

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

SERBD

Nuenna & Arigna River Catchments

Factsheet: 2017/14

The Nuenna and Arigna River catchments are located within the South Eastern River Basin District and cover an area of approximately 85km² and 24km² respectively within the larger River Nore catchment. The Nuenna River flows southwards from Cullahill Mountain, Co. Laois and through Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, before reaching the River Nore. Geology within this catchment is mixed between limestone, sandstone and shale, with agriculture the main land use type.

The Arigna River flows north-eastwards from the hills just south of Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, before reaching

the River Nore. Geology within this catchment is mixed between limestone, sandstone and shale, with agriculture the main land use type.

Three sites were surveyed on the Nuenna River catchment and two on the Arigna River between the 30th of July and 1st of August 2017

The two rivers are not part of any designated special area of conservation; however, their confluence with the River Nore forms part of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.



The Nuenna River at Bridge downstream of Clonmantagh (site 1)

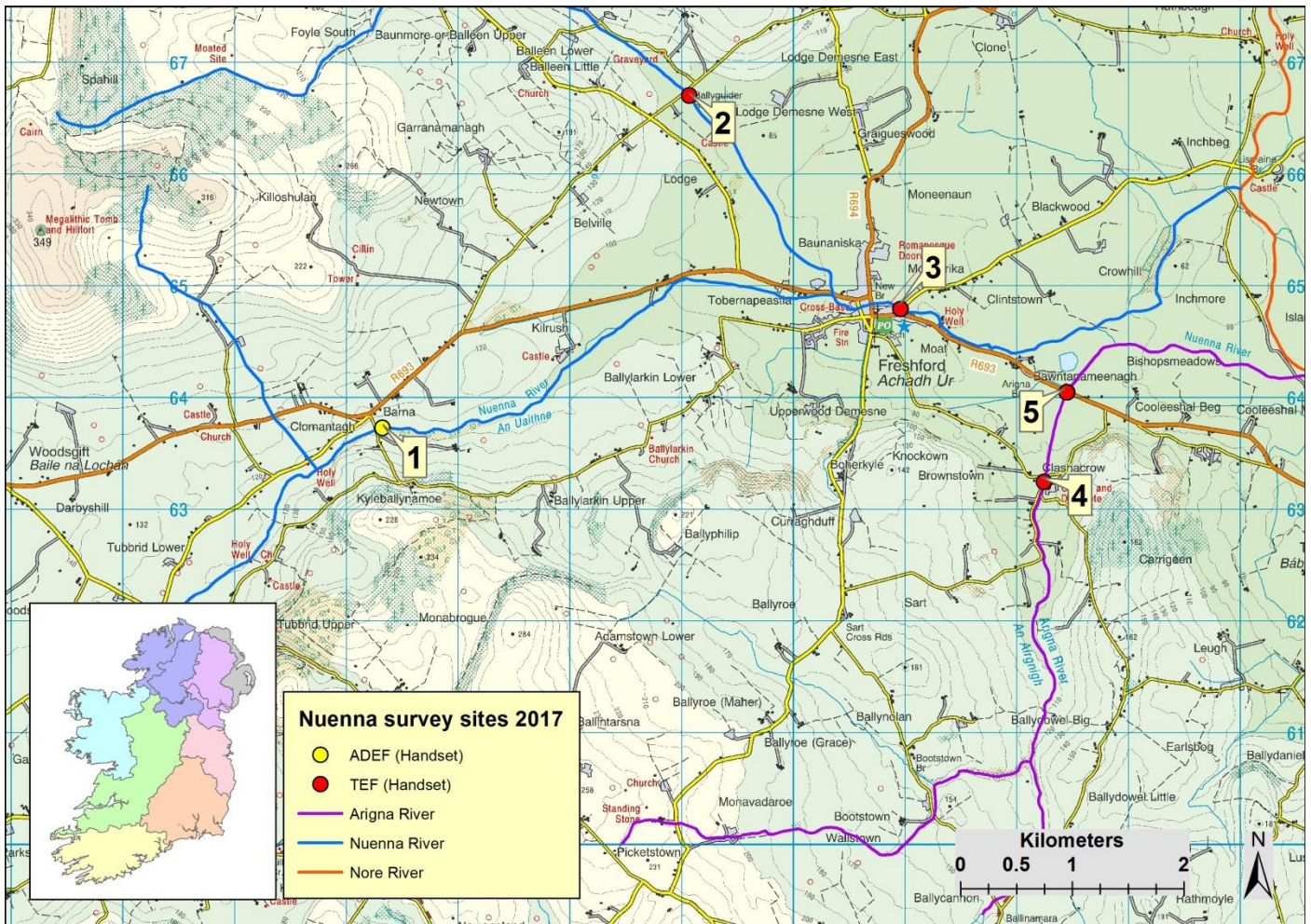


Fig 1. Map of Nuenna & Arigna Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

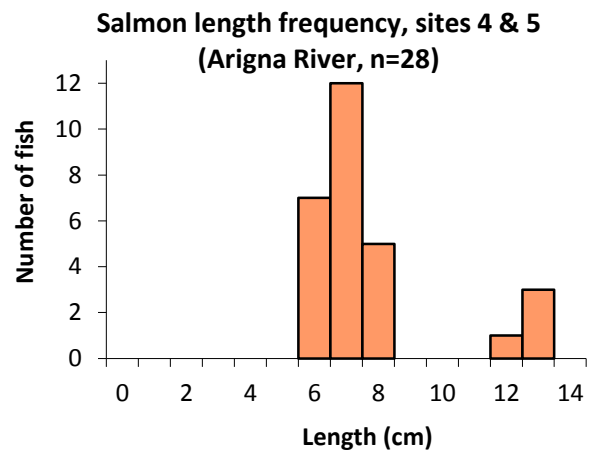
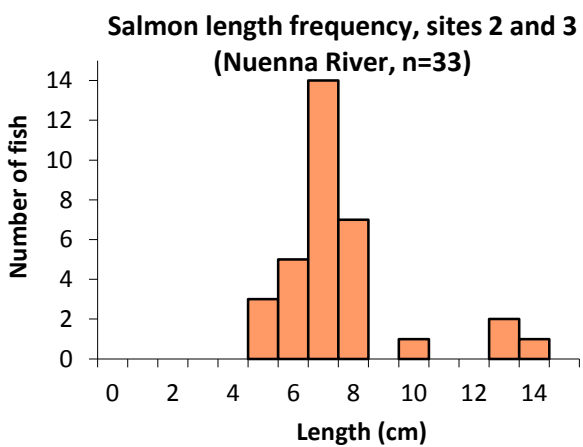
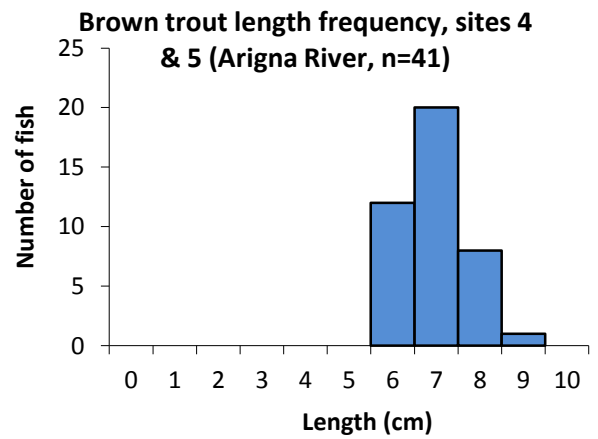
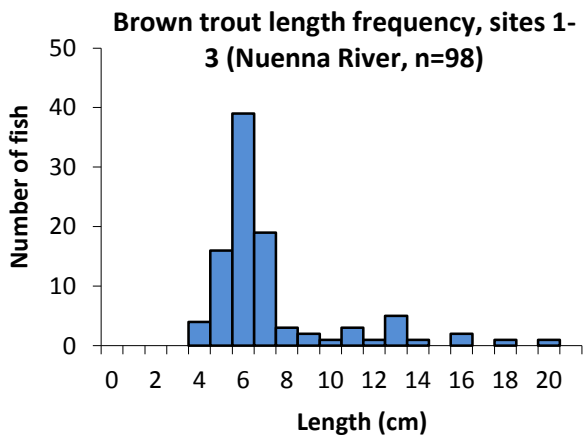
Site survey details, Nuenna & Arigna River Catchments, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Nuenna River	Br. d/s Clonmantagh	ADEF (Handset)	Yes	01/08/2017
2	Nuenna River	Ballyguider Br.	TEF (Handset)	-	30/07/2017
3	Nuenna River	Monabrika	Spot check	-	31/07/2017
4	Arigna River	Clashacrow	TEF (Handset)	-	01/08/2017
5	Arigna River	Bawntanameenagh	TEF (Handset)	-	01/08/2017

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

Minimum density estimates (no.of fish/m²)

Site no.	1				2	3	4	5
Species	2008	2011	2013	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Brown trout	0.073	0.241	0.121	0.047	0.365	Yes	0.402	0.514
0+ brown trout	0.024	0.155	0.024	0.009	0.343	Yes	0.402	0.514
1+ & older brown trout	0.049	0.086	0.097	0.038	0.021	Yes	-	-
Lamprey	-	0.004	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	0.472	Yes	0.281	0.135
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	0.472	Yes	0.241	0.101
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	-	Yes	0.040	0.034
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.010	0.034
Three-spined stickleback	0.005	0.039	-	-	-	-	0.015	0.076
All Fish	0.078	0.284	0.121	0.047	0.837	Spot	0.708	0.758



Salmonid age class structure, Nuenna & Arigna rivers, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch		
		0+	1+	2+
Brown trout	1	14	79	7
	2	95	5	-
	3	87	10	3
	4	100	-	-
	5	100	-	-
Salmon	2	100	-	-
	3	33	67	-
	4	86	14	-
	5	75	25	-

Fish ecological status, Nuenna & Arigna Catchment

Site No.	2008	2011	2013	2017
1	Mod	Good	Mod	Mod
2	-	-	-	Good
3	-	-	-	Mod
4	-	-	-	Good
5	-	-	-	Good

Summary

Four fish species were recorded at five sites surveyed on the Nuenna and Arigna Rivers in 2017. Brown trout was the most abundant species captured. Three age classes for brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+) and two for salmon (0+ and 1+) were encountered. Site 1 was surveyed previously in 2008, 2011 and 2013, with 2011, the only year where lamprey were recorded. Brown trout abundance was relatively low at Site 1, when compared with other sites and their numbers were lower than the previous two surveys. Site 5 had the greatest abundance of brown trout, while Site 2 recorded the highest abundance of salmon.

Two sites (1&3) were assigned a fish ecological status of moderate and three sites(2, 4 & 5) were assigned good fish status.

Inland Fisheries Ireland: 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin, D24 Y265, Ireland

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