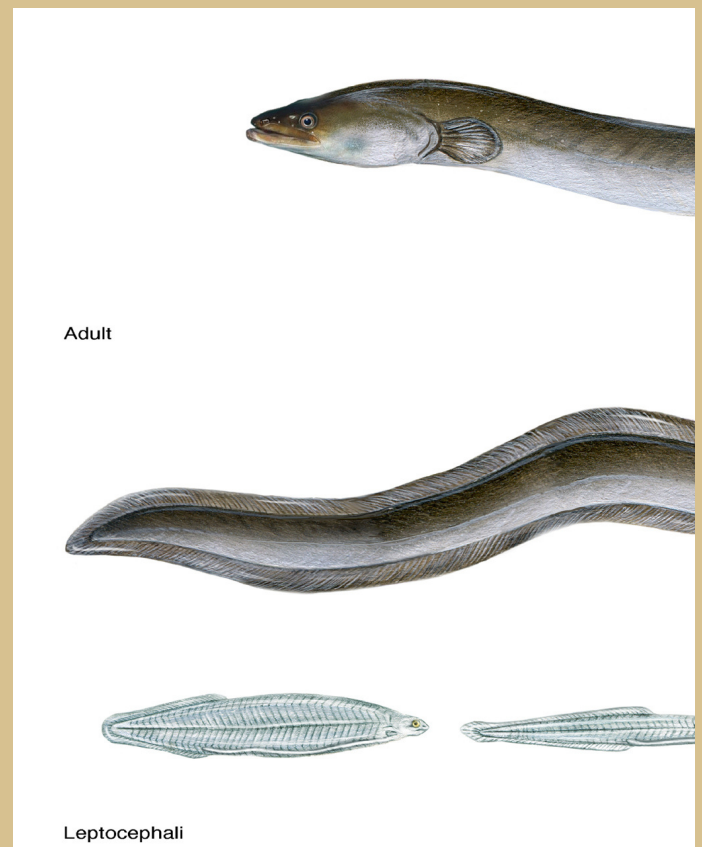


Natural Flood Management in Clonmany

We're very excited to announce another great project that the Trust will be involved with in 2021. The project entitled '**On the Ground - Natural Flood Management - Inishowen**' aims to identify and install natural measures that could alleviate flooding in the Clonmany area. This project follows on from our work with Trinity College and University of Newcastle that looked at the opportunities for NFM in Inishowen. We hope to work closely with the community on this to co-design and co-produce the measures and engage with flooding experts and ecologists. A Landowner Liaison Officer will be in place as a central point of contact for both community and the statutory agencies that are engaging in the project. This project has been supported and funded by a number of organisations including EU LEADER Programme, the Office of Public Works (OPW) and the Local Authority Waters Programme. (LAWPRO). If you wish to find out more about the project and get involved as a landowner or volunteer, please contact us by email or phone Mark on 083 812 3218. More news on this exciting project will be announced shortly.

Eel Webinar

Back in November 2020, we were awarded funding under ChangeMakers Seeds of Change Grant Scheme for a project entitled '**The Current Status & History of Eels in Inishowen**'. This project aims to raise awareness around this critically endangered species and we have commissioned dedicated Trust volunteer Tomás Lawrence to write a report that brings together the current knowledge on eels in Inishowen. Dr. Liam Campbell from the Lough Neagh Partnership, will also be joining Tomás to discuss eel fisheries on Lough Neagh and the River Bann. This free webinar will be held in March and we will advertise it on our social media channels in the coming weeks.



Tree Planting Season

At this time of year trees are dormant and this makes it easier to transplant them. November to March is the best time of year to plant bare-rooted trees. Planting young, bare-rooted trees is easy and gives the trees a chance to settle into their new environment. These trees rarely need support although you may need to mark them so you don't forget where they are! The IRT have recently produced a guide to tree planting which we are distributing to various outlets around Inishowen (post offices). You can download it from our website too (check out the Downloads page). Many thanks to Donegal County Council for supporting the publication of the booklet.

In the coming weeks, some of our collaborating landowners will be planting trees we have secured from All Ireland charity **Trees on the Land**. If restrictions lift we may be able to gather volunteers for a tree planting day. Get those spades cleaned up and ready to go!



Thanks to our funders

We are indebted to our funders for supporting our work. The IRT is a charity and rely fully on project funds and donations from the public. We have one staff member which is funded through the Resilience pilot Project funded through the Local Authority Waters Programme by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and managed by The Rivers Trust (UK).