

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

ERBD

Rye Water Catchment

Factsheet: 2018/5

The Rye Water Catchment is located within the Eastern River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 157km². The catchment consists of two major parts, the Rye Water main channel and the Lyreen River, both of which flow eastwards to join each other, just north of Maynooth, but many more smaller tributaries also flow into the two channels. The Rye Water flows eastwards to reach the River Liffey at Leixlip. Geology is comprised of limestone,

shale and sandstone. The primary land use within this relatively small catchment is agriculture, with significant areas of urban development also present, including the towns of Kilcock, Maynooth and Leixlip.

Three sites were surveyed on the Rye Water between the 14th and 20th of September 2018.



The Rye Water at Balfeghan Br., Co. Kildare (site1)

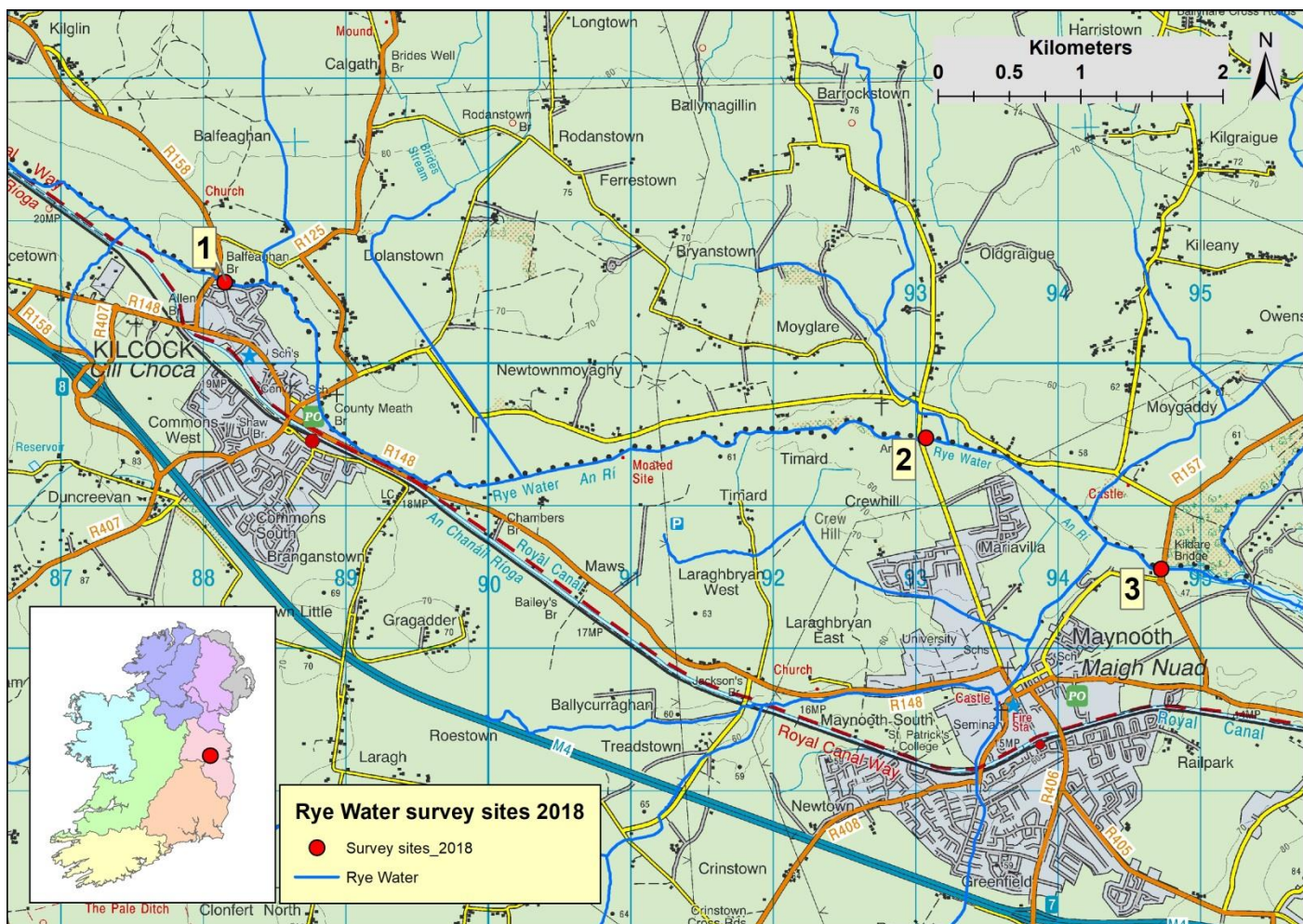


Fig 1. Map of Rye Water survey sites, 2018

Site survey details, Rye Water Catchment, 2018

No.	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Rye Water	Balfeghan Br.	TEF (Handset)	-	14/09/2018
2	Rye Water	Anne's Br.	TEF (Handset)	-	20/09/2018
3	Rye Water	Kildare Br.	TEF (Handset)	Yes	14/09/2018

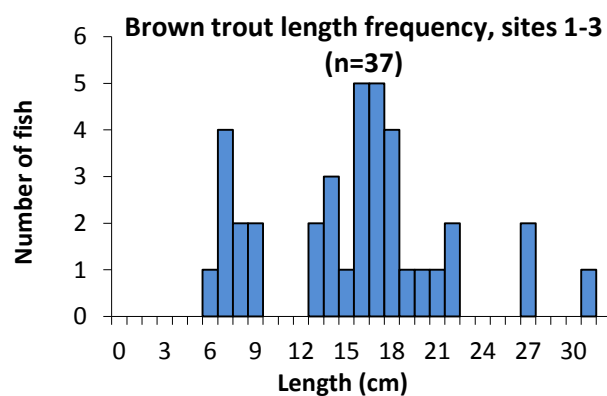
TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing)

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m²), Rye Water 2018 (previous results are shown where applicable)

Site no.	1		2	3		
Species	2011	2018	2018	2008	2011	2018
Brown trout	0.079	0.179	0.267	0.100	0.066	0.125
0+ brown trout	0.066	0.024	0.082	0.023	0.010	0.022
1+ & older brown trout	0.013	0.155	0.185	0.077	0.055	0.103
European eel	-	-	-	0.035	0.007	-
Lamprey sp.	0.033	-	-	0.039	0.440	0.011
Minnow	2.285	0.250	0.383	0.406	0.208	0.642
Nine-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-	0.111	-
Pike	-	-	-	-	0.003	0.011
Roach	-	-	-	-	0.021	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	0.135	-
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	0.135	-
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone loach	0.066	-	-	0.119	0.101	-
Three-spined stickleback	0.790	0.440	0.041	0.003	0.066	0.016
All Fish	3.253	0.869	0.690	0.703	1.158	0.806

Age class structure of two fish species on the Rye Water 2018

Species	Site No.	% of catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	14	86	-	-
	2	32	42	26	-
	3	18	55	18	9
Pike	3	100	-	-	-



Only one site (2) achieved Good ecological status. Sites 1 and 3 have declined since 2011, changing from good to Moderate status.

Fish ecological status, Rye Water, 2018

Site No.	2001	2008	2011	2018
1	Poor		Good	Mod
2				Good
3		Mod	Good	Mod

Summary

Five fish species were recorded at three sites surveyed on the Rye Water River Catchment in 2018. Minnow was the most abundant species captured. Brown trout were recorded at all three sites fished and ranged in length from 6.8 to 31.5cm. Four age classes of brown trout, 0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+, were present. Lamprey and pike were recorded at one site only (site 3).

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CITATION: Matson, R., Delanty, K., Gordon, P., O'Briain, R., McCarthy, E., Cierpal, D., Connor, L., Corcoran, W., Coyne, J., McLoone, P., Morrissey-McCaffrey, E., Brett, T., Gavin, A and Kelly, F.L., (2019) Sampling Fish in Rivers 2018 - Ryewater, Factsheet No. 5. National Research Survey Programme. Inland Fisheries Ireland.

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