

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

SHIRBD

Inch River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/25

The Inch River catchment is located in the Shannon International River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 59km². The Inch River flows eastwards towards Ennis, where it joins the River Fergus. The geology of this catchment is mostly sandstone and shale, with the primary landuse being agriculture. Significant pockets of forestry exist towards the upper

end of the system. While not situated within a special area of conservation (SAC) itself, it's confluence with the River Shannon forms part of the Lower River Shannon SAC.

Three sites were surveyed on the Inch River catchment on the 19th of September 2017.



The Inch River at Kilmaley Bridge (Site 2).



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

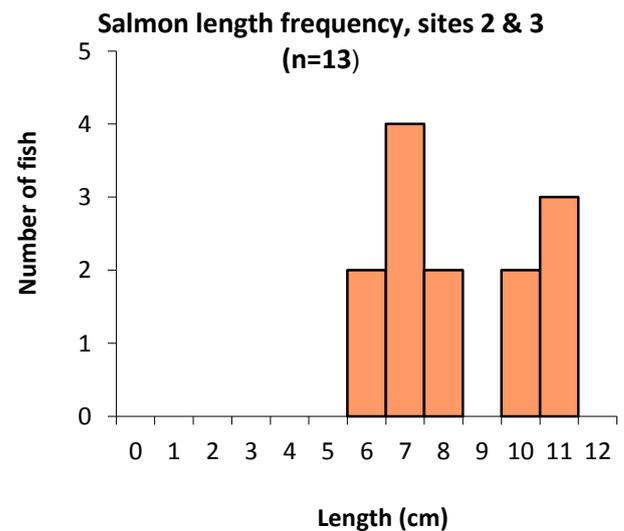
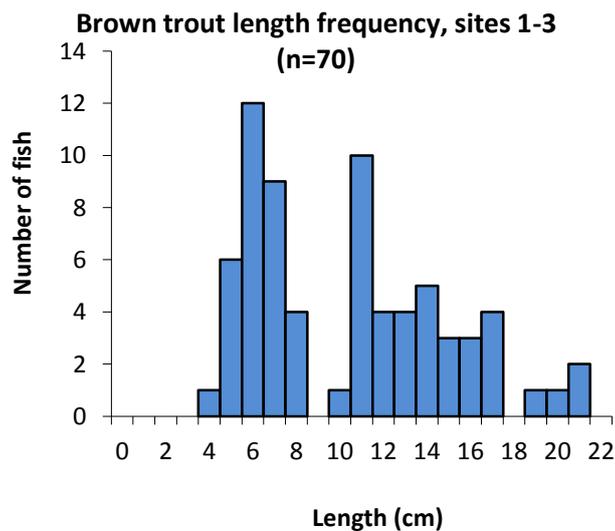
Site survey details, Inch River Catchment, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	Date
1	Inch River	Baleen Br	TEF (Handset)	19/09/2017
2	Kilmaley River	Kilmaley Br	TEF (Handset)	19/09/2017
3	Inch River	Inch Br.	Spot check	20/09/2017

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

Minimum density estimates (no fish./m²)

Site no.	1	2	3
Species	2017	2017	2017
Brown trout	0.377	0.034	Yes
0+ brown trout	0.359	0.016	Yes
1+ & older brown trout	0.018	0.018	Yes
European eel	-	-	Yes
Lamprey sp.	-	0.005	-
Salmon	-	0.050	Yes
0+ salmon	-	0.036	-
1+ & older salmon	-	0.014	Yes
Stone loach	-	0.025	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	0.007	-
All Fish	0.377	0.120	Spot
Yes- Present (Spot check only)			



Salmonid age class structure, Inch catchment, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	96	4	-	-
	2	15	44	23	18
	3	50	-	38	13
Salmon	2	-	100	-	-
	3	73	27	-	-

Fish ecological status, Inch catchment

Site No.	2017
1	Moderate
2	Moderate
3	N/A
N/A: Only qualitative data available	

Summary

Six fish species were recorded at three sites surveyed on the Inch River in 2017. Brown trout were the most abundant species captured. Four age classes of brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+) and two of salmon (0+, and 1+) were encountered, with the younger cohorts more abundant for both species.

Two sites (1 & 2) were assigned a fish ecological status of moderate.

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