



Angling Trust North West Fisheries Forum

March 22nd 2017

Croft Village Memorial Hall

5 Mustard Lane, Croft, Warrington WA3 7BQ

Meeting Notes

Paul Breslin - Canal & Rivers Trust - The Work of the Canal & Rivers Trust Fisheries Team

Q – There seems to be large demand for Waterway Wonderer Passes, why isn't there more publicity?

A – I agree it's something we could be pushing harder. We need better enforcement of the initiative.

Q – Are all the waters available on the wanderer pass listed?

A – Yes, they are listed on our website.

Q – Are the CRT responsible for the Bosley Dam?

A – The Trust own the dam and one of the valves needs to be replaced, we have a time line for when the work needs to be done.

Q – Joe Farrell, St Helens AA. Will you be liaising with us and will we get full consultation with what the plans will be?

A – We will have meetings about the work to be carried out.

Q – Our club is suffering with poor water quality on the Rochdale Canal. 1lb is enough to win a match currently where we used to need 15lb's to win a winter match! We have been told that the water quality won't be checked till the autumn. I think the poor water is coming from the Douglas.

A – This is the first time I've heard about this and I will find out what I can. *Ian Wood from the Environment Agency will also take this back and follow it up.*

Q – Eric Edwards, PAC. Why are CRT removing pike on Stainforth and Keadby canal?

A – We look to have a good balance of fish stocks, habitat and space, pike removal needs to be fully investigated.

EA Update, Ian Wood, Environment Agency

Q – Can you explain the changes to the Junior licence?

A – The licence is free to juniors up to the age of 17 but they still need to have one.

Q – Are more youngsters getting into the sport?

A – That information can be found in the Annual Fisheries Report.

Q – Is the Dane fish pass being monitored?

A – It's not in my catchment.

Q – What is the action plan for the river Douglas?

A – It's not my area but I will find out for you.

Q – The Dallam Anglers would like to thank the EA for all the help you have given us.

Update on Cormorant – Richard Bamforth, Angling Trust

Update on VBS - David Lees, Angling Trust

Angling Trust Update – John Cheyne, Angling Trust

Q – Peter Robinson, St Helens AA. The St Helens AA submits to AT and EA that the current activities employed in pursuit of a solution to over-predation of inland waters of England by cormorants, whilst in part successful, are not sufficiently robust and far reaching, as to have a significant chance of success.

A – We lobbied hard to get area licences and the Fisheries Management Advisors put in post. Up to 3000 birds can be currently shot. If the returns demonstrate were achieving 3000 birds around the country and there's still a significant issue the government would review the quota. This looks likely to happen this year, in May or June we will know the figures and hopefully this will trigger the review.

Q – What about the damage caused by goosanders?

A – Goosanders have a different licence.

Q – Can we get a representative from Natural England to come along to the next forum?

A – I think special cormorant forums in the North, Mids and South of England with Natural England being present could be useful.

Q – How many Voluntary Bailiffs are in this region.

A – I expect to have 60+ after the next induction on 13th May.

Q – Can VB's approach game anglers?

A – VB's are funded by the Course and Non-Migratory Trout licence.

Q – How does a VB decide where to patrol?

A – They only need to go fishing as they normally would but report what they see and find on the secure system.

Q – Are club bailiffs using the VBS to back up their credentials locally?

A – We have many pleasure anglers that become VB's and patrol the rivers where they want to.