



## Technical Fisheries

### Maintaining and improving fisheries

#### Major issues over the last three months

- **Weir Y Larinier fishpass**
- **Rossett Larinier fishpass**
- **Salmon Centre**
- **Nant Mills Rock Ramp**

#### **Weir Y Fishpass**

A new larinier fishpass on Weir Y at Bala was completed in October 2012. The fishpass was FRCM, fisheries and biodiversity funded and managed in partnership by fisheries and tech support staff. All fish species on the Tryweryn will be able to pass the weir as they migrate up or down stream. A visit to the site in October from EA staff and members of the Bala Angling Club saw fish exiting the top of the fishpass showing fish are using the new structure.

#### **Rossett Fishpass**

Constructed this summer, as part of the European Salmon for Tomorrow project, a Larinier fish pass has replaced the old 'pool and traverse' fish pass at Rossett weir. It will open up over 38 km of habitat for all species of spawning fish on the Afon Alyn, a tributary of the Dee.



**Title: Rossett Weir**



**Title: Nant Mills Rock Ramp**

#### **Bontuchel Fishpass**

We recorded good numbers of trout and salmon above the weir at Bontuchel showing the fishpass is being used effectively. Adult seatrout were also caught in the upper reaches of the Clywedog and these fish will be waiting to spawn when conditions are right.

#### **Nant Mills**

Work to construct a rocky ramp on the Afon Gwyrfa is soon to be completed. The rock ramp replaces Nant Mill weirs which were difficult for fish to negotiate. Access for migratory fish will now be much easier as they return to their spawning grounds in the headwaters of the Gwyrfa.

#### **For further information contact:**

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#### Major issues over the last three months:

- Fynnon Llugwy Charr netting
- Arddu monitoring results
- Gwyniad netting
- Willow Spilling

#### Charr Stocking

We stocked 663 and 650 charr into Padarn and Crafnant lakes. The fish were offspring of the ova that had been collected from Padarn adults in December 2012. The fish were reared at the Mawddach hatchery and the work is part of a project to safeguard and maintain the Padarn charr population.

#### Arddu Monitoring

An electro fishing survey was completed on the Afon Arddu and results showed excellent survival of salmon fry and parr from the 2011 and 2012 stocking work. The Arddu habitat has numerous fast flowing cascades and riffle habitat which stocked salmon have monopolised. The stocking work is done to help increase the numbers of returning salmon adults to the Seiont catchment.



Title: Arddu Salmon & Trout Parr



Title: Juvenile Gwyniad

#### Gwyniad Netting

We netted Llyn Arenig to check for surviving progeny from translocation work of the species from Llyn Tegid in 2005/07. Netting produced two juvenile gwyniad indicating the introduced ova had survived matured and spawned in the lake. The future of the gwyniad is more positive now that there are two breeding populations in North Wales.

#### WFW project opening:

Aberystwyth AA, Llanilar AA, the National Trust (Llanerchaeron), the Wye & Usk foundation and a number of other partners hosted a Ceredigion Wild Fishing Wales launch in Aberystwyth. The event was well attended and Moc Morgan opened the projects and presented prizes for winners of the casting and fly tying competitions.

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#### Major issues over the last three months:

- **Rhyl Cut**
- **Ystrad Willow Spilling**
- **Broodstock tagging**
- **Hatchery Stocking overview**

#### Rhyl Cut

Work has started at Rhyl Cut on the planned community fishery. Scottish Power have generously moled the 11KV cable under the waterway allowing excavation works to begin. The project is being run in conjunction with a new cycle track at Glan Morfa with the material from the cut being used to create the cycle track. Excavation work is expected to start in November 2012.

#### Willow spilling

The Ystrad is a WFD priority river requiring good status by 2015. To improve the river we fenced 500 metres of bank to prevent livestock access and erected willow spilling (soft engineering) to prevent erosion. The works will benefit fish by reducing sediment input which clogs spawning gravels and the bankside vegetation will provide cover for fish.



**Title: Willow spilling on the Ystrad**



**Title: Broodstock tagging**

#### Broodstock tagging

This season all broodstock fish brought into Maerdy hatchery are being PIT tagged and are having tissue samples taken so that they can be tracked when they enter and leave the hatchery to help keep the genetic integrity of fish produced in the hatchery.

#### Hatchery stocking overview

This year, between the two hatcheries, we have stocked out over 217,000 fish. Where possible the fish have been fin clipped. This means they are easily identifiable as hatchery progeny during monitoring surveys and when they return as adults.

#### For further information contact:

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## Analysis & Reporting

Monitoring ecosystems; identifying pollution causes & impacts

Major issues over the last three months:

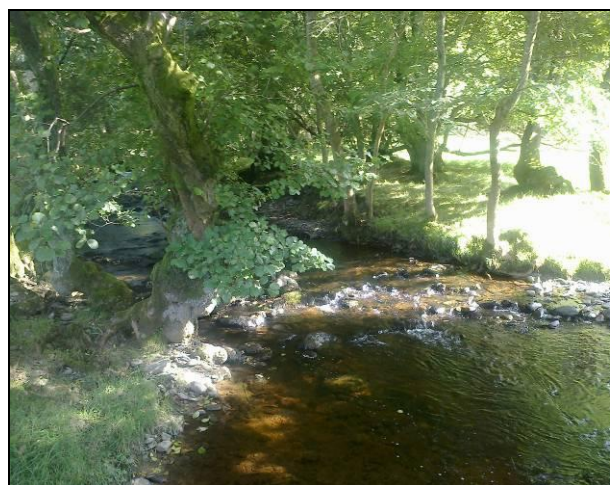
- **Camddwr WFD investigation**
- **Caletwr investigation**
- **Irwch WFD investigation**
- **Angell WFD investigation**

### Camddwr

The Camddwr does not meet 'good' status for WFD. The fish survey results were poor in the lower section and fishless above the A5. Exceptional summer floods damaged habitat on the river affecting the survey results. Further fish monitoring will be done in 2013 and our Environment Management team will be working on the catchment to improve water quality.

### Caletwr

The Caletwr does not meet 'good' status for WFD and fish surveys highlighted the original WFD site as having lots of bedrock present. An alternative site was picked and the survey results were excellent for salmon and trout. This will improve the WFD classification for the river.



**Title: Caletwr salmonid nursery habitat**



**Title: Man made weir on the Angell**

### Irwch

The Irwch does not meet 'good' status for WFD. We fished 6 sites and all had average trout numbers except at Nebo which was poor. No salmon fry were caught on the tributary even though fry have been caught on the main river Conwy in 2012. Our Environment Management team will be investigating the poor numbers of fish caught at Nebo.

### Angell

The Angell does not meet 'good' status for WFD. We surveyed to check the accessibility of the barriers (natural and manmade) in the river to salmon and sea trout. Our work proved that salmon can only spawn below all the barriers whereas sea trout can migrate through the system on certain flows. The WFD model for the river will need updating and the fisheries team are putting in a bid for funding to ease the manmade barrier for sea trout passage.

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## Environmental Crime

Reducing illegal fisheries and waste activities in North Wales.

Major issues over the last three months:

- **Illegal Netting**
- **Rod licence Checks**

### Illegal Netting

We completed four covert surveillance operations based on information from the public and apprehended 8 people whilst they were retrieving or cleaning illegally set nets.

The recovered nets were set on the rivers:

**Ogwen** – a Sea Trout, a number of Bass, Mullet and Flounder.

**Llyfni** – 24 Bass, 2 Mullet and 6 Dog fish.

**Clynnog** – 2 nets were lifted with 3 Bass and 1 Mullet.

**Dee, Saltney** – no fish but 1 net and rowing boat seized.

All eight people have been reported for summons and case files are being prepared for prosecution.



**Title: Seized Fish**



**Title: Seized Rowing Boat**

### Rod Licence Checks

Since April 2012 Environmental Crime Officers have checked a total of 862 anglers for their Rod Licences throughout North Wales. We have reported 81 persons for fishing without a rod licence, which equates to an evasion rate of approximately 10%.

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