



# ANGLING TRUST

## Angling Trust South West Fisheries Forum

July 13th 2017

**Biddestone Village Hall**

In Association with The Environment Agency

### Meeting Notes

**7.10 - Fisheries Update** – Jody Armitage, Environment Agency, Fisheries Technical Officer and Richard Dearnley, EA, Enforcement Officer

*Jody's presentation focused on giving summer advice to fisheries, some of the things it focused on: bio security, Check, Clean, Dry and the monitoring of water quality early in the morning when Dissolved Oxygen levels will be at their lowest. She stressed the importance of fisheries having a plan in place for aeration if required.*

Q – Which ailments can the angler help with, when a fish is caught?

A – Secondary infections can be treated with products and medication.

Q – How do you make a judgement weather a fish can be saved?

A – A lot of these diseases aren't curable. Fish that are sent away for testing need to be in a bad state.

Q – Is it worth leaving these fish in the water or better to remove them?

A – This is difficult call, taking a few fish out, won't really help the situation.

Q – Are there guides for algal blooms and toxicity?

A – No, they need to be put under a microscope.

Q – In an enclosed water will the species of algae be the same?

A – New ones can arrive from birds or many other ways.

Q – Who can ask to see a rod licence?

A – A Police Officer, EA Bailiff and whoever is stipulated in a club's rules. If an angler refuses to show to their licence to a club member if it's written in the club rules then it's down to the club to decide

what course of action to take with that individual. Only the Police and EA Bailiff can demand to see a licence.

Q – Some carp anglers retain their fish in floating sacs, have these proved to be problematic?

A – I haven't had reports about these but it is a risk.

Q – You mentioned to do our own fishery summer health checks, but what checks can a fishery carry out?

A – PH, Ammonia, nitrate, phosphates and dissolved oxygen can be checked.

Q – Can you send me some advice on how to check our fishery?

A – I will send you that info.

Q – Are there YouTube vids on how to check your fishery?

A – We haven't unfortunately.

Q – How many successful prosecutions have there been in Somerset this year?

A – All this info is available in a recent press release. National statistics are available on the AT website, updated every month.

Q – How are clubs made aware of available funding for habitat improvements?

A – I communicate funding for fisheries improvement projects at these forums and use my contact lists, clubs can come to me if they have project ideas.

Q – Our club struggles to get funding for future projects, I've written in time and time again to the Angling Improvement Fund and the only person to get back to me was Jody.

A – John Cheyne – I will definitely speak to Rick Warner about this poor communication. Government funding cash usually has to be spent within an allotted time scale, normally within the same year, that's how their process works.

**7.50 - Improving habitat, improving fish stocks** - Del Shackleford, Reading and District Angling Association, demonstrates the practical improvements you can make to your stretches of river to encourage fish recruitment

*During Del's presentation he wanted to stress that the improvements he has made, aren't expensive and highlighted these: Gravel cleaning kit - £400 to make, £800 to dig a backwater and fence it and £1500 to repair a crumbling bank. Installing woody debris for habitat or to improve flows require EA consent and the form is available on EA website. Del said it can be filled in on Monday and the work can be done on Friday. Del wanted to stress the importance of kick sampling on your river to get to know how healthy it is and use as an indicator if there's a problem.*

Q – What kind of reaction do you get from farmers when you request a backwater refuge to be fenced and prevent his cattle from drinking?

A – Farmers are paid to be environment conscious.

Q – Have you got details of your gravel cleaning kit?

A – See me at the end of the forum and I'll give you the details.

Q – What do you think make good Stillwater refuges?

A – Tyre islands work very well.

Q – Have you added gravel where required?

A – Flood consents are needed, we've added gravel at 4 or 5 locations.

Q – Has gravel compaction always been that bad on the Kennet?

A – I think it has but it gets worse the closer you get to the chalk.

Q – Some of your examples are brilliant and I want clubs to know that these are the type of projects the EA can help with.

Q – Do you need permission to clean gravel?

A – Yes, there are right times to clean and bad, such as spawning times. There's a form on the EA website that needs to be completed.

**Let the Rivers Flow** – James Champkin, Angling Trust Campaigns Officer talks rivers, fishing and how important good flows are for our rivers and how everyone can get involved with the campaign for abstraction reform.

Q – Who's campaign has been pushing reform on the Kennet?

A – Martin salter has been pushing this for years.

Q – Could the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust do something similar?

A – It's the organisations that have the purse strings for Water Framework Directive that can help the most.

Q – Is there a risk of poor environmental law after Brexit?

A – There are risks associated to Brexit.

Q – Are there plans to build more reservoirs because of population growth?

A – Water companies can't build them because Ofwat stops them from investing, they don't want water bills going up.

Q – Is there a map detailing where abstraction is taking place?

A – I don't know about a public map, we have our own maps that we use.

Q – Is Ofwat looking at dishwashers, washing machines etc usage?

A – They do use a massive amount of water, I don't know if Ofwat are responsible for that.

*Here is a link to a short video with Martin Salter – reforming the water abstraction system – Threat to our rivers:*

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=1239&sectionTitle=Keeping+Rivers+Flowing+-+Reforming+the+Water+Abstraction+System>

Q – I get emails from Greenpeace and WWF asking me to support their campaigns, they make it easy to do so. Why aren't the Angling Trust sending out emails in the same vain with links to MPs etc?

A – I couldn't agree more; Greenpeace and WWF are much bigger than we are.