

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

SHIRBD

Creagh River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/23

The Creagh River Catchment is located in the Shannon International River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 89km². The Creagh River flows westwards from Kilmihil, Co. Clare, before joining the sea at Doughmore Bay near Doonbeg. The geology of this catchment is sandstone and shale, with the land used primarily for agriculture. The Creagh River enters

the sea at the Carrowmore Dunes Special Area of Conservation.

Eight sites were surveyed on the Creagh River Catchment on the 18th and 19th of September, 2017.



The Creagh River at Drumellihy Bridge (Site 7)

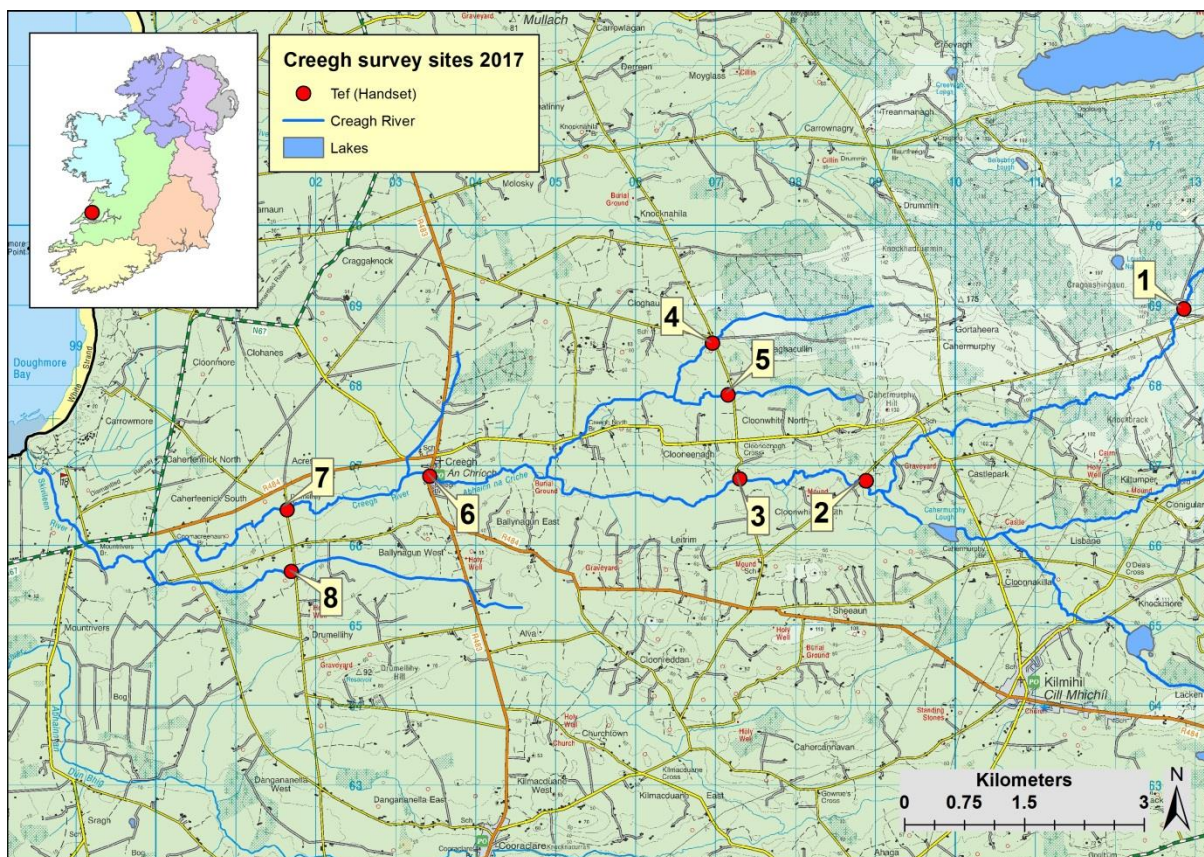


Fig 1. Map of Creagh River Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

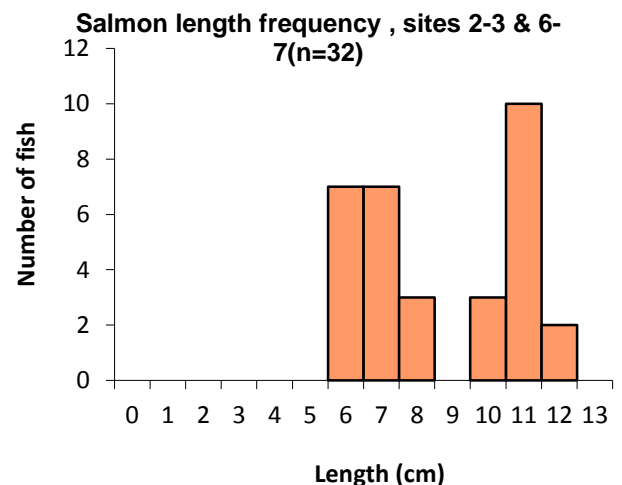
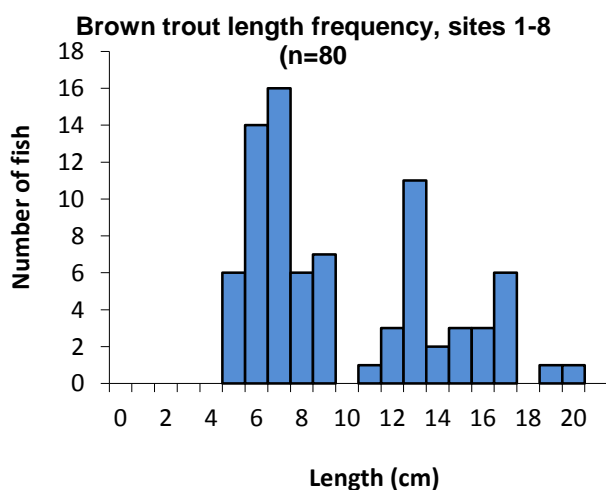
Site survey details, Creagh River Catchment, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Creagh River	Cragnashingaun	TEF (Handset)	-	19/09/2017
2	Creagh River	Cloonwhite Mound	TEF (Handset)	-	19/09/2017
3	Creagh River	Clooneenagh	TEF (Handset)	-	19/09/2017
4	Creagh tributary	Caheraghacullin	TEF (Handset)	-	18/09/2017
5	Creagh tributary	Cloonwhite North	TEF (Handset)	-	18/09/2017
6	Creagh River	Creagh Br.	TEF (Handset)	-	18/09/2017
7	Creagh River	Drumellihy Br.	TEF (Handset)	Yes	18/09/2017
8	Creagh tributary	Drumellihy North	TEF (Handset)	-	19/09/2017

TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing), ADEF (Area delimited electro-fishing)

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m²)

Site no.	1	2	3	4
Species	2017	2017	2017	2017
Brown trout	0.098	0.095	0.134	0.025
0+ Brown trout	0.073	0.043	0.081	-
1++ Brown trout	0.024	0.052	0.054	0.025
European eel	0.037	-	0.027	-
Flounder	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	0.086	0.197	-
0+ Salmon	-	0.038	0.125	-
1++ Salmon	-	0.048	0.072	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-
Sea trout	-	0.005	-	-
All Fish	0.135	0.185	0.358	0.025
Site no.	5	6	7	8
Species	2017	2017	2017	2017
Brown trout	0.754	0.174	0.123	0.109
0+ Brown trout	0.689	0.071	0.043	0.047
1++ Brown trout	0.066	0.103	0.081	0.063
European eel	-	-	0.062	0.047
Flounder	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	0.054	0.066	-
0+ Salmon	-	0.022	0.028	-
1++ Salmon	-	0.033	0.038	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	0.297
Sea trout	-	-	-	-
All Fish	0.754	0.228	0.251	0.453



Salmonid age class structure, Creagh River Catchment, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch		
		0+	1+	2+
Brown trout	1	75	-	25
	2	50	10	40
	3	63	38	-
	4	-	100	-
	5	92	8	-
	6	40	47	13
	7	38	31	31
	8	50	25	25
Salmon	2	44	44	11
	3	64	36	-
	6	40	60	-
	7	43	57	-

status and two sites (1 & 8) were assigned moderate fish status.

Fish ecological status, Creagh River Catchment

Site No.	2009	2012	2017
1	-	-	Moderate
2	-	-	Good
3	-	-	Good
4	-	-	Poor
5	-	-	Good
6	-	-	Good
7	Good	Good	Good
8	-	-	Moderate

Summary

Four fish species and sea trout (a separate 'variety' of trout) were recorded at eight sites surveyed on the Creagh River in 2017. Brown trout were the most abundant species captured at all sites apart from site 8. Three age classes of brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+) and three for salmon (0+, 1+ and 2+) were present. Site 7 has been surveyed previously in both 2009 and 2012, with an increase in both brown trout and salmon observed during the 2017 survey.

One site (4) was assigned a fish ecological status of poor. Five sites (2,3,5 and 6) were assigned good

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