

Preliminary Synopsis of WFD Surveillance Monitoring Fish Stock Surveys at River Sites in the Shannon International River Basin District, September 2012

1.1 Introduction

Electric-fishing surveys were conducted on selected river sites within the Shannon International River Basin District (ShIRBD) as part of the programme of surveillance monitoring for the Water Framework Directive, between the 6th and 21st of September 2012. A total of six sites were surveyed (Table 1, Plates 1, 2 and 3).

Table 1. Sites surveyed in the Shannon International River Basin District, September 2012

River	Grid Reference	Date
Nenagh (Ballysoilshaum)	R91676 73907	06/09/12
Ballyfinboy (Ballinderry)	R85054 96866	07/09/12
Creegh (Drumellihiy)	R01645 66443	10/09/12
Kilcrow (Ballyshrúle Br.)	M79682 05798	14/09/12
Little Brosna (Riverstown)	N05261 03502	20/09/12
Tullamore (Ballycowan Br.)	N29320 25245	21/09/12



Plate 1. The Kilcrow River at Ballyshrule Bridge



Plate 2. The Little Brosna at Riverstown



Plate 3. The Tullamore River, Ballycowan, Co. Offaly

1.2 Methods

Electric-fishing is the method of choice for surveillance monitoring of fish in rivers to obtain a representative sample of the fish assemblage at each sampling site. This technique complies with European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) guidelines for fish stock assessment in wadeable rivers. At each site, where possible, the stretch sampled was isolated using stop nets and one to three fishing passes were conducted using bank-based electric fishing units or boat-based electric fishing units. Each survey encompassed all habitat types: riffle, glide and pool. A number of physical habitat variables were also measured at these sites.

All fish species captured were identified, lengths and weights were measured and scales were taken for age analysis. All fish were held in a large bin of oxygenated water after processing until they were fully recovered before being returned to the water.

1.3 Results

A total of 13 fish species (sea trout are included as a separate ‘variety’ of trout) were recorded on the six river sites surveyed within the ShIRBD. The number of each fish species recorded in each site is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Number of each fish species recorded at river sites in the ShIRBD, September 2012

	3-Spined stickleback	Brown trout	Eel	Flounder	Gudgeon	Lamprey	Minnow	Perch	Pike	Roach	Salmon	Stone loach	Sea trout
Nenagh	3	82					48				2	1	
Ballyfinboy		26									15		
Creegh		97	2	1							62		3
Kilcrow		25	2		22		7	42	5	15	5		
Little Brosna		87				1					38	7	
Tullamore	42	11			5		36					1	

1.4 Further work

Population estimates will be calculated for all fish species and a more detailed report will be available in 2013.