

Fish in Rivers Factsheet

WRBD

Lough Corrib Catchment

Factsheet: 2025/02

Lough Corrib and its associated rivers forms part of the Corrib Catchment, an area of approximately 4,000km² in the west of Ireland, spanning counties Galway and Mayo. The catchment also includes Lough Mask and Lough Carra and all the rivers draining these lakes. Many other smaller lakes are also present within the catchment.

The catchment is characterised by a relatively flat limestone plain occupying the eastern two-thirds of the catchment, which terminates at Lough Corrib and Lough Mask, where it meets the granites of west Galway and the metamorphic uplands of southwest Mayo (EPA 2018). There are 25 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within the catchment, including Lough Corrib SAC (000297), Lough Carra Mask Complex SAC (001774) and the Connemara Bog Complex (EPA, 2018). There are also three Special Protection Areas (SPAs) within the catchment (Lough Carra SPA, Lough Corrib SPA and Lough Mask SPA). The lakes and rivers support numerous protected habitats and species (including salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, white-clawed crayfish, sea lamprey and otter).

Lough Corrib is the largest lake in the Lough Corrib Catchment and the second largest lake (16,562 ha) on the island of Ireland after Lough Neagh. Lough Corrib is regarded as one of the best brown trout fisheries in Ireland and its river are also renowned for salmon angling.

Several rivers flow into Lough Corrib. These include the Bealnabrack, Cornamona, Dooghta and Failmore River from the north. The Black, Clare and Cregg River to the east. The Drimneen and Owenriff River from the west.

Water also flows from Lough Mask into Lough Corrib via the Cong Canal and through subterranean channels. The River Corrib subsequently drains Lough Corrib into Galway Bay (NPWS 2020; GSI 2019).

Inland Fisheries Ireland conducts annual nation-wide fish sampling surveys to assess and report the status of stocks in Ireland's rivers, lakes and transitional waters. This report presents the results of an electro-fishing survey (CEN 2003) focusing on the rivers and streams of Lough Corrib, part of the wider Lough Corrib catchment. Eighty-two sites were surveyed around Lough Corrib between the 7th of July and the 30th of September 2025. Eighteen sites were surveyed on the River Clare sub-catchment between the 9th to the 16th of July. Thirteen sites were surveyed on the River Black sub-catchment between the 7th to the 16th of July. Eight sites were surveyed on the Lough Kip, Ballycuirke and Drimneen River sub-catchments on the 9th of July. Seventeen sites were surveyed on the Owenriff River catchment, eight sites on the 10th of July and nine sites on the 24th of July. Twenty-six sites in total were surveyed in the Bealnabrack, Cornamona and Carrick River sub-catchments. Twenty-three of these sites were surveyed between the 8th to 10th of July and three remaining sites between the 25th to the 30th of September 2025.

The survey methods included 10-minute timed Electro-Fishing (TEF₁₀), and Area Delineated Electro-Fishing (ADEF handset). All TEF₁₀ fish count results were converted to minimum population estimates according to Matson *et al.* (2018).

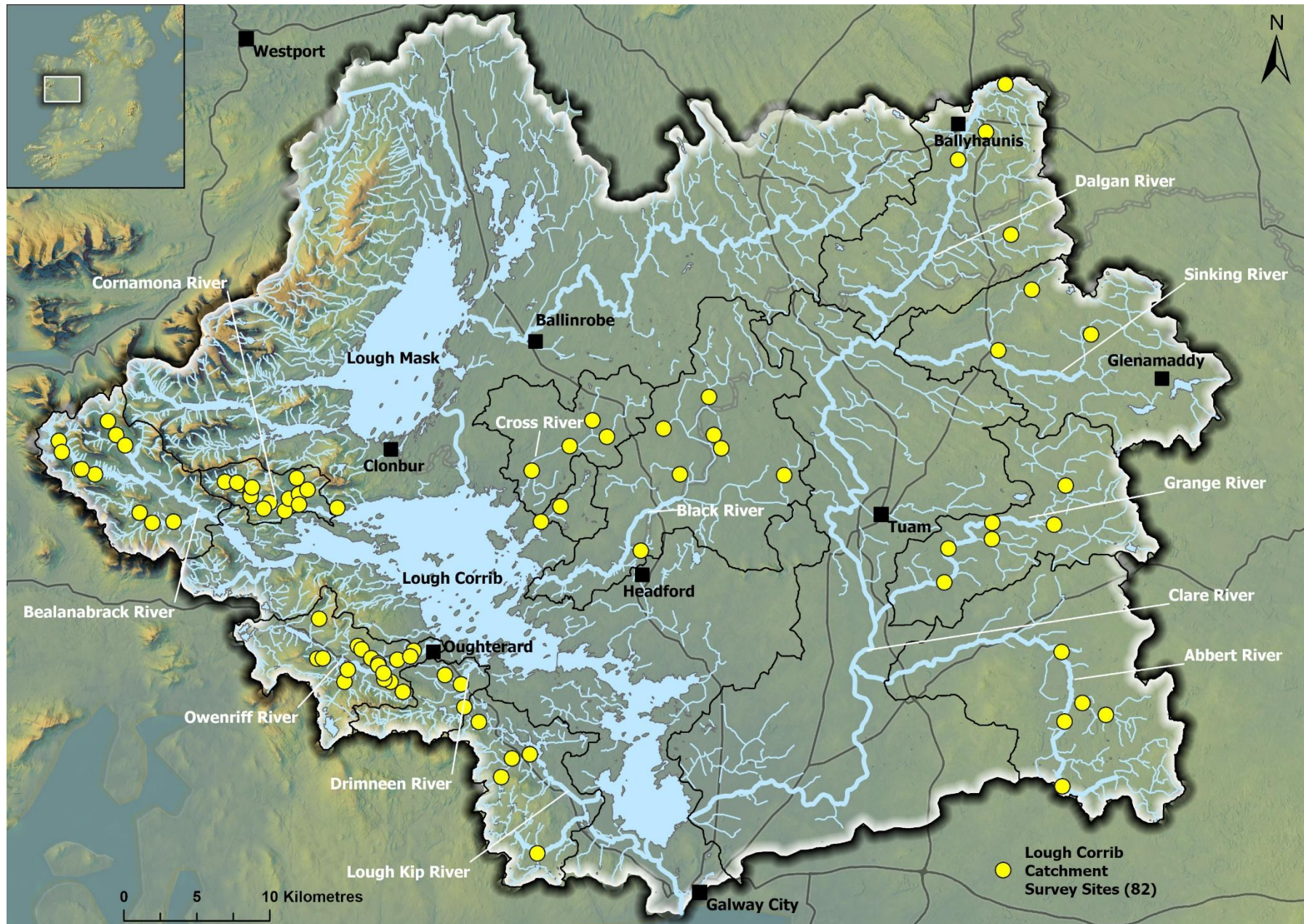


Figure 1. Location of electrofishing survey sites on Lough Corrib Catchment, 2025. The main sub-catchments are also highlighted.

Clare River Sub-catchment

Eighteen sites were surveyed in the Clare River sub-catchment in 2025. This included four sites on the Dalgan, three sites on the Sinking, six sites on the Grange, and five sites on the Abbert rivers sub-catchments (Figure 2 and Table 1).



Figure 2. Location of electrofishing survey sites: Clare River sub-catchment. Dalgan (sites 1-4), Sinking (sites 5-7), Grange (sites 8-13), and Abbert (sites 14-18) sub-catchments, 2025. Sub-catchments and WFD sub-basins are also highlighted.

Table 1. Site survey details, River Clare Sub-catchment, July 2025.

No.	WFD Sub-basin	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
Dalgan sub-catchment						
1	DALGAN_010	Clare (Dalgan) River	Forthill	TEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
2	DALGAN_010	Clare (Dalgan) River	Lecarrow North	TEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
3	DALGAN_020	Clare (Dalgan) River	Aglorach Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
4	CLOONFAD_010	Clare (Dalgan) River	Meeltraun	TEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
Sinking sub-catchment						
5	YELLOW (SINKING)_010	Clare (Yellow) River	Boyounagh Br.	TEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
6	SINKING_020	Clare (Sinking) River	Baunoges	TEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
7	SINKING_020	Clare (Sinking) River	Attiflynn West	TEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
Grange sub-catchment						
8	LEVALLY STREAM_010	Clare (Grange) River	Mahanagh Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
9	GRANGE (GALWAY)_020	Clare (Grange) River	Cornacarthia Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
10	GRANGE (GALWAY)_030	Clare (Grange) River	Grange Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
11	GRANGE (GALWAY)_040	Clare (Grange) River	Cahergal Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
12	GRANGE (GALWAY)_020	Clare (Grange) River	Cloondahamper	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
13	GRANGE (GALWAY)_020	Clare (Grange) River	Corskeagh More	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
Abbert sub-catchment						
14	ABBERT_020	Clare (Killaclogher) River	Licklea Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
15	ABBERT_030	Clare (Abbert) River	Killaclogher Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
16	ABBERT_030	Clare (Abbert) River	Abbert Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
17	ABBERT_030	Clare (Killaclogher) River	Colmanstown	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
18	ABBERT_030	Clare (Abbert) River	Drehidaunabale Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025

Table 2. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), for the Dalgan and Sinking sub-catchments, July 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Dalgan sub-catchment							
Site no.	1		2		3		4
Species	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019
Brown trout	-	0.115	0.113	0.294	-	0.015	0.165
0+ brown trout	-	0.097	0.078	0.294	-	0.015	0.165
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.018	0.035	-	-	-	-
Salmon	-	-	-	-	0.173	0.165	0.110
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	-	0.015	0.110
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	0.173	0.150	-
Stone loach	-	0.035	-	-	-	-	0.027
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.220
All fish	-	0.151	0.113	0.294	0.173	0.180	0.522
Dalgan sub-catchment				Sinking sub-catchment			
Site no.	4	5		6		7	
Species	2025	2019	2025	2020	2025	2019	2025
Brown trout	0.139	0.213	0.109	0.194	0.265	0.044	0.298
0+ brown trout	0.139	0.128	0.091	0.103	0.153	0.026	0.173
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.085	0.018	0.091	0.112	0.018	0.126
Salmon	-	0.469	0.708	0.114	0.417	-	0.094
0+ salmon	-	0.405	0.635	0.068	0.295	-	-
1+ & older salmon	-	0.064	0.073	0.046	0.122	-	0.094
Stone loach	-	0.043	0.018	0.023	0.020	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	0.218	-	-	-	-	-	0.047
All fish	0.357	0.725	0.835	0.331	0.703	0.044	0.440

Table 3. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), for the Grange and Abbert sub-catchments, July 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Grange sub-catchment								
Site no.	8		9		10		11	
Species	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	
Brown trout	0.122	0.016	0.028	-	0.126	0.194	0.079	
0+ brown trout	0.073	0.016	0.028	-	0.115	0.194	0.079	
1+ & older brown trout	0.049	-	-	-	0.010	-	-	
Salmon	0.146	0.189	0.025	0.162	0.236	0.050	0.068	
0+ salmon	0.012	0.126	0.025	0.124	0.173	0.025	0.060	
1+ & older salmon	0.134	0.063	-	0.037	0.063	0.025	0.008	
Pike	-	-	0.007	0.006	0.005	0.006	0.004	
Stone loach	0.012	0.016	-	0.081	0.204	0.025	0.245	
All fish	0.280	0.221	0.060	0.249	0.571	0.276	0.395	
Grange sub-catchment						Abbert sub-catchment		
Site no.	11	12		13		14		
Species	2025	2020	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025	
Brown trout	-	0.161	0.141	1.342	0.291	0.091	-	
0+ brown trout	-	0.150	0.132	1.342	0.291	0.038	-	
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.011	0.009	-	-	0.054	-	
Salmon	0.031	0.032	0.137	0.031	0.291	-	0.009	
0+ salmon	0.015	-	0.082	0.031	0.267	-	-	
1+ & older salmon	0.015	0.032	0.055	-	0.024	-	0.009	
European eel	0.012	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pike	0.004	-	0.005	-	-	-	-	
Stone loach	0.046	0.321	0.187	0.031	0.024	0.085	0.028	
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	0.046	0.073	0.271	0.014	
All fish	0.093	0.514	0.469	1.450	0.678	0.447	0.051	
Abbert sub-catchment								
Site no.	15		16		17		18	
Species	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025	2019	2025
Brown trout	0.306	0.087	0.199	0.056	0.518	0.171	0.304	0.083
0+ brown trout	0.206	0.036	0.136	0.030	0.068	0.092	0.304	0.042
1+ & older brown trout	0.101	0.051	0.064	0.026	0.450	0.079	-	0.042
Salmon	0.210	0.071	0.492	0.359	0.098	-	0.441	0.286
0+ salmon	0.166	0.063	0.415	0.201	0.039	-	0.430	0.275
1+ & older salmon	0.044	0.008	0.077	0.158	0.059	-	0.011	0.010
Pike	-	0.004	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stone loach	0.009	0.016	0.075	0.056	-	0.026	-	0.010
Three-spined stickleback	0.013	0.036	0.017	-	-	-	0.017	-
All fish	0.538	0.213	0.783	0.472	0.616	0.197	0.762	0.379

**Table 4. Brown trout % age class (where recorded)
Sites 1-18, Clare River sub-catchment, July 2025.**

Site No.	% of catch		
	0+	1+	2+
Dalgan sub-catchment			
1	87	-	13
2	100	-	-
3	100	-	-
4	100	-	-
Sinking sub-catchment			
5	86	-	14
6	64	-	36
7	64	36	-
Grange sub-catchment			
8	100	-	-
10	100	-	-
12	93	-	7
13	100	-	-
Abbert sub-catchment			
15	45	-	55
16	56	22	22
17	57	29	14
18	56	44	-

Table 6. Fish ecological status, Clare River sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	2019	2020	2025
Dalgan sub-catchment			
1	B	-	M
2	M	-	M
3	P	-	M
4	G	-	M
Sinking sub-catchment			
5	H	-	H
6	-	G	H
7	M	-	G
Grange sub-catchment			
8	G	-	M
9	P	-	M
10	G	-	M
11	M	-	P
12	-	M	G
13	G	-	G
Abbert sub-catchment			
14	M	-	P
15	G	-	G
16	G	-	G
17	G	-	M
18	G	-	G

Table 5. Salmon % age class (where recorded) Sites 1-18, Clare River sub-catchment, July 2025.

Site No.	% of catch		
	0+	1+	2+
Dalgan sub-catchment			
3	9	91	-
Sinking sub-catchment			
5	90	10	-
6	73	27	-
7	-	100	-
Grange sub-catchment			
8	67	25	8
9	77	23	-
10	50	50	-
11	50	50	-
12	60	40	-
13	92	8	-
Abbert sub-catchment			
14	-	100	-
15	89	11	-
16	59	41	-
18	96	4	-



Grange River at Cloondahamper (Site 12), Co. Galway.

Black (Shrule), Ballynalty and Cross River sub-catchments

Seven sites were surveyed in the Black, two sites in the Ballynalty and four sites in the Cross River sub-catchments in July 2025. One long-term Water Framework Directive (WFD) surveillance monitoring (SM) site was included on the Black (Shrule) River at Bridge at Kilshanvy (Site 21) (Figure 3 and Table 7).

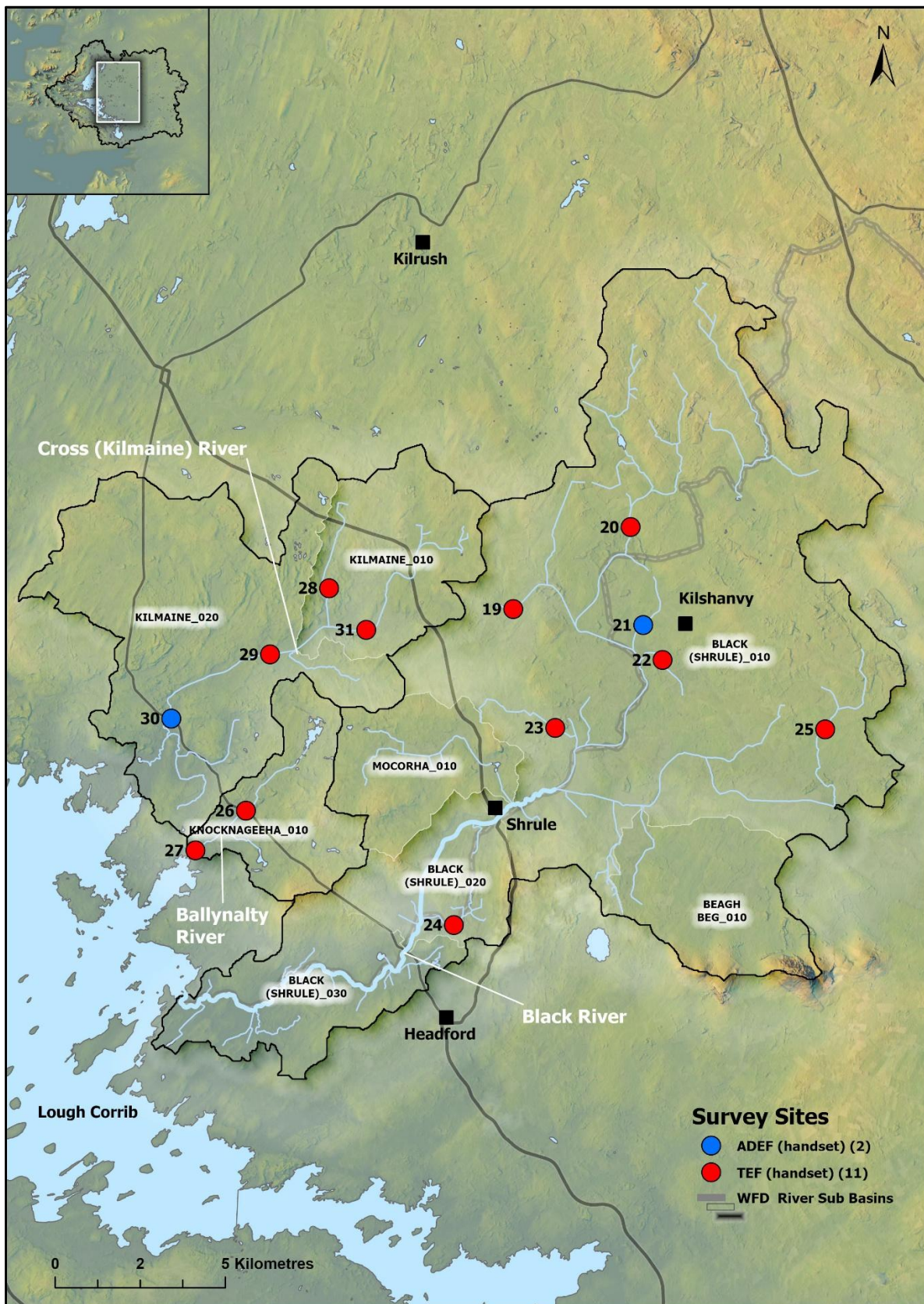


Figure 3. Location of electrofishing survey sites: Black (Shrule) (sites 19-25), Ballynalty (sites 26-27) and Cross (sites 28-31). Sub-catchments and WFD sub-basins are also highlighted.

Table 7. Site survey details, Black (Shrule), Ballynalty and Cross River sub-catchments, July 2025.

No.	WFD Sub-basin	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
Black sub-catchment						
19	BLACK (SHRULE)_010	Black Shrule (Kilshanvy) River	Ballinully	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
20	BLACK (SHRULE)_010	Black Shrule (Carras) River	Outlawns	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
21	BLACK (SHRULE)_010	Black Shrule River	Bridge at Kilshanvy	ADEF (Handset)	YES	07/07/2025
22	BLACK (SHRULE)_010	Black Shrule (Toberroe) River	Toberroe	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
23	BLACK (SHRULE)_010	Black Shrule (Carrowmore) River	Dalgan Demesne	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
24	BLACK (SHRULE)_020	Black Shrule (Cullagh) River	Tonroe North	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
25	BLACK (SHRULE)_010	Black Shrule (Togher) River	Cloonaglasha	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
Ballynalty sub-catchment						
26	KNOCKNAGEEHA_010	Corrib (Ballynalty) River	Funshinaugh Northeast	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
27	KNOCKNAGEEHA_010	Corrib (Ballynalty) River	u/s of Ballynalty Bay	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
Cross sub-catchment						
28	KILMAINE_010	Corrib (Cross) River	Frenchbrook South	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
29	KILMAINE_020	Corrib (Cross) River	Curraghbaun	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025
30	KILMAINE_020	Corrib (Cross) River	Cross Village	ADEF (Handset)	NO	16/07/2025
31	KILMAINE_010	Corrib (Cross) River	Carrownturly	TEF (Handset)	NO	15/07/2025

Table 8. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), on the Black sub-catchment, in the Lough Corrib Catchment, July 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Black sub-catchment							
Site no.	19		20	21		22	
Species	2020	2025	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Brown trout	0.019	-	0.282	0.094	0.033	0.193	0.167
0+ brown trout	0.019	-	0.266	0.011	0.012	0.134	0.141
1+ & older brown trout	-	-	0.016	0.083	0.020	0.059	0.026
Salmon	-	-	0.299	0.089	0.020	-	-
0+ salmon	-	-	0.202	0.067	0.016	-	-
1+ & older salmon	-	-	0.097	0.022	0.004	-	-
Lamprey sp.	-	-	0.016	-	0.020	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	0.029	-	-	-	0.074	0.089	0.154
All fish	0.048	-	0.597	0.183	0.148	0.282	0.321
Black sub-catchment							
Site no.	23		24		25		
Species	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	
Brown trout	0.119	0.242	0.986	0.821	0.035	-	
0+ brown trout	0.025	0.143	0.986	0.821	0.018	-	
1+ & older brown trout	0.093	0.099	-	-	0.018	-	
Lamprey sp.	-	-	0.067	-	-	-	
Minnow	-	-	-	-	-	0.040	
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	0.053	-	
Three-spined stickleback	-	0.108	0.045	0.037	0.053	-	
All fish	0.119	0.350	1.098	0.858	0.141	0.040	

Table 9. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), on the Ballynalty and Cross sub-catchment, Lough Corrib Catchment, July 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Ballynalty sub-catchment					Cross sub-catchment	
Site no.	26		27		28	
Species	2020	2025	2020	2025	2025	
Brown trout	0.317	1.159	0.141	0.423	0.937	
0+ brown trout	0.301	1.065	0.033	0.344	0.875	
1+ & older brown trout	0.017	0.094	0.108	0.079	0.062	
Salmon	-	-	0.083	-	-	
0+ salmon	-	-	0.017	-	-	
1+ & older salmon	-	-	0.066	-	-	
European eel	-	-	0.025	-	-	
Pike	-	-	0.017	-	-	
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	0.030	-	
All fish	0.317	1.159	0.265	0.452	0.937	
Cross sub-catchment						
Site no.	29		30		31	
Species	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Brown trout	0.104	0.328	0.141	0.278	-	-
0+ brown trout	0.088	0.281	0.127	0.187	-	-
1+ & older brown trout	0.016	0.047	0.013	0.091	-	-
Salmon	0.335	0.140	0.181	0.059	-	-
0+ salmon	0.240	0.078	0.147	0.011	-	-
1+ & older salmon	0.096	0.062	0.034	0.048	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-	0.181	0.264
All fish	0.439	0.468	0.322	0.337	0.181	0.264

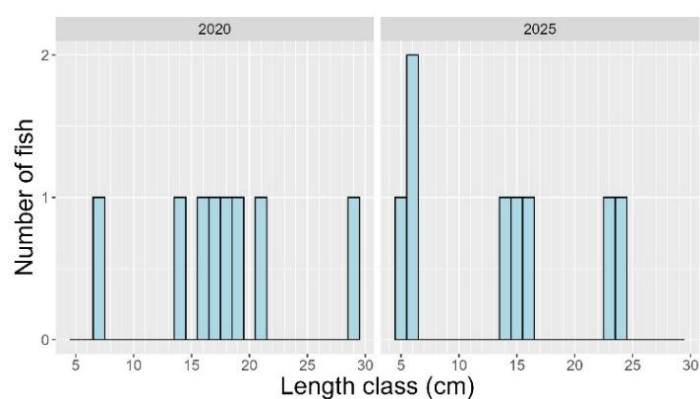


Figure 4. Length frequency distribution of Brown trout (2020 n=8, 2025 n=8) from the WFD surveillance monitoring site at Bridge at Kilshanvy (Site 21) in the Black (Shrule) River sub-catchment.

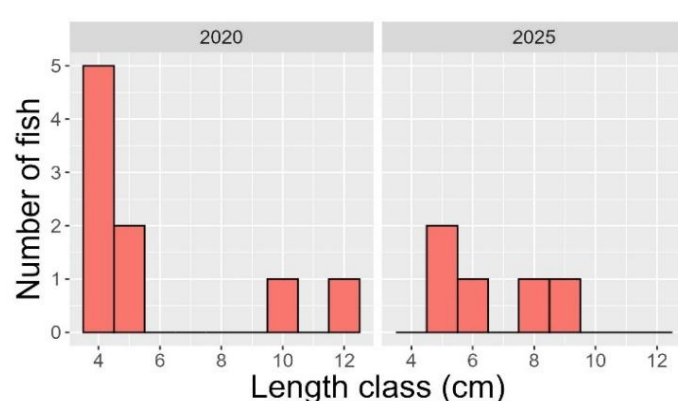


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of salmon (2020 n=9, 2025 n=5) from the WFD surveillance monitoring site at Bridge at Kilshanvy (Site 21) in the Black (Shrule) River sub-catchment.

Table 10. Brown trout % age class (where recorded), Sites 19-31, Black (Shrule), Ballynalty and Cross sub-catchments, July 2025.

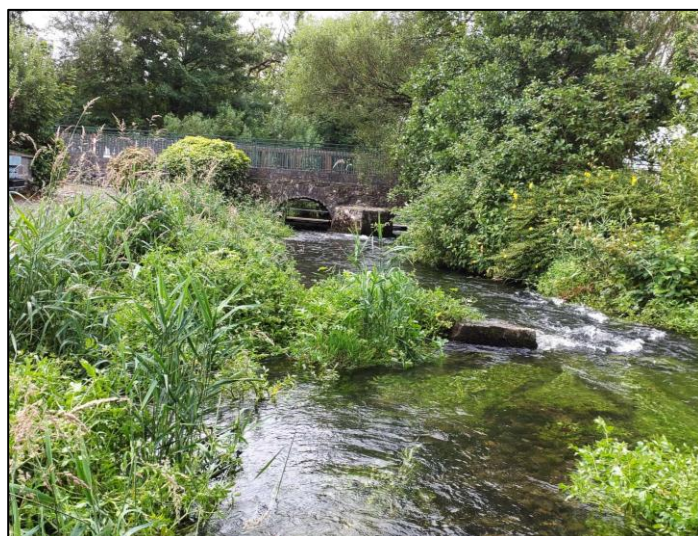
Site No.	% of catch			
	0+	1+	2+	3+
Black sub-catchment				
20	95	5	-	-
21	37	37	13	13
22	87	13	-	-
23	66	27	7	-
24	100	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-
Ballynalty sub-catchment				
26	93	7	-	-
27	83	13	4	-
Cross sub-catchment				
28	94	6	-	-
29	87	-	13	-
30	67	21	10	2

Table 12. Fish ecological status, Black, Ballynalty and Cross sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	2020	2022	2025
Black sub-catchment			
19	M	-	B
20	G	-	H
21	G	G	M
22	G	-	G
23	M	-	M
24	G	-	G
25	M	-	P
Ballynalty sub-catchment			
26	M	-	G
27	G	-	G
Cross sub-catchment			
28	M	-	G
29	G	-	G
30	G	-	G
31	P	-	B

Table 11. Salmon % age class (where recorded), Sites 19-31, Black (Shrule), Ballynalty and Cross sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	% of catch		
	0+	1+	2+
Black sub-catchment			
20	70	30	-
21	80	20	-
Cross sub-catchment			
29	56	44	-
30	18	73	9



Cross River at Cross Village (Site 30), Co Mayo.

Lough Kip, Ballycuike and Drimneen, river sub-catchments.

Eight sites were surveyed in the Lough Kip, Ballycuike and Drimneen river sub-catchments in July 2025. This included one site on the Lough Kip, four sites on the Ballycuike and three sites on the Drimneen river sub-catchments.

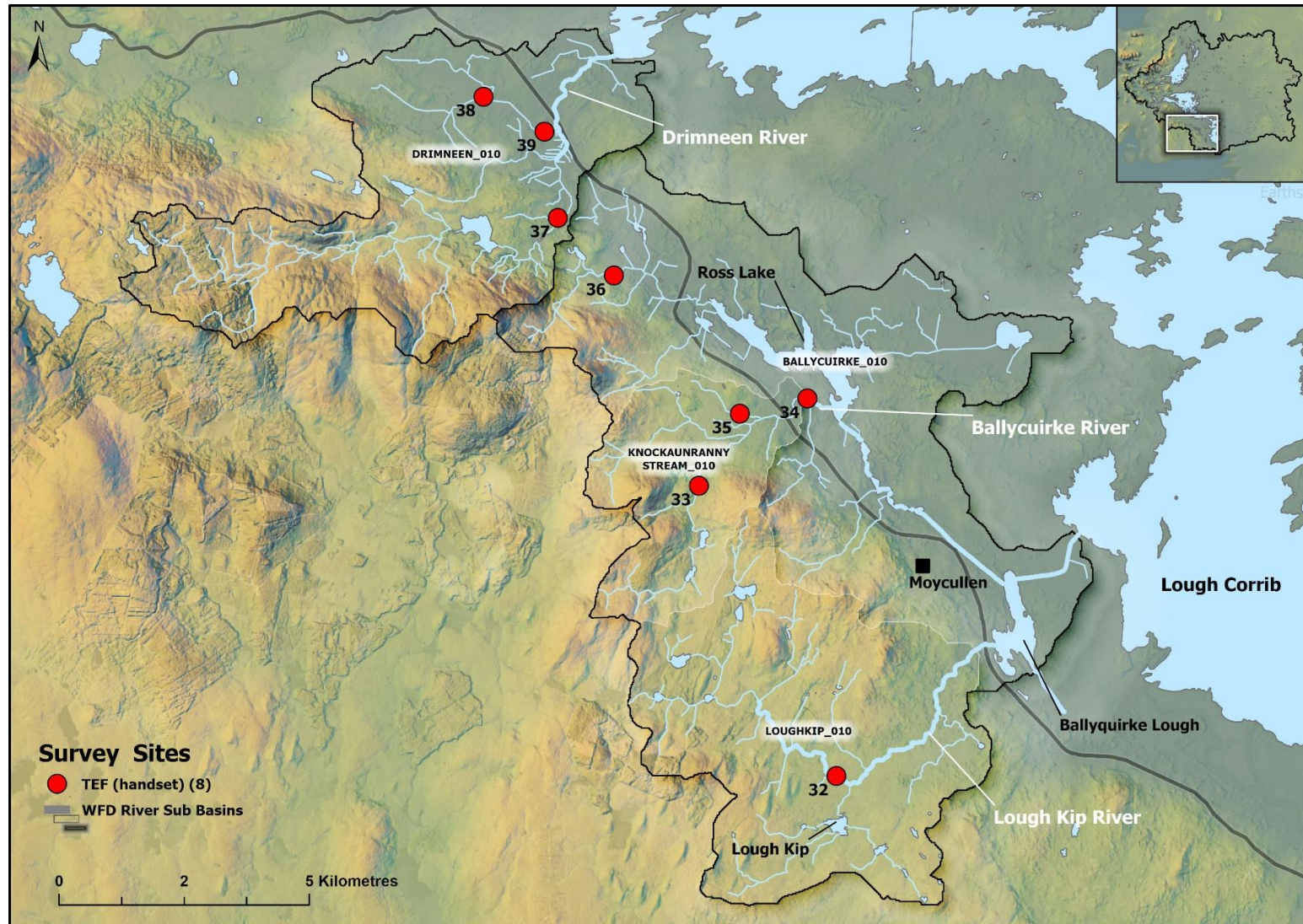


Figure 6. Location of electrofishing survey sites: Lough Kip River (Site 32), Ballycuike (sites 33-36) and Drimneen (sites 37-39), sub-catchments 2025.

Table 13. Site survey details, Lough Kip, Ballycurke and Drimneen sub-catchments, July 2025.

No.	WFD Sub-basin	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
Lough Kip sub-catchment						
32	LOUGHKIP_010	Corrib (Lough Kip) River	Knockgarve Northeast	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
Ballycurke sub-catchment						
33	KNOCKAUNRANNY STREAM_010	Corrib (Ballycurke) River	Oghery	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
34	BALLYCUIRKE_010	Corrib (Ballycurke) River	An Cnoc Ban	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
35	KNOCKAUNRANNY STREAM_010	Corrib (Ballycurke) River	Knockaunranny	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
36	BALLYCUIRKE_010	Corrib (Ballycurke) River	Gortacarnaun	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
Drimneen sub-catchment						
37	DRIMNEEN_010	Drimneen River	Drimneen	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
38	DRIMNEEN_010	Drimneen (Clare) River	Rushveala	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
39	DRIMNEEN_010	Drimneen (Clare)	d/s of Railway line	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025

Table 14. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), for Lough Kip, Ballycurke and Drimneen sub-catchments, July 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Lough Kip sub-catchment			Ballycurke sub-catchment					
Site no.	32		33		34		35	
Species	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Brown trout	0.071	0.292	0.161	0.174	0.011	-	0.096	0.187
0+ brown trout	0.071	0.259	0.075	0.060	0.011	-	0.096	0.094
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.034	0.086	0.113	-	-	-	0.094
Salmon	-	0.022	-	-	-	-	-	-
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+ & older salmon	-	0.022	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lamprey sp.	-	-	-	-	0.011	-	-	-
Minnow	-	0.017	-	-	-	0.009	-	-
Perch	-	-	-	-	0.005	-	-	-
Roach	-	-	-	-	0.016	0.073	-	-
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	0.033	-	-	-
All fish	0.071	0.332	0.161	0.174	0.077	0.082	0.096	0.187
Ballycurke sub-catchment			Drimneen sub-catchment					
Site no.	36		37		38		39	
Species	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Brown trout	0.428	0.533	0.137	0.024	0.604	1.100	0.593	0.357
0+ brown trout	0.185	0.206	0.032	0.012	0.525	0.883	0.278	0.197
1+ & older brown trout	0.243	0.327	0.105	0.012	0.079	0.217	0.315	0.160
Salmon	0.023	-	-	-	0.236	-	0.445	-
0+ salmon	0.023	-	-	-	0.236	-	0.371	-
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.074	-
Minnow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.037
Stone loach	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.167	-
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-	0.039	0.100	-	-
All fish	0.451	0.533	0.137	0.024	0.879	1.200	1.205	0.394



Drimneen River at Drimneen (Site 37), Co. Galway.

Table 15. Brown trout % age class (where recorded), Sites 32-39, Lough Kip, Ballycuike and Drimneen sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	% of catch		
	0+	1+	2+
Lough Kip sub-catchment			
32	91	9	-
Ballycuike sub-catchment			
33	42	50	8
35	50	50	-
36	42	58	-
Drimneen sub-catchment			
37	50	50	-
38	85	15	-
39	62	25	13

Table 17. Fish ecological status, Lough Kip, Ballycuike and Drimneen sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	2020	2025
Lough Kip sub-catchment		
32	P	G
Ballycuike sub-catchment		
33	M	M
34	P	B
35	M	M
36	G	G
Drimneen sub-catchment		
37	M	P
38	H	G
39	H	G

Table 16. Salmon % age class structure (where recorded), Sites 32-39, Lough Kip, Ballycuike and Drimneen sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	% of catch	
	0+	1+
Lough Kip sub-catchment		
32	-	100

Owenriff River Catchment

Seventeen sites were surveyed in the Owenriff River catchment in July 2025. This included one site on the Letterfore, two sites on the Knockmoyle, two sites on the Glengawbeg, five sites on the Bunowen, four sites on the Glengowla, one site on the Canrawer, one site on the Derrylaura and one site on the Owenriff main channel, subcatchments. One long-term Water Framework Directive (WFD) surveillance monitoring (SM) sites was surveyed on the Owenriff River at Water Tower (Site 56).

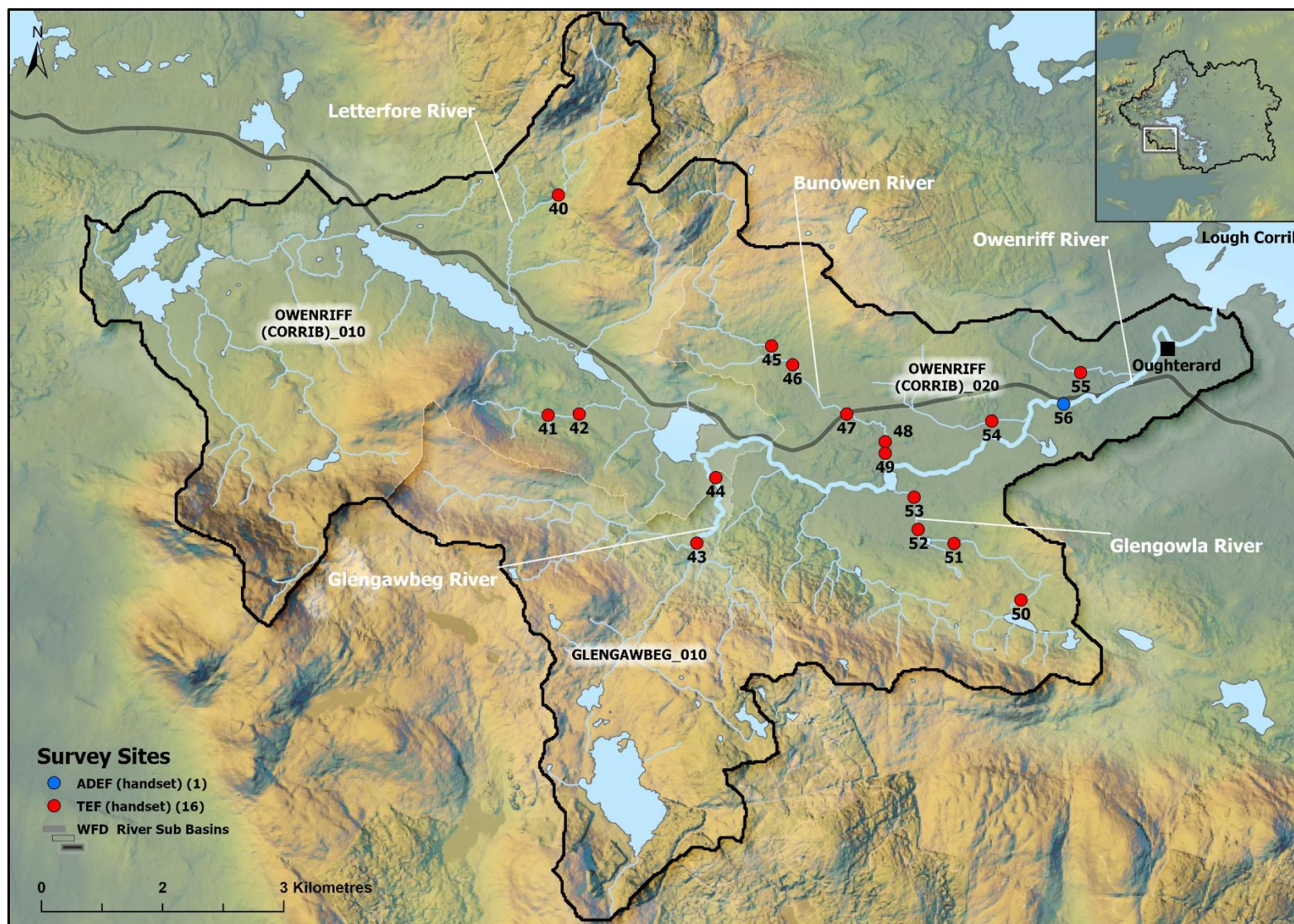


Figure 7. Location of electrofishing survey sites: Owenriff River Catchment (sites 40-56), 2025.

Table 18. Site survey details, Owenriff River catchment, July 2025.

No.	WFD Sub-basin	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
Letterfore sub-catchment						
40	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_010	Owenriff (Letterfore) River	Letterfore Track	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
Knockmoyle sub-catchment						
41	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_010	Owenriff (Knockmoyle) River	Knockmoyle	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
42	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_010	Owenriff (Knockmoyle) River	Knockmoyle Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
Glengawbeg sub-catchment						
43	GLENGAWBEG_010	Owenriff (Derryeighter) River	d/s Forest Confluence	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
44	GLENGAWBEG_010	Owenriff (Glengawbeg) River	Glengawbeg Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
Bunowen sub-catchment						
45	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Bunowen) River	Knockbaun Upper	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
46	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Bunowen) River	Knockbaun	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
47	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Bunowen) River	Glengowla Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
48	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Bunowen) River	North of Lough Ateeann	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
49	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Bunowen) River	u/s Lough Ateeann	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
Glengowla East sub-catchment						
50	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Glengowla East) River	Clooshgereen	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
51	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Glengowla East) River	Clooshgereen Track	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
52	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Rusheeny) River	d/s of Lough Beg	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
53	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Glengowla East) River	Rusheeny East	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
Canrawer sub-catchment						
54	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Canrawer) River	Canrawer West	TEF (Handset)	NO	24/07/2025
Derrylaura sub-catchment						
55	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff (Derrylaura) River	Clare	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
Owenriff main channel						
56	OWENRIFF (CORRIB)_020	Owenriff River	Water Tower	ADEF (Handset)	YES	24/07/2025

Table 19. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), on the Letterfore and Knockmoyle sub-catchment, Owenriff River Catchment, July 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Letterfore sub-catchment				Knockmoyle sub-catchment					
Site no.	40			41			42		
Species	2018	2021	2025	2017	2021	2025	2018	2021	2025
Brown trout	0.326	0.272	0.570	0.291	0.034	1.425	0.508	0.595	0.429
0+ brown trout	0.158	0.218	0.517	0.265	0.034	1.323	0.460	0.535	0.172
1+ & older brown trout	0.168	0.054	0.053	0.026	-	0.102	0.048	0.060	0.257
Salmon	-	-	-	-	-	0.153	0.048	-	0.309
0+ salmon	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.048	-	0.240
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	-	0.153	-	-	0.069
Minnow	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.073	-	-
All fish	0.326	0.272	0.570	0.291	0.034	1.577	0.629	0.595	0.738

Table 20. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), on the Glengawbeg, Bunowen, Glengowla East, Canrawer, Derrylaura and Owenriff main channel, sub-catchments (previous results are shown where applicable).

Glengawbeg sub-catchment						Bunowen sub-catchment		
Site no.	43		44			45		
Species	2018	2025	2018	2021	2025	2018		
Brown trout	0.069	0.049	0.033	0.016	0.008	0.933		
0+ brown trout	0.039	0.020	0.033	0.016	0.008	0.510		
1+ & older brown trout	0.029	0.030	-	-	-	0.423		
Salmon	0.221	0.193	0.078	0.058	0.137	0.025		
0+ salmon	0.093	0.084	0.056	0.016	0.137	-		
1+ & older salmon	0.128	0.109	0.022	0.042	-	0.025		
Minnow	-	-	0.033	0.026	0.008	-		
All fish	0.290	0.242	0.144	0.100	0.154	0.958		
Bunowen sub-catchment								
Site no.	45	46			47		48	
Species	2025	2018	2021	2025	2017	2025	2018	
Brown trout	0.869	0.324	0.474	0.642	0.268	0.132	0.159	
0+ brown trout	0.634	0.059	0.215	0.273	0.148	0.070	0.124	
1+ & older brown trout	0.234	0.265	0.259	0.369	0.120	0.062	0.035	
Salmon	0.028	0.015	0.017	-	0.310	0.062	0.691	
0+ salmon	0.028	0.015	-	-	0.240	0.062	0.549	
1+ & older salmon	-	-	0.017	-	0.071	-	0.142	
All fish	0.897	0.339	0.491	0.642	0.578	0.195	0.850	
Bunowen sub-catchment					Glengowla East sub-catchment			
Site no.	48		49			50	51	
Species	2021	2025	2017	2021	2025	2025	2018	
Brown trout	0.398	0.198	0.193	0.355	0.283	0.187	0.308	
0+ brown trout	0.180	0.105	0.179	0.237	0.088	0.156	0.308	
1+ & older brown trout	0.218	0.093	0.014	0.118	0.195	0.031	-	
Salmon	-	0.070	-	0.163	0.071	-	1.213	
0+ salmon	-	0.070	-	0.163	0.035	-	0.959	
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	0.035	-	0.253	
All fish	0.398	0.268	0.193	0.518	0.354	0.187	1.520	
Glengowla East sub-catchment						Canrawer sub-catchment		
Site no.	51		52	53			54	
Species	2021	2025	2025	2018	2021	2025	2018	
Brown trout	-	0.046	0.030	0.018	0.091	0.037	0.069	
0+ brown trout	-	0.046	0.030	-	0.091	0.037	0.069	
1+ & older brown trout	-	-	-	0.018	-	-	-	
Salmon	0.590	0.528	0.120	0.132	0.273	0.581	-	
0+ salmon	0.321	0.417	0.120	0.044	0.152	0.562	-	
1+ & older salmon	0.269	0.111	-	0.088	0.121	0.018	-	
Minnow	0.186	0.046	0.090	-	-	0.627	-	
Pike	-	-	-	-	-	0.009	-	
Three-spined stickleback	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.194	
All fish	0.776	0.621	0.240	0.149	0.364	1.254	0.263	
Canrawer sub-catchment			Derrylaura sub-catchment			Owenriff main channel		
Site no.	54		55			56		
Species	2021	2025	2017	2018	2025	2018	2021	2025
Brown trout	-	0.417	0.551	0.415	0.423	0.007	0.030	0.027
0+ brown trout	-	0.225	0.291	0.246	0.190	-	0.007	0.025
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.191	0.260	0.169	0.233	0.007	0.022	0.002
Salmon	-	0.023	-	-	0.085	0.256	0.730	0.064
0+ salmon	-	0.023	-	-	0.085	0.153	0.299	0.056
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	-	-	0.103	0.430	0.008
Minnow	0.274	0.180	-	-	-	0.013	-	-
Pike	-	-	-	-	-	0.002	-	-
Three-spined stickleback	0.091	0.282	-	-	-	-	-	-
All fish	0.366	0.901	0.551	0.415	0.507	0.278	0.759	0.091

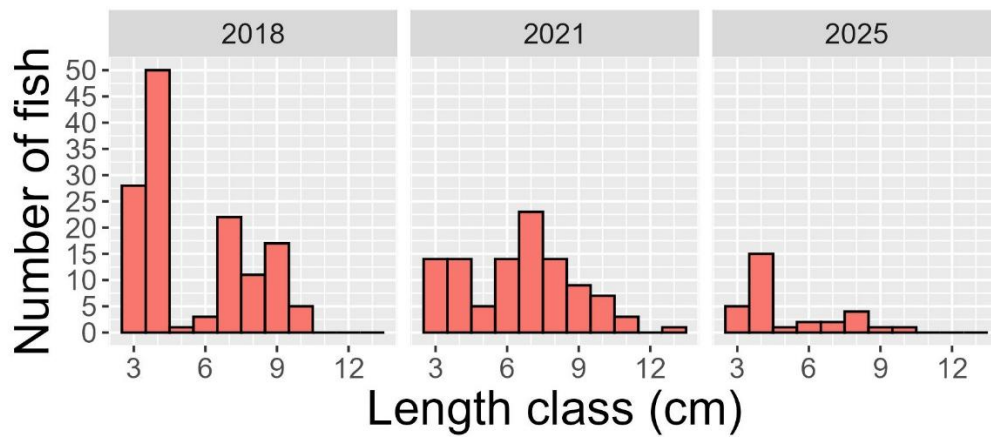


Figure 8. Length frequency distribution of salmon (2018 n=137, 2021 n=104, 2025 n=31) from the WFD surveillance monitoring site at Water Tower (Site 56) in the Owenriff River sub-catchment.

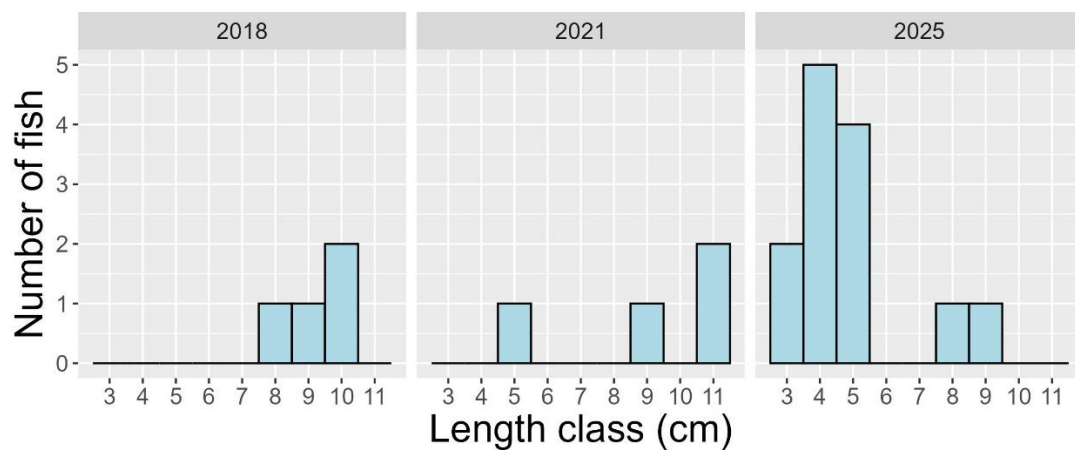


Figure 9. Length frequency distribution of brown trout (2018 n=4, 2021 n=4, 2025 n=13) from the WFD surveillance monitoring site at Water Tower (Site 56) in the Owenriff River sub-catchment.



Glengowla East River at Clooshgareen Track (Site 51), Co. Galway.

Table 21. Brown trout % age class (where recorded), Sites 40-56, Owenriff sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	% of catch			
	0+	1+	2+	3+
Letterfore sub-catchment				
40	92	8	-	-
Knockmoyle sub-catchment				
41	94	6	-	-
42	42	33	17	8
Glengawbeg sub-catchment				
43	40	20	40	-
44	100	-	-	-
Bunowen sub-catchment				
45	78	19	3	-
46	48	40	-	12
47	60	30	10	-
48	56	44	-	-
49	38	37	25	-
Glengowla East sub-catchment				
50	86	14	-	-
51	100	-	-	-
52	100	-	-	-
53	100	-	-	-
Canrawer sub-catchment				
54	60	35	5	-
Derrylaura sub-catchment				
55	50	40	10	-
Owenriff main channel				
56	92	8	-	-

Table 22. Salmon % age class (where recorded), Sites 40-56, Owenriff sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	% of catch		
	0+	1+	2+
Knockmoyle sub-catchment			
41	-	100	-
42	78	22	-
Glengawbeg sub-catchment			
43	45	55	-
44	100	-	-
Bunowen sub-catchment			
45	100	-	-
47	100	-	-
48	100	-	-
49	50	50	-
Glengowla East sub-catchment			
51	81	19	-
52	100	-	-
53	97	-	3
Canrawer sub-catchment			
54	100	-	-
Derrylaura sub-catchment			
55	100	-	-
Owenriff main channel			
56	87	13	-

Table 23. Fish ecological status, Owenriff River sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	2017	2018	2021	2025
Letterfore sub-catchment				
40	-	G	M	G
Knockmoyle sub-catchment				
41	G	-	P	G
42	-	G	G	H
Glengawbeg sub-catchment				
43	-	G	-	G
44	M	P	P	P
Bunowen sub-catchment				
45	-	H	-	H
46	M	M	G	M
47	G	-	-	M
48	-	H	G	G
49	M	-	G	G
Glengowla East sub-catchment				
50	M	M	P	M
51	-	G	M	G
52	-	-	M	P
53	M	M	M	M
Canrawer sub-catchment				
54	-	P	P	M
Derrylaura sub-catchment				
55	G	G	-	G
Owenriff River main channel				
56	-	M	M	M



Derryeighter River, downstream of Forest Confluence (Site 43), Co Galway.

Bealnabrack, Cornamona and Carrick River Sub-catchments.

Twenty-six sites were surveyed in the western area of the River Corrib catchment in July 2025. This included eleven sites on the Bealnabrack, fourteen sites on the Cornamona and one site on the Carrick River, sub-catchments.

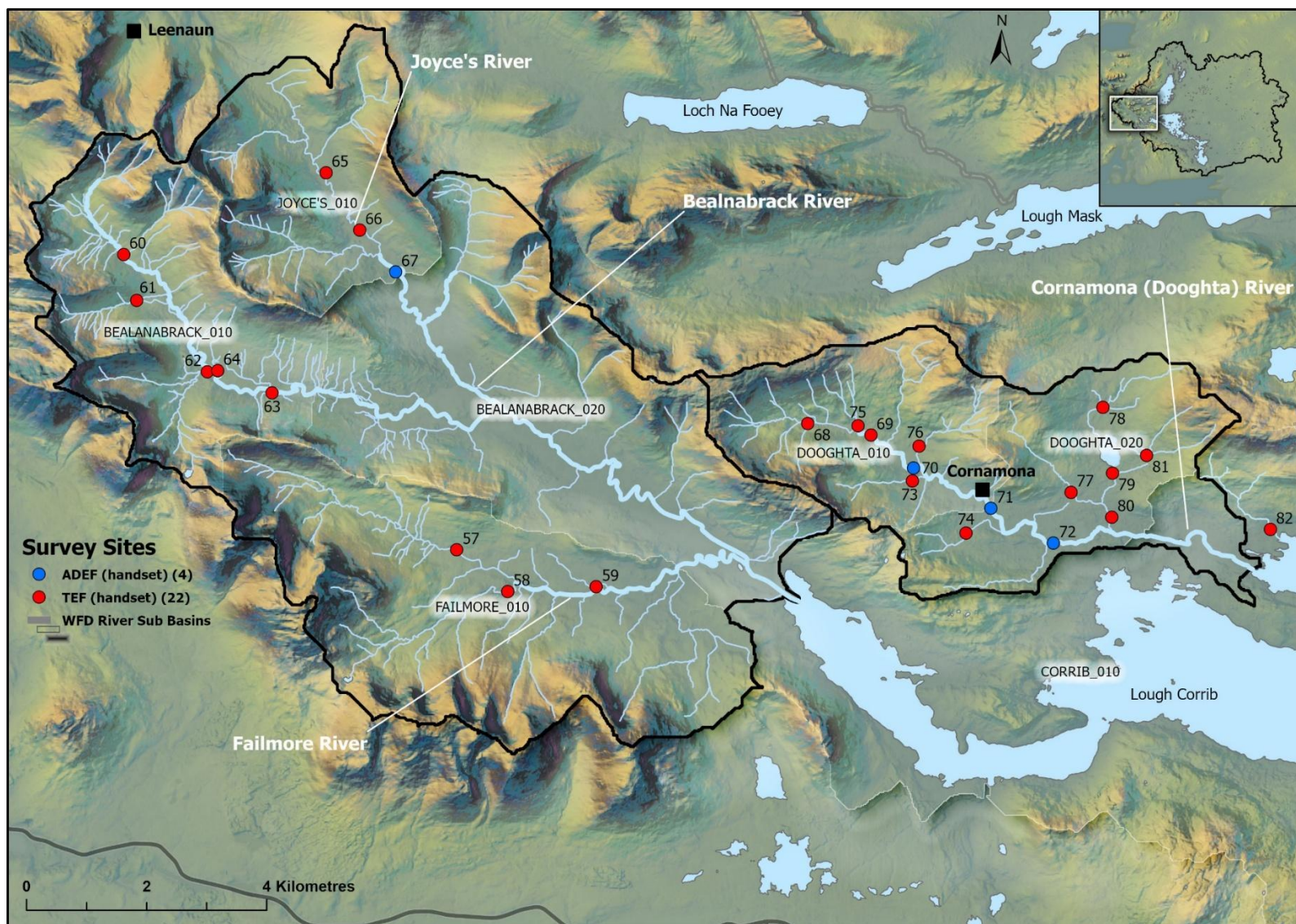


Figure 10. Location of electrofishing survey sites on the River Corrib Catchment (West): Bealnabrack (sites 57-67), Cornamona (sites 68-81) and Carrick (Site 82), sub-catchments, 2025.

Table 24. Site survey details on the Bealanabrack, Cornamona and Carrick River sub-catchment, July 2025.

No.	WFD Sub-basin	River	Site	Method	WFD	Date
Bealanabrack sub-catchment						
57	FAILMORE_010	Failmore River	Knocknagur	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
58	FAILMORE_010	Failmore (Teernakill) River	Teernakill South	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
59	FAILMORE_010	Failmore River	Luggaun South	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
60	BEALANABRACK_010	Bealanabrack (Glenglosh) River	Bunnaviskaun	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
61	BEALANABRACK_010	Bealanabrack (Gowlaunard) River	Gowlaunard East	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
62	BEALANABRACK_010	Bealanabrack (Gabhlan Na Li) River	Gowlaunlee East	TEF (Handset)	NO	10/07/2025
63	BEALANABRACK_010	Bealanabrack River	Fulachtai Fia	ADEF (Handset)	NO	26/09/2025
64	BEALANABRACK_010	Bealanabrack River	d/s Stone Row confluence	ADEF (Handset)	NO	25/09/2025
65	JOYCE'S_010	Corrib (Joyce's) River	Munterowen East	TEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
66	JOYCE'S_010	Corrib (Joyce's) River	Griggins	TEF (Handset)	NO	30/09/2025
67	JOYCE'S_010	Corrib (Joyce's) River	u/s of Griggins Ford	ADEF (Handset)	NO	09/07/2025
Cornamona (Dooghta) sub-catchment						
68	DOOGHTA_010	Dooghta River	Crumlin West	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
69	DOOGHTA_010	Dooghta River	Middle Crumlin	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
70	DOOGHTA_010	Dooghta River	Crumlin East	ADEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
71	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta River	Allintoer Graveyard	ADEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
72	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta River	Dooghtaknockbaun	ADEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
73	DOOGHTA_010	Dooghta (Lugacurry) River	Lugacurry Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
74	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta (Dubhachta) River	Maumcloghaloon Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
75	DOOGHTA_010	Dooghta (Crumlin West) River	Crumlin Field	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
76	DOOGHTA_010	Dooghta (Crumlin East) River	Crumlin Track	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
77	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta (Teeranea) River	Allintoer East	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
78	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta (Carrick West) River	Ballydoo Lough Bridge	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
79	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta (Carrick West) River	d/s of Ballydoo Lough	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
80	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta (Carrick West) River	Carrick West	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
81	DOOGHTA_020	Dooghta (Carrick West) River	Benlevy Ford	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025
Carrick sub-catchment						
82	CORRIB_010	Corrib (Carrick), River	Carrick East	TEF (Handset)	NO	08/07/2025

Table 25. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), on the Bealanabrack sub-catchment, Lough Corrib Catchment, 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Bealanabrack sub-catchment										
Site no.	57		58		59		60		61	
Species	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025
Brown trout	0.025	0.094	0.204	0.042	0.005	-	0.039	0.181	0.113	0.030
0+ brown trout	0.016	0.073	0.117	0.035	0.005	-	0.013	0.096	0.098	-
1+ & older brown trout	0.008	0.021	0.087	0.007	-	-	0.026	0.085	0.015	0.030
Salmon	0.115	0.241	0.276	0.127	0.112	0.204	0.085	0.226	0.015	-
0+ salmon	0.049	0.136	0.216	0.120	0.075	0.170	0.059	0.124	0.015	-
1+ & older salmon	0.066	0.105	0.061	0.007	0.037	0.034	0.026	0.102	-	-
European eel	0.012	0.016	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All fish	0.152	0.351	0.481	0.169	0.118	0.204	0.124	0.407	0.129	0.030
Bealanabrack sub-catchment										
Site no.	62		63	64	65		66		67	
Species	2020	2025	2025	2025	2020	2025	2020	2025	2025	
Brown trout	0.009	0.190	0.032	0.087	0.257	0.198	0.113	0.090	0.088	
0+ brown trout	0.009	0.115	0.024	0.042	0.134	0.102	0.082	0.069	0.069	
1+ & older brown trout	-	0.075	0.008	0.045	0.124	0.096	0.031	0.022	0.020	
Salmon	0.316	0.461	0.314	0.196	-	-	-	-	0.294	
0+ salmon	0.231	0.369	0.306	0.157	-	-	-	-	0.270	
1+ & older salmon	0.085	0.092	0.008	0.039	-	-	-	-	0.025	
All fish	0.325	0.652	0.346	0.283	0.257	0.198	0.113	0.090	0.383	

Table 26. Minimum density estimates of fish (no. fish/m²), on the Cornamona (Dooghda) sub-catchment, Lough Corrib Catchment, 2025 (previous results are shown where applicable).

Cornamona (Dooghda) sub-catchment										
Site no.	68		69		70		71		72	
Species	2018	2025	2018	2025	2018	2025	2018	2025	2018	2025
Brown trout	0.178	0.321	0.262	0.216	0.204	0.114	0.104	0.029	0.076	0.017
0+ brown trout	0.061	0.182	0.013	0.142	0.146	0.051	0.081	0.026	0.050	0.014
1+ & older brown trout	0.117	0.138	0.249	0.074	0.058	0.063	0.023	0.003	0.027	0.003
Salmon	0.154	-	0.327	0.187	0.350	0.255	0.251	0.144	0.152	0.249
0+ salmon	0.154	-	0.157	0.176	0.286	0.227	0.193	0.129	0.139	0.232
1+ & older salmon	-	-	0.170	0.011	0.064	0.027	0.058	0.015	0.013	0.017
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	0.004	-	-	-	0.003
Minnow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.015	0.013	-
Perch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.040	-
All fish	0.332	0.321	0.589	0.403	0.554	0.373	0.356	0.187	0.282	0.269
Cornamona (Dooghda) sub-catchment										
Site no.	73	74		75		76		77		
Species	2025	2018	2025	2018	2025	2018	2025	2018	2025	
Brown trout	0.229	1.750	0.942	0.926	0.980	0.862	0.656	0.384	0.298	
0+ brown trout	0.123	1.225	0.659	0.546	0.526	0.287	0.328	0.245	0.298	
1+ & older brown trout	0.106	0.525	0.283	0.380	0.455	0.575	0.328	0.139	-	
Salmon	0.141	-	0.057	0.430	0.028	0.335	-	-	-	
0+ salmon	0.106	-	0.057	0.430	-	0.335	-	-	-	
1+ & older salmon	0.035	-	-	-	0.028	-	-	-	-	
European eel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.043	
All fish	0.369	1.750	0.998	1.356	1.009	1.198	0.656	0.384	0.340	
Cornamona (Dooghda) sub-catchment								Carrick sub-catchment		
Site no.	78		79		80		81	82		
Species	2018	2025	2018	2025	2018	2025	2025	2020	2025	
Brown trout	0.101	0.371	0.072	0.291	0.277	0.176	0.197	0.583	0.103	
0+ brown trout	0.101	0.371	-	0.204	0.256	0.040	0.066	0.460	0.084	
1+ & older brown trout	-	-	0.072	0.087	0.020	0.136	0.132	0.123	0.019	
Salmon	0.473	-	-	0.029	0.522	0.583	0.066	0.291	0.112	
0+ salmon	0.473	-	-	-	0.338	0.487	-	0.291	0.112	
1+ & older salmon	-	-	-	0.029	0.184	0.096	0.066	-	-	
Perch	-	-	-	-	0.031	-	-	-	-	
Pike	0.017	0.044	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All fish	0.591	0.414	0.072	0.320	0.830	0.758	0.263	0.874	0.215	

Table 27. Brown trout % age class (where recorded), on the Bealnabrack, Cornamona (Dooghta) and Carrick sub-catchments, 2025.

Site No.	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+
Bealnabrack sub-catchment						
57	80	10	10	-	-	-
58	86	-	14	-	-	-
60	59	41	-	-	-	-
61		100	-	-	-	-
62	62	38	-	-	-	-
63	77	23	-	-	-	-
64	41	52	4	-	-	3
65	58	37	5	-	-	-
66	80	20	-	-	-	-
67	75	18	7	-	-	-
Cornamona (Dooghta) sub-catchment						
68	63	37	-	-	-	-
69	70	30	-	-	-	-
70	45	45	7	3	-	-
71	90	-	-	-	-	10
72	83	17	-	-	-	-
73	57	43	-	-	-	-
74	74	26	-	-	-	-
75	58	42	-	-	-	-
76	56	35	9	-	-	-
77	100	-	-	-	-	-
78	100	-	-	-	-	-
79	73	27	-	-	-	-
80	27	64	9	-	-	-
81	33	67	-	-	-	-
Carrick sub-catchment						
82	83	17	-	-	-	-

Table 28. Salmon % age class (where recorded), on the Bealnabrack, Cornamona (Dooghta) and Carrick sub-catchments, 2025.

Site No.	0+	1+	2+
Bealnabrack sub-catchment			
57	60	40	-
58	95	5	-
59	86	14	-
60	55	45	-
62	81	19	-
63	97	3	-
64	76	24	-
67	93	7	-
Cornamona (Dooghta) sub-catchment			
69	95	5	-
70	89	8	3
71	90	10	-
72	93	7	-
73	80	20	-
74	100	-	-
75	-	100	-
79	-	100	-
80	85	13	2
81	-	100	-
Carrick sub-catchment			
82	100	-	-

Table 29. Fish ecological status, Bealnabrack, Cornamona (Dooghta) and Carrick River sub-catchments, July 2025.

Site No.	2018	2020	2025
Bealnabrack sub-catchment			
57	-	M	G
58	-	G	M
59	-	M	M
60	-	M	G
61	-	G	N/A
62	-	M	H
63	-	-	M
64	-	-	G
65	-	G	M
66	-	M	M
67	-	-	G
Cornamona sub-catchment			
68	G	-	G
69	G	-	G
70	G	-	G
71	G	-	M
72	G	-	M
73	M	-	G
74	H	-	H
75	H	-	G
76	H	-	G
77	G	-	M
78	G	-	G
79	M	-	G
80	H	-	H
81	P	-	M
Carrick River sub-catchment			
82	-	H	M

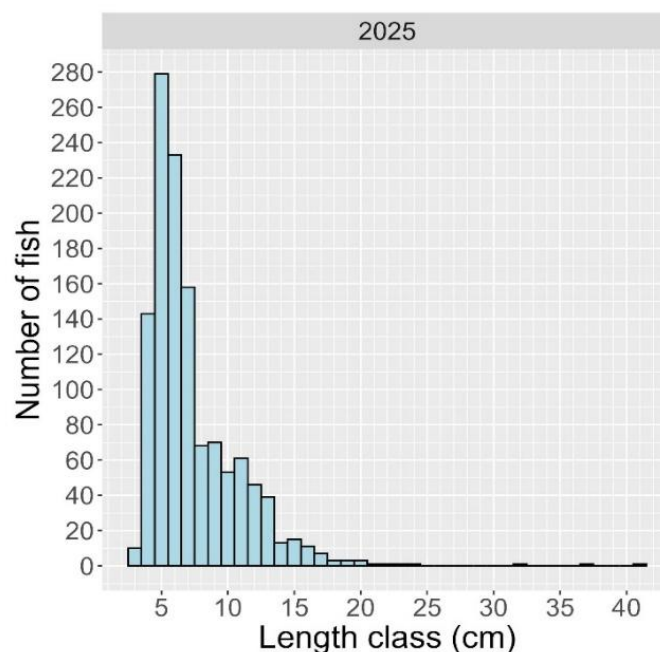


Figure 11. Length frequency distribution for brown trout (n = 1222), Lough Corrib Catchment, 2025 (No. sites = 74).

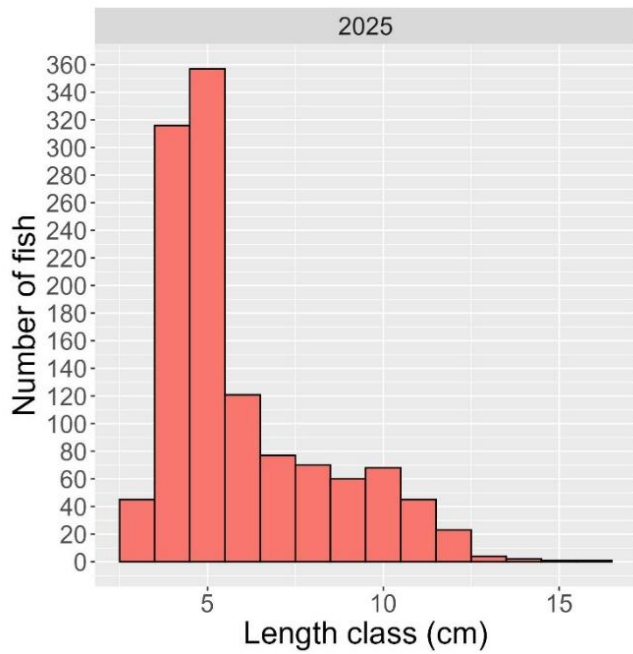


Figure 12. Length frequency distribution for salmon (n = 1189) Lough Corrib Catchment, 2025 (No. sites = 52).

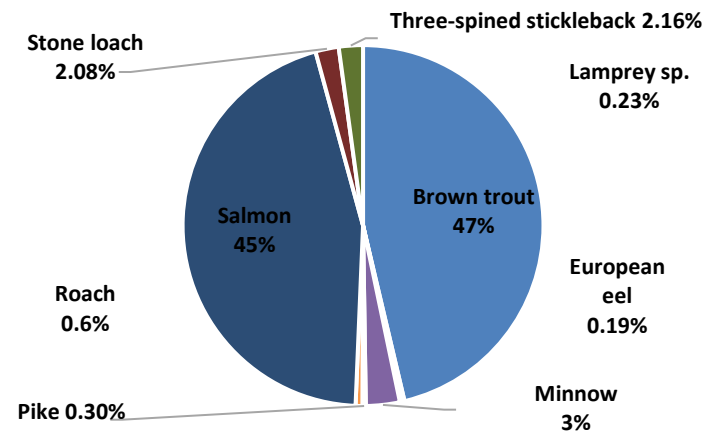
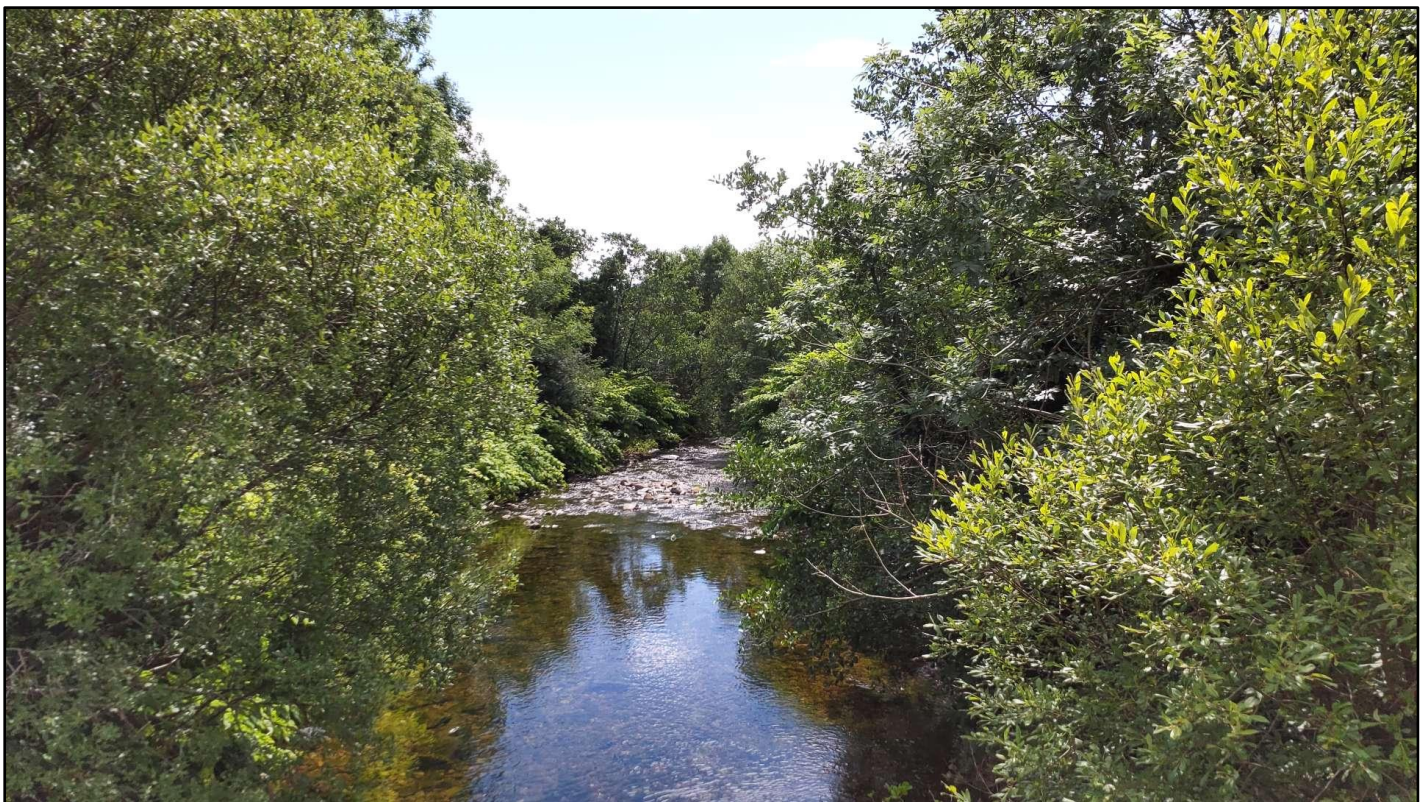


Figure 13. Fish species composition (%), Lough Corrib Catchment, 2025.



Dooghta (Cornamona) River at Alintober Graveyard (Site 71), Co. Galway.

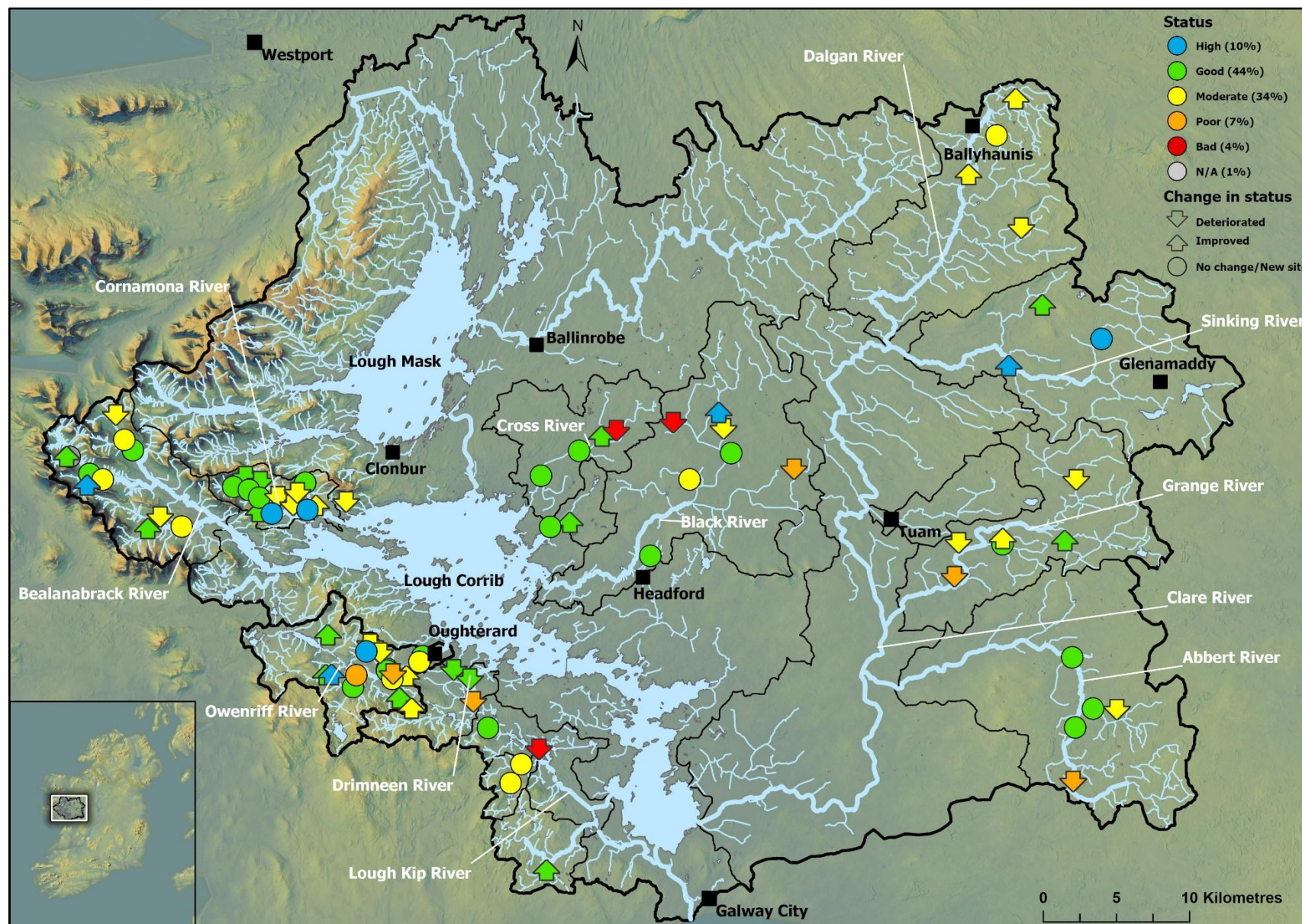


Figure 14. Fish ecological status on Lough Corrib Catchment, 2025. Arrows indicate a change in status since previous surveys (where applicable).

Summary

Nine fish species were recorded at eighty-two sites surveyed within the Lough Corrib Catchment in 2025.

Brown trout were the most common species present (74 sites, 90%), followed by salmon (52 sites, 64%), stone loach (14 sites, 17%), three-spined stickleback (13 sites, 16%), minnow (10 sites, 12%), pike (7 sites, 9.5%), European eel (5 sites, 6%), lamprey sp. (2 sites, 2%) and roach (1 site, 1.2%).

Brown trout were the most abundant species present, followed by salmon, minnow, stone loach, three-spined stickleback, roach, pike, lamprey sp. and European eel (Figure 13).

Brown trout ranged in length from 3.3 to 41.9cm (Figure 11). Five age classes of brown trout (0+, 1+, 2+, 3+ and 5+) were present, with 0+ being the most abundant cohort. The highest density of brown trout (all ages combined) (1.425 fish/m²) was recorded at Site 41 (Knockmoyle) on the Knockmoyle River (Owenriff sub-catchment). The highest density of 0+ brown trout (1.322 fish/m²) was also recorded at Site 41. The highest density of 1+ and older brown trout (0.455 fish/m²) was recorded at Site 75 (Crumlin Field) on the Crumlin West River, Cornamona (Dooghta) sub-catchment.

Salmon ranged in length from 3 to 16.4cm (Figure 12). Three salmon age classes were present (0+, 1+ and 2+) with 0+ being the most abundant cohort. The highest density of salmon (all ages combined) (0.708 fish/m²) was recorded at Site 5 (Boyounagh) on the Yellow River (Sinking sub-catchment). The highest density of 0+ salmon (0.635 fish/m²) was also recorded at Site 5 (Boyounagh). The highest density of 1+ and older salmon (0.158 fish/m²) was recorded at Site 16 (Abbert Bridge) on the Abbert River.

A Water Framework Directive fish classification tool (FCS2) was developed for Irish rivers in 2011 (SNIFFER 2011). The tool works by comparing various fish community metric values within a site to those predicted for a site under un-impacted conditions. In general, a site will achieve High status if all indicator species (e.g. both salmonid cohorts 0+ and 1+ and older) are present and in expected numbers. Status will decline if such cohorts are missing, are in poor abundance, or if more tolerant species proliferate.

Fish ecological status was assigned to eighty-one sites surveyed in the Corrib Catchment during 2025. One site was not assigned status. Eight sites were assigned High status, with thirty-six sites Good, twenty-eight Moderate, six sites Poor, and three sites Bad status. Of the 81 sites assigned fish ecological status, 78 had previously been surveyed and assigned a status. When compared with their most recent previous surveys, twenty-five deteriorated (32.0%), twenty-two improved (28.2%) and the remaining 31 sites (39.8%) were unchanged (Tables 6, 12, 17, 23 and 29; Figure 14).

The reasons for the failures (i.e. moderate status or less) in fish ecological status were due to lower-than-expected abundance of type specific indicator species (e.g., salmon and trout), absence of certain age cohorts indicating recruitment failures. Failures and deteriorations in fish ecological status can be caused by pressures such as nutrient enrichment, habitat modification and fish passage issues.

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