

Alternative mitigation project

Natural Resources Wales is undertaking a programme of alternative mitigation works on the upper Dee, Seiont and Mawddach catchments. The aims are to mitigate for habitat lost through reservoir construction and historical impacts on fish populations through environmental incidents.

The work is to restore, where possible, access to spawning areas and increase habitat available for juvenile and spawning fish. The programme started in 2015 and is committed until 2020, with a review of the works after this time. Steering groups, with interested local parties, have been established to help direct the work. There are a number of projects that have been undertaken on tributaries of the Dee, and works are planned on the Mawddach and Seiont. If anyone has any projects on these catchments that they think would benefit spawning and juvenile fish then please contact Katrina Marshall on 0300 065 3727 or the relevant fisheries officers.



Alternative mitigation project- Afon Mynach

Recently as part of NRW's Alternative Mitigation Project on the River Dee a habitat scheme was completed on the Afon Mynach. The aim of this project is to create additional habitat in-river, to increase the smolt production of tributaries in the Upper Dee catchment. This particular scheme has introduced in-river structures, through woody revetment which reduces the river width, providing additional depth and cover for young salmonids.



Screen fitted – Clywedog (Clwyd)

On the River Clywedog, a tributary of the Clwyd catchment, a permanent screen has been fitted to the entrance of a historical mill leat. The screen will prevent salmon and sea trout smolts entering the leat system and being potentially lost or damaged during their downstream migration to sea. This piece of work was funded through the sustainable fisheries project, as part of a larger fish pass project.

Fisheries bulletin

Sustainable Fisheries - Wygyr

As part of the sustainable fisheries project we have been working with colleagues in the Natural Resources Management teams on a project to protect the brown trout and sea trout fishery in the Afon Wygyr on Anglesey. The work involves riparian habitat restoration and the construction of a bridge to exclude livestock from the watercourse. The scheme will help to improve water quality and reduce the sedimentation in the river, benefiting both resident and migratory trout throughout their lifecycles.



Coed y Brenin Fish Conference

A fisheries conference in December 2015, supported by Natural Resources Wales has been deemed a great success. Organised by the Clwyd, Conwy and Gwynedd Rivers Trust, over 60 people with a passion for fisheries came to NRW's visitor centre at Coed y Brenin to listen and contribute to discussions on several different local, national and international topics relating to fish and rivers. All papers and presentations given during the conference will be uploaded to the Campaign for the Protection of Welsh Fisheries (CPWF) website, <http://www.cpwf.co.uk/campaign/>. The CPWF website, will in future host all LFAG minutes and other relevant papers of fisheries interest.

Sustainable Fisheries - Afon Angell

The Afon Angell on the Dyfi catchment does not meet 'good' status for fish under Water Framework Directive (WFD). Electro fishing surveys carried out in 2013, confirmed, that salmon can only spawn below the man-made and natural barriers on the tributary, while sea trout can navigate them on certain limited flows.

Funding through the sustainable fisheries project has meant that with landowner permission, we have alleviated the impacts of one of the man-made obstructions. The work involved removal of several large trees that obstructed the passage of fish and installation of stop logs, in the narrow high velocity channel, to create a number of pools and rest areas for fish to use on their migration upstream. We will continue to work with the landowner, where possible, to improve fish passage at a second man-made obstruction upstream.



Fisheries bulletin

Environmental Crime

Reducing illegal fisheries and waste activities in north and mid wales

- Illegal salmon poaching
- Rod licence checks

In August 2015, following a report from a member of the public, 2 males were apprehended on the Afon Wnion using a handmade hand net with a stake and a snare. The 2 men were interviewed under caution and the items seized as evidence. This was carried out with the support of north wales police. Enforcement action is pending.

Since April 2015 Environmental Crime Officers have checked a total of 662 anglers for their rod licence throughout north and mid wales. Out of these we have reported 17 people for fishing without a rod licence, this equates to an evasion rate of 3%



Padarn Arctic Char program

Due to declining numbers of Arctic char in Llyn Padarn, a limited programme of stocking has been in place since 2009. The aim is to enhance and protect Arctic Char numbers. Adult char have been collected during their spawning migration from Llyn Padarn to Afon y Bala, and their offspring reared at our hatchery.



As part of the aim to protect the population, in 2009 and 2010 the hatchery reared char were translocated to Llyn Crafnant, in the Conwy Valley, as a way to conserve the genetics of the existing Padarn Char. Since 2011 the hatchery reared char have been re-stocked into Llyn Padarn and this work is expected to continue until 2020 when there will be a review.

In December 2015, high flows meant that it was only possible to collect fish over a period of three days. Over 100 char were caught during this period, and compared to previous years this number is good. Of the fish caught, there was a 50:50 split between stocked and wild fish. As part of the re-stocking programme only wild fish are used. A total of 7500 ova were collected. The programme aim was to release 3000 parr back into Llyn Padarn in 2016, this will be exceeded.

As an alternative way to protect the Padarn char population, 30 adult stocked fish (15 male:15 female) were re-located to an area of Nant Peris. Local anglers had reported that Arctic char historically migrated to Nant Peris. The hope is that these fish will now spawn in this area. We will aim to see if there has been any successful spawning, through electro-fishing surveys in early spring.

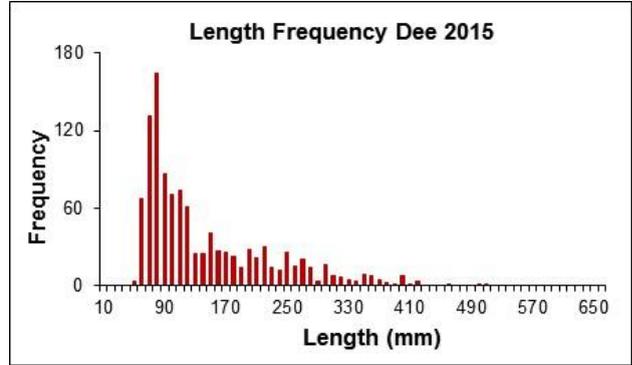
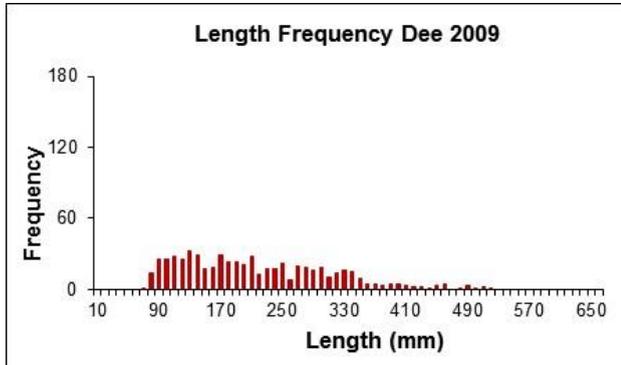


We have also produced some additional Char info using Flickr and Youtube. The links are on page 5.

Fisheries bulletin

2015 Fisheries Monitoring Programme

The monitoring programme began with the Dee eel surveys in June. Though there were some fluctuations in density between tributaries, the catchment picture was positive. There has been a large increase in elver recruitment across the Dee catchment. The graphs below highlight the improvements between 2009 & 2015.



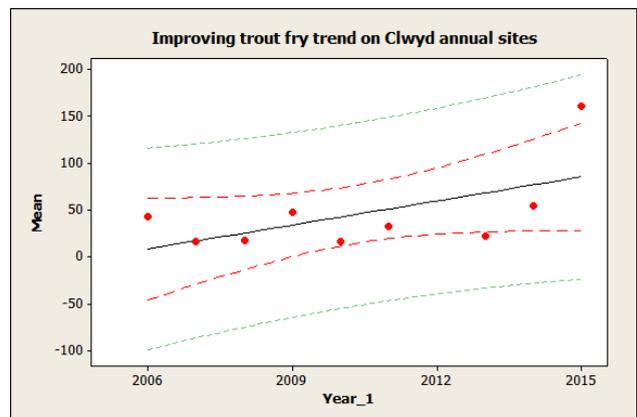
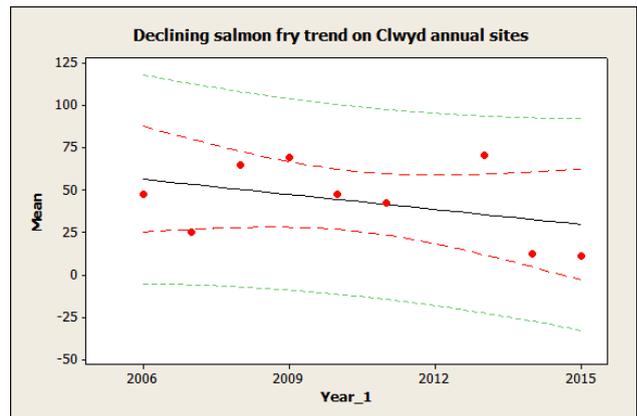
The focus of the 2015 salmonid monitoring programme was on the Clwyd catchment. The general overview was that salmon numbers were poor across the catchment, however trout numbers were excellent throughout. Due to the improved trout numbers we have seen improvements on some of the minor tributaries such as Dwrial, Gallen & Wheeler.

The annual sites on the Conwy, Dee, Dwyryd & Dyfi remained stable for both salmon and trout. The only major declines were seen on the Ceiriog (Dee) & Roe (Conwy) for salmon fry.

There were declines in salmon fry on the annual sites of the Dwyfor, Dysynni, Erch, Wnion, Ogwen & Gwyrfa. The previous year had seen poor salmon runs, so it is understandable why these declines had occurred. Trout numbers remained consistent.

The Glaslyn & Seiont (Nant Peris) however saw improvements in salmon fry. Rod catch on the Glaslyn had however remained normal in 2014 compared to the declines seen on most of North Wales rivers. The rod catch on the Seiont in 2014 was exceptionally poor, so the juvenile improvements do not mirror this. The Glaslyn remained consistent for trout, however trout fry numbers on the Seiont (Nant Peris) were much improved. This improvement on the Seiont did not mirror the 2014 rod catch.

The Know Your River/Catchment summaries should be available by June with more in-depth information.



If you are interested in the juvenile data for your catchment please contact – robert.evans@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk.

Fisheries bulletin

Padarn Arctic Char links

- Stripping Arctic Char - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/natreswales/albums/72157662540452111>
- Nant Peris Arctic Char - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/natreswales/albums/72157662618434096>
- Daylight footage of Arctic Char - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3i3MCIQdJo>
- Arctic Char programme overview - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mN-cBK3H42g>