

Preliminary Synopsis of the WFD Surveillance Monitoring Fish Stock Survey on Lettercraffroe Lough in the Western River Basin District, September 2013

1.1 Introduction

A WFD fish stock survey was conducted on Lettercraffroe Lough from the 2nd to the 4th 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).

1.2 Methods

Lettercraffroe Lough was surveyed over two nights from the 2nd to the 4th of September 2013. A total of three sets of Dutch fyke nets, 12 benthic monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) CEN standard survey gill nets (4 @ 0-2.9m, 4 @ 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 randomly in the lake (17 sites) (Fig. 1). Nets were deployed in the same locations as were randomly selected in the previous survey. A handheld GPS was used to locate the precise location of each net. The angle of each gill net in relation to the shoreline was randomised.

All fish were measured and weighed on site and scales were removed from all roach and brown trout. 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.

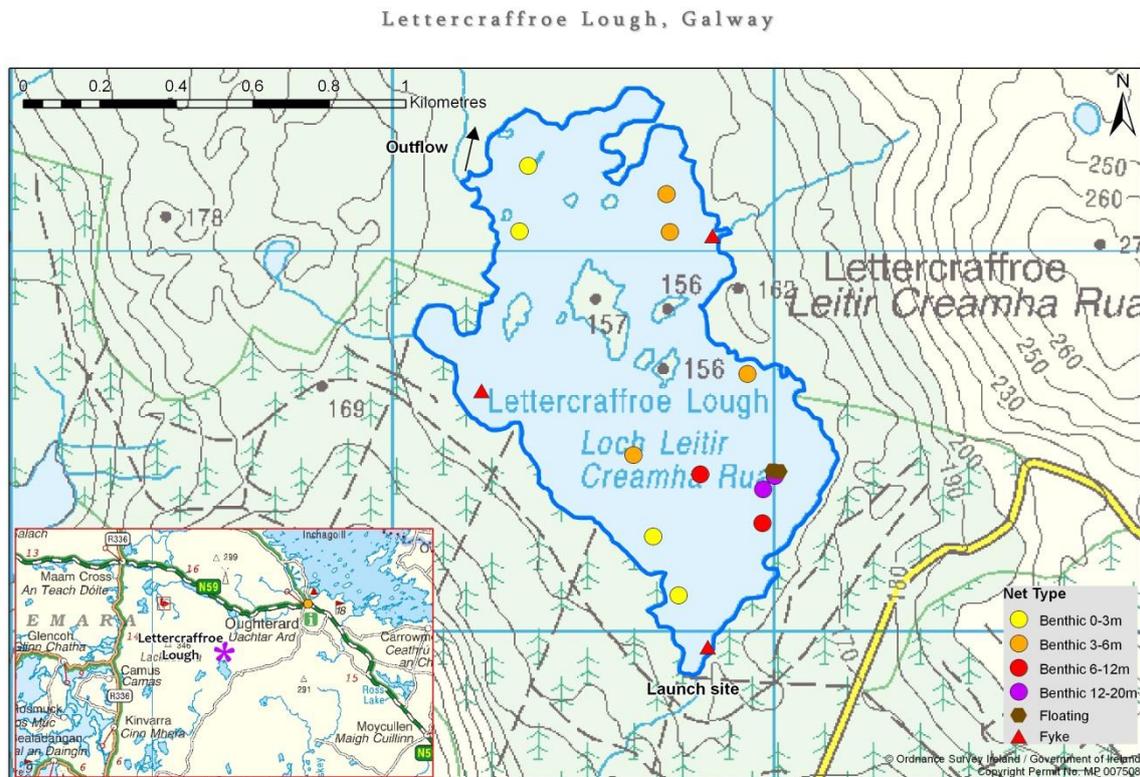


Fig. 1.1. Location map of Lettercraffroe Lough showing net locations and depths of each net

1.3 Results

A total of three fish species were recorded on Lettercraffroe Lough in September 2013, with 187 fish being captured. The number of each species captured by each gear type is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of each fish species recorded on Lettercraffroe Lough, September 2013

Species name	Common name	Number
<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	Roach	136
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Brown trout	48
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	Three-spined stickleback	3

1.4 Further work

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.