

# Fish in Rivers Factsheet

SWRBD

River Caragh Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/20

The River Caragh catchment is located in the South Western River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 171km<sup>2</sup>. The River Caragh flows in a northerly direction through the Macgillycuddy's Reeks, before joining the sea at Killorglin, Co. Kerry. A number of small lakes are present in the catchment, including Lough Caragh. The geology of the catchment is mostly sandstone, with some limestone

towards the lower end. The primary land use is scrubland and bog with large sections of forestry located above Lough Caragh and mainly agriculture below the lake. This catchment falls within the Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy's Reeks and Caragh River Catchment Special Area of Conservation.

Fourteen sites were surveyed across the Caragh River Catchment between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.



**The Caragh River at Cloghfune (Site 5)**

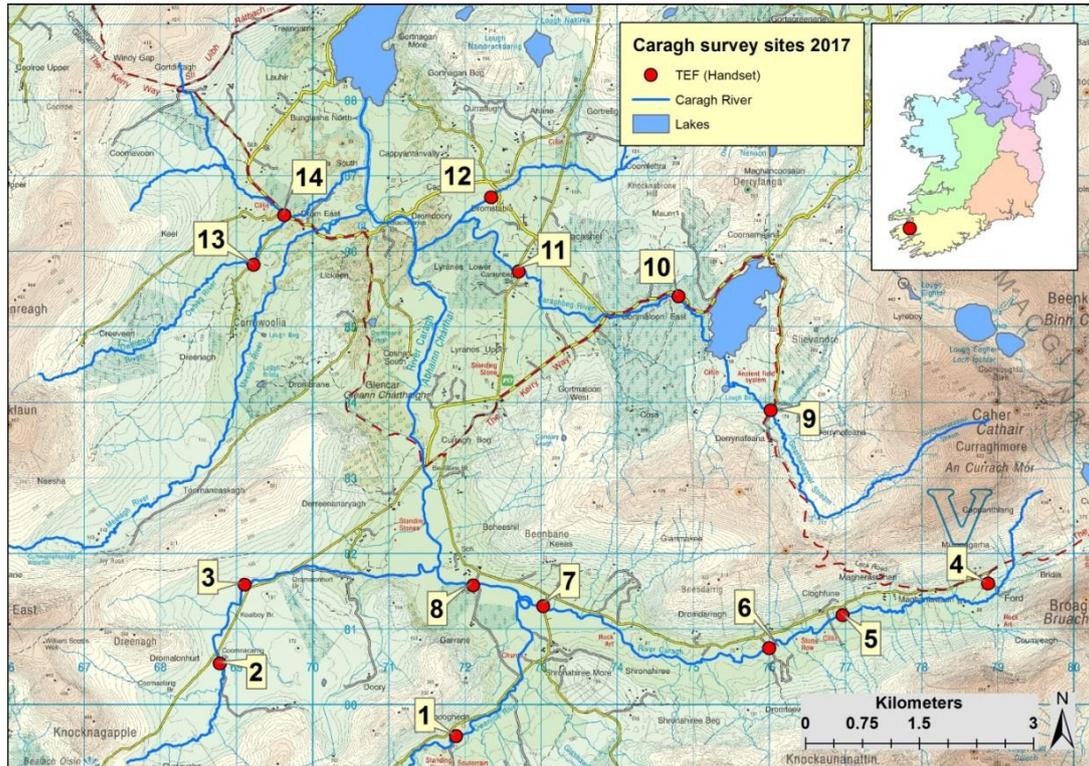


Fig 1. Map of Caragh Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

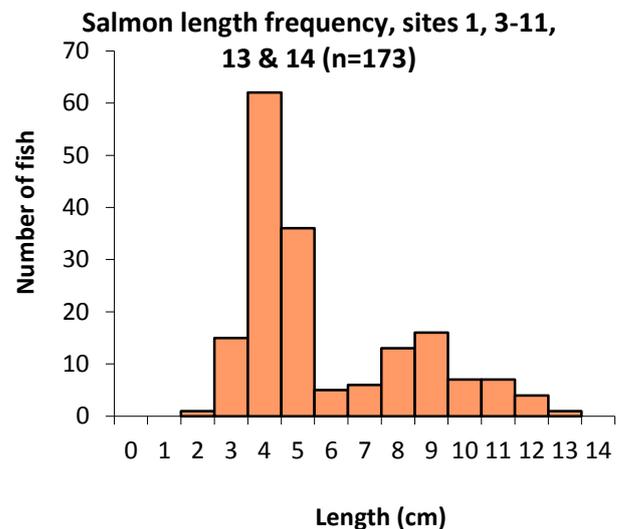
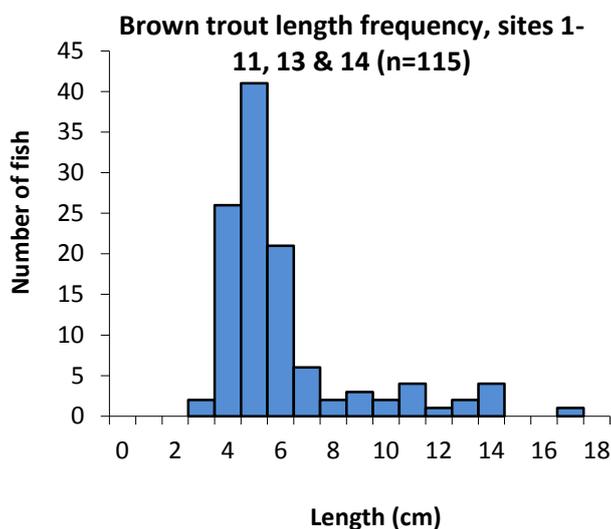
Site survey details, Caragh River Catchment, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	Date
1	Owenroe River	Canknoogheda	TEF (Handset)	25/07/2017
2	Caragh, River tributary (Knocknacrusha)	Coomnacarrig	TEF (Handset)	26/07/2017
3	Caragh, River tributary (Knocknacrusha)	Kealboy	Spot	26/07/2017
4	Caragh, River	Bridia	TEF (Handset)	25/07/2017
5	Caragh, River	Cloghfune	TEF (Handset)	25/07/2017
6	Caragh, River	Dromteewakeen	TEF (Handset)	25/07/2017
7	Caragh, River	Beenbane	TEF (Handset)	25/07/2017
8	Caragh, River	Garrane Ford	Spot check	25/07/2017
9	Gearhanagour Stream	Derrynafeana	Spot check	24/07/2017
10	Caraghbeg River	Gortmaloon East	TEF (Handset)	24/07/2017
11	Caraghbeg River	Carraghbeg Br	Spot check	24/07/2017
12	Caragh, River	Dromstabla	TEF (Handset)	26/07/2017
13	Owbeg River	Corrawoolia	TEF (Handset)	26/07/2017
14	Caragh, River tributary(Coomavoon)	Drom East	TEF (Handset)	26/07/2017

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

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

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Species</b>	<b>2017</b>						
Brown trout	0.023	0.012	Yes	1.061	0.130	0.094	0.061
0+ brown trout	0.023	0.006	Yes	0.977	0.105	0.069	0.053
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.006	Yes	0.085	0.024	0.025	0.008
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	0.019	-
Minnow	-	-	-	-	0.008	-	0.049
Salmon	0.046	-	Yes	0.127	0.219	0.189	0.180
0+ salmon	0.028	-	Yes	0.000	0.187	0.176	0.131
1+ & older salmon	0.018	-	-	0.127	0.032	0.013	0.049
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.069</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>Spot</b>	<b>1.189</b>	<b>0.357</b>	<b>0.302</b>	<b>0.290</b>
Site no.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Species</b>	<b>2017</b>						
Brown trout	Yes	Yes	0.023	Yes	-	0.232	0.114
0+ brown trout	Yes	Yes	0.023	Yes	-	0.180	0.065
1+ & older brown trout	-	Yes	-	Yes	-	0.051	0.049
European eel	-	-	-	Yes	-	-	-
Minnow	Yes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	Yes	Yes	0.076	Yes	-	0.197	0.309
0+ salmon	Yes	Yes	0.030	-	-	0.129	0.130
1+ & older salmon	-	Yes	0.045	Yes	-	0.069	0.179
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>Spot</b>	<b>Spot</b>	<b>0.098</b>	<b>Spot</b>	<b>0.000</b>	<b>0.429</b>	<b>0.422</b>
<b>Yes- Present (Spot check only)</b>							



## Salmonid age class structure

Species	Site No.	% of catch				
		0+	1+	2+	3+	
Brown trout	1	100	-	-	-	
	2	50	50	-	-	
	3	67	33	-	-	
	4	93	7	-	-	
	5	84	16	-	-	
	6	78	11	11	-	
	7	89	11	-	-	
	8	100	-	-	-	
	9	75	-	25	-	
	11	50	-	25	25	
	13	81	19	-	-	
	14	63	25	13	-	
	Salmon	1	60	20	20	-
		3	100	-	-	-
4		-	100	-	-	
5		87	7	7	-	
6		94	6	-	-	
7		77	23	-	-	
8		100	-	-	-	
9		81	13	6	-	
10		40	20	40	-	
11		-	45	55	-	
13		67	33	-	-	
14		42	53	5	-	

## Summary

Four fish species were recorded at fourteen sites surveyed on the Caragh River in 2017. Brown trout was the most abundant species captured, recorded at all but one site. Four age classes of brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+) were encountered. Salmon were also common and were recorded at all but two sites. Three age classes of salmon were recorded (0+, 1+ and 2+). Brown trout and salmon fry (0+) were the most abundant age cohort. No fish were recorded at Site 12, although the habitat for fish at the site appeared to be suitable.

One site (10) was assigned a fish ecological status of poor. Three sites (1, 7 & 9) were assigned moderate. Four sites (5, 6, 13 & 14) were assigned good fish status and one site (4) was assigned high fish status.

## Fish ecological status, Caragh Catchment

Site No.	2017
1	Moderate
2	N/A*
3	N/A*
4	High
5	Good
6	Good
7	Moderate
8	N/A*
9	Moderate
10	Poor
11	N/A*
12	N/A**
13	Good
14	Good

**Note:** N/A=\*qualitative data only, \*\*no fish recorded

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