

RFCA NEWS No. 14

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Stop Press

Some of you will be aware that for years we have had a problem on the salmon pass at Waddow. For those of you who are not familiar with the problem I will try to briefly explain. Due to the poor design of the fish counting channel, in flood conditions debris was pulled down into the exit by a strong current and it became trapped against the metal door. This door is used to block off the flow when the trap is in use. This debris, on numerous occasions actually blocked the exit and if it did not block it completely the resulting turbulence was enough to discourage fish from passing through into the river.

This has been the problem since the fish trap and counter were modified in 1992. It became worse after the E.A, due to man power cut backs, were unable to check it on a daily basis and it was left. I have monitored this problem for many years and at times it was so bad that some members of Ribblesdale A.A. would themselves go into the water to unblock it to allow fish to move through. For years, and after many broken promises by the different fishery managers of the E.A. to have a debris deflector fitted, it has at last been done.



This is thanks to our current fisheries team of Jackie Swire, Kyle Young and Lee Preston who gave me their assurances earlier in the year, after the problem was brought to their notice, that they would find the money to have a deflector fitted. They were true to their word and it has now been fitted as shown in the photograph.

I just hope that it works and that we have the angle set right to deflect any branches or logs back into the main current.

The E.A. come in for much criticism, which at times is well deserved, but keeping off general river politics we have to give our local E.A fisheries the thanks and credit they deserve on what they have done, not only on this but also in agreeing to the RFCA installing three web cams on our two rivers for us all. Not only did our local teams in fisheries, ecology, and hydrology agree and support our ideas, they also found the funding to finance the installation cost of one of the cameras. Thanks to them all we now have three web cams up and running and the deflector fitted, which I thought would never happen.

The third camera was installed at Jumbles Rocks on May 10th and is now on the RFCA web site.

To access the webcam you must be an individual member and have paid your subscriptions for 2010 to receive the new password.

The previous camera at Waddow proved very popular and certainly saved many members money. as they could check the state of the river before setting out on what, for some, would have been a very long journey.

If you haven't already done so subscriptions should be sent to John Whitham, who will then issue the password.

Lastly, can I remind members that the A.G.M. will be held on the Wednesday 26th May at the Constitutional Club Read beginning at 7:30p.m. The Agenda has already been distributed, indicating that the address will be given by Helen Nightingale Pollution Team Leader.

Fred Higham

John Whitham