



CASTERBRIDGE FISHERIES LTD

Water Management for Fisheries Recreation and Conservation

Established 1985

FISHERIES MONITORING SITE REPORT

Site: Bockhampton d/s swimming pool

Catchment: River Frome

Code: RFLB02

NGR: SY722905

Summary

Casterbridge fisheries carried out a quantitative survey at the above site on the 5th May 2010, stop nets were used to section off 120m of the river downstream of the old swimming pool at Bockhampton and the section was fished using upstream boat/wade electric fishing with pulse direct current and 2 anodes. Physical characteristics and habitat data were recorded.

Brown trout, grayling, salmon, pike and dace were captured and measured. Eels, brook lamprey, bullhead, minnow and stone loach were recorded by abundance. An estimated average density of 4.3 fish per 100m² was recorded for all captured species with brown trout and grayling dominating the catch.

Numbers of fish recorded in the survey section were significantly higher than those observed downstream when carrying out the pike removal.

Site details



Physical Characteristics

Length: 120m

Average width: 9.2m

Average Depth: 0.75m

| <u>Habitat Data</u> | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Substrate | Gravel pebbles: 50% | Sand Silt: 50% | | |
| Characteristics | Pool : 3% | Deep glide: 40% | Shallow glide: 20% | Riffle: 37% |
| Macrophytes (plants) | Submerged : 5% | Marginal: 5% | | |

| <u>Water Quality</u> | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Temperature: 11 ^o c | Conductivity: 451uS | Dissolved oxygen: 94% |

| <u>River Conditions</u> | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Flow: Fast | Clarity : Moderate | Levels: High for early summer/no rain |

Assessment

The survey section was generally representative of this reach of the river with good gradient and diversity of flow/instream habitat. However, habitat improvement works have been carried out on this section and these further enhance the habitat present creating fast deep runs and large shallow areas of gravel. There are signs of erosion and deposition associated with these areas suggesting that these works are still settling in.

A reasonable amount of submerged plants were present for the time of year and this was dominated by *Ranunculus Sp.* Marginal cover was present on both banks and consisted mainly of emergent reeds such as *Phalaris* and *Iris pseudacorus*.

Brown Trout and Grayling dominated the catch followed by salmon. Pike and dace were present but only in very low numbers. Most year classes were present in the brown trout sampled but the total number captured was too small to produce a representative length frequency distribution for the species, 0+ trout and salmon were absent from the catches as they are still too small to sample at this time of year.

The presence of 1+ brown trout and grayling gives some indication of natural recruitment, although a survey carried out in the autumn would provide more reliable information on this and the densities present.

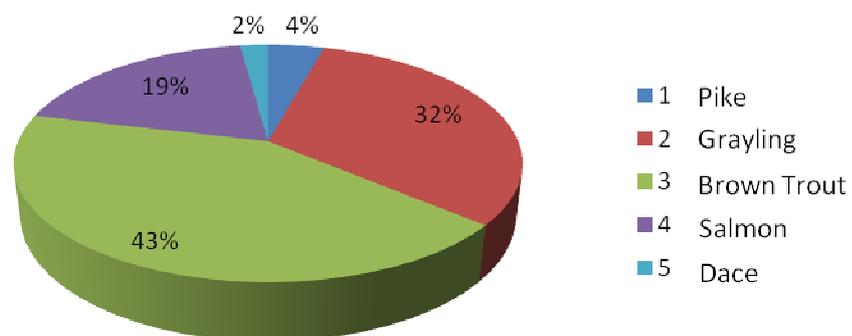


Fig.1 Bockhampton d/s swimming pool RFLB02

Overall the results show a reasonable combined density for the main species expected (4.3 fish per 100m²). Stoneloach, minnows and bullheads were recorded at a log scale abundance of 101-1000, brook lamprey at 1-10 and eels at 11-100, the later being present in good numbers throughout the section downstream.

The section surveyed produced significantly higher numbers of fish than those observed downstream of the survey site. It is likely that this is linked to the increase in the amount of fish cover created by the in stream improvements.