



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**WRITTEN ASSEMBLY QUESTION
FOR ANSWER BY
THE CABINET SECRETARY FOR ENERGY, PLANNING
AND RURAL AFFAIRS
ON 12 FEBRUARY 2018**

Janet Finch-Saunders (Aberconwy): Will the Cabinet Secretary respond to comments by the Chair of Natural Resources Wales that statutory catch-and-release in Wales does not have the full support of the angling community and is only part of the solution to declining fish stocks, and advise as to the Welsh Government's position on such a policy?(WAQ75835)

Lesley Griffiths: I have received significant correspondence from stakeholders within the angling community in Wales, and further afield, on the proposals by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to alter fishing byelaws in relation to salmon and sea trout. These are iconic species present in Welsh rivers.

Our Natural Resources Policy (NRP) recognises how Welsh rivers and seas provide important recreational angling opportunities and economic benefit in rural and coastal communities. I want to see thriving rivers supporting angling and other activities which are important for our communities.

Until I receive the formal application from NRW, I am unable to consider the range of issues in detail. These will be important for me to make a determination on NRW's proposals.

I am not able to comment further until I have both seen and considered NRW's formal application.
