



Angling Trust Midlands Fisheries Forum

June 21st 2017

Worcestershire Federation of Young Farmers

Shires Farm, Hawford, WR3 7SG

In Association with The Environment Agency

Meeting Notes

Severn Basin Predator Study - Emma Nolan PHD Researcher. Emma will be giving a fascinating update on the results that have been obtained so far as part of the ongoing predator study into pike in the Wye and Pike and Zander in the Severn and Warwickshire Avon. There will also be an opportunity to sign up to get involved in the study with scale sampling kits available on the night.

Q – Have you got data from all the sections now, that you are studying?

A – We are lacking data on smaller fish, so please, if your involved with the study, send us a sample. We also need anglers to record the days when they don't catch.

Q – When the study starts tagging fish, do they need to be a certain size?

A – in an ideal world they would be a certain size but we will be tagging over a couple of days in October and won't be too picky.

Q – What has happened with taking photos of dorsal fins?

A – Now we are planning on tagging, this is the preferred method.

Q – Has radio carbon tests been done with all samples?

A – Not all samples as it's quite expensive.

Q – With the data you collect, can you determine the sex of each fish?

A – We can't tell the sex of fish from carbon data.

Q – It would be good to see average fish size the different sections of river?

A – We can do this later if we get more data.

Teme Barbel Study - Catherine Gutmann Roberts PHD Researcher will give an insightful report on the results obtained so far in the Teme Barbel Study.

Q – I've heard snails make up a large proportion of a barbel's diet?

A – That's not what our data shows but this could be looked at in different stretches.

70% of the fish below Powick Weir are eating pellets and catching fish doesn't result in them moving, food sources determine how far fish roam.

Q – How many of the tagged fish did you lose?

A – Only 4 out of the 24 tagged went missing.

Q – Do you look at other angler's baits?

A – No, but this would be useful.

Q – It's interesting to see the diet of little barbel.

A – We need smaller barbal data.

Q – Has recent recruitment been a success?

A – Barbel have spawned well recently and there are lots of juveniles, the future is looking good.

Q – Was the introduction to feeding barbel pellets contributing to their decline in numbers?

A – I don't know, I could analyse pellets.

Q – How many of the tagged fish came to the weir?

A – 6 fish approached the weir and 3 went up.

Q – How much longer will the study go on for?

A – The SRT, EA and Barbel Society have funded the study.

River Teme fish are shown to be slow growing and the oldest recorded is 28 years old. On a natural river with no pellets the fish grow slowly.

EA Update with Brecht Morris - All the latest on the Fisheries Team work in the Severn Catchment.

Q – Will you be using the ARIS camera to monitor fish behaviour and migrations?

A – Using this camera is very labour intensive, so very expensive.

