

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:

-  **Sea Lamprey**  **European Otter**
-  **Bullhead**  **Alluvial forests**
-  **Brook & River Lamprey**  **Active raised bog**

 **Water courses with water crowfoot vegetation**

 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.**

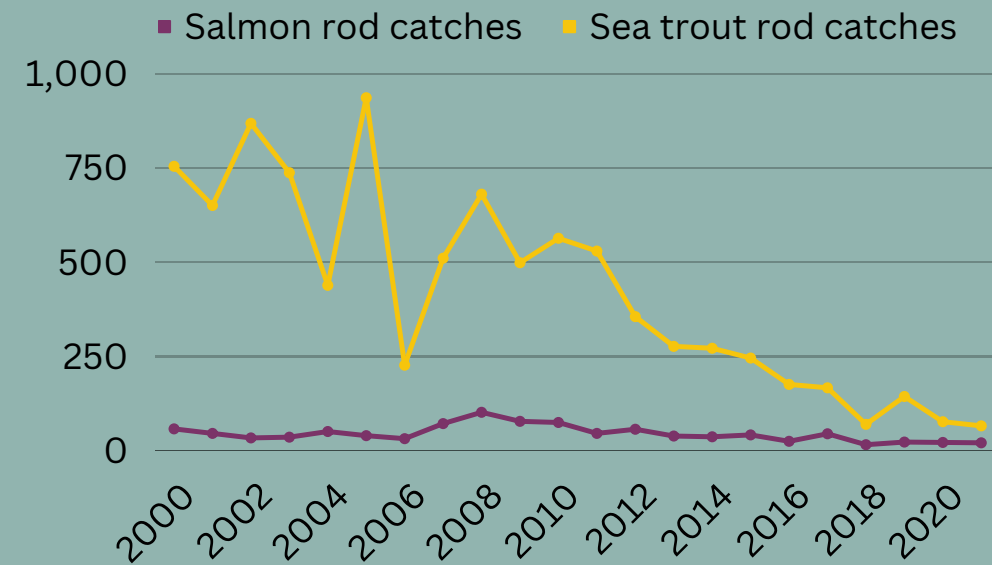
Barriers to fish migration:

-  Existing
-  Removed / modified by WWRT



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

FISH POPULATIONS AT RISK



Combined rod catches for the Western and Eastern Cleddau.

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

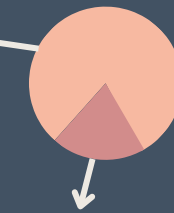
The health of our rivers is assessed using a range of ecological and chemical indicators. Under the Water Framework Directive, a river can be classified as High, Good, Moderate, Poor or Bad. High means close to natural conditions.

- **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**.

TOO MUCH PHOSPHORUS

Excessive amount of phosphorus in rivers leads to the growth of algae, reducing oxygen and harming the wildlife. The problem is made worse by increasingly intensive agriculture.

8 rivers in the catchment fail their target

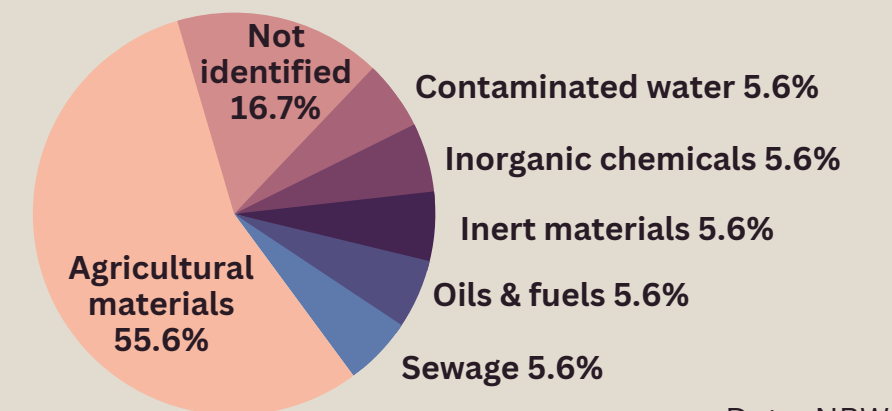


2 rivers were not assessed

“The Western Cleddau suffers from some of the highest concentrations of phosphorous of all Welsh SAC rivers.”

SOURCE OF POLLUTION INCIDENTS

2016 - 2022



Data: NRW