

Preliminary Synopsis of the WFD Surveillance Monitoring Fish Stock Survey on Lough Atedaun in the Shannon International River Basin District, September 2013

1.1 Introduction

A WFD fish stock survey was conducted on Lough Atedaun from the 9th to the 10th 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

Lough Atedaun was surveyed over one night on the 9th of September 2013. A total of three sets of Dutch fyke nets and five benthic monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) CEN standard survey gill nets (2 @ 0-2.9m and 3 @ 3-5.9m) were deployed in the lake (8 sites) (Fig. 1). The netting effort was supplemented using two benthic braided survey 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 rudd 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.



Fig. 1.1. Location map of Lough Atedaun showing net locations and depths of each net

1.3 Results

A total of five fish species were recorded in Lough Atedaun, with 143 fish being captured. The number of each fish species recorded is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of each fish species recorded in Lough Atedaun, September 2013

Species name	Common name	Number
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	Perch	124
<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>	Rudd	7
<i>Esox lucius</i>	Pike	7
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European eel	4
<i>Barbatula barbatula</i>	Stone loach	1

1.4 Further work

Perch will be measured and weighed and opercular bones will be removed in the laboratory. Otoliths will be removed from eels and 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 early 2014.