

## **New tagging scheme at Careysville.**

25<sup>th</sup> August 2010: release from [Careysville Fishery](#)

Last week Careysville launched our new Salmon Pit Tagging programme, working alongside the Central Regional Fisheries Board.

A new Pit Tag counter, underwater camera and fish counter have been installed on the Careysville fish ladder over the summer.

Both ghillies at Careysville (Albert and I) have been trained in to use the tag guns and tags, to insert into salmon we release.

### ***What is a Pit Tag?***



A Pit Tag is a small (5mm) metal bar tag which is inserted into a 2 inch long yellow Floy Tag (see above).

The Floy tag is injected into the salmon just behind the dorsal fin and around 3mm down into the back of the fish.

Each tag has a unique number which gives out a signal as the fish goes through the tag counter (situated on the fish ladder south bank).

### ***Why are we tagging?***

We are working alongside the Central Regional Fisheries and the Dept. of the Marine on this project. The main aim of this 3 year project is to work out a more accurate formula to determine the total salmon run on the River Blackwater.

We will be regularly updated on the progress of our tagged fish if and when they pass through the fish counter.

### ***What else can we find out?***

1. These tags can remain in the salmon for a considerable length of time and if caught again further upstream and the info passed on, more knowledge can be gained.
2. As the project is ongoing over 3 years, we may find out more on where on the river system our Spring salmon go to spawn etc.
3. Although chances will be slim, if any of our tagged fish spawn, manage to return to sea and survive to return a second time, this would also show up on our counter.
4. How long do they remain in Careysville after being released, before they move upstream again?

The 2 photos below show the new counter. The close up photo on the right shows the tube which the fish swim through. Inside the tube are 2 magnetic metal strips at either end which count the salmon as they go through. Also within the tube is the Pit Tag counter which only counts the fish we tag. Above the tube on the right, is the underwater camera which videos the fish as they come out of the tube. This gives a visual backup to both counters, as the Floy tags are large enough to be seen.



It is a very exciting time and who knows what interesting and fascinating knowledge will be gained from such a project.

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