

FISH MONITORING SITE REPORT

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River Wye @ Millers Dale

DATE:	10-AUG-2010
U/S NGR:	SK 13492 73248
D/S NGR:	SK 13602 73233
WATERBODY ID:	GB104028058460
METHOD:	2 anode wade electric fishing

NFPD SITE REF:	3581
NFPD SURVEY REF:	123409
SURVEY LENGTH (M):	125
AVERAGE WIDTH (M):	10.5
AVERAGE DEPTH (M):	0.5

SITE DESCRIPTION



Millers Dale is a temporal site, therefore sampled every year and is used to look at trends in fish populations over time. The site is located in a gorge lined by broadleaf woodland and surrounded by rough pasture. There is sporadic reinforcement to both banks. Flow type is a mix of riffle and run. Substrate is a cobble and pebble mix for the majority with gravel interspersed and some silt deposits to the margins. In-stream vegetation includes *ranunculus* beds in less shaded areas and bryophytes covering the cobbled substrate. Shading is moderate with overhanging cover from trees and shrubs. The stretch is actively managed for angling by Cressbrook & Litton Flyfishers Club.



FISH CAUGHT

112 Brown Trout
34 Rainbow Trout
165 Bullhead

OTHER HISTORICAL SPECIES

Brook Lamprey

CATCH SUMMARY

3 species were caught with brown trout dominating the catch ranging in size from 59 to 380mm. The estimated population density (12.5 No/100m²) and biomass (2253.8 g/100m²) for all fish compares well to past catches at Millers Dale.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE STATUS	Good	CERTAINTY	Quite certain
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Millers Dale classification has increased since 2009 from moderate to good status for 2010. This suggests an improving fish population showing less evidence of ecological impact at this point. Habitat quality is good, with a large number of microhabitats available with overhanging trees; undercut banks and shallow margins all providing good cover and refuge for fish. Longitudinal connectivity is poor with several artificial barriers to fish passage along the Wye catchment. Other impacts at Millers Dale include mine water discharges and non-native species in the form of Signal Crayfish and Himalayan Balsam.

customer service line

08708 506 506

incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

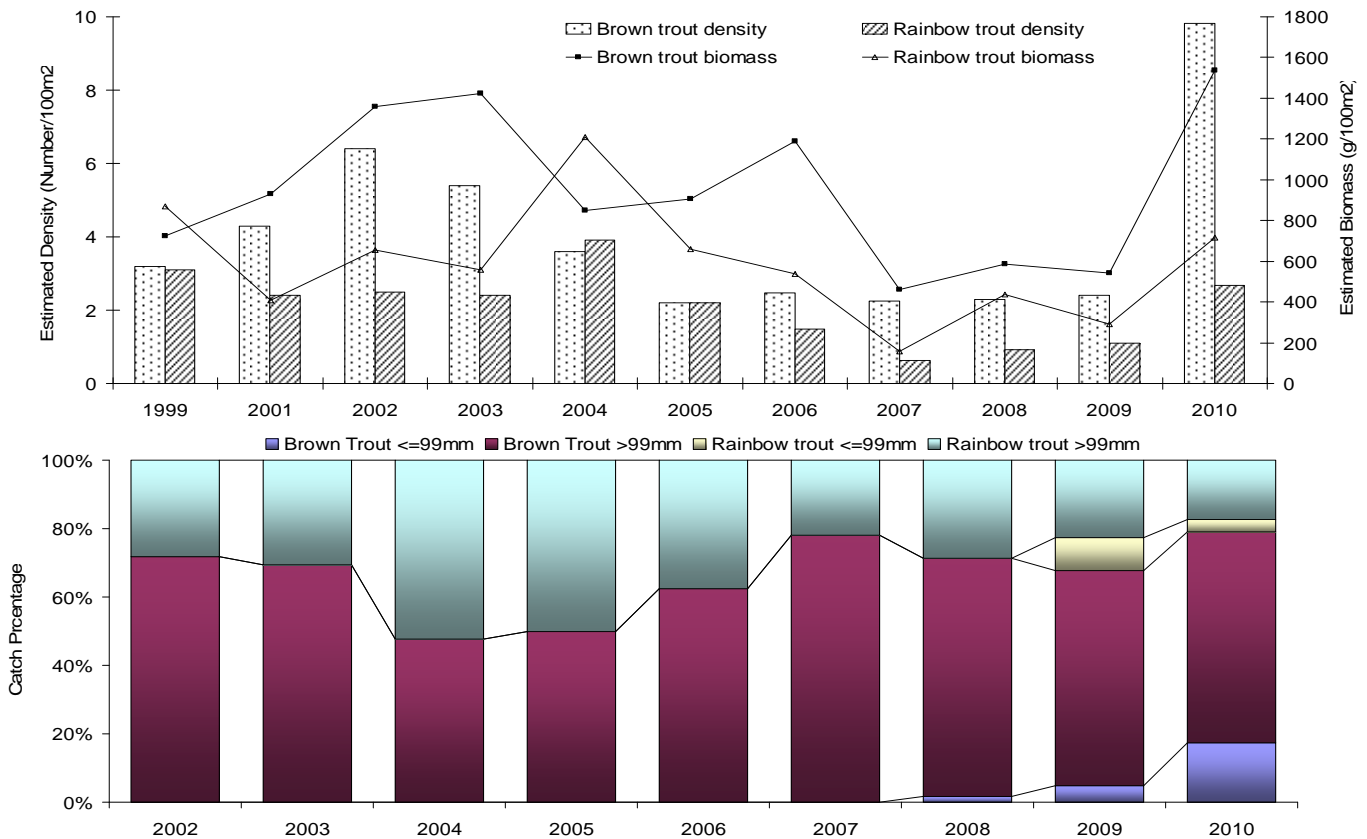
floodline

0845 988 1188

DISCUSSION

At any given site the abundance of fish can vary dramatically between years, seasons or even diurnally as shoals of fish move from shelter to feeding stations, undergo spawning migrations or seek refuge from high flow events or temperature changes. Hence, deriving reasonable conclusions about fishery performance requires long term and preferably quantitative data sets.

Fishery performance at Millers Dale is healthy. The 2010 catch compares very well against previous years with the highest brown trout density and biomass recorded at this site. However, nearly 32,000 brown and 17,000 rainbow trout (most over 30cm) have been stocked in the Wye catchment since 2000 which have had a major influence on the fish population at Millers Dale. Results since 2008 suggest both trout species have a recruiting population along this stretch.



Length frequency ranged from 45 to 311mm for brown trout and 85 to 525mm for rainbow trout. The shift in population structure and in particular the increase in 0+ fish is encouraging and reflects the improvements in water quality and management of the river.

