



ANGLING TRUST

Angling Trust North Yorkshire Fisheries Forum

October 4th 2017

Best Western Crown Hotel

Horsefair, Boroughbridge, YO51 9LB

In Association with The Environment Agency

Meeting Notes and Q&A

The Work of The Wild Trout Trust - Jonathan Grey

Q – Don't the habitat improvements get washed away when it floods?

A – The improvements are scaled, like on tree kickers where the wire is gaged accordingly.

Q – I fish the Swale often and it gets a lot of debris and the water itself can be very acidic.

A – The water will be diluted by the time it moves down and the river is used to dealing with acidic peaty water. The consensus now is to stop the drainage of the upland moors. Most landowners help and see the benefits of habitat.

Q - What do you do to prevent the logs you put in being washed out of the river? It's my experience that stones less than 300mm are washed out in heavy flows.

A – Rebar is used or faced with larger stones. The location for improvements is important.

Q – With deflectors, it's experimental and we don't always get it right first time!

A – We look to get deflectors bedded in.

Q – Do the WTT stock fish?

A – We're not anti-stocking per se but we believe water quantity, water quality and habitat will create a healthy fishery.

John Aston wanted to say he was sold on natural rivers against stocking after a five-year trial, and now catches on there are better than ever.

Q – Can grayling travel up a larinier fish pass?

A – Pat O'Brien – They are not good for course fish.

Environment Agency Fisheries Update - Pat O'Brian

Q – Topcliffe Weir hydro power project should have died a couple of years ago!

A – It's messy! The planning permission is difficult, the riparian owner wants the project. He has a legal right to apply and could be a potential project. The EA have plans to put a fish pass on the weir.

John Cheyne – The problem with larger hydro schemes is people wanting to make a profit - not people wanting to produce green energy!!

Q – How can it be allowed for anglers to fish off a fish pass?

A – There is no bylaw prohibiting fishing off fish passes. An option I suggested was to stop access with the land owner.

Q – With reference to the boxing day flood and the knee jerk reaction to get the dredgers out, what are the EA doing to stop this from happening again?

A – Politics drive these initiatives. A lot of the work has been done against our advice.

Q – How can we change public opinion about dredging?

A – People and journalists like George Monbiot are good at getting the message across.

Angling Trust Campaigns Update - John Cheyne

Q – Has categorising Scottish rivers worked with helping salmon numbers?

A – My boss Mark Lloyd does some work with Scotland but they are governed by the Scottish government.

Q – Reference the consultation and a sea trout only fishery – a lot less is known about sea trout compared to salmon!

A – The minister has asked for the sea trout fishery only option because he doesn't want there to be a judicial review after the consultation.

AOB

Dave Mackay a Police Constable from Harrogate District Rural Taskforce came along to the forum and explained how he and the team are working with the Voluntary Bailiffs and EA to combat fishery crimes. He explained that the local Voluntary Bailiff Coordinator has his direct number for a better reaction. Three people have been fined £1100 between them and had passed criminal activity. This was made possible by the organisations working together. Hopefully these kind of stories and fines will be a deterrent to others.

Giles Evans, Angling Trust Regional Fisheries Enforcement Manager – Things are changing for the better and please report fishery crime – after a while a hotspot will be realised and an action will happen. But unless its reported and an incident number attained a hotspot won't be realised and nothing will happen because intelligence triggers the Police and EA Enforcement responses to act.

