

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

ERBD

Dargle River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/5

The Dargle River catchment is located within the Eastern River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 128km². The Dargle River flows in a north-easterly direction from the Wicklow Mountains, reaching the sea at Bray. This catchment's geology is mixed between granite, slate, shale and schist, with the land used mainly for agriculture. Significant urban activity is present towards the mouth at Bray. Portions

of this catchment's most southern and western headwaters are situated within the Wicklow Mountains Special Area of Conservation.

Four sites were surveyed on the Dargle River Catchment on the 3rd and 4th of July, 2017.



The Dargle River at Bahana (Site 1)

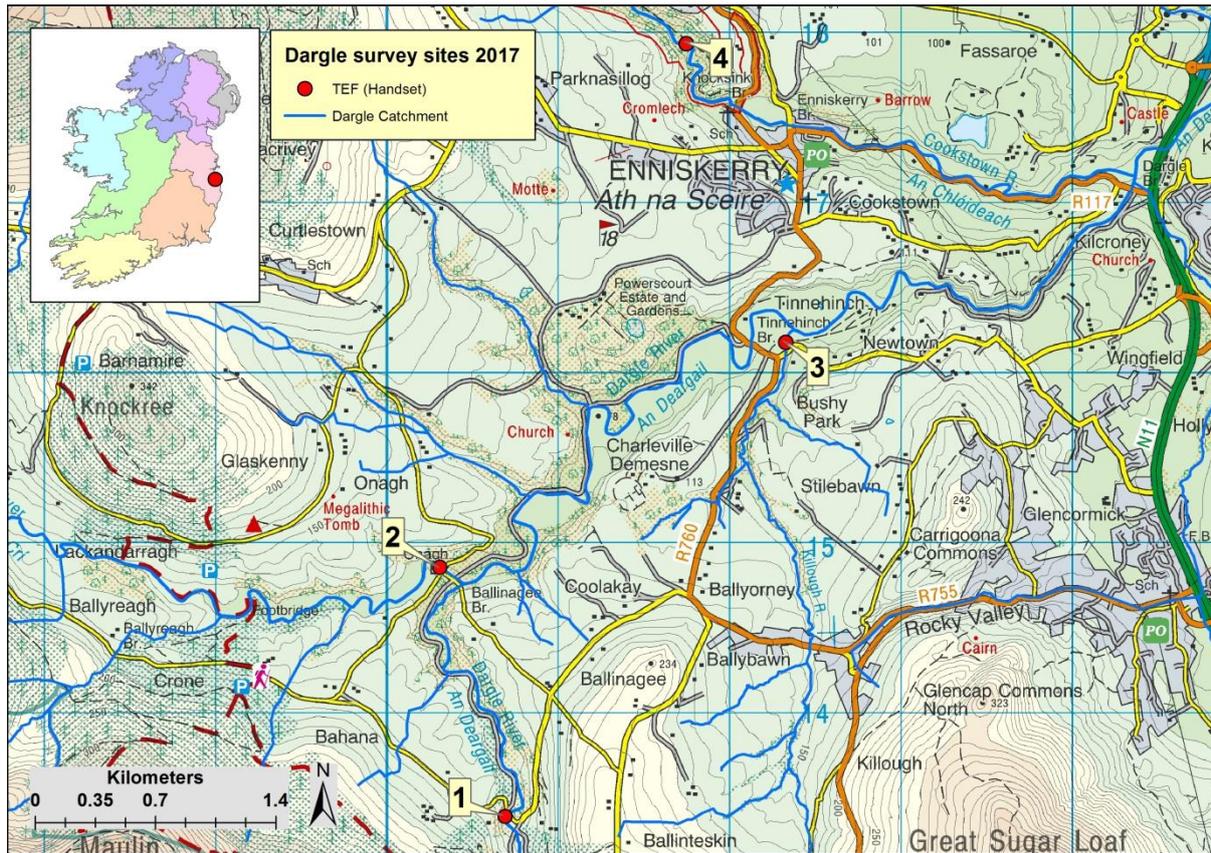


Fig 1. Map of Dargle River Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

Sites survey details, Dargle River Catchment, 2017

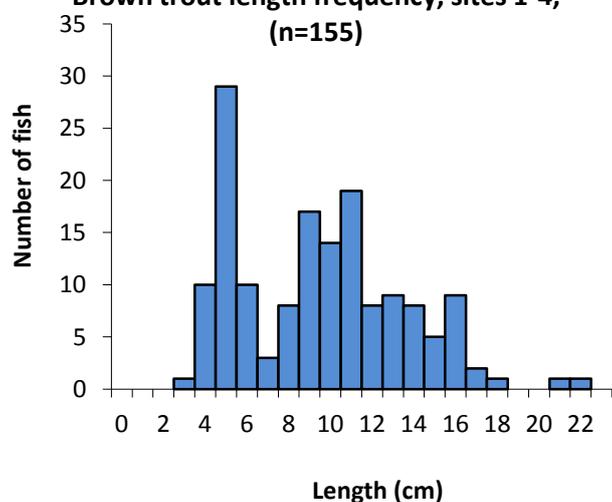
No.	River name	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Dargle River	Bahana	TEF (Handset)	-	03/07/2017
2	Glenree River	Br.U/S of Dargle R Confl	TEF (Handset)	Yes	03/07/2017
3	Killough River	Newtown Road	TEF (Handset)	-	03/07/2017
4	Glencullen River	Knocksink Woods	TEF (Handset)	-	04/07/2017

Method: TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing)

Minimum density estimate (no.fish/m²)

Site no.	1		2	3	4
Species	2014	2017	2017	2017	2017
Brown trout	0.210	0.058	0.106	1.062	0.439
0+ brown trout	0.051	0.015	0.053	0.483	0.038
1+ & older brown trout	0.159	0.043	0.053	0.578	0.401
Salmon	-	-	0.021	-	-
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	-
1+ & older salmon	-	-	0.021	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	0.007	-	-
All Fish	0.210	0.058	0.134	1.062	0.439

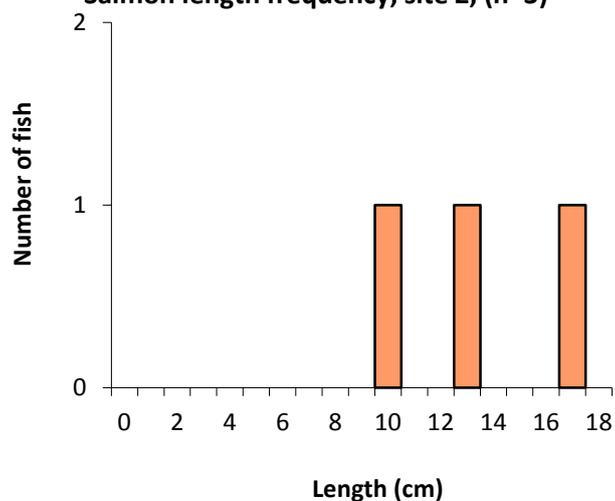
Brown trout length frequency, sites 1-4, (n=155)



Salmonid age class structure, Dargle River Catchment, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	31	44	25	-
	2	56	19	25	-
	3	52	25	21	2
	4	11	60	29	-
Salmon	2	-	67	-	33

Salmon length frequency, site 2, (n=3)



Fish ecological status, Dargle River Catchment

Site No.	2009	2012	2014	2017
1	-	Good	Good	Moderate
2	Good	Good	-	Good
3	-	-	-	Good
4	-	-	-	Good

Summary

Three fish species were recorded at four sites surveyed on the Dargle River Catchment in 2017. Brown trout was the most abundant species captured, with four age classes (0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+) encountered. The highest density of brown trout was recorded at Site 3. Salmon were only recorded at Site 2, with two age classes (1+ and 3+) recorded. Site 1 was fished previously in 2014; brown trout was the only species recorded on both occasions but lower densities were recorded in 2017.

Three sites (2, 3, and 4) were assigned good fish ecological status and one site (1) achieved a moderate fish status.

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CITATION: Matson, R., Delanty, K., Gordon, P., O'Briain, R., Garland, D., Cierpal, D., Connor, L., Corcoran, W., Coyne, J., McLoone, P., Morrissey-McCaffrey, E., Brett, T., Ní Dhonnabhain, L. and Kelly, F.L., (2018) Sampling Fish in Rivers 2017 – Dargle Factsheet No. 5. National Research Survey Programme. Inland Fisheries Ireland.

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