Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru
Environment Agency Wales

put them back

Catch and release guidelines

How anglers can help to conserve the salmon stocks of England and Wales

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Environment Agency
Rio House
Waterside Drive, Aztec West
Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4UD
Tel: 0870 8506506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

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“One way we, as anglers, can help restore depleted salmon stocks is to practice voluntary catch and release, particularly where local stocks are threatened, and learn to do it properly”

(Paul Knight, Director of the Salmon & Trout Association).

Conservation status of salmon stocks in England and Wales

According to the latest scientific assessments, most salmon stocks in England and Wales are under threat. Further actions aimed at conserving and rebuilding stocks are urgently required if we are to ensure that future generations can enjoy the social and economic benefits associated with thriving salmon stocks.

Advice from the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) is that grilse as well as stocks of mutli-sea-winter salmon are now under threat and should also be afforded greater protection.

No distinction should be made between male or female, large or small salmon, all now require further protection.

Barbless hooks should be used at all times – see pages 6 and 7 for further guidance on successful Catch and Release.

The role of the Agency

The Agency, along with the national game angler representative bodies in England and Wales, has long been an advocate of Catch and Release for salmon fisheries. We believe that Catch and Release is a highly effective conservation tool that, although now widely practised by anglers, should be further encouraged, particularly on those rivers where salmon stocks have been identified as being at greatest risk.

"In many of our rivers at present there just aren't enough eggs being laid. With Catch and Release we can continue the benefits of fishing and still get the eggs because survival rates of released salmon are high"

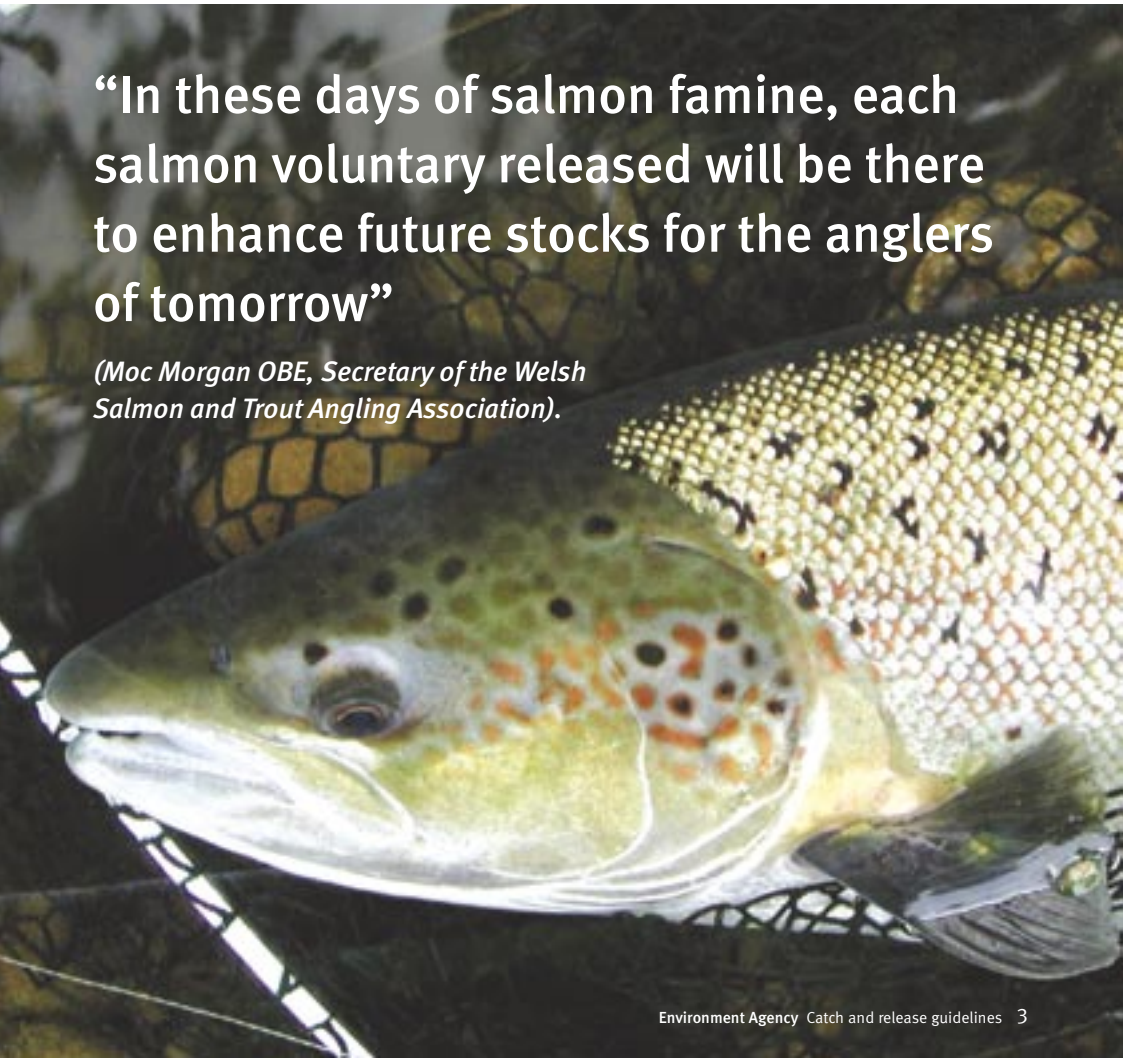
(Dr Dafydd Evans, Environment Agency Head of Fisheries).

Rivers in England and Wales where salmon stocks are judged unlikely to reach satisfactory levels before at least 2008. Current percentage release rates (2004) are shown in brackets after the river name.

North East	South West	Midlands	Wales	North West
Esk (47)	Dart (61)	Severn (55)	Cleddau (31)	Border Esk (38)
Tees (52)	Devon Avon (75)		Clwyd (31)	Calder (43)
	Erme (40)		Dee (37)	Cumb. Esk (27)
	Exe (54)		Dwyfawr (38)	Duddon (49)
	Frome (62)		Dwyryd (19)	Eden (37)
	Lynher (52)		Dyfi (14)	Ehen (19)
	Plym (67)		Dysynni (0)	Irt (37)
	Tamar (59)		Glaslyn (30)	Ribble (65)
	Tavy (54)		Mawddach (31)	Wyre (58)
	Taw (60)		Nevern (7)	
	Teign (38)		Ogmore (27)	
	Torridge (64)		Ogwen (21)	
	Yealm (67)		Rheidol (22)	
			Seiont (14)	
			Taf (24)	
			Taff (45)	
			Tawe (32)	
			Teifi (25)	
			Tywi (29)	
			Usk (49)	
			Wye (73)	

Catch and Release – it works

Numerous angling and radio-tracking studies undertaken in recent years have demonstrated high survival rates to spawning for salmon released following capture – up to 100% under certain conditions. Studies have also shown that recapture rates for released salmon are generally very low.



"In these days of salmon famine, each salmon voluntary released will be there to enhance future stocks for the anglers of tomorrow"

(Moc Morgan OBE, Secretary of the Welsh Salmon and Trout Angling Association).

By releasing 13,000 salmon in 2004 anglers contributed around 40 million eggs to the breeding population.

Catch and Release and the angler

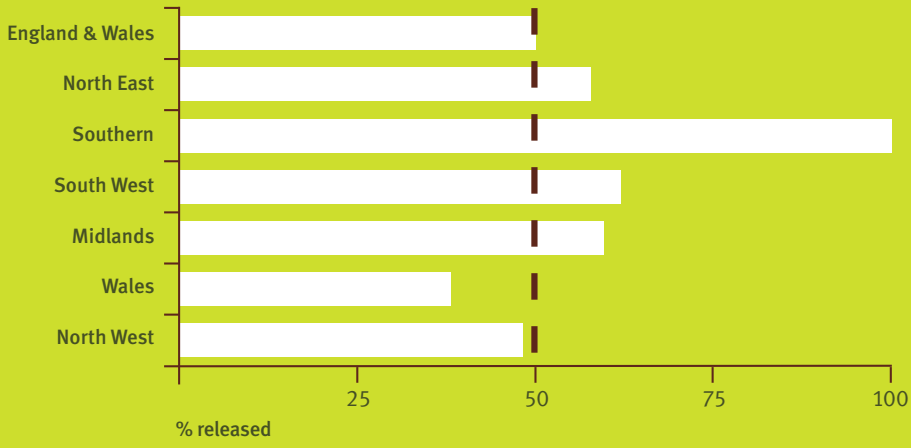
A combination of greater angler awareness, local voluntary agreements and legislative changes has led to a big increase in recent years in the proportion of salmon released following capture. In 1994 just 12% of the salmon rod catch was released by anglers in England and Wales compared with just under 50% in 2004.

A national byelaw introduced by the Agency in 1999 to protect spring salmon now ensures that anglers must return all salmon caught in England and Wales before 16 June each year.

On a number of rivers, however, catch and release rates remain low. We believe that increasing release rates on these rivers, together with other measures such as building fish passes and restoring degraded habitat, will help with the recovery of stocks. All anglers can play their part in helping to conserve and restore our precious salmon stocks.

By following the guidelines set out below and by applying the Golden Rules at all times you can be confident that any fish you release will have a very high chance of going on to spawn successfully.

Catch and Release rates by Agency region (2004)



As a result of local agreements between anglers, owners and the Agency all salmon caught on the rivers Test and Itchen in Southern region are now released following capture.

Guidelines for successful Catch and Release angling

Fishing tackle and equipment

Small single or double hooks should be used at all times. Trebles should be avoided. Hooks should be barbless. Barbed hooks can easily be converted to barbless by pinching the barb with pliers.

Rod and line should be strong enough to subdue a fish with the minimum delay. Strength of flows and potential size of fish likely to be encountered are considerations when selecting the appropriate tackle to use.

Additional useful items to keep close to hand when fishing are pliers or a similar tool for removing hooks quickly, scissors for cutting line, a landing net with knotless mesh and a plastic tape measure.

Playing the fish

A fish once hooked should be brought to hand or net as quickly as possible. This will help keep stress and fatigue levels to a minimum and will ensure the fish is able to recover quickly.

Before commencing fishing it is worth thinking about where a fish might be landed. The aim is to keep the fish in the water and avoid beaching or dragging it up a steep bank before release.

Golden Rule 1

Use barbless hooks at all times and avoid trebles.

Golden Rule 2

Minimise the time spent playing a hooked fish.

Handling the fish

Aim to keep handling time to a minimum. Make every effort to keep the fish in the water at all times as prolonged exposure to air will reduce survival rates. Before handling a fish make sure that hands are wet. Avoid squeezing the fish.

CAUTION: High water temperatures (›21ºC) can significantly reduce survival rates. Anglers should, therefore, take extra care when practising Catch and Release when flows are low and water temperatures are high (typical high summer conditions)

Releasing the fish

Use pliers to remove hooks but if hooks are too deep and removal will lead to damage or delayed release then cut the line as near to the hook as possible.

Support the fish in the water preferably in a gentle current and with the fish facing upstream. Recovery can take several minutes so be patient. Wait until the fish recovers sufficiently to swim away from you.

Quickly estimate the weight of the fish for reporting purposes. This can be done by measuring the length of the fish and using the chart below to convert length to weight. If measuring the length of the fish is not possible an estimate of the weight should be made.

Golden Rule 3

Release the fish as quickly as possible and do not remove it from the water.

Golden Rule 4

Support the fish in the water until it is sufficiently recovered.

Table for converting salmon length (inches and cms.) to weight (lb and kg)

inches	lb.	cms.	kg.
20	3.1	50	1.4
22	4.2	55	1.9
24	5.8	60	2.6
26	7.4	65	3.4
28	9.0	70	4.1
30	10.7	75	4.9
32	12.4	80	5.6
34	15.2	85	6.9
36	18.2	90	8.3
38	21.2	95	9.6
40	24.2	100	11.0
42	27.2	105	12.4
44	30.3	110	13.8
46	33.3	115	15.1
48	36.3	120	16.5
50	39.3	125	17.9
52	42.3	130	19.2

Photographs should be avoided unless they can be taken quickly and without removing the fish from the water. Under no circumstances should fish be lifted out of the water by the tail.

Further information

Information on the status of salmon stocks and fisheries can be found on the Environment Agency's web site,

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)

NASCO, 11 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2AS
United Kingdom

www.nasco.int

Salmon & Trout Association (S&TA)

Salmon & Trout Association, Fishmongers' Hall,
London Bridge, London EC4R 9EL

www.salmon-trout.org

Atlantic Salmon Trust

Atlantic Salmon Trust, Moulin, Pitlochry,
Perthshire PH16 5JQ

www.atlanticsalmontrust.org

Welsh Salmon & Trout Angling Association (WSTAA)

Contact email: info@wstaa.org

www.wstaa.org

Would you like to find out more about us, or about your environment?

Then call us on

08708 506 506 (Mon-Fri 8-6)

email

enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

or visit our website

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incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)
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Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd Cymru
Environment Agency Wales

rhowch nhw nôl

Canllawiau dal a rhyddhau

Sut gall genweirwyr helpu cadwraeth stociau eog Cymru a Lloegr

Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd ydym ni. Ein gwaith ni yw gofalu am eich amgylchedd chi, a'i wneud yn le gwell – i chi, ac i genedlaethau'r dyfodol.

Eich amgylchedd yw'r awyr yr anadlwch, y dŵr yr yfwch, a'r ddaear y cerddwch arni. Gan weithio gyda busnesau, y Llywodraeth a chymdeithas fel cyfangorff, yr ydym yn gwneud eich amgylchedd yn lanach ac yn iachach.

Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd. Allan yn y maes, yn gwneud eich amgylchedd yn le gwell.

Cyhoeddwyd gan:

Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd
Rio House
Waterside Drive, Aztec West
Almondsbury, Bryste BS32 4UD
Ffôn: 0870 8506506
E-bost: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.asiantaeth-amgylchedd.cymru.gov.uk

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Cedwir pob hawl. Gellir atgynhyrchu'r ddogfen hon chaniatâd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd o flaen llaw.

“Un ffordd y gallwn ni, fel genweirwyr, helpu i adfer stociau o eogiaid sydd wedi’u darwagio, yw trwy ymarfer dal a rhyddhau’n wirfoddol, yn enwedig lle mae stociau lleol dan fygythiad, a dysgu gwneud hynny’n iawn”

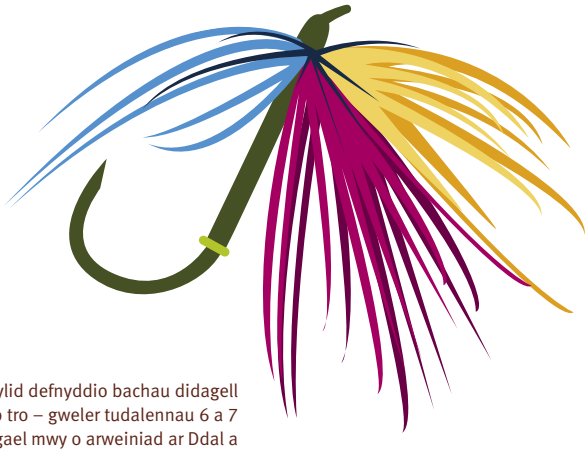
(Paul Knight, Cyfarwyddwr Cymdeithas Eogiaid a Brithyllod).

Statws cadwraeth stociau o eogiaid yng Nghymru a Lloegr

Yn ôl yr asesiadau gwyddonol diweddaraf, mae rhan fwyaf y stociau o eogiaid yng Nghymru a Lloegr dan fygythiad. Mae angen camau pellach sydd wedi’u hanelu at warchod ac ailadeiladu stociau ar frys er mwyn sicrhau y gall cenedlaethau’r dyfodol fwynhau’r manteision cymdeithasol ac economaidd sy’n gysylltiedig â stociau o eogiaid sy’n ffynnu.

Cafwyd cyngor gan North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) fod gleisiaid yn ogystal â stociau o eogiaid aml môr y gaeaf bellach dan fygythiad ac y dylid eu gwarchod yn fwy.

Ni ddylid gwahaniaethu rhwng eogiaid gwryw a benyw, mawr neu fach y mae bellach angen eu gwarchod i gyd yn fwy.



Dylid defnyddio bachau didagell bob tro – gweler tudalennau 6 a 7 i gael mwy o arweiniad ar Ddal a Rhyddhau yn llwyddiannus.

Rôl yr Asiantaeth

Mae'r Asiantaeth, ynghyd â'r cyrff cenedlaethol sy'n cynrychioli genweirwyr gêm yng Nghymru a Lloegr, wedi bod yn hyrwyddo Dal a Rhyddhau ar gyfer pysgodfeydd eogiaid ers amser maith. Credwn fod Dal a Rhyddhau yn arf cadwraeth hynod effeithiol a ddylai, er ei fod bellach yn cael ei ymarfer yn eang gan enweirwyr, gael ei annog yn fwy, yn enwedig ar yr afonydd hynny lle nodwyd mai stociau o eogiaid sydd mewn perygl fwyaf.

"Mewn llawer o'n hafonydd ar hyn o bryd, nid oes digon o wyau'n cael eu dodwy. Gyda Dal a Rhyddhau gallwn barhau â manteision pysgota a pharhau i gael yr wyau oherwydd mae cyfraddau goroesi eogiaid sy'n cael eu rhyddhau yn uchel"

(Dr Dafydd Evans, Pennaeth Pysgodfeydd Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd).

Afonydd yng Nghymru a Lloegr lle bernir bod y stociau o eogiaid yn annhebygol o gyrraedd lefelau boddhaol cyn 2008 o leiaf. Caiff canrannau'r cyfraddau rhyddhau presennol (2004) eu dangos mewn cromfachau ar ôl enw'r afon.

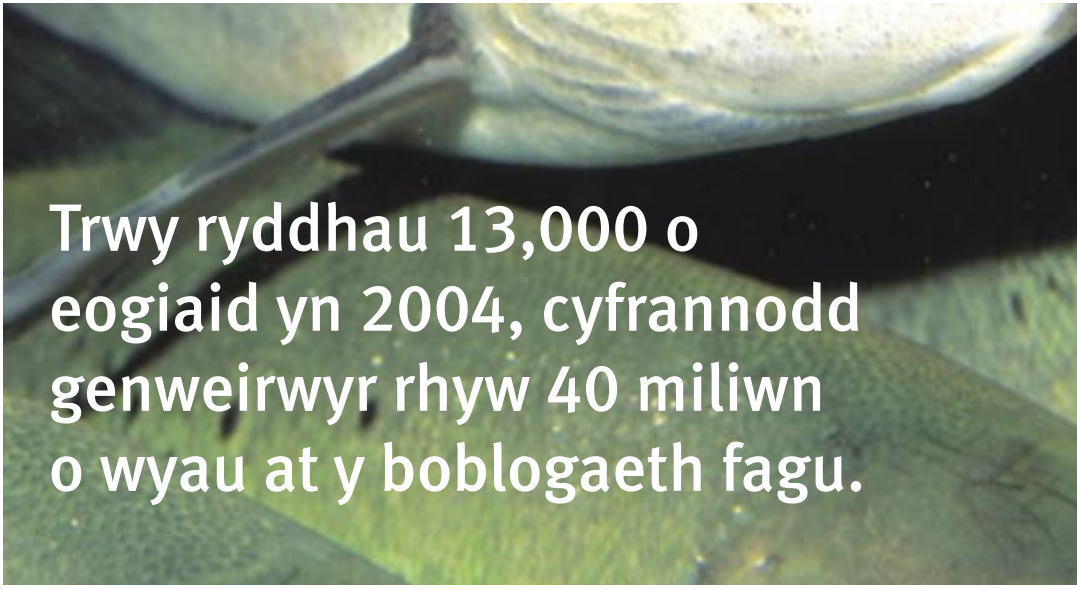
Gogledd Ddwyrain Lloegr	De Orllewin Lloegr	Canolbarth Lloegr	Cymru	Gogledd Orllewin Lloegr
Esk (47) Tees (52)	Dart (61) Devon Avon (75) Erme (40) Exe (54) Frome (62) Lynher (52) Plym (67) Tamar (59) Tavy (54) Taw (60) Teign (38) Torridge (64) Yealm (67)	Hafren (55)	Cleddau (31) Clwyd (31) Dyfrdwy (37) Dwyfor (38) Dwyryd (19) Dyfi (14) Dysynni (0 Glaslyn (30) Mawddach (31) Nyfer (7) Ogwr Fawr (27) Ogwen (21) Rheidol (22) Saint (14) Taf (24) Taf Fawr (45) Tawe (32) Teifi (25) Tywi (29) Wysg (49) Gwy (73)	Border Esk (38) Calder (43) Cumb. Esk (27) Duddon (49) Eden (37) Ehen (19) Irt (37)) Ribble (65) Wyre (58)

Dal a Rhyddhau – mae'n gweithio

Mae nifer o astudiaethau genweirio ac olrhain ar radio a gynhaliwyd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf wedi dangos cyfraddau goroesi uchel i silio ar gyfer eogiaid a ryddhawyd ar ôl eu dal – hyd at 100% dan amodau penodol. Mae astudiaethau hefyd wedi dangos bod cyfraddau dal am yr eildro ar gyfer eogiaid wedi'u rhyddhau yn gyffredinol isel iawn.

"Yn y dyddiau o brinder eogiaid sydd ohoni heddiw, bydd pob eog a ryddheir yn wirfoddol yno i ehangu stociau'r dyfodol ar gyfer genweirwyr yfory"

(Moc Morgan OBE, Ysgrifennydd Cymdeithas Genweirwyr Eog a Brithyll Cymru).



Trwy ryddhau 13,000 o eogiaid yn 2004, cyfrannodd genweirwyr rhyw 40 miliwn o wyau at y boblogaeth fagu.

Dal a Rhyddhau a'r genweiriwr

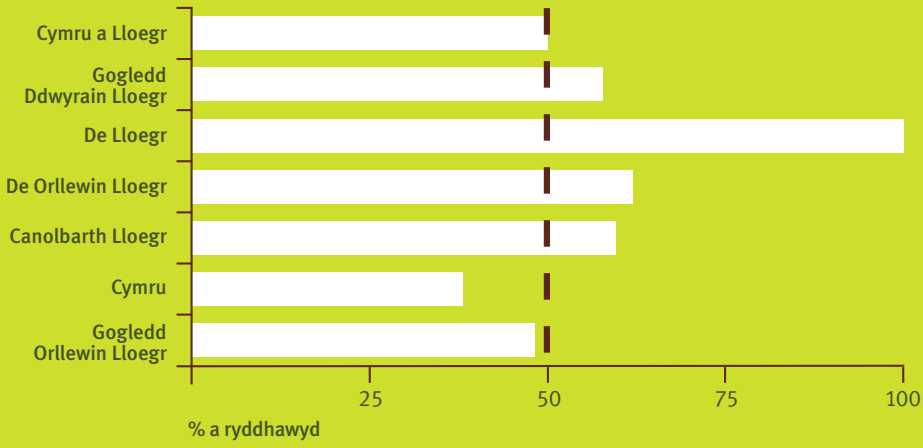
Mae cyfuniad o fwy o ymwybyddiaeth ymhlith genweirwyr, cytundebau gwirfoddol lleol a newidiadau i ddeddfwriaeth wedi arwain at gynnydd mawr yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf yng nghyfran yr eogiaid sy'n cael eu rhyddhau ar ôl eu dal. Ym 1994, dim ond 12% o'r eogiaid a gafodd eu dal gan wialen a gafodd eu rhyddhau gan enweirwyr yng Nghymru a Lloegr o gymharu ag ychydig o dan 50% yn 2004.

Mae is-ddeddf genedlaethol a gyflwynwyd gan yr Asiantaeth ym 1999 i warchod eogiaid y gwanwyn bellach yn sicrhau bod rhaid i enweirwyr ddychwelyd yr holl eogiaid a gafodd eu dal yng Nghymru a Lloegr cyn 16 Mehefin bob blwyddyn.

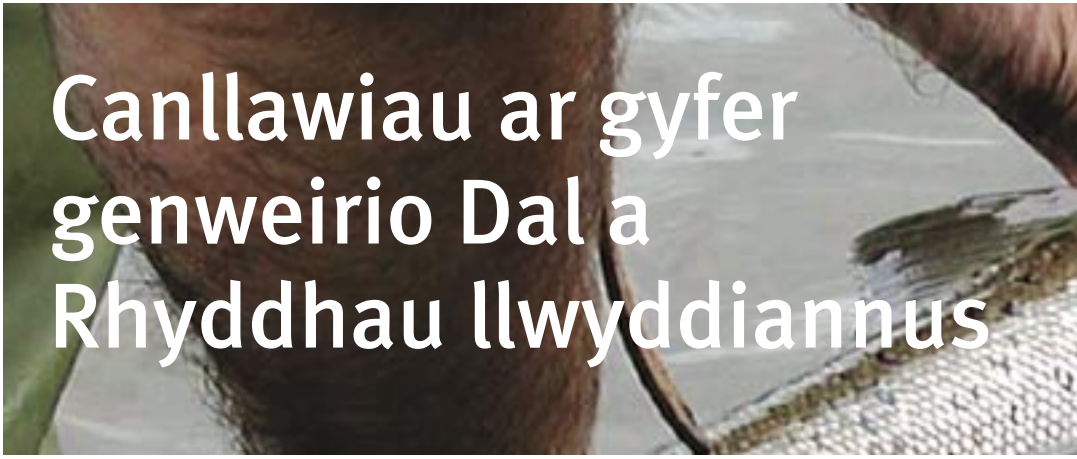
Fodd bynnag, mewn nifer o afonydd, mae'r cyfraddau dal a rhyddhau yn parhau i fod yn isel. Credwn y bydd cynyddu cyfraddau rhyddhau yn yr afonydd hyn, ynghyd â mesurau eraill fel codi llwybrau pysgod ac adfer cynefinoedd wedi'u diraddio, o gymorth wrth wella'r stociau. Gall yr holl enweirwyr chwarae eu rhan wrth helpu i warchod ac adfer ein stociau gwerthfawr o eogiaid.

Trwy ddilyn y canllawiau a nodwyd isod a thrwy ddefnyddio'r Rheolau Hollbwysig bob amser, gallwch fod yn hyderus y bydd gan unrhyw bysgod a ryddheir gennych gyfle uchel iawn o fynd ymlaen i silio'n llwyddiannus.

Cyfraddau Dal a Rhyddhau yn ôl rhanbarthau'r Asiantaeth (2004)



O ganlyniad i gytundebau lleol rhwng genweirwyr, perchnogion a'r Asiantaeth, caiff yr holl eogiaid sy'n cael eu dal yn afonydd Test ac Itchen yn rhanbarth De Lloegr bellach eu rhyddhau ar ôl eu dal.



Canllawiau ar gyfer genweirio Dal a Rhyddhau llwyddiannus

Gêr ac offer pysgota

Dylid defnyddio bachau unigol neu ddwbl bychan bob amser. Dylid osgoi defnyddio bachau trebl. Dylai bachau fod yn ddidagell. Gellir newid bachau tagellog yn hawdd i fachau didagell trwy binsio'r dagell gyda gefelen.

Dylai'r wialen a'r llinyn fod yn ddigon cryf i lanio pysgodyn gydag ychydig iawn o oedi. Mae cryfder y llifoedd a maint posibl y pysgod a geir yn ystyriaethau wrth ddewis y gêr priodol i'w defnyddio.

Byddai eitemau defnyddiol ychwanegol i'w cadw wrth law wrth bysgota yn cynnwys gefelen neu arf tebyg ar gyfer tynnu bachau i ffwrdd yn gyflym, siswrn ar gyfer torri llinyn, rhwyd glanio gyda rhwyll digwlwm a thâp mesur plastig.

Delio â'r pysgodyn

Ar ôl cael bachyn ar bysgodyn, dylai ddod i'r llaw neu'r rhwyd cyn gynted ag sy'n bosibl. Bydd hyn o gymorth i gadw lefelau straen a blinder i leiafswm a bydd yn sicrhau bod y pysgodyn yn gallu gwella'n gyflym.

Cyn dechrau pysgota, mae'n werth meddwl ynghylch ble y gallai pysgodyn gael ei lanio. Y nod yw cadw'r pysgodyn yn y dŵr ac osgoi ei lanio neu ei lusgo ar hyd glan serth cyn ei ryddhau.

Rheol Hollbwysig 1

Defnyddiwch fachau didagell bob amser ac osgowch fachau trebl.

Rheol Hollbwysig 2

Lleihewch yr amser rydych yn ei dreulio yn trafod pysgodyn wedi'i fachu.

Trafod y pysgodyn

Anelwch at drafod y pysgodyn am gyn lleied o amser â phosibl. Gwnewch bob ymdrech i gadw'r pysgodyn yn y dŵr bob amser gan y bydd amlygu pysgodyn yn hir yn yr aer yn lleihau cyfraddau goroesi. Cyn trafod pysgodyn, sicrhewch fod eich dwylo'n wlyb. Osgowch wasgu'r pysgodyn.

RHYBUDD: Gall tymereddau dŵr uchel (>21ºC) leihau cyfraddau goroesi'n sylweddol. Felly, dylai genweirwyr gymryd gofal ychwanegol wrth ymarfer Dal a Rhyddhau pan fydd llifoedd yn isel a thymereddau dŵr yn uchel (amodau nodweddiadol prif adeg yr haf).

Rhyddhau'r pysgodyn

Defnyddiwch efelen i dynnu'r bachau i ffwrdd ond os yw'r bachau'n rhy ddwfn ac y bydd tynnu nhw i ffwrdd yn arwain at niwed neu oedi wrth ryddhau yna torrwch y llinyn mor agos i'r bachyn ag sy'n bosibl.

Daliwch y pysgodyn yn y dŵr mewn cerrynt ysgafn os yn bosibl a chyda'r pysgodyn yn wynebu i fyny'r afon. Gallai'r adferiad gymryd nifer o funudau felly byddwch yn amyneddgar. Arhoswch nes i'r pysgodyn wella'n ddigonol i nofio i ffwrdd wrthych.

Amcangyfrifwch yn gyflym bwysau'r pysgodyn at ddibenion adrodd. Gellir gwneud hyn trwy fesur hyd y pysgodyn a thrwy ddefnyddio'r siart isod i newid yr hyd i'r pwysau. Os nad oes modd mesur hyd y pysgodyn dylid gwneud amcangyfrif o'r pwysau.

Rheol Hollbwysig 3

Rhyddhewch y pysgodyn cyn gynted â phosibl a pheidiwch â'i dynnu allan o'r dŵr.

Rheol Hollbwysig 4

Daliwch y pysgodyn yn y dŵr nes iddo wella'n ddigonol.

Tabl i drosi hyd eogiaid (modfeddi a cm) i bwysau (lb a kg)

modfeddi.	lb.	cms.	kg.
20	3.1	50	1.4
22	4.2	55	1.9
24	5.8	60	2.6
26	7.4	65	3.4
28	9.0	70	4.1
30	10.7	75	4.9
32	12.4	80	5.6
34	15.2	85	6.9
36	18.2	90	8.3
38	21.2	95	9.6
40	24.2	100	11.0
42	27.2	105	12.4
44	30.3	110	13.8
46	33.3	115	15.1
48	36.3	120	16.5
50	39.3	125	17.9
52	42.3	130	19.2

Dylid osgoi ffotograffau oni bai y gellir eu tynnu'n gyflym heb dynnu'r pysgodyn allan o'r dŵr. Ni ddylid codi pysgod allan o'r dŵr gyda'r cynffon dan unrhyw amgylchiadau.

Mwy o wybodaeth

Gellir dod o hyd i wybodaeth am statws stociau o eogiaid a physgodfeydd ar wefan Asiantaeth yr Amgylchedd yn,

www.asiantaeth-amgylchedd.cymru.gov.uk

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)

NASCO, 11 Rutland Square, Edinburgh EH1 2AS
United Kingdom

www.nasco.int

Cymdeithas Eogiaid a Brithyllod (S&TA)

Salmon & Trout Association, Fishmongers' Hall,
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www.salmon-trout.org

Atlantic Salmon Trust

Atlantic Salmon Trust, Moulin, Pitlochry,
Perthshire PH16 5JQ

www.atlanticsalmontrust.org

Welsh Salmon & Trout Angling Association (WSTAA)

Contact email: info@wstaa.org

www.wstaa.org

Hoffech chi ganfod mwy amdanom ni, neu am eich amgylchedd?

Yna galwch ni ar
08708 506 506 (Llun-Gwe 8-6)

e-bost
enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

neu ymwelwch â'n gwefan
www.asiantaeth-amgylchedd.cymru.gov.uk

llinell argyfwng 0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)
llinell llifogydd 0845 988 1188

Amgylchedd yn gyntaf: Argraffwyd y cyhoeddiad hwn ar Cyclus Offset – sef papur a ailgylchwyd trwy ddefnyddio 100 y cant o wastraff ôl-ddefnyddwyr. Defnyddir isgynnyrch o'r mwydion a thrwy weithgynhyrchu papur ar gyfer compost a gwrtaith, i wneud sment ac i drawsnewid gwres.

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