



Aber Angling News 2013



Catch & Release Forced on Association for River Rheidol by NRW in Middle of Season!

Despite desperate attempts by the Associations Committee to get Mr Mee of Natural Resources Wales to postpone the proposal till the beginning of next season, explaining that apart from other factors, viz., very low angling effort in recent years, the pollution incident in 2011, the number of dolphins and porpoise which have been 'fishing' in the harbour mouth, the fact that Statkraft seem to generate far more frequently than previous generation companies causing frequent changes in the river flows and levels, coupled with the fact that there been an unusually early run of salmon this year which may already jeopardise the return figures, Mr. Mee still insisted that the catch & return programme should be implemented immediately. Needless to say, the Committee thought that the implementation of catch & release in the middle of the season was unfair and totally unreasonable.

Because of the threat of having catch & release for salmon and sewin statutorily imposed, the Association Committee felt that it had to act immediately in the hope of ensuring that any salmon caught were returned thus helping to achieve a minimum 75% return during the 2013 season. To this end, notices were placed in our two largest permit retailers, on the noticeboards on the river, and e-mails sent to all e-mail registered members. The decision was also taken to ban worming for the remainder of the season, until such time that new rules could be drafted with respect to catch and release and the use of different fishing methods and permitted baits.

At the earliest opportunity, a meeting of permit holders was arranged where the various issues were discussed freely and openly, and the reasons for the Committees decisions made clear. The imposition of a **statutory catch and release on salmon and sewin** could clearly have a devastating effect on the Association if permit numbers drop further, since rental fees for fishing rights still have to be paid. We all need to work together on this issue if we are to keep our sewin fishing, and regain the right to take salmon in future years. In an effort to negate the conditions which would trigger a future statutory catch and release on the Rheidol, the Committee has decided to modify some of the rules pertaining to bag limits for salmon and sewin which will apply to both the Rheidol and the Ystwyth. Also, in an effort to retain the genetic identity of our native brown trout bag limits have been altered but please also consider catch and release for any browns caught. See New Rules and Trophy Rules on page 6.

Beavers on the Rheidol?

You may remember from last year's Newsletter that The Welsh Beaver Project was investigating the feasibility of bringing wild beavers (*Castor fiber*) back to Wales. The ecological surveys undertaken as part of the Welsh Beaver Assessment Initiative, determined that a beaver reintroduction to Wales was ecologically feasible and as a result of these initial surveys, six catchments were selected for further study as potential sites for a pilot beaver reintroduction: Dee, Glaslyn, Rheidol, Teifi, Eastern Cleddau and Western Cleddau. Well, if you haven't guessed already, the Rheidol was the river chosen to be the guinea pig for the reintroductions, which we were informed would be "a privilege!"

To date, three meetings between interested parties and stakeholders have been held. The first of these meetings was held at Statkraft where members of the Committee (pretty much exclusively the only people there) asked all the relevant questions and explained in detail what their concerns were. We were assured that if any problems arose, they would be "dealt with", though who was going to be the arbitrator where there was disagreement as to what constituted a problem, seemed to lie exclusively with Adrian Lloyd Jones, the project co-ordinator, which does not seem very democratic.

The second and third meetings were held in Capel Bangor Village Hall and included many of the land owners who had properties adjoining the Rheidol and or Melindwr. The overwhelming opinion among the landowners and the anglers was that the Beavers were not wanted. Regrettably, again, Mr Lloyd Jones seemed incapable of understanding the feelings of those present, particularly the landowners who were against the "imposition of beavers on their properties".

On his Twitter page 26th October, Mr Lloyd Jones posted the following: 1) "*Given tough time at talk last night @ Capel Bangor. Small crowd & mostly the 'anti's' there! Did my best 2 reassure but wasn't believed!*" And 2) "*The Landholders & anglers R worried. Genuine concerns but we have solutions 2 them, just wish they'd listen. RT if U want beavers back!*" Well Mr Lloyd Jones, it is abundantly apparent that you are not listening!

Most of the comparative illustrations used by Mr Lloyd Jones to demonstrate the alleged positive attributes the reintroduction of beavers would bring to the Rheidol and its eco system, were from vast river networks mainly in Canada and Bulgaria where some of the smaller 'tributaries' are over twice the size of the Rheidol. The river Rheidol is only around fourteen miles long in total, has only one main spawning stream (the Melindwr) and already has its

ecology stretched to the limits by the constant changes in the water flows due to the hydroelectric scheme. From an angling point of view, having beaver dams built on the main spawning stream and equally as bad, having lodges built on the edges of the few remaining fishable pools on the Rheidol would undoubtedly severely restrict fishing efforts due to obstacles and constant snags.

If you need any further persuading about beavers, below is an extract from The Western Mail 13th Nov. 2013 contributed by TIN Thomas, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, a former western Mail and Echo journalist 1947-62.

Sir, -Re your story 'Beavers back in wild' could damage rural Wales'

Before any misguided person releases the first beaver into the Rheidol Valley someone should make a close study of what happened when non native beavers were introduced into Argentina. Back in the mid 1940 someone got the bright idea of introducing North American beavers into Terra del Fuego, a large island off Argentina's Patagonia region at the very tip of South America. A couple of years ago while visiting Patagonia I saw the ghastly result. I boarded a small tourist Train colourfully called The Train to the End of the Earth in the city of Ushuaia and headed off into the National Park area north of the city. We came across a desolate landscape that looked as though a nuclear device had been set off there. For acres and acres in all directions the landscape consisted of tree stumps and swamps and small lakes.

Two dozen pairs of Canadian beavers were originally imported by someone with an eye on establishing a fur industry like the one that originally helped build Canada. Today, it's estimated that up to 200,000 now range the heart of Terra del Fuego chewing through forests killing trees up to 400 years old damming up streams and rivers destroying the ability of fish to migrate for spawning and flooding adjacent landwith no natural predator to keep them in check. Beavers are swimming off to adjacent small island and to the mainland of South America itself, taking with them consequent threat to damage to the magnificent natural scenic attractions of South America.

Patagonia has more than one million square kilometres of space, Wales has little over 20,000. Do you need beavers?

It has also come to our attention that the escaped beaver from Borth Animalarium made its way to the garden of a former Regional Officer of the 'Countryside Council For Wales' in Furnace, and caused devastation to his garden felling virtually everything it could get its teeth into. I gather he is now not a supporter of beaver reintroductions to Wales!

The Association will keep you informed of further developments!

The Lakes

Whilst Frongoch seemed to fish reasonably well, many anglers thought the season was poor on the other lakes, notably Rhosgoch and to some extent Melindwr. Early stocking which was accompanied by a severe and protracted cold spell which kept the lakes frozen for some time, clearly did not help the season to get off to a good start.

However, although the opening day of the new season



was chilly to start with, temperatures being not much above freezing in the early part of the day, it did open out a little, the sun peeking through in the afternoon.

Despite the chill, a number of anglers braved the cold and a number of fish, both browns and rainbows were caught on Frongoch. Ray Blackburne caught the brownie shown below weighing 2lbs 15oz on the first day of the season and Mike Barratt had an overwintered Rainbow that was in good condition.



Rhosgoch and Melindwr did not fish so well on the opening day, though a couple of fish were taken on worm in Melindwr when the sun came out!

Generally, things picked up as the spring progressed, but the fly hatches (as most everything else) were three or four weeks later than usual. The Coch y bonddu seemed to have a very short hatching period this year, though a number of anglers were able to



capitalise on this narrow window of opportunity. On the 30th June, Richard Huxley landed this beautifully

marked fish around 4.25lbs at Rhosgoch on a size 14 Coch-y-Bonddu, one of the better fish taken from this lake in recent years.

RJ Bowne Competition Results

Seven hardy anglers took part in the competition which was dogged by a strong cold wind and rain!!

Undaunted, the faithful kept going till dusk at 10pm.

Alan Mathews took top rod with 4 fish weighing 3.16lbs

Dave Hudson took second place with 2 fish weighing 1.92lbs

Fur & Feather Competition Results

Frongoch Sunday 27th October

Twenty one anglers braved the very strong winds and heavy showers for this year's competition. A total of 49 fish were caught (13 on fly and 8 on worm).

Past chairman Chas Webb presented the prizes and thanked all for turning out on a somewhat miserable day. He also thanked our sponsors Morrison's, Sport Fish of Hereford, GB Fishing, Aber Tackle, Co-op Penparcau, Spar Terrace Road and Coch y Bonddu Books whose contributions are invaluable to the Association.

Results were as Follows:

Top Rod: was Rob Davies from Llandinum with 4 fish weighing 7lbs 10oz.

Heaviest fish on the fly: P. Penlington 2lbs 15oz

Heaviest bag on the worm: Wayne Stevens 4 fish weighing 4lbs 15oz

Heaviest fish on the worm: Mike Barrett 2lbs 13oz

Heaviest bag on the worm (Youth): Griff Owen 4 fish 5lbs 1.5oz

Heaviest bag on worm (Junior): Richard Ricketts 4 fish 5lbs



Top rod Rob Davies from Llandinum receives the trophy from Chas Webb

The Rivers

The 2013 season saw an unusually early run of salmon on the Rheidol, with several being caught by mid-July. Sewin were slow to start moving in any numbers but also picked up in mid-July.



Tony Gordon landed this fresh run sewin on the below Rhydfelin weighing 10.78lbs on Friday afternoon 10th

May with a black and orange fly. Tony had a challenging time landing the fish as he had no net and nowhere to beach it!

After a good fight, Mike Leggett eventually landed this fresh run salmon around 10lbs in Trotters on 12th June. The fish was safely returned to water after a quick photo!



Alister Dryburgh caught this fabulous fresh run 12lbs 4oz salmon on a Rapala up the Cwm Rheidol end of the river.



One of our visiting anglers Laurent Simonini from Paris who visits every year for a week's fishing and caught a cracking salmon in 2011, returned with a fellow angler Sebastien Goguel this season who caught a giant of a sewin in the river Ystwyth. Laurent and Sebastien had apparently stopped for a bite to eat when they heard a tail slap and Sebastien cast to where the ripple was. The result was the fish shown below which was well into double figures was returned safely to water after a quick photo.



ABER FISHING TACKLE

3 Terrace Road, Aberystwyth,
(Opposite Railway Station)

Phone: 01970 611200

Permits, tackle, baits and lures all available.

Neil Johnson landed his first double figure salmon from the Capel Bangor stretch of the river after a fifteen minute battle. The fish was just over 10lbs.



survived and are now at fingerling size (see photo) thanks to Statkraft and Peter Bevan. NRW together with Statkraft have been busy again this autumn (2013) and netted a couple of suitable salmon for stripping and rearing over the next twelve months or so. Unfortunately, it transpired that none of the eggs were fertile.



Brownies Return to Fishing

The 1st Penparcau Brownies group visited Rhosgoch on 1st July to try their hand at fishing. Twenty two guides and brownies enjoyed a warm evenings fishing, and whilst only two fish were caught, there was great excitement.



With recruitment of youngsters to angling at an all-time low, it was heart-warming to see these youngsters showing so much interest in all the aspects of fishing. Many thanks to those who turned out to help this educational recruitment evening!!



Rheidol Reared Salmon

The eggs from the single hen salmon netted and stripped in December last year (2012), were successfully fertilised and almost 100% of the fry have

Secretary's Report For The 2013 Season.

If 2013 is to be remembered for anything, it will be for the very cold winter and the prolonged cold spring. The 6 week cold spell through March and April seemed to put everything 1 ½ months behind right into October. The Penrhyncoch lakes fished well below par for the whole season!

The Rheidol didn't fare much better, with reduced rainfall leading to reduced generating in the daytime, however fairly regular generating at night seemed to spoil much of the sea trout fishing! August brought more woe, with the NRW informing us that our Salmon stocks were dangerously low, and that we needed to introduce measures to reduce the number of fish killed. Unfortunately 12 Salmon had already been taken by then. A catch and release rule was immediately brought in so as to try to reach the 75 – 80% release figure, in what was left of the 2013 season. If we miss this target in 2014, then compulsory C & R could be forced upon us in 2015, which could have implications for Sea Trout fishing.

Salmon egg harvesting fared little better, as although a hen fish was netted, the cock fish had no milt. The salmon parr reared last year continue to do well.

On a more upbeat note, it has long been hoped that a live on-line river level monitoring system could be set up at Cwm Rheidol Dam, NRW have verbally agreed to back this with a 50% grant, so fingers crossed.

The caravans at Trisant lakes have continued to be popular, the new (to us) van at Fronllyn, has helped to keep bookings coming in. Chas continues to look after the vans, with Meurig co-ordinating bookings. A big thank you is due to both as without the income the vans generate, our finances would not be as strong as they are!

Even though the association made a small profit last year, the permit prices are having to rise, and a part of that increase will be needed to pay for maintenance work. Work parties are needed on the river and lakes throughout the season, and as there are only 5-6 regular attenders, it is not possible to complete it all. The management committee (meeting once a month)

is run by a few committed individuals, but we need more volunteers! Please get in touch if you are able to offer your time.

Last season all the boat keys were gone by the end of March, which meant a number missed out, 5 more keys have been bought, so hopefully everyone can be accommodated.

The saga of the proposed introduction of Beavers into the Rheidol catchment is still rumbling on. We have told North Wales Wildlife Trust that we are 100% opposed to this, as have the landowners and farmers at the 2 public meetings at Capel Bangor Hall, and just before Christmas, Moc and I got a chance to let a number of the NRW board know our feelings following a meeting that was held at the National Library in Aberystwyth.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing away of Howard Williams, Howard was an ex director/shareholder and an ex committee member of many years standing.

The association continues to be run very effectively by the small management committee, and I thank them for their continued support.

Mike Barrett Jan: 2014

Annual Dinner & Presentation Of Trophy Winners for 2013 Season

The Association held its annual dinner at Brynamlwg Social Club, Waunfawr, on Saturday 8th February. As usual it was an august occasion when trophies were presented to winners of the 2013 club competitions by the guest speaker Eifion Davies.



Eifion, a lifelong Tregaronian, who has for many years been Water Bailiff for the Environment Agency (now NRW), described how he had grown up with rivers and all things fishing and gave a very interesting perspective on the dramatic manner in which the rivers and the fish therein have changed since he was a boy. Eifion rued the

fact that the days of plenty have gone, though this was not unique to the Rheidol or the Ystwyth.

GB FISHING

5, Croperation Street, Aberystwyth
(Behind the Belle Vue Hotel)

Phone: 01970 630974

Permits, tackle, baits and lures all available



Some of the participants at the dinner

AAA Trophy winners 2013

The Night Owl Trophy was awarded to David Lloyd for his 1 lb 13 oz sea trout.

The John Lewis and sons trophy for the heaviest sea trout on fly, was awarded to David Lloyd for his 7 lb fish

The EJ Morgan Shield for the heaviest fish from the river, was awarded to Alistair Dryburgh for his 12lb 4oz salmon.



The LW Lloyd trophy for the first sea trout of the season was awarded to Chris Johnson for his 2lb 4oz fish.





The Fur and Feather Senior Shield was won by Robert Davies

Griff Owen won the Youth shield and Richard Ricketts took the Junior trophy for the fourth year running. It is noteworthy that Richard has also out fished virtually all the other competitors over those four years including his dad!!

The Tynllidiart Shield . Awarded to the association member who has made the greatest contribution to the Association during the 2013 season was awarded to David Davies. David won the shield last year as well.



Health & Safety Issues

The Association has a H&S Policy, and Risk Assessment sheets and information which are

available on the web pages and on request from the secretary.

A number of anglers have again been observed standing in boats which is not only against the rules but exceedingly dangerous. It is only a few years ago that a local angler sadly drowned when he fell into a lake from a boat. Remember, it only takes a moment for a boat to capsize or for you to lose your balance.

New Rules

There have been changes to the AAA Rules & regulations as follows:

Rule 10. Size and Bag Limits

At Frongoch lake, 4 trout may be taken per day, to include a maximum of 2 brown trout (catch & release thereafter).

(f) All other waters a maximum of 2 brown trout per day (catch & release thereafter).

(g) Salmon fishing per season, 1st. salmon caught must be released, 2nd salmon caught may be taken, but all subsequent salmon caught must be returned. (Barbless hooks only, which are not stainless steel, for worm and prawn fishing).

(h) Sea Trout/Sewin barbless hooks only which are not stainless steel, for worm and prawn fishing – no more than 2 to be taken in any one day.

In addition, Natural Resources Wales rules on migratory fish must be observed on the rivers.

A POLICY OF CATCH AND RELEASE IS ENCOURAGED FOR MIGRATORY FISH

Trophy Rule Changes

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIONS

Rule 12. Association Angling Competitions and Entry of Fish for Trophies

Trophies – in future **NO FISH WILL BE WEIGHED IN** (except during designated trout fishing competitions).

PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE ONLY WILL BE CONSIDERED.

A photograph (preferably dated) of the fish with a coin of the realm clearly visible on the flank of the fish will need to be produced in order to be eligible. Entries should be submitted to the secretary with details of capture e.g. method & date. Digital photographs are preferred but not essential.

Only fish caught in Association Waters in accordance with Association Rules are eligible for trophies.

Great emphasis is based on returning fish to water as soon as possible after capture.

Boat Rules Change

To reflect the changes in bag limits as outlined above, boat rule No.3 has also been changed to: "At Frongoch lake, 4 trout may be taken per day, to include a maximum of 2 brown trout (catch & release thereafter). All other waters a maximum of 2 brown trout per day (catch & release thereafter)"

Diary Dates

R.J Bowne. Wednesday 4th June 6 -10pm, Frongoch

Night Owl Saturday 26th July 8pm - 2am

Rivers Day Sunday 5th October 8am – 6pm

Fur And Feather 26th October 10 - 4pm.

Check website for further details

In Memoriam

It was with great sadness that we learnt that Howard Williams (a long serving member and Director / shareholder of the Association) died during the year.

The association has also recently learned of the death of Tom Davies, a long term member of the association. Tom will be especially remembered by those who regularly fished Rhosrhydd, Tom's favourite lake.

Promoting Aber Anglers

The 17th August saw the 2013 Sea 2 Shore Festival at which the Association again had a presence. This years stand also featured a fishing competition designed and built by David Davies which caused quite lot of merriment and brought in some cash!!



Stocking the Association Lakes

Whilst some of our lakes produce a natural head of wild stock each year, the bulk of the fish caught are derived from farmed fish. Over the last couple of years the stocked brown trout have been 'triploid' fish which means that they are infertile. This is in line with Environment Agency (now NRW) policy to stop giving consent to stock rivers and most lakes with fertile (diploid) farm strain brown trout in England and Wales from 2015.

The 'logic' behind this move is that "inter-breeding between farmed and wild brown trout is likely to lower

the ability of the offspring to survive in the wild, and could have serious implications for the long term future of wild brown trout (and sea trout)". Further information on this policy can be found on the EA website (search for: Review of brown trout policy).

This season Frongoch will be intermittently stocked with a total 500 rainbow trout, and 450 triploid brown trout will be intermittently stocked into Rhosrhydd, Oerfa, Melindwr and Rhosgoch. Stocked brown trout c. 12" long cost £3.35 each whilst c. 14" rainbows cost £2.30 each. There is also a £60 charge to be added to each delivery.

In addition, 1000 triploid fingerlings at £40 per 100 plus a delivery charge of £60 have been put into Rhosgoch (300), Blaenmelindwr (400) and Oerfa (300).



Stocking Blaen Melindwr in the rain and snow!

Permit Price Increases

The AAA Committee has determined that it has become necessary to increase the permit prices for the 2014 season. The last permit price increase was two years ago,

The main reasons for the increase are as follows:

- 1) The cost of our stock fish has increased by 35% for brown trout and 20% for Rainbows.
- 2) Above inflationary increases paid on river leases and other necessary expenses.
- 3) The purchase of a substantial extra stretch of the river Rheidol.
- 4) The Association is going to have to contract out for some of the remedial work and maintenance of both the rivers and the lakes because insufficient help has been forthcoming from among the membership at formal workparties*. (The Association has to maintain nine lakes and over 16 miles of riverbank fishing).

*Some of these costs could be defrayed if more help was forthcoming at workparties. Remember, when you have done the initial five hours on workparties you get £25 off your next permit price, and thereafter £5 per hour off your next permit price.

The Newsletter

Whilst the Association understands that the annual Newsletter is a point of contact for members (especially those who do not have ready access to the internet and the Aber Angling web pages), it is a fairly costly operation as the printing costs and particularly the postage like most other costs are creeping upwards.

Distribution of the Newsletter as a PDF file via e-mail on the other hand, cost nothing and has arguably better image quality. To this end, if you do not already receive e-mails and news updates in this way, we would urge you to complete the pro-forma at the end of this newsletter and hand it in to one of our permit distributors or e-mail your address to: mike.leggett@btinternet.com

Membership Fees 2014

Members are reminded that a valid Environment Agency licences must be shown prior to purchase of any permit. They can be obtained online at www.environment-agency.gov.uk from Telesales on 0870 1662662 or at any main Post Office. AAA permits must be obtained before fishing; they are not available bank side. They are not transferrable and must be produced when asked for by any member of the Association. Anglers without a Permit or Licence will be asked to leave the Fishery.

Local Rates

Season - Adult	£115
Season - Joint Husband and Wife	£155
Season - Concessionary	£80
Season - Concessionary Husband & Wife	£110
Season - Youth	£25
Season - Students	£80

Visitor Rates

Season - Adult	£175
Season - Joint Husband & Wife	£210
Season - Concessionary	£115
Season - Concessionary Husband & Wife	£150
Season - Youth	£25
Week - Whole Fishery	£95
Week - Whole Fishery (Concessionary)	£80
Week - Whole Fishery (Youth)	£20

Day Tickets

Whole Fishery	£23
Whole Fishery (Concessionary)	£18
Rivers only (for locals)	£18**
Rivers only (Concessionary-locals only)	£15**

* A 'Youth' is defined as any child in Secondary school. Primary School children go free.

** 'Rivers Only' Permits are only available to Ceredigion Residents

Boat Charges

Season	£50
Deposit	£10
Day and week boat usage only available to occupiers of our caravans.	

Caravan Charges

Available from Treasurer upon request, or from the website at: <http://www.aber-angling.co.uk/>

Day and week fishing Permits available to Caravan Occupiers at 60% the visitor rates. Discounted season ticket only available to those staying in one of our caravans for a minimum of one week.

Permits are available from:

Aber Tackle, 3 Terrace Rd, Aberystwyth, SY23 1NY, 01970 611200
GBFishing, 5, Corporation Street, Aberystwyth SY23 2BT
Penparcau Post Office, 01970 612263
The George Borrow B&B Hotel Ponterwyd, Ceredigion, SY23 3AD, 01970 890230

Boat & Fishing Permits are available from Mr Mike Barrett, 6 Lon Llewelyn, Waunfawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3TP (Please phone first) Phone: (01970) 623 682 E-mail: mbarrettuk05@yahoo.co.uk

Further Information, Up To Date News & Contacts

For more detailed information, news and events see the web page at: <http://www.aber-angling.co.uk/> or Google Aber Angling. **General enquiries: Secretary:** Mr Mike Barrett, 6 Lon Llewelyn, Waunfawr, Aberystwyth, SY23 3TP
Phone: (01970) 623 682 E-mail: mbarrettuk05@yahoo.co.uk

Assistant Secretary: Neil Beck E-mail: nfb@aber.ac.uk

Caravans' bookings or queries: Meurig Lewis: Phone (01970) 612683 E-mail: meurig@glyncemaes.freemove.co.uk

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