

RFCANews

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Ribble NLO 2017

The RFCA is pleased to announce that the Ribble NLO has been signed by the Minister and takes effect immediately. RFCA Officers had very amicable negotiations with the E.A. and the result is no changes for rods with a 2 fish kill permissible as before. The big change is with the nets that are now limited to kill only 12 fish per year each. This will be controlled by the E.A. giving them only 12 tags and all net caught fish must be tagged.

Given the fact that the Ribble is officially classed as at risk a no change for the rods is a good result. There were three main reasons why we ended with the status quo. Firstly the RFCA has a reputation of delivering what it promises. Secondly the response from the majority of clubs and riparian owners to a request from the RFCA for the catch figures for 2016 was crucial. We were able to show a better catch return than the official returns show. It is well known that there is a problem with angler returns and therefore the catch information the RFCA was able to give to the E.A. showed a different picture. Finally and perhaps most important is the fact that the Ribble has the highest catch and release in the NW at over 90%.

There will shortly be a very important consultation coming out which the AT has been responsible for in conjunction with the E.A. This lays out the criteria for voluntary catch and release by category of river and the Ribble will have the target of 90%. Given the fact that only 4 anglers in 2015 killed 2 fish plus our high catch and release persuaded the E.A. to go for a no change NLO for rods.

For the future we must keep up the catch and release figure and hopefully the clubs and riparian owners will continue to provide catch returns each year so we can compare them with the official figures. The official figures will soon be released and they are lower by some way from the RFCA returns. Without this vital information the 2017 NLO could have been very different.

Tags are voluntary but we have found them to be efficient in the past. Those clubs who wish to use tags can get them from RFCA Sec John Whitham. Individual anglers can get tags from:

Carters in Preston,
Padiham Fishing Tackle,
Boyces in Nelson.

Prince Albert members of course have their own tags.

Tight lines for 2017

J.W.Whitham,
Secretary