

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

1.1 Introduction

Electric-fishing surveys were carried out on selected river sites within the South Western River Basin District (SWRBD) as part of the programme of surveillance monitoring for the Water Framework Directive, between the 4th of June and 11th of August 2010. A total of eleven surveys were carried out (Table 1, Plates 1 and 2).

Surveys were conducted by staff from the Central Fisheries Board, the Southern Regional Fisheries Board and the South-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 South Western River Basin District, June to August, 2010.

River	Grid Reference	Date
Lee (Leemount)	W63312 71677	04/06/2010
Blackwater (Munster) Lismore	X04811 98761	03/06/2010
Dalua	R32443 04536	05/07/2010
Finisk	X17576 99284	07/07/2010
Licky	X19876 84638	07/07/2010
Lee (Cork) Inchinossig	W14530 66638	26/07/2010
Owvane (Cork)	W02366 54947	27/07/2010
Owenreagh	V88308 82026	03/08/2010
Cummeragh	V58003 71418	04/08/2010
Blackwater (Munster) Nohaval	W17264 94540	10/08/2010
Funshion	R83519 01043	11/08/2010



Plate 1. The River Lee, Leemount



Plate 2. Electric-fishing on the River Blackwater, Lismore

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 11 sites surveyed within the SWRBD. 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 SWRBD, June to August 2010

	Salmon	Brown trout	Eel	Sea trout	Minnow	Dace	Flounder	Stone loach	3-Spined stickleback	Lamprey	Roach	Gudgeon	Pike
Lee (Leemount)	14	6	59	-	1	-	-	9	17	97	-	7	-
Blackwater (Lismore)	83		23	-	7	14	45	9	2	2	1	4	-
Dalua	614	23	7	-	9	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Finisk	692	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Licky	27	42	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lee (Cork) Inchinossig	-	85	2	-	69	-	-	1	26	19	9	1	1
Owvane (Cork)	21	4	4	2	186	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Owenreagh	50	15	19	-	283	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cummeragh	323	91	1	2	-	-	-	-	91	-	-	-	-
Blackwater (Nohaval)	181	173	3	-	101	-	-	24	-	16	-	-	-
Funshion	99	33	11	-	3	4	-	15	12	2	-	-	-

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.