



THE

WELSH DEE TRUST **Conserving, restoring and enhancing the water environment and habitats of the River Dee**

- **Heated debate over future of Salmon Stocking**
- **Progressing Catchment Partnership Working**
- **Appointment of our First Project Officer**
- **Big Dee Day The Invasion**



NRW set out their current approach to salmon stocking in their document –“**Sustainable Inland Fisheries-An agenda for Change**”, and opened up a consultation exercise.

Their proposals include **closing the Maerdy Hatchery and ceasing all salmon stocking in the River Dee.**

Mitigation stocking has taken place on the Dee in compensation for the loss of headwaters since the building of Celyn Reservoir. This has produced heated debate amongst local anglers and environmentalists.

Many anglers feel that closing Maerdy would be disastrous and its not stocking that is wrong, but its management locally. **The Dee Fishery Association has written a robust response disagreeing with NRW’s proposals.**

The Welsh Dee Trust has debated the issue and looked at the scientific evidence presented at the recent conference in Glasgow and elsewhere, before submitting its response to NRW. It has come to the same view as RAFTS and the Salmon and Trout Association-ie that long term stocking is unlikely to be of benefit and that the resources set aside for mitigation would be better spent on habitat improvement and improvement of fish passage by removal of barriers and improvement in flow regime patterns. It is adamant that the closure of Maerdy must not be seen as a cost cutting exercise and there must be reassurance that ring fenced investment must continue into these alternatives. The Trust also feels that at least one hatchery should remain in Wales , at Cynrig, in case of the need to provide initial restocking after total loss of stock such as a major pollution incident.

Further information on the proposals is available at-

<http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/our-work/consultations/our-own-consultations/consultation-nrw-salmon-stocking-hatcheries/?lang=en>

Why not have your say and write your own response as an individual or club?

Middle And Tidal Dee Catchment Partnerships.

Following our Stakeholder Event On March 26th ,(see right) we learnt that Defra funding of this initiative was to continue for a further 12 months. In order to build on our initial work, we applied along with our co-hosts, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and have been successful in securing funding to advance our partnership work for another year. We have established steering groups for both partnerships and an extensive network of contacts and stakeholders. Some initial projects have already been submitted as bids for United Utilities Catchment Wise Funding-



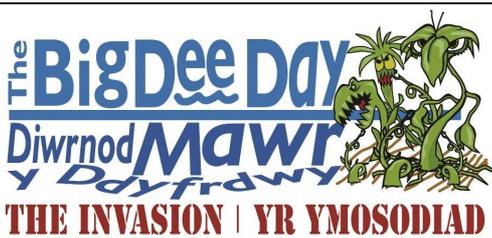
The Middle Dee Catchment partnership has submitted for funding for a project looking at Diffuse Rural Pollution on Wyke and Worthenbury Brook sub-catchment. This is a major problem for this area, resulting in several waterbodies being graded as Poor under Water Framework Directive on account of phosphate. With partner organisations including ReaseHeath college , Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership, NRW and EA we aim to carry out targeted farm visits and events to engage with the community on issues that affect water quality. Each visit will result in discussions leading to an action plan for each farm to address issues and seek funding of solutions.

The Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership has submitted for funding for a project to research into the scale and origin of Marine litter, Partners include Chester University, Local Authorities (Wirral and Flintshire), Dee Estuary Conservation Group and NRW and EA. After identifying the source of litter, efforts will be made to target the sources and developing awareness raising techniques. We will be seeking additional sources funding for both these projects.

Previous direct funding from United Utilities is enabling us to employ project officer support to help with the progress and development of these and other projects. After presentation at the Stakeholder events, these are being scrutinised and prioritised by the steering groups.

We have already appointed as Project Officer, Mark Pierce who is already well known for his previous work on the Upper Dee Catchment while working part-time for Afonydd Cymru. He will continue to work in this area, but two days per week of his time will be spent on Catchment Partnership working on the Middle Dee.

We are currently seeking to appoint someone to work on the Tidal Dee as a project officer for 2 days per week.



This year we have chosen a different format in having events planned for a whole month to enable more people to be involved and have successful days.

The launch which will take place on **Friday 27th June 2014 at 1:30pm at Ty Mawr Country Park** near Wrexham. On **Saturday 28th June** there will be a chance to visit information stands and there will also be opportunity to have a go at controlling Himalayan balsam.

We then start our jam-packed month of task days concentrating on tackling species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed with the help of volunteers. We will be holding corporate days to encourage local businesses to get involved and we are also contacting local community groups, schools and clubs to generate interest and encourage a sense of responsibility for certain areas. The event is the result of a partnership between local authorities, conservation organisations, businesses and private landowners. It is an excellent opportunity for us all to make an important, positive impact on the river environment along the Dee catchment, which will benefit us all. Join us in making a difference!

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