

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

1.1 Introduction

A WFD fish stock survey was conducted on Lickeen Lough from the 10th to the 11th 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

Lickeen Lough was surveyed over two nights from the 10th to the 11th of September 2013. A total of three sets of Dutch fyke nets and 17 benthic monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) CEN standard survey gill nets (4 @ 0-2.9m, 4 @ 3-5.9m, 4 @ 6-11.9m, 3 @ 12-19.9m and 2 @ 20-34.9m) were deployed in the lake (20 sites) (Fig. 1). The netting effort was supplemented using three benthic braided survey gill nets (62.5mm mesh knot to knot) at three 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 were measured and weighed on site and scales were removed from all brown trout and rudd. 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.

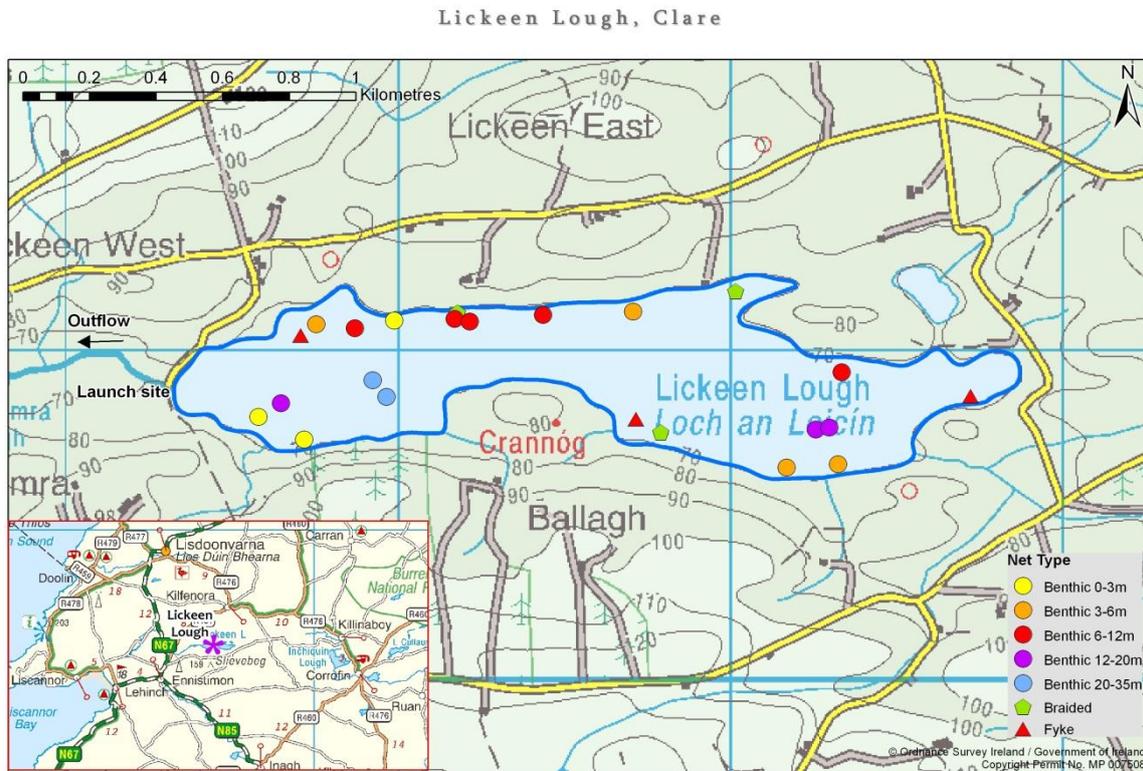


Fig. 1.1. Location map of Lickeen Lough showing net locations and depths of each net

1.3 Results

A total of four fish species were recorded in Lickeen Lough, with 120 fish being captured. The number of each fish species recorded is shown in Table 1.

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

Species name	Common name	Number
<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>	Rudd	69
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Brown trout	37
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European eel	9
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	3-spine stickleback	5

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.