

DEVON

ANGLING REVIEW

The Newsletter of the Devon Angling Association

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Season 2009 saw sustained activity from the DAA committee and, I might add, from other agencies, in trying to improve access along the riverbanks and to prevent build-up of debris likely to exacerbate flooding.

1. Clackmannanshire Council has removed blockages and some dangerous trees
2. Diageo have been instrumental in creating a new fish pass at the weir at Cambus - the effectiveness of this new structure has yet to be determined.
3. However, the major effort has again come from the Wednesday afternoon work parties who have been very busy. To give some idea of the scope of such activities, the following are a few of the tasks undertaken:

- strimming of river banks at Alva, Marchglen, Tait's Tomb to Rackmill
- repair of stiles at Wester Sheardale and renewal of stiles at Linnbank and the Equestrian Centre
- removal of trees in the river or on pathways at Tait's Tomb, the Haugh, Rackmill
- removal of brambles and other debris from spawning burns
- co-operating with Stirling and Clackmannanshire Environmental Trust in tackling areas of Himalayan balsam

The Association is indebted to the work of our honorary bailiffs Tom Kristiansen and Jim McGuire on the river and of Graham Livingstone at Glenquey. We hope to add to our bailiff strength for next season.

The Committee has now produced a Management Plan for the River Devon and among other things will be looking at further links with the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership. Here is your chance to keep a diary of sightings of the flora and fauna in and around our river and reservoir, and to communicate your findings to the Secretary. We know that, as anglers, we are better placed than most to see the natural life along the river and many anglers are very keen observers indeed. The observations, reported frequently, can give early warning of problems as they start to develop.

DAVID MUDIE: Hon. Secretary

SALMON FISHING ON THE RIVER DEVON

The River Devon is not a notable salmon river and the would-be salmon angler is well-advised to consider the Devon as a brown trout fishery with the chance of an encounter with a salmon towards the end of the season as a bonus. For the period 1993-2003 very few salmon were caught and several years showed a nil return. Since 2003 there has been an improvement in catches and 2008 and 2009 showed figures of 45 and 34 which are similar to some years in the 1980s. It is no coincidence, however, to note that the best years coincide with high water levels in late summer and

autumn. Devon fish run late and if there is no water they may not come until November or December.

On the River Devon, the most popular method employed for catching a salmon is spinning with a Flying C or a Devon minnow. However, a number of anglers do fish fly when conditions are suitable and it should be noted at this point that many beats on other rivers are fly only, so it may be only a matter of time before the Devon follows suit. In the meantime anglers should adhere closely to the code of practice detailed on the pink form which is issued along with the permit. Additionally, the Forth River Salmon Fishery Board may



Many thanks to Kerry Menstrie for their assistance in printing this newsletter

issue further regulations as they did last year in extending the Catch and Release period until the end of June. If this does occur, notices will be placed in local newspapers as well as on the website.

ORIGINAL FLY DRESSINGS FROM OUR OWN EXPERT TOM KRISTIANSEN

1. The Orange "T.K. Shrimp"

Hook	Sizes 6-8-10 doubles or trebles
Tying Silk	Red, size 6/0
Tag	No. 14 oval silver tinsel
Tail	Bleached squirrel tail dyed orange. Mixed with ¾ "Krystal" hairs dyed orange
Body	Silver holographic tinsel
Rib	Silver oval
Underwing	Orange dyed squirrel, above and below hook. Orange dyed golden pheasant tippet fibres on top of upper underwing
Head Hackle	Longish orange cock hackle tied to sweep back
Cheeks	Jungle cock
Head	Red, whip finish, five turns.

The above pattern was first dressed and given its debut on the River Tay, Sept. 1994. I caught two fish on the first day it was used and this fly has continued to give me success whenever it's employed.

2. The Pearl bodied Stoat tail

Hook	Double, single, treble and tubes
Sizes	6 - 8 - 10 -12
Tying Silk	Black, no. 6/0 pre-waxed
Tag	Silver oval (small)
Tail	Golden pheasant topping
Body	Pearl tinsel with white floss underbody
Rib	Oval silver
Hackle	Black cock
Wing	Black stoat tail or black dyed squirrel
Head	Black

THE OCHILS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

The Ochils Landscape Partnership (OLP), led by Clackmannanshire Council, is part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Programme. It is concerned with protection and management measures to safeguard our historic landscape. The DAA is an active member of the OLP.

Subject to a successful submission at stage 2 of the bid process to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the partnership programme will attract funding in the order of £1.5 million. The Ochils bid faces tough competition with other partnerships and has to be submitted in March 2010. There will be 3 programmes of activity in this initiative:

- Your Wee Bit Hill and Glen
- By the banks of the River Devon
- The Hills of Time

Each of these 3 programmes is made up of a number of individual projects. These projects are for implementation along the Ochils, the Hillfoots towns and the River Devon.

The Association is currently assisting in detailing several projects concerned with access; conservation and improvements to the River Devon. All are based on our five-year management action plan.

RIVER AND SPECIES STEWARDSHIP

On behalf of the Association, the Forth District Salmon Fisheries Board, with legal advice from lawyers at Fish Legal, initiated an investigation into the release of smolts into the Devon from the fish farm at Fossoway Bridge in 2008 and pursued a compensation claim. We reported in last year's Newsletter that a significant number of smolts had been found in the vicinity of Fossoway Bridge during our routine electrofishing surveys. The fish farm operators finally agreed liability for the failure of biosecurity at their Fossoway site and paid substantial compensation covering all expense incurred during the investigation and the subsequent cost of removing the escaped fish from the river.

The River Forth Fisheries Trust is currently gathering information from all Angling Clubs, Angling Associations and Fisheries in the Forth District, about the main issues affecting their waters. This information will be consolidated and the key improvement activities identified and prioritised. Within the constraints of the Trust budgets, a three-year action plan is being established to help address the issues identified to the mutual satisfaction of the anglers and the Trust. It must be noted however that in many cases improvements requiring physical works will demand a commitment from the club or association in the form of voluntary effort.

A review of rateable values across salmon fisheries in the district is ongoing. It can be taken that the increased salmon catches from the Devon over recent years will in due course lead to an increase both in the rates the Association has to pay and possibly in the salmon levy we also have to pay. However, it remains important for the management of the river that we are able to make accurate annual catch returns against both salmon and trout permits. Please help by returning information on your catches to the Hon. Secretary at the end of each season.

It is equally important that we take steps to conserve salmon stocks in the Devon. Whenever reasonable please return salmon you catch to the river, particularly if they are sizeable fish upwards of 10 or so pounds in weight. This enables fish to complete spawning and thus regenerate the annual salmon population in the river. Generally the bigger the fish the bigger the yield on hatching, more parr and more smolts, leading to more salmon returning to the river and more sport for the angler.

Many thanks to Kerry Menstrie for their assistance in printing this newsletter

The DAA website address is given below, the site will be updated as soon as practical following the January 2010 Annual General Meeting.

www.clacksnet.org.uk/hosted/daa

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