

**Viscount Mills takes the Chair at Afonydd Cymru**

Afonydd Cymru is very pleased to announce that Chris Mills has agreed to become our chairman and was formally elected at our recent board meeting. Chris will be best known as the last Executive Director of **Environment Agency Wales** before the creation of **NRW**.

Afonydd Cymru and its six member Rivers Trusts are engaged in river restoration and pressing the case for tougher regulation of farm pollution, planning and more effective enforcement of both. Wales' thirty three rivers all suffer from the effects of pollution which mainly comes from agriculture especially Dairy and Poultry. Our new chairman arrives at a time when the number of pollutions has reached a new peak, Brexit is setting new challenges for farmers and government; the Climate Change emergency adds new demands on our land use priorities.

**Chris Mills**

A graduate of the University of London in Biological Science and with a Master's degree in Fish Biology from Plymouth, he took up a position at the Salmon Research Trust of Ireland in Co Mayo, before returning to the UK to take up positions with both the National Rivers Authority and the Environment Agency. Following retirement from EA Wales, he worked for the Northern Ireland Environment Agency leading the regulation of waste and water, and with Scottish Environment Protection Agency setting up their Enforcement Function. Chris sits on a number of boards, including the RSPB, the Angling Trust and the Institute of Fisheries Management.

**Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith**, CEO Afonydd Cymru said: "We are incredibly fortunate to have Chris on board. His knowledge of fisheries, especially salmon and sewin is well matched with his long experience of dealing with all the environmental problems facing Wales today. This will be vital in our fight to restore our rivers and fisheries at this crucial time.

**Chris Mills**, now Chair of Afonydd Cymru, added “I am delighted to be joining Afonydd Cymru and to be associated with the Rivers Trust Movement in Wales. I have long admired the work of these bodies which have made a real and practical difference to the management of our water environment. Given the growing environmental challenges such as pollution and climate change and the declining stocks of salmon and sewin, the work of Afonydd Cymru is becoming ever more vital and I look forward to playing my part in helping to protect these precious natural resources for future generations.

**Ends:**

**Notes for Editors:**

Please contact Stephen Marsh-Smith 07812 118065 for further information or [stephen@afonyddcymru.org](mailto:stephen@afonyddcymru.org)

1. Afonydd Cymru is the umbrella organisation and representative of Wales’ six Rivers Trusts, who in turn deliver projects that restore our rivers. Wales once had some of the best salmon and sea trout fishing in the UK and EU but this has been badly affected by agricultural pollution, especially in the Southwest, Northeast and Anglesey. The situation has progressively worsened. Afonydd Cymru believes only robust regulation/legislation and enforcement combined with independent farm advice will bring about any meaningful change.

More details at [www.afonyddcymru.org](http://www.afonyddcymru.org) pictures of pollution:  
<http://afonyddcymru.org/what-are-the-issues-facing-our-rivers>

2. Progress is being made by Rivers Trusts across Wales and have developed schemes to support farmers with pragmatic solutions to reduce pollution while helping to maintain business sustainability as well as working with NRW to deliver solutions to the many problems in our rivers

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