

RFCA NEWS

No. 53

August 2020

At last we have water, at times too much but let us not complain. The figures through Waddow counter for July were very impressive, let us hope they continue.

Fish Movement - Waddow Counter

Below are the latest figures from the counter at Waddow together with 2019 for comparison.

	2019		2020	
	Up	Down	Up	Down
January	1	0	6	1
February	11	0	11	7
March	34	5	23	2
April	22	5	25	3
May	59	10	23	7
June	719	59	415	58
July	376	20	838	178
August	173	8		
September	235	5		
October	604	34		
November	162	24		
December	14	13		
Totals	2410	183	1341	256

Thanks to Daniel Atkinson for his assistance in providing these figures.

Pollution

We have had some significant pollutions since the last News Letter. Thank you for all those members who telephoned them in to the EA and the RFCA. Without our constant vigilance more pollutions will be unreported. The EA number is **0800 80 70 60**. **You must ask for an incident number** and for a response. If you do not you will not hear anything and it is difficult for RFCA Pollution Officers to follow. Please inform Fred Higham, Ribble and Hodder, on **01200 423314** and Graham Parkes, Calder, on **07861 696813**

Anti-Poaching

All the above applies equally to reporting poaching. Same routine then inform Grant Hinks on **07930 807 980**

We have had some incidents since the last News Letter and we ask you to be vigilant but stay safe in the process. Basically, without your input the poachers will get away with it.

We have had some good news with a conviction. Well done to PAAS.

Anglers hauled before court for Ribble fishing without a permit

A DAY'S fishing on the River Ribble proved costly for two Manchester men.

Blackburn magistrates heard the anglers did not have permits to fish on the stretch at Dinckley which was owned by the Prince Albert Angling Society.

Daniel Wanciura, 44, of Fylde Lane, Manchester, and Daniel Werwinski, 41, of Cardrona Street, Manchester, pleaded guilty to unlawfully attempting to take fish. They were each fined £200 with £85 costs and £34 victim surcharge.

The court was told both men were of good character.

Wanciura said it had never been there intention to commit any kind of criminal activity.

"We weren't aware of the fact it was private fishing," he said.

Similarly, well done to Whitewell

Whitewell spotted a suspicious car parked near their waters and subsequent investigation revealed that the car had been seen on several previous occasions and was linked to a father and son illegally fishing the Hodder.

The men have all the top fishing gear and look the part. They claimed they thought they were on day ticket water (whilst fishing right next to a WFA Private fishing sign!)

The police have been notified and the owner of the car will receive a letter from the police concerning poaching.

It would not be surprising if they were trying their luck on other waters.

We do receive specific intelligence from time to time and this is circulated to Council so that all club anti-poaching officers can be kept up to date.

And yet more – not fish this time but poaching non-the-less

Two men from Accrington and Burnley reported for poaching

TWO men have been reported for poaching offences after they were found on land near to Whitewell with dead hares in their truck.

The two men, from Burnley and Accrington, were accompanied by four dogs.

Police were alerted to the offences on Sunday evening after the men were seen with the dogs in the dark.

A spokesman said: "Their vehicle was found nearby with five dead hares on board.

"The vehicle, hares and all lamping equipment were seized, and two men are reported for poaching offences."

Salmon - Red Skin Disease

I am attaching a flier circulated by the E.A. asking anglers to report instances of this disease. Several members have already responded to the E.A. who are building a dossier on this matter.

Anyone who comes across fish in distress should contact the E.A. immediately on the hot line 0800 80 70 60 or use the Customer services line 03708 506 506. It would also be helpful if your club could be informed.

Similarly, if you catch a fish that is showing symptoms please take photographs and send them to:

Conor McCormick
Technical Officer (Fish Health & Ageing) – National Fisheries Services
Environment Agency
Bromholme Lane
Brampton
PE28 4NE

Email: Conor.McCormick@environment-agency.gov.uk

Tel: 02077140694

Mob: 07342066233

Fish Health Team: 02084 745244 | fish.health@environment-agency.gov.uk

and to your club secretary.

Webcams

We have had our ups and downs with the cameras this year. Waddow, Winckley and Jumbles are all working but we have failed with Locks but the Horton Cavers camera at Horton Bridge is excellent as a stop gap.

The problems with the Locks cameras all stem from the need to replace the cabin for the flow measurement and flood defence information. The problems with getting the electrical connection have proved very difficult and resulted in much wasted time. Our Treasurer is still having problems with the supplier as they are unable to run a credit check as we are a voluntary organisation without a credit history.

Lune Consultation

The Lune NLO has run out and is the subject of a consultation which closes on 10th September. Further information and an objection form can be found at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fisheries/river-lune-net-limitation-order-and-byelaw-2020/>

Through the work of NWATFCC, who have been challenging the data used to determine the evidence base for the E.A. proposals. The Lune and Wyre Association are objecting to the proposals and would welcome support from other anglers and Associations.

Please feel free to add your voice to this consultation

Beavers

We have learned that there are early discussions taking place about the possible introduction of Beavers to our catchment. We have made representations to try and get a voice in these discussions at the earliest possible opportunity.

We have agreed across the NW a policy for the introductions (copy attached) and this will guide our input into the discussions – hopefully directly across the table. If any member receives any information on this situation please contact John Rawlinson immediately by phone or email.

01706 215483

spinner-champ@tiscali.co.uk

Obituary

David Jackson 1954 - 2020.



It is with the deepest sadness I have to report the death of Mr. David Jackson a well known and respected angler on the Ribble catchment. David is now free from the illness which caused him so much pain over a good number of years which he fought bravely and stoically. David was not just a very competent angler with a salmon rod but was also a passionate person in support of conservation by supporting the work of the River Rivers Trust, and for years as a council member of the Ribble Fisheries Consultative being the representative for his longstanding club Clitheroe Angling Association.

David joined CAA in the same year which I did 1989 and for years was one of their keenest directors ending up as their President/Chairman before ill health began to take hold leading to his retirement. His passion for the rivers, the fish and the environment never faltered in all the years I was privileged to call him a friend. Many times over the years this passion shone like a beacon on a dark night at some RFCA meetings when he would put forward his case in his own very articulate way. He was like a terrier with a bone when he thought he was correct and would worry at a problem until something was finally achieved. When David spoke, people listened. His work with the Rivers Trust was not just about attending meetings but also he was prepared to get up and do something constructive like his monthly invertebrate river life checks and his dedication in checking the fish passes close to his home at Barrowford and helping to keep them free from debris.. He was not just a good orator, but was as we say, a good 'doer' as well.

His love of fishing was not restricted to the Ribble and he loved the two weeks he spent with his wife Alison fishing the lovely Dee at Woodend where they stayed in the estate cottage for two weeks in the year, spring and early autumn. If fish were in the beat you could put money on it that David Jackson would winkle one or two out. His skill with a double hander was always a joy to watch and a day in David's company was a day to remember for his enthusiasm and joy of angling. David was what I call a gentleman and a gentle man, always prepared to partake of his knowledge and experiences to those in need, especially new people coming into our fishing game.

Our condolences and thought in these sad times are with Alison his wife, his son John and daughter Sarah and his four grandchildren. The saddest of all was that his many friends and fishing colleagues were, due to the Covid-19 virus unable to pay their respect at his funeral.

Fred Higham

With the recent high waters there are reports of some good catches throughout the Ribble system

So tight lines to one and all.

David Hinks

John Whitham

John Rawlinson