

# Fish in Rivers Factsheet

NWRBD

Swilly River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/32

The River Swilly Catchment is located within the North Western International River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 117km<sup>2</sup>. The River Swilly flows in an easterly direction from the Glendown Mountains towards Letterkenny, Co. Donegal where it joins the sea through Lough Swilly. The geology of this catchment is primarily marble and schist, with the main land use types being blanket bog, agriculture

and forestry. A tiny portion of the catchment falls within two special areas of conservation (SAC's), i.e. Meentygrannagh Bog SAC near the source and Lough Swilly SAC at the mouth of the river.

One site was surveyed on the River Swilly on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2017.



**The River Swilly at Swilly Bridge (Site 1).**



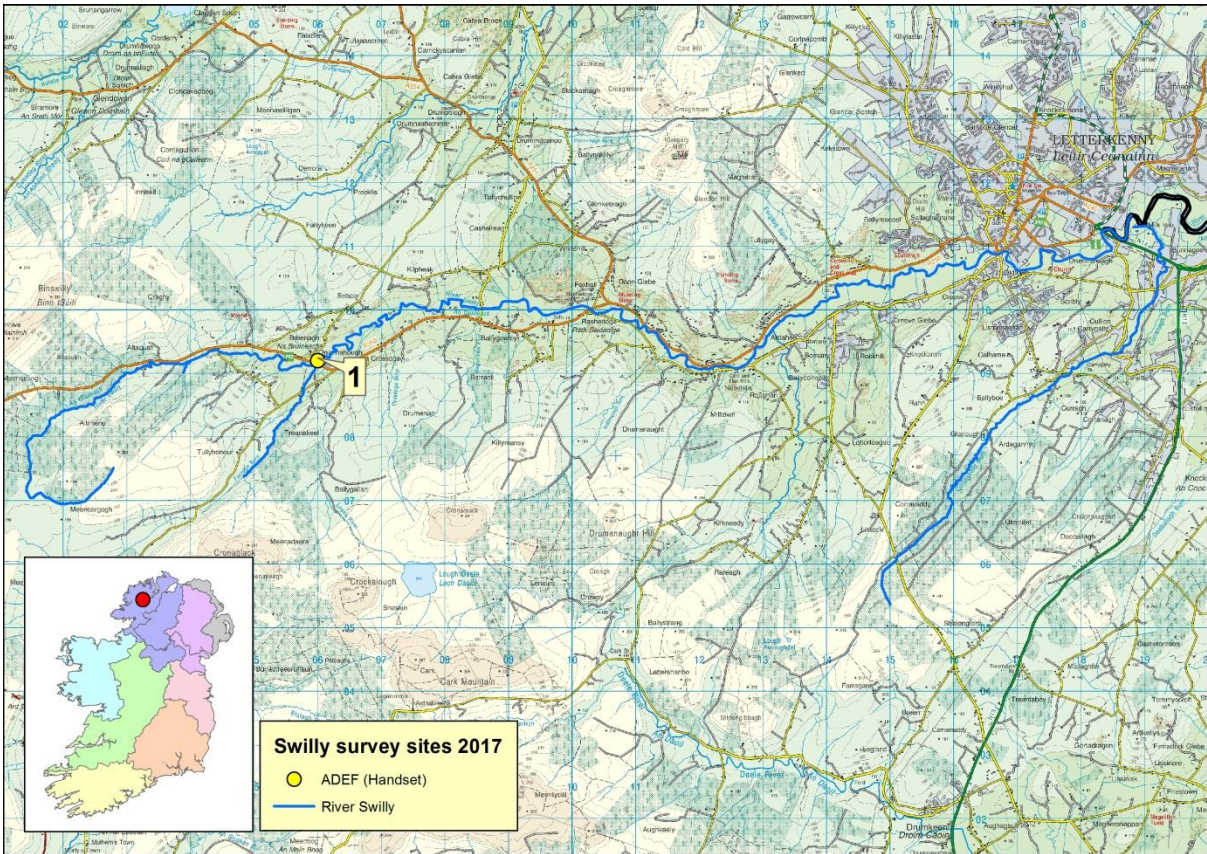


Fig 1. Map of Swilly Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

Sites survey details, Swilly River Catchment, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Swilly, River	Swilly Br. (near Breenagh)	ADEF (Handset)	Yes	16/08/2017
ADEF (Area delimited electro-fishing)					

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>)

Site no.	1			
Species	2008	2011	2014	2017
Brown trout	0.059	0.129	0.219	0.065
0+ brown trout	0.028	0.073	0.177	0.031
1+ & older brown trout	0.031	0.056	0.042	0.034
European eel	0.006	0.006	0.004	0.004
Lamprey	0.016	0.009	-	-
Salmon	0.087	0.050	0.096	0.248
0+ salmon	0.053	0.026	0.019	0.176
1+ & older salmon	0.034	0.023	0.077	0.073
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.168</b>	<b>0.194</b>	<b>0.319</b>	<b>0.317</b>

Salmonid age class structure, Swilly catchment, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	55	27	9	9
Salmon	1	75	19	6	-

Fish ecological status, Swilly catchment

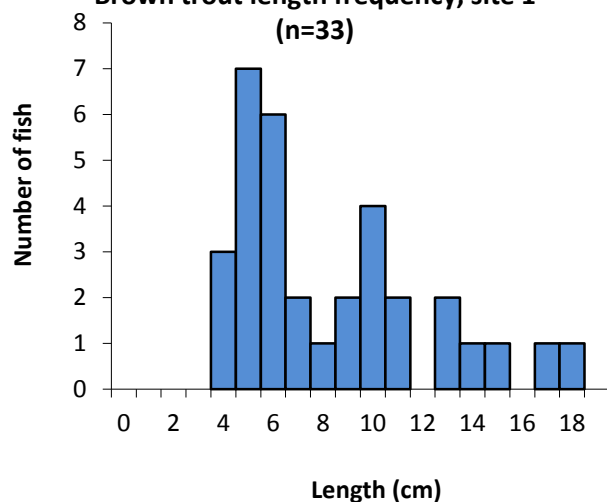
Site No.	2008	2011	2014	2017
1	Good	Good	Good	Good

## Summary

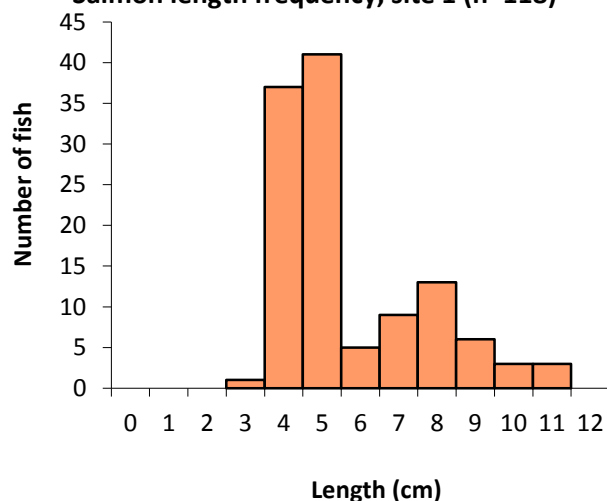
Three fish species were recorded at one site surveyed on the Swilly River in 2017. Salmon were the most abundant species captured. Four age classes for brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+) and three for salmon (0+, 1+ and 2+) were encountered. This site was surveyed on three previous occasions in 2008, 2011 and 2014. Brown trout density was relatively low in 2017, when compared to 2014 and 2011; however salmon density was higher in 2017 than on the three previous survey occasions. Lamprey have not been recorded at this site since 2011.

The site was assigned a fish ecological status of good.

Brown trout length frequency, site 1 (n=33)



Salmon length frequency, site 1 (n=118)



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