

Jon Evans
Secretary
Fowey Rivers Association Limited

Polgeel, Polbrock, Washaway, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 3AN
Phone 01208 812447
Mobile 07732 921015
E Mail jonrevans@aol.com

The River Fowey Hatchery Programme 2013/14 – Hatchery closure

I am sorry to have to tell you that the Fowey Hatchery Programme closed on 19th December 2013.

We did not get sufficient Broodstock numbers and the health of the fish in the river is of concern. There are both Salmon and Sea Trout showing signs of fungus throughout the system and dead fish numbers are on the increase.

The extreme low flows through the summer and unseasonably high water temperatures make an ideal breeding ground for fungus.

Because of this the early Broodstock we collected were difficult to keep in good condition and, sadly, we lost some of the fish that had been donated. While this is very demotivating to the Hatchery team it is also upsetting for the anglers who donated the fish and we can only apologise for that.

In the final 5 weeks of the Salmon season there were no Broodstock caught or collected. An extension to fish beyond the end of the season was agreed. The Environment Agency authorised 6 named anglers – and clubs, associations and syndicates gave permission to allow these anglers access to their water – we had access to almost all the main river from Lostwithiel to Golitha Falls.

Concerns with the health of the fish both within the Hatchery and the river system has led to the decision to stop fishing and close the Hatchery programme this year.

This decision does not reflect on the considerable effort of both the Fowey River Association or the Hatchery team – not to mention the multitude of anglers who were engaged in fishing for us throughout the Fowey system for the last 3 months of the season. Special thanks should go to Justin Ruscombe-King for the generous loan of his Hatchery that ‘spawned’ this years programme in the first place.

The Environment Agency and The Fowey River Association remain committed to restocking the St Neot.

We hope to be back in 2014 – Many thanks again to all concerned.

Dr Bill Smith
Chairman
20 December 2013

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Directors: Dr W.H.Smith, R.F.Brake, R.A.Williams, J.R.Evans
Registered Office: Polgeel, Polbrock, Washaway, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 3AN