



Analysis & Reporting

Monitoring ecosystems; identifying pollution causes & impacts

Major issues over the last three months:

- RSPB eel barriers
- Celtic Sea Trout Project (CSTP)
- Padarn Arctic Char
- WFD Investigation

RSPB Eel barriers

As part of the Eel Management Plans (EMP) we need to improve access for eels. We have looked at a number of sites on Anglesey and have supplied the RSPB with the equipment to make eel passes. This will open eel habitat at Llyn Penrhyn, Llyn Traffwll, Malltraeth marsh and Plas Bog.

Celtic Sea Trout Project (CSTP)

We have been working closely with the CSTP over the past months. We have helped with electro-fishing training and the collection of juvenile data for the project. Samples have been collected from catchments across North Wales and this will help to link adults caught at sea to their native spawning river.



Sea Trout



Padarn Arctic Charr

Padarn Arctic Charr

We have been working with the National Slate Museum and the Padarn Country Park to gather more information on spawning Charr. We intend to have a continuous power supply to the DIDSON to get a better data set compared to past battery operations. We will also be working with the slate museum to set up an information area on the work that is being carried out at Padarn.

WFD Investigation

We have been looking at our failing water bodies and planning future investigations. This year we will be carrying out investigations on the Llugwy, Lledr, Upper Conwy, Gain, Trystion and Seiont. At present the data we have on these tributaries is either sparse, old data or is set up at a poor site. This work will give us a current insight into these tributaries.

For more information contact:

Name **Iwan Thomas**
Tel **01248 484010**

Job **Analysis & Reporting Team Leader**
E-mail **Iwan.Thomas@environment-agency.gov.uk**



Environmental Crime

Reducing illegal fisheries and waste activities in North Wales.

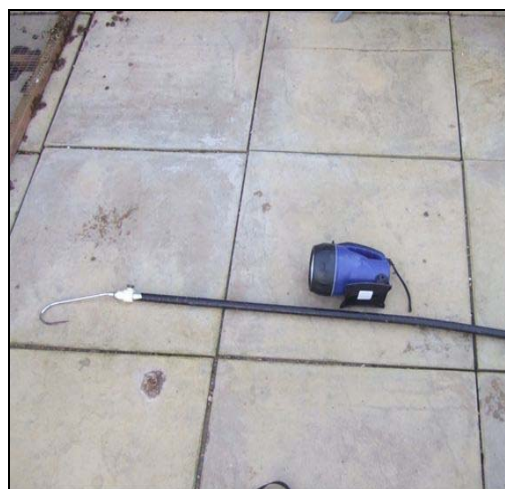
Major issues over the last three months:

- **Poaching on Abbey Brook**
- **Rod licence blitz**

Poaching on Abbey Brook

In May a man was fined a total of £440 at Wrexham Magistrates Court after being found with salmon poaching equipment.

John Edward Williams of Rhos was spotted in possession of a gaff by two Environmental Crime Officers on the Abbey Brook. The man was accompanied by two other men dressed in camouflage, but they ran off. District judge Andrew Shaw also issued a forfeiture order for the equipment.



Equipment seized by EA Officers



EA Officer checking anglers licence

Rod licence blitz

Between the 29th and 31st May as part of the rod licence blitz we checked two hundred and thirty five anglers. We visited thirty-seven waters and reported twenty-one anglers for fishing without a licence. This equates to an evasion rate of 9% and we have further blitz's planned throughout the year.

For more information contact:

Name	Jason Westerberg-Liptrot	Job Title	Team Leader
Tel	01248 484090	Email	Jason.liptrot@environment-agency.gov.uk



Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months

- Fish rescue on the Conwy
- River and sea levels online
- Liming scheme visit
- Successful Mawddach stocking

Fish rescue on the Conwy

Fisheries Technical Officers rescued dozens of juvenile salmon and trout, as well as a specimen stickleback; from a pool in a tributary of the Afon Conwy near Maenan Abbey. Only days later, the pool dried up and the fish if not rescued, would have been lost.

River and sea levels online

Up to date information about water levels, is now available on www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floods, as well as the Fishing Wales website. Information is primarily to help inform peoples' decisions in flood risk areas; but will help recreational users by allowing them to find out river levels before setting off.



Fish rescue on Conwy



Salmon parr from Mawddach

Liming scheme visit

Environment Agency Wales staff with members of the Clwyd & Conwy Rivers Trust visited the successful Afon Twrch lime well scheme; to investigate installation of a similar scheme on the upper Conwy, Machno and Llugwy areas. This should help reduce acidification in the catchment.

Successful Mawddach stocking

Afon Ceirw and Cwm Orch, tributaries on the Mawddach, were electrofished to establish the survival of salmon fed fry. The fish, stocked above natural obstructions last year, showed encouraging survival; with good parr densities and no effect on the brown trout population.

For further information contact:

Name	Julian Bray	Job Title	Team Leader Technical Fisheries
Tel	01248 484085	Email	Julian.Bray@environment-agency.gov.uk



Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months:

- Upland rivers habitat restoration manual
- Angling participation day – Llyn Cynwch
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) surveys
- Habitat improvements in angling club lake

Upland rivers habitat restoration manual

The Wild Trout Trust in collaboration with partners, including the Environment Agency, has published the Upland Rivers Manual for habitat restoration. It aims to help fishing clubs and riparian owners identify and solve issues; giving practical 'DIY' advice for local restoration projects.

Angling participation day – Llyn Cynwch

A successful angling participation day was held at Llyn Cynwch near Dolgellau in June. Twenty four budding anglers, of all ages, took the opportunity to have a go and caught several fish, with the help of Environment Agency coaches.



Budding angler at Cynwch

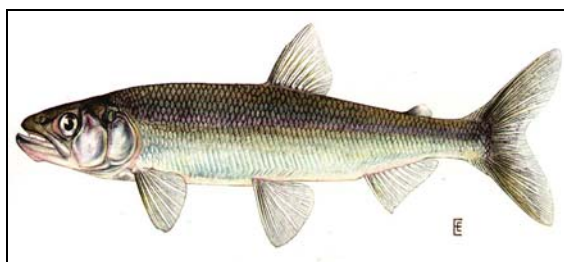


Illustration of smelt

Water Framework Directives surveys

Surveys of transitional waters were carried out by Environment Agency Staff on the Foryd, Conwy and Dee. Fisheries results between waters varied, with the Dee in particular producing good numbers of smelt. Other species caught included; plaice, flounder, 15-spined sticklebacks, bass, mullet, codling, sea trout, pipefish, sand eels, sprat, herring, sand smelt.

Habitat improvements in angling club lake

Fisheries staff helped source some lily rhisomes, that were choking a near by pool at the time; for an angling club that was suffering badly from avian predation. The lilies have established well and are now providing a good refuge for fish amongst the stems of the plants.

For further information contact:

Name	Julian Bray	Job Title	Team Leader Technical Fisheries
Tel	01248 484085	Email	Julian.Bray@environment-agency.gov.uk



Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months:

- Fish donated to community fisheries
- Commercial fisheries visits
- National fishing month
- Freshwater fisheries conference

Fish donated to community fisheries

A local commercial fishery invited the Environment Agency to net out unwanted excess silver fish that were creating a problem for them. The fish were then donated to a few local community fisheries which focus on providing low cost or free fishing and encourage youngsters to take up angling.



Commercial fisheries visits

Fisheries Technical staff have been visiting commercial fisheries during May and June; listening to owners, giving advice and promoting various funding opportunities, to help improve access and habitat. The visits are aiming to improve relationships with the commercial fisheries sector in our area.

Bream donated to community fisheries



First northern area fisheries conference

National fishing month

Several events are planned across North Wales for National Fishing week. However, instead of just a week it will now run for a month from July 17th to August the 15th. For more information on the events, check the National Fishing web site <http://www.nationalfishingweek.co.uk/> or contact Nick Massey on 0774 8701326.

Freshwater fisheries conference

The fisheries technical team's first freshwater fisheries conference in April 2010 was attended by 90 delegates. It was a successful mixture of presentations, poster sessions, demonstration areas and networking time. One delegate commented; *"The conference seems to mark the beginning of a new era in which genuine communication seems to be starting"*.

For further information contact:

Name	Julian Bray	Job Title	Team Leader Technical Fisheries
Tel	01248 484085	Email	Julian.Bray@environment-agency.gov.uk



Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months

- **Habitat training day on the Dee**
- **Working with Network Rail on the Dyfi**
- **Wild fishing Wales initiatives**
- **Habitat restoration on River Alyn**

Habitat training day on Dee

Afonydd Cymru with help from the Fisheries team, ran a very successful habitat training day on the Dee. Anglers and volunteers from North Wales, learned how to identify valuable fisheries and biodiversity habitat along a stretch of river. Taking new skills back to their own tributaries and catchments for future restoration projects.

Working with Network Rail on the Dyfi

Areas of damage to river bank that may affect railway track, are being identified by anglers from the New Dyfi Fishery Association. Working with the Environment Agency, this information will be relayed to Network Rail for further assessment. This approach will help prevent any minor damage becoming a major issue.



Practical habitat training on the Dee



Habitat on the Alyn

Wild Fishing Wales initiatives

Four of the 11 successful tenders in the second round of Wild Fishing Wales were from North Wales. To express interest for round 4, go to www.sell2wales in November.

"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"



Habitat restoration on River Alyn

Habitat along the River Alyn has been restored near Bradley. Two large trees have been felled and the timber and woody debris has been used upstream in severely eroding sections of the river to create habitat for fish and protect the banks, allowing them to stabilise.

For further information contact:

Name	Julian Bray	Job Title	Team Leader Technical Fisheries
Tel	01248 484085	Email	Julian.Bray@environment-agency.gov.uk



Fish Culture

Mitigating damage to fisheries

Major issues over the last three months:

- Arctic Charr hatch and feed at Mawddach
- Salmon and Sea trout fry first feeding
- Fish released from semi-natural rearing sites
- New automatic fish feeding systems installed

Arctic Charr hatch and feed at Mawddach

The Arctic Charr fry from Llyn Padarn that were laid down in December 2009 hatched between the 8th and 16th of March. The Charr were first fed on the 12th April after they had absorbed their yolk-sac.

Salmon and sea trout fry first feeding

Throughout April and May all the salmon, brown and sea trout fry have been moved from the incubation troughs to the outside rearing tanks, as they come onto first feed. Due to the cold winter temperatures, the fish are approximately one month behind their normal development.



Arctic Charr fry



Fish feeders

Fish released from semi-natural rearing sites

Throughout April and May, approximately 60,000 fin clipped salmon and sea trout smolts were released. The fish had been adapting to river conditions since October, in 4 semi-natural rearing sites on the Lledr, Mawddach and Dee catchments

New automatic fish feeding systems installed

In May two new automated fish feeding systems were installed at the fish culture units. The new feeding systems are computer controlled and very accurate; working out daily doses of food for the fish. This ensures healthier fish and less wasted feed; benefitting the environment and improving the running costs. We have already seen an improvement in survival.

For more information contact:

Name	Keith Scriven	Job Title	Technical Specialist – Fish culture
Tel	07917072573	Email	keith.scrivens@environment-agency.gov.uk