

## Living Waters for Wales Newsletter

Welcome to the first Water Framework Directive newsletter for Natural Resources Wales, filled with examples of projects which are delivering a better water environment for the people and wildlife of Wales. Be inspired and tell us your story. Contact [Jill Brown](#)

Natural Resources Wales was set up on 1 April 2013 and brings together the work of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales, as well as some functions of Welsh Government.

Our aim is to manage how we use and enjoy Wales' natural resources to benefit people, the economy and the environment. We want to make sure that we all maintain, use and enhance Wales' natural resources now and for the future

### Challenges & Choices Consultation Launched!

Wales' waters are a precious resource that must be protected.

#### What is happening?

Natural Resources Wales is asking what you think the significant issues are for the water environment, the best ways to tackle them and what the priorities should be. You can view the consultation and respond by going to [Natural Resources Wales / Consultations](#). The consultation closes on 22 December 2013.

Challenges and Choices gives everyone an opportunity to ensure that the big issues affecting the environment and solutions to tackle them are included in the second River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). Wales has three river basin districts and this consultation will help us to develop the river basin management plans for 2015-2021.



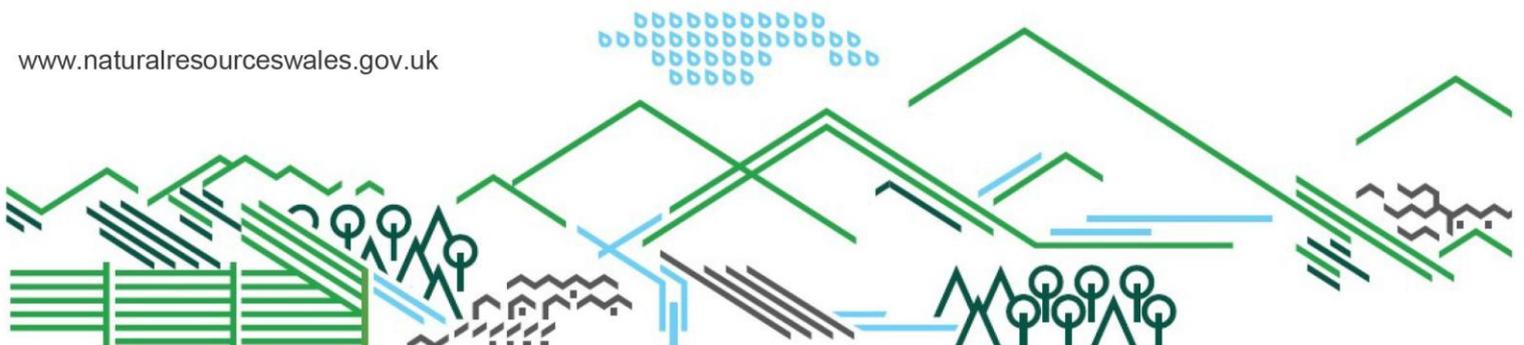
#### Why is participation essential?

We want to engage with partners and communities about how to improve the water environment by 2021 using the second River Basin Management Plans.

We need to ensure the decisions to improve the water environment are made collaboratively and at a catchment scale. By working with others we can share resources, skills, expertise, data and networks to achieve shared objectives.

#### How can you help?

We need you to get involved in setting out the next step for improving our water environment. By raising awareness of this consultation through your networks and encouraging them to respond to Challenges & Choices. For more information on how to get involved contact [Ceri Jones](#)



## Flood work benefits people and salmon

We're taking an imaginative approach to removing 500 tons of stones and gravel in the Upper Swansea Valley. The stones could have led to flooding of 268 homes and three businesses in nearby Ystalyfera will now end up providing salmon with the ideal habitat to breed. Up to 35 lorry loads of shoal, from the river bed where the Tawe meets the Twrch, are being sent to an aggregate recycling centre in Neath, where the stones will be washed to remove fine grit then graded in size to determine their suitability as an ideal environment for salmon to spawn.

Fish are vulnerable to the impact of sediment. If large amount of sediment is washed into the river, it can reduce fish growth and suffocate salmon and trout eggs.

Once the gravel removal work has been completed and the shoal cleaned and graded, our fisheries teams will search for suitable spawning locations to deposit the stones in other rivers. Up to 40 per cent will be 'recycled' in other locations as spawning gravel. This work will both reduce flooding and improve the habitat for fish. For more information, contact: [Mark Sabine](#) for Flood Risk Management and [Dave Charlesworth](#) for Fisheries.



## Shoal removal taking place at the Tawe/ Twrch confluence

### Pembrokeshire County Council publishes its Bathing Strategy 2013-2015

Pembrokeshire County Council has worked collaboratively with Natural Resources Wales, Keep Wales Tidy, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Farmers Union of Wales, National Farmers Union, Country Land & Business Association and the National Trust.



This pioneering programme aims to ensure Pembrokeshire's bathing water quality is maintained and improved by targeting resources at those beaches with the poorest water quality including Wisemans Bridge and Nolton Haven. It will also work to regain awards at beaches such as Newport, Poppit and West Angle.

To achieve these actions, Pembrokeshire County Council will work with partners to raise awareness of compliance and regulations of bathing water standards and with Natural Resources Wales to identify and investigate sources of pollution. Natural Resource Wales report bathing water results weekly and develop bathing water action plans to help resolve failing issues. This may include sewerage asset checks, beach checks and farm visits. Pembrokeshire's Strategy will be reviewed annually by the Pembrokeshire Beach Liaison Group.

For further information go to [Pembrokeshire Bathing Waters Strategy](#) or contact [Rod Thomas](#).

### Tackling the alien invasion

Invasive non-native species are spreading rapidly through our river systems at the expense of native wildlife and our economy and wellbeing.

Be part of the first coordinated event to tackle invasive non-native species across the river Dee catchment. For more information visit [www.bionetwales.co.uk](http://www.bionetwales.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/BigDeeDayTheInvasion](https://www.facebook.com/BigDeeDayTheInvasion) or @BDDTI"

There will be an exhibition and drop-in sessions at Ty Mawr Country Park, Cae Gwilym Lane, Cefn Mawr, Wrexham, LL14 3PE on 28-29 June 2013 at 10am.

## Forward Look

Next River Basin Liaison Panel meetings are in September 2013

A workshop event for the Challenges and Choices consultation is being planned for October 2013

For more information contact:

Ceri Jones, River Basin Programme Manager.

Email [Ceri Jones](mailto:Ceri.Jones@wales.gov.uk)

Some useful links:

[Natural Resources Wales /  
www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd)

View our map gallery at [River Watch Wales](http://www.riverwatch.wales.gov.uk)

**On-line presentation on what the River Basin Management Plans are all about**

<http://www.informsystem.com/livingwaters/livingwaters.htm>

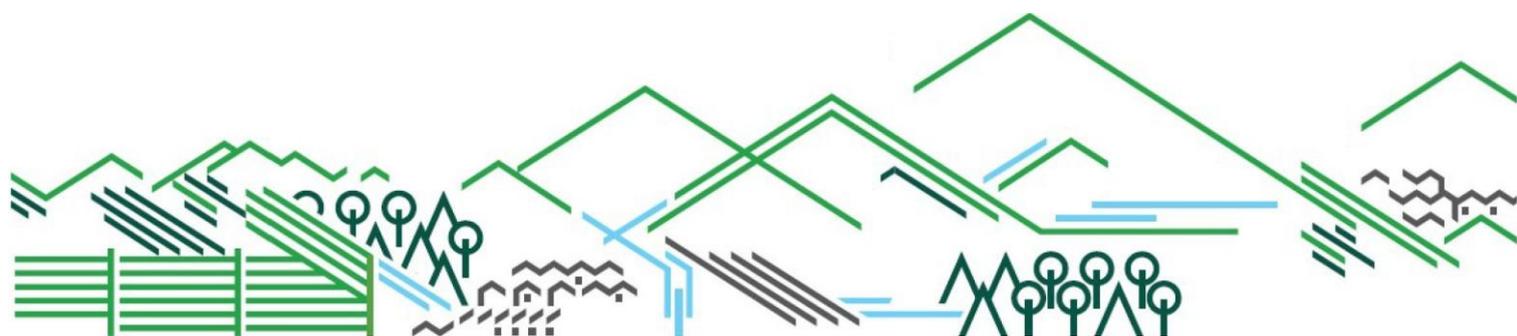
**WIYBY 'What's in My Back Yard' access to data/information** <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?ep=maptopics&lang=e>

Help your local environment by reporting any incidents of pollution, illegal tipping of waste, poaching, fish in distress, or danger to the natural environment to Natural Resources Wales via the 24 hour free phone number 0800 80 70 60.

**We're looking to promote stories of delivering improvements to the water environment. Make us aware of any activities that you or your organisation is doing to help improve Wales' waters.**

**If you want to contribute to or receive future newsletters - contact [Jill Brown](mailto:Jill.Brown@wales.gov.uk)**

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