

Preliminary Synopsis of the WFD Surveillance Monitoring Fish Stock Survey on Annagh (White) Lough in the Eastern River Basin District, September 2013

1.1 Introduction

A WFD fish stock survey was conducted on Annagh (White) Lough from the 16th to the 17th of September 2013 by staff from Inland Fisheries Ireland as part of the programme of surveillance monitoring for the Water Framework Directive (Fig. 1).

1.2 Methods

Annagh (White) Lough was surveyed over one night on the 16th of September 2013. A total of three sets of Dutch fyke nets, eight benthic monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) CEN standard survey gill nets (2 @ 0-2.9m, 2 @ 3-5.9m, 2 @ 6-11.9m and 2 @ 12-19.9m) and two floating monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) CEN standard survey gill nets were deployed in the lake (13 sites). The netting effort was supplemented using two benthic braided gill nets (62.5mm mesh knot to knot) at two additional sites. Nets were deployed in the same locations as were randomly selected in the previous survey. A handheld GPS was used to mark the precise location of each net. The angle of each gill net in relation to the shoreline was randomised.

All fish apart from perch were measured and weighed on site and scales were removed from all rainbow trout and pike. Live fish were returned to the water whenever possible (i.e. when the likelihood of their survival was considered to be good). Samples of fish were retained for further analysis.

Annagh or White Lough, Meath / Westmeath

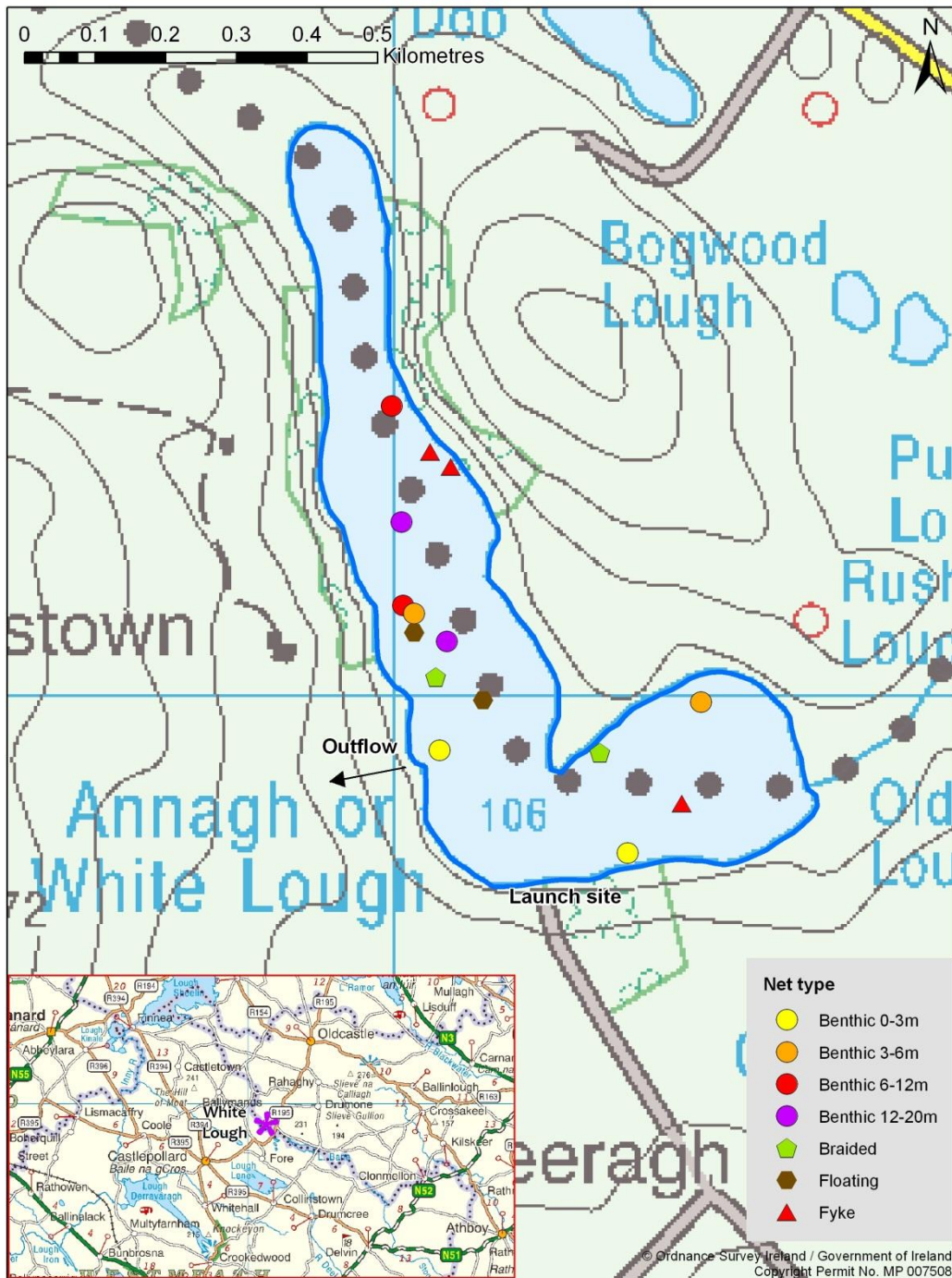


Fig. 1.1. Location map of Annagh (White) Lough showing net locations and depths of each net (outflow is indicated on map)

1.3 Results

A total of three fish species were recorded on Annagh (White) Lough in September 2013, with 228 fish being captured. The number of each species captured by each gear type is shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1. Number of each fish species captured by each gear type during the survey on Annagh (White) Lough, September 2013

Scientific name	Common name	Number
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	Perch	216
<i>Onchorhynchus mykiss</i>	Rainbow trout	7
<i>Esox lucius</i>	Pike	5

1.4 Further work

Perch will be measured and weighed and opercular bones will be removed in the laboratory. All fish will be aged after the fieldwork season has ended. Catch per unit effort (CPUE), biomass per unit effort (BPUE) and age profiles will be calculated for all fish species and a more detailed report will be available in 2014.