

RFCA NEWS

No. 49

It seems to be proving to be a difficult season for salmon with fish somewhat thin on the ground. Yet I know of a few anglers who have had 4 or 5 so that's salmon fishing. Certainly some people are of the opinion that what we are seeing is the effect of the floods in 2015. One thing is certain is that all clubs are reporting far less angling activity on their waters. There is the saying if you don't fish you don't catch and if you don't catch you don't fish!!!! Certainly the fish returns below do not fill us with confidence.

Ribble Fish Returns 2018

As you all know David Hinks collects the returns from clubs for the Ribble catchment. At the last Newsletter I was not hopeful of reaching 400, but in the event we got 440 salmon with a catch and release of 96.36%. The c/r is excellent and we need to be over a minimum of 90% since the Ribble is in the classification of "probably at risk". Given the conditions of 2018 we did well to reach that total but c/f it with 2017 of 860 salmon caught and you see the trend. Bear in mind we get no returns from the lower river from the Tickled Trout down which is a considerable amount of water.

The E.A. returns for 2018 were 361 fish from an angler return of 65.5% which is the best yet but far from 100%.

One interesting fact was that the E.A. had 3 salmon caught on the Calder but no club reported any salmon from the Calder? Obviously salmon licence holders but maybe they do not belong to clubs that seek returns from their members?

Counter Movements

Waddow 2019

	Waddow	
	Up	Down
January	1	0
February	11	0
March	34	5
April	22	5
May	59	10
June	719	59
July	376	20
August	173	8

September	235	5
October		
November		
December		
Totals	1630	112

Whalley Hydro

RFCA has continued to press the R.A. with regard to assurances that migratory fish are actually using the fish pass on the Hydro, especially so as there have been very poor reports from the becks of fry, parr or smolts.

In addition, urged the E.A. to undertake some specific monitoring to ascertain the effectiveness of the fish pass and to establish a baseline of migratory fish in the Calder catchment.

In response the E.A. has set up some monitoring so we await results. Also they have been regular checks on the fish pass and the operation of the Hydro and I can report that there has not been any blockages in the fish pass so the results of the monitoring surveys are now crucial to determining whether migratory fish are getting up the Calder.

I can report that during the recent high waters fish have been reported ascending Barrowford weir, which is very pleasing but of course in very high water they may well not have needed to use the fish pass and merely gone straight over the weir.

Pollution

Please **keep** your eyes open and report any pollution to the E.A. immediately on **0800 80 70 60** and get a reference number. Please then report the incident along with the ref no to Fred Higham on **01200 423314** (Ribble and Hodder) and Graham Parkes **07861 696813** (Calder). Sadly the E.A. Pollution team is diminished in numbers but we still need to report.

Poaching

The same goes for poaching. If you see anything suspicious report to the E.A. immediately on the above number getting a reference number and asking for feedback - but above all do not put yourself at risk. Then report to Grant Hinks RFCA Anti-Poaching Officer on **07930 807 980** so he can follow it up.

If any suspicious instruments - nets etc - are discovered please leave them where they are and take a photograph and then report it the E.A. immediately, so that they can set up appropriate action

Please only report what you see and not what you would like to see! E.A. Officer time is very limited and not to be wasted. If you can get a photograph it is a great help, especially if it is timed and dated.

RFCA Officer changes

I can now report that we have a new **Membership Secretary**, Chris Tittley. He has been supplied with the current membership list and I am sure he will be supporting the Treasurer by chasing up subs in due course.

His contact details are: Chris Tittley
 Tel: 07815 786309
 Email: chris.tittley@gmail.com

We have been able to organise a new **Avian Predation Area Licence Co-ordinator**, Phil Hackett. He too has been provided with the past information and due to hospitalisation John W distributed the

initial allocation and September return sheets. We trust that all our individual site co-ordinators and shooters will continue to support Phil in this role by ensuring they make the necessary monthly return as soon as is practical after the end of the month. This will enable the movement of spare birds to where they are most needed.

His contact details are: Phil Hackett
Tel: 07733 235884
Email: neobream@outlook.com

However, we still need a Vice Chairman and Secretary as our chairman cannot undertake all the necessary roles.

Website

The updating of the website has proved a bigger job than we first thought but our webmaster has now got it to a trails stage and all members will be notified about this key development as soon as it goes fully live.

E.A. meetings

Attached to this Newsletter is a memo of the last 8 weekly meeting with the E.A. You will notice that one issue of concern that has been raised with the E.A. is the fact that returns could now be 12 months late due to the rolling renewal of licences, or worse from a statistics point of view altogether. This is especially concerning when these statistics are used to determine policy, potential bye-laws and the status of stocks.

If members have any issues that they would like us to raise with the E.A. they can contact John Rawlinson, David Hinks or John Whitham direct or raise the matter with their club Council representatives

David Hinks,

John Whitham

John Rawlinson

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