



Analysis & Reporting

Monitoring ecosystems; identifying pollution causes & impacts

Major issues over the last three months:

- **Dee cockles surveys**
- **Water Framework Directive QA**
- **National fisheries monitoring programme**
- **Arctic Char translocation**

Dee cockles surveys

Analysis & Reporting (A&R), Sampling & Collection (S&C) and Fisheries Technical (FT) have been working together to deliver the Dee cockle surveys. At present there is little change compared to surveys carried out in April, though there has been good growth in the 2009 year class with some now take able. New beds have also been surveyed this time.

WFD QA

The data for the WFD classification has been QA'd over the past few weeks. This piece of work moulds the direction of our fisheries work over the next few years. Sites and water bodies have been analysed to make sure we are happy with the overall classifications.



Dee cockle survey team



Fisheries monitoring on the Dyfi

National fisheries monitoring programme

A&R, S&C and FT have been working together to deliver the national fisheries monitoring programme. The main areas surveyed this year were the Dyfi & Mawddach. The overall picture on the Dyfi is improvement across the catchment. The Mawddach appears to be staying consistent to previous surveys. The picture across the rest of the area is very varied.

Arctic Char translocation

Arctic Char eggs were taken from Padarn in December and grown on at Mawddach hatchery. They are now ready for stocking. Water quality and depth profiles were taken at 3 nominated deep lakes during summer. We have now chosen the most appropriate lake and the fish will be stocked mid-October.

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Environmental Crime

Reducing illegal fisheries and waste activities in North Wales.

Major issues over the last three months:

- **Illegal coastal netting**
- **Rod licence checks**
- **Court results**

Illegal coastal netting

During July and August in four separate incidents Environmental Crime Officers apprehended nine people for using nets illegally in restricted areas at various locations along the North Wales Coast. Nets, Equipment and fish were seized from the persons responsible. Enforcement action is now pending against all the individuals involved. The persons were caught following information received from members of the public.



Net and fish seized by officers



Officer on patrol

Rod licence checks

During the summer Environmental Crime officers checked 450 anglers, of these 19 were found to be fishing without a licence and enforcement action is pending.

Court results

As a result of previous rod licence checks, during July and August, 14 people were prosecuted by the Environment Agency for fishing without a licence, resulting in total fines and costs of £1390.

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Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months

- **Get Hooked on Fishing (GHOF) launch**
- **Fisheries surgeries 2010**
- **Working with partners – Afonydd Cymru**
- **Mawddach sea lamprey**

Get Hooked on Fishing (GHOF) launch

After success in England the GHOF project has now been set up and launched in Flintshire. The project aims to introduce young people considered as 'at risk' to angling. It gives them the opportunity to focus on and learn something positive.

Fishery Surgeries 2010

"Fishery Surgeries" were trialled in September to replace the Gwynedd Local Fishery Group. Six angling clubs chose to have a 'surgery', giving them the opportunity to discuss local issues in their fisheries, face to face. The meetings have been constructive in continuing to listen to and work with our partners.



Get Hooked on Fishing launch



Sea lamprey

Working with partners – Afonydd Cymru

Working with Afonydd Cymru, fisheries officers have helped to identify a number of obstructions to fish passage, throughout North Wales. One on the Afon Las, Conwy, prevents sea trout and brown trout migrating upstream. As part of its habitat restoration work, Afonydd Cymru will be creating an easement enabling free passage for trout.

Sea lamprey

Sea lamprey returned to the Mawddach and Dee catchments in early summer this year. Several pairs were seen spawning from the Llanelltyd area in the Mawddach and some were observed above Old Dee Bridge in Chester on the Dee. Adult sea lampreys migrate to the sea where they parasitize other fish before returning to spawn in freshwater.

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Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months:

- Wild Fishing Wales round four
- Deafblind Cymru event
- National fishing month
- Mawddach Twaite shad

Wild Fishing Wales round four

The 4th round of Wild Fishing Wales will be opened at the end of October for habitat and access improvement projects. Information will be released on www.sell2wales.co.uk.

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



Deafblind Cymru event

Specially trained Angling coaches and Environment Agency fisheries staff coached a small group of people from the Deafblind Cymru organisation. The day's fishing at Glasdir Fishery was also attended by local AM Sandy Mewies and MP David Hanson.

Deafblind Cymru angling event at Glasdir Fishery



National fishing month

National fishing month

North Wales angling coaches staged seven events to start National Fishing Month. It coincided with the start of school holidays and aims to encourage families to take up fishing. Over 100 people were introduced to the sport in the first week and all were reported to enjoy the experience.

Mawddach Twaite shad

Spawning stocks of twaite shad are known to occur in only a few rivers in Wales. This year, the first recorded catch of this species was landed and returned on the river Mawddach. The fish congregate in deeper pools and spawn at night in nearby shallows.

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Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months:

- Angler access improvements work
- Cwm Ystradllyn stocking
- Fisheries advice on hydropower schemes
- Community fishery at Oakenholt, Flint

Angler access improvements work

As part of the Sustainable Fisheries infrastructure partnership projects, Pen Y Ffridd Fishery in Denbighshire, has recently improved its facilities. The project, undertaken by the owner, has involved improvements for disabled anglers such as parking, new pegs and toilet facilities. Please contact us if you are interested in applying for an infrastructure project.

Cwm Ystradllyn stocking

As part of the freshwater pearl mussel recovery programme on the Afon Ddu; several hundred brown trout parr were introduced in to Cwm Ystradllyn. Erch Angling Club allowed the trout ova to be collected, from the fish in the reservoir, which were then reared at Mawddach hatchery prior to their release.



Improved pegs at Pen Y Ffridd coarse fishery



Improvements at Pandy pool

Fisheries advice on hydropower schemes

Fisheries technical staff, are helping with advice on hydropower schemes in North Wales. We are raising awareness of fisheries issues, such as use of appropriately designed screens and fish passes for all species. We expect our advisory role will increase as the application process for hydropower schemes is streamlined, later in 2010.

Community Fishery at Oakenholt, Flint

As a part of a partnership project with Flintshire County Council, Pandy Pool community fishery has gone through a series of fishery improvements. New fishing platforms have been constructed, the pool area has been enlarged and the inflow has been changed to slow future siltation.

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Fish Culture

Mitigating damage to fisheries

Major issues over the last three months:

- **Dee mussels release live glochidia**
- **Research into Red Vent Syndrome at Maerdy**
- **Grading at Maerdy and Mawddach**
- **Mawddach fish stocked out**

Dee mussels release live glochidia

The Dee mussels kept at Mawddach hatchery have released viable glochidia for the first time since the project began in 2005. Of the six river populations, they were the only mussels not to have released larvae. Salmon parr have now been exposed to the larvae to encourage them to encyst on the gills of the fish.



Adult Dee mussels

Research in to Red Vent Syndrome at Maerdy

Ten salmon hens with Red Vent Syndrome (RVS) will be tagged and the vents photographed at Chester trap, before being brought to Maerdy hatchery. Another photo will be taken when the fish are stripped and they will be observed to see how quickly the vents heal in freshwater.



Grading fish

Grading at Maerdy and Mawddach

Over the past few weeks all the fish at Maerdy and Mawddach hatchery have been graded. Grading is done three times a year separating large and small fish. It improves survival rates, as the larger more aggressive fish outcompete the smaller fish for food. Over 50,000 fish have been graded at Mawddach and 94,000 at Maerdy.

Mawddach fish stocked out

5000 fin clipped salmon were stocked out to Bron Aber semi-natural rearing pond. The fish will stay there until May when the pond will be opened, allowing the fish to leave of their own accord. Any fish remaining in June will be netted out.

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