

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

NWRBD

Owenea River Catchment

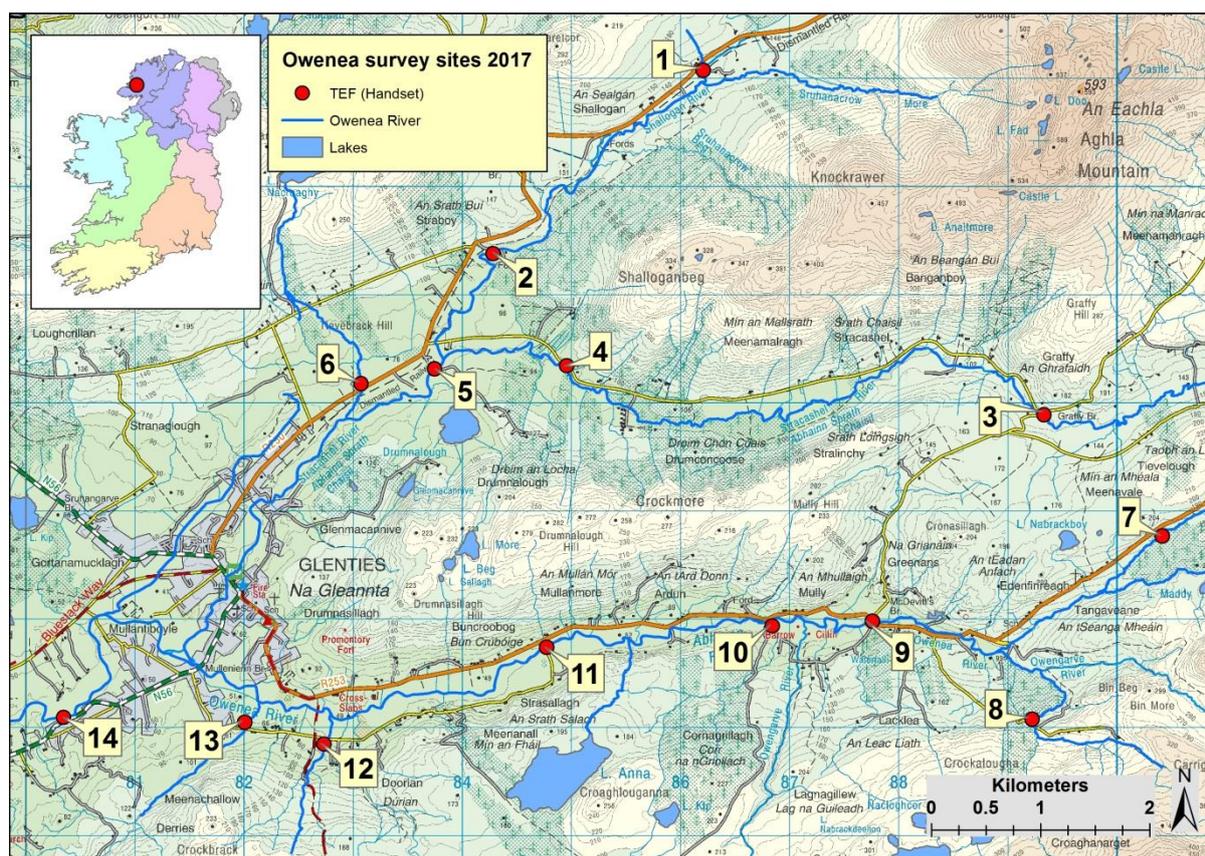
Factsheet: 2017/30

The Owenea Catchment is located within the North Western International River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 126km². The Owenea River flows in a south-westerly direction from the Bluestack Mountains, Co. Donegal, through the town of Glenties, before reaching the sea just north of Ardara. The geology of this catchment is a mix of granite, quartzite, marble and schist, with blanket bog,

forestry and agriculture the main land use types. Two special areas of conservation form significant portions of this catchment. The West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC occupies most of the main channel and its mouth at Ardara, while large portions of its southern headwaters are within the Lough Nilan Bog (Carrickatlieve) SAC.



The Owenea River at McDevitt's Br. (site 9).



Map of Owenea Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

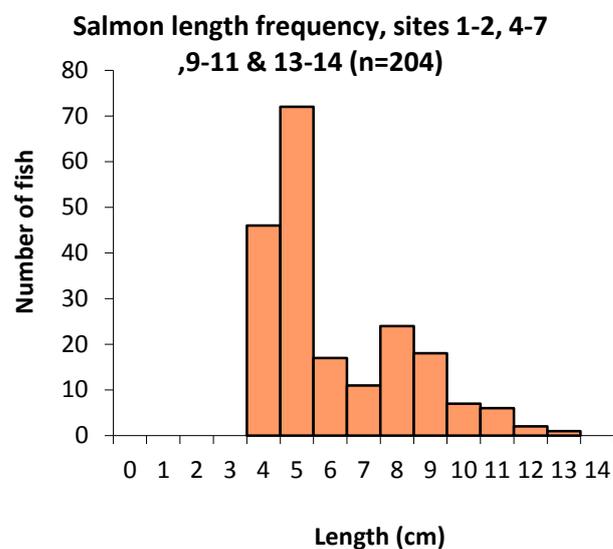
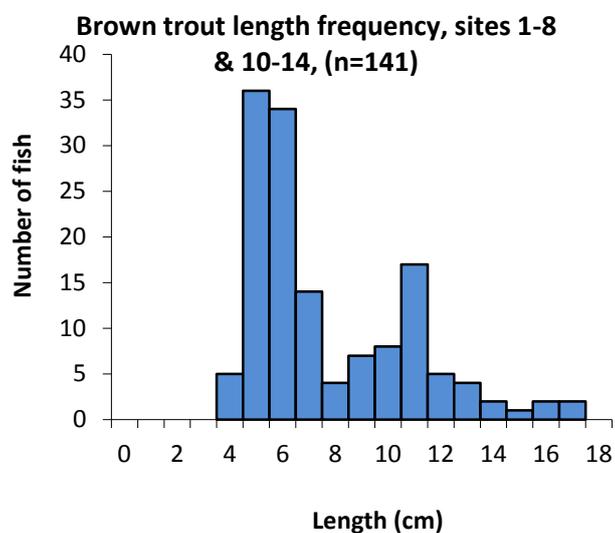
Site survey details, Owenea River Catchment, 2017

No.	Catchment	Site	Method	Date
1	Owenea (Shallogon)	Shallogan	TEF (Handset)	14/08/2017
2	Owenea (Shallogon)	Straboy Ford	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
3	Owenea (Stracashel)	Graffy Br.	TEF (Handset)	14/08/2017
4	Owenea (Stracashel)	Shalloganbeg SW	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
5	Owenea (Stracashel)	Drumnalough	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
6	Owenea (Tievebrack)	Tievebrack Hill	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
7	Owenea	Meenavale	TEF (Handset)	14/08/2017
8	Owenea (Crockalougha)	Crockalougha	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
9	Owenea	Mc Devitts Br.	TEF (Handset)	14/08/2017
10	Owenea	Mully	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
11	Owenea	Mullanmore	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
12	Owenea (Crockback)	Doorian NW	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
13	Owenea	Mullenierin	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
14	Owenea	Kilrean	Spot check	15/08/2017

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

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m²)

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Species	2017						
Brown trout	0.765	0.014	0.152	0.116	0.012	0.561	0.073
0+ brown trout	0.529	0.014	0.020	0.054	-	0.415	0.024
1+ & older brown trout	0.235	-	0.131	0.062	0.012	0.146	0.049
Salmon	0.118	0.776	-	0.402	0.458	0.269	0.114
0+ salmon	0.059	0.384	-	0.278	0.365	0.135	-
1+ & older salmon	0.059	0.391	-	0.124	0.093	0.135	0.114
All Fish	0.882	0.790	0.152	0.517	0.470	0.830	0.188
Site no.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Species	2017						
Brown trout	0.354	-	0.377	0.017	0.697	0.187	Yes
0+ brown trout	0.131	-	0.068	0.017	0.476	0.187	Yes
1+ & older brown trout	0.223	-	0.310	-	0.221	-	-
Salmon	-	0.160	0.019	0.027	-	0.052	Yes
0+ salmon	-	0.082	0.019	0.022	-	0.052	Yes
1+ & older salmon	-	0.078	-	0.005	-	0.000	Yes
All Fish	0.354	0.160	0.397	0.043	0.697	0.239	Spot
Yes- Present (Spot check only)							



Salmonid age class structure, Owenea catchment,
2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	73	27	-	-
	2	100	-	-	-
	3	14	29	57	-
	4	50	38	13	-
	5	-	100	-	-
	6	79	14	7	-
	7	40	40	20	-
	8	43	21	21	14
	10	21	68	11	-
	11	100	-	-	-
	12	75	25	-	-
	13	100	-	-	-
	14	100	-	-	-
	Salmon	1	50	50	-
2		53	44	4	-
4		69	19	12	-
5		81	17	2	-
6		50	50	-	-
7		-	71	29	-
9		55	41	5	-
10		100	-	-	-
11		83	-	17	-
13		100	-	-	-
14		96	4	-	-

Summary

Two fish species were recorded at fourteen sites surveyed on the Owenea River Catchment in 2017. Brown trout were the most abundant species captured. Four age classes of brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+) and three salmon (0+, 1+ and 2+) were present. Site 1 recorded the highest density of brown trout (mostly fry aged 0+). Site 2 had one of the lowest densities of brown trout but had by far the greatest density of salmon, an even mix of fry (0+) and parr (1+ and older).

Four sites (1, 4, 6 & 12) were assigned a fish ecological status of high. Five sites (2, 5, 8, 10 & 13) were assigned good. Three sites (3, 7, & 9) were assigned moderate and one site (11) was assigned poor.

Fish ecological status, Owenea catchment

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

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

CITATION: Matson, R., Delanty, K., Gordon, P., O'Briain, R., Garland, D., Cierpal, D., Connor, L., Corcoran, W., Coyne, J., McLoone, P., Morrissey-McCaffrey, E., Brett, T., Ní Dhonnabhain, L. and Kelly, F.L., (2018) Sampling Fish in Rivers 2017 – Owenea, Factsheet No. 30. National Research Survey Programme. Inland Fisheries Ireland.

The report includes Ordnance Survey Ireland data reproduced under OSI Copyright Permit No. MP 007508. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Ordnance Survey Ireland and Government of Ireland copyright. © Ordnance Survey Ireland, 2018.