



Technical Fisheries

Maintaining and improving fisheries

Major issues over the last three months

- **MP visits Rhewl rock ramp**
- **Gele fishpass**
- **Twymyn blockage**
- **Anglers helping the Environment Agency**

MP visits Rhewl rock ramp

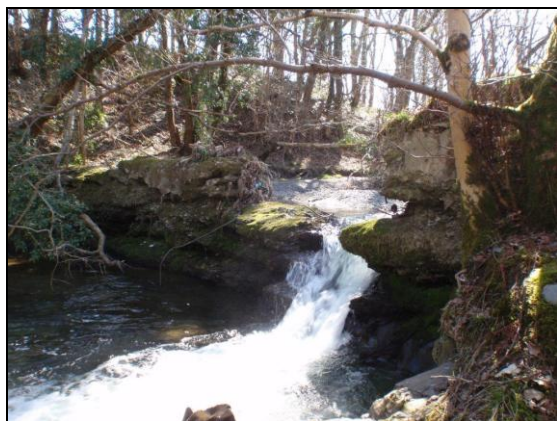
David Jones, MP attended a site visit with several members of Clwyd angling clubs and the Clwyd and Dee Local Fisheries Group to see the fish pass. It was finished in 2011 and has proven it is working well, with fish seen spawning above it.

New Gele fish access

As part of a Birse flood prevention scheme in the town of Abergele an old weir was removed on the Afon Gele. The riverbed was then re graded and notched boards were added to the bed to help stabilise the bed. Brown trout and eel will now be able to access this part of the river.



Title: Abergele fish pass after construction



Title: Twymyn barrier

Twymyn blockage

A newly identified barrier to salmonid migrating fish could be holding back large salmon on the river Twymyn on the Dyfi catchment. We are talking to the land owner about improving access for migratory salmon.

Anglers helping the Environment Agency

As part of the Dee mitigation stocking programme we rely on the help of some dedicated anglers to help us catch broodstock each Autumn and more recently kelts in the Spring. The fisheries technical team are grateful for the contribution the anglers provide in this important work.

For further information contact:

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Major issues over the last three months:

- **Salmonid spawning raising awareness**
- **Single body visit**
- **Trawsfynydd lake clear**
- **Mawddach sustainable angling signs**

Salmonid spawning raising awareness

EAW raised awareness with the Oaklands outdoor educational centre about impacts to salmonid spawning areas in the Conwy catchment as well as information from the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries Act. Oaklands is based in Betws y Coed.

Single body visit

Single Body staff were taken on a tour of the Conwy Falls fish pass, a partially constructed HEP scheme at the Machno falls and a walk along a habitat scheme on the Afon Merddwr in March 2012 to familiarise themselves with the work of the Environment Agency



Title: Raising awareness about salmonid spawning areas on the Conwy



Title: Mawddach sustainable sign at Llanelltyd bridge

Trawsfynydd lake clear

Trawsfynydd lake which had a blue green algal bloom in February has now been given the all clear since two consecutive water samples taken from the lake have shown no presence of the algae. Recreational activities at the lake are now back to normal.

Mawddach sustainable angling signs

Signs developed to promote sustainable angling by catching and releasing adult salmonid fish were installed at seven locations around the Mawddach catchment. The signs installed in January have created positive feedback from local anglers.

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Major issues over the last three months:

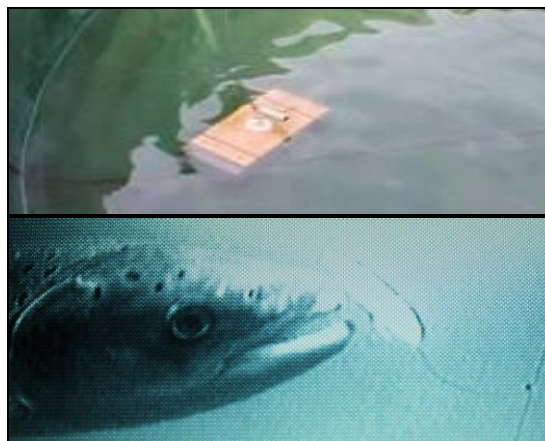
- Classroom hatchery project
- Prawn feeding investigation
- Salmon hatchery design
- Salmon release

Classroom hatchery project

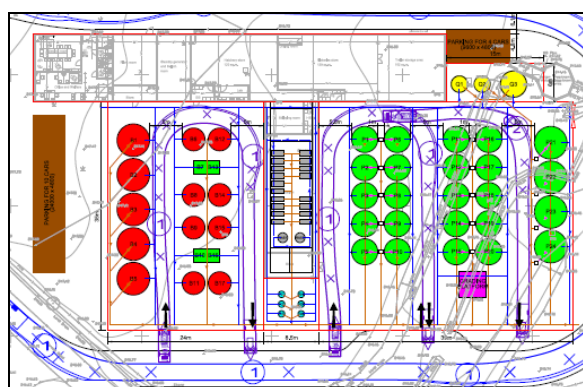
The classroom hatchery project was delivered at two North Wales schools in partnership with the Conwy and Clwyd rivers trust. Ysgol y Castell in Rhuddlan and Ysgol Gogarth in Llandudno both received fish tanks where salmon eggs were successfully hatched out into fry, teaching fifty children about the salmon life cycle.

Prawn feeding investigation

Prawn is used to help recondition kelts in tanks at the Maerdy hatchery and in February we borrowed some underwater cameras from the hydroacoustic team to observe kelts feeding. The images captured showed kelts successfully feeding on the prawn diet.



Title: Underwater camera (top)
Reconditioned kelt feeding on a prawn



Title: Trwyweryn salmon centre design

Salmon hatchery design

Detailed planning and design is now underway to construct the new salmon rearing facility in North Wales. A suitable site has been identified below the Celyn reservoir and construction of the new site is scheduled to commence in Autumn 2012.

Salmon release

In March 10,000 salmon and sea trout were released from the two semi-natural rearing sites at Bronaber and Rhyd Y Main on the Mawddach catchment. The purpose of the ponds was to acclimatise the fish to the natural wild environment into which they will be stocked.

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Analysis & Reporting

Monitoring ecosystems; identifying pollution causes & impacts

Major issues over the last three months:

- **Drought Plans**
- **Padarn Buoy**
- **Cockles**
- **WFD Investigation**

Drought plans

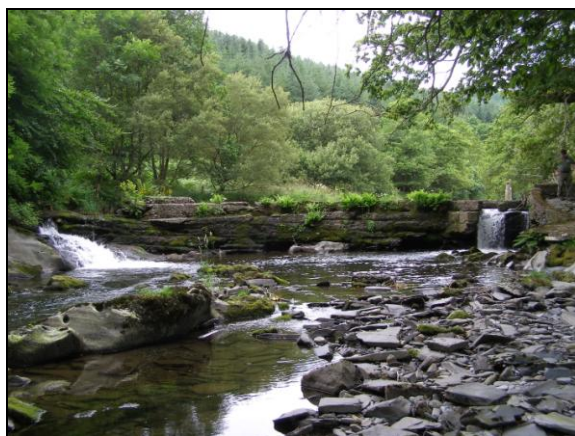
We have been reviewing the new drought plans that Dwr Cymru have produced. This involved looking at the potential fisheries impact of Dwr Cymru implementing their various drought orders in North Wales.

Padarn Buoy

Due to the previous algal bloom on Llyn Padarn a monitoring buoy has been deployed. This buoy will record dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, conductivity, turbidity, chlorophyll and blue green algae. The buoy takes twelve samples a day every 2 metres. The buoy will help us gather further info regarding the charr habitat and monitor changes in the aquatic environment from the various lake inputs.



Title: Padarn Buoy



Title: Man made barrier on the Dulas North

Cockles

Preparation is underway for this year's Dee estuary cockle survey, in April. A preliminary walkover has been carried out so that the location of the cockle beds can be mapped out. This has to be done annually just before the survey as the location and edges of the cockle beds are constantly changing due to the shifting nature of the substrate and variability in the cockle populations.

WFD investigation

The Northern area has selected 24 priority water bodies that we will aim to reach 'good' status by 2015. Fifteen of these failures have issues with relation to fish. Leads have been chosen for each water body and this will be our focus of work during the coming years. This work will involve removing man made barriers, improving water quality and looking at inputs on these catchments.

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Environmental Crime

Reducing illegal fisheries and waste activities in North Wales.

Major issues over the last three months:

- **Illegal salmon poaching**
- **Rod Licence Checks**

Illegal Salmon Poaching

In February 2012, following information received from a member of the public, an angler was caught by Environmental Crime Officers, with a 10lb Salmon which he had caught out of season on the river Dee. The angler was interviewed under caution and the Salmon was seized as evidence. Enforcement action is pending.

In March 2012 following information provided by a member of the public a man was questioned under caution in connection with the illegal poaching of Salmon from a Gwynedd river. The man admitted to illegally catching and keeping two salmon. Enforcement action is pending.



Title: Illegally caught fish



Title: Officer patrolling the river bank

Rod Licence Checks

Since April 2011 Environmental Crime Officers have checked a total of 1054 anglers for their rod licence throughout North Wales. Out of these we have reported 30 people for fishing without a rod licence, which equates to an evasion rate of 3%.

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