

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

SERBD

River Suir

Factsheet: 2018/7

The River Suir is one of Ireland's largest rivers. It rises just north of Templemore, Co. Tipperary and flows in a southerly direction through Thurles and Cahir before turning eastwards through Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir and Waterford. It joins the River Barrow at Cheekpoint only a few kilometres from its mouth at Waterford Harbour. Geology is mixed throughout this

large catchment and is comprised of limestone, sandstone and conglomerate. The primary land use type is agriculture. The lower reaches of this river fall within the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation.

Ten sites were surveyed on the River Suir between the 28th and 31st of August 2018.



The River Suir at Ferryhouse, Co. Tipperary



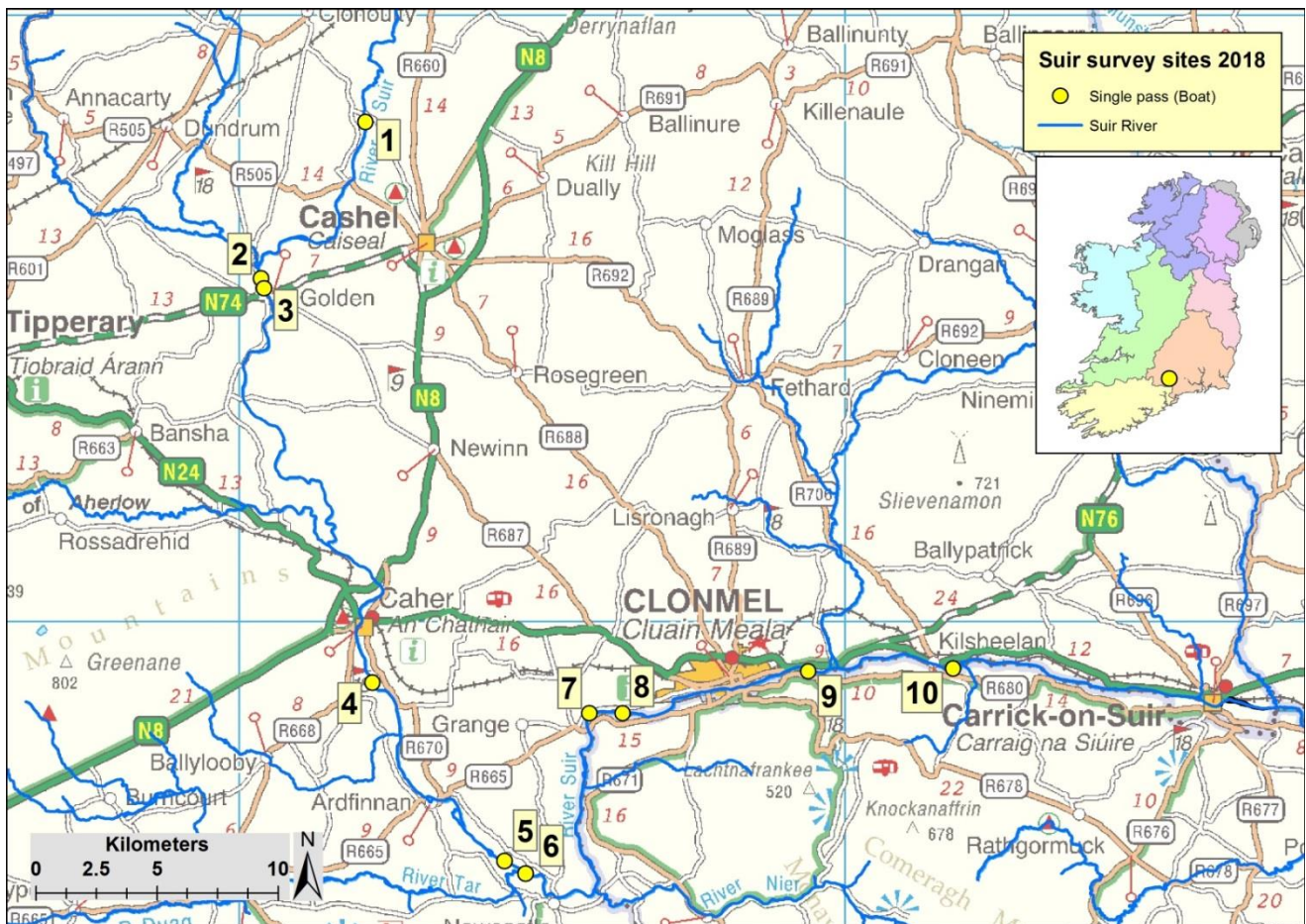


Fig 1. Map of River Suir survey sites, 2018

Site survey details, River Suir, 2018

No.	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Suir, River	Ardmayle Br.	SP (Boat)	-	28/08/2018
2	Suir, River	Springmount	SP (Boat)	-	28/08/2018
3	Suir, River	u/s of Golden	SP (Boat)	-	28/08/2018
4	Suir, River	Swiss Cottage	SP (Boat)	-	29/08/2018
5	Suir, River	Clocully	SP (Boat)	-	29/08/2018
6	Suir, River	Kilmaneen	SP (Boat)	-	29/08/2018
7	Suir, River	d/s Knocklofty	SP (Boat)	-	30/08/2018
8	Suir, River	Loughtally	SP (Boat)	-	30/08/2018
9	Suir, River	Ferryhouse	SP (Boat)	-	30/08/2018
10	Suir, River	Kilsheelan Br.	SP (Boat)	Yes	31/08/2018

SP (Single Pass electrofishing)

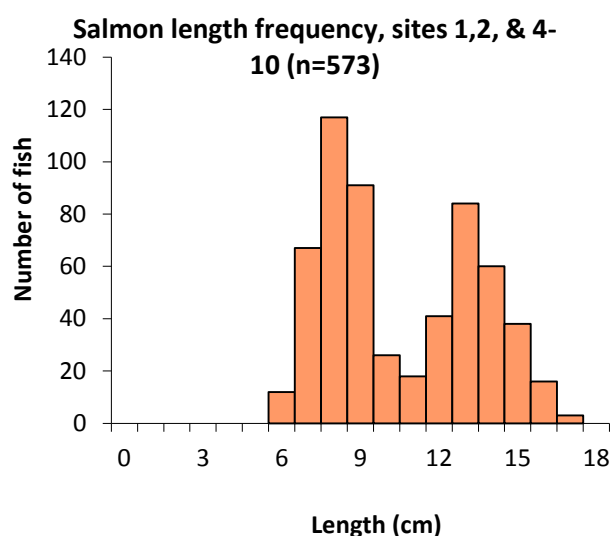
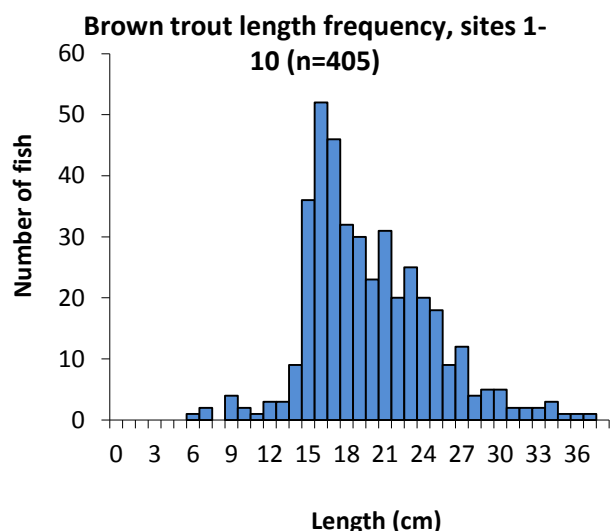
Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m²) River Suir, August 2018

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6
Species	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
Brown trout	0.017	0.009	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.002
0+ brown trout	-	-	-	0.000	-	0.00003
1+ & older brown trout	0.017	0.009	0.002	0.003	0.003	0.002
Dace	-	-	-	-	0.00004	-
European eel	-	-	-	0.0001	-	0.00003
Flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gudgeon	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lamprey Sp.	-	0.0001	-	-	-	-
Minnow	0.021	-	-	-	0.0003	0.0004
Perch	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pike	0.001	-	0.0002	0.0001	-	-
Salmon	0.0102	0.0087	-	0.0068	0.0027	0.0018
0+ salmon	0.001	0.003	-	0.002	0.001	0.001
1+ & older salmon	0.009	0.005	-	0.005	0.002	0.001
Stone loach	0.0004	0.0005	-	-	0.0002	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-	-	-
All Fish	0.050	0.018	0.003	0.010	0.006	0.004
Site no.	7	8	9	10		
Species	2018	2018	2018	2010	2014	2018
Brown trout	0.0002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.009	0.001
0+ brown trout	-	0.00005	0.0002	0.00003	0.002	0.00002
1+ & older brown trout	0.0002	0.001	0.0004	0.001	0.007	0.001
Dace	-	-	0.0002	0.00003	-	0.001
European eel	-	-	0.0002	0.003	0.0004	0.0001
Flounder	-	-	0.0002	0.0004	0.001	0.0003
Gudgeon	-	-	0.0002	-	-	-
Lamprey Sp.	-	-	-	0.00012	0.0003	-
Minnow	0.0001	0.0002	0.002	0.00003	0.005	0.0002
Perch	-	0.0000	-	-	-	-
Pike	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salmon	0.0009	0.0036	0.0029	0.0027	0.0130	0.0018
0+ salmon	0.001	0.003	0.002	0.0000	0.007	0.001
1+ & older salmon	-	0.001	0.001	0.003	0.006	0.0003
Stone loach	0.00005	0.0003	0.0001	0.001	0.005	0.0005
Three-spined stickleback	-	0.0001	0.0001	0.0000	-	0.0001
All Fish	0.001	0.005	0.006	0.007	0.035	0.004

Fish age class structure River Suir, August 2018

Species	Site No.	% of catch							
		0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	6+	7+
Brown trout	1	-	56	24	12	7	-	-	-
	2	-	29	58	12	1	-	-	-
	3	-	13	67	20	-	-	-	-
	4	2	19	58	19	2	-	-	-
	5	-	57	30	7	5	-	-	-
	6	2	52	25	17	4	-	-	-
	7	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	6	28	50	11	6	-	-	-
	9	33	50	8	-	8	-	-	-
	10	4	40	44	4	8	-	-	-
Dace	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
	9	-	67	33	-	-	-	-	-
	10	-	3	3	6	15	50	18	6
Pike	1	-	60	-	-	40	-	-	-
	3	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-
Salmon	1	15	85	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	38	62	-	-	-	-	-	-
	4	32	68	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5	38	62	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	33	67	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	8	75	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
	9	67	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
	10	81	19	-	-	-	-	-	-





Summary

Twelve fish species were recorded at ten sites surveyed on the River Suir in 2018. Brown trout and salmon were the most abundant species captured. Brown trout were present at all ten sites and salmon were recorded at nine out of ten sites surveyed. Brown trout ranged in length from 6.8 to 43.1cm. Five age classes of brown trout 0+, 1+, 2+, 3+ and 4+ were present. Salmon ranged in length from 6.1 to 17.5cm and two age classes were present (0+ and 1+). European eel was recorded at four sites (4, 6, 9 & 10). Dace were recorded at three sites (5, 9 & 10) and ranged in length from 9.7 to 26.8cm. Seven age classes of dace 1+ to 7+ were present. Pike was recorded at three sites (1, 3 & 4) and ranged in length from 26.2 to 98cm. Three age classes of pike 1+, 4+ & 6+ were present. Lamprey were captured at site 2 only.

Two survey sites (1 & 10) were assigned Good fish ecological status. The remaining sites achieved a moderate or poor fish status.

Fish ecological status, River Suir, 2018

Site No.	2014	2018
1		Good
2		Mod
3		Poor
4		Mod
5		Mod
6		Mod
7		Poor
8		Mod
9		Poor
10	Good	Good

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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 - Suir, Factsheet No. 7. National Research Survey Programme. Inland Fisheries Ireland.

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