Carlisle Angling Association

Serving the people of Carlisle for 150 years

Annual Newsletter



Number 16 Summer 2016

Secretary and Chairman's Report.

The 2016 salmon season got off to a slow cold start in January and February. Unsettled weather in March and April meant river levels fluctuated and this meant any fish entering the system passed straight through CAA waters. Fish were taken on the usual beats above CAA, as far up as Lazonby and Armathwaite, which showed the intent of the fish to run. Small lifts of water at the end of April and early May moved fish again through CAA waters. Indeed it was early May before the first fish off CAA was reported. As more members start to venture out we can only hope catches on CAA waters will improve.

Similar to last season the Sea Trout fishing appears to have also got off to a slow start. Cold evenings and unfavourable water conditions in April and early May meant anglers did not venture out night fishing despite reports of fish being both seen and caught early in the season by members salmon fishing. Hopefully as June and July arrives water conditions will mean sport will improve for night fishing.

Hatches of Large Dark Olives and March Browns did not appear until the beginning of April. Fluctuating temperatures and water levels have meant the trout showed a reluctance to respond to the surface fly on many days but sub-surface offerings – in the form of North Country Spiders and nymphs – fared well and some decent fish were encountered. Our yearly Grannom hatch was late and started in May and full three weeks or more behind, and once in full swing, this early season sedge came off the water in their thousands. Those lucky enough to be out during a hatch had good sport to dry and pupa imitations. The Grannom were joined by sparse hatches of Iron Blue duns and good hatches of Olive Uprights; fish turned onto the latter, with some good rises and sport to dry imitations. The unsettled weather has meant that sport has been a bit up and down, with some hatches yet to materialise, but hopefully things will settle down and the trout angler will have a good summer to look forward to.

Tagging

The tagging system will continue for the 2016 season.

The EA have held off any further restrictions on both the rod and net fishery until the full Net Limitation Order review in 2017. There was a move to ask the rod fishery to drop to two tags for the 2016 season, however, both Mr. N. Austin and Mr. P. Davidson fought to keep the 6 fish limit on the basis of the 90% Catch and Release target already being achieved, but mainly on the point that the nets were remaining on 10 tags, as they were last season.

Members are reminded to collect tags from either John Norris Fishing Tackle or the Tourist Information Centre and

Members are reminded to collect tags from either John Norris Fishing Tackle or the Tourist Information Centre and they must produce a current EA rod licence for tags to be issued, the paper receipt version will be accepted this season in response to some members not being able to collect tags as their rod licences had not arrived from the Post Office. Tags will not be posted out to members.

CARCASS TAGS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR SEA TROUT. A one Salmon per day, six per season limit is in place for these periods. Despite the tagging scheme being operational again, we would like to remind members we need to keep the catch and release figure of 90% or more, for the whole of the river, up to help prevent compulsory measures and to protect stocks.

Piscivorous birds.

Members are reporting large numbers of both Goosander and Cormorants on CAA waters. We are part of a catchment wide scheme to control these birds, although numbers we can shoot are limited. Would members still report large build ups of these birds to the Honorary Secretary on 01228 592745 as it is important we record these numbers – it is the only way we will get the numbers of bird we are allowed to cull increased.

Guide Fly Fishing Casting Day.

On June Mr C Mitchelhill in association with Jim Fearn of Guide Fly Fishing is holding demonstration day on Saturday 25th June 2016 where free tuition will be given to members attending on the Association waters. This has been a regular event for the last few years and has always been well attended. The event will be held at the Memorial Bridge as usual and will run from 1100am until 3pm. Come along and have some free coaching and try some of the latest equipment and lines.

Sheepmount access.

By now members will be aware the sheepmount is closed off, with no access at either end of this middle beat. The City Council has intimated it would take over 6 months for repairs to be completed and so it is likely the access restrictions will be in place all season. Fishing can be accessed by wading and crossing the Caldew at Caldew foot, but only in low water conditions.

MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THEY DO THIS AT THEIR OWN RISK.

John Norris casting day.

On Sunday 17th July, in conjunction with John Norris we will hosting another casting day with instructors form some of the top manufacturers in the country. Salmon and trout techniques will be covered as well as the chance to try out some of the latest kit. It is hoped a BBQ will be on offer aswell. Please register with the Honorary Secretary so we have an idea of numbers and interest, via nigel.austin@live.co.uk or on o7708281957.

CAA Website.

The club website is once again up and running after a significant rebuild. The site is now mobile friendly so members can access the site in any location.

Riverbank Clearances/Improvements.

Following the floods in December the committee have been active with several major projects this spring. 1700 metres of fencing has been replaced or repaired. Large areas of willows have been coppiced and trees removed from both the banks and river itself. Special thanks must go to Mr. D. Altham for his hard work and also to Mr. E. Glaister who organised several work parties and to all the members who gave up their time to help. Many hands made light work.

Bailiffs.

The Committee would like to remind members that Mr Robbie Graham is the Head bailiff and can be contacted on 07832140027, and the EA can be contacted on 0800807060 on matters relating to poaching or pollution. The Committee would like to remind members, ticket holders and visitors that the CAA bailiffs must be supported and tickets or cards must be produced when asked for by the bailiffs or any other member, there are no exceptions. See rule 8. The Committee would also like to thank the bailiffs for the excellent duties that they carry out.

Catch returns

The Committee would also like to remind members, ticket holders and visitors that catch returns are due to be sent to the Hon Sec by the 28^{Th of} October, (see rule 22).

This is valuable information and the Committee is looking for your compliance with this matter, and rule 22 will be enforced for the 2015 season – the committee will fine members not sending in returns. It is especially important this year to help us fend off compulsory EA restrictions.

Tight lines for the rest of the season.

Chairman Hon Secretary

P.Davidson N.Austin