



Angling Trust
East Midlands Forum
Game Fishing Special
April 6th 2017
Carsington Sailing Club

Meeting Notes

Meeting opened by John Cheyne of The Angling Trust

The Work of the Wild Trout Trust, Paul Gaskill from the Trust explains about their fantastic work in Derbyshire

Q – DCAC: A lot of our habitat has been washed away and we're looking for advice.

A – We would like to offer our advice, please contact the Rivers Trust.

Q – What part of a brown trout's habitat would stop it from migrating?

A – Nutrient quality, hereditary and environmental conditions, they could affect it. A lot of females go to sea, to grow large, so their eggs are larger and numerous. A lot of males stay because their milt cells don't need to be large. Most salmonids home in to their natal sites and a few will scout out looking for environment and habitat.

Q – What are the problems facing trout in this region?

A – Diffuse pollution, lack of woody debris, intensive agriculture, simplification of habitat and connectivity.

Environment Agency Update, Alex Lumsdon from the Environment Agency talks about the work they do locally

Q – Do you encounter much resistance from farmers for fencing off fields?

A – We don't meet much resistance on the Derwent.

Q – Our stretch of river has two weirs, what can we do about it?

A – First, I would approach the land owner, then a detailed feasibility study would need to be carried out.

Paul Gaskell went on to say – find out why the land owners are attached to the weir. Sometimes when they see the big picture they see sense.

An angler wanted to stress at this point that the EA have been so helpful when they have come out to see them, when discussing habitat improvements.

Q – What habitat improvements are planned for the river amber?

A – There are six barriers to migration, I've done some feasibility work on there and some of them are key infrastructure that can't be removed.

Q – How can you enforce the region with only four officers?

A – Steve Lawrie, EA, Fisheries Team Leader – We work closely with our partners The Angling Trust and the Voluntary Bailiffs. We join up with local councils and the police. We work with an intelligence lead system, the more information we receive about a specific site, the reports will guide us to it.

Q – What work is being done to combat crayfish in the dove?

A – I'm sorry, I work on the Derwent catchment, we'll put you in touch with the right person.

Angling Trust Update, John Cheyne, National Regions Manager guides you through the work of the Trust, concentrating on the work to help restore salmonid fish stocks, reduce predation and combat poaching and fish theft

Q – What work is going on to improve the situation with the damaging effects of Scottish salmon farming? What are The Angling Trust doing to improve the image of angling?

A – We are working with other organisations on the Salmon Five Point Plan as a team and there has been lobbying against the Scottish government.

Mark Owen, AT, Head of Freshwater – The Angling Trust is English based, we do work with other organisations though. We've been applying pressure in Europe through Agriculture Committee about Scottish and Norwegian salmon farming. I think the image of angling has improved over the last 10 years. I get this impression from advertising i.e. Heinz soup and insurance with Paul Whitehouse. Bauer Media own a lot regional radio stations and they also produce a lot of angling publications, so angling also goes through the radio.

Q – Guthrie Pickering – Clubs here are facing major problems with fish eating birds!

A – Mark Owen - In England we got the Minister to agree there is a problem and agree to the Fishery Management advisors. When we ask to kill more birds the Minister says, “well you haven't reached your current quota, so why should I increase it! If you demonstrate the need, then we'll review it”.

Q – Our ageing demographic as anglers is becoming a problem!

A – I think this would be a good topic to cover in-depth at another forum. Our Participation Development Officer James Roche would be perfect to come along and give a presentation on junior participation.

Q – Are the coaching bursaries available to commercial fisheries?

A – Yes they are, **we expect to receive funds this financial year from the EA and I expect there to be coaching bursaries included in this.**