

RFCA NEWS

No. 50

Here we are again at the start of a new season for salmon. We have to be optimistic and believe it will be a good year, but then are not salmon anglers always optimistic, how else could we continue?

Ribble Fish Returns 2019

As you all know David Hinks collects and collates all the returns from clubs. In 2018 we caught 440 salmon with a catch and release of 96.36%, bear in mind that we basically get no returns below the Tickle Trout.

2019 was a very different year in that we had water, lots of it, and it for once favoured the Middle to Upper Ribble clubs. The problem here is that these clubs do not fish as much or have as many members as some of the clubs lower down. The water was often not of a good standard so some clubs you would have thought would have done well did not.

Given the data used to determine fish stocks it has been decided that we should encourage all clubs seek a return of all salmon, sea trout, trout and grayling that are caught and whether they have been killed.

However, with quite a few clubs to go we are hopeful of getting approximately the same number of fish. Most clubs reported good trout catches but not sea trout, again water was the problem. Could those clubs that have not reported catches please contact David Hinks, email hinksdavid@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

Counter Movements

Waddow 2019

	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	604	34
November	162	24

December	14	13
Totals	2410	183

To provide members with a comparison with previous years comparison with previous years please refer to the separate document at the end of the Newsletter:

Pollution

We had a really good eight weekly meeting with the E.A. on Feb 6th. All the issues surrounding pollution, particularly reporting, were discussed. They gave us the structure and how it worked. Basically, Lancashire has 8 officers maximum at any one time. These officers are part of the Land and Water team and apart from pollution have a wide-ranging brief and it is this that limits the amount of time which can be given to pollution. It is crucial that the hot line is used to report any incident **0800 80 70 60** and not any individual officer. Put bluntly if it is not reported this way it does not exist. We have before explained the various categories that the E.A. classifies incidents and normally they will only attend most serious i.e. Fish kills.

However, information on serial offenders is counted up and can be taken into account when looking at a particular case. There is one such case in the pipeline at the moment.

When an incident is encountered/seen you report it **immediately** on the hotline ensuring that you **get, and note, a ref number and also, ask for feedback.** It is no longer the case that the operator will ask if you want feedback.

When you have this then contact the RFCA Pollution co-ordinators Fred Higham, Ribble and Hodder on **01200423314** and Graham Parkes on **07861 696813**. It is much better that the report comes from an eyewitness rather than one of our officers days later. Also, try and get photographs preferably dated, of the problem. The other important thing is to be able to identify where you are for the E.A. hotline operator because they will not know the area. There are apps you can have on your mobile phone which will do this for you.

Anti-Poaching

The above procedure applies equally for anti-poaching. The only difference is that the RFCA Anti-Poaching Officer is Grant Hinks and he can be contacted on **07930 807 980**. Grant is also a Angling Trust VBS Co-ordinator for the Ribble Catchment and takes part in joint patrols with the E.A. and Police.

RFCA Officer Changes.

In the last Newsletter we informed members on the changes and made a plea for a Vice Chairman and Secretary. It is plainly impossible for the Chairman to also act as Secretary.

Reminder that the new **Membership Secretary is Chris Titley.**

His contact details are:

Tel **07815 786309,**
Email chris.titley@gmail.com .

The new **Avian Predation Co-ordinator is Phil Hackett.**

His contact details are:

Tel **07733 235884,**
Email neobream@outlook.com

Webcams

For over year we have struggled with the webcams at Locks weir but we should have these up and running once more this month.

Anyone wanting access to our webcams needs to enrol as an individual member of RFCA at a subscription of £20p.a. Once paid a password will be issued, which should be kept confidential as it is these subscriptions that allow us to operate these cameras. Please contact Chris Titley as above.

E.A. Meeting

I mentioned above that we had a good meeting with the E.A. which covered Pollution and Poaching. Pollution cases being considered at the moment are Langcliffe Mill, Settle, Clitheroe Housing Development, Gisburn Dairy, Slaidburn Dairy Farm, Arla Dairy.

There are 3 Poaching cases in the pipeline at the moment. Damian Linney, Fisheries Officer liaises with the Police on a Regional basis,

Cheshire Police have the lead at the moment for environmental and rural crime and have established a dedicated team rural crime team.

Natural England have funding for 3 Enforcement Officers nationally. These will deal with problems on SACs and SSSIs. There is also a lot happening around elver enforcement.

E.A. Catch Returns - As you all know these are crucial in determining the classification of a river, Ribble currently classified as Probably at Risk (PAR). We discussed various issues here. The Stock Classification of rivers is a very difficult topic and is dealt with by the Regional Fisheries Council - NWATFCC - of which RFCA is a member.

Hodder - Gravels which have been a problem for many years may be nearing a solution! There has been a very positive meeting held with UU and the Hodder Consultative are hopeful of finally solving it. The use of the Hodder water bank was also discussed - This is very much a technical problem.

Locks Weir Cameras - I am delighted to say that the end may be in sight?

Long Preston, Red Scar Weir, Winckley Weir, Farming Rules were all discussed.

It was a very positive meeting and the E.A. are to be thanked at the resources they put in to servicing it, given their financial situation. We all believe that good relationships are essential if we are to do the best for the Ribble Catchment.

Preston and Ribble Flood scheme.

There will have to be a platform in the river to do some of the work but no time scale yet. There will also be a loss of mature trees in the Penwortham area which no one likes but there will be mitigation for this.

If members have any issues they would like raising either with the E.A. or at RFCA Council meetings please contact John Rawlinson Chairman, David Hinks or John Whitham, RFCA Rod and Line Representatives.

Falkus Evening

Lastly, can we remind everyone of the Annual Falkus evening organised by Bowland Game Fishing Association, which will be held on Friday 20th February at the Canberra Club Samlesbury 7:00 for 7:00p.m. Full details on attached flier.

Admission will be £5, payable on the door inclusive of pie and pea supper.

David Hinks

John Whitham

John Rawlinson

Ref: RFCANEWS50-FEB20/JR/JWW/CDH

Waddow Counter Figures 2000-2020

Month	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN
Jan	16	22	5	11	0	0	6	9	15	11	1	0	13	14
Feb	11	14	4	2	0	0	2	5	15	3	0	0	9	8
March	5	9	8	3	0	0	13	9	172	172	0	0	7	13
April	12	7	24	1	0	0	83	79	28	0	0	0	58	7
May	173	73	129	8	0	0	145	51	80	30	0	0	98	9
June	1290	249	1174	147	711	56	868	93	508	55	780	54	222	31
July	1681	177	1431	192	1775	169	984	74	544	61	349	65	102	2
Aug	1346	163	877	119	900	148	237	62	844	55	85	44	733	74
Sept	1734	357	893	100	672	106	493	75	1354	72	72	29	712	48
Oct.	991	59	477	13	1654	73	773	12	976	38	949	31	1566	29
Nov.	156	15	51	3	384	19	534	4	185	8	144	14	172	6
Dec.	32	17	0	0	44	42	50	11	30	18	90	14	25	20
TOTAL S	7447	1162	5073	599	6140	613	4188	484	4751	523	2471	251	3717	261

Waddow Counter Figures 2000-2020

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN
Jan	5	13	17	22	5	17	8	12	23	12	2	7	12	8
Feb	6	3	13	1	5	2	2	5	4	4	8	3	3	1
March	10	0	4	1	18	9	15	12	10	1	26	5	1	0
April	56	8	46	10	37	2	26	4	50	26	125	84	20	9
May	80	3	107	15	163	8	17	3	186	7	161	37	110	62
June	642	36	389	32	837	43	222	22	755	37	773	107	219	27
July	628	52	1179	86	776	56	895	64	403	5	1634	652	549	38
Aug	867	50	1089	79	733	58	676	107	519	71	719	91	455	65
Sept	1179	20	871	54	466	21	1265	63	1025	56	667	100	374	9
Oct.	1091	25	1455	37	1768	51	1234	59	827	41	943	169	817	12
Nov.	355	14	254	11	166	22	233	31	300	28	210	8	71	2
Dec.	64	20	36	7	28	4	20	5	40	8	25	17	30	10

TOTAL S	4983	244	5460	355	4976	293	4613	387	4142	296	5293	1280	2661	243
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Waddow Counter Figures 2000-2027

Month	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN	UP	DO WN
Jan	4	2	11	4	15	8	4	2	2	18	1	0		
Feb	4	3	4	1	1	0	3	9	4	1	11	0		
March	4	0	4	3	11	0	17	5	9	2	34	5		
April	18	3	53	13	44	0	27	0	12	5	22	5		
May	99	43	163	13	129	9	167	31	52	8	59	10		
June	513	19	373	45	963	91	815	35	497	108	719	59		
July	718	74	703	52	797	75	447	18	246	80	376	20		
Aug	417	11	454	15	283	12	264	6	193	22	173	8		
Sept	89	9	125	6	337	3	769	24	279	10	235	5		
Oct.	1408	30	1332	92	856	13	785	28	616	22	604	34		
Nov.	141	9	303	38	188	14	106	16	335	23	162	24		
Dec.	7	53	10	31	87	23	15	22	23	7	14	13		
TOTAL S	3422	258	3535	313	3711	248	3419	196	2268	306	2410	183		

Falkus Memorial Lecture

Date: 20th February 2020 at 7:00p.m.

Venue: Canberra Club,
Salmesbury Aerodrome
Myerscough Road
Balderstone
BB2 7LF

Admission: £5 on the Door inclusive of pie and pea supper.

Speaker:- Mr Karl Humphries...AAPGAI
Master in Salmon, Trout and Fly dressing.
Vice Chair and Game Fishing Officer with PAAS,
Angling Trust Assessor, Get Hooked on Fishing Project Manager, Marketing
Officer for the Grayling Society and All Round Top Chap!

Subject: - "Come into our parlour said the spiders to the fly!"

Being an exploration of developments in the role of spider fishing and in
spider patterns in modern fly fishing.

Raffle

All Proceeds to Charity