

Poachers fined for illegal catch

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DUNLEER poacher, John Carney has been convicted and fined for having a bag of salmon and an illegal net at Annagassan on September 27 2011.

Carney, from Beechwood Drive, appeared before Drogheda District Court on Tuesday in handcuffs because he is currently serving a nine-month prison sentence on unrelated motoring matters.

A solicitor acting for Inland Fisheries Ireland said Carney had 'a number' of previous convictions including one for poaching salmon in midLouth in 2011. He told the court that he would not detail Carney's other convictions, because many of them dated 'back to the last century'.

The court was told that Carney and co-accused Cathal Butterly, Drumcar, Dunleer were discovered with the bag full of salmon and an illegal net beside the River Glyde by Inland Fisheries Ireland inspectors checking on a section of the river.

It is illegal to use a net to fish for salmon and also without a licence, the court was told.

Judge Hamill described fining Carney as 'a paper exercise' after he heard that the Beechwood Drive man had failed to pay a number of previous fines also for poaching fish. The court was told the maximum fine which can be imposed for this type of offence is €634 and or a six-month sentence.

He convicted Carney, sentenced him to four months in imprisonment and suspended it for six months on his own bond of €500 for the first illegal fishing charge.

The court convicted and fined him €400 and awarded €414 in costs and expenses. Carney is due for release from prison with remission in July.

Cathal Butterly, who had no previous convictions and is a father of four children was fined €150 with €516 in costs and given two months to pay.