

## Operation of temporary fish traps by Natural Resources Wales

Rotary Screw Traps (RSTs) are temporary fish traps used to capture young salmon and sea trout on their journey to the sea. This note informs canoeists and other river users where and when they may encounter these in-river structures.

In Wales, RSTs are operated at two sites in the River Usk catchment, South Wales: One on the main river at Abercamlais (SN 95994 29168) and the second on a tributary - the Afon Ysgir - near Aberyscir.

These traps come in various sizes but all consist of a rotating cone-shaped drum mounted between two floating pontoons. Operation involves the positioning of each trap in the main body of the flow where the drum is lowered into the water until half submerged. Water flowing through the mouth of the drum causes it to rotate by acting on an internal vane. The same vane moves any fish which enter the drum to the rear of the RST where they are delivered into a holding box for tagging and release.

At both the Abercamlais (Fig 1) and Ysgir sites (Fig 2), the RSTs are fished only in the spring/early summer (March to June), and then just between the hours of dusk and dawn - when they are manned. Warning and egress signs will be placed on both banks – 50-200m upstream and on the traps themselves, this will notify river users of their presence.

At Abercamlais, straight sections of river of around 170m lie immediately upstream and downstream of the trapping site and so give a good line-of-sight for river users. On the Ysgir, the RST is also located in a straight section of river but with wooded banks. In both cases, bankside signage gives advanced notice of these structures. Similarly, both locations feature shallow sections upstream where canoeists can disembark (see Figs 1 and 2).

### Contact details for Rotary Screw Traps operated by Natural Resources Wales on the River Usk and Afon Ysgir, Wales:

River	NGR	Period of operation	Contact
Usk (main river)	SN 95994 29168	April to May	Oliver Brown Tel: 01874 665212 <a href="mailto:Oliver.Brown@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk">Oliver.Brown@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</a>
Ysgir			Simon Evans Tel: 01874 711714 <a href="mailto:Simon@wyeuskfoundation.org">Simon@wyeuskfoundation.org</a>

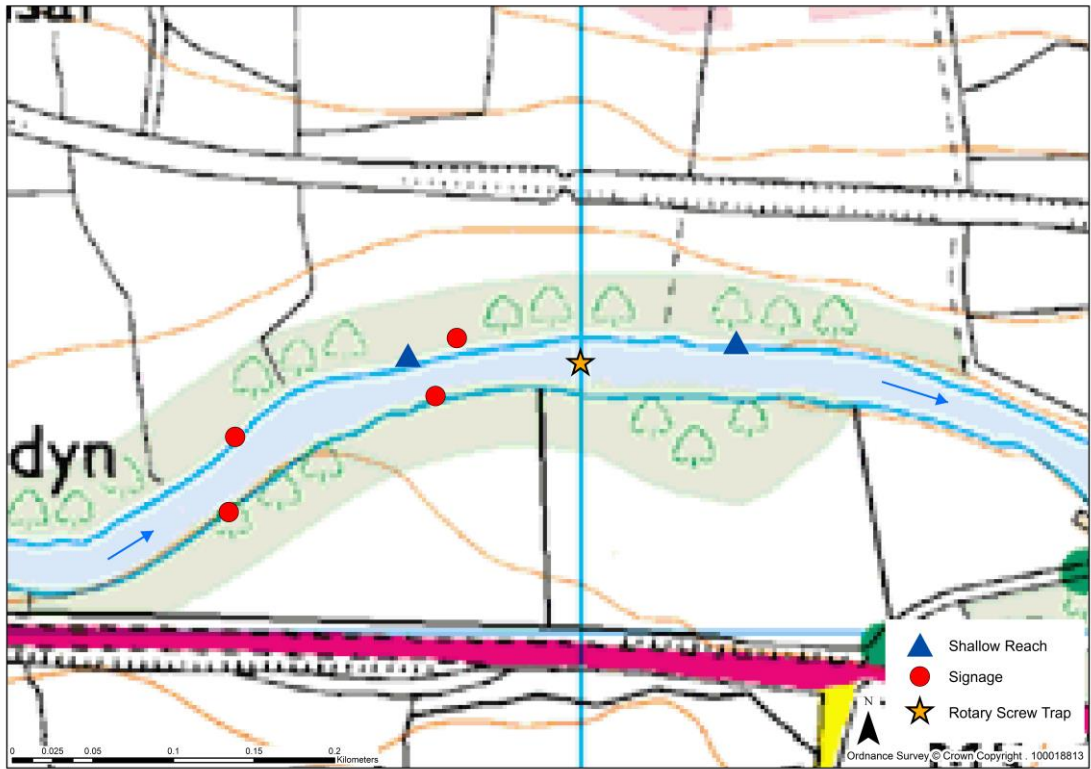


Fig 1: Rotary Screw Trap: Main River Usk, Abercamlais (SN 95994 29168)



Fig 2: Rotary Screw Trap: Afon Ysgir, near Aberyscir