



ANGLING TRUST

Angling Trust East Midlands Fisheries Forum

October 11th 2017

Holiday Inn Derby/Nottingham M1, Jct.25

Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG10 5NJ

In Association with The Environment Agency

Meeting notes and Q&A

Meeting opened by David Kent, Angling Trust Volunteer Chair

Environment Agency Fisheries Update – Simon Ward, Fisheries Technical Specialist

Q – What is the rod licence evasion rate for our region?

A – 2.5%, it's significantly down on previous years.

Q – What is the policy after the Stone pollution, I'm concerned it isn't going to be stocked. Why wouldn't it be after a category 1 pollution incident?

A – It's difficult for me to comment, as it isn't our patch. It's West Midlands over there and I don't have the details, it depends on a case by case basis, Phil Wormwood is the Team leader for that area.

John Cheyne, came into the conversation to offer help with getting the question to the right person.

Q – Can fishes migrate through Colwick fish passes?

A – A few salmon get through the canoe pass but discharge doesn't really attract salmon.

Environment Agency River Trent Barbel Study – Ryan Taylor, Fisheries Technical Specialist

Q – Once the study is complete, will the EA be able to help clubs improve habitat where it's needed?

A – Yes, we will work with clubs and go through the data and scrutinise why certain areas are better than others.

Q – We had a fish kill that decimated chub a few years back in Burton. Is it recovering, do you have any figures?

A – We don't cover that patch, if you have an issue, please contact Phil Wormwood.

Q – Where is the boundary between East and West Midlands? I'm concerned about chub and barbel above Sawley.

A – The boundary is just below the Dove confluence. It's difficult for us to cover the whole area electric fishing. I think that this is a good opportunity for us to work with you to collect scales. Our sections of river are separated by weirs. The focus has been up to Sawley because we already had a large data set.

Q – Will you be able to differentiate between old and new river?

A – It is separated – section 9 is the old river.

Q - How can we help to get more clubs involved?

A - We want to make contact with more clubs now and branch out to smaller clubs. We need 15 individual scales to demonstrate a growth curve.

Angling Trust NOTE: There were a number of detailed questions asked which related to rivers in a different part of the Trent catchment which is covered by a different EA Area team which therefore could not be answered on the night. AT will make every effort to ensure that we either hold a meeting in that area next year, or invite a member of that area team to attend the meeting in Nottingham, so that questions on the whole of the Trent system can be answered in the meeting.

Angling Trust Campaigns Update – John Cheyne, National Regions Manager

Q – We can't move forward as a club on the upper Trent because of weed and a lot of clubs are going to fold. We just want to be able to trot through our pegs! We've lost two thirds of our pegs/angling opportunity on our water and I just get the answer from the EA that they don't remove weed. If it's nitrates, we have a problem and the river is deteriorating. It breaks my heart to see an established club dying!

Mark Owen, AT, Head of Freshwater raised the point about their club having a grant for a weed cutting boat.

Simon Ward suggested that Steve Lawrie, EA Fisheries Team Leader has been speaking to Phil Wormwood, Team Leader for Burton area and believes something is happening with the problem.

Q – Is the Trent monitored and surveyed for salmon?

A – It isn't currently but will have a full programme for fish surveying next year and with the fish passes, we are moving forward.

Q – Do the EA carry out smolt trapping on the Trent?

A – We want to, but we're not a principle salmon river, so we don't get funding for monitoring.

The coarse fish close season debate:

John Cheyne started the debate by asking the following questions:

1 - I think we should abolish the close season

2 – I think we should keep the close season as exactly as it is

3 – I think we should amend the close season

4 – I don't know, would require more data to make a judgement

A vote was made and here are the results:

1 – 6 hands

2 – 7 hands

3 – 6 hands

4 – 5 hands

Points made about 1:

- Consistency, it's pointless when you can fish canals and lakes, why not the river too?
- If your taking into account angling pressure, I can take you to places that never get fished.
- We have such bad seasonal weather now, we haven't been able to fish for months in recent years.
- More poaching and predation happen because there aren't anglers on the bank.

Points made about 2:

- Why change something that's flourishing? Sometimes anglers and river banks need to recover.
- The Derwent and the Dove have great fly fishing in the close season, it could lead to a clash of interests.
- We don't get calls from game anglers wanting to abolish, we have a close season to let them spawn.

Points made about 3:

- How can you have a different season for predatory fish and non-predatory? Last year barbel spawned in May and this year they were still spawning end of June.

Points made about 4:

- I want more evidence because it's such a big decision. I would want to know how the banks react.

At the end of the debate John Cheyne asked if anyone had changed their mind after the debate, and no one had.

