

9 July 2014

Paper Title	A consultation on Natural Resources Wales' salmon stocking, third party salmon stocking and the future of Natural Resources Wales' hatcheries
Paper Reference:	NRW B B 57.14
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Purpose of Paper:	Information
Recommendation:	To note the response to the consultation and next steps for the review on Natural Resources Wales' salmon stocking, third party salmon stocking and the future of Natural Resources Wales' hatcheries .
Decision Required:	None – Information only

Impact: To note – all headings might not be applicable to the topic	Impact on the Environment: Fish require good water quality and availability and are a key indicator of ecological performance and environmental quality. Impact on the Economy: Wales' fisheries have an important role in providing jobs and income in commercial and recreational fishing, fisheries management and tourism. Impact on Community: Fish can play an important role in engaging people in their environment, education and providing opportunities for recreation and associated health benefits. Impact on Knowledge: We need a strong evidence base to inform our advice to Welsh Government on fisheries policy, to inform Natural Resources Wales' decision making on fisheries management and to inform discussions with partners and co-deliverers.
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Issue

1. This paper provides a summary of the responses to the consultation and sets out the next steps for the review on Natural Resources Wales' salmon stocking, third party salmon stocking and the future of Natural Resources Wales' hatcheries.

Background

2. As a new organisation, Natural Resources Wales is reviewing many aspects of the work we do to make sure they are as effective as possible in delivering for people, the economy and the environment. This includes a review of our own existing salmon stocking activity and associated hatchery operations.

3. To assist Natural Resources Wales in making any final decisions on salmon stocking and hatchery operations, a 12 week public consultation was launched on Tuesday 4th March 2014. This sought views on the recommendations in the review and any further evidence to inform our final decision.

The consultation

4. When the consultation closed on 27th May 2014 over 100 respondents had provided written feedback. Around 25% of the responses came from organisations and the rest from individuals.

5. Many of the responses were received in the last week of the consultation.

6. The responses ranged from one short paragraph through to many pages.

7. We need sufficient time to consider the responses to inform the final decision. We therefore intend the decision paper will come to the October meeting of the Natural Resource Wales Board.

Next Steps

8. A Task and Finish group has been set up to assess the consultation responses and how they can inform our decision.

9. A summary of the responses will be available on our website following an initial assessment of the feedback.

10. We will contact all consultation respondents to advise them on our time line for a decision.

11. As part of the assessment of consultation responses we will identify significant issues, other than those related to salmon stocking and the operation of hatcheries, that are more appropriately addressed by other teams or programmes within Natural Resources Wales.

12. We have also started to assess the feasibility of adapting the Cynrig site for freshwater and fisheries research. We will investigate the potential for partnerships with Welsh academic institutions or other research bodies for developing and funding work at Cynrig.

13. We propose to work with a Welsh university, experienced in such proposals, to develop a business case for an inclusive project that will be submitted to Wales European Funding Office (WEFO).

14. Following analysis of the responses, we will present a final review and recommendations to the Executive Team.

15. Pending the final review, recommendations and decision, Natural Resources Wales will continue to manage the timing of broodstock collection appropriately. Any broodstock collected prior to the final decision will continue through the normal operational cycle.

Risks

16. We need to ensure we have the best evidence base to decide the final outcome of the review.

17. We need to explain the decision and the evidence used to reach our decision.

18. We need to manage the next steps resulting from the decision.

Financial Justifications

19. Ensuring that our policies and our resources are deployed to achieve the best Environmental outcomes.

Communications

20. There will be a wide range of external and internal communications needs associated with this review. We are developing a communications plan to set out how we will manage these.

Equality impact assessment (EqIA)

N/A