Grand Canal - Barrow Line
The water in this section of canal is relatively clear and static or very slow flowing. The canal corridor supports a wide diversity of aquatic and marginal plants that harbour myriads of fish-food insects. This may explain the large quantity of specimen sized fish that are uniquely resident in this stretch of canal. This section is characterised by the presence, along both banks, of tall, continuous reed beds. The vegetation is carefully managed and does not pose an obstruction for anglers. Boat traffic density along the canal is low.

In Athy the Barrow is approximately 40m wide and between 3 and 4 metres deep. The density of boat traffic through the area is low.

Fishing Tackle and Bait
Unless you are specifically targeting pike, perch, carp or big tench, pole tackle is the most productive fishing method. Float fishing can also prove effective. It is recommended that, beginning a session, the angler targets the middle of the canal, approximately 6 to 9m from the bank. Baits should be fished on the bottom. Small amounts of ground bait should be introduced at the start of the session, between four and eight small balls, and loose feed thereafter. Fish with No. 6 or 8 elastic, 1.4 kg main line to a 0.9 kg hook length, and a medium-wire size 18 hook. Heavier tackle will be required if tench or carp are the intended quarry. The most productive baits include maggots, worms and sweetcorn. For carp and big tench it is worth having pelets, paste, boilies and a range of modern ground baits on standby. Good pike are available in the canal and can be fished using dead-baits or artificial lures.

For advice contact Gerry Farrell, Secretary of the Athy and District Angling Club at Tel: +353 (0)45 447133.

Fish Stocks
The Barrow Line above Athy supports a wealth of coarse fish species, including roach, bream and hybrids. Tench fishing can be excellent in the summer months and the occasional carp may also be encountered. While the canal boasts large stocks of small and medium sized fish, it also harbours large specimens. These include tench to 4lb, bream to 3lb, hybrids to 2lb and roach to 1lb. One special feature of this canal is the presence of very large perch, some in excess of 3lb weight. These fish enter the lower section of the canal from the main river in March/April to spawn.
**Athy Match Stretch**

Go through Athy town, crossing the bridge over the River Barrow. Take the next right turn, signposted for Stradbally. Continue straight beyond the lock for 1 km. The disabled angling stands and car park are located on your left. This section occupies 69 permanent pegs (see map 2). This stretch has dedicated parking near the 2 disabled angling stands.

**Vicarstown Stretch**

Go through Athy town, crossing the bridge over the River Barrow. Take the next right turn, signposted for Stradbally. Just before Cardington Bridge take a right turn and continue straight beyond the lock, keeping parallel to the canal to Vicarstown Stretch (see map 1).