

# Fish in Rivers Factsheet

ERBD

Castletown River Catchment

Factsheet: 2017/4

The Castletown River Catchment is located within the Neagh-Bann International River Basin District and covers an area of area of approximately 218km<sup>2</sup>. The Castletown River flows south-eastwards from Newtownhamilton, Co. Armagh before crossing the Louth border and joining the sea at Dundalk. The geology of the catchment is predominantly sandstone and shale, with land used primarily for agriculture.

The mouth of the Castletown River forms part of the Dundalk Bay Special Area of Conservation.

Seven sites were surveyed on the Castletown River Catchment between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.



**The Castletown River at Ballybinaby Bridge (Site 1)**

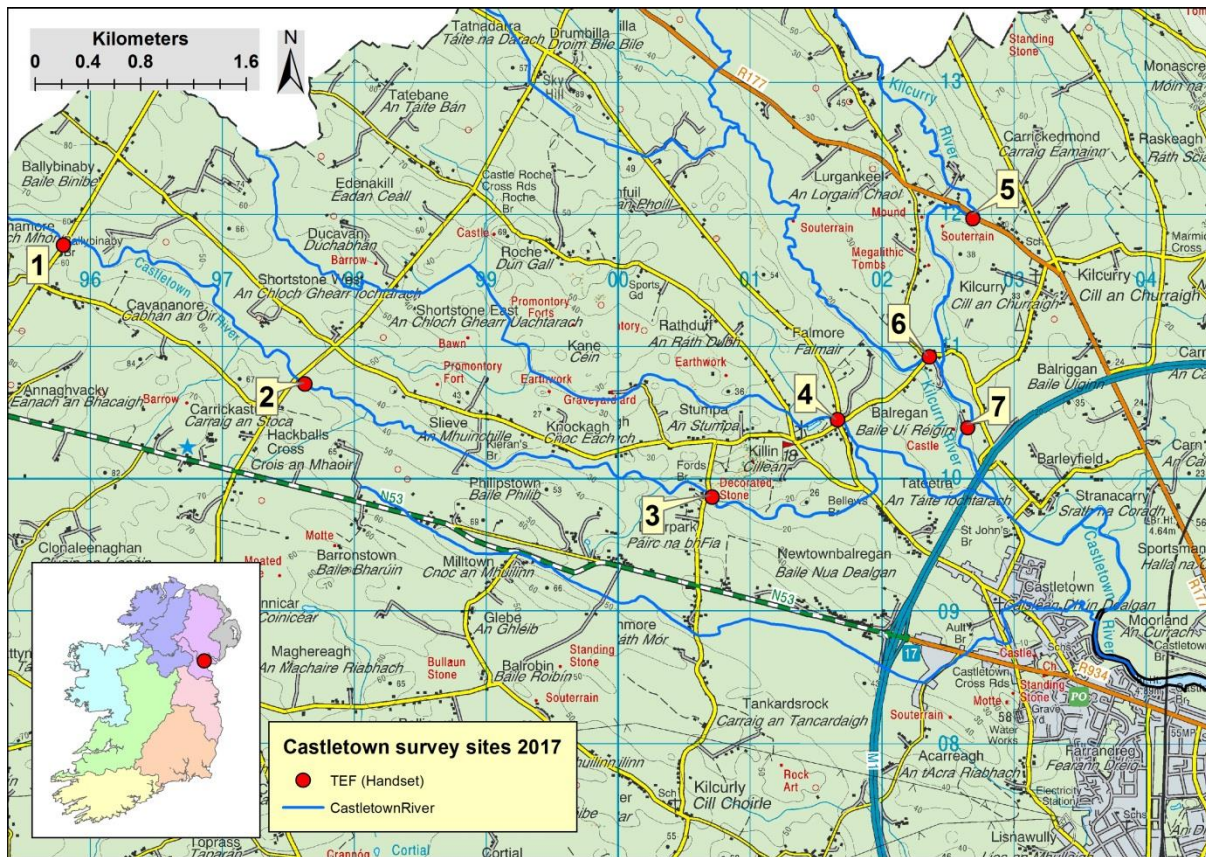


Fig. 1. Map of Castletown Catchment electrofishing survey sites, 2017

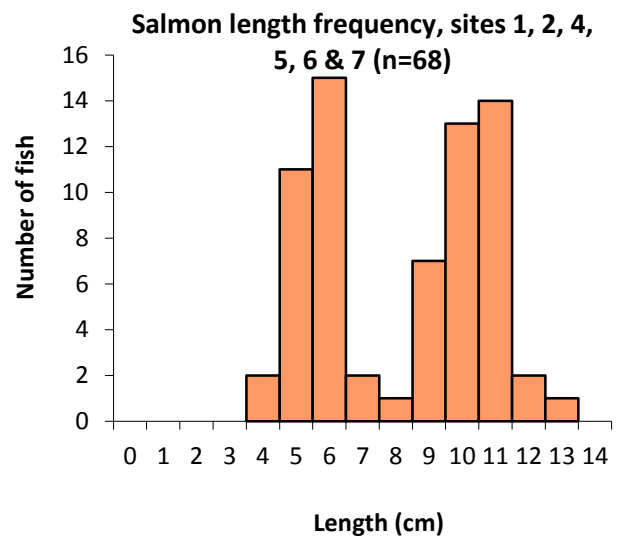
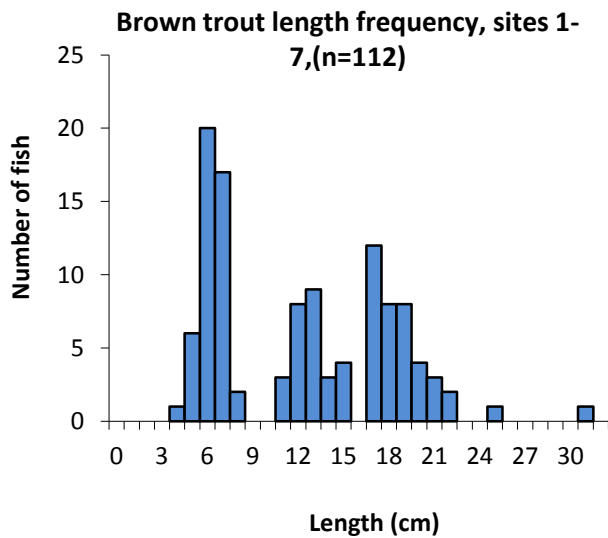
Site survey details, Castletown River Catchment, 2017

No.	River name	Site	Method	Date
1	Castletown	Ballybinaby Br.	Spot check	04/07/2017
2	Castletown	Hackballs Cross	TEF (Handset)	04/07/2017
3	Castletown	Fords Br.	Spot check	04/07/2017
4	Balregan	Killin Church	TEF (Handset)	05/07/2017
5	Kilcurry	Kilcurry	TEF (Handset)	06/07/2017
6	Kilcurry	Falmore	TEF (Handset)	05/07/2017
7	Kilcurry	Balregan Castle	Spot check	06/07/2017

**Method:** TEF (Ten-minute electrofishing), Spot check (presence/absence)

Minimum density estimates (no. fish/m<sup>2</sup>)

Site no.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Species	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Brown trout	Yes	0.129	Yes	0.222	0.134	0.072	Yes
0+ brown trout	Yes	0.018	Yes	0.222	0.096	0.033	Yes
1+ & older brown trout	Yes	0.112	Yes	-	0.038	0.039	Yes
European eel	-	0.013	Yes	0.058	0.010	-	-
Lamprey sp.	-	-	-	0.033	-	-	-
Minnow	-	-	Yes	-	-	-	-
Salmon	Yes	0.018	-	0.132	0.106	0.018	Yes
0+ salmon	Yes	-	-	0.115	0.031	-	Yes
1+ & older salmon	-	0.018	-	0.016	0.075	0.018	Yes
Stone loach	-	-	Yes	-	0.024	0.006	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	0.025	-	-	-
<b>All Fish</b>	<b>Spot</b>	<b>0.161</b>	<b>Spot</b>	<b>0.470</b>	<b>0.274</b>	<b>0.096</b>	<b>Spot</b>
<b>Yes = Present (Spot check only)</b>							



### Salmonid age class structure, Castletown Catchment, 2017

Species	Site No.	% of catch			
		0+	1+	2+	3+
Brown trout	1	3	31	63	3
	2	14	21	43	21
	3	71	14	14	-
	4	100	-	-	-
	5	75	20	-	5
	6	50	33	8	8
	7	17	25	42	17
Salmon	1	100	-	-	-
	2	-	100	-	-
	4	88	13	-	-
	5	31	69	-	-
	6	-	100	-	-
	7	43	57	-	-

### Summary

Seven fish species were recorded at seven sites on the Castletown River Catchment in 2017. Brown trout was the most abundant species captured. Salmon were recorded at six out of seven sites fished. Four age classes for brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+ and 3+) and two for salmon (0+ and 1+) were present, with 0+ being the most abundant cohort for brown trout and 1+ the most abundant cohort for salmon. Lamprey were only captured at Site 4.

Two sites on the Castletown catchment achieved good fish ecological status (sites 4 and 5) while Sites 2 and Site 6 were classed as moderate and poor respectively.

### Fish ecological status, Castletown Catchment

Site No.	2017
1	N/A
2	Moderate
3	N/A
4	Good
5	Good
6	Poor
7	N/A

N/A: Fish absent or qualitative data only available (spot check)

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