

19/08/2009

Dear Ms Hawkins

I wish to express my extreme concern regarding proposed changes to the law regarding canoeing and other craft access and use of Welsh rivers.

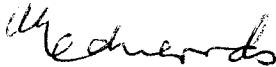
As a fisherman who fishes on several Welsh rivers including the Usk, Teifi and the Ystwyth and also a sailor, I consider it absurd to contemplate free access to all waterways by all comers. Those of us who fish pay a significant fee to the environment agency for the privilege and also fees to the legal owners of the river banks and fishing rights.

If free access was granted to craft users then this right would logically be extended to others including fishermen, depriving the owners of the fishing rights of revenue. This would result in neglect of the riverbanks as there would be no income to fund such work, inevitably this would result in deterioration in the fishery with the knock on effects to tourism and the local economy.

I feel I should bring your attention to the fact that Welsh sea trout (sewin) fishing attracts fishermen from all over the world and can only be equalled outside Europe. Such a facility should not be endangered lightly particularly if no alternative asset to the local economy is being considered.

I am not anti watercraft user; I just believe that they should be regulated and contribute to the facility they use in the same way as the rest of the population

Yours Sincerely



Dr Alan Edwards

*Ms Virginia Hawkins,
Clerk to the Committee,
Sustainability Committee,
Welsh Assembly, Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff CF99 1NA.*