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Movements of Salmon in the Sea around Ireland (From Co. Mayo)

by
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The study of the migration of salmon by tagging and releasing fish caught in drift nets in the open sea off County Mayo begun last year was continued. On eight nights between the 25th of June and the 25th of July a total of 175 fish were marked with Lea hydrostatic tags. The fish varied in weight from 1.7 to 7.4 kg. The nets were set according to usual practice in a north-south direction and all fish were caught on the east side of the net.

Up to the 10th of August the recovery of 20 tags had been reported. A striking difference between this year's results and last year's was that in 1962 almost half the recoveries were made within 50 km of the point of release while in 1963 only 15% were taken within this distance. A fish recovered too late for inclusion in last year's report extended the recovery area to the north-east coast. This year's recovery from the River Boyne has continued the extension.

Details of the recaptures are given in Tables 1 to 3; the 1962 figures are shown in brackets. The map (Figure 1) shows positions of recaptures in both years.

Table 1 Number of days' absence for recaptured fish

<u>No. of days' absence</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 - 5	2 (8)	10 (27)
6 - 10	8 (8)	40 (27)
11 - 15	5 (6)	25 (20)
16 - 20	1 (-)	5 (-)
21 - 25	2 (2)	10 (6)
26 - 30	1 (3)	5 (10)
31 - 40	- (-)	- (-)
41 - 50	1 (1)	5 (3)
51 - 60	- (1)	- (3)

Table 2 Minimum distances (in km) travelled by recaptured fish

<u>Minimum distance</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 - 50	3 (14)	15 (48)
51 - 100	6 (5)	30 (17)
101 - 200	1 (3)	5 (10)
201 - 300	8 (2)	40 (6)
301 - 400	1 (4)	5 (13)
401 - 500	1 (-)	5 (-)
over 1,000	- (1)	- (3)

Table 3 Minimum average speed in km per day

<u>Speed</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
1 - 5	6 (10)	30 (34)
6 - 10	3 (10)	15 (34)
11 - 15	2 (3)	10 (10)
16 - 20	3 (2)	15 (6)
21 - 30	3 (2)	15 (6)
31 - 40	2 (1)	10 (3)
41 - 50	- (-)	- (-)
51 - 60	1 (1)	5 (3)

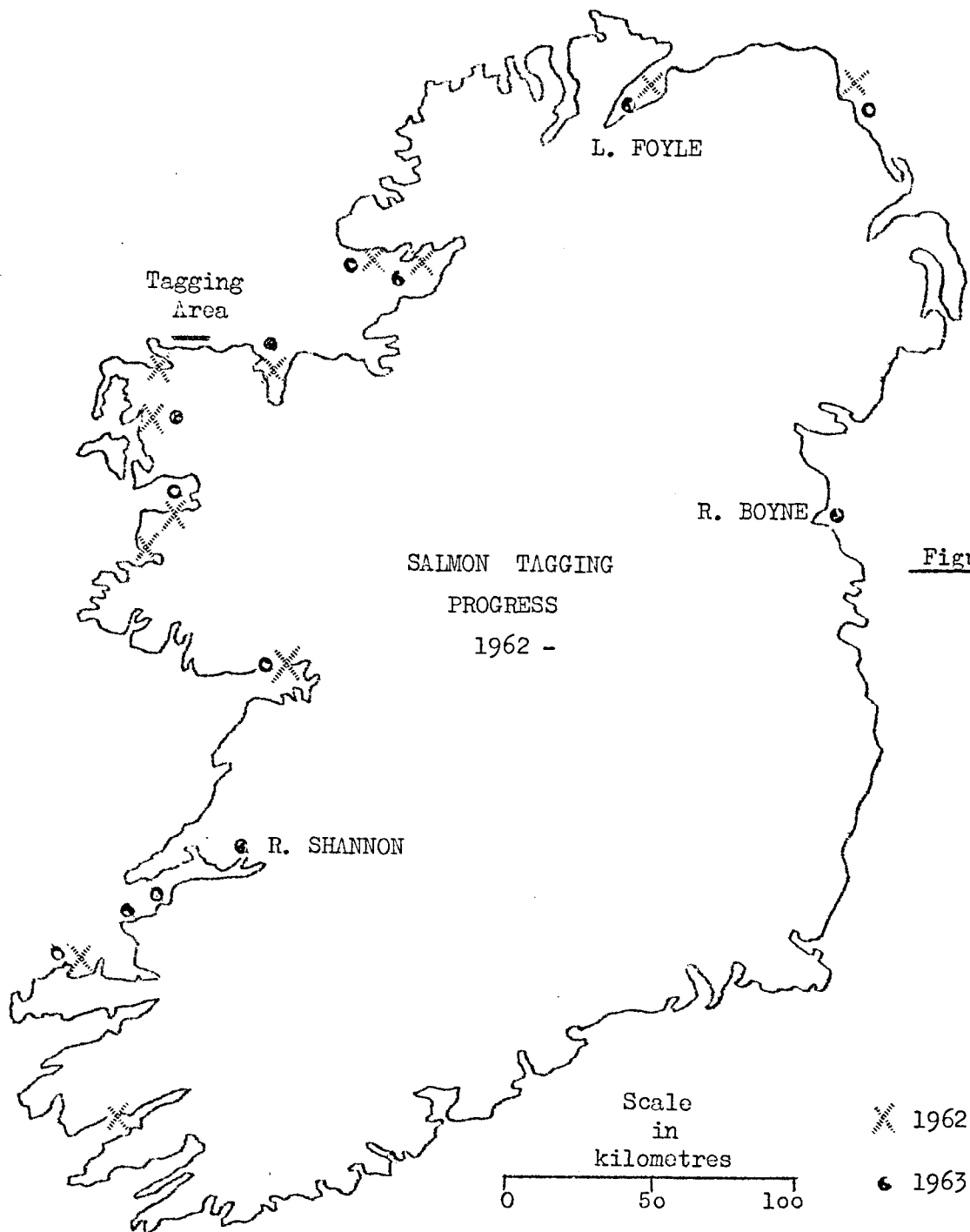


Figure 1.