

Preliminary Synopsis of the WFD Surveillance Monitoring Fish Stock Survey on Lough Annagh (White Lake) in the Eastern River Basin District, October 2010

1.1 Introduction

A WFD fish stock survey was conducted on Lough Annagh (White Lake) (N51154 73107, Fig. 1) from the 7th to the 8th of October 2010 by staff from Inland Fisheries Ireland as part of the programme of surveillance monitoring for the Water Framework Directive.

1.2 Methods

Lough Annagh (White Lake) was surveyed over one night between the 7th and the 8th of October 2010. A total of three sets of Dutch fyke nets, eight benthic monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) survey gill nets and two floating monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) survey gill nets were deployed randomly in the lake (13 sites). The netting effort was supplemented using two benthic braided gill nets (62.5mm mesh knot to knot) at two additional sites. Survey locations were randomly selected using a grid placed over a map of the lake. A handheld GPS was used to locate the precise location of each net. The angle of each gill net in relation to the shoreline was randomised.

All fish apart from perch were measured and weighed on site and scales were removed from all brown trout, rainbow trout and pike. Live fish were returned to the water whenever possible (i.e. when the likelihood of their survival was considered to be good). Samples of fish were retained for further analysis.

Annagh or White Lough, Meath / Westmeath

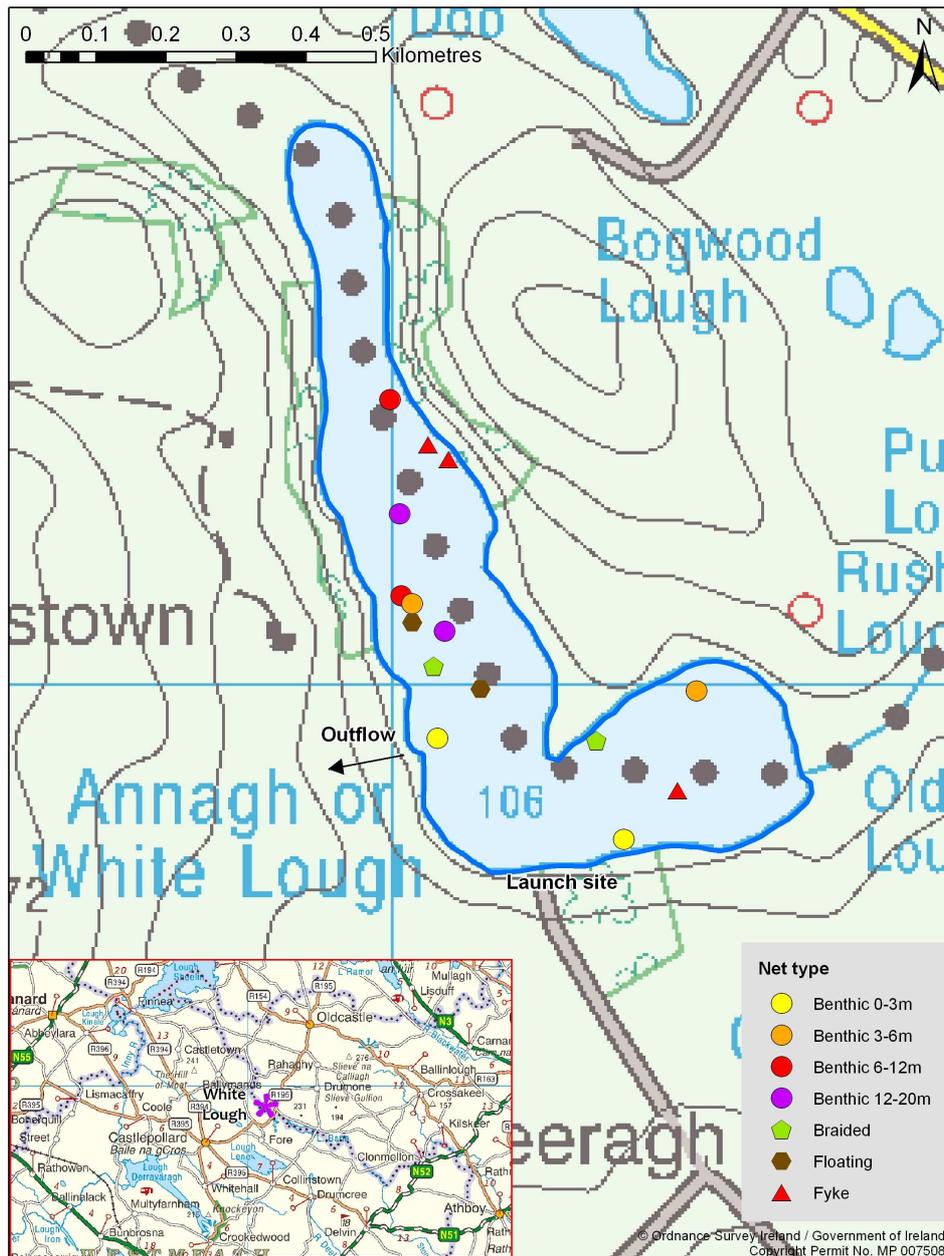


Fig. 1.1 Location map of Lough Annagh (White Lake) showing net locations and depths of each net (outflow is indicated on map)

1.3 Results

A total of five fish species were recorded in Lough Annagh (White Lake). The number of each fish species recorded is shown in Table 1. A total of 144 fish were captured during the survey.

Table 1. Number of each fish species recorded in Lough Annagh (White Lake), October 2010

Species name	Common name	Number
<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>	Perch	137
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Brown Trout	3
<i>Esox lucius</i>	Pike	2
<i>Onchorhynchus mykiss</i>	Rainbow Trout	1
<i>Phoxinus phoxinus</i>	Minnow	1

1.4 Further work

Otoliths will be removed from eels and all fish will be aged after the fieldwork season has ended. Perch will be measured and weighed and opercular bones will be removed in the laboratory. Catch per unit effort (CPUE), biomass per unit effort (BPUE) and age profiles will be calculated for all fish species and a more detailed report will be available in early 2011.