

## **Preliminary Synopsis of the WFD Surveillance Monitoring Fish Stock Survey on Lickeen Lough in the Shannon River Basin District, September 2010**

### **1.1 Introduction**

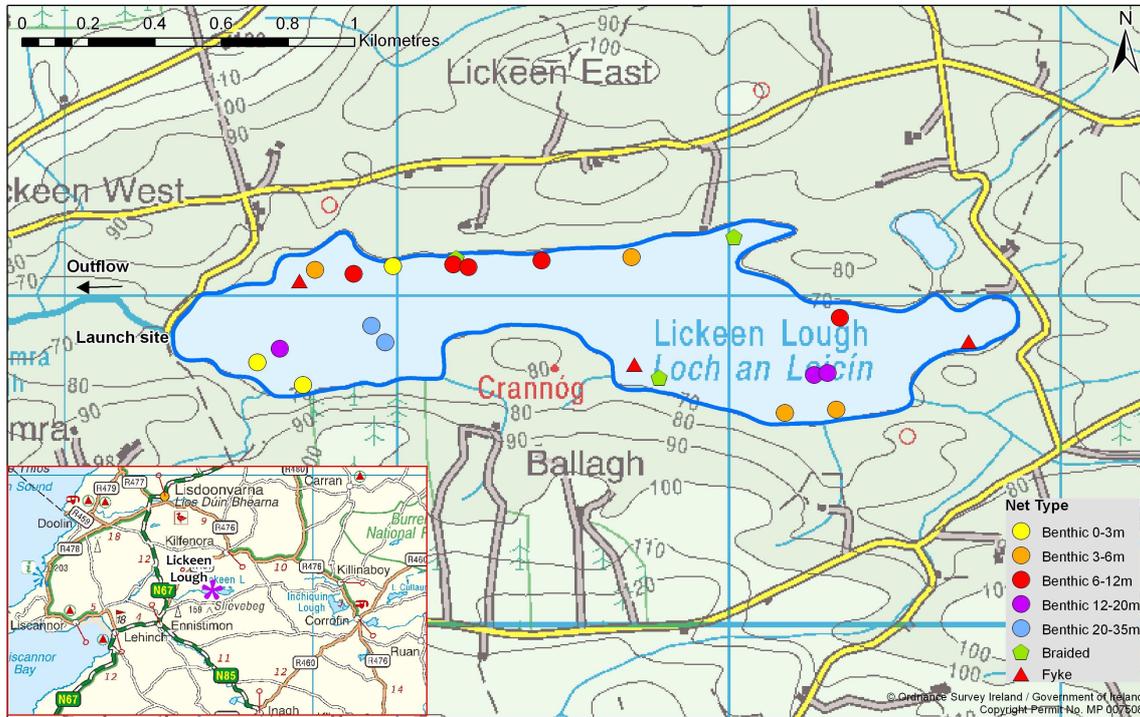
A WFD fish stock survey was conducted on Lickeen Lough (R17574 90915, Fig. 1) from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2010 by staff from Inland Fisheries Ireland as part of the programme of surveillance monitoring for the Water Framework Directive.

### **1.2 Methods**

Lickeen Lough was surveyed over two nights from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2010. A total of three sets of Dutch fyke nets and 17 benthic monofilament multi-mesh (12 panel, 5-55mm mesh size) survey gill nets were deployed randomly in the lake (20 sites). The netting effort was supplemented using three benthic braided survey gill nets (62.5mm mesh knot to knot) at three 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 were measured and weighed on site and scales were removed from all trout and rudd. 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.

Lickeen Lough, Clare



**Fig. 1. Location map of Lickeen Lough showing net locations and depths of each net (outflow is indicated on map)**

### 1.3 Results

A total of four fish species were recorded in Lickeen Lough. The number of each fish species recorded is shown in Table 1. A total of 252 fish were captured during the survey.

**Table 1. Number of each fish species recorded in Lickeen Lough, September 2010**

Species name	Common name	Number
<i>Scardinius erythrophthalmus</i>	Rudd	191
<i>Salmo trutta</i>	Brown trout	36
<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>	European eel	23
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus</i>	3-spine stickleback	2

#### **1.4 Further work**

Otoliths will be removed from eels and all fish will be aged after the fieldwork season has ended. 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.