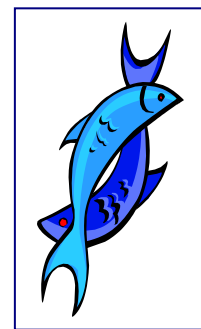


# The River Taw Fisheries Association Newsletter

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**Web site:** [www.rivertawfisheries.co.uk](http://www.rivertawfisheries.co.uk)

## Summer 2013

### Chairman's report



Last season was something of a mixed bag. With so much (too much?) water the fish were probably happier than the fishermen. High water, not to say floods, worked better for beats higher up the system. The fish pushed on through. Conditions for specialist sea trout fishermen were rarely favourable. (A piece on "Droughts and Floods" forms the second part of this report.)

2012 rod catches reflect these water conditions: 225 salmon with 158 (70%) returned and 357 sea trout with 289 (81%) returned. This compares with 2011 figures: 353 salmon (70% returned) and 602 sea trout (71% returned). The estuary netmen took 49 salmon and 120 sea trout which means that of all salmon killed the netmen accounted for 42% and of all sea trout killed, 64%. Food for thought here, especially since it would appear that those fishing the river took to heart our concern about declining sea trout numbers and significantly increased the percentage of sea trout returned. It is hoped that our voluntary code is working and that all sea trout under 1lb and over 4lb are being returned. The grilse run was disappointing for reasons beyond our ken. MSW fish were on the whole larger, again inexplicably.

Early 2013 catches in March and April have been poor with relatively few salmon seen. This is despite the fact that the river has held up exceptionally well despite dry and cold conditions during March and April. Do fish take when there is east in the wind? Certainly we have had plenty of this cold, drying wind. The wet winter has at last turned Exmoor and Dartmoor into sponges again giving slow water release, a situation we have not had for many years. This has been particularly noticeable on the Upper Taw. May started dry, so few salmon, but there are signs that even with low and dropping river heights sea trout are beginning to push into the system

Weir work has progressed well despite adverse weather conditions over the winter. In addition to Head Weir, Clapworthy, Irishman's Wall and Skaigh which were covered in the last Newsletter, Colleton (Larinier fish-pass), Sticklepath (pre-barriers) and North Wyke (removal) are now completed. Rashleigh (Larinier fish-pass probably) should be finished this year. Design work proceeds for North Tawton, Eggesford and North Molton and discussions have started for Filleigh. Two small weirs on the Lapford Yeo have been breached during the winter floods; a tidying-up exercise may make sense here.

Dylan Bright of WRT writes at length later in the Newsletter about the Taw River Improvement Project (TRIP) so as a result there is no need for me to go into detail. I shall simply re-emphasise how important TRIP is for the river system and how much good work WRT is doing on our behalf, supported by the EA.



On a different tack and addressing a different problem, we have linked up with the Torridge Association to confront the continuing salmon and sea trout by-catch problem in the Taw/Torridge estuary which results from drift net fishing there for bass and mullet. These drift-nets can be up to 400 or even 500 metres long. The newly formed Devon & Severn Inland Fisheries & Conservation Authority is charged with reviewing estuary byelaws and our two rivers are working with them and the EA to see how this type of drift-net fishing can be controlled so that salmon and sea trout destined for our rivers do not face death or damage on their return from the sea.

Those of you who attended the AGM in March will know that the Association made a presentation to Humphrey Wood with a vote of thanks for everything he has done for the Taw over many years, including the estuary net buy-out and the Head Weir project. The timing was determined by the fact that Humphrey

will shortly be leaving Devon and the Taw. He will be greatly missed. Humphrey wanted me to let members know how much he appreciated the gift and the thoughts behind it.

Alex Gibson  
Chairman

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## Droughts & Floods

We are all concerned about the effects of recent extreme weather conditions on our salmon and sea trout stocks as we work hard to improve weir access, habitat and water quality on the Taw system. Dr Anton Ibbotson of the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) has kindly allowed us to use parts of an article of his which discussed salmon stocks on the River Frome where the prospect is now of a severe population decline following an encouraging up-turn over the past few years.



According to Dr Ibbotson: " The measured population size of juvenile Frome salmon in 2011 was roughly half that of recent years, falling from 113,000 in 2010 to 64,000 in 2011. The 2011 smolt run was estimated at fewer than 7,000 fish, compared to runs of around 13,000 in recent times, threatening a major consequence for adult salmon returning to the Frome and other rivers that have recently experienced similar conditions.

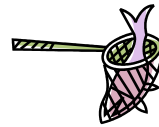
The 2011 drought resulted in a depleted population of juvenile salmon, most likely through habitat reduction. Estimates of the number of migrating smolts in 2012 were unusually low and so a significant drop in returning adults in 2013 and 2014 is likely. There is also evidence that the flooding since last spring has deleted 2012 juvenile numbers, which will affect smolt output in 2013 and returning adults through to 2015.

The same weather patterns were experienced across the south and southwest of England and parts of Wales and so, although we do not have data at present, we might expect similar impacts of low adult returns in those regions over the next few years."

On the Taw the jury is out on the effect on spawning of extreme flooding at the end of last year. We will know more when further juvenile surveys are completed by the EA this year. Some say our fish have always coped with high water during and after spawning and also that the weir work to date combined with high water has enabled fish to spawn further up where the wash-out effects are much less. Others more pessimistically say there must have been a serious loss of eggs and a subsequent wash-out of fry. What we do know historically from the 2012 EA survey is that salmon fry were about 50% down, almost certainly the result of wash-out following floods in early 2012. Trout fry numbers were also down, no doubt for the same reasons; however salmon parr numbers were good and trout parr numbers average.

We have been lucky in one respect. Had we not bought out Head Weir Fish Farm prior to the construction of Head Weir Falls, it is almost certain that the huge flood at the end of December, which was particularly severe on the Bray

and Mole, would have washed out the farm fish into the river proper. We would then have faced the same ecological problems that are currently being faced on the Exe where two fish farms have been washed out. The wash-out of a fish farm on the Barnstaple Yeo is unlikely to have any effect on the main stem of the Taw. With extreme weather conditions salmonid fish farms on spate rivers pose a continuing threat.



Apart from "watching this space" what can Taw anglers as individuals do? Think twice before deciding to take a salmon or a sea trout would be my suggestion. Our current return figures are respectable, 70% for salmon and 81% for sea trout, but there is still room for improvement. The main beneficial effects of the Access over Weirs Project and the Taw River Improvement Project are still to be felt. Work is in progress, but the life cycle of the salmon cannot be speeded up.

Alex Gibson

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If you want to know.....



About the state of the river and for fishing reports visit the River Taw Fisheries Association Web Site on <http://www.rivertawfisheries.co.uk> and click on the web-cam for: the Lower Taw, the Upper Taw or Mole

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River Taw Fisheries Association Committee

Chairman	Alex Gibson
Secretary	George Marsh
Treasurer	Mac McCarthy
Lower Taw	Martin Maxse Mark Maitland-Jones Humphrey Wood
Upper Taw	Simon Phillips John Smith Peter Tyjas
River Mole	Andy Gray John Macro Chris Taylor

Associate Members' Representative	Richard Nickell*
Newsletter Editor	Judith Kauntze*
Salmon & Trout Association	Steve Phelps*

\* Non-voting Members

Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Association raised £100 less in 2012 reflecting a dip in subscriptions. Costs were contained, with one important non-recurring item, the cost of installing the Upper Taw web-cam. Each part of the system now has a dedicated web-cam.

The net effect was to reduce the year end transfer to the River Taw Trust to £683.

The net change in membership shows how hard we have to work to maintain numbers. Retirements and those that leave for other reasons reduced the net figure by 2 despite 12 new members being recruited.

**This is a matter for us all, not just the Committee. So please encourage everyone who fishes your water or others that you know to join if they are not already members.**

The Trust ended the year with nearly £11,000 in the bank. The auction proceeds amounted to the record sum of £3,530 and overall we increased funds by £4,216. Thanks to all who contributed lots and to Chris Taylor and George Marsh for organising and running the auction.

 **Finally – SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2013 are now DUE**

They remain at:

Full Members (Riparian Owners)	£35
Associate Members	£15

- If you have not paid, think about a Bankers Order to save reminders in future. I shall be pleased to provide the instruction pro forma.

Otherwise send your subscription to:

Mac McCarthy,  
Red Lion Cottage, The Square, North Molton, North Devon EX36 3HR

Mac McCarthy. Hon. Treasurer

RTFA AGM and Dinner


River Taw Fisheries Association AGM  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014**  
**Highbullen Hotel**



## Westcountry Rivers Trust

What makes a river so restful, I feel, is that it doesn't have any doubt - it is sure to get where it is going and it doesn't want to go anywhere else. What I have found so satisfying about working with the RTFA is their determination to get where they are going with their ambition to allow salmon to reach their spawning grounds with minimal unnatural impediment to their journey. When you take down a weir, fish trapped below move upstream and those with fishing immediately below may lose out in the short term and some above may benefit in the short term, but ultimately the fish population should increase in abundance to benefit everyone.

The commitment to put the long-term health of the Taw and its fish populations at the forefront of the Association's agenda has been a vital factor in our ability to raise funds for work on the catchment. This in combination with the funds RTFA has raised and the availability of public access fishing on the Taw helps us access funds to improve the river and the fish populations. As a result the Trust has had one of its most significant successes ever in raising funds for the River Taw.

 The £1.8 million Taw River Improvement Project (TRIP) was developed by the WRT to restore the river and riparian habitats through working in a partnership to improve river connectivity for fish and other wildlife and to reduce the amount of diffuse pollution entering the river. The ultimate driver for improvement is to help the Taw and its tributaries to achieve Good Ecological Status (GES) by 2015, which is the stated ambition of the Regional River Basin Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The River Taw rises in the protected landscape of Dartmoor National Park between Belstone and South Tawton Common. Also, to the north, the catchment borders up to Exmoor National Park giving rise to the Bray and Mole. This sizeable catchment also includes a number of protected areas, SSSIs large and small (North Dartmoor SSSI, County Wildlife Sites, Fremington Local Nature Reserve) and lower down the catchment (North Devon's Biosphere Reserve, North Devon Coast AONB and the Taw & Torridge Estuaries SSSI). These multiple designations contain some of the finest nature conservation sites in the southwest and host a diverse array of wildlife, a different type of community that we must also respect and support.

Currently, the two main failures under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) on the Taw are fish and phosphate - too much phosphate and too few fish. Fish populations may have become less abundant due to a number of issues, including a lack of access. Accordingly, a number of barrier removals and fish passes are planned to further the work of the Taw

Access over Weirs Project. The river habitat itself may be degraded, either from diffuse pollution, sedimentation, overgrazing or over-shading and actions are planned within TRIP to address these problems.

The prevalence of agriculture means that land use must also be considered for impact on watercourses and riparian habitat. Low level diffuse pollution may originate from fertiliser or nutrient run off, which causes enrichment and will be detrimental to the natural ecological balance. Soil erosion caused by poaching of the ground by livestock, over-stocking or intensive cropping can be mobilised by rainfall, ending up in the river. This build-up of sediment effectively smothers the riverbed which should provide clean, oxygenated gravel beds for fish spawning. The soil also picks up and transports nutrients; phosphorous binds to sediment particles and hence is easily mobilised from land to water. Phosphate failure may also be caused by sewage discharge from domestic or industrial sources.



To tackle the issues in the Taw catchment, WRT is working in partnership with other organisations to deliver:

- Farm plans and advice, including:
  - Free and confidential farm visits to assess impacts on the river catchment, which will be supported by grant assistance for certain farm interventions, for example
  - Fencing of watercourses, provision or improvement to livestock crossing or drinking points, alternative drinking supplies for stock, improvements to gateways, culverts, tracks. etc.
  - Free soil testing to enable appropriate targeting of expensive inputs and reduce loss of nutrients to watercourses, followed up with comprehensive soil & nutrient plans
  - Wetland, coastal and floodplain management advice
- In-stream and riparian habitat management, including:
  - Selective coppicing and woodland creation and management to promote a diversity of bankside vegetation and prevent excessive erosion
  - Introduction of coarse woody debris to provide diversity of in-stream habitat
  - Gravel augmentation to restore areas of fish spawning habitat.

- Weir removals and easements to improve river connectivity and passage for fish including salmon, sea trout, trout and eels.
- Help and advice for woodland management, planting or grant applications.
- Surveys to help the survival of the endangered freshwater pearl mussel.
- A detailed study to monitor failings in key aspects of water quality (eg. soil and phosphate inputs across the catchment), by working with key academic and research partners to qualify reasons for failure.

### The Project Partners

WRT is working to deliver this project in partnership with RTFA, EA, South West Water, North Devon's

Biosphere Reserve, Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Natural England, Devon Wildlife Trust, Silvanus Trust, North Devon District Council, Exeter University, Mole Valley Farmers and Tarka Country Trust. WRT's Head of Catchment Management, Laurence Couldrick will be overseeing the work and we will keep all those interested apprised of progress. There may be opportunities for volunteers to get involved. For information please contact the Trust.

Dr Dylan Bright, Trust Director

Westcountry Rivers Trust:  
Rain-Charm House

Kyl Cober Parc - Stoke Climsland - Callington -  
Cornwall - UK - PL17 8PH

Tel: +44 (0)1579 372140

Web: [www.wrt.org.uk](http://www.wrt.org.uk)

## SOUTH WEST RIVERS ASSOCIATION PROGRESS SUMMARY

This is a summary of the key matters of direct interest 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

### **AGM**

The AGM was held in 6 April. The keynote speaker was Martin Ross, SWW Environment Manager and Chairman of Rivers Trusts – a major player in such initiatives as Upstream Thinking and the MIRE Project. The Secretary announced his intention to retire at the 2014 AGM

### **Hydropower**

The Secretary leads the fisheries representatives on the Environment Agency's National Working Group which is advising on the Review of Good Practice Guidelines. This has been an extremely frustrating process characterised by delays and unwillingness by the Agency to set guidelines with the prime purpose of protecting our rivers. In the meantime it continues to issue licences based on the existing Guidelines which it admits are not fit for purpose. We are awaiting the outcome of a public consultation on possible new flow conditions.

### **Canoeing**

Another on-going saga with Canoe England refusing to accept the settled law of the land – there is no general public right of navigation on inland waters or access to them across private land. Canoe England refuses to endorse any agreements which do not allow year round access, quoting uncertainty about the law. Nevertheless many of our associations continue to offer canoe agreements in the close season where there is no risk to fish or spawning areas. We are

currently pressing Government to instruct Canoe England, a publicly funded National Governing Body of Sport, to behave responsibly. In March Bill Robertson (Dart), Phil Carey (Lyn) and I met Angling Trust's Campaigns Manager, Martin Salter, who is lobbying Ministers.

### **Water framework directive**



After years of lobbying Defra and the EA, including threat of legal action by Angling Trust and WWF we are now seeing real action. Several rivers, including the Taw,

have work programmes funded by Defra to help bring them up to the new standard of Good Ecological Status required by the WFD.

Later this year there will be a public consultation on the priorities for the next phase, the River Basin Plan for 2015-2021. As with many things in life, those rivers which are best organised and put in the most effort will get the most out!

### **Netting**

We wish to see the end of all licensed netting in support of our ambition to see abundant stocks supporting good angling. The Marine Act 2009 relaxed the legislation which used to be overprotective of net fishing and provides an opportunity to reduce netting through lower Net Limitation Orders which guarantee the number of licences issued and, possibly, shorter seasons and catch quotas. SWRA is supporting several associations in this area as well as lobbying the EA and Defra to take the opportunity afforded by the Marine Act to reduce netting in favour of the socio-economic benefits of better rod fishing.

## Predation

SWRA is supporting pressure by the Angling Trust to persuade Defra to relax the controls on culling cormorants and sawbill ducks. The Fisheries Minister, Richard Benyon, appears favourably disposed to more culling and an announcement is expected soon. Could you contribute to the collection of data on cormorants?

[www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants](http://www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants)

## Byelaw reviews



The Marine Act saw the replacement of the old Sea Fisheries Committees, dominated by commercial fishing interests, by Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCA's) with a wider remit including conservation. There are two in our area - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, and Devon and Severn. All IFCA's have been told by Defra to review all byelaws in their area. In some areas there are byelaws specifically aimed at protecting salmon and sea trout on migration – these we will lobby to keep although there is pressure from some sea fishing interests to get rid of them. In other areas we know that netting for sea fish is taking salmon and sea trout as a by catch – here we will be pressing for new byelaws.

We also anticipate a review of all fishery byelaws on rivers by the EA as part of the Government's drive to reduce regulation. One of the objectives will be to replace regulation with voluntary codes – a step towards our desire for more direct control over the

fisheries we enjoy and manage. It will be very important that each river develops a very clear view on what it wants out of the review.

## Representation

From 1974 there have been statutory advisory committees with the express purpose of representing fisheries and fishing interests to the Environment Agency and its predecessors. Latterly several SWRA Council members and the Secretary have sat on the Regional Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee. Such committees have now been abolished in the Government's bonfire of the quangos, leaving no formal route for representation. Government has expressed the wish that volunteer bodies now take on this role.

Fortunately SWRA has a biannual formal liaison meeting with the EA, and generally good personal working relations with its staff up to Regional Director level. Using this connection with the EA is now more important than ever. It is equally important that individual river associations are also seen as responsible bodies whose views matter.

An interesting development is the creation of the Exmoor Rivers and Streams Group established to influence Exmoor National Park Policy which has tended to pay insufficient regard to rivers, including the Bray and Mole.

Roger Furniss. Secretary  
[swra@furniss2733.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:swra@furniss2733.fsnet.co.uk)

## Salmon & Trout Association

### Fly Fishing Instruction for Children

The Devon Branch of the Salmon & Trout Association along with the Taw and Torridge Fishing Associations annually organises two days of fly-fishing instruction for children aged 9 to 16.



Both events last year were held at the Exe Valley Fishery near Dulverton by kind invitation of Nick Hart. This fishery is ideal for beginners and all 22 children left with at least one fine rainbow trout for their supper. This excellent turnout was our best yet and brings the running total to over 250 children introduced to the wonders of fly fishing in the last 13 years. First class instruction in casting, fly life, safety and landing that first trout was given by Bryan Martin, John Davidson and Ian Sorenson, without whose enthusiasm and skill these tuition days could not take place.

This year the Branch is organizing children's days on two Sundays: 2nd June and 27<sup>th</sup> October, at the same location and anyone with children or grandchildren, who is interested, should let our organizer Fred Leach know. There is a nominal fee of £10 with the balance made up by the Branch.



Contact details are: [fredleach@bampton.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:fredleach@bampton.eclipse.co.uk) and 01398 331019

Steve Phelps. Devon Branch Chairman

## The Angling Trust - Our Mission:

- Promote angling. Campaign for anglers' rights and the environment. Lobby governments and agencies. Protect our waterways and marine environment. Develop angling as a sport for young and old. Support angling interests

Read more and **JOIN NOW** at [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net)

## Updates from the Environment Agency

In February, another internal reorganisation came into effect at the Agency when the Environment Management Teams became Land and Water Teams. Under this arrangement, the new team retains responsibility for fisheries, water quality and water resources, but waste duties are transferred to a separate waste team. (Rather as it was 10 years ago!).

The main reason for this is to allow staff to become more expert in their chosen field (a desire expressed by sectors of industry that we regulate), rather than a 'jack of all trades'. Although certain staff have been moved around, we are lucky to retain the three North Devon fisheries staff, Bob Collett on the Taw, Jerry Boyd on the Mole, Bray and Lyn and Paul Carter on the Torridge. This gives us continuity, expertise and local knowledge.

Within their fisheries work, these three have a diverse range of duties and this year, in addition to their routine salmonid roles, they will be involved in the implementation of the Eel Regulations and the Import of Live fish Act. The former seeks to protect the now endangered eel population and the latter to eradicate invasive alien species, such as topmouth gudgeon.

Paul and Jerry are also actively involved in work with the Severn & Devon Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority, with which we are working

## The Global Water Crisis

I grew up fishing the rivers of the South West and this love of our rivers has led me to a career working on global freshwater conservation for the World Wildlife Fund. Interest in the modest trout of home has led me into one of the defining issues of the twenty-first century: the competition for the world's water resources.

Explosive increases in demand for water in recent decades have already led to spectacular changes to the natural world: from the drying out of the once mighty Rio Grande on the border between the US and Mexico to the near disappearance of the Aral Sea.



What lies behind this crisis? Water is needed for all man's activities and we use 2 quadrillion litres a year. We're familiar with the water that we use in our homes, but this is only 10% of the global total. 20% is used for industry and a staggering 70% for agriculture. It would not be possible to feed the world's population without the massive use of irrigated agriculture, responsible for half of the world's food production and most of global water use. On average, it takes 75 litres of water to make a pint of beer, several hundred or more for a hamburger and over ten thousand litres to grow the cotton to make a pair of jeans. Water is food and food is water. On top

very closely - particularly in relation to developing the proposed netting byelaw on the Taw/Torridge estuary. The team is also becoming more involved in dealing with pollution incidents. We have had several major events of slurry escaping into the Taw, largely rainfall related. Fortunately these have not resulted in fish kills.



The floods of last year had extreme consequences for many. The escape of stock from trout farms in Devon has become a lasting issue with many thousands of fish washed out. In North Devon, the Taw's two major tidal tributaries, the Barnstaple Yeo and the Bradiford Water, have been affected. We have been able to remove a significant number by electric fishing, but many still remain in the river. Local anglers have also contributed to the removal effort, although not always entirely within the law! We plan to do a detailed audit of all fish farms in Devon and Cornwall to review screening arrangements and compliance with abstraction/discharge consents.

We now look forward to another year of working in partnership with the Association and other organisations to the benefit of the river.

Chris Lawson. Environment Agency

of this, 20% of the world's electricity is produced by hydropower.

Demand for all of these activities is growing, driven by population increases and explosive economic growth across the world's emerging economies. As a result, localised conflict over access to water is endemic across much of the world, with surprisingly pervasive effects. Many commentators suggest that a key cause of the Arab spring was the spike in global food prices, driven by drought in key grain producing areas of the world such as Russia and Australia. Climate change is likely to exacerbate these challenges, increasing the frequency of floods, droughts and the social disorder that is likely to follow.

Alongside social and economic instability, the growth in demand for water is having a devastating impact on rivers and their ecosystems. Rivers have suffered a more significant decline in their environmental condition over the last 40 years than any other ecosystem. The crisis facing the world's rivers is as great as or greater than that facing the rainforests.

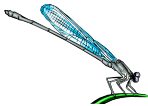
These effects can be vivid for the fish and rivers we love most. For example, the Klamath is a major salmon river on the west coast of the United States. In

2002, the diversion of its water for agriculture during a summer drought led to the death of an estimated 70,000 salmon in the river. In Northern India, the massive expansion of hydropower facilities to satiate India's power hunger is cutting off the mighty mahseer from many of its spawning grounds.

What might all this mean for our rivers in South West England, such as the Taw? Fortunately, we do not face the pressures of irrigated agriculture or massive industrial expansion – although we do experience small hydro development. However, the erratic weather of recent years points to a more varied climate that is likely to pose significant threats and ever increasing global food prices may lead to further pressures to intensify agriculture in our catchments.

While it would be dishonest to deny the scale of the global challenge, there are reasons for optimism. I've

### Fly Fishing Guides and Instructors – worth it or not?



Well, the answer to this depends entirely on what you want from your fishing. If you want a sociable day with friends or just want to enjoy exploring a new beat on your own then a guide may not be for you. If however you are visiting water you have not fished before and want to make the most of the opportunity then a guide who knows the water well and the best ways to fish with the conditions on the day will be well worth having.

If your chosen guide is also a qualified casting instructor then the added benefit will be an improvement in your casting technique. Some see this as just being able to cast further but the real advantages are greater efficiency, accuracy and presentation skills, less fatigue and more fish caught.

As a guide and casting instructor I find most clients are visitors to the area and have little or no knowledge of the water and likely conditions when they visit. I advise them of suitable tackle requirements, rods, lines, leaders and flies. I also bring along a selection of equipment to give the client an opportunity to try out something different from their own, as sometimes clients' equipment is not well matched or is even unsuitable.

Some clients are more interested in casting instruction and prefer to spend most if not all of the time with this and hardly any time actually fishing. If this is the case then a couple of hours to a half day would be long enough as it is easy to tire the muscles when doing repetitive casting. This option suits clients who want to learn from scratch or brush up on their casting, often before a trip away to Scotland or further afield.

So what should you expect from your guide or instructor and what should the guide expect from you? A good guide will quickly establish your needs when

witnessed the growing interest in addressing these issues in the most powerful circles in our world, from the Chinese State Council to the boardrooms of the world's biggest corporations. We have radical laws such as the Water Framework Directive and inspiration from examples such as the restoration of the once moribund salmon run of the River Tyne.

Fundamentally, water is local. Solutions to these challenges will not be thrashed out by presidents in marathon UN negotiations, but by the dedication of many committed groups across the world. The work of the River Taw Fisheries Association to protect and restore this special river can take a proud place in the front line of a global effort.

Dr. Tom le Quesne  
Freshwater Policy Officer  
World Wildlife Fund - UK

you first discuss arrangements and give suitable advice. The tackle you should bring and what the guide needs to supply will be agreed. This will include waders and safety equipment such as life jacket, wading stick and suitable clothing. Eye safety is a must and glasses should be worn at all times; polaroids are best for seeing through the water when wading and fish spotting. The client may have a supply of flies and leader material and your guide will also have a good supply and provide these readily if needed. All the guide expects is that you follow advice given to the best of your ability and are a good companion during the day.

So, your guide will look after your safety by ensuring you take necessary precautions, will assist you wading and identify the places where fish should hold, arm you with flies to do the job and advise on where to cast and how to work the fly to ensure the best chance of success. You may never meet your guide again or you may have regular days together throughout the season or annually. Whatever the arrangement, your guide wants you to succeed.

When choosing an instructor or guide, look for membership of a recognised game angling instructors' association and check what qualifications the instructor holds. The UK associations that qualify fly casting, fishing skills and teaching skills are the Game Angling Instructor's Association (GAIA) and the Association of Advanced Professional Game Angling Instructors (AAPGAI). These instructors will have relevant safety training and insurance.



So is it worth it or not? If after reading this and considering the value you could get from using a guide or casting instructor, then you will know the answer.

Bryan Martin



# River Taw Byelaws

## Seasons

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

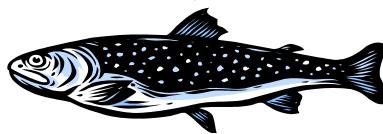
## Methods

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**  
and return **ALL Sea Trout** under 1lb and over 4lb.



The River Taw Fisheries Association is most grateful for  
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**Strutt & Parker**



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