



ANGLING TRUST

Angling Trust South West Fisheries Forum

June 24th 2017

Carvynick Country Club

Summercourt, Newquay, TR8 5AF

In Association with The Environment Agency

Meeting notes

Stop Taking our Wrasse ! James Champkin, National Campaigns Officer for the Angling Trust talks about our work to try to halt the large-scale removal of live wrasse from Cornish waters to be used as cleaner fish in Scottish Salmon farms.

Lure, Light Rock Fishing and bait fishing for wrasse is a large recreational industry. There are 200 marine salmon farms producing 170,000 tonnes of fish per year. 89 tonnes of wrasse were taken in 2015 and sold for up to £150 per kilo. Wrasse need to be 18 to 28cm to work in a farm.

Q – How many wrasse do the salmon farms need?

A – 2 to 3 million – 1 wrasse for every 25 salmon, a couple of farms now have their own wrasse hatchery to supply a 3rd of the wrasse they need.

Q – Where do the Norwegians get their wrasse from?

A – There is a wrasse fishery in Scotland and Norway, the question to the farms is – If you have sustainable wrasse fishery in Scotland, why are you taking them from Cornwall?

Q – The most expensive fish to buy are seabass and turbot at £8,000 per tonne, wrasse can cost as much as £56,000 per tonne, could the price of wrasse be set, so the fishery can be regulated?

A - Couldn't have a controlled market, that would be against the law.

Q – I've heard in Norway they are starting to farm in enclosures as they were losing a third of its stock to lice.

A – Norway has stopped issuing licences for new marine salmon farms but it might be 20 years before they are all enclosed.

Q – Wrasse were here in large numbers in the 1970's, 5 and 6 pounders were common. I can't catch a 5 pounder anymore. We've recently had 7 open competitions that lasted for 24 hours each and I can't remember a 4.5 pounder being caught.

Q – I can't believe the salmon industry are spending that much on wrasse – that figure equates to £6 per wrasse.

Q – Why do the salmon farmers dispose of the fish after 2 cycles/3 years?

A – The wrasse will be too big and do more damage to the salmon.

Q – They are taking the mid-range size; how long will it take for our fishery to recover?

Q – Are wrasse effected by sea lice?

A – Only salmonids are effected by lice.

How Can we support your club and help to improve your fishing ? Ian Shepherd and John Cheyne outline the ways in which your club can fund fishery improvements with rod licence money and how AT staff can help with a variety of key issues.

John wanted to inform the forum that this one might be the last in Cornwall because of the poor number of attendees and that Rochford is being looked at as an alternative.

Q – When is the next round of Angling Improvement Funds going to be available?

A – At the end of July.

Q – We need to get more kids in to fly fishing, they can go to a commercial carp lake and catch a 10 pound carp first go and I don't think this helps with attracting more youngsters, surly we all love angling because it's a learning journey full of adventure.

A – Getting an advert in the Primary Times was very successful for Exeter and District. Fishing taster days are good but I think it's equally important to get them along to family fishing events.

Q – The legal requirements of H&S, child protection etc is down to the coach to pay for this and I've had some coaches who have now given it up. I think that training and top ups of H&S, CRB should be paid for by AT or help for these costs should be found.

Q – A few years back I could take a family fishing to get them back to the sport but now adults need a licence to attend and fish an event.

A – If your events are organised with a coach, you can apply to the EA for a licence waver.

Fisheries Enforcement Support Service Update, Angling Trust, Regional Enforcement Manager, Nevin Hunter updates on the services work combating poaching and fish theft.

Q – Where do I sign up to become a VBS?

A – I'll see you at the end and we'll get the ball rolling.