

OSPREY FLY FISHER'S ASSOCIATION
(Incorporating Pontypridd & District Angling Society)



Hon. Sec. Dennis Baynham

Dr, Virginia Hawkins,
Clerk to the Sustainability Committee,
Welsh Assembly Government,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

13th September, 2009

Dear Dr. Hawkins,

Inquiry into Access to Inland Waters in Wales

As Secretary of the Ospreys Fly Fishers Association I wish protest, on behalf of our 100 plus members, at the proposal that the Inland Waters in Wales should be made freely available to all and sundry.

Our Association was set up nearly forty years ago, and during that time we have managed to purchase or lease fishing rights on the Taff, Rhondda, Clydach and the Usk, access to these stretches has been arranged with the appropriate landowners where necessary, and we strive to maintain a good working relationship with them.

In conjunction with other bodies such as the Environment Agency and the Rivers Trust Association we are continually looking at ways to improve conditions along the river, trying to get rid of Japanese Knotweed for example.

That the rivers in this part of South Wales have improved to such an extent that anglers from other parts of the Country are eager to come and fish our rivers is due largely to the determined efforts of the fishing fraternity, involving a great deal of time and effort from dedicated volunteers, to say nothing of the expense incurred, readily given by our members.

We cannot accept the view that rivers should be a free natural resource available to all as and when they wish, for whatever purpose they wish, such an attitude would inevitably lead to friction with landowners, farmers and riparian owners, I would urge the Committee therefore to reject the proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Secretary