



## Dee Alternative Mitigation

Additional spawning for salmon has been created in the Afon Tryweryn below Celyn Reservoir. This has been possible due to Alternative Dee mitigation funds which concentrates on improving access and habitat to spawning fish rather than stocking. A second low level weir has been constructed and in total over 400 tonnes of gravel have been placed at these structures.

Two sea trout redds have been observed on the area created last year and now with the fish screen lifted we wait the arrival of the salmon.

## Clwyd - Ystrad barrier easement

This partial barrier to fish migration on the river Ystrad near Denbigh has been modified to allow easier access for upstream migrating fish as part of 'The Sustainable Fisheries Project'. Prior to the work, the 1.3-metre-high falls had water falling on to rock, which prevented fish from easily jumping the falls. Now migrating fish will be able to swim up the channel created and access the underutilised spawning/juvenile habitat upstream.



## North Wales Fisheries Monitoring programme

After the exceptionally poor results across the UK in 2016 we were hopeful for improvements in 2017. The monitoring programme in 2017 however was hindered by consistent rainfall leading to high flows. Due to the conditions, most of the Gwynedd sites couldn't be surveyed in 2017. Surveys were completed on the Erch, Conwy, Clwyd, Dee, and Mawddach.

The Conwy had some very positive results with good salmon fry numbers in the upper catchment, and very high trout fry densities in



# Fisheries bulletin

the lower catchment. These results are excellent compared to 2016, and several sites had their highest densities on record.

The Clwyd was exceptionally poor for salmon again with only 5 out of 29 sites having any salmon, and these were at low densities. Trout fry densities fluctuated across the catchment but in general there was an improvement compared to 2016. The poor 2016 trout fry results have led to a decline in trout parr numbers in 2017.

On the Dee salmon fry densities, have improved across the board compared to 2016. The upper catchment has several sites that are performing better than the historic data in 2017, whereas the middle and lower Dee are down compared to historic data but improved compared to 2016. Salmon parr have declined across the catchment after the poor recruitment in 2016. Trout fry densities have improved across the catchment, and trout parr densities were variable.

Several of the main salmon spawning areas on the Mawddach were not surveyed in 2017 due to high flows. Due to the data gaps, we would estimate that salmon fry numbers improved compared to 2016 but were down on historic data. Salmon parr numbers declined after the poor recruitment in 2016. Trout fry densities generally improved across the catchment with many tributaries seeing improvements at over 100% compared to historic data. Trout parr densities were variable across the catchment. Full juvenile summaries will be produced in the coming months and posted on the NRW website.

## Seiont - Crawia easements and in-river restoration

As part of the Seiont alternative mitigation, NRW has improved fish passage at three boulder weirs and provided additional cover for fish, adjacent to Crawia Hatchery. In July of this year, working with members of the Seiont Gwyrfaai and Llyfni Fishing Society, we have installed boulders in areas where there is a lack of cover; maximising opportunities for fish to rest and seek shelter on their journey

upstream. There are several boulder weirs that delay fish passage upstream in this area, and part of the work involved the construction of two boulder pre-barrages and a small rock ramp. These three easements should reduce the delays and energy used by Seiont fish on their journey to their spawning grounds, improving their contribution to the fish populations in the river.

## Mawddach - Afon Gwynant Rocky Ramp

Afon Gwynant, a tributary of the Mawddach catchment, was identified as having problems with salmon migration because of several manmade partial barriers constructed in the 1900's. Electro fishing surveys on this catchment highlighted the only location where salmon were present was below a disused weir. This obstruction impedes the passage of salmon and sea trout. A fishery funded scheme to profile the weir as a rocky ramp to ease the passage for salmon and sea trout was agreed by the landowner and fishery partners. NRW contractors, experienced in fish pass

Electro-fishing on the Ystrad



In river works at Crawia



# Fisheries bulletin

construction, took a week to complete the scheme without the use of concrete, and sourced boulders locally to blend the construction into the rivers environment.



## Environmental Crime

Reducing illegal fisheries and waste activities in North and Mid Wales

- Illegal Fishing
- Rod licence checks

In the current quarter officers are concentrating on patrolling the spawning streams and main rivers to protect and preserve our ever-decreasing salmonid stocks. Officers must check for the location of spawning fish, and return during the evening as a deterrent to poachers. Due to our limited resource, we are heavily reliant on the assistance of both anglers and other members of the public to help us in detecting these offences. We also work in partnership with other agencies in Welsh government and with the North Wales Police Rural Crime Team in tackling rural crime.

During the last month officers apprehended two men in a vehicle on a tributary of the Dee in possession of a dead male salmon, a gaff, and a small powerful torch. This incident is currently subject to ongoing enforcement actions. An officer also found a man fishing for salmonids out of season, this is currently subject to enforcement action.

Since April 2017 Environmental Crime Officers have checked a total of 509 anglers for their rod licence throughout north and mid Wales. Out of these we have reported 6 people for fishing without a rod licence.