

RFCANews

No. 48

February 2019

E.A. Byelaws

In the last Newsletter we said as soon as we had anything definite of the Ribble NLO and how it fitted with the new byelaws we would inform all members.

Under the new byelaws the Ribble has to meet a voluntary catch and release of a **minimum 90%**. In theory this is simple since from RFCANews returns from clubs we have always beaten 90%. However, from E.A. returns we have never met a 90% figure so all to play for. The 2 fish kill allowed under the Ribble NLO **will continue**. A reminder that for every fish killed another 9 anglers must catch a fish and release it to meet 90%. Failure to meet the 90% minimum c/r will mean a mandatory catch and release in the future.

I am also attaching the definitive byelaws that have been supplied by the Angling Trust. It is important to note that the withdrawal of the proposed byelaw 13 (methods) may be revisited or imposed if the E.A. deem that anglers are not doing enough – sounds like we are still to blame in their eyes!

Coarse fish Consultation

The E.A. have launched a consultation on coarse fish close season. I am sure the vast majority of club members will say what is this to do with me since I fish mainly for salmonids? It has everything to do with you. I have already done the consultation on line and it is very easy to do. With every question the E.A. produces a for and against argument and it is obvious that they believe changing the times or having no close season could be harmful to other species. So if you wish to protect salmonids go on line and do the consultation. It is an easy one to do requiring only a few minutes. The attached sheet gives the details.

Please do the consultation

Ribble Fish Returns

Please could I remind clubs and riparian owners that I am as usual collecting the salmon and sea trout returns for the 2018 season. Send them direct to me at hinksdavid@hotmail.com or to John Whitham. It is crucial we get accurate returns so we can ascertain how the river is doing and also have a solid platform on which to discuss with the E.A. Sadly it is a fact that angler returns to the E.A. rarely exceed 50% so the RFCANews figures are crucial. In 2017 we had 25 returns but so far only 6 for 2018. It is obvious that 2018 is going to be a poor year for obvious reasons of no water, high temperatures, which makes it even more important we get accurate returns, even if it was none. In 2017 the RFCANews figures showed 860 salmon caught. On the evidence so far I doubt we will get even 400.

Please send the figures in.

Also, for this year, could you give me your trout and grayling figures if you have them. This is particularly important for clubs with Hodder water.

Pollution

Please keep your eyes open for any pollution and report to the E.A. immediately and ask for a reference no. on **0800 80 70 60**. Please then report the incident along with the reference no to Fred Higham on **01200 423314** (Ribble and Hodder) and Graham Parkes **07861 696813** (Calder).

Poaching

The same goes for poaching. If you see anything suspicious report it to the E.A on the above number getting a reference no and asking for feedback, but above all do not put yourself at risk.

Then report it to Grant Hinks - RFCA Anti-Poaching Officer on **07930 807 980** so he can follow it up.

More than ever it is up to each and every one of us to do our bit.

Counter Movements

Waddow/Locks Counts 2018 2019

	Waddow		Locks			Waddow	
	Up	Down	Up	Down		Up	Down
January	2	18	1	5	January	1	0
February	4	1	1	2	February		
March	9	2	7	1	March		
April	12	5	18	9	April		
May	52	8	33	25	May		
June	497	108	31	27	June		
July	246	80	11	10	July		
August	193	22	19	13	August		
September	279	10	Discontinued		September		
October	616	22			October		
November	335	23			November		
December	23	7			December		
Totals	2268	306	121	92	Totals	1	0

RFCA Secretary

John Whitham, the long serving Secretary is retiring at the AGM in June. I hope we have a good gathering to give him the send-off he deserves. This leaves the RFCA in need of a new Secretary. It is the intention to split the responsibilities. The management of the Avian Predation already has a volunteer so that is one big job split away. The RFCA would also like a volunteer to be Membership Secretary which is a discreet job. Finally we need a general secretary. It is also intended and moves are afoot to have a proper working website where information can be placed for Council members, thus making the Secretary's job even easier. If there is anyone out there interested in any part please contact the Chairman John Rawlinson.

Falkus Evening

The annual Falkus Evening, organised by Bowland Game Fishing Association, will be held at the Canberra Club Samlesbury Aerodrome, Myerscough Road Balderstone BB2 7LF on Thursday 21st February 2019 – door open at 7:00p.m. The highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Dr. Matt Newton, the the Atlantic Salmon Trust leading expert on acoustic telemetry tracking of Salmon Smolts.

The cost of the evening will be £10 in the door and will include a pie and pea supper.

Latest News from the Angling Trust

Below is the link to the latest news from the Angling Trust, which includes information on the new byelaws and the latest campaigns.

<https://anglingtrust-news.net/3XSU-IVPJ-C531JTGR47/cr.aspx>

Lastly, tight lines in 2019 to you all.

David Hinks,

John Whitham

John Rawlinson

Attached: New Byelaws