



## Analysis & Reporting

Monitoring ecosystems; identifying pollution causes & impacts

Major issues over the last three months:

- **Monitoring review – Water Framework Directive (WFD)**
- **2010 rod catch**
- **Eel barrier prioritisation**
- **WFD proformas**

### Monitoring review update- WFD

Water bodies classified from 2004 and 2005 data will soon lose this data set as we move into the next WFD six yearly cycle. A number of sites will be re-introduced to keep water bodies classified for fish some of these will be on Anglesey and the Alyn catchments. Monitoring has been streamlined in heavily monitored areas.

### 2010 rod catch

Preliminary rod catch for 2010 has come through and the overall picture is very positive for North Wales. Most rivers have seen improvements for both Salmon and Sea trout. Once all the data has been finalised we will update our 'know your river' documents.



**Title: WFD Monitoring on the Dyfi**



**Title: Elvers need improved access**

### Eel barrier prioritisation

All the known man made barriers to eels have been prioritised into categories and all high and medium barriers will need eel access by 2015. Nationally the categorisation of abstraction points for screening to protect eel ingress will start by the end of March. Locally we will be looking at tidal structures in the near future.

### WFD proformas

We have been producing WFD proformas for failing water bodies across North Wales. The proforma will look at the reasons for failures taking into account species, historic data and barriers. The conclusions from these will focus future investigations.

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## Environmental Crime

**Reducing illegal fisheries and waste activities in North Wales.**

**Major issues over the last three months:**

- **Illegal Netting on Anglesey**
- **Rod Licence Checks**

### **Two men fined for illegal nets**

In February two men were fined at Holyhead Magistrates court for illegally using nets in prohibited coastal areas on Anglesey. Mr Evans was caught by Environmental Crime Officers in October 2010 collecting illegally set nets from Lleiniog Beach and Porth Penmon. Officers seized two nets and fish including 6 Bass. He received fines totaling £415 and the nets and fish seized were order to be destroyed.

In September 2010, Mr Owen was caught collecting a net set illegally at the mouth of the Afon Ffraw, Aberffraw. One net and seven flounder were seized by Environmental Crime Officers. He received fines totaling £215 and the net and fish seized were order to be destroyed.



**Title: Officer patrolling Lleiniog beach**



**Title: Officer checking angler's licence**

### **Rod Licence Checks**

Since April 2010 Environmental Crime Officers have checked a total of 1018 anglers for their rod licence through out North Wales. Out of these we have reported 39 people for fishing without a rod licence, which equates to an evasion rate of 4%.

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## Technical Fisheries

### Maintaining and improving fisheries

#### Major issues over the last three months

- Fisheries Open Day
- Invasive Shrimp
- Ysgol Bro Tryweryn Visit
- Kelt Captures

#### Fisheries Open Day FISH 2011

We have started organising the this years fisheries open day. The event is called FISH 2011 and will be held at Llyn Brenig on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 10:00am – 15:30pm. The theme of 2011 is **Fishing in Sustainable Habitats**, focusing on fish species, sustainable angling and fisheries in the future.

#### Invasive Shrimp Update

High risk sites in Wales are being sampled for invasive shrimp and to date there have been no further findings besides Cardiff bay. As the shrimp becomes more active in the Spring, the monitoring programme will continue to help assess the presence of the species across Wales. If you find invasive shrimp contact [alert\\_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk) or inform your local lead: Alan Winstone



Title: Fisheries open Day



Title: Ysgol Bro Tryweryn visit

#### Ysgol Bro Tryweryn Visit

In December the Fisheries team visited the children of Ysgol Bro Tryweryn in Frongoch to show them fish which we had caught in our brood stock trap at Celyn. It was a great experience for the children who could not believe that such large fish are in the river behind the school.

#### Kelt Captures

As part of the Dee Mitigation programme, this year we are trying to re-condition kelts that have successfully spawned in the river. Five kelts have been caught and are now in Maerdy hatchery. Special thanks to all that helped especially Bangor on Dee Salmon Anglers and Llangollen angling Association.

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## Technical Fisheries

### Maintaining and improving fisheries

#### Major issues over the last three months:

- Afon Ddu Habitat Restoration
- Afon Dyfi, Glyserch Future Habitat Project
- Afon Hafnant Brown Trout Restoration
- Tryweryn Salmon Centre

#### Afon Ddu Habitat Restoration

Work was carried out to improve degraded habitat on the Afon Ddu. This stream is an important sea trout spawning tributary of the Llyfni. Works consisted of stock fencing, bank erosion repairs, in-river rock placements, tree coppicing and gorse removal.

#### Afon Dyfi, Glyserch Future Habitat Project

Work will shortly begin on a habitat restoration scheme on the Glyserch a tributary of the Dyfi. The area has problems with over grazing which has led to erosion and loss of in-stream habitat. The scheme will involve saving tree root systems, Coppicing, introducing boulders and fencing.



Title: Afon Ddu Habitat Scheme



Title: Afon Hafnant Habitat Scheme

#### Afon Hafnant, Brown Trout Restoration

Work at this brown trout tributary above Ysbyty Ifan included fencing, drinking areas and river crossings. The stream was heavily grazed and several mature alder and willow trees had fallen in causing flooding and erosion. The trees were removed the erosion has begun to stabilise and new vegetation should enhance this brown trout stream in the future.

#### Tryweryn Salmon centre

One of the key findings of the EAW fish culture business plan review completed in 2010, recommended that the fish rearing operations of the two Northern fish culture units be merged into one new purpose built site in North Wales. This was endorsed by the LTW in January. Preliminary planning and discussions are underway and will be presented to PAB in April.

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## Technical Fisheries

### Maintaining and improving fisheries

#### Major issues over the last three months:

- Afon Ddu Habitat Restoration
- £34000 Spent on Infrastructure Projects
- Afon Dwyfor WFW Round 2 Project Completed

#### Changes to Angling Participation

The Environment Agency in 2011 will be handing over responsibility for delivery of Angling Participation activity to the Federation of Welsh Anglers. This will consolidate the role that the FWA will play in arranging and managing angling coaching throughout Wales.

#### Infrastructure fund

This year we have supported 7 projects across North Wales in Gwynedd, Wrexham, Denbighshire and Conwy. All projects aim to improve access for anglers of all abilities. They've included improvements to disabled fishing platforms, signage, access tracks and parking.



Title: Angling Participation Event



Title: Dwyfor access work

#### Dwyfor Wild Fishing Wales scheme

Habitat and access works on the Afon Dwyfor from Round 2 of WFW have been finished. For tickets please contact Geraint Pritchard – [dwyforsec@aol.com](mailto:dwyforsec@aol.com) or 01766 810548

Wild Fishing Wales is an Environment Agency Wales initiative part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Assembly Government and a component element of the Countryside Council for Wales' Communities and Nature strategic project



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## Fish Culture

### Mitigating damage to fisheries

#### Major issues over the last three months:

- Arctic Charr
- Teme and Tanat salmon rearing transferred to Maerdy and Mawddach fish culture units
- Guidance note for angler led fish stocking programmes
- Broodstock collection Autumn 2010

#### Arctic Charr

This year a total of 14,000 Arctic Charr ova from Llyn Padarn were taken to the hatcheries. 11,000 went to Mawddach and 3,000 went to Maerdy. At Maerdy 900 eggs were used in an experiment to temperature shock the eggs at regular intervals over a 3 month period to see if the sudden increase in temperature effect the ova's development.

#### Teme and Tanat salmon rearing moved to Maerdy and Mawddach.

Following an EAW fish culture review in 2010, 280,000 Teme and Tanat salmon ova, and 30,000 Hafren brown trout have now been transferred to Maerdy and Mawddach fish culture units. The fish will be grown on until mid summer when they will be collected by midland region fishery staff for restocking back into their respective rivers on the upper Severn catchment



Title: Egg temperature shocking equipment



Title: Stocking Fish Fry

#### Guidance for Angler restocking programmes

Fisheries Technical staff are producing a fish stocking leaflet which will give guidance to angling clubs in North Wales who undertake fish stocking on their rivers. This leaflet will give practical advice on how best to maximise the results from fish stocking on rivers.

#### Broodstock

At Maerdy the total number of eggs laid down was 117,100. Broodstock were obtained from anglers on the Dee and from the Celyn and Chester traps. The Mawddach hatchery has laid 306,000 eggs down including salmon, sea trout and char.

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