



# *National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland*

## **The NCFFI & Fisheries Awareness Week 2011.**

Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of May to Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 saw Inland Fisheries Ireland annual Fisheries Awareness Week take place.

Just like in 2010 the National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland were heavily involved up and down the country, passing on both our knowledge and our experience to help introduce coarse angling to people who would have never experienced joys of fishing before.

Some of the main events which took place saw Carlow, Cavan, Waterford & District and Killashandra Coarse Angling Clubs hold several separate events in their local areas and in addition to this the NCFFI headed-up an Angling Council of Ireland Continuous Professional Development (CPD) coaching course for people with disabilities. Over the week the NCFFI and its member clubs had over to 200 people both young and old out on the banks.

### **Cavan Coarse Angling Club**

NCFFI affiliated [Cavan CAC](#) and IFI were on hand on Peters Lake on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Club members Derek Gibbons, John Conlon and John Connolly worked all day with David Byrne and Josie Mahon to demonstrate fishing tactics and tackle to both young and old alike. Some local anglers also gave a big hand. While the fishing was poor on the day due to the cold and wet weather it did not dampen the spirits of those in attendance. IFI had a fish tank set up on display with Tench and Bream caught from the lake for all to view and to give everyone an idea of what this urban gem can be like. Plenty of gifts and prizes such as Whips and Bait were given out on the day to make sure that all visitors to the stand had a great day and hopefully keep up coarse angling.

### **Killashandra Coarse Angling Club**

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2011 saw Killashandra Coarse Angling Club host a junior coarse angling competition in conjunction Inland Fisheries Ireland. The event was held at Killashandra Town Lake. Members from Killashandra CAC gave the attendees instruction in coarse angling for about an hour before the event took place. Tackle was both provided to the competitors as was needed. The weather on the day was both wet and windy and unfortunately this hampered the competition itself with the weights being lower than expected. Bait on the day was sponsored by Irish Bait and Tackle, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan and prizes were given to the winners at the end of the day.

Eleven junior anglers took part and everyone managed to catch something.

Killashandra are now looking forward to the hosting of the NCFFI's All Ireland Championship's on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of July.

### **Carlow Coarse Angling Club**

Great day out for I.F.I. Fisheries Awareness Week! The Carlow Coarse Angling Club in conjunction with IFI held a demonstration of feeder fishing with a group of disabled anglers from Co.Laois. The event took place in Carlow Town along the all new river promenade on Thursday 12th May 2011. The day was attended by the newly certified Angling Council of Ireland trained coaches along with committee and members of the Carlow CAC also in attendance were representatives from IFI, NCFI and Leinster Coarse Fishing Federation. The bait on the day was supplied by Irish Bait and Tackle, Ballyconnell, Co.Cavan and Gerry McStraw of Carlow Coarse Angling Supplies, Carlow. Inland Fisheries Ireland supplied the refreshments, literature, key rings, balloons and with the aid of the Carlow CAC medals for all the individuals present so they may have reminders of their day's fishing on the River Barrow. The club have now made plans to bring the group to the area for several more days of angling instruction and train their helpers so that they will also be in a position to bring the group fishing. There are also plans to roll out a new scheme to the schools in the Carlow area which will involve a days classroom teaching on Biodiversity and all things related to the river including safety. Carlow CAC will then take the pupils involved to the river for a practical demonstration on safety, angling and species identification.

Carlow CAC with the aid of the NCFI have over the previous months approached other local groups in the Carlow area and with the help of grant aid be able to roll out programmes to local groups who wouldn't normally get the opportunity to be involved in such days out.

The club are very close to completing their project on the river Barrow in Carlow town and hope to see the final product installed by August which will include a vandal proof toilet with disabled access, and with the help of the Carlow County Council a new street lighting system and walkway.

If anyone has any enquiries as regards fishing the river Barrow in Co.Carlow please do not hesitate to contact Gerry McStraw [gerrymcstraw@yahoo.ie](mailto:gerrymcstraw@yahoo.ie) or by mobile on 085 2844566.

### **Waterford & District Coarse Angling Club**

Waterford & District CAC were one of the most active NCFI clubs during Fisheries Awareness Week; the club held three separate events that introduced over ninety juniors to angling, working with local schools and local scout groups, the Waterford and District trained ACI coaches along with IFI staff ran a foreshore Biodiversity session, which introduced juniors to many different species of life along the foreshore, in addition to this the club also ran two introductory Coarse Angling sessions on Oaklands Lake, New Ross where local schools were invited along and thought the art of Coarse Angling.

### **NCFI & ACI**

The morning of Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, the Angling Council of Ireland headed up by the NCFI ran a Continuous Professional Development Coaching Course this course was attended by Coaching Ireland trained Angling Coaches from all over Ireland and was another step on the coaching ladder. The main aims of the course were to train our coaches on how to coach people with disabilities. The day was attended by nearly every federation within the ACI with 20 previously trained coaches (10 from the NCFI), the day was run by our very own Der Casey (NCFI Sectary) and Bob Seaward (Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers of Ireland).

Following the CPD coaching the group then moved to Oaklands Lake, New Ross, one of Ireland's best Coarse Angling lakes to put our training into practice. 34 people with disabilities attended the day and they received tuition from international anglers such as Fintan Brennan (Coarse Angling) and Mary Gavin Hughes (Sea Angling) and it is also great to see anglers of such standard and reputation volunteering to give someone a chance to catch a fish, Mary in particular travelled from the west of Ireland to attend the day and we may have even received convert to coarse angling as Mary managed to catch her first ever Carp.

The course's and day were a great success with many of the participants refusing to go home and enquiring as to when the next day's fishing would be.

The ACI will be continuing to roll out coaching for people with disabilities with the NCFEI heavily involved, and if you are interested in becoming a coach you can contact your member federation of the ACI and they should provide you with details of this fantastic course.

The NCFEI will be continuing to move forward with coaching and the introduction of people to coarse angling, coaching is now common place with the many junior events the Federation run. The NCFEI are now widely seen as one of the most proactive sporting organisations in Ireland when it comes to keeping their sport alive and it is amazing to see what can be done when people work together and when people are allowed to work distraction free.