



Salmon & Trout
Conservation
Cymru
YN GWARACHODD EIN DYFRFODD GWYLLT - SEP 1908
DEFENDING OUR WILD WATERS - EST. 1908



WILD TROUT TRUST
wildtrout.org



Game & Wildlife
CONSERVATION TRUST



The Grayling Society

To -

Lesley Griffiths MS
Minister for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs
Welsh Government
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From –

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Dear Minister,

A Plan of Action for Salmon and Sea Trout in Wales – Tackling the ‘Salmonid Emergency’

We write as a collective of fisheries and conservation NGOs, regarding NRW's *Plan of Action for Salmon and Sea Trout in Wales*, launched in April 2020.

Salmon and sea trout are of enormous importance to Wales. Both species have ecological, conservational and economic significance, and are peerless indicators of the health of our rivers, betraying the condition of the land through which they flow. As the Plan describes and depicted below in Appendix 1, the status of Wales's salmon and sea trout stocks has declined dramatically in recent times, with worryingly little improvement predicted within the next four years. Therefore, the need for the Plan is without doubt and we broadly welcome it.

However, for the aspirations of the Plan to be realised, it is imperative that Welsh Government recognises fully and demonstrates the will to address the multiplicity of factors affecting the health of the country's rivers and its salmon and sea trout populations, including the role and repeated impact of increasingly intensive forms of agriculture. Addressing these issues will be no small undertaking and we would therefore urge Welsh Government to ensure that the Plan and its implementation through the detailed Forward Delivery Plan are adequately funded to ensure that Government meets its national and international obligations towards these two keystone species.

We look forward to working with both Welsh Government and NRW, contributing towards the success of the Plan and the return of thriving populations of salmon and sea trout to the rivers of Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Shaun Leonard – Director, The Wild Trout Trust
Richard Garner Williams – National Officer, Salmon and Trout Conservation Cymru
Dylan Roberts – Head of Fisheries, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Rob Hartley – Chairman, The Grayling Society

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, a leading UK charity conducting conservation science to enhance the British countryside for public benefit;
 Salmon & Trout Conservation Cymru, the voice for wild fish in Wales, working to secure the protection that our beautiful Welsh water environments deserve;
 Wild Trout Trust, a conservation charity working across Britain and Ireland to help anyone interested in making a better world for our rivers, lakes and their wildlife, including our native trout;
 The Grayling Society, promoting awareness, conservation and angling for grayling around the world.

Appendix 1

Salmon (left) & sea trout (right) draft stock assessments 2019 (top) & predicted 2024 (bottom) (NRW)

