

# Fish in Rivers Factsheet

WRBD

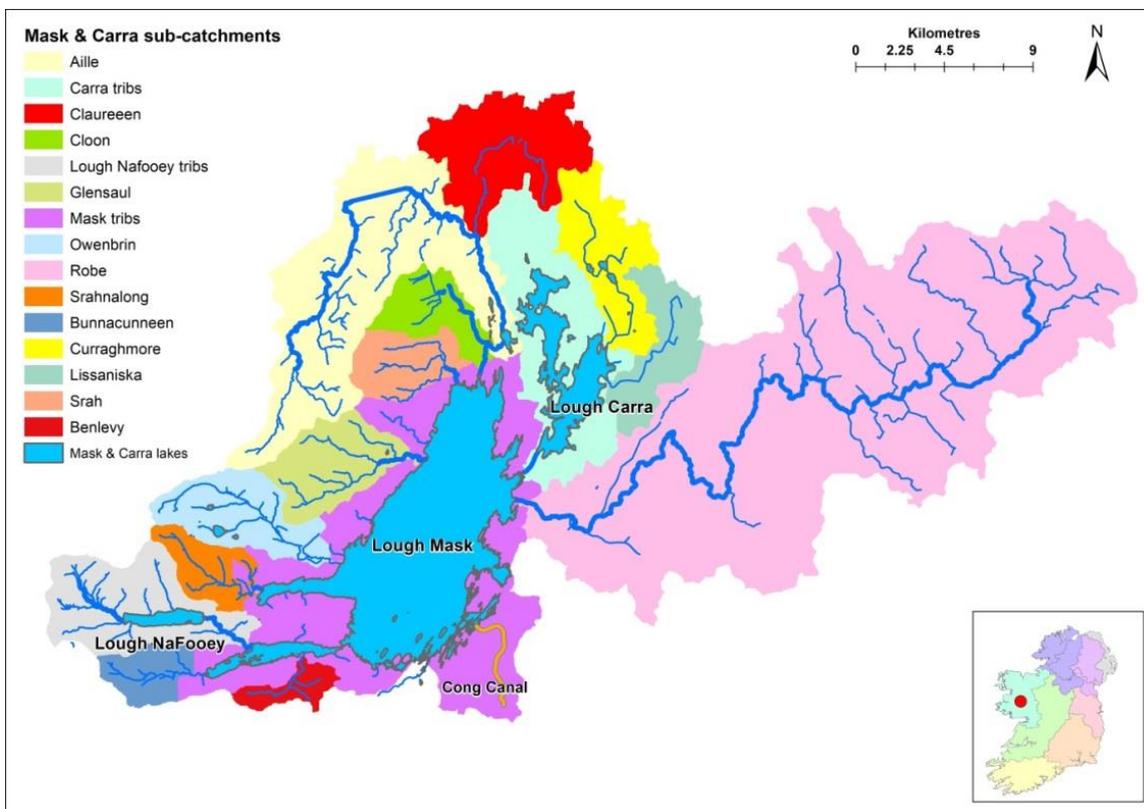
Lough Mask/Carra Rivers

Rivers Fact Sheet 2019/1

Loughs Mask and Carra and their tributaries are located in the Corrib catchment within the Western River Basin District. Lough Mask drains into Lough Corrib via the Cong Canal/River and underground via a limestone aquifer. The main land cover types on the western side of Lough Mask are Atlantic peat bog, transitioning to scrub, rough pasture and some forestry in the lower Glensaul River catchment. The main land cover types on the eastern side are pasture and scrub. Geology on the western side of the catchment is predominantly siliceous comprising shale, sandstone and conglomerate while limestone and shale dominate on the eastern side. The Lough Mask/Carra lake complex is a SAC and SPA that supports a wide range of protected habitats and

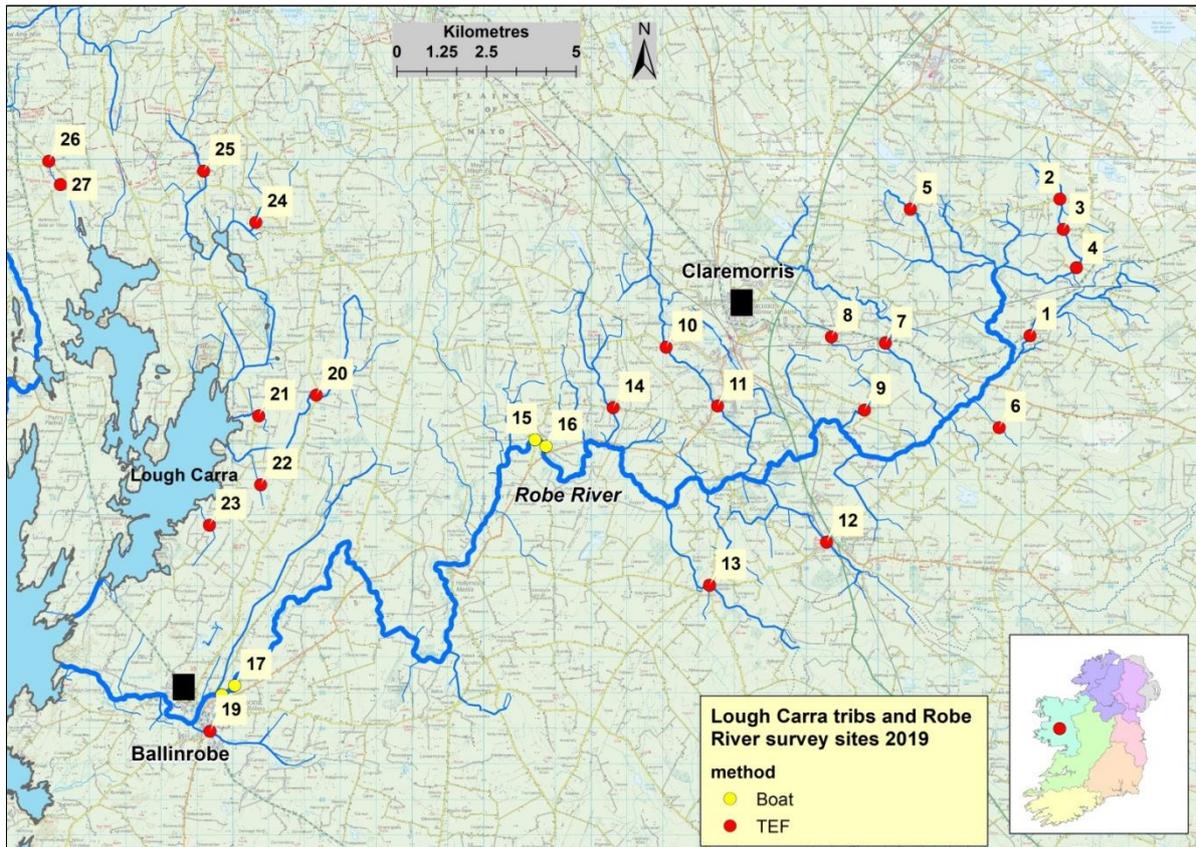
species in its lakes and surrounding area. The lakes together with Lough Corrib are regarded as among the best brown trout fisheries in Ireland and their feeder streams are vital to maintain the trout populations within the lakes. Sub-catchments surveyed included the Robe River to the east of Lough Mask, the Aille River and its tributaries to the north of Lough Mask, the Glensaul, Owenbrin, Srah and Srahnalong Rivers to the west. Tributaries of Lough Carra and Lough Nafoeoy were also assessed.

A total of 71 sites were surveyed to determine the status of their fish stocks between August 19<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup> 2019.



Loughs Mask and Carra sub-catchments surveyed, August/September 2019

River Robe (Lough Mask) and Lough Carra catchments



Location of fish survey sites on the River Robe (Lough Mask) (sites 1-19) and Lough Carra (sites 20-27) catchments, August/September 2019



The Robe River at Akit Br., Co. Mayo (site 18)

## Site survey details August/September 2019

*River Robe (Lough Mask catchment) (sites 1-19), and Lough Carra catchment (sites 20-27)*

No.	River	Site name	Method	WFD	Date
<b>River Robe (Lough Mask) catchment</b>					
1	Brickeens River	Brickeens Crossroads	TEF	-	26/08/2019
2	Robe River	Bekan	TEF	-	26/08/2019
3	Robe River	Cloonbulban	TEF	-	27/08/2019
4	Robe River	Belesker	TEF	-	28/08/2019
5	Loughaunnaman River	Carrowbeg	TEF	-	27/08/2019
6	Crumlin River	Crumlin NE Track	TEF	-	27/08/2019
7	Nanannagh River	Ballyglass SE	TEF	-	27/08/2019
8	Drumkeen River	Ballygowan	TEF	-	27/08/2019
9	Ballykinava River	Meelick More	TEF	-	28/08/2019
10	Claremorris West River	Gortgarve_West	TEF	-	28/08/2019
11	Claremorris West River	Millbrook	TEF	-	28/08/2019
12	Ballindine River	Newtown North	TEF	-	28/08/2019
13	Scardaune River	Scardaune	TEF	-	29/08/2019
14	Dunmady River	Gortnagranagher	TEF	-	19/08/2019
15	Robe River	Hollybrook Br.	SP Boat	-	17/09/2019
16	Robe River	Tagheen	SP Boat	-	17/09/2019
17	Robe River	Friarsquarter	SP Boat	YES	17/09/2019
18	Robe River	Akit Br.	SP Boat	YES	17/09/2019
19	Bulkan River	Knockfereen	TEF	-	29/08/2019
<b>Lough Carra catchment</b>					
20	Lissaniska River	Mullingar Br.	TEF	-	30/07/2019
21	Cloondaver River	Carrowkilleen	TEF	-	31/07/2019
22	Brownstown, River	Carrowslattery	TEF	-	30/07/2019
23	Rocksborough River	Coolylaughnan	TEF	-	30/07/2019
24	Weatherfort River	Mountpleasant	TEF	-	31/07/2019
25	Curraghmore River	Clogher	TEF	-	29/07/2019
26	Ballintober River	Ballintober Holywell	TEF	-	29/07/2019
27	Ballintober River	Ballintober Abbey	TEF	-	29/07/2019
<i>TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing), ADEF (Area delimited electro-fishing), SP Boat (single pass boat electrofishing)</i>					

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>), River Robe catchment (sites 1-19), August/September 2019

(Previous results are shown where applicable)

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Species</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>
Brown trout	0.889	0.278	0.14	0.161	0.318	-	0.182
0+ brown trout	0.847	0.19	0.027	0.104	0.193	-	0.054
1+ & older brown trout	0.042	0.088	0.113	0.057	0.125	-	0.128
Minnow	0.021	-	-	-	-	0.204	0.013
Pike	-	-	0.007	-	-	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.027
Three-spined stickleback	0.111	-	-	-	-	-	0.020
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>1.02</b>	<b>0.278</b>	<b>0.147</b>	<b>0.161</b>	<b>0.318</b>	<b>0.204</b>	<b>0.243</b>
Site no.	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Species</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>
Brown trout	0.020	0.028	0.566	0.767	0.020	0.035	0.082
0+ brown trout	0.020	0.028	0.418	0.62	-	0.018	0.082
1+ & older brown trout	-	-	0.148	0.146	0.020	0.018	-
Minnow	0.366	-	-	-	0.049	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	0.030	0.125	0.019	-	0.059	0.027	-
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.416</b>	<b>0.152</b>	<b>0.585</b>	<b>0.767</b>	<b>0.128</b>	<b>0.115</b>	<b>0.082</b>
Site no.	15*	16*	17*		18*		19
<b>Species</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>
Brown trout	0.001	0.0011	0.0029	0.0003	0.0013	-	-
0+ brown trout	-	0.0004	-	-	0.0005	-	-
1+ & older brown trout	0.001	0.0006	0.0029	0.0003	0.0008	-	-
European eel	-	-	-	-	0.0001	-	-
Minnow	0.001	0.0006	0.0106	-	0.0167	0.0001	-
Perch	-	0.0002	-	-	0.0008	0.0001	-
Pike	0.001	0.0006	-	-	0.0004	-	-
Roach	-	-	0.0019	-	0.0003	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	0.0003	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	0.0002	-	-	0.0001	-	0.013
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.0028</b>	<b>0.0154</b>	<b>0.0003</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>0.0003</b>	<b>0.013</b>

\*single pass boat electrofishing

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>), Lough Carra catchment, sites 20-27, 2019

Site no.	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>Species</b>	<b>2019</b>							
Brown trout	0.401	0.502	-	0.386	0.045	0.233	0.731	2.692
0+ brown trout	0.401	0.445	-	0.216	0.045	0.197	0.731	2.410
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.057	-	0.17	-	0.036	-	0.282
Perch	-	-	-	-	0.06	-	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	0.075	0.057	0.523	0.216	-	-	-	-
Pike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.026
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.477</b>	<b>0.559</b>	<b>0.523</b>	<b>0.602</b>	<b>0.105</b>	<b>0.233</b>	<b>0.731</b>	<b>2.717</b>

## Brown trout % age class structure, August/September 2019

River Robe (Lough Mask) catchment (sites 1-19) and Lough Carra catchment (sites 20-27)

Site No.	% of catch				Site No.	% of catch			
	0+	1+	3+	4+		0+	1+	3+	4+
<b>Robe River catchment</b>									
1	95	5	-	-	15	-	33	33	33
2	67	33	-	-	16	40	20	-	20
3	20	80	-	-	17	-	100	-	-
4	70	30	-	-	18	-	-	-	-
5	67	33	-	-	19	-	-	-	-
7	31	54	15	-	<b>Lough Carra catchment</b>				
8	100	-	-	-	20	100	-	-	-
9	100	-	-	-	21	90	10	-	-
10	77	21	2	-	23	63	37	-	-
11	82	16	2	-	24	100	-	-	-
12	-	100	-	-	25	83	17	-	-
13	50	50	-	-	26	100	-	-	-
14	100	-	-	-	27	91	9	-	-

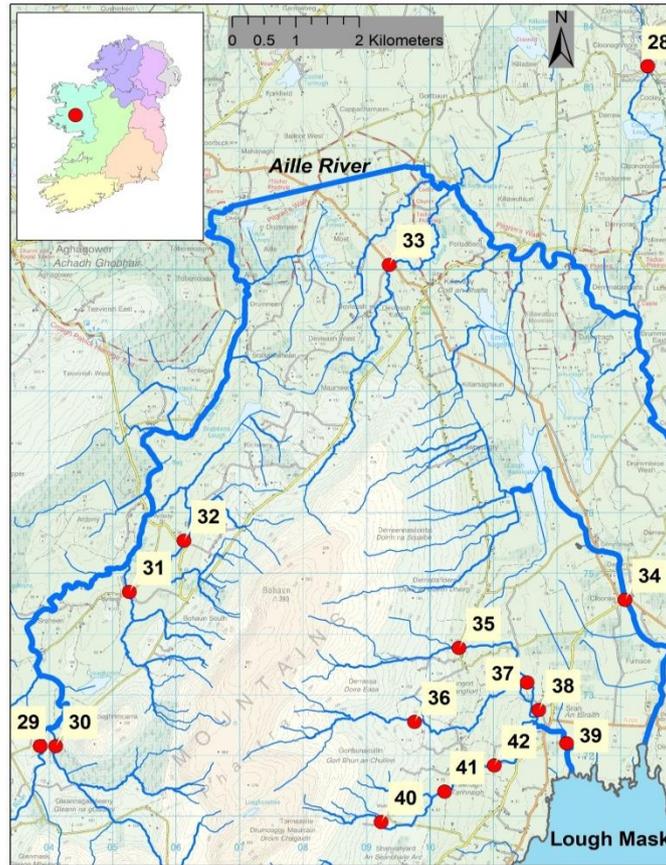
## Fish ecological status, August/September 2019

River Robe (Lough Mask) catchment (sites 1-19) and Lough Carra catchment (sites 20-27)

(previous results are shown where applicable)

River Robe catchment					Lough Carra catchment		
Site No.	2019	Site No.	2009	2014	2019	Site No.	2019
1	High	11	-	-	High	20	Good
2	Good	12	-	-	Poor	21	High
3	Good	13	-	-	Moderate	22	Poor
4	Good	14	-	-	Poor	23	Good
5	Good	15	-	-	Moderate	24	Poor
6	Poor	16	-	-	Moderate	25	Good
7	Good	17	-	Moderate	Moderate	26	Good
8	Poor	18	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	27	High
9	Poor	19	-	-	Poor		
10	High						

**Aille, Cloon and Srah River catchments**



**Location of fish survey sites in the Lough Mask catchment, August/September 2019**  
*(Aille River (sites 28-33), Cloon/Nadorralea River (site 34) and Srah River (sites 35-42) catchments)*



**The Aille River at Croaghribbeg, Co. Mayo (site 29)**

## Site survey details in Lough Mask river catchments, August/September 2019

*(Aille River (sites 28-33), Cloon/Nadorralea River (site 34) and Srah River (sites 35-42) catchments)*

No.	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
<b>Aille and Cloon River catchments</b>					
28	Claureen River	Ballyhean Park	TEF	-	24/09/2019
29	Aille River	Croaghribeg	TEF	-	28/09/2019
30	Gleannagashleeny River	Croaghrimcarra	TEF	-	25/09/2019
31	Partry River	Sraheen East	TEF	-	26/09/2019
32	Bohaun River	Bohaun North	TEF	-	25/09/2019
33	Camoge River	Devleash North	TEF	-	25/09/2019
34	Nadorralea River	Cloonee	TEF	-	25/09/2019
<b>Srah River catchment</b>					
35	Srah River	Shangort East	TEF	-	02/09/2019
36	Srah River	Gortbunacullin	TEF	-	03/09/2019
37	Srah River	Srah East	TEF	-	03/09/2019
38	Srah River	Srah Br.	TEF	-	02/09/2019
39	Srah River	Drain	TEF	-	02/09/2019
40	Srah River	u/s Treatment Plant	TEF	-	03/09/2019
41	Srah River	Tawnagh Hill	TEF	-	03/09/2019
42	Srah River	Tawnagh Junction	TEF	-	03/09/2019
<i>TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing), ADEF (Area delimited electro-fishing)</i>					



The Srah River at Srah Br., Co. Mayo (site 38)

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>), August/September 2019

*Aille (28-33) and Cloon/Nadorralea (site 34) river catchments (Lough Mask), (previous results are shown where applicable)*

Site no.	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Species	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Brown trout	0.491	0.096	0.2	0.289	0.275	0.886	0.259
0+ Brown trout	0.379	-	0.093	0.241	0.216	0.618	0.199
1+ & older Brown trout	0.111	0.096	0.106	0.048	0.059	0.268	0.060
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roach	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.010
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	0.039	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	0.011	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.491</b>	<b>0.107</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.289</b>	<b>0.314</b>	<b>0.886</b>	<b>0.269</b>

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>), August/September 2019

*Srah River catchment (Lough Mask), sites 35-42 (previous results are shown where applicable)*

Srah River catchment								
Site no.	35		36		37		38	
Species	2019	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019
Brown trout	0.133	0.555	-	-	0.700	1.088	0.122	0.088
0+ brown trout	0.120	0.364	-	-	0.638	1.035	0.083	0.051
1+ & older brown trout	0.013	0.190	-	-	0.062	0.053	0.0139	0.037
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.133</b>	<b>0.555</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.700</b>	<b>1.088</b>	<b>0.122</b>	<b>0.088</b>
Site no.	39	40		41	42			
Species	2019	2016	2019	2019	2016	2019		
Brown trout	0.217	0.124	0.012	0.884	1.448	1.370		
0+ brown trout	0.188	0.124	-	0.823	0.921	0.608		
1+ & older brown trout	0.029	-	0.012	0.061	0.527	0.762		
European eel	0.043	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.261</b>	<b>0.124</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>0.884</b>	<b>1.448</b>	<b>1.370</b>		



The Srah River at Tawnagh Junction., Co. Mayo (site 42)

## Brown trout % age class structure at survey sites 28-42, Lough Mask catchment August/September 2019

*Aille River (sites 28-33), Cloon/Nadorralea River (site 34) and Srah River (sites 35-42) catchments)*

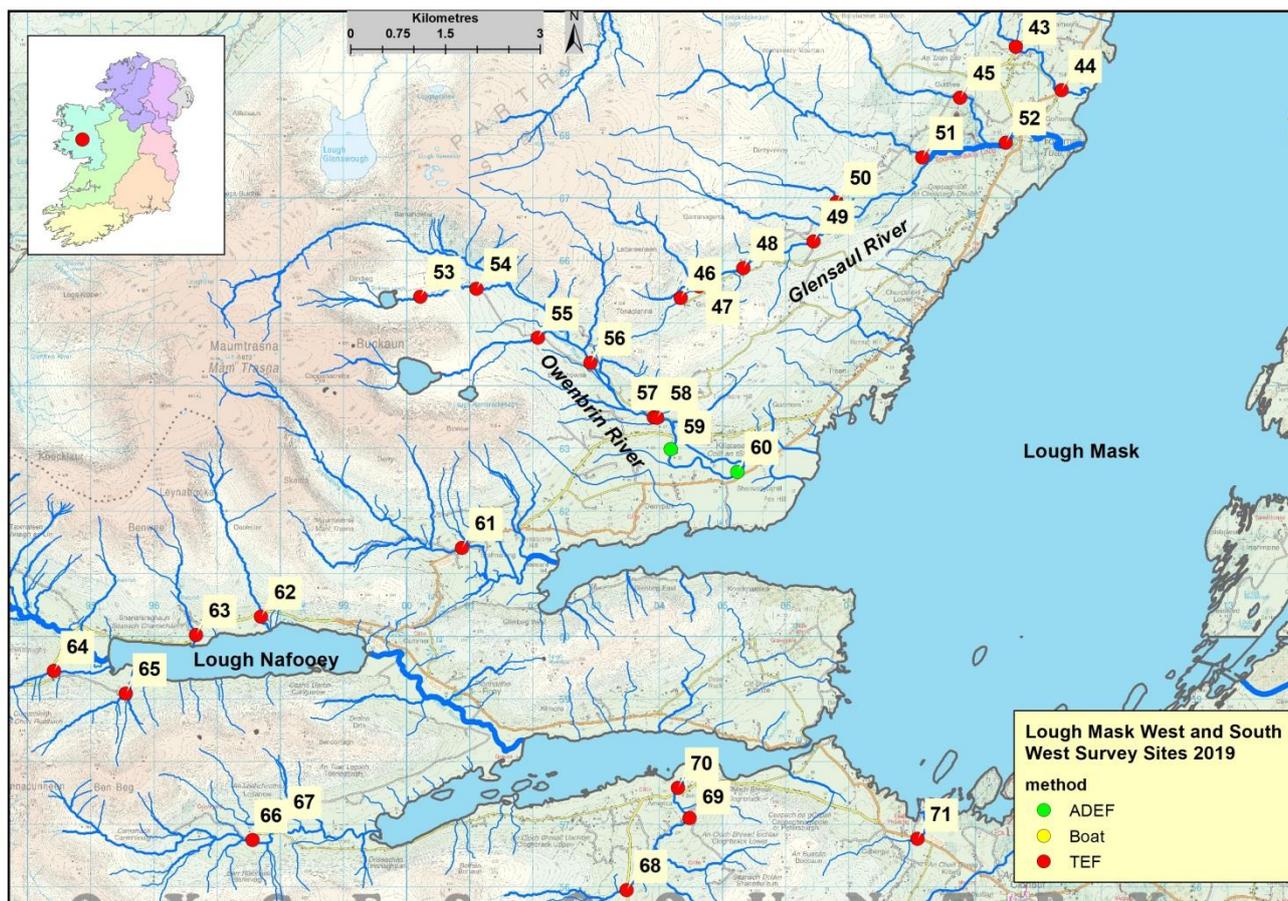
Site No.	% of catch			
	0+	1+	3+	4+
<b>Aille and Cloon River catchments</b>				
28	79	21	-	-
29	-	77	23	-
30	48	9	30	13
31	83	17	-	-
32	80	20	-	-
33	73	25	2	-
34	77	23	-	-
<b>Srah River catchment</b>				
35	70	30	-	-
36	-	-	-	-
37	96	4	-	-
38	62	31	8	-
39	89	11	-	-
40	-	-	100	-
41	94	6	-	-
42	50	49	1	-

## Fish ecological status site 28-42, Lough Mask catchment 2019

*Aille River (sites 28-33), Cloon/Nadorralea River (site 34) and Srah River (sites 35-42) catchments (previous results are shown where applicable)*

Aille and Cloon River catchments		Srah River catchment		
Site No.	2019	Site No.	2016	2019
28	High	35	-	High
29	Poor	36	NA	NA
30	Good	37	Good	High
31	Good	38	Moderate	Moderate
32	Good	39	Poor	Good
33	High	40	Good	Moderate
34	Good	41	High	High
		42	High	High

**Glensaul, Owenbrin, Lough Nafoeoy and Lough Mask (west) catchments**



**Location of fish survey sites, Lough Mask (west) catchments, August/September 2019**

**(Ballybonaun(sites 43-44), Glensaul (site 45-52),Owenbrin (sites 53-61), Lough Nafoeoy (sites 62-65) and Lough Mask (west) (sites 66-71))**



**The Glensaul River at Greenaun, Co. Mayo (site 48)**

## Site survey details, Lough Mask catchments, August/September 2019

(Ballybonaun (sites 43-44), Glensaul (site 45-52), Owenbrin (sites 53-61), Lough Nafoeoy (sites 62-65) and Lough Mask (west) (sites 66-71) river catchments)

No.	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
<b>Ballybonaun Mountain River</b>					
43	Ballybonaun Mountain River	Carheen	TEF	-	03/09/2019
44	Ballybonaun Mountain River	Gortneemore North	TEF	-	03/09/2019
<b>Glensaul River catchment</b>					
45	Ballybonaun River	Gortfree	TEF	-	04/09/2019
46	Glensaul River	Tonaglanna East	TEF	-	03/09/2019
47	Sruffaunnagreeve River	Sruffaunnagreeve Lower	TEF	-	03/09/2019
48	Glensaul River	Greenaun	TEF	-	04/09/2019
49	Glensaul River	Garrangarra	TEF	-	04/09/2019
50	Derryveeny River	Derryveeny	TEF	-	04/09/2019
51	Tourmakeady River	Tourmakeady	TEF	-	04/09/2019
52	Glensaul River	Tourmakeady Forest	TEF	-	04/09/2019
<b>Owenbrin River catchment</b>					
53	Leynabricka River	Dooletter South	TEF	-	19/09/2019
54	Owenbrin (Dirkbeg) River	d/s Dirkbeg Lough	TEF	-	18/09/2019
55	Owenbrin (Dirkbeg) River	Dirkbeg Hill	TEF	-	18/09/2019
56	Owenbrin (Nadirkmore) River	Ford	TEF	-	18/09/2019
57	Owenbrin River	Bornahowna	TEF	-	18/09/2019
58	Owenbrin River	Tullymore_A	TEF	-	18/09/2019
59	Owenbrin River	Tullymore_B	TEF	-	04/09/2019
60	Owenbrin River	Killateeaun	ADEF	Yes	18/09/2019
61	Owenbrin River	Br. u/s L. Mask	TEF	-	18/09/2019
<b>Lough Nafoeoy river catchments</b>					
62	Srahnalong River	Srahnalong West	TEF	-	19/09/2019
63	Benwee River	Shanafaraghaun	TEF	-	19/09/2019
64	Munterowen East River	Knocknafaughy	TEF	-	19/09/2019
65	Currarevagh River	Farm Stream	TEF	-	19/09/2019
<b>Lough Mask (West) river catchments</b>					
66	Bunnacunneen River	Barrevagh	TEF	-	19/09/2019
67	Bunnacunneen River	Lecarrow South	TEF	-	19/09/2019
68	Benlevy River	Tonlegee	TEF	-	29/08/2019
69	Benlevy River	America	TEF	-	29/08/2019
70	Benlevy River	Cul de sac	TEF	-	19/09/2019
71	Boocaun River	Cahergal	TEF	-	29/08/2019

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

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>) Lough Mask catchments, August/September 2019

(Ballybonaun (sites 43-44), Glensaul (site 45-52) and Owenbrin (sites 53-61)) (previous results are shown where applicable)

Ballybonaun and Glensaul River catchment										
Site no.	43		44		45		46		47	
Species	2016	2019	2019	2019	2016	2019	2019	2019	2019	
Brown trout	-	0.12	2.405	-	2.2	1.044	0.853			
0+ brown trout	-	0.01	1.087	-	1.88	0.748	0.527			
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.109	1.318	-	0.32	0.296	0.326			
Minnow	-	-	0.082	-	-	-	-			
<b>All Fish</b>	-	<b>0.12</b>	<b>2.486</b>	-	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.044</b>	<b>0.853</b>			
Glensaul River catchment										
Site no.	48		49		50		51		52	
Species	2016	2019	2016	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	
Brown trout	-	0.408	0.275	0.18	0.266	-	0.112			
0+ brown trout	-	0.361	0.275	0.144	0.197	-	0.077			
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.047	-	0.036	0.069	-	0.034			
European eel	-	-	-	-	0.026	-	-			
Minnow	-	-	-	-	-	0.033	-			
<b>All Fish</b>	-	<b>0.408</b>	<b>0.275</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.292</b>	<b>0.033</b>	<b>0.112</b>			
Owenbrin River catchment										
Site no.	53		54		55		56			
Species	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019	
Brown trout	0.422	0.007	0.501	0.013	0.498	0.009	0.397			
0+ brown trout	0.038	0.007	0.212	-	0.381	-	0.301			
1+ & older brown trout	0.384	-	0.289	0.013	0.117	0.009	0.096			
European eel	0.019	-	0.029	-	-	-	-			
Minnow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.441</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.013</b>	<b>0.498</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<b>0.397</b>			
Owenbrin River catchment										
Site no.	57		58		59		60		61	
Species	2016	2019	2016	2019	2019	2016	2019	2016	2019	
Brown trout	0.018	0.066	0.018	0.108	0.043	0.004	0.061	0.006	0.113	
0+ brown trout	0.016	0.066	0.016	0.087	0.037	0.004	0.044	0.004	0.100	
1+ & older brown trout	0.002	-	0.002	0.021	0.007	-	0.017	0.002	0.014	
European eel	-	-	0.001	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Minnow	0.014	-	0.003	0.066	-	0.009	0.029	0.036	0.134	
Perch	-	-	-	-	-	0.002	-	-	-	
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.006	0.002	0.009	
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.032</b>	<b>0.066</b>	<b>0.023</b>	<b>0.174</b>	<b>0.043</b>	<b>0.014</b>	<b>0.096</b>	<b>0.043</b>	<b>0.256</b>	



The Owenbrin River at Kilateaun, Co. Mayo (site 59)

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>), Lough Nafooev river catchment, sites 62-65, 2019

Lough Nafooev catchment				
Site no.	62	63	64	65
Species	2019	2019	2019	2019
Brown trout	0.249	0.254	0.527	0.291
0+ brown trout	0.145	0.1	0.206	0.161
1+ & older brown trout	0.104	0.154	0.321	0.13
Minnow	-	-	-	-
Perch	-	-	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	-	-
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.249</b>	<b>0.254</b>	<b>0.527</b>	<b>0.291</b>

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>), Lough Mask (West) river catchments, sites 66-71, 2019

Lough Mask (West) catchments						
Site no.	66	67	68	69	70	71
Species	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019
Brown trout	0.224	0.200	0.248	0.250	0.498	0.413
0+ brown trout	0.189	0.058	0.115	0.187	0.304	0.397
1+ & older brown trout	0.034	0.142	0.133	0.064	0.194	0.016
European eel	-	-	-	-	0.025	-
Minnow	-	0.013	-	-	0.076	-
Perch	-	0.004	-	-	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	0.017	-
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>0.224</b>	<b>0.217</b>	<b>0.248</b>	<b>0.25</b>	<b>0.617</b>	<b>0.413</b>

## Brown trout % age class structure Lough Mask catchments, August/September 2019

*(Ballybonaun (sites 43-44), Glensaul (site 45-52) and Owenbrin (sites 53-61) river catchments)*

Site No.	% of catch				Site No.	% of catch			
	0+	1+	3+	4+		0+	1+	3+	4+
<b>Ballybonaun &amp; Glensaul River catchment</b>					<b>59</b>	72	22	6	-
<b>43</b>	9	55	36	-	<b>60</b>	88	12	-	-
<b>44</b>	48	48	3	-	<b>61</b>	61	39	-	-
<b>46</b>	76	24	-	-	<b>Lough Nafooeey catchment</b>				
<b>47</b>	68	32	-	-	<b>62</b>	9	88	3	-
<b>48</b>	90	10	-	-	<b>63</b>	42	53	5	-
<b>49</b>	83	17	-	-	<b>64</b>	46	43	8	3
<b>50</b>	78	22	-	-	<b>65</b>	56	33	11	-
<b>52</b>	71	29	-	-	<b>Lough Mask (west)</b>				
<b>Owenbrin River catchment</b>					<b>66</b>	86	9	5	-
<b>53</b>	44	48	8	-	<b>67</b>	35	52	13	-
<b>54</b>	78	19	3	-	<b>68</b>	53	42	5	-
<b>55</b>	75	25	-	-	<b>69</b>	79	21	-	-
<b>56</b>	100	-	-	-	<b>70</b>	66	22	13	-
<b>57</b>	83	17	-	-	<b>71</b>	97	3	-	-
<b>58</b>	88	13	-	-					

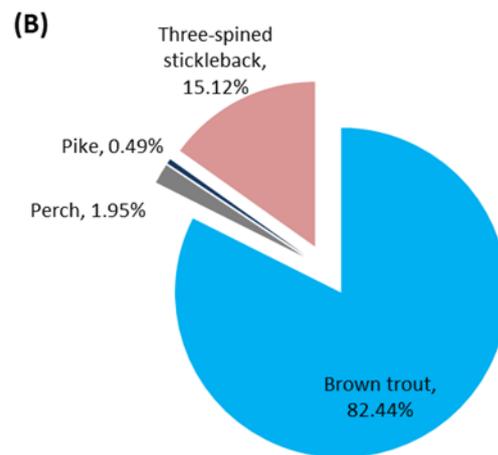
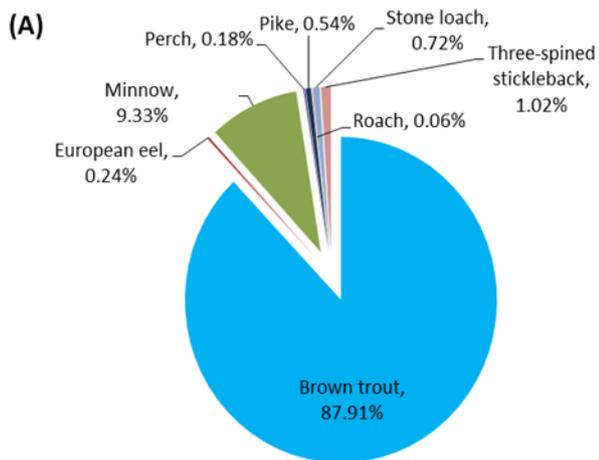
## Fish ecological status, Lough Mask catchments, August/September 2019

*(Ballybonaun (sites 43-44), Glensaul (site 45-52) and Owenbrin (sites 53-61) river catchments) (previous results are shown where applicable)*

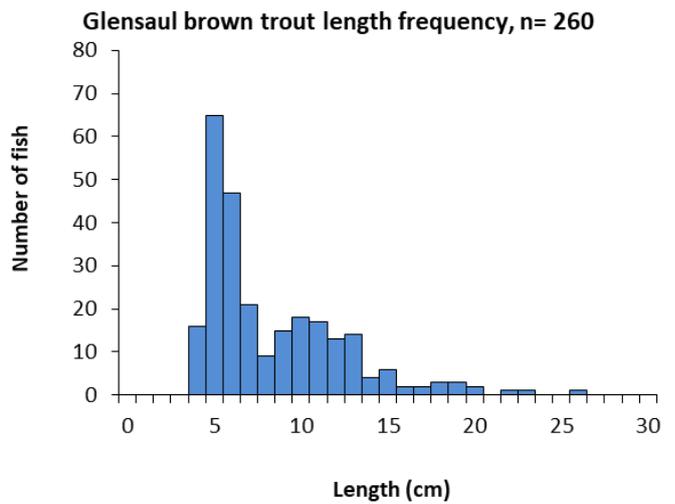
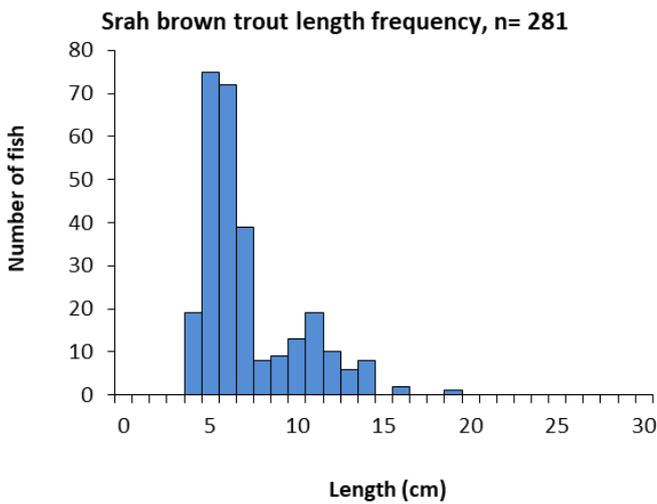
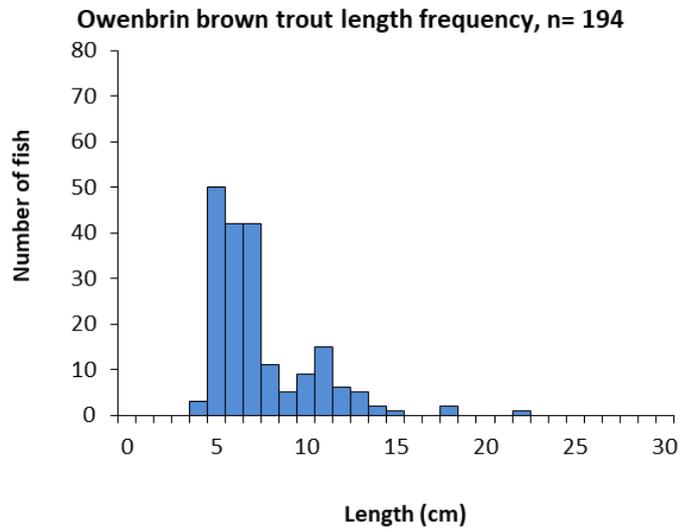
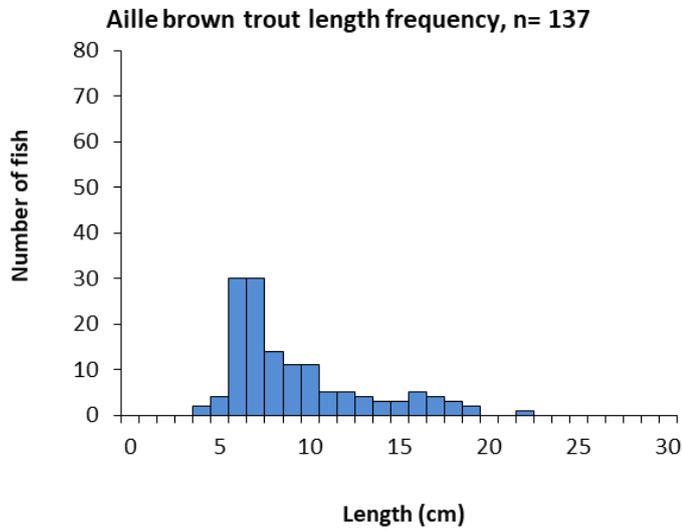
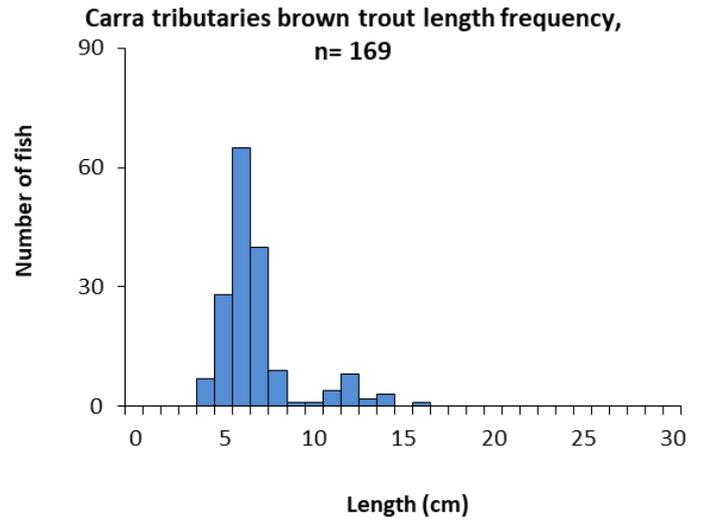
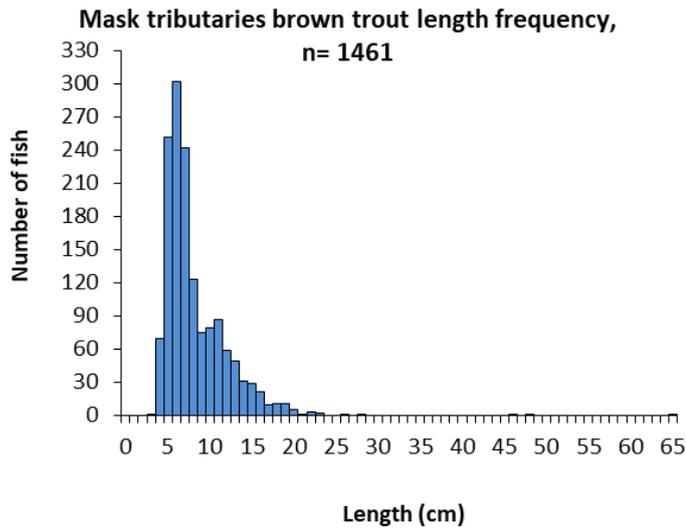
Glensaul River catchment			Owenbrin River catchment			Lough Nafooeey catchment		Lough Mask (west) catchments	
Site No.	2016	2019	Site No.	2016	2019	Site No.	2019	Site No.	2019
43	Bad	Moderate	53	-	Good	62	Good	66	Good
44	-	High	54	Poor	High	63	Good	67	Good
45	-	N/A	55	Moderate	Good	64	High	68	Good
46	-	High	56	-	Good	65	Good	69	Good
47	-	High	57	-	Moderate			70	Good
48	Bad	Good	58	-	Good			71	Good
49	Moderate	Moderate	59	-	Moderate				
50	Moderate	Good	60	-	Good				
51	N/A	N/A	61	Moderate	Good				
52	Poor	Good							

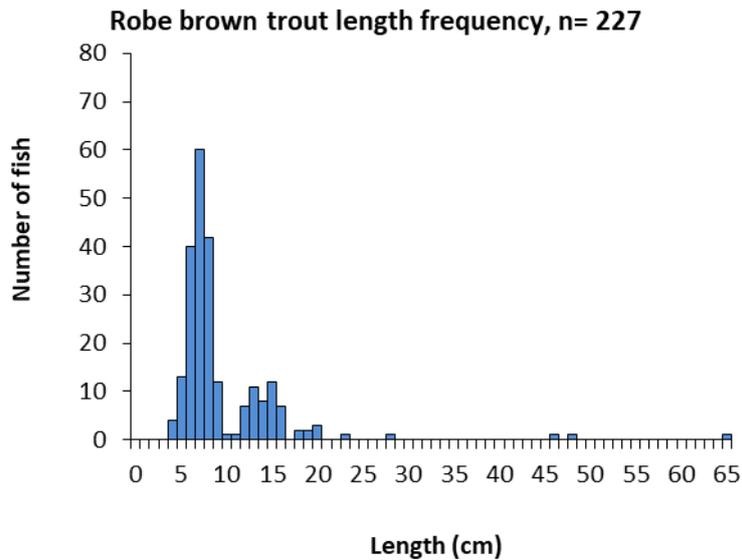


Adult brown trout recorded on the River Robe



Fish species composition (%) in the sub-catchments of Lough Mask (A) and Lough Carra (B), August/September 2019





### Summary

Eight fish species were recorded at 71 sites surveyed in Lough Mask and Carra river catchments during August and September 2019. No fish were recorded at site 36, this may be due to the presence of a natural waterfall downstream preventing upstream migration. Brown trout was the most abundant species captured and were present in most sites, except sites 6, 18, 19, 22, 45 and 51. Brown trout ranged in length from 3.9 to 65cm. The largest fish were recorded in the River Robe catchment. Six age classes for brown trout, from 0+ to 5+, were recorded. Minnow were the next most abundant species and were recorded in 15 sites. Pike were recorded at three sites on the Robe River and one site (Ballintober Abbey) on the Lough Carra catchment. Eel, perch, roach and three spined stickleback were also recorded infrequently.

The highest densities of brown trout 0+ (fry) were recorded in site 27 (Ballintober River – Lough Carra catchment) and site 44 (Ballybonaun Mountain River – Lough Mask catchment) for older fish ( $\geq 1+$ ). The largest brown trout were captured at site 16 on the Robe main channel, where individual fish ranging from 48cm to 65cm were recorded. Brown trout in other tributaries generally ranged to maximum lengths of 20- 27cm.

Three spined stickleback and minnow were the dominant fish species at eight sites (6, 8, 9, 12, 18, 19, 22 and 51); these species are relatively tolerant of pollution and therefore, when dominant or present in relatively high densities can be an indicator of the presence of poor water quality or other pressures.

A Water Framework Directive fish classification tool (FCS2) was developed for Irish rivers in 2011. The tool works by comparing various fish community metric values within a site to those predicted for a site under un-impacted conditions. Fish ecological status was assigned to 68 of the 71 sites surveyed during 2019. Forty eight sites (69%) achieved good or better status (24% - High status, 47% - Good status) while the remaining sites were assigned moderate (16%) or poor (13%). Reasons for failure were lower than expected densities of type specific indicator species (i.e. brown trout in this case) or absence of certain age cohorts which indicates recruitment failures.

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