



ANGLING TRUST

In association with the Environment Agency

Last Drop Hotel and Spa
Bromley Cross, Bolton, BL7 9PZ

7th June 2017

Tea and Coffee served from 6.40pm meeting begins 7.00pm

Meeting notes

Inspiring a New Generation of Anglers – Danny Williams - Angling Trust
Regional Officer (North)

Q – Is a qualified coach required to be present at a Let's Go Family Fishing Event?

A – Because family members or guardians of the children fishing will be present a qualified coach is not a requirement but it's preferred.

Q – How is tackle supplied to family fishing events?

A – I have some tackle kits that can be used and bids can be made to the Angling Improvement Fund.

Q – Do tackle shops help out with supplying tackle for these events?

A – I find shops help out with bait and I find maggots are the most universal and will catch anything. It's important to remember tackle shops need to make a living. I'd like to get a list of friendly shops that are willing to help with events.

Q – How did you advertise the events?

A – We used facebook and twitter.

Q – How much funding help did you get from local councils?

A – I find keeping up to date with their latest programs is a key to knowing what funding is available. Last year £1800 - £2500 was available from sportivate for 8 week programs in certain circumstances.

Q – Do you visit individual clubs?

A – I have a large territory covering the whole of the north but there are specific events I will attend and support.

Q – Where are you based?

A – In the Liverpool area, I'm on the M6

Stocking fish – Kevin Nash, Fisheries Technical Specialist for Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire. Explains how the Environment Agency decide where and when to stock fish grown at their Calverton Fish Farm.

Q – Where does the budget come from for mitigation?

A – From whoever needs mitigating? A lot of schemes kill eels and screens can help.

Q – Who oversees the mitigation, where is the anglers input into where the money is allocated?

A – We haven't worked with anglers to decide how the mitigation works – we work with the companies being mitigated and help with councils, trusts and other organisations.

Q – We're trying to manage our waters, fighting against cormorants and goosanders but sometimes it's not enough and we need help with stocking to give them a boost.

A – Habitat work and refuges need to be incorporated then the newly stocked fish will have somewhere to hide.

Q – How is the size of the fish to be stocked decided?

A – I'm not sure about this, please speak to me after the presentations and I'll take your details to get an answer to you. Calverton doesn't like to grow them big, they are released when they are river ready.

Q - We have fish spawning in our river because of our habitat improvement work but we need fish to be stocked because of cormorant predation.

A – We look at the whole river system with views to stocking, not just local areas.

Q – Do you have TEETH when devastation occurs on rivers? There aren't any fish in the upper reaches of the Irwell.

A – The pesticide incident is being investigated, it seems urban rivers have incidents quite regular but the source of this one on the river bank has been identified.

Q – 8 years ago the EA stocked the ribble with 20,000 dace and roach because of angler pressure and the fishing is still fantastic. Because of the angler pressure there's less cormorant predation. Is this a good case in point to refer to for restocking?

A – It's a good reason but not just enhancement, it needs to be in conjunction with habitat improvement. Socioeconomics is a great benefit.

Q – Socioeconomics – is this a good enough reason to stock the Irwell with barbel?

A – Stocking barbel into a west coast river is contentious – The your fisheries scheme will help with this type of justification.

Q – Have the EA stocked grayling into the Mersey system?

A – I think the grayling society have stocked some.

Q – How do the brood fish get distributed?

A – Each catchment ha a fisheries team and they will make the decisions where to stock.

Q – There seems a bias with stocking southern rivers!

A – There are differences with the regions and where infrastructure work is being carried out.

Q – How far ahead do Calverton look with their growing programs?

A – 3 years ahead.

Q – Can I ask about stocking brown trout?

A – The gene pool of indigenous trout needs to be maintained.

Q – Doesn't stocking triploids interfere and compete with indigenous brown trout populations?

A – They will compete, I know clubs who have invested in habitat improvement and their waters are much healthier but I understand when there is ongoing predation and pollutions stocked fish help.

Q – I live on the bank of the Irwell and there are breeding brown trout but now there aren't any invertebrates for them to eat.

A – Because of the diet of trout – eating what falls into the river, I think the trout will survive. I think the recent rain will help with insect life, upstream of the incident there's lots of insect life.

John Cheyne at this point asked the audience if they thought it would be a good idea to have Alan Henshaw from Calverton fish farm and Shaun Leonard from the Wild Trout Trust to come and give a presentation. The response from the group was very positive.

The latest news and campaign updates from the Angling Trust

Q – I'd like to see some programs for habitat improvement on still waters.

A – Andy Eaves from the EA is a good person to get in touch with to help with this.

One of the attendees wanted to stress - I went on a habitat improvement course with Andy Eaves and it's the best money the club has ever spent.

Q – We've developed a feeding program for our fisheries because there aren't enough people fishing the waters and since doing this the fish have really come on.

Q – When we come out of Europe will the laws on shooting predatory birds change?

A – We think that working with Nordic countries where the birds come from is key and Mark Owen, AT, Head of Fresh Water is doing a lot of work with these countries to see what can be done there.