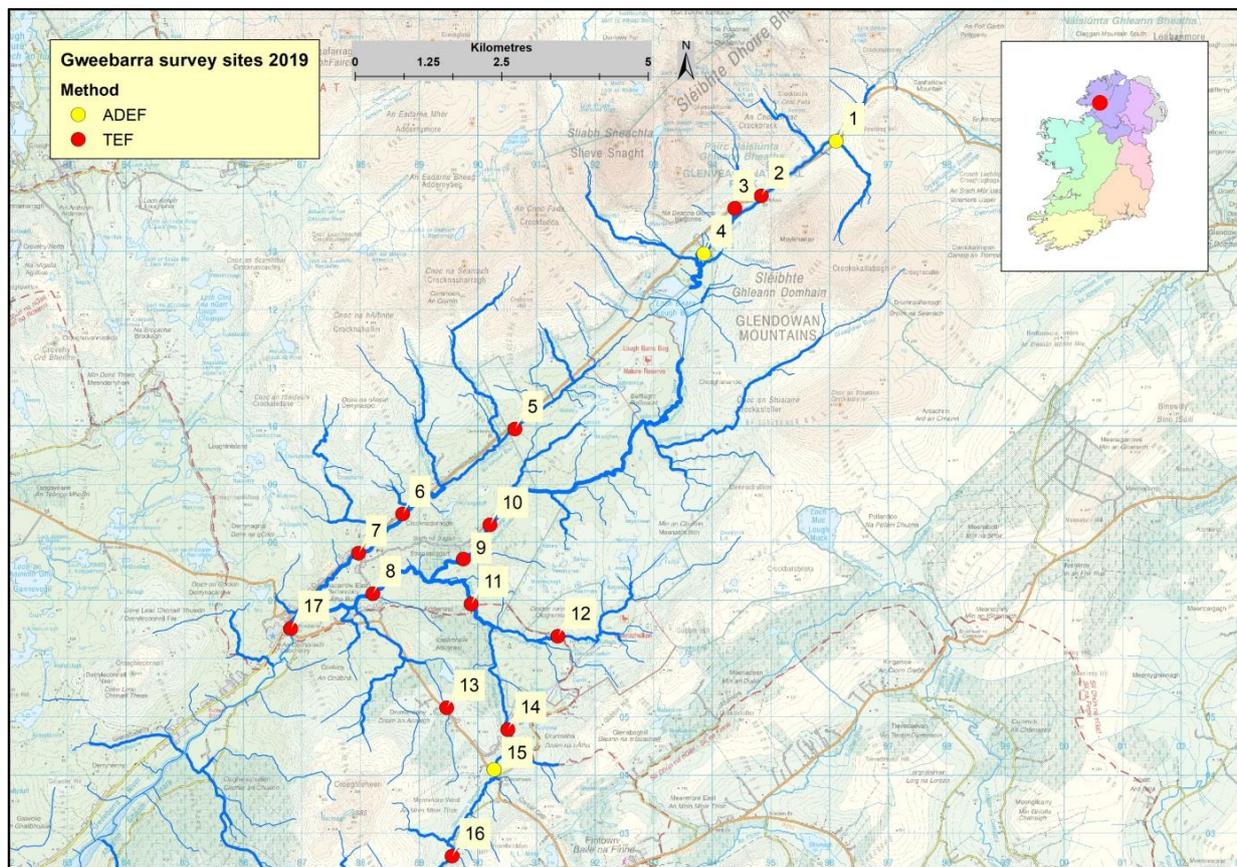


Fish in Rivers Factsheet

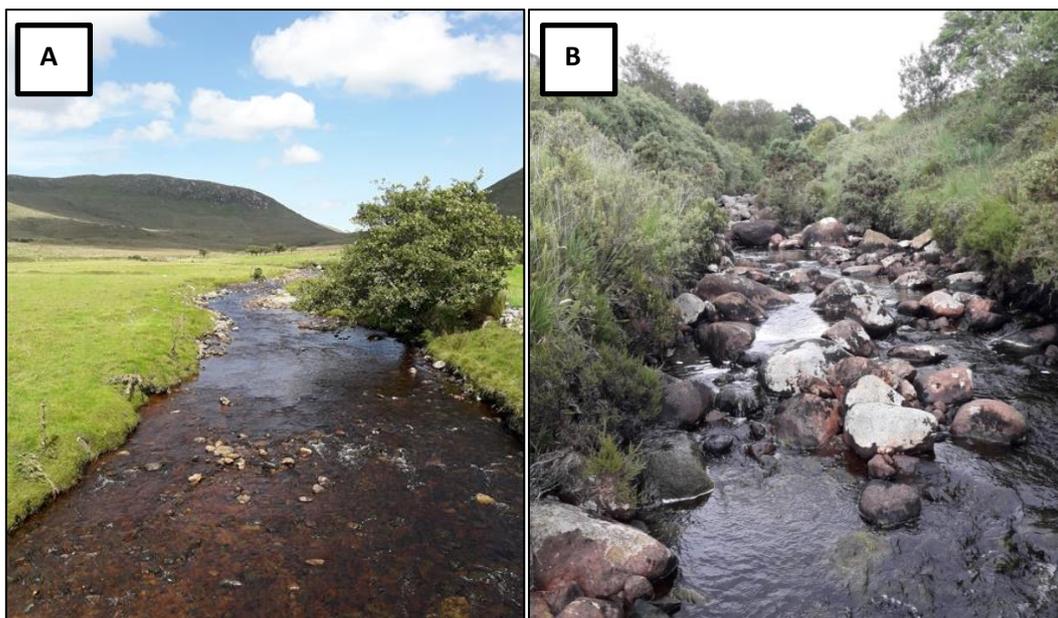
The Gweebarra River catchment is located in north County Donegal within the North Western River Basin District and covers an area of approx. 122 km². The River Barra rises between the Glendowan and Derryveagh mountains and flows for approximately 32km in a southwesterly direction through Lough Barra. The Gweebarra River flows out of Lough Barra and continues in a southwesterly direction through the village of Doocharry and meets the sea at Gweebarra Bay. The main tributaries are the Owenwee, Cloghernagore and Croagheen rivers. The catchment has one relatively large lake present, Lough Barra. This is a spate river and includes 16km of estuarine water. This catchment's geology is mixed

between granite, slate, shale and schist, with rough pasture and blanket bog as the dominant land uses. The river receives a good run of salmon and sea trout and is well regarded as an angling river. A large proportion of the upper catchment forms part of the Cloghernagore Bog and Glenveagh National Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC) while the lower part of the catchment is situated within the West of Ardara/Maas Road SAC.

A total of 17 sites were surveyed in the catchment between the 23rd of July and 7th of August in 2019 to determine the status of their fish stocks.



Map of Gweebarra River catchment electrofishing survey sites, July 2019



(A) The River Barra (upstream of Lough Barra - site 4) and (B) Owenwee River (Dernafoanog East - site 5), July 2019.

Site survey details, Gweebarra River catchment, July 2019

No.	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
1	Sruhanavarnis River	Meenbog Hill	ADEF	-	23/07/2019
2	Barra, River	Pollglass Br.	TEF	-	23/07/2019
3	Barra, River	Bingorms	TEF	-	23/07/2019
4	Barra, River	u/s Lough Barra	ADEF	-	24/07/2019
5	Owenwee River	Dernafoanog East	TEF	-	25/07/2019
6	Owenwee River	Crocknadornoge	TEF	-	25/07/2019
7	Owenwee River	Stranasaggart West	TEF	-	25/07/2019
8	Gweebarra River	Derrynacarrow East	TEF	-	31/07/2019
9	Gweebarra River	Stranasaggart	TEF	-	31/07/2019
10	Gweebarra River	Crocknadornoge East	TEF	-	25/07/2019
11	Abroe River	Adderwal Glen	TEF	-	24/07/2019
12	Cloghernagore River	Cloghernagore	TEF	-	24/07/2019
13	Drumaneany River	Drumaneany	TEF	-	30/07/2019
14	Glenleheen stream	Namona West	TEF	-	24/07/2019
15	Glenleheen stream	Glenleheen Br.	ADEF	-	24/07/2019
16	Glenleheen stream	Loughnambraddan Hill	TEF	-	24/07/2019
17	Owenwee River	Doocharry Br.	TEF	-	31/07/2019

TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing), ADEF (Area delimited electro-fishing)



The Gweebarra River at Crocknadornoge East (site 10), 2019

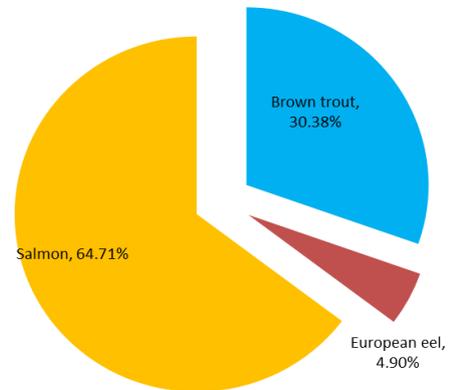
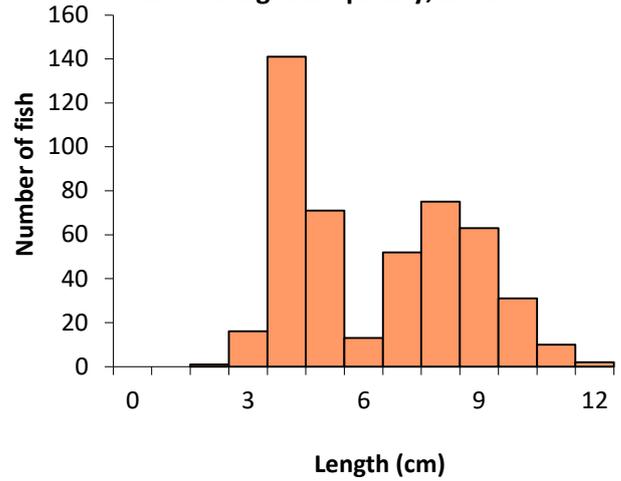
Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m²), sites 1-17, Gweebarra River catchment, 2019

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Species	2019								
Brown trout	0.123	0.086	0.130	0.020	0.243	0.154	0.026	0.027	
0+ brown trout	0.007	0.000	0.023	0.003	0.129	0.028	0.026	0.000	
1+ & older brown trout	0.116	0.086	0.107	0.017	0.114	0.127	0.000	0.027	
Salmon	-	-	-	0.201	0.273	0.369	0.168	0.136	
0+ salmon	-	-	-	0.020	0.182	0.105	0.053	0.012	
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	0.027	0.091	0.264	0.116	0.123	
European eel	0.007	-	-	0.003	0.023	0.017	0.037	0.060	
All Fish	0.13	0.086	0.13	0.225	0.538		0.231	0.222	
Site no.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Species	2019								
Brown trout	0.038	0.057	0.028	0.131	-	0.114	0.045	0.394	0.078
0+ brown trout	0.000	0.018	0.023	0.035	-	0.073	0.032	0.230	0.006
1+ & older brown trout	0.038	0.039	0.006	0.096	-	0.040	0.013	0.164	0.073
Salmon	0.248	0.168	0.162	0.020	0.390	0.314	0.440	-	0.241
0+ salmon	0.088	0.061	0.077	-	0.180	0.167	0.395	-	0.015
1+ & older salmon	0.161	0.108	0.085	0.020	0.210	0.147	0.045	-	0.226
European eel	-	-	0.009	0.015	-	-	0.013	-	0.142
All Fish	0.286	0.226	0.199	0.167	0.390	0.427	0.499	0.394	0.461

Salmonid % age class structure at survey sites (where recorded), Gweebarra River catchment, 2019

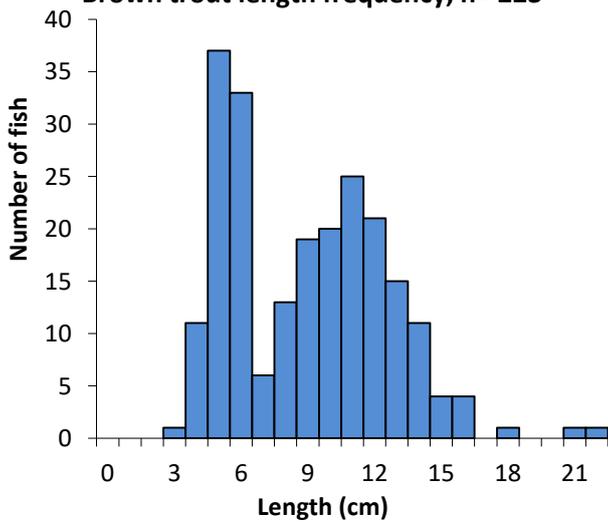
Species	Site No.	% catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	13	65	23	-
	2	-	40	50	10
	3	18	27	45	9
	4	35	40	20	5
	5	61	39	-	-
	6	21	79	-	-
	7	100	-	-	-
	8	38	63	-	-
	9	-	57	43	-
	10	-	67	33	-
	11	31	69	-	-
	12	83	-	17	-
	13	65	26	9	-
	14	79	21	-	-
	15	70	20	10	-
	17	8	38	54	-
	Salmon	4	56	25	19
5		67	33	-	-
6		31	63	6	-
7		35	65	-	-
8		40	60	-	-
9		38	44	17	-
10		9	76	15	-
11		-	100	-	-
12		48	48	3	-
14		86	11	2	-
15		56	36	8	-
16		46	54	-	-
17		7	88	5	-

Salmon length frequency, n=475



Fish species composition (%) in the Gweebarra River catchment survey, July 2019

Brown trout length frequency, n= 223



Fish ecological status, Gweebarra River Catchment, July 2019

Gweebarra catchment			
Site No.	2019	Site No.	2019
1	Moderate	10	Good
2	Good	11	Good
3	Good	12	Good
4	Moderate	13	Moderate
5	High	14	High
6	High	15	High
7	Moderate	16	High
8	Moderate	17	Good
9	Moderate		

Summary

Three fish species were recorded at seventeen sites surveyed on the Gweebarra River catchment in 2019. Salmon was the most abundant species captured and was present at 13 sites. Salmon ranged in length from 2.2 to 12.9cm. Brown trout were also common and recorded at most sites (16 sites), ranging in length from 3.5 to 22.2cm. Three age classes for salmon, 0+, 1+, 2+ were recorded and all ages from 0+ to 3+ for both brown trout. European eel was also relatively frequent and recorded at ten sites.

The highest salmon fry (0+) density was recorded at site 15 on the Glenleheen stream followed by site 5 (Owenwee River) and site 13 Drumaneany River). The highest density of salmon parr (1+ & older) was recorded at sites 6 and 17 on the Owenwee River. The highest density of brown trout fry and 1+ and older was recorded at site 16 on the Glenleheen stream.

Fives sites were assigned a fish ecological status of high, six sites as Good and the remaining six as Moderate. High status sites were limited to the Gleneheen and Owenwee sub-catchments. **Survey sites on the the Gweebarra River main channel and three tributaries elsewhere did not achieve the required status of Good. This is related to absence or low densities of juvenile slamonids (age 0+), indicating poor recruitment at those sites.**

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