

# **BSc in Applied Freshwater & Marine Biology, Limnology & Oceanography**

## **Lough Corrib Field Trip Report**

The report for this field trip should be written in the TIMRaD style:

Title, Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion.

**Title:** Your report title should concisely and briefly identify the study and its main result

**Introduction (15%):** Define the background of the study by referring to existing knowledge or information. The introduction establishes the background to the fieldtrip and why we are interested in this particular topic. Remember to include in-text citations.

- The introduction should (but is not limited to) information on: Lough Corrib, catchment geology and soils, weather patterns, water chemical analysis and levels, linkages with WFD and Q-values, presence of annex 1 habitats and annex 2 species; land-uses practices within Irish river catchments, relevance of long term monitoring, importance of long term protection etc.

It should end with a **statement explaining your aims and hypotheses.**

**Site Description (15%):** This section should include a brief description of each study site as observed on the day of the study.

For this particular report:

- Describe the physical features of the river e.g. river type, width, depth, land cover, flow, banks, substrate, geology,
- Describe the riparian zone within 10m on the R Kipp and R Cross e.g. natural features, vegetation type and composition, presence of invasive species
- Presence or absence of anthropogenic impacts, invasive species, EU or national designations
- Provide a map of the Corrib catchments and YOUR sampling points. Feel free to use appropriate photos taken on the day.

**Results (20%):** This should be written in sections associated with each of the analyses undertaken, follow a clear layout. **Introduce each result with some text that directs the reader to the relevant Table or Figure. Important results should be outlined in a few sentences.**

Data should be summarised in Tables and Figures. All images (Photos, Maps, Diagrams, & Graphs) should be included as Figures. **Each Table and Figure should be labelled with a heading that includes the Table / Figure number and a short description of the content.** Graphs should be labelled properly, with the X and Y axes also labelled. Include appropriate SI units.

For this particular report your Results section should:

- Present all chemical values collected on the fieldtrip
- Present the macroinvertebrate data
- Present calculations on the SSRS
- Present the river profiles data and river discharge calculations

- Include a diagram showing the river profiles
- Explain description of important results

**Discussion (40%):** Your results are discussed and put into context in this section. Begin by discussing the most important results. Explain their meaning and implications, and give reasons for your results. How do they compare to each other and to information already in the scientific domain.

For this particular report your discussion should:

- Comment on how your results relate to environmental parameters,
- Compare the chemical and biological nature of the rivers,
- Assess how the geology of the different river catchments might influence the parameters measured at each site,
- Comment on the water quality of the two rivers analysed,
- What surrounding land-uses are driving this water quality, and,
- What are the implication for achieving “good ecological status” along the survey stretches based on water chemical analysis

End with some concluding comments and give recommendations on protecting the River Corrib Catchment

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Present your report in **1.5 line-spaced, Calibri, 11-point font and page layout with margins set to normal (2.54 all round)**. Please ensure figures and table shave been inserted correctly and do not move about on the page. Reports should **not exceed 8 pages** (inclusive of all content) and will be returned to students who do not comply.

Reference must be in Harvard Referencing Style (in-text and reference list).

Submit your field trip report by file upload (Word 2003 format) to MOODLE by **11:55pm, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019**. **LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO -10% FOR EVERY 24 HRS LATE.**