

# RFCA NEWS No. 13

March 2010.

This Newsletter is long overdue but pressure of events has made it difficult to keep up. We seem to be living in a time of constant change for Fishery interests with new consultations appearing almost daily and new legislation coming into force. Some people say why bother with the regional or national scene just concentrate on the local situation. It would be wonderful if we could but it would be foolhardy in the extreme. We in the Ribble Catchment do not fish in a vacuum and national legislation affects us all. If we do not respond to consultations then we cannot grumble afterwards when we do not like what happens. The fact that we respond does not mean that we get what we want but if enough of us do respond then at least we have a chance.

## **Poaching and River Watch**

It is too early in the season for poaching to have started but we all need to be vigilant. Please report anything suspicious to the E.A. Hotline 0800 80 70 60 and then let our poaching officer, Bruce Spedding, know on 07766441952. We are hoping that 2010 may see some new initiatives on the Ribble Catchment.

## **Pollution**

Sadly there have been some small-scale pollutions in the last few months. The continuing high water helped keep the effect of these to a minimum. Relations between the RFCA and the E.A. Pollution teams are excellent and they do much good work.

If you believe there is a pollution incident ring the E.A. hotline **0800 80 70 60** and then let Fred Higham, Pollution Officer for the RFCA for the Ribble and Hodder, know on **01200 423314** and Grahame Parkes for the Calder **07861 696813**

## **Hydropower**

Settle Hydro is now up and running. A member of the Settle Angling committee has agreed to keep an eye on this and to report any infringement of the licence agreement to the EA and then to us. We will keep a log of incidents and report them to Fish Legal. Our sole aim is to ensure that migratory fish have enough water to get through the fish pass and reach their spawning grounds. Any organisation who maintains they have green credentials should support us in this. If anyone hears of any proposed hydro scheme on the Ribble Catchment we should be obliged if you would inform the RFCA. We work closely with the Angling Trust and Salmon and Trout Association in opposing hydro schemes. We deplore the misleading E.A. Press Release on small-scale hydropower, where claims were made that cannot be substantiated for the amount of electricity that these schemes could supply. Neither are hydro schemes as green as they are claimed. The Archimedes Screw for Settle Hydro came all the way from Germany, no carbon footprint there then? We agree with the European Anglers Alliance and with Canada that no hydro scheme that affects the environment can be regarded as green. Many countries in Europe, including Scotland, have banned all schemes under 100kw. This would, for example, remove over 90% of all identified sites in the North West. Do not be misled either by claims that putting a hydro scheme on an existing barrier would get a fish pass. First it is cheaper to remove the barrier and secondly the legislation enforcing a fish pass has not been passed. Remember once you have a hydro you are stuck with that barrier for another 50 years when we should be looking to remove barriers.

## **Water Related Recreation Activities Draft Strategy NW.**

Thank you to all the people who wrote in complaining about this very poor document. All the major fishery organisations from the Eden, Derwent, Lune and Ribble made their views known. Fishery representatives on the NW Regional, Ecology, Recreation Advisory Committee also made their views known and RFERAC was not in favour. RFCA Chairman met senior E.A. NW figures to express grave doubts as to the document and submitted a twelve page critique. We are delighted to say that the document has been withdrawn in its current format and will be rewritten. Let us hope that second time around it will be more factually accurate.

If no one had objected that document would have become policy with grave implications for fisheries and encouragement to the unlawful activities of canoeists.

We are still awaiting news from the Welsh Assembly and their deliberations on a similar document for Wales.

### State of the river and Counter Figures.

#### Final records for 2009

	Waddow			Winckley			Locks	
	Up	Down		Up	Down		Up	Down
January	5	17		95	4		-	-
February	5	2		23	4		-	-
March	18	9		42	12		-	-
April	37	2		84	30		-	-
May	163	8		309	31		-	-
June	837	43		2168	237		-	-
July	776	56		1767	134		-	-
August	733	58		1306	72		95	37
September	466	21		214	34		87	20
October	1768	51		909	134		369	34
November	166	22		429	33		167	74
December	28	4		162	27		59	122
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4976</b>	<b>293</b>		<b>7548</b>	<b>748</b>		<b>777</b>	<b>287</b>

P.S. The Locks counter began recording on 5/8 after installation and recorded throughout August and September. However, between 1/10 and 20/10, the counter system failed completely and was replaced on the 20th, fortunately just before the main run of fish as it had been a dry month previous to this date.

#### 2010

	Waddow			Winckley			Locks	
	Up	Down		Up	Down		Up	Down
January	8	12		279	15			
February	2	5		28	6			
March								

P.S. The Locks data is still awaiting verification

As you know the Ribble had another good season in 2009. The numbers of fish being put back can only do good to the spawning figures. I know catch and release in some quarters is a dirty word but one has to remember what we were facing a few years ago on the Ribble with the river identified as **not** being likely to meet its targets for 2011. All sorts of draconian measures were discussed, out of which we have a Net Limitation Order and a 2 fish kill byelaw. The 3 year interim review period for the NLO has been reached and the E.A. are producing a review document. The RFCA has contributed to this and we anticipate no change in the next 3 years.

## Byelaws

A number of byelaws have been reviewed and some amendments will apply. In addition, there was a further consultation that closed on 20<sup>th</sup> January covering the following items. These can be accessed from below:

You can view the byelaws and the reasons why we are introducing them –

- [coarse fish removal \(PDF, 75KB\);](#)
- [coarse fish close season \(PDF, 61KB\);](#)
- [brown trout close season \(PDF, 50KB\);](#)
- [consequential byelaw amendments \(PDF, 39KB\)](#)

A full copy of all the byelaws that apply in the Northwest (December 2009) can be downloaded from the link below:

### North West Regional Byelaws

[Regional Byelaws](#)

[River Lune Byelaws](#)

[River Ribble Byelaws](#)

[Rivers Leven and Crake Byelaws](#)

[Skerton Weir Byelaws](#)

[River Eden and Solway Firth Time Limited Byelaws \(13th November 2007 – 12th November 2017\)](#)

[North West Regional Sea Fisheries Byelaws](#)

[Border Esk Byelaws](#)

[Border Esk Time Limited Byelaws \(15th November 2007 – 14th November 2017\)](#)

### National Byelaws

[National Byelaws – 1996 package](#)

[National Byelaws – 2001 package](#)

[National Eel Fisheries Byelaws – 2004 package](#)

[Crayfish Byelaws – 2005 package](#)

[National Spring Salmon Byelaws – 2009 package](#)

[Wild Salmon and Migratory Trout tagging and Log Book Byelaws – 2009 package](#)

[Ban on the sale of rod caught Salmon and Migratory Trout Byelaw – 2009 package](#)

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/North West Byelaws 29 December 2009.pdf>

The National Byelaws can be accessed from:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/fishing/31471.aspx>

**Don't get caught out!! Ignorance is no excuse!!**

## Webcam and Webcams

As any member of the RFCA knows for last season we had a webcam operating at Waddow Weir giving the height and state of water there. All members of the RFCA could access this site via a password. It has proved a great success and incidentally brought in a good few new members. By the end of March we should have a new camera operating from Jumbles and shortly after another on the Hodder at Winckley Weir. Members will be able to access all 3 cameras from the RFCA website. At the click of a mouse you will be able to see the state of water on the Ribble at Waddow, what is happening on the Hodder and with the Jumbles site what's happening on big Ribble below the Calder. This should save RFCA members many pounds on transport by stopping wasted journeys when the river is too low or too high.

We are indebted to the E.A. who not only allow us to access their facilities but also contributed a significant sum towards the cameras. We are also indebted for sponsorship to the Complete Fisherman, Colne, Trout and Salmon Magazine, Pedal Power Limited, Clitheroe.

## **Membership**

Those of you who have already renewed their membership should have received the new webcam password. If you haven't renewed as yet please do so to have access to the webcams – which may just save you money on wasted journeys to the river. All individual members receive the password.

However, I must point out that even if your Association is a member of RFCA you will not be entitled to the password unless you are an individual member at an annual subscription of £15. Or, alternatively, your Association could enrol all their members at a cost of £7.50 for each member. Currently, three Associations do this.

The increase revenue to the Association enables us to contribute directly to the many activities that are on-going in the Ribble Catchment to improve the prospects for angling at a very uncertain time.

The fact that the individual membership of the RFCA is growing fast enables us to reflect your views and speak authoritatively to the E.A. and other Bodies. Members also get regular updates on many issues and are eligible to attend the AGM and raise matters of concern.

## **Opening up the Calder**

The long awaited opening of the Calder is at last progressing with Montford Weir having already been removed and work to get fish above Padiham Weir has started.

A very well attended meeting was held to discuss the best way to re-colonise the Calder once the initial work has been completed. There were presentations given by guest speakers and everyone had an opportunity to have their say. Thanks to all the E.A. staff who took time to attend so that they could see the range of opinions on the matter, which it is hoped will influence their future actions to improve the whole catchment not just the Calder system.

## **Hugh Falkus Evening**

**By way of a reminder.** Details of the Falkus Memorial Evening to be held at the Canberra Club have already been circulated but if you haven't got your tickets I would urge you to do so. A second copy of the flyer is attached.

Happy Fishing and Tight Lines for 2010

**David Hinks,  
John Whitham**

***THE HODDER CONSULTATIVE'S***

**Annual Falkus Memorial Evening**

**ANNUAL FALKUS MEMORIAL EVENING**

***By consent of B.G.F.A.***

**Thursday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 from 7.30pm.  
At the British Aerospace Canberra Club  
Samlesbury  
Tickets £10 each including a hot pot supper**

**THE PREMIERE SHOWING OF**

***“A RIVER FIT FOR A QUEEN”***

***A professional film three years in the making by the Video Camera Club of Clitheroe. Peter Guy and the members of the Hodder Consultative.***

***Copies of this DVD will be available on the night at £3each. This film is a must see for every angler, and naturalist who fishes and walks the lovely River Hodder.***

**The evening will again be supported by tackle stands, local fly tyers, along with a very generous raffle and auction.**

**For tickets please send a cheque made out to “The Hodder Consultative” and a stamped addressed envelope to:-**

**Mr Roger Bowker  
Stand Farm, Chapman Lane,  
Hoddlesden, Darwen, BB3 3QS.  
Tel. 07816283694**