



# ANGLING TRUST

## Angling Trust South West Fisheries Forum

November 4th 2017

**Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust**

Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1EF

In Association with The Environment Agency

### Meeting Notes and Q&A

**Environment Agency Fisheries Update** – Phil Rudd, Fisheries Technical Specialist

Q – Do you have the numbers for salmon being counted in the Avon for the whole year?

A – These numbers are available.

Q – When we have low flows what happens with abstraction?

A – This is an ongoing situation and were looking at a review.

Q – Wessex Water are catchment hosts for the Stour, can we get them to come along to the forum next year?

A – I think that would be a good idea.

Q – Will action be taken against farmers for point source pollution?

A – Education and working with farmers is the way we've been tackling the problem.

Q – If we catch a pink salmon, what are the rules?

A – They are under the same rules as the Atlantic Salmon, if you have a positive identification, please let us have it.

Q – What are you doing about escaped rainbow trout?

A – Our Enforcement Officers are looking at screening at trout farms.

Q – If we want to carry out habitat improvement work, do we need to get agreement from the EA?

A – Yes, if you're putting permanent fixtures in-river, then you will need agreement.

*Martin Salter wanted to highlight policy guidance that was carried out on the River Loddon that will be made available on our website. The guidance is also available by using the link below, scrolling down the page to documents for download and selecting what you want.*

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=845&sectionTitle=South+West+Forum>

*Martin asked if questions could be saved until after Trevor's and his presentations were both finished and be directed to the panel.*

**Avon Roach Project Progress Report - Trevor Harrop**

**Angling Trust Campaigns Update – Martin Salter, Head of Campaigns at the Angling Trust**

*Phil's, Trevor's and Martin's presentation slides are available for download from:*

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=845&sectionTitle=South+West+Forum>

**Current state and future of The Hampshire Avon as a fishery - A question time debate with a panel - Martin Salter, Trevor Harrop, Phil Rudd, Steve Jenner, Secretary, Christchurch Angling Club.**

Q – Where can I go fishing for the roach on the Thames?

A – Alan at Thames Valley Angling can sort you out with a parking permit for access, fish anywhere from Oxford to Reading.

Q – With regards to fish avoiding cormorants, there seems to be more fish around highly populated areas!

A – I agree, when there's bank disturbance, the cormorants stay away more and these areas hold a lot of silver fish.

Q – What is the fish health care protocol for Avon Roach Project?

A – Health checks are done on the three-year-old's. The EA fisheries team are the biggest help to the Avon Roach Project and Shaun Leonard donates the money for the health check. I have supply and grow license for the whole of the Avon.

Q – What do you feed the roach you are growing?

A – We feed them brine shrimp to start with for two weeks, then they move on to cyprinid feed, it's what they require. At the start of the project we fed them trout pellet but after a year we had them checked and there were problems, so we stopped using them.

Q – Is ranunculus key for a healthy river?

A – It's a level of protection for fish, it needs light, clean water and flow for it to grow.

Q – Is siltation a big factor for ranunculus growth?

A – It needs clean gravel substrate and light to help it grow. It does filter sediment but doesn't like to much flow as it can get washed out during floods.

Q – On the roach spawning boards, what substrate did you use to get them to lay their eggs on it?

A – At the start we used keepnet and landing nets, we had a keepnet amnesty in the local area and anglers bought us them. We tried different types, 8mm minnow mesh is what they preferred and the eggs stick to it. The mesh is hung 14 inches below the boards.

Q – Is there biological filtration in the tanks?

A – No, we want green algae rich water, we then put daphnia in, they eat the algae and when the roach hatch they eat the daphnia larvae.

Q – At Calverton they use borehole water, what do you use?

A – De-chlorinated tap water.

Q – I've noticed some of the salmon ladders on the Avon are more of a barrier to migration than a fish pass.

A – We are improving them and if we get obstructions, we will clear them.

Q - 7000 new homes are going to be built round Ringwood, 700 of them near the Royalty. Is there any obligation of the water company to do anything to address the problems these new houses will bring?

A – Make water much more a political problem and make the public aware, most people don't care about water and it isn't properly regulated. One of the most productive tributaries for roach is the Blackwater and most of the water is treated sewage water, so it shows that it can work. Politicians talk about new houses and it's up to us to ask where the water is coming from.

Q – Where do you see the river in three years-time?

A – I think we'll see a renaissance in river fishing. I think the way people learn about fishing is key, it's not all about carp, barbel and catfish. If we can be seen to be putting something back, then it will have a future. I can't see the river getting better while carp lakes are getting fenced and the otters feed on the river. At Wimbourne we are catching different sizes of roach and it would seem that they are evolving to get away from predators.

