

A meeting of the Fowey Rivers Association
was held on Thursday 11th July '19
at the Lostwithiel Social Club

Present

Dr Bill Smith (Chairman)
Paul Jordan (Treasurer)
Jeff Pearce (Secretary)

Jon Hake (LDAC)
Nigel White (LDAC)
Rob Williams (LDAC)

1. **Apologies**

John Tisdale (Treverbyn), David White (LDAC)
Matt L'Estrange (Lanhydrock), Giles Rickard (WRT)

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2019**

Agreed.

3. **Matters arising**

None.

4. **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer reported that the association is financially sound. The balance at 30th June '19 stood at £18,808.77, with total assets of £28,779.82. It was noted that generous contributions had been received from Glynn, the National trust & Restormel, which was very much appreciated.
There were no questions arising.

5. **Net Limitation Order renewal**

The Chairman informed members that the order had now been signed by the minister & that netting had been completely stopped with all net licences being terminated, therefore unless a change in future legislation Fowey will have a zero net allocation.

6. **IFCA update**

The Chairman updated the meeting on the current state of play. Cornwall IFCA have presented their proposed bye-law to the commercial fisherman & it has been rejected, further negotiations are expected, followed by the re-writing of the bye-law. A discussion was had by the committee around outcomes & preferred options, but expectations were low for a satisfactory bye-law that would protect salmonids in our estuaries and inshore waters from unintentional entanglement in gill nets. Members agreed to await information on the new draft regulations from CIFCA before making any further observations.

7. **Hatchery Update**

The chairman read out an update by Hatchery Manager Richard Grieve & reporting that all was good, the water temperatures and quality were much improved on this time last year (July 2018).

A pressurised oxygen injection system that will raise the Dissolved Oxygen level in the event of the quality falling too far in these hot months has been built & installed.

Water releases from Colliford are currently above the levels of last year - so again expect scheduling issues releasing fish this year unless the weather changes drastically in August.

The Bypass Channel that WRT are designing, and commissioning has met with some issues - and it is hoped this will get back on track for installation this year.

To Consider the FRA bring pressure on SWW to agree the Engineering Review modifications to the pipework at Colliford - these changes are necessary to avoid issues when maintaining the Trojan UV system - also the requested pipework modification makes the spray bar in the Break Tank more effective, also increasing DO. – Action?

Further to the FFRG meetings - it is now time to start making Fisheries Water Bank release to help larger fish enter the system above Restormel weir. A process document has been requested and keeping this action alive should come from the FRA.

– Action, Chairman to broach the subject with Roxanna at SWWA

Fin clipping - 10,000 fish will require clipping again this year and volunteers will be needed for one day in early September. – Action?

A fin-clipped smolt was caught at Wainsford in April - this would be from the first year's juvenile stocking in September 2017. Hatchery records allow us to trace this fish back to the Broodstock fish, the fishery and angler that caught it in Autumn 2016. This little fish proves that the Hatchery fish are surviving in the river and making it out to sea. If we extrapolate that further it shows that the likelihood of returning grille will be in 2020 and MSW in 2021-22

The Chairman with agreement of all members wished to thank Justin for his continued support & input at the hatchery.

8. **Drains Gravel Work**

Interest & support has been shown from anglers wishing to be involved in redds clearing etc. The WRT team have also expressed support in helping with this. The main issue surrounds the coordination of action groups and gaining the appropriate licences etc. A discussion by members was held & all agreed this was vital work which needed to be continued.

The Generator is currently held by Paul Jordon & he confirmed he was happy to continue looking after it. Jeff agreed to look at taking on the coordination of the work & liaison with WRT.

Action – Jeff to Coordinate work on the Drains spawning grounds

9. **WRT report**

WRT were unable to attend the meeting & sent apologies as they were working late on electro fishing. An update will be provided which will then be forwarded to members.

10. **Voluntary Measures Update**

As far as the Fowey was concerned there were no changes to the voluntary restrictions recommended by the FRA. Paul suggested that we could therefore roll over the 2018 guidance into 2019. A discussion then took place between the members, regarding the impact the current measures were having on anglers and membership. It was generally agreed that single hook spinners were missing more Sea trout than trebles, also that anglers were confused across clubs with differing rules on hooks. It was however agreed that the FRA should wait for the Camel bye-law update before any decisions were made regarding the Fowey.

Action – Meet & discuss a proposal for uniform guidance once clarity obtained in respect of the Camel regulations.

11. **A.O.B.**

The Chairman gave a brief update on the recent SWRA meeting.

Nigel White which to make aware to the members of a possible sale of a part of the Fowey river at the bottom end of the drains area. It was agreed that this was an interesting stretch of river & further enquiries should be conducted as to sale and price.

Action – Look into sale & Price for the stretch of river

There was now other urgent business and the meeting closed at 21:05 hrs.

Date of next meetings:

Committee: Thursday 10th October 2019

Thursday 16th January 2020