

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

ERBD

Tolka River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/8

The Tolka River Catchment is located within the Eastern River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 148km². The Tolka River flows in a south-easterly direction from Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath towards Blanchardstown, before reaching the sea in Dublin Harbour. The geology of this catchment is mainly limestone, with the land used primarily for

agriculture in the upper reaches and urban development lower down where it flows through the north side of Dublin City.

Eight sites were surveyed on the Tolka River Catchment between the 4th and 5th of September 2017.



The Tolka River at St Mobhi Drive (Site 8)

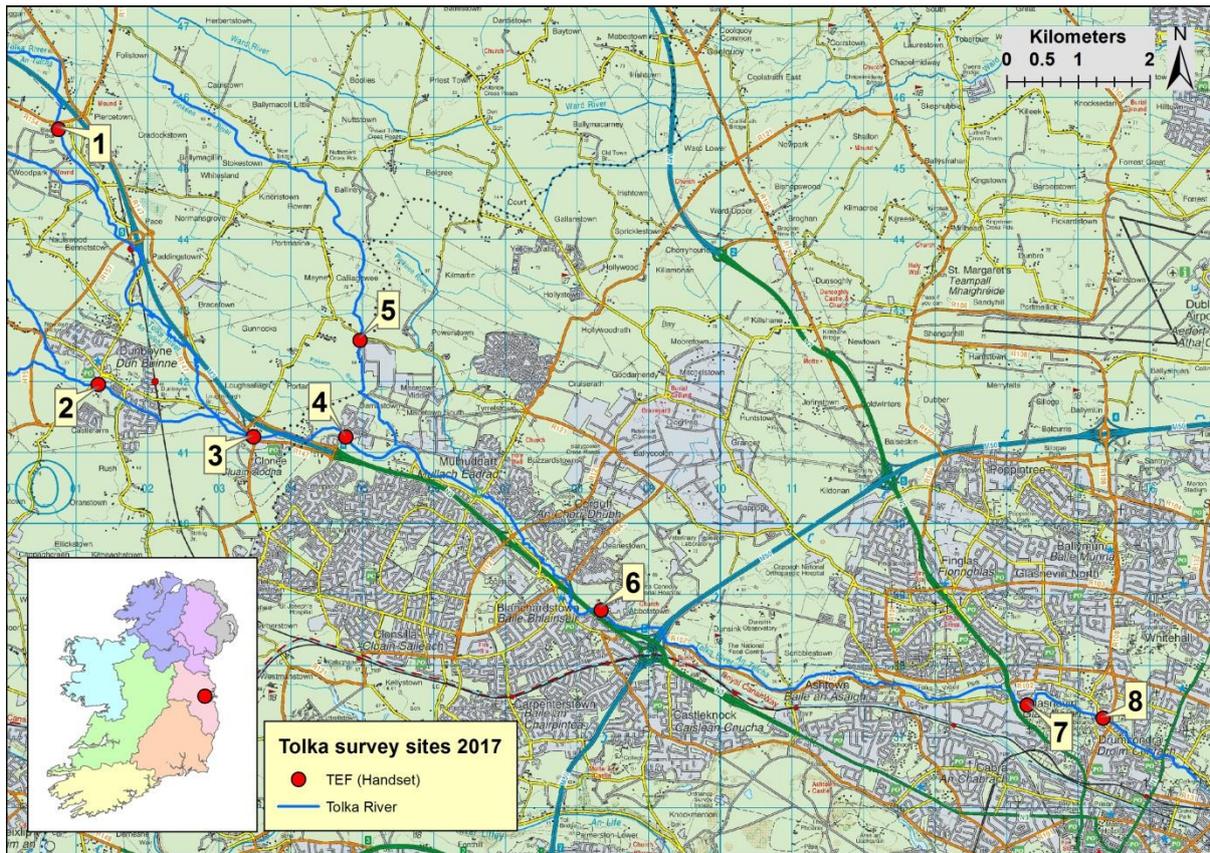


Fig 1. Map of Tolka River Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

Site survey details, Tolka River Catchment, 2017

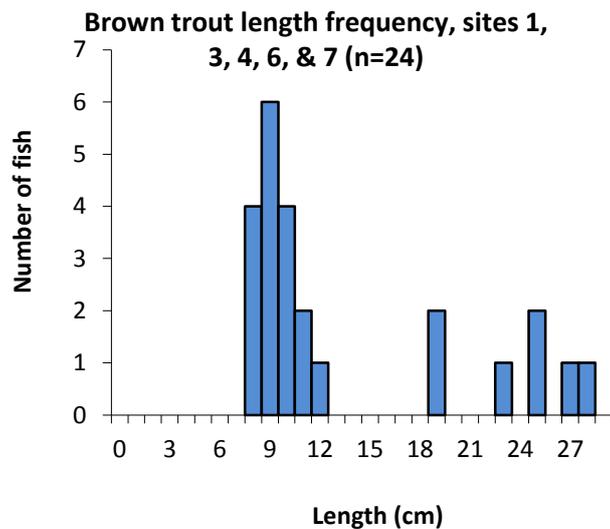
No.	Catchment	Site	Method	Date
1	Tolka	Black Bull Br.	TEF (Handset)	05/09/2017
2	Dunboyne stream	Dunboyne Br.	TEF (Handset)	05/09/2017
3	Tolka	Clonee Br.	TEF (Handset)	04/09/2017
4	Tolka	Damastown Road	TEF (Handset)	04/09/2017
5	Pinkeen	Br. S of Calliagawee	TEF (Handset)	04/09/2017
6	Tolka	Mill Road	TEF (Handset)	04/09/2017
7	Tolka	Violet Hill Drive	TEF (Handset)	04/09/2017
8	Tolka	St Mobhi Drive	Spot check	04/09/2017

Method: TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing), Spot check (presence/absence recorded)

Minimum density estimate (fish no./m²)

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Species	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2011	2017	2017
Brown trout	0.024	-	0.043	0.007	-	0.055	-	0.008	Yes
0+ brown trout	-	-	0.006	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
1+ & older brown trout	0.024	-	0.037	0.007	-	0.055	-	0.008	Yes
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.012	0.012	Yes
Lamprey sp.	-	-	-	0.007	-	-	0.021	-	-
Minnow	0.035	0.174	0.184	0.199	0.065	0.105	1.083	0.197	Yes
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.003	-	-
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.003	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	0.062	0.007	-	0.017	0.003	0.060	-
Three-spined stickleback	0.130	0.132	0.102	-	0.136	-	0.303	0.012	Yes
All Fish	0.189	0.307	0.391	0.220	0.201	0.177	1.424	0.290	Spot

Yes = Present (Spot check only)



Fish ecological status, Tolka Catchment

Site No.	2017
1	Poor
2	Poor
3	Moderate
4	Poor
5	Poor
6	Poor
7	Poor
8	N/A

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

Salmonid age class structure, Tolka Catchment, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	-	100	-	-
	3	14	86	-	-
	4	-	100	-	-
	6	-	-	50	50
	7	-	-	-	100
	8	43	57	-	-

Summary

Six fish species were recorded at eight sites surveyed on the Tolka River Catchment in 2017. Minnow was the most abundant species captured at all sites surveyed. Four age classes of brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+) were present, with 1+ the most abundant cohort. The highest density of brown trout was recorded at site 6, with the largest captured at Site 7 and measuring 28.3cm. Lamprey were only present at Site 4. No juvenile salmon were recorded on this occasion.

Six sites were assigned a fish ecological status of poor and one site (site 3) achieved moderate status.

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