

National Assembly for Wales
Environment and Sustainability Committee
NRW 2015 – 80
Natural Resources Wales – Annual Scrutiny 2015
Response from Alan Roberts

My name is Alan Roberts, and I am a member of the Seiont Gwyrfai and Llyfni Angling Club, and a keen aquaculturist. We have a 30 year old legally binding contract due to the Dinorwic Hydroelectric Power Scheme which Natural Resources Wales is legally obliged to mitigate, the only one in Wales except for the Taff which expires in 2020.

Here are some of the facts regarding the River Seiont. The Mitigation clearly states that the equivalent of 1050 wild salmon smolts in parr or fry and 450 sea trout smolts yearly, stocking of the correct amount has never been done in my estimation only 10% of the total stocking has taken place, 12 years out of 30 for the salmon, and 4 years for the sea trout, due to the total disregard of the stocking policy by the fisheries officers of the Bangor office of the NRW/EAW, the river stocks have fallen dramatically since 2004 to last year when only two salmon were caught, and no fish were seen running the river, the Seiont has now been placed at RISK and probably will be for the next 5 years and beyond, more likely will be classed as extinct of salmon and sea trout, again we are in the High Court due to the negligence of the NRW to correct the harm that is being done to the river by the effect of big business, we regularly report incidents on the river such as sewage release and high water when there has been no rain, and all we get is, we saw nothing.

As you know habitat restoration on its own does not work, and in a meeting last week, nothing encouraging came out of it, only 18k pounds was the sum they have to spend on restoring the River Seiont system, therefore I would like to know the criteria for stocking a river, such as ours which has fallen from such a great salmon and sea trout river to nothing more than a sewage pipe to the sea from the once great lake at its head, where Welsh Waters sewage plant sits.

In your review of Salmon and Freshwater fisheries review paragraph 49 you state that stocking with salmon should be employed only to address a decline in stocks, in my view the NRW have caused this decline and what has been allowed to be done is criminal, I hope that my concerns does not fall on deaf ears as the hatchery review did because the NRW does not take any notice of any views expressed by anglers.

Yours Sincerely

Alan Roberts