

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

NWRBD

Owentocker River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/31

The Owentocker River Catchment is located within the North Western International River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 43km². The river flows in a westerly direction from the Blue Stack Mountains, Co. Donegal, before reaching the sea at Ardara town. The geology of this catchment is mainly composed of marble, quartzite and schist, with the land cover mostly blanket bog and small amounts of

forestry and agriculture. A large portion of this catchment falls within the Lough Nilan Bog (Carrickatlieve) Special Area of Conservation, with its mouth at Ardara forming part of the West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC.

Seven sites were surveyed on the Owentocker River Catchment between the 15th and 17th of August 2017.



The Owentocker River at Tullybane (site 1).

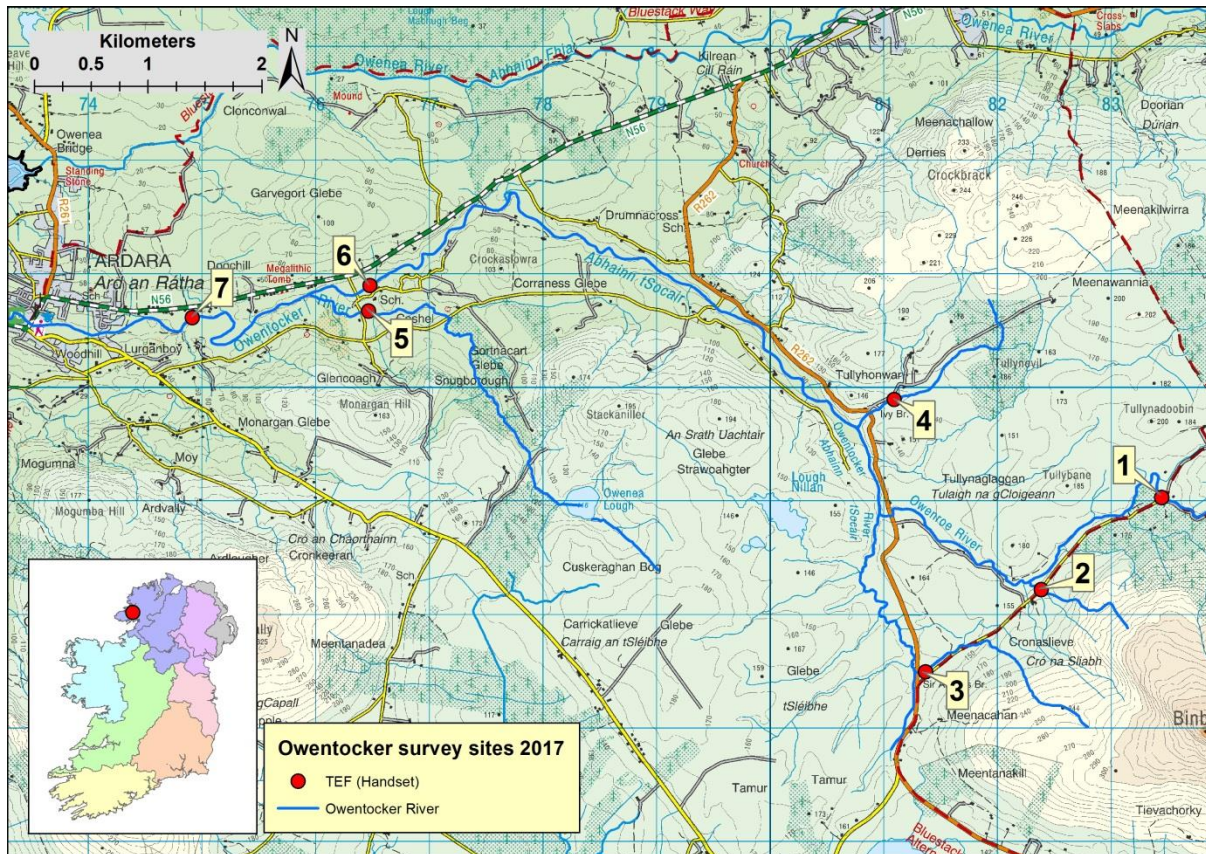


Fig 1. Map of Owentocker Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

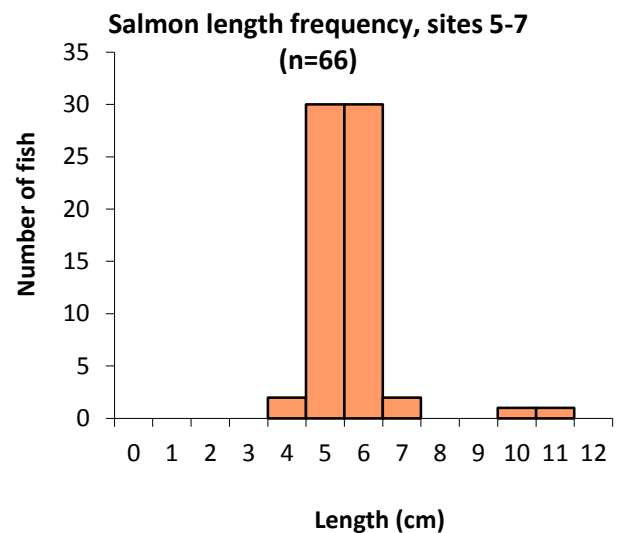
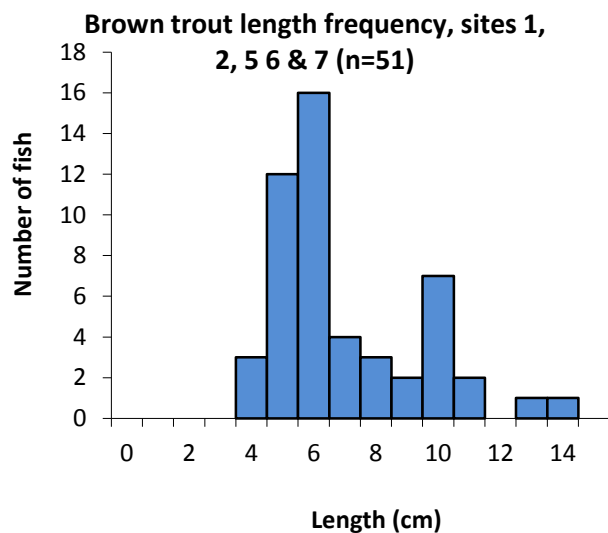
Sites survey details, Owentocker River Catchment, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	Date
1	Owenroa River	Tullybane Br.	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
2	Owenroa River	Cronaslieve House	TEF (Handset)	15/08/2017
3	Owentocker River	Sir Alberts Br.	TEF (Handset)	16/08/2017
4	Owentocker River tributary	Ivy Br.	TEF (Handset)	16/08/2017
5	Owentocker tributary (Cuskercraghan)	Cashel	TEF (Handset)	17/08/2017
6	Owentocker River	Cashel School	Spot check	15/08/2017
7	Owentocker River	Lurganboy	TEF (Handset)	17/08/2017

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

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m²)

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Species	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Brown trout	0.009	0.190	-	-	0.559	Yes	0.060
0+ brown trout	-	0.048	-	-	0.417	Yes	0.060
1+ & older brown trout	0.009	0.143	-	-	0.142	-	-
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.022
Salmon	-	-	-	-	0.152	Yes	0.462
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	0.133	Yes	0.447
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	0.019	-	0.015
All Fish	0.009	0.190	0.000	0.000	0.710	Spot	0.544
Yes- Present (Spot check only)							



Salmonid age class structure, Owentocker catchment, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch		
		0+	1+	2+
Brown trout	1	-	-	100
	2	30	70	-
	5	79	18	3
	6	100	-	-
	7	100	-	-
Salmon	5	88	13	-
	6	100	-	-
	7	97	3	-

Fish ecological status, Owentocker catchment

Site No.	2017
1	N/A
2	N/A
3	N/A
4	N/A
5	Good
6	N/A
7	Moderate

N/A: Fish absent or qualitative data only available (spot check)

Summary

Three fish species were recorded at seven sites surveyed on the Owentocker River Catchment in 2017. Brown trout was the most abundant species captured. Three age classes of brown trout (0+, 1+, and 2+) and two for salmon (0+ and 1+) were encountered. The highest density of brown trout was recorded at Site 5. No fish were recorded at Sites 3 and 4.

One site (6) was assigned a fish ecological status of moderate and one site (7) was assigned good fish status.

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