Juvenile Salmonid Summary
Ogmore Catchment

This report summarises the findings of the 2018 juvenile salmonid monitoring on the Ogmore catchment. A more detailed assessment of the stocks will be available in 2019 when the Know Your Rivers reports are published.

Juvenile Salmonid Monitoring Programme

In 2018 the temporal (annual) programme consists of 2 sites on the Ogmore catchment. The temporal data is used to look at trends in juvenile salmon and trout densities giving an idea of spawning across the whole catchment. Additionally, a number of spatial sites are surveyed which, are carried out every 6 years on a rolling programme.

Key Points

Weather Conditions

The 2018 monitoring season was hindered by a prolonged period of hot weather and, low rainfall leading to a period of drought. Inevitably, the reduced flows of many watercourses were not ideal habitats for juvenile salmonids, with densities likely to be affected.

Salmon Observations

The Ogmore catchment was found to be poor for salmon fry and parr again which, were surveyed at low densities. This can be argued to correlate to the poor rod catch in 2017, with only 18 adult salmon caught across the Ogmore catchment. However, salmon parr can be seen to have made a very minor recovery in densities although, this remains below the 5-year average figures along with fry densities.

Trout Observations

Trout fry densities on the Ogmore catchment were improved compared to the 2015 to 2017 period although, trout fry densities were very close to reaching the 5-year average figure. Furthermore, the juvenile trout densities are positive when consideration is given to sea trout rod catch which, was down in 2017 compared to historic data. The improved densities of trout fry will be due to the more settled winter periods between 2016/17 and 2017/18. This will have led to increased egg survival.

Salmon and Trout Classifications

The following maps show the results of the routine juvenile salmonid population surveys from 2018 on the Ogmore catchment.

The symbols display the National Fish Classification Scheme (NFCS) grades which have been developed to evaluate and compare the results of fish population surveys in a consistent manner. The NFCS ranks survey data by comparing fish abundance at the survey sites with sites across Wales and England where juvenile salmonids are present. Sites are classified into categories A to F, depending on densities of juvenile salmonids at the site.

The following table shows the values and classification of NFCS.

| Grade	Descriptor	Interpretation
A	Excellent	In the top 20% for a fishery of this type
B	Good	In the top 40% for a fishery of this type
C	Fair	In the middle 20% for a fishery of this type
D	Fair	In the bottom 40% for a fishery of this type
E	Poor	In the bottom 20% for a fishery of this type
F	Fishless	No fish of this type present

Ogmore Trout Juvenile Grades 2018
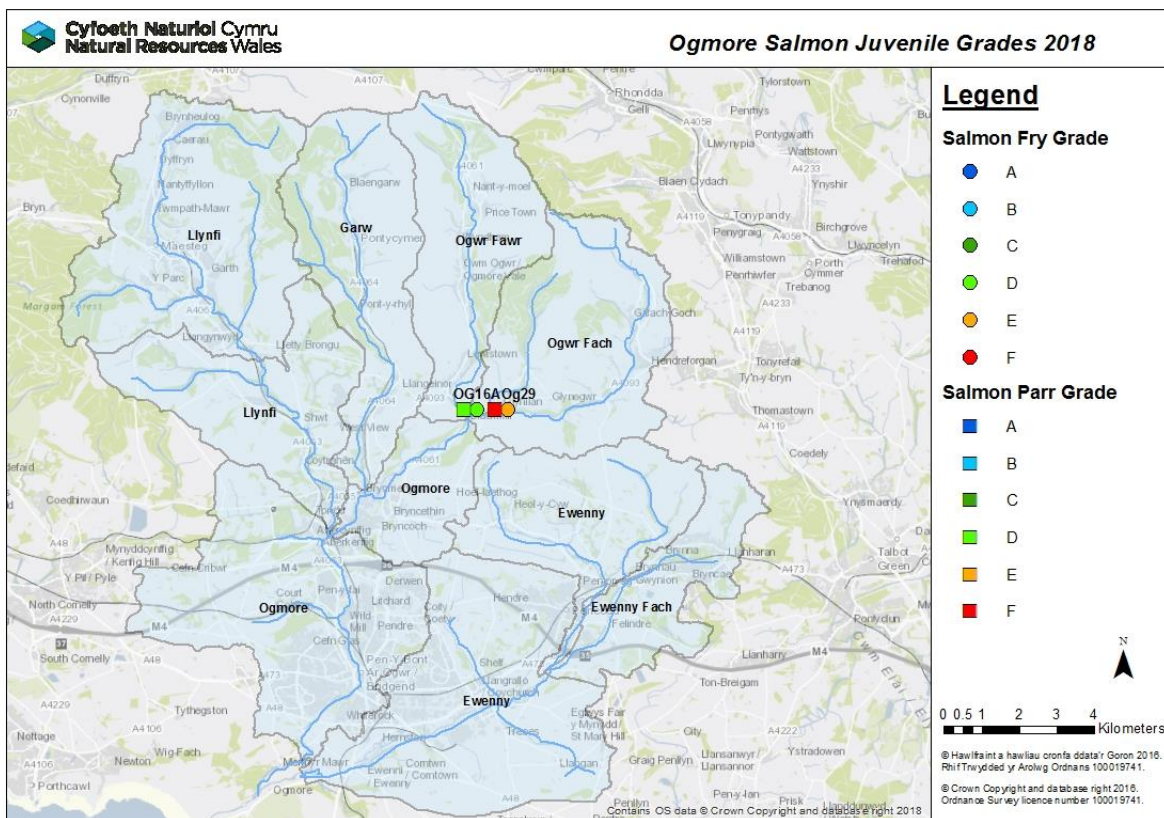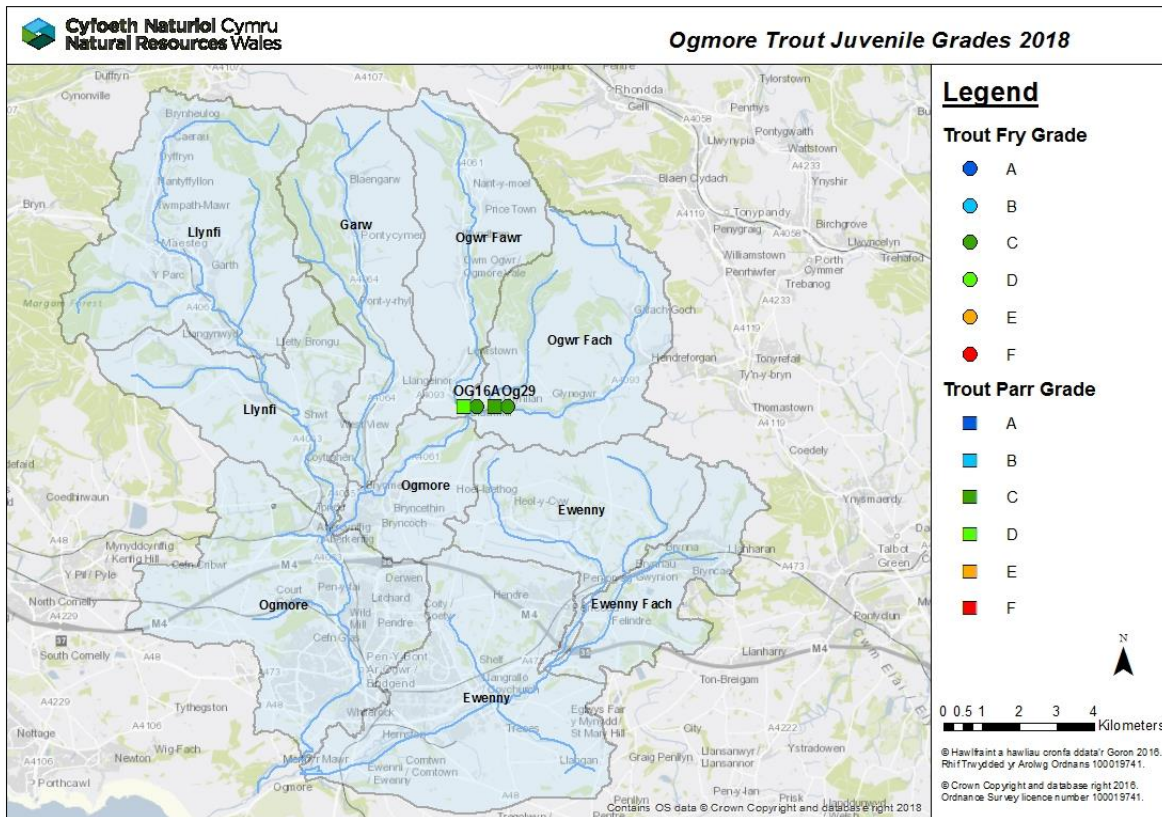
Catchment Population Trends

The graphs below show a simple comparison of average salmon and, trout densities across the temporal sites on the Ogmore catchment since 2012. NB – the data shown here are from Semi Quantitative surveys while, not every site in the programme was done annually.

The salmon fry and parr densities have demonstrated a decline since 2013, falling from moderate levels of fry and low levels of parr, to minimal densities of both. However, the density records do show minor fluctuations since 2015 but, the overall picture demonstrates declining numbers on the Ogmore catchment. These findings are consistent with a prolonged period of low salmon rod-catch figures which, continue to decline gradually.

Ogmore Catchment Average Densities of Salmon 2012-2018
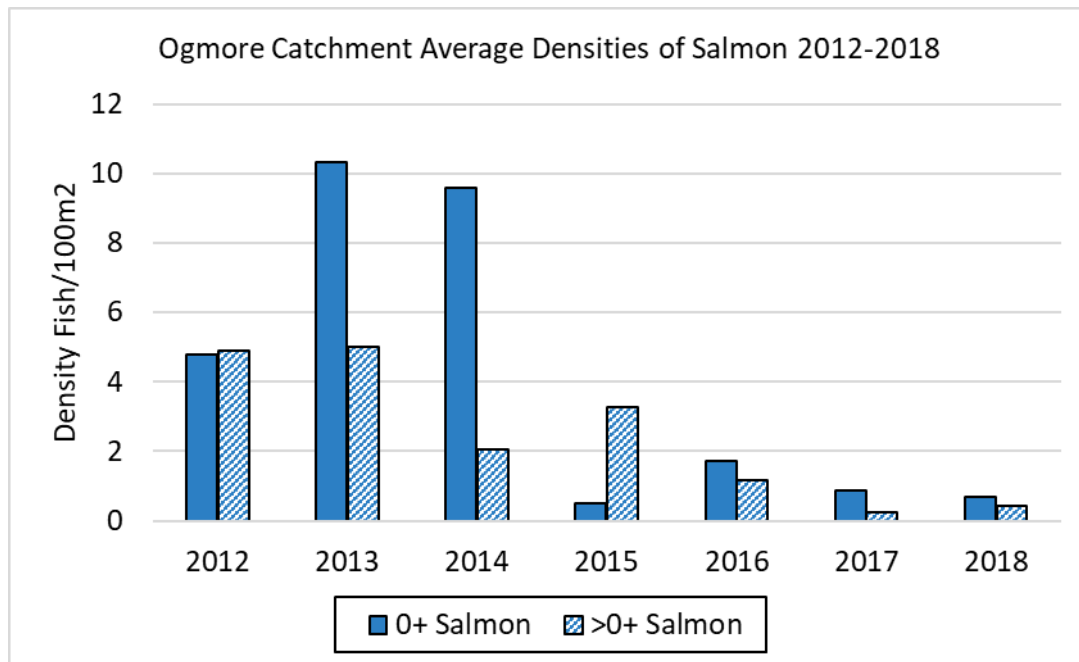
The trout fry and parr densities on the Ogmore catchment have fluctuated in the period 2012 to 2018, with the most recent year representing a significant recovery in fry and parr densities when, compared to the previous three years. Oddly, this improvement does not corroborate with rod catch data recorded in 2017 which, displayed a significant reduction in adult trout caught on the Ogmore catchment.

The improvement of 2018 was preceded by two years of low trout fry densities on record in 2016 and 2017 which, are believed to have been caused due to bad weather conditions in 2016. The results from 2017 indicated that trout fry densities made a minor recovery, before the significant resurgence of 2018.

Ogmore Catchment Average Densities of Trout 2012-2018
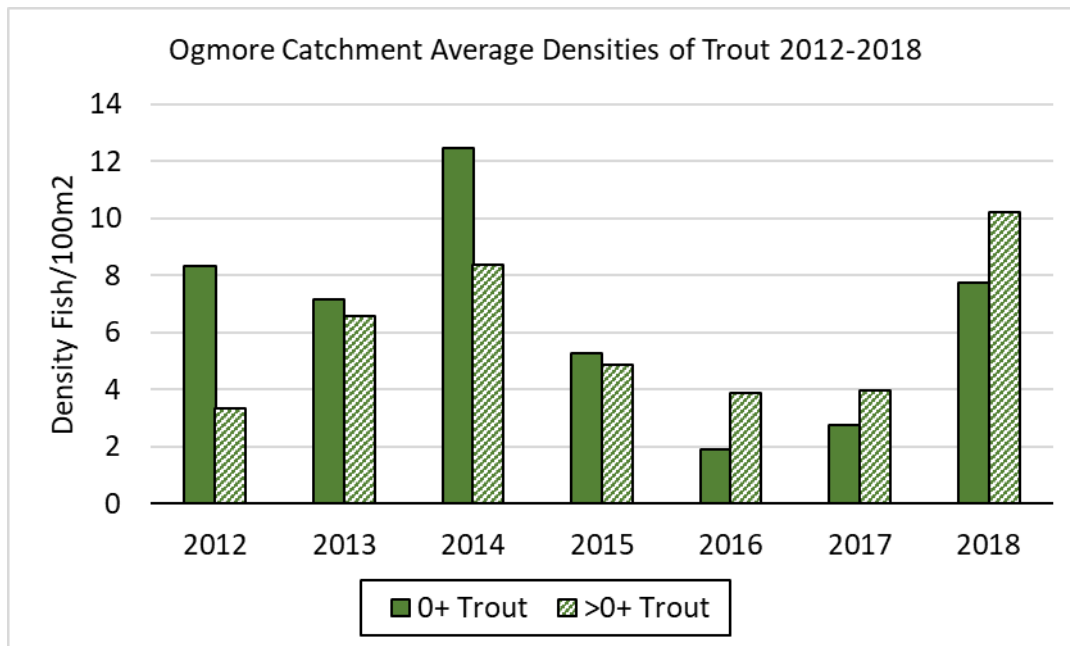
The following table shows a simple comparison of the catchment average density of juvenile salmon and trout from 2018, and compares this against 2017, and the 5-year average. NB - The five year average has been set from 2011 to 2015 as 2016 was a poor year.

	0+ Salmon	>0+ Salmon	0+ Trout	>0+ Trout
2018 average density	4.4	2.0	6.6	4.8
2017 average density	0.9	0.3	1.9	3.9
Percentage difference to 2017	**401%**	**706%**	**141%**	**20%**
5-yr average (2011-15)	6.3	3.8	8.3	5.8
Percentage difference to 5-yr average	**-29%**	**-46%**	**-20%**	**-17%**

Salmon fry and parr densities on the Ogmore catchment have, continued to demonstrate minimal figures on the Ogmore which, is significantly under the 5-year average figures for this catchment. However, salmon parr densities were recorded as making a minor recovery in the 2018 figures when compared to 2017.

The trout fry and parr density figures on the Ogmore catchment, have demonstrated a significant recovery in 2018. The trout fry densities have recovered to match the 5-year average figure which, is a positive change for the catchment following the reduced densities of 2015, 2016 and 2017. Additionally, the trout parr densities recorded in 2018 have also shown a significant recovery which, demonstrate an increase on the 5-year average figures.

Due to the poor trout fry densities in 2016 and 2017, a decline in trout parr would usually be expected yet, the 2018 results are quite positive. Especially, when compared to the decline in rod-caught trout in the Ogmore catchment in 2017.