

All in a Day's Work

Mark Corps – Angling Advisor, Inland Fisheries Ireland



Mark with a specimen shad.

Mark Corps is an Angling Advisor for Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). After university he taught Environmental Education, as well as Outdoor Education. He ended up running Residential Education centres before changing career some five years ago.

Where do you work?

I am based in the IFI office in Swords. However the job takes me all over Ireland either coaching angling or organising visits for journalists.

Sometimes I go abroad running promotional shows.

Have you always been interested in what you do?

Yes. I did a post graduate degree in Marine Biology at Glasgow University, which included research into Bass.

What training did you do to get where you are today?

As well as a teaching qualification I hold a variety of angling coaching awards.

What is a day in your life like?

This varies dramatically. Early in the year we tend to take part in a variety of promotional shows, mainly in Europe, to attract anglers to Ireland to fish. Later in the year I am involved in running a variety of projects such as *Fisheries Awareness Week* (see www.faw.ie) and the *Something Fishy* programme for schools (www.somethingfishy.ie). Of late I have been heavily involved in developing educational angling programmes that we will hopefully roll out in the next couple of years.

A major part of my post during the game fishing season is organising / running trips for visiting foreign journalists. The aim is to promote various Irish fisheries / areas by getting suitable articles written, emphasizing what is best in Ireland. On top of this I am also involved in coaching angling, as well as some elements of research.

What is your main aim?

To promote Irish angling to all.

What is the best thing about your job?

The variety of the job as well as the fact that as a passionate angler this job often allows me to practice my hobby whilst at work.

What is the worst thing about your job?

Midges.

Do you enjoy your work?

Yes very much, but like all jobs it has its good, as well as bad points. However overall the good totally outweighs the bad.

What equipment do you use?

Fishing rods and reels.

Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I work within an excellent team of like-minded colleagues.

What advice would you give someone wanting to do your job?

Fish as often and as much as you can and expect to get wet.

What would you do if you weren't doing what you do?

Lecture in Outdoor Education.

What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

Treat the earth well.

It was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children.

We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children.

Ancient Indian Proverb



Top: Teaching on a ghillies (fishing attendants) course; Middle: Landing a fish for a novice; Bottom: Mark Corps holding a large salmon.

Courtesy of Inland Fisheries Ireland