

## Sustainable fisheries programme (SFP)

### Interim report 2002 - 2018

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#### Background

NRW has invested significant amounts of money to deliver work designed to contribute towards securing Sustainable Inland Fisheries in Wales.

In 2001 the then Environment Agency (Welsh Region) proposed a package of work “Investing in Sustainable Fisheries” and this was agreed by the National Assembly for Wales and launched in 2002/3. An additional but temporary allocation of Grant-in-Aid funding (£800k p.a.) was awarded for an initial period of 3 years, and this was later consolidated into ongoing core funding by Welsh Government.

The aim of the programme has been to maximise the environmental and socio-economic benefits derived from fisheries in Wales, now and for future generations. The programme was amongst the first of its kind in delivering what is today referred to as the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, as many of the investments secured benefits for the overall water environment and not just for fish. Today we recognise that investment in sustainable fisheries also contributes directly to targets set under the Water Framework Directive and other statutory drivers.

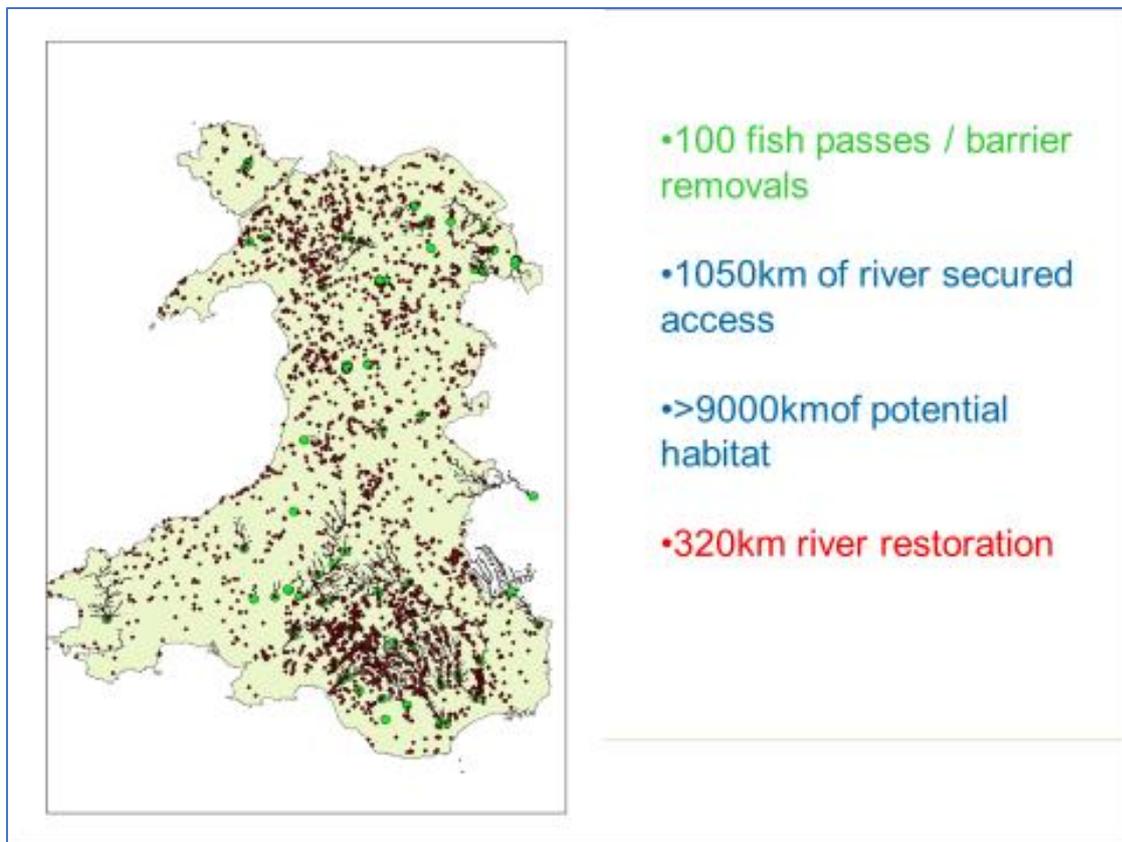
Since inception, the specific funding has been used to secure and deliver several large EU funded projects including:

The Neath Objective 1 project	<b>£244k</b>
Fishing Wales	<b>£5.6M</b>
FIFG (financial instrument for fisheries guidance)	<b>£2.6M</b>
Salmon for Tomorrow (European Fisheries Fund)	<b>£2.2M</b>
Wild Fishing Wales	<b>£2.6M</b>

These strategic projects enabled a great deal of investment in fisheries throughout Wales, including construction of fish passes and fish migration easements; riparian habitat and water quality improvements; and investments in angling infrastructure, marketing and angling participation.

### **The first 10 years of SFP**

After the initial 10 years of SFP a review was commissioned to capture all the work delivered over this period. This information was compiled into a geodatabase and some headline figures can be seen below:



*SFP delivery pre-2011*

### **Delivery since 2011**

Delivery since 2011 has continued with completion of the S4T project, continued partnership working with third sector organisations and direct delivery with the core funding available. Funding now includes Alternative Mitigation in those catchment sin Wales which were previously stocked with migratory salmonids.

Currently we are in the process of updating a GIS geodatabase reporting tool to present the overall benefits derived. This work is in process. But interim output figures by area that can be seen later in this interim report.

## Examples of fish passage schemes



*Low Cost Baffle (LCB) solution at Resolven gauging weir – River Neath 2017*



*Innovative Twin flight Larinier fish pass -River Afan 2015*

SFP Delivery 2011 - 2018							
Area	Year	Fish Pass Schemes	Habitat schemes	WQ Schemes	Angling Infrastructure	Angling Participation	Total Expenditure (inc of EU funding/capex...)
SW	2011-12	2	1	0	3	1	151,410
SW	2012-13	10	5	0	4	1	357,457
SW	2013-14	10	3	0	3	1	170,266
SW	2014-15	12	2	0	6	1	143,964
SW	2015-16	6	3	0	2	1	140,964
SW	2016-17	7	2	0	0	2	50,065
SW	2017-18	4	2	0	4	1	138,139
SW	2018-19	7	0	0	2	1	57,169
SE	2011-12	5	8	0	0	3	314,000
SE	2012-13	5	7	0	2	0	557,000
SE	2013-14	5	0	0	3	0	341,000
SE	2014-15	31	0	0	0	0	265,250
SE	2015-16	13	9	0	3	1	73,800
SE	2016-17	9	5	0	4	1	61,671
SE	2017-18	12	7	0	3	3	94,351
SE	2018-19	1	0	0	0	0	300,000
N	2011-12	1	11	0	0	0	45,582
N	2012-13	3	2	0	0	0	57,420
N	2013-14	1	6	0	0	0	210,635
N	2014-15	7	4	0	1	2	68,769
N	2015-16	3	6	0	1	0	92,872
N	2016-17	2	6	0	0	0	28,575
N	2017-18	4	11	0	1	0	107,383
N	2018-19	3	9	0	0	0	125,954
Mid	2015-16	1	0	1	0	0	307,360
Mid	2016-17	0	2	1	0	0	112,959
Mid	2017-18	0	2	2	2	0	71,768
Mid	2018-19	0	2	1	1	0	12,775
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4,458,558</b>

***SFP headline delivery figures and annual expenditure by area.***

***\*note expenditure includes elements of EU funding and mitigation funding, in addition to GIA***



## **Future Development and Reporting**

Until the reporting data is transposed into GIS, the derived benefits (i.e. km of river improved for fish access/ Km's of riparian habitat improved) will not be available. We intend, however, to conclude and report on these benefits later in 2018.

## **Conclusion**

It is important to note that while the delivery team for SFP is small (4.5FTEs), the contribution it makes to NRW's shared Water Framework Directive targets is significant.

The fish passage improvements, riparian habitat and water quality improvements all contribute towards improvement of water bodies towards good ecological status.

This contribution can only be fully appreciated once GIS reporting has been updated and can be considered alongside water body performance throughout Wales. This is an important piece of work that will again be concluded in 2018.

Habitat connectivity for migratory fish species in Wales is probably the most important factor contributing to sustainable fish populations in Wales and good ecological performance of our rivers and streams. The SFP virtual team continues to work to deliver these important strategic development projects and protect fish populations in Wales for future generations. It does so in partnership with interested parties, notably the rivers trusts in Wales.