

Preliminary Synopsis of WFD Surveillance Monitoring Fish Stock Surveys at river sites in the Western River Basin District, June to August 2010

1.1 Introduction

Electric-fishing surveys were conducted on selected river sites within the Western River Basin District (WRBD) as part of the programme of surveillance monitoring for the Water Framework Directive, between the 14th of June and 24th of August 2010. A total of 12 surveys were carried out (Table 1, Plates 1 and 2).

Surveys were conducted by staff from the Central Fisheries Board, North-Western Regional Fisheries Board and Western Regional Fisheries Board, which have since been amalgamated, along with the other five Regional Fisheries Boards, into the new single entity – Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Table 1. Sites surveyed in the Western River Basin District, June to August 2010.

River	Grid Reference	Date
Moy (Gweestion)	M31219 99123	06/14/2010
Moy (Bleanmore)	G26000 01218	15/06/2010
Ballysadare	G66912 28973	16/06/2010
Owenmore	G68453 26619	16/06/2010
Moy (Cloonbaniff)	G52308 19492	12/07/2010
Owenriff	M07357 42028	13/07/2010
Abbert	M43662 40749	14/07/2010
Robe	M20044 65166	19/07/2010
Screeb	L96944 42655	20/07/2010
Bonet	G80644 30600	10/08/2010
Clare (Corrofin)	M42951 44520	24/08/2010
Clare (Kiltroge)	M39405 33015	24/08/2010



Plate 1. The River Moy (Gweestion)



Plate 2. The Ballysadare River

1.2 Methods

Electric-fishing is the method of choice for surveillance monitoring of fish in rivers to obtain a representative sample of the fish assemblage at each sampling site. The technique complies with CEN guidance for fish stock assessment in rivers. One fishing pass was carried out using boat-based electric-fishing equipment.

All fish species captured were identified, lengths and weights were measured and scales were taken for age analysis. All fish were held in a large bin of oxygenated water after processing until they were fully recovered before being returned to the water. Samples of eels were retained for further analysis.

A number of physical habitat variables were measured, and a water sample and multi-habitat kick sample were also taken at each site.

1.3 Results

A total of 12 fish species, as well as sea trout, were recorded in the 12 sites surveyed within the WRBD. The number of each fish species recorded at each river site is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Number of each fish species recorded at river sites in the WRBD, June to August 2010

	Salmon	Brown trout	Eel	Perch	Pike	Minnow	3-Spined stickleback	Lamprey	Roach	Sea trout	Stone loach	9-Spined stickleback	Gudgeon
Moy (Gweestion)	266	55	7	3		50	2	-	65	2	-	-	-
Moy (Bleanmore)	49	8	12	11	2	4	2	-	81	-	-	-	-
Ballysadare	138	12	27	67	3	9	3	1	4	-	-	-	-
Owenmore	334	21	12	2	-	8	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Moy (Cloonbaniff)	22	31	-	-	-	108	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Owenriff	95	6	-	-	-	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Abbert	208	101	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Robe	-	4	1	2	-	62	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Screeb	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonet	1	1	1	4	-	714	124	51	-	-	4	-	261
Clare (Corrofin)	41	4	-	14	-	-	35	-	36	-	11	2	17
Clare (Kiltroge)	104	24	1	42	2	-	25	1	44	-	-	-	-

1.4 Further work

Otoliths will be removed from eels in the laboratory and all fish will be aged. Population estimates will be calculated for all species within each river and a more detailed report will be available in early 2011.