

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

ERBD

Avoca River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/1

The Avoca River Catchment is located within the Eastern River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 645km². The Avoca River begins as two major tributaries, the Avonbeg and Avonmore Rivers, which both flow in south easterly directions, joining at the Meeting of the Waters in Co. Wicklow before becoming the Avoca River and reaching the sea at Arklow. Geology is comprised of siliceous granite and Ordovician slate. The primary land use types include agriculture, with significant pockets of forestry located throughout. Upper portions of this catchment fall

within the Wicklow Mountains Special Area of Conservation.

Ten sites were surveyed on the Avoca Catchment between the 3rd and 6th of July 2017 and included one on the Glenmacnass River (site 1), two on the Avonmore River (sites 2 and 6), two on the Glendasan River (sites 3 and 4), one on the Glenealo River (site 5) and four sites on the Avonbeg River (sites 7-10).



The Avonbeg River at Greenan Bridge (Site 10).



Fig. 1. Map of Avoca Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

Site survey details, Avoca Catchment, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Glenmacnass River	Mall Hill	TEF (Handset)	-	04/07/2017
2	Avonmore River	Annamoe Br.	Spot check	-	04/07/2017
3	Glendasan River	Leadworks	TEF (Handset)	-	05/07/2017
4	Glendasan River	Round Tower	TEF (Handset)	-	05/07/2017
5	Glenealo River	Br. d/s Upper lake	TEF (Handset)	Yes	05/07/2017
6	Avonmore River	Ballard Br.	Spot check	-	04/07/2017
7	Avonbeg River	Mine	Spot check	-	06/07/2017
8	Avonbeg River	Drumgoff Br.	Spot check	-	06/07/2017
9	Avonbeg River	Ballinabarny	Spot check	-	05/07/2017
10	Avonbeg River	Greenan Br.	ADEF (Handset)	Yes	03/07/2017

TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing), ADEF (Area delimited electro-fishing), Spot check (presence/absence recorded)

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m²)

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	
Species	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2017
Brown trout	-	Yes	0.073	0.040	0.025	0.025
0+ brown trout	-	Yes	0.016	0.010	0.013	0.008
1+ & older brown trout	-	-	0.057	0.030	0.013	0.017
European eel	-	-	-	-	0.013	0.012
Minnow	-	-	-	-	0.004	-
Salmon	-	Yes	-	-	-	-
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+ & older salmon	-	Yes	-	-	-	-
All fish	0.000	Spot	0.073	0.040	0.042	0.037
Site no.	6	7	8	9	10	
Species	2017	2017	2017	2017	2013	2017
Brown trout	-	-	-	-	0.032	0.007
0+ brown trout	-	-	-	-	0.013	0.007
1+ & older brown trout	-	-	-	-	0.019	-
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	-
Minnow	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	Yes	-	-	-	0.109	0.012
0+ salmon	Yes	-	-	-	0.013	0.005
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	0.096	0.007
All fish	Spot	Spot	Spot	Spot	0.141	0.020

Yes = Present (Spot check only)

Salmonid age class structure, Avoca Catchment 2017

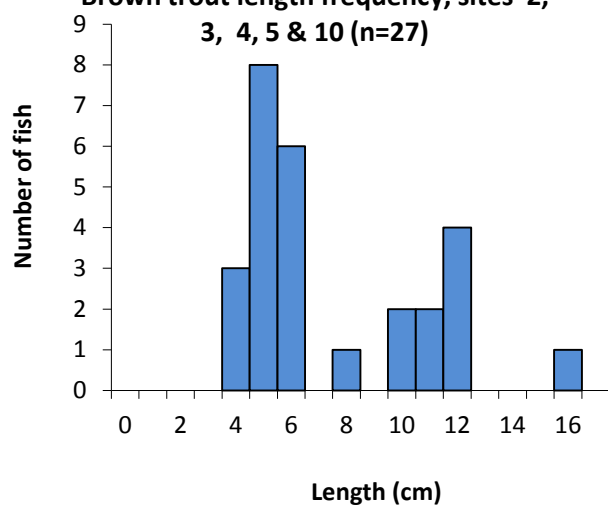
Species	Site No.	% of catch		
		0+	1+	2+
Brown trout	2	100	-	-
	3	29	57	14
	4	25	50	25
	5	33	33	33
	10	100	-	-
Salmon	2	-	100	-
	6	100	-	-
	10	40	20	40

Fish ecological status, Avoca Catchment

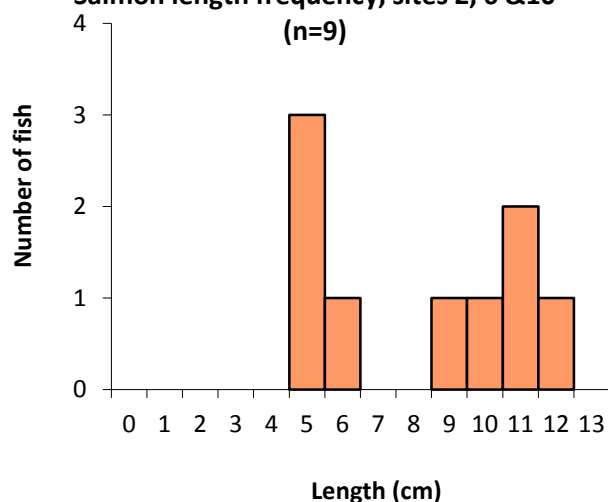
Site No.	2009	2010	2012	2013	2016	2017
1	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
2	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
3	-	-	-	-	-	Mod
4	-	-	-	-	-	Mod
5	Good	-	Mod	-	Mod	Mod
6	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
7	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
8	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
9	-	-	-	-	-	N/A
10	-	Good	-	Good	-	Poor

N/A: Fish absent or qualitative data only available (spot check)

Brown trout length frequency, sites 2, 3, 4, 5 & 10 (n=27)



Salmon length frequency, sites 2, 6 & 10 (n=9)



Summary

Four fish species were recorded at ten sites surveyed on the Avoca River Catchment in 2017. Brown trout was the most abundant species captured, although present in low numbers. Salmon were recorded at three out of ten sites fished. Three age classes of both brown trout and salmon 0+, 1+ and 2+ were present. European eel was recorded at just one site (Site 5) and was previously recorded at the same site in 2016. No fish were captured at Sites 1, 7, 8 and 9. Fish densities at site 10 were lower than 2013.

Three sites (3, 4 and 5) were assigned a fish ecological status of moderate and site 10 was assigned a status of poor.

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