

THE WESTERN CLEDDAU

The catchment of the Western Cleddau is low-lying, lacking the upland headwaters typical of many Welsh rivers. Flowing southwards, it cuts across the structural orientation of the underlying rocks, while its tributaries are controlled by faults and folds. It flows over sands and gravels deposited during the last glaciation and has more or less natural flow.

CATCHMENT AREA
197.6 km²

LENGTH
30 km

RIVER SOURCE
Mathry

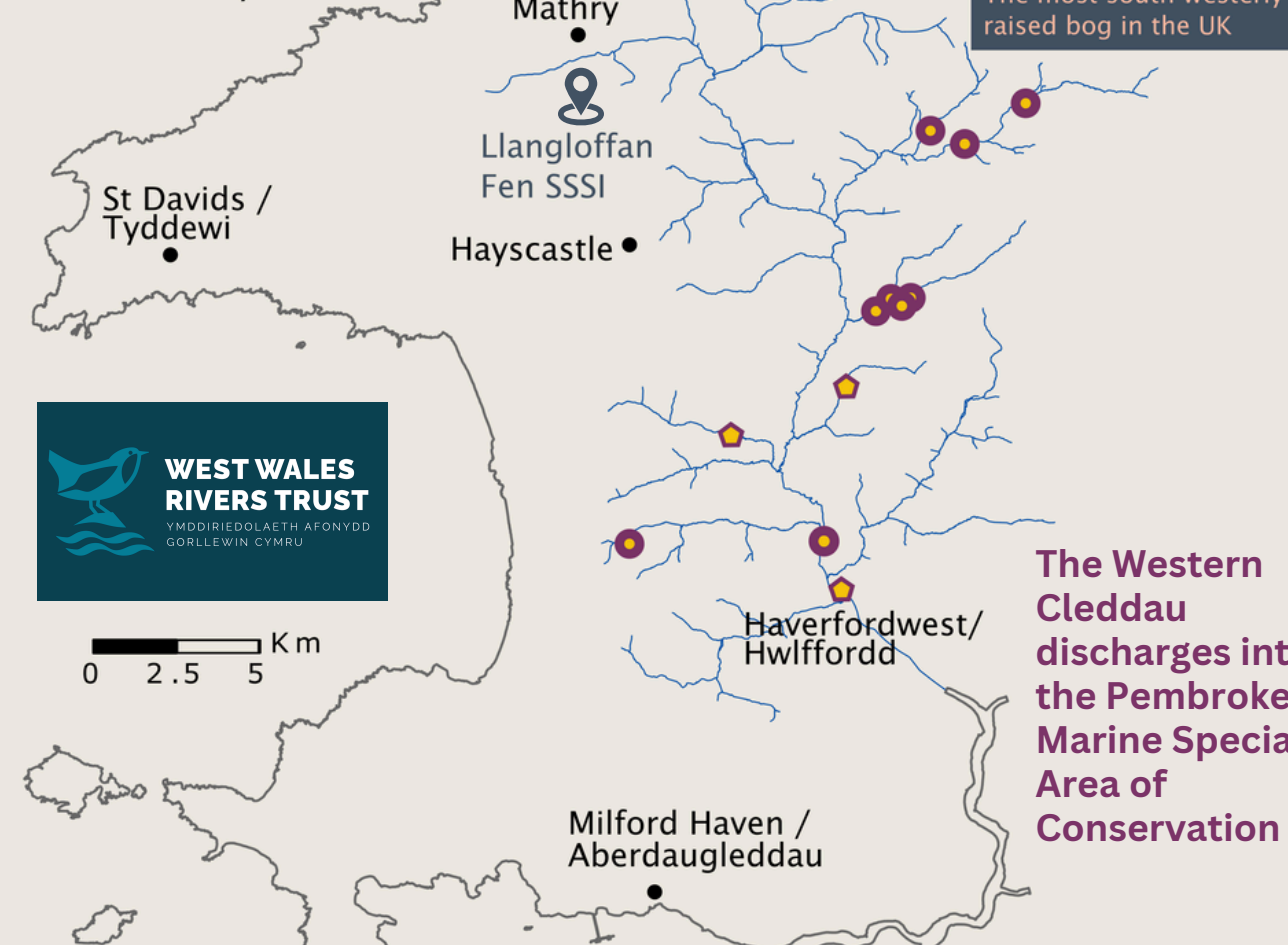
SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION
to protect designated species and habitats:



The aim is to achieve a favourable conservation status for these species and habitats, which means that they are able to thrive sustainably. Currently, **none of them are in a favourable status, except otter.**

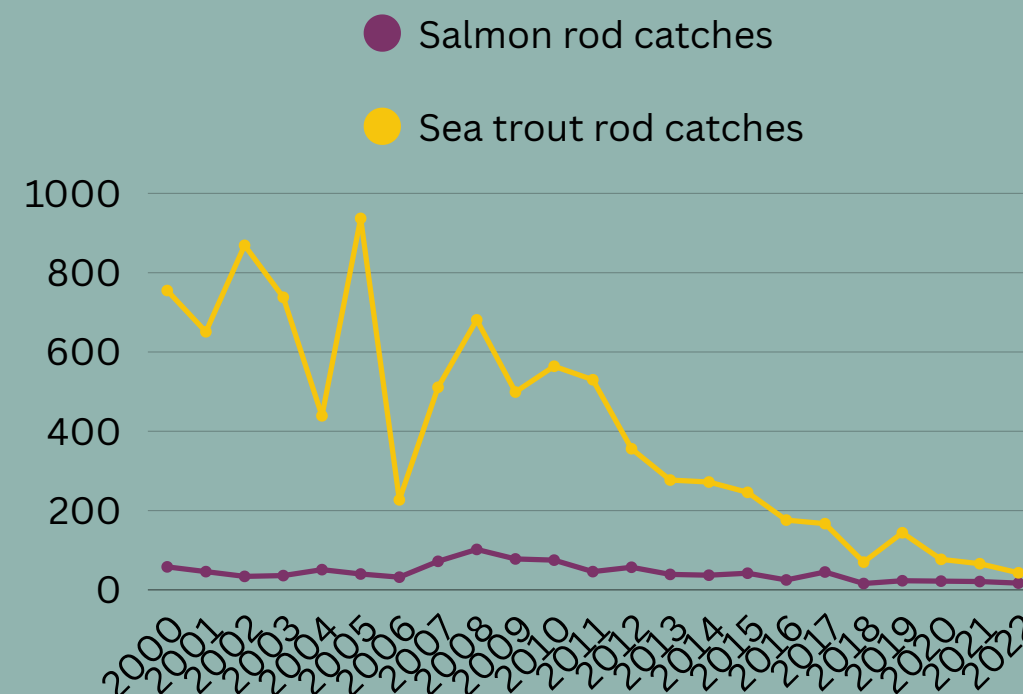
Barriers to fish migration:

- Existing
- Removed / modified by WWRT



The Western Cleddau discharges into the Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation

FISH POPULATIONS AT RISK



Salmon populations are depleted and at risk. This is unlikely to change in the near future according to projections for 2026 by NRW.

Data from the Environment Agency

NOT IN GOOD HEALTH

The health of our rivers is assessed using a range of ecological and chemical indicators. Under the Water Framework Directive, a river can be classified as High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad. High means close to natural conditions.

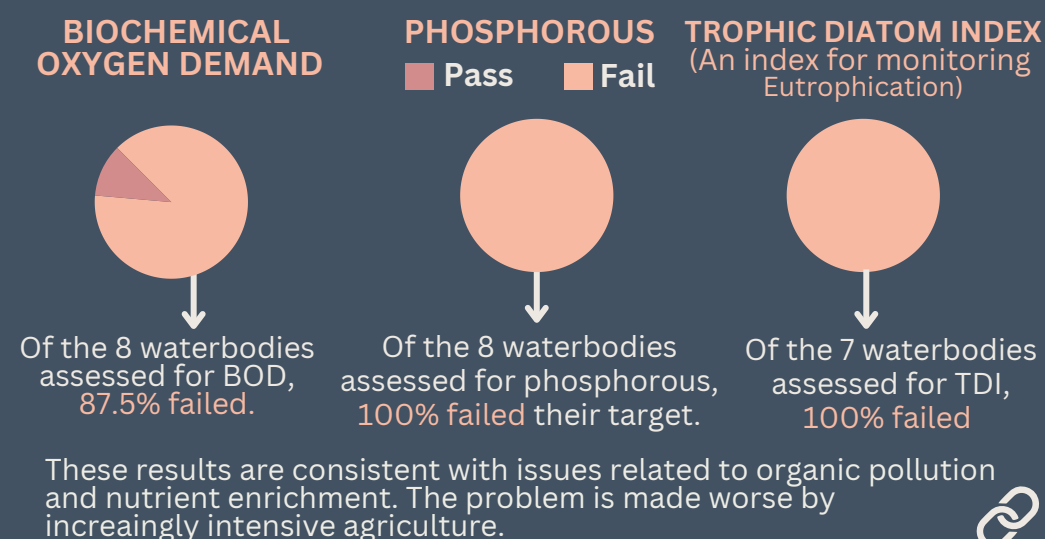
- Only 1 tributary** in the Western Cleddau is in **good overall health**. The remaining 11 are moderate.
- Only 1 tributary** in the Western Cleddau is in **good ecological health**. The remaining 11 are moderate.
- All tributaries** in the Western Cleddau are in **bad chemical health**.

ORGANIC POLLUTION

The Afonydd Cleddau SAC has several water bodies failing for multiple water quality attributes.

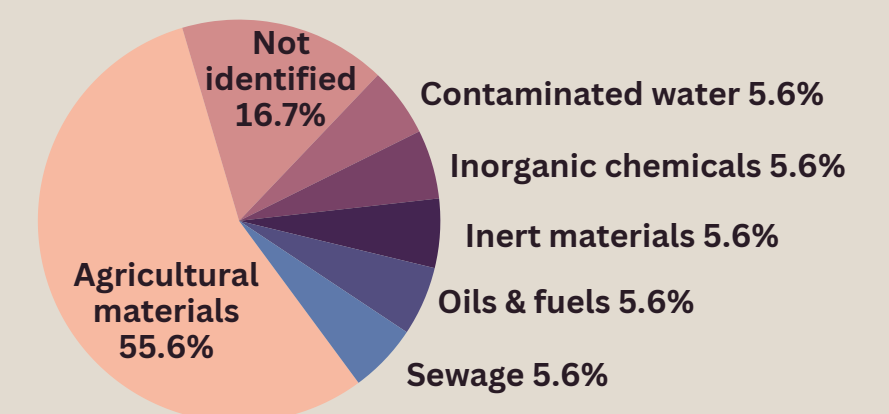
It is the only SAC found to have recurrent Total Ammonia failures.

The Western Cleddau, in particular, suffers from some of the highest concentrations of phosphorous of all Welsh SAC rivers.



SOURCE OF POLLUTION INCIDENTS

2016 - 2022



Data: NRW