

Wye Salmon Association

Newsletter Temperature Monitoring Project



Wye Salmon Association

www.wyesalmon.com

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Wye Temperature Monitoring Project up and Running

Our project to continuously monitor selected spawning streams over a period of 4 years in order to better understand the effect of 'in stream' temperatures on the spawning success and survival of salmon juveniles has now reached the monitoring stage. Over the last week our volunteer team led by Richard Adeney had an interesting time locating and negotiating permissions to access the eleven sites and fix data loggers in position in streams ranging across the upper catchment from Sgithwen at Llanstephan to Dernol above Rhayader.

In 2016 NRW and EA completed the England/Wales salmonid fry and parr survey, indicating juvenile salmon densities were less than expected; roughly half compared to 2015 & 5 year average; the lowest since 2007 and second lowest in survey history. This decline was also evidenced in 2014 & 2015 classes and data suggested this the result of extreme water temperatures throughout Nov and Dec, the key spawning period for salmon. Scientific studies indicate salmonid breeding success and juvenile survival are sensitive to high ambient temperatures, with 66% mortality at 12°C compared to 14% at 8°C.

Our project deployed data loggers over 11 sites identified by NRW as significant to salmon spawning. This number may be increased next year to 25 sites. Loggers have been placed to monitor water & air temperatures at each site, recording every hour during the sampling period.

Over winter our team will visit sites to ensure loggers remain in place and recording.

They will download data to build up a picture of temperatures. This data will be collated ready to be matched with next years NRW electro fishing results and placed open sourced on our website. We expect data will be used to assist in developing a management plan for Wye salmon.

Interested in joining us for what is really no more than a couple of hours out in the beautiful scenery of the upper Wye catchment? Contact enquiries@wyesalmon or ring 07789133263.



Temperature logger in Clywedog Brook



Data logger [yellow] mounted ready to be immersed

