

RFCA NEWS

No. 52

July 2020

As these words are written the rain falls and the river rises. We have waited a long time for a good flood to clean out the river and at last we have it. Hopefully the fish will pour up the river and we can all have good sport.

Ribble Catch Returns - for 2019

It has taken quite a while and much reminding to get these figures. Why that should be is a mystery to us since it is in every club and riparian owners' interests to let us have them. The figures we get are much more accurate than the returns to the E.A. Since catch returns are so important in deciding the state of the river and the category why it takes so long!

Returns to RFCA 2019 Salmon caught 555 Killed 25 Catch and release 95.5%
Sea trout caught 715 Killed 83 Catch and release 88.4%

These are not bad figures at all. It would have been nice to see a smaller number of salmon killed but 95.5% is a good rate. It has to be above 90% as a minimum so no room for complacency.

I am sure you are all aware that the Lower Eden has fished extremely well in the low water. It would be nice if the Ribble situation was the same in that all the water was controlled by clubs or associations so that we had accurate numbers from the Lower Ribble. Unfortunately of course, a large chunk of the Lower Ribble is not in that situation!

Fish Movement - Waddow Counter

Below are the latest figures from the counter at Waddow together with 2019 for comparison.

	2019		2020	
	Up	Down	Up	Down
January	1	0	6	1
February	11	0	11	7
March	34	5	23	2
April	22	5	25	3
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	65	13
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Thanks to Daniel Atkinson for his assistance in providing these figures.

Pollution

Now more than ever it is vital members report any pollution they see to the EA as soon as possible. The EA are struggling to have any sort of service during Covid but intelligence is always vital.

The E.A. number is **0800 80 70 60**.

You must ask for an incident number and for a response. If you do not you will get nothing. Please then inform the RFCA Pollution Coordinators Fred Higham, Ribble and Hodder, on **01200 423314**, Graham Parkes, Calder, on **07861 696813**.

Anti-Poaching

All the above applies equally to poaching. Same routine then inform Grant Hinks on **07930 807 980**.

It has been obvious that there have been several poaching incidents during Covid. It is no use informing the E.A. and the RFCA the day after or even several days later in terms of action. It is useful intelligence but that is all. It is up to every individual angler to safeguard the waters they fish. Expecting someone else to do it no longer works.

Webcams

We were hoping that by now we would have Locks and Winckley in operation. Sadly, that is not the case. I hate to say it having been proved wrong before but we appear to be close to getting them working. I will not tempt fate by saying more.

Rainbow Trout in the river

We have had reports that some Rainbow Trout are being caught in the river so advice has been sought from the E.A. (Darren Wilson,, which is given below.

Rainbow Trout are a non-native species and as such, are only permitted in enclosed waters, outside of a floodplain or ones where inlets and outlets are screened to prevent escapement. They are not permitted to be introduced into rivers. If any escapement does occur and an angler subsequently catches a rainbow Trout in a river, the fish should be retained and not released back into the river

(Darren Wilson
Fisheries Officer
(BASIS advice and Fishery Authorisations)

Obituaries

It is with regret that I have to report the passing of David Jackson who served as Council member representing Clitheroe AA for many years. He was a very thoughtful and knowledgeable man with a vast experience in all things piscatorial. This knowledge will be missed by Council

Similarly, John Wood who was an Officer of the Association for many years and an active member of Council in in younger years - representing Riparian owners. He too had a lifelong passion for angling and gave much valuable advice and encouragement.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to their respective families - may they both rest in peace and be an example to those of us who remain.

Finally, tight lines to you all.

David Hinks

John Whitham

John Rawlinson