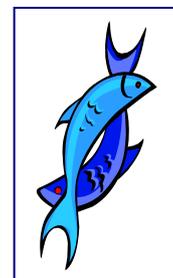


The River Taw Fisheries Association Newsletter



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Summer 2016

Chairman's Report



The 2015 season, I am pleased to report, was altogether better than 2014. How much better though is unclear. I reported preliminary EA rod catch figures at the AGM, 188 salmon and 369 sea trout, but the final EA numbers were very different, 225 salmon and 493 sea trout. I was still concerned that these numbers under-reported the true rod catch. Puzzled, I conducted a beat by beat survey which showed 313 salmon and 575 sea trout. Why the large difference? Two reasons, I believe. First we fishermen have become sloppy in making our annual returns. Secondly the EA's newly introduced on-line system is not easy to use and there is evidence to suggest that some fishermen's numbers did not actually go through.

The EA will no doubt make their on-line system fit for purpose this season. We fishermen must be disciplined in making our returns every year by 31 December as required by law. The rod catch numbers are used for river management purposes and need to be reliable. I will continue to do an annual beat survey from now on. It is a very useful parallel exercise.

We continue to perform well against our peer group of rivers in the south-west and our return percentages remain high - salmon 85% and sea trout 77%.

Brown trout fishing on the Taw system continues to grow successfully. On a rough estimate the specialist trout fishermen caught about 2,000 trout last season. Efforts are being made to integrate this important fishing community, essentially the clubs and syndicates, more fully into RTFA. To a great extent they are the keepers of our headwaters. Bearing this in mind I am very pleased that four trout fishing volunteers from the Taw have recently been trained under the Riverfly Partnership Scheme to survey and analyse fly life. We expect others to join the scheme. Assessing fly life on a regular and

systematic basis is an excellent method of measuring a river's health.



Over time we hope to run campaigns to improve the conditions of our important tributaries, in particular the Little Dart and the Lapford Yeo. This will depend on enthusiasm along these streams and funding availability. Opening up these tributaries will benefit trout and by extension sea trout. They could also become nurturing streams for juvenile salmon. Picking up on this I should mention that the WRT conducted juvenile surveys on over 60 sites at the end of last season. This was funded jointly by RTFA and WRT and will help to pick up the slack created by the EA's severe cut-back in juvenile survey work.



Habitat improvement work will continue at a pace commensurate with the funding that we and WRT can access. There are also three weirs on tributaries where fish access can be improved. Progress on these should be made this year.

Worries include the extensive and growing cultivation of winter maize with its devastating soil run-off consequences, Himalayan balsam and predators – cormorants, goosanders and signal crayfish.

As for continuing campaigns we hope that the review of estuary netting for sea fish will shortly come down in our favour with a complete netting ban, thereby removing the salmon and sea trout by-catch problem. With Angling Trust, Maritime Conservation Society and the Torridge Association we continue to put pressure on the appropriate councils to sort out once and for all the Northam Landfill problem and remove that threat from our valuable estuary.

As to relationships, we work closely with WRT and EA; strongly support South West Rivers Association and Angling Trust; work hand in hand with Torridge

Association on matters of common interest and play an important role on Exmoor Rivers and Streams Group and Dartmoor Steering Group. Viewed from a Taw point of view all these relationships are aimed at improving our river, its fishing and our knowledge of it.



The AGM in March was well attended. A full report can be found in Current News on our website. New to the website menu are Weirs Project and TRIP where you will find summaries of the 12 weir project on the main stem, completed last year, and the 3 year £1.8m Taw River Improvement Project which finished successfully last year.

A number of new Committee Members were elected at the AGM and I believe they will be of long-term benefit to the Association. In short they decrease the average age of the Committee and increase its fishing experience. With the arrival of Julian Zealey from the Rising Sun we are in the happy position of having all three of our fishing hotels represented, Highbullen and the Fox & Hounds already being represented by Chris Taylor and Pete Tyjas respectively. These hotels are of great importance to our river, bringing people to the area and getting us known more widely.



A recruitment drive is under way. We as an Association carry more clout if we can demonstrate the widest possible support among riparian owners and those who fish the river.

This ties into the work being done to involve the brown trout community more directly.

If we are to keep renewing ourselves as an association how do we guard against our membership becoming one year older every year? Put more positively: how can we attract younger fishermen to our river. The Committee is beginning to grapple with this problem. Ideas from members would be appreciated, sent to me by email.

A final word on the current season which started slowly; by mid-May despite good water, but with cold and windy conditions, fishing effort was limited and only about 15 salmon had been caught. Since then we have drought conditions through to mid-June. We need rain urgently to get the season going.



Important reminder: do please send in your EA rod catch return by 31st December.

Alex Gibson
Chairman

Hon. Treasurer's Report - 2015

The Association

The times they are a changing and with them the Treasurer - it is also time to drag the Association fully into the 21st century. We need to streamline the subscription payment system to save the dozens of reminders sent out annually. Henceforward we want all those who do not already pay by standing order to do so and to that effect a supply of forms is available for your use. If uncertain the Treasurer can let you know if you

are already on the standing order basis. PLEASE DO PARTICIPATE.

There is a net increase of four in membership despite recruiting 9 new members. Retirements from fishing, moving etc. takes its toll and we need to work hard to keep up our numbers. This is a matter for us all not just the committee, please do look and if you know anyone who fishes and is not a member get them to join. Encourage those who fish your waters to join.

Subscriptions will remain at: £35 for Full members £15 for Associate members.

Please send your subscription standing order instructions to your bank and confirm under email advice for record purposes to Richard Nickell at: richard@blakewell.co.uk

The Trust

The weirs project has taken pride of place in our funding priorities in the last few years. We have reserved funds to ensure match funding was available to move this project forward if necessary during that time; in the event these funds were not used. Now the major element of that scheme is finished we again turn to broader habitat enhancement utilising the funds already available.

The Committee agreed to support our partners the Westcountry Rivers Trust with funding to enable a full programme of electro-fishing to take place so that we can monitor the results of the weirs project. The EA has reduced its own efforts in this regard but will now accept "outside" data to supplement its own more limited work.

The other element is a survey of invasive plants so that a coordinated plan to deal with this menace can be drawn up in due course. £11,000 has been transferred to the Westcountry Rivers Trust to fund our participation in those projects.

At the year-end we were able to transfer £630 to the Trust from the Association account where it will be ring fenced to help enhance the system. The 2015 auction proceeds amounted to £3,820 the highest ever amount raised. The Trust ends the year with £8763 in hand - a satisfactory position.

Mac McCarthy. Hon. Treasurer, 2015.

Treasurer's Report Newsletter 2016

Firstly may I take this opportunity to thank Mac for his time as Treasurer and for all his input and hard work over so many years.

 As your new Treasurer I have been getting to grips with the task and starting a process of updating information and systems to streamline the operation. Part of this process will be to get all members to pay their subscriptions by direct debit or standing order by the end of May each year. This is crucial to the smooth running of the financial side of

RTFA and frees up time that can be better spent on river improvement matters.

This year's auction was another success with a wide range of lots. It raised £3,535. Thanks must be given to Chris Taylor and George Marsh for their organisation and also to all those who generously gave Lots. The auction provides important funding for river projects.

Tight lines

Richard Nickell.
Hon Treasurer

Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT)

The last five years have been very significant for Westcountry Rivers Trust on the Taw and although the Taw Access over Weirs Project has finished we are still looking at removing further barriers on certain tributaries - so far we have dealt with over 40 barriers and debris dams. The electrofishing surveys carried out last year and scheduled in our ongoing program will show the impact of our work as well as identify further fisheries pressures on the system. We are hugely grateful for all the RTFA support and Adrian Dowding is working hard to coordinate projects and funds to ensure that we get the most effective benefit for the Taw for the most efficient price.



At the moment we are working on a number of projects in North Devon and the Taw in particular:

- The CPAF project is drawing to a close and we have looked at the impact of a lot of lower Taw tributaries and farms and are happy to report that 25 River Improvement Plans have been drawn up which will lead to better water quality in our rivers and, more importantly, less sediment choking the gravels and fish eggs. The farmers and managers called on were open to our visits and ideas and we have forged a good link with the North Devon Biosphere's Estuary Project to deliver some change in 2016. We will be looking at rejuvenating and generating wetlands to buffer both water quality and sediment attenuation.

- With the river improvement plans recently generated, the juvenile surveys and Himalayan Balsam survey in the Upper Taw we hope to drive forward fundraising using this evidence to get a large project for both the Taw and Torridge in the near future, linking the two catchments as they historically have been. Through our catchment partnership we are working with NGO's and all interested parties to get more funds to the Tarka catchments.
- Following the success of the Taw Access over Weirs Project and alongside our continuing drive to remove barriers, we are starting to look at the important tributaries and to identify where these side-streams can be opened for fish to reach good spawning and juvenile habitat.

Working in partnership with RTFA, the South West Rivers Association and the National Rivers Trust we are gaining in knowledge and strength and getting audiences with ministers and others who can really make a difference in policy. It seems our voices are starting to be heard and we are looking at North Devon optimistically as we set off to spread the word about the successful Taw Access over Weirs Project at national events such as the Rivers Trust Spring Conference in May. In fact on World Fish Migration Day on the 21st May we extolled the virtues of the Taw and demonstrated how good things can happen when we pull together and kick-off crucial projects like Head Weir.

Dr Laurence Couldrick
Chief Executive Officer

If you want to know.....



About the state of the river and for fishing reports visit the River Taw Fisheries Association Web Site on

www.rivertawfisheries.co.uk

and click on Current News and Webcams & Gauges

SOUTH WEST RIVERS ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF THE RIVERS

This is a short summary of our activities of most direct relevance to the Taw. Much of the Association's work is in support of the 20 individual member river associations, especially fighting developments potentially damaging to their interests. Increasingly initiatives and best practice on each river are being transferred to other rivers.

The AGM was held on 16 April. Roger Furniss gave an overview of the Association's activities. We were delighted to welcome Sarah Chare, Environment Agency Deputy Director responsible for Fisheries, as our main speaker. Her main focus was the Agency's new '5 Point Approach' for restoring salmon numbers in England following the very low 2014 stock assessment throughout the North Atlantic. The five points are:

1. Improve Marine Survival – survival of salmon smolts returning to our rivers is lower than ever;
2. Further reduce exploitation by rods and nets;
3. Remove barriers to migration and enhance habitat – RTFA has shown the way on this;
4. Safeguard sufficient flows;
5. Maximise spawning success by improving water quality

SALMON AND SEA TROUT MANAGEMENT

Our Secretary has been heavily involved in influencing national policy on salmon and sea trout management with a fundamental position that angling should be at its heart – without anglers there would be little political interest. He attended a national Salmon Summit in November and has since been invited to join a national Angling Advisory Group to work with the Agency and Defra on delivery of the 5 Point Approach. At national and local level input to the 5 Point Approach includes:

1. **Improve Marine Survival** – working with our Patron, Orri Vigfusson, whose organisation North Atlantic Salmon Fund raises huge sums to pay compensation to Greenland and Faroese fishermen in return for not fishing for salmon. Our Secretary joined Orri and two Faroese fishermen in a meeting with Fisheries Minister, George Eustice MP, to promote this successful approach.
2. **Reduce exploitation by rods and nets** - the national Angling Advisory Group is promoting better voluntary catch and release with no further mandatory restrictions on rods – there is clear evidence that excessive regulation of angling seriously reduces angling effort. SWRA is of the view that the value of salmon and sea trout as sport fish is so much greater than their food value that netting for them should now cease. We are working with Orri and others to advance the buyout of all estuarial and inshore nets as the quickest way to achieve this.
3. **Remove barriers** – the RTFA has shown the value of improving upstream migration. Equally important is ensuring that downstream migrating smolts are not delayed
4. **Safeguard sufficient flows** – the Taw is 'lucky' in not having large obstructions but some rivers do

and SWRA is working to reduce the most damaging ones. A slight chink of light is the Agency's recent reassessment of flows required to support Good Ecological Status which may prompt changes to current licences.

5. **Maximise spawning success by improving water quality** – not a major problem on the Taw.

LICENCED

Net Limitation Orders are made to limit the number of licences the Environment Agency issues to allow netting for salmon and sea trout in each major estuary. The Dart and Teign NLO's were reviewed in time for the 2016 season and the experience was very relevant to the need for continued lobbying to put angling at the heart of public policy.

The Dart was given a 10 year NLO of zero, i.e. no licenced salmon and sea trout netting, largely as a result of the Dart FA and North Atlantic Salmon Fund paying compensation to the three licensees in return for a binding contract preventing them from ever fishing again..

The outcome on the Teign was not good – the three licences will continue to be issued for at least five years. The Teign FA made a very strong case that netting should cease in recognition of the far greater socio-economic value of rod fishing and the part played by anglers in conserving stocks and the wider environment. Despite presenting the case directly to the Fisheries Minister, George Eustice MP, it appears that the EA and Defra are not prepared to bite the bullet and recognise that netting salmonids simply for food has had its day.

The Teign decision reinforces the need for the SWRA to maintain its central focus on reforming salmon management policy for the benefit of all rivers.

IFCA BYELAW REVIEWS



The three Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities which relate to our region are reviewing all of their byelaws which relate to netting in estuaries and inshore waters. Some of the existing byelaws, made by the former sea fisheries committees, are designed to protect salmon and sea trout which feed and migrate in inshore waters. SWRA is campaigning for those byelaws to remain and be extended to ban all sea fish netting in estuaries. We are also pressing for further restrictions on netting methods in areas where salmonids could be vulnerable to sea fish netting. The Environment Agency agrees with our position and has produced excellent evidence on the movements of salmon and sea trout in tidal waters in support.

At recent meeting with the Devon IFCA, attended by the Taw and Torridge Associations, there was good news – IFCA will be proposing a ban on all sea fish netting in the estuaries, with the exception of sand eel netting and an extension of the estuary limits to a line well outside of the Bideford Bar.

Roger Furniss, Secretary
Email: furniss740@btinternet.com

The Environment Agency (EA)

In the last two RTFA Newsletters I have started my report by updating you on the disappointing reduction we have had in Fisheries Enforcement Officers (FEOs) in Devon. Unfortunately this Newsletter continues in the same vein as two further Devon FEOs left on early retirement in March. This time it included my colleague of 25 years Jeremy Boyd. I am therefore now the only North Devon Fisheries Enforcement Officer covering the Taw, Torridge and Lyn catchments. Jeremy was in recent years responsible for the upper Exe and Barle as well. That catchment is now the responsibility of the East Area FEO. To free more time and to enable me to carry out my duties fully for the Agency over my catchments I am no longer working part time for Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority, although as per other Agency FEO's I will still be warranted.



With fewer officers in the Devon & Cornwall area our enforcement role is

more complex. We work jointly as a team across the area allowing us to target areas with specific fisheries enforcement patrols. I have already carried out patrols on the Taw this year accompanied by officers from Devon, Cornwall and Wessex areas. We also work very closely with the Police and the Angling Trust.

In line with all enforcement agencies we operate a "targeted, intelligence led policy" with regard to enforcement. As I am always stating, this is where you all have a major role to play acting as "eyes and ears" for your river. Please report any illegal or suspicious fishing activities to the Agency's 24 hour hotline on 0800 80 70 60. The more information I have, the more effective I can be on your behalf. You may also report pollution incidents on the same number.

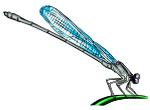
Paul Carter

Fisheries Enforcement Officer, Environment Agency
pj.carter@environment-agency.gov.uk

River Taw Trout Fishing

I spend most of my days on the Taw either fishing or guiding anglers for trout. Many of the trout we encounter are in the 8 to 10 inch range, but there are often times when larger fish are caught. Last season we caught and measured a number of fish in the 15 to 16 inch range and had two of 17 inches. These would be considered special fish on many of the big name trout rivers across the length and breadth of the country.

The really interesting thing is that many of the bigger fish are caught on a dry fly, a method considered by many as the ultimate way to tempt a trout. It is certainly very exciting!



We are fortunate that the Taw experiences some good fly hatches starting with large dark olives and moving on to the first caddis of the season, the grannom. Olive uprights and midges will keep the fish interested until the mayfly come along.

Starting in mid-May the fish take advantage of these sizeable flies and will feed well on them until the first, sometimes, second week of June. The Taw is fortunate that the hatch is big enough that the fish will key in on them, but it isn't big enough that the anglers fly gets lost amongst a large number of the naturals. It is about as perfect a hatch you could wish for.

I have often felt that the trout would have had their fill after mayflies have finished but they continue to feed at the surface on more midges before caddis (sedges) start to emerge in great numbers. There will also be blue winged olives too, but not in the numbers that I have seen in the past.

The year round hatches mean the angler could fish just a dry fly for the whole season, but adding a few nymphs to the fly box will increase chances on the cooler, early days of the season and in bright, low water conditions too. Over the years a bead head pheasant tailed nymph has been the most successful pattern for me in many of its variations in sizes 14, 16 and 18.

I often like to walk the river casting to rising fish. It is fun to do and allows me observe the fish and its behaviour. Then I will choose the fly appropriate for the stage of the hatch I think the trout is feeding on. Perhaps it is the emerging adult fly stuck in the surface film of the water or the newly emerged dun. By watching I learn a lot.

I keep my dry fly patterns simple and prefer generic impressions rather than out and out copies. This gives me a little more flexibility and it is not often I see a fish "locked on" to a particular food source. Try patterns that will cover an olive hatch, caddis hatch, mayfly hatch and midge hatch. Most of the flies I use will be in sizes 14 to 18 and for the smaller midges I will use size 18 and 20.

For fishing the larger stretches of the Taw I prefer a 9ft rod in a 2 or 3 wt and for the very upper sections of the river a 7 1/2 or 8ft rod is perfect.

When the salmon fishing is slow, it can be worth packing the trout rod for some extra fun on the water.



Peter Tyjas

Salmon & Trout Conservation UK

I am pleased to update you on the work of Salmon & Trout Conservation UK (S+TC UK), and the Devon Branch in particular.

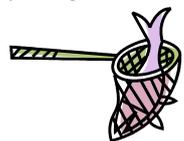
Firstly may I thank you all on behalf of the over 40 youngsters who have enjoyed an introduction to fly fishing during the last 12 months. Sponsorship by both the Taw and Torridge Associations makes a huge difference to what we can do in terms of junior training days. These youngsters are the future for our rivers. This year we have been able to incorporate an "Improvers" Day which encourages those who have a basic skill to develop with more challenging fishing. It was so successful that we now have it as an ongoing feature in our programme.

It is how we can bring youngsters to our sport that I wish to focus on in this Newsletter. In this litigious and safety conscious world it is hard for institutions to train youngsters out in the open, around water and using sharp hooks! As we heard from Roger Furniss at the recent South West Rivers Association AGM, if we cannot stem this decline in our sport those who fish will become extinct before the West Country salmon do.

We are blessed with a very professional team and our work will be continued this year with 2 Basic Junior Days held at Exe Valley Fishery, Exebridge on Sunday 12th June and Sunday 25th September - plus continuation of the Improvers Day on Sunday 26th June at Bellbrook Valley Fishery. It is a testament to the dedication of our fully qualified guides and instructors that they give up their time to these youngsters for so little reward on days that they could sell to paying clients. We and our youngsters are indebted to them. If you wish to put youngsters forward please contact me (see below) and I will pass you to our coordinator Fred Leach.

At our recent AGM held at the Arundel Arms in Lifton we had "young people and how to recruit them" as a theme for our speakers

Charles Jardine is our S+TC UK Ambassador for youngsters. He gave an impassioned presentation on how we should drive this enterprise forward.



He says the key is to get the kids interested in what lies below the water surface before you even start to talk about fishing. He is going out to schools and taking the boys and girls and their teachers pond dipping! Or taking them along to participate in a Riverfly survey - they are mesmerised by what can be caught in a net. This then forms a bridge to seeing fish and wishing to catch one. That first tiny gudgeon, perch, roach or whatever can be the bait that draws them to take the next step into fishing.

Dr Bruce Stockley of Westcountry Rivers Trust (WRT) continued the theme. On the Taw and Torridge access on a

day ticket basis is limited and costly. So the WRT Angling Passport is an ideal way for a youngster to fish a lot of water at low cost in our region. Of course getting actively involved in the Riverfly Project with a parent, grandparent or neighbour is a way for youngsters to learn while making a real contribution.

Also at our recent AGM, Paul Knight, our CEO, spoke about the 2015 Riverfly Census, undertaken by Salmon & Trout Conservation UK. The survey has identified that there are only 14 pristine, un-impacted sites out of a total of 120 sites sampled in the survey on 12 sample rivers across England. Here in the South West they were the Axe and Camel both being what are known as free stone rivers rather than chalk stream.

In the survey the Camel was 3rd best of the 12 rivers and the Axe 5th best. This is good news for the Camel and Axe, but the overriding message from the survey was that what the EA has considered "pristine" is in fact far from it. Paul explained that the key difference in our survey was that the raw data per visit was kept intact whereas the EA data was averaged over a period. This means that spikes and troughs were not picked up. Thus our data analysis provides a much truer picture of river quality.



On the Taw, Riverfly is in its infancy, but its data is going to become a major piece of science to help protect and enhance the river's abundance for the future. For further information please contact me for a link to the survey results.

Lastly we, S+TC UK, would very much like to see you, members or not, at one of the Country shows. Bring along your children or grandchildren and we can pass you over to the skilled professionals for a short tuition using the newest tackle.

We will have a presence at:

The Mid Devon Show, near Tiverton, Saturday 23rd July.
The North Devon Show, at Umberleigh, Wednesday 3rd August.

The Devon and Cornwall Countryman's Show, Werrington, Nr Launceston, 7th August. This is a new show for us, but is what it says: "a countryman's show". It is biannual and run by The South West Lakes Trust with WRT.

Hope to see you there.



Steve Phelps, Chairman
Salmon & Trout Conservation UK,
Devon Branch
Email s.phelps127@btinternet.com Tel:
01647 432373

River Taw Fisheries Association AGM

Friday 17th March 2017

Highbullen Hotel



This is always a most informative event, with expert Speakers, an enticing Auction followed by a very enjoyable dinner.

We urge you to attend – and donations of Auction Lots will be warmly welcomed!



How to increase the value of fishing rights

Perhaps perversely the place to start is whether one wants to increase the value. If for instance, a sale is never intended but the desire is to pass a beat on to someone else on death and because Inheritance Tax will be payable then to an extent the last thing that is wanted is to increase the value and hence the tax paid.

This may of course be mitigated by making a lifetime gift of the beat which providing such a transfer is completed properly should result in no IHT being paid. However, for the rest of this article I am assuming that for most beat owners the desire is to at least ensure the value is retained and preferably increased.

Of course the physical attributes of a particular beat are not usually able to be changed. The pools and runs one has little influence over. Equally the access, parking and rights of way are usually set in stone within the Title Deeds.

Yet there are two particular areas that are worth considering: first what might be best described as putting one’s house in order and secondly, records.

Looking first at the house in order points; I suggest a look at the Title Deeds to check what rights you have and also what rights others may have that affect your beat as a starting point. It is not uncommon to find that access is habitually taken over a different route, perhaps originally with the tacit agreement of a neighbour but over time more by acceptance than the legal right of access. If a change from the legal access to the one used makes sense then get this formally documented in advance of contemplating a sale.

Often fishing huts can increase the ambience and enjoyment of a beat and subsequently its value. At times a

hut is built on the neighbouring landowner’s land without formal agreement. Pre-sale is the time to get this properly recorded by perhaps a licence or lease that may be transferred to a buyer.

Obvious to some but not all, is to ensure that fallen trees, broken stiles, lack of handrail for ladders etc. are dealt with and the banks, where appropriate, trimmed and even strimmed. Buyers are attracted by a beat that gives the appearance of having been loved and enjoyed.

Secondly the historic records, by far the most important of which is catch records, for very obvious reasons. Coupled with this and related to it is fishing effort. For instance similar beats with similar catch records of say a ten year average of five salmon and ten sea trout caught on an average of twenty days single rod fishing effort a year is probably worth more than a beat with the same catch record but with an average of a hundred days a season with two rods. Therefore the detail of days fished against what is landed is potentially a very valuable record. If the fly used, time of day, which pool, height of the water and the weather are added then the records become even more helpful.



Finally a comparison of catch records against the EA published annual records is useful to explain away a particularly poor season if the same may be said for the whole river for a particular reason as we suffered in 2001 during the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

“Before anything else, preparation is the key” Alexander Graham Bell

Charles Huntington-Whiteley
Strutt & Parker, Exeter



River Taw Fisheries Association Committee

Chairman	Alex Gibson
Secretary	George Marsh
Treasurer	Richard Nickell
Lower Taw	Simon Hillcox Mark Maitland-Jones Anthony Pope Julian Zealey
Upper Taw	Simon Phillips John Smith Peter Tyjas
River Mole	Andy Gray John Macro Chris Taylor

Associate Members' Representative Ian Blewett*

IT Adviser Bryan Martin*

Newsletter Editor Judith Kauntze*

Salmon & Trout Conservation UK Paul Ashworth*

* Non-voting Members

.....

And to close, something quite different....

Southwest Fishing for Life

'Fishing for Life' is a charitable organization which provides fly fishing sessions for people who all have one thing in common – breast cancer. They were launched in January 2008 at Wimbleball Lake on Exmoor where the South West Lakes Trust kindly let them use the lake facilities

Their aims and objectives are:

- To give anyone who has suffered from breast cancer the opportunity to learn to fly fish and in doing so, enhance their well-being and help them to develop a healthy life-long interest.
- To offer seasonal monthly fishing sessions at South West Lakes Trust venues and long term opportunities to continue fly fishing.
- To promote other aspects of fly fishing e.g. fly tying, 'matching the hatch'

- To provide qualified coaches to act as guides and mentors
- To encourage participation in fishing related events held at other South West Lakes Trust venues.
- To encourage the enjoyment the sport can bring as well as the promoting the social friendship opportunities and benefits.
- To encourage the families of participants to make use of the alternative facilities provide by the Trust ie. bird watching, walking, sailing

They have been awarded

The Queens Award for Voluntary Services

Contact details:

Gillian Payne, Secretary of SWFFL

holworthyfarm@aol.com. Telephone: 01398 371244

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River Taw Byelaws

Seasons

Salmon	1 March to 30 September
Sea Trout & Brown Trout	15 March to 30 September

Methods

Fly fishing permitted all season
Spinning permitted until 31 March
No other method or bait fishing permitted

Limits

Salmon
No salmon to be retained before 16 June
No salmon greater than 70cms in length
to be retained after 31 July

Salmon bag limits
2 fish in any 24 hour period
3 fish in any 7 day period
10 fish in a season

No rod caught salmon to be sold or offered for sale

Sea Trout bag limits
5 fish in any 24 hour period
15 fish in any 7 day period
40 fish in a season
Size limit 25cms

No rod caught sea trout to be sold or offered for sale

Brown Trout
Size limit 20cms

Please remember our Voluntary Code:
return **ALL Sea Trout** under 1lb and over 4lb
and fish well within the bag limits.



**The River Taw Fisheries Association is most grateful for
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