



The Salmon & Trout Redd counting team getting some practise in with assistance from Raymond Clark & Gareth Pedley



*In its 67th year, 2018
REDFA Annual Report*



*A great day out on Blencarn Lake
PAA young anglers with Borderlines*



James Norris receiving the 2017 P. Ecroyd trophy from Paul Davidson for his contribution to Eden & NW angling

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CONTENTS

- 1 *Chairman's Report*
- 2 *Year End accounts*
- 3 *Secretary & Treasurer's Report*
- 4 *Angling Reports*
 - Yorkshire Fly fishers Club*
 - Prince Albert Angling Society*
 - Penrith Angling Association*
 - Carlisle Angling Association*
 - Kirkby Stephen & District Angling Association*
 - Brampton Angling Association*
 - Borderlines*
- 5 *Pollution Monitoring Initiative - Anglers/Clubs/REDFA & EA*
- 6 *Solway 2018 Byelaws Process & Impact*
- 7 *National Salmon Byelaws*
- 8 *Avian Predation Licensing issues & Impact assessment*
- 9 *NWATFCC & REDFA submission to Scottish Salmon Farming Inquiry*
- 10 *Water abstraction and REDFA's Objection to the UU's Ullswater DPO application*
- 11 *Corby weir progress report*
- 12 *Canoe access & Local Access Agreements*
- 13 *Signal Crayfish in the River Caldew*
- 14 *REDFA reported salmon catches & Avian bird update*
- 15 *Wild Trout Trust & Eden Rivers Trust reports*
- 16 *2019 Events, Meeting dates, Volunteer activities and contacts*
- 17 *List of REDFA Members*
- 18 *REDFA Membership Form*

1. Chairman`s Report

Despite a great deal of work going into the negotiations with the Environment Agency and Natural England, the Solway Border Esk & Eden Byelaw review did not go to plan. This was particularly disappointing for the Secretary and I as we had been involved in the process for over 2 years. Even our revised compromise proposals were thrown out which resulted in 100% C&R on Salmon.

Since the implementation of the bylaws there has been a great deal of work done on challenging the EA's reporting of stocks and the methodology in designating River stock status and applied C & R measures. Mike Ashwin has been at the forefront of this work and Mike, Ian Blackett (Esk & Liddle) and I recently attended a meeting with the DEFRA Minister, George Eustice. This resulted in an agreement to review the EA's Eden stock assessments. National reviews are currently underway on revising rod exploitation rate for English rivers.

The 2018 season started off quite promising, once we were over the 'Beast from the East' and things warmed up. This was short lived as water levels dropped to below summer level. Summer was a write off due to high water temperatures for most fisheries but once August arrived and the first lift of water came, the season started to turnaround. It soon became obvious that a lot of salmon were late spring/early summer fish and mostly coloured with a few exceptions of fresh run.

The Trout and Sea trout season were also affected because of high water temperatures. However there were some reports of decent catches up and down the river.

Now that we have 100% C&R, we do expect a downturn in Salmon angling take up both at club level and on private beats. However, it is imperative that we continue to support our local clubs and our Riparian owners as best we can through these difficult times. After all we still have one of the best rivers in England for Salmon, Sea trout and Brown trout. The river still offers great value for money fishing and just because we have to return salmon it can still be very rewarding.

Goosanders and Cormorants are becoming more and more of an issue each year and numbers seem to be getting higher each season. We have an Avian Predation Management licence operating for the catchment but there are restrictions and conditions on our operations. It is imperative that even areas without licences take part in the twice-yearly bird counts and regularly use different scare tactics to discourage these predators visiting our waters..

The Corby Weir saga continues into another year but hopefully we are now making progress into the final stages of a resolution within the next 12-15 months. There are meetings scheduled to agree a final plan/design of modification of the weir that hopefully all parties can agree on with the aim of work being carried out in Summer 2020.

REDFA continues to operate on a shoestring and we will continue to seek funding through subscriptions and other routes. A lot of the work is carried out on a voluntary basis and we will be looking at bringing in additional resource to help with the workload that the current officers are undertaking.

On a final note, it is with great sadness to announce the recent passing of Colin Pilmer, former Treasurer of Carlisle Angling Association. Colin suffered a long-term illness and passed early March 2019. Colin's commitment, passion and contribution to CAA and REDFA will be sorely missed.

I wish you all the best of luck and tight lines for 2019.

Paul Davidson

REDFA Year End Accounts as at 31st October 2018 with earlier year comparisons

Income	<u>2017 - 2018</u>	<u>2016 - 2017</u>	<u>2015 - 2016</u>	<u>2014 - 2015</u>	<u>2013 - 2014</u>
Riparian Owners	2399.00	£2936.00	£2,015.00	£899.00	£389.00
Clubs	4750.00	£4750.00	£5,035.00	£4,750.00	£388.00
Members	466.00	£506.00	£450.50	£422.50	£412.50
Donations	209.02	£450.00	£280.00	£5,040.00	£592.00
AGM Donation/Raffle	75.00			£50.00	£20.00
Lowther Show	54.00	£176.00	£118.00	£141.00	
Contributions to Junior Day				£670.00	
Member (Corby weir contr)		£150.00	£300.00		
Admin transfer			£100.00		
Contributions to UCD Report	900.00				
Contributions to Solicitors Report	750.00				
Total Income	£ 9603.02	£ 8,968.00	£ 8,298.50	£ 11,972.50	£ 1,801.50
Expenditure					
Honorarium (Secretary)				£100.00	£300.00
Honorarium (Treasurer)				£300.00	£300.00
Angling Trust	60.00	£55.00	£55.00	£55.00	£55.00
A.G.M (Food/room hire)	290.50	£250.00	£250.00	£101.27	£58.95
“ (Printing reports)	76.00	£65.00	£85.00		
Webpage Management	200.00	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00	£200.00
REDFA contribution UCD Report	1000.00				
REDFA/ELIA Solway byelaw Report	900.00				
Corby Weir consultancy		£300.00			
NWATFCC		£100.00		£100.00	
Cup engraving	7.00		£8.00		
Workshops & Venue Hire	100.00	£125.00	£75.00	£258.00	£90.54
Retirement gifts			£50.00		£100.00
Lowther Show Costs	27.84	£65.50	£78.00	£81.09	£72.69
Lowther prizes		£100.00			
REDFA leaflets		£40.00	£40.00	£40.00	
Junior Day Tuition Fees				£629.20	
Other (DD and bank charges)	30.00		£25.00		
Avian Predation			£450.00		
Administration – Costs	6000.00	£7,100.00	£9,000.00	£9,000.00	
- Mileage	529.50	£444.50	£317.50	£497.75	
- Stationary/post	313.50	£110.40	£155.64	£232.59	£81.84
Salmon lifecycle artwork	108.00				
Total Expenditure	£9,642.34	£ 9,114.39	£ 10,789.14	£ 11,694.90	£ 1,409.02
Surplus (Deficit)	(£39.32)	(£146.39)	(£,490.64)	£ 277.60	£ 392.48
Account Balances					
	31.10.18	31.10.17	31.10.16	31.10.15	31.10.14
H.S.B.C.	£316.24	£355.56	£501.95	£2,992.59	£1, 646.23
Cumberland B.S.	£20,187.94	£20,021.19	£19,847.47	£19,674.67	£19,417.62
Total balances	£20,504.18	£20,376.75	£20,349.42	£22,667.26	£21,063.85

Donations gratefully received from a number of REDFA Members & the J. Norris collection box.

Contributions to the **UCD Statisticians Report** - N. Marriner, CAA, YFFC & PAAS thro NWATFCC.

For the **Solicitors Brief on the Solway Byelaws** - CAA, YFFC , N. Marriner & BELAC

Current expenditure & Income in this last financial year of approx £9,600, balanced by holding back payment on Aug - Oct admin costs. This has been an exceptional year when REDFA led challenges to the Solway & National byelaws, with a net cost to REDFA of £250. Contributions from Riparian Owners & Clubs supported this work. REDFA`s workload protecting fishery interests is not abating and we continue to rely heavily on the support and generosity of our members

3. Secretary & Treasurers report

2018 will be looked on as year that REDFA officers will not want to repeat, a view shared by many riparian interests and managers of our wild NW game fisheries. Near drought conditions in the prime fishing months and a succession of major challenges to the fishery.

The Annual report reflect this and mirrors the scale of resourcing issues that our regulatory catchment partners (Environment Agency & Natural England) face, where funding to protect, promote and improve our game rivers has reached an all time low.

We came through and out of two Fisheries Byelaw Consultations and made important contributions to other Public Inquiries, notably the Scottish Salmon Farming & Welsh Byelaws. Legal and professional advice and instructions have been sought and coordinated with other regional and national rod fisheries Associations to support our collective interests and Eden Clubs and Riparian owners have contributed financially in these campaigns.

Early in 2018 REDFA convened an Eden & Border Esk rod group to steer collective responses to the Solway Byelaw and we are grateful to Nick Marriner for making Warwick Hall a venue for our meetings.

Some very strong links with other fishery organisations have been fostered and developed this last 12 months, not least neighbouring River fishery Consultative` s on the Border Esk, Derwent, Lune & Ribble.

The Angling Trust, Fish Legal, Salmon & Trout conservation UK & Wild Trout Trust have all played a part in action we have taken to protect our interests over Water Abstraction, Pollution monitoring & reporting and Avian Predation Management. Without their contributions REDFA and its fisheries would not have been as effective in challenging and reversing applications which would have had a detrimental impact to our rivers.

Out of necessity the Secretary has lodged at least seven specific Information requests to the EA & NE this year and we wish to acknowledge our appreciation of the way our local fisheries and logistics teams responding to those requests under heavy work pressure - Stewart Mounsey, Steve Garner, Andy Gowans, and their colleagues.

REDFA communicated to George Eustice the Defra Fisheries Minister on four occasions during this period, culminating in a visit by REDFA and Border Esk representatives to the Home Office in February this year.

There have been countless communications with Heidi Stone the National Salmon programme manager and other national advisers on developments with the National & Solway Byelaws. We have tried to keep REDFA notifications of developments to a minimum and hope you have been able to follow these.

Agreement was reached with the EA on future quarterly Pollution incident reporting in the catchment and liaison with REDFA appointing a new Pollution officer - Nigel Austin. As you will know we have some very active local river watchers which spurred REDFA to engage with the EA and adopt procedures deployed on the Ribble catchment where quarterly reporting and closer liaison with the EA takes place on incidents and follow up actions place. This is a huge concern for the Eden, and most easily spotted and rectified at source in our feeder streams. It is in everyone`s interests to liaise with Nigel to make this work. REDFA`s Salmon & Trout Redd counting programme came live (details in the Eden Monitoring Report) with 10 river counters covering approx 40 miles of spawning streams this winter to support the EA`s team.

A major setback to REDFA has been the decision of Eden Rivers Trust to withdraw from the Eden Fisheries Plan and concentrate their attention on the Eden Catchment Group where they act as host coordinators in promoting the Catchment Area Based approach (CABa) solutions.

Flood alleviation and natural flood management projects appear to be the primary driver for River restoration in the Eden catchment presently and REDFA is watching how this develops and Brexit impacts on future Fisheries priorities. REDFA has committed to coordinating, directing and collating the 2017 & 18 Eden Monitoring Reports and bringing these up to date with this combined REDFA Annual report.

Daniel Brazier the River Restoration Manager & former Fisheries specialist left ERT the Trust and we have a complete new Trust team for 2019, led by Elizabeth Radford as CEO and Alasdair Brock rejoining as head of Conservation. Charles Ecroyd is the Chair of Trustees and we wish them well in getting the Trust back up to speed.

As we go into 2019 REDFA has registered two projects on the Eden Catchment Group project portal seeking funding to support continued Eden Monitoring Voluntary programmes (jointly with ERT) and a separate smolt tracking 3 year study to assess "In River" mortality and a third year link up with the proposed Atlantic Salmon Tracking programme in the Solway -> Irish sea planned for 2022.

REDFA's year end balances remain healthy and it is only through the time and expense that our officers and other volunteers provide freely that we manage the activities we do. It is a difficult balancing act and without the generous contributions of Members we would not be able to represent Eden Fisheries as we endeavour to do. I am indebted to Paul, Adrian, Nigel and others for running with some extremely demanding and technical pieces of work these last 2 years.

That's about it. Let's hope we have a year ahead when we can all spend a little more time out on the water, wetting our lines and enjoying our river pursuits.

Mike Ashwin

4. Angling Reports



The Yorkshire Fly Fishers' Club

Report to REDFA 2018

In keeping with many countrywide reports, our Eden systems waters struggled during 2018. Late February's arrival of the *Beast from the East* led to a severely retarded start to spring. Cold conditions prevailed early on, before morphing almost seamlessly into a period of hot dry weather which was to last for weeks on end. When the weather finally broke later in July, it was too little too late it seemed. Trout never regained any momentum and although back end salmon fishing picked up a little towards the end of the season, sport was mostly with coloured fish on our upper beats, whilst Wetheral suffered one of its worst seasons in many years.

Lower Eden Beats Our Lower Eden keeper Mike Grimes writes:

Well, what can I say? Without doubt the hardest year I have put in on the beat in my 30+ years at Wetheral. Spring fishing was moderate but there were enough fish for rods to feel they had a fair chance of a fish. Alas, thereafter prospects dropped off a cliff, I can honestly say I did not see a fish show from May until October 18th (Henrys 11.32am). My feelings on't job are that the devastatingly destructive floods of 2010 and 2015 have had a catastrophic effect on the spawning in the main stem of the river which is made up of later running fish, these have gone to all extent and proposes and will take time to recover. Luckily we have 9 years left of the moratorium on the killing of salmon, that's got to be good for the job. The amount of rod hours per fish this year will be staggering I would think. There will be some brain storming to be done by owners, clubs and associations governing juntas this winter me thinks.

On the bright side the little fish did ok this year. Trout and grayling are both holding their own well at Wetheral. If I had a gripe it would be the unwillingness of fish to rise to surface flies of late, change to bugs and have a do is my advice. The first flight of 100+ cormorants was seen this week, those and the grey jobs, in my view, are the cause our fishes unwillingness to feed near the top. Other beats etc could, again in my view, do much more to control this problem.

Upper Eden Beats Mark Strong had the following to say about salmon fishing on our Upper Eden beats in 2018.

Well it's been a tough season, the beast from the east then the hottest summer on record made for difficult conditions.

The salmon season got underway slowly with bitter cold winds and snow, we landed our first salmon on the last day of March from Armathwaite, then the prolonged dry spell hit us and sport was near impossible with low water and high water temps, we would not catch and we very rarely seen a fish until August, once again our season was squeezed into the last few weeks with a lot of pressure on the water when conditions allowed, nearly all fish landed were far from fresh but there was an odd cleaner fish, the fish this season seemed to be on the small side with just an odd one or two over 20lb, 96 fish were landed from the 17th August we had some big rises in the river and the last weekend saw the biggest water of the year, we ended the season with 97.

Trout and Grayling Fishing

The extreme weather patterns affected trout and grayling fishing without a doubt. Early spring saw cold water temperatures and despite good LDO and MB hatches being noted by members, few rising fish were found. Even those prepared to prospect with nymphs met with slim pickings which led to the feeling that fish were still 'doggo' and late to move onto feeding lies, even into mid-April.

A brief window of opportunity then opened up until the latter part of May when some fine trout were caught. Flurries of grannom along with mixed upwing hatches of iron blue, olive uprights, brook duns etc, led to some surface activity although the general theme was that of odd large trout being found on the feed rather than good numbers of more average sized fish. Several of our members caught trout in the 3-4lb bracket during this time, but returns were on the whole, sparse.

From early June onward, trouting more or less ground to a halt as air and water temperatures rose and level continued to fall. By July we had emailed our members to ask that they consider not fishing at all in order to avoid causing unnecessary damage to potentially oxygen-stressed fish. I'm happy to report that the majority went along with this request without complaint.

Despite the weather breaking later in the season, sport never really recovered. Surface fly was extremely thin and perhaps more surprisingly, sub-surface tactics fared little better than the dry fly. The overriding impression we have is that one or more year classes seem to be missing. Despite being a good year for specimen trout, and there appearing to be healthy numbers of immature fish within the system, there is precious little in between. It will be interesting to see if this pattern extrapolates over the 2019 season.

Invertebrate monitoring at several sites across our waters returned abundance scores of acceptable levels. Anecdotally hatches were poor, although it's difficult to read too much into things when the weather patterns proved to be so wholly unsuited to the normal flow of invertebrate life and the fish which feed upon them.

Here's hoping for a return to normality during 2019!

Matt Eastham, YFFC Secretary, February 2019

Prince Albert Angling Society - Moorhouse beat Season 2018 retrospective

What an interesting year of contrasts from the previous season for the Moorhouse beats of Holme Gate and Crosby on Eden. Starting the season with our members having high hopes of good sense prevailing with the EA and then to have this disappointed by what many of us believe was at best a misguided set of new bylaws and at worst a deliberate imposition of an unjustifiable policy despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Any way enough of that, it's done now and we should look at the effect on angling activity for the year which has been quite telling.

In the 2017 season despite restrictions by the club on the eligibility for members to fish we had 981 Rods fish for 52 salmon caught and a returned fish ratio of 85%, the majority of 36 fish taken by spinning with only 16 on the fly. Contrast this with the 2018 season where the rod effort reduced to 594 yet we still managed despite the near drought conditions of the summer months to catch 35 salmon with of course 100% returned to the river. A higher percentage of our anglers fished with the fly and this was reflected in the catch returns with 20 fish taken on this method.

What I would like to draw your attention to is the skewing of the catches towards the months of August and September, where coinciding with a return of near seasonal normal water levels we saw 27 of our 35 fish taken during this period. This now appears to be the trend for the beat with the period commencing from the last 2 weeks of July to the first 2 weeks of September recording the highest level of catches for the last three seasons running. Regarding Sea trout returns, these continue to be very low and most often result as a bye catch when fishing for salmon. The statistics reflect the fact that we have few anglers targeting Sea trout and I am hopeful that more members can be encouraged to make the effort we then may be able to assess the position more accurately. The two beats will again be open this year for Grayling fishing using any method and I for one will be blowing the dust off my "trotting gear" in November.

To finish on a high note our first Salmon of the 2019 season weighing in at 9lb was taken on the fly by Steve Becket on the 19th of February this year.

For those interested in these things our catch returns for Moorhouse for the 2018 year are detailed below.

Month	Rod visits	Salmon	Spin	Fly	Sea trout	Spin	Fly	salmon weights
January	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	
February	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	
March	50	1	0	1	1	0	1	8lb
April	85	3	0	3	0	0	1	10lb 16lb 14lb
May	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	
June	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	
July	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	
August	93	17	9	8	2	0	2	10lb 5lb 8lb 11lb 5lb 10lb 10lb 6lb 12lb 16lb 8lb 7lb 10lb 5lb 8lb 12lb 6lb 10lb 10lb 5lb 14lb 4lb 9lb 5lb 8lb 10lb
September	136	10	4	6	2	0	2	8lb
October	34	4	2	2	0	0	0	6lb 12lb 5lb 5lb
Totals	<u>594</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	

Penrith Anglers Association - Summary of 2018 season

The 2018 trout season can be summed up into 3 distinct parts, a very cold spring with measured sport, a very long dry and hot summer that was dour at times and a little rain in the last month or so that provided some good sport. March and April temperatures rarely reached double figures and very few fish were stimulated into feeding. Those fish that did feed were generally large in size and members reported many trout weighing between 2lb and 6lb. Most of these large fish were found to be in exceptional condition for the time of year with some exceeding their normal weight to length ratio; indicating that these large fish perhaps had not spawned and had been feeding hard for some weeks prior to the start of the season. Anglers who braved the conditions in these early weeks observed innumerable amounts of duns collecting on the surface due to the cold temperature, making it almost impossible for them to warm up their flight muscles to allow them to leave the water.

Duns of the Large Dark Olives (LDO) and March Browns (MB) were seen on some days drifting for far too long and unfortunately many emerging duns were observed drowning as they got trapped in the more turbulent parts of the river.

Adults that did make it onto dry land had to wait for suitable temperatures to allow flight and there were few days in March and early April where such temperatures were reached; the cold days did not just prevent flight from the water but also the ability to swarm which is essential for copulation in these species. In cool temperatures adults can live for as long as a week or more, but inevitably exceptional long cold spells can have an impact on populations. Many female duns and spinners of LDO were found dead in the foliage having not achieved either transformation from dun to spinner, or the ability to copulate. Neither of the above two species are reported to be parthenogenetic - unlike many other species - so do not have the option to produce viable eggs if copulation is not completed. What some anglers reported as great hatches in those early weeks resulted in a large percentage of those failing to reproduce. However, having stated that, the amount and extent of the emergence of the above species should have hopefully produced enough offspring to remain in good numbers, as long as conditions for good survival rates of the nymphs are met. On one particular day on a large pool the amount of duns were so immense that counting individuals was impossible, and the only way to describe these numbers was by measuring the distance of the largest gap between the individual duns, about 14 inches was the biggest circular gap I saw in the peak of that emergence. There were literally hundreds in every square yard of water for as far as the eye could see.

Unfortunately for the angler, few fish took advantage of those mass rafts of duns drifting on the surface, and it became apparent that those post spawned fish were less enthusiastic about feeding in the low water temperatures. The few larger fish found feeding were on occasions ignoring the innumerable numbers of LDO on the surface and selecting only the MB duns. Anglers who fished the surface imitations who had the patience to search and wait for risers did catch some memorable fish, but rises were generally short-lived; choosing the right area was the important factor for being successful. Prospecting with subsurface techniques was not as productive in those early weeks compared to previous years, it was the dry fly to targeted rising fish that was the most effective and it was quality rather than numbers of fish caught that underlined the spring fishing.

On the occasional slightly warmer days in late April, the duns left the water much faster and large clouds of emerging adults were seen leaving the water in exceptional numbers, greater than I have personally seen before. However, this does not mean that there was in fact more fly emerging than previous years, they were just more concentrated in short periods each day and more noticeable due to them being on the water longer and floating many hundreds of yards. What generally happens in warmer conditions is the emerging flies drift only a few yards and so the anglers only see the ones emerging in front of them. Obviously this season's mass populations originated from last season's generations.

Olive Uprights (OU) came onto the trout's menu in late April and for the first few days of the emergence of this species they also struggled to take flight. I fished over seven continuous days where I had the infrequent occurrence to fish with imitations of the above species as they emerged pretty much every day on cue around 1:15pm - which lasted for an hour or so - in temperatures of around 8°C to 11°C. On 4th May the air temperatures rapidly increased to 18°C and from that day onwards temperatures remained high and I did not see the mass concentrated emergence of this species again, only sparse numbers were seen coming off for longer periods throughout the day. The fish then turned back to feeding on the LDO's which were still coming off but seen in less significant numbers, but some of the swarming male spinners were

Members, who did not start fishing until the warmer weather arrived, would not have observed the incredible numbers of these spring hatches, one member I met on the Eden in the second week of May was only on his second consecutive outing and he commented on the lack of olives this season but he hoped they would start soon now that the temperatures had increased!

From mid-May onwards the river levels started to drop and air and water temperatures began to rise. Parts of May provided some good sport, but not to the degree seen in some previous seasons; conditions just did not suit the daytime angler. The sunny conditions and rising temperatures combined with low water levels in mid-season made fishing difficult. Night- time fishing also became poor once the water temperature got to above 18°C. Many anglers stopped fishing completely as the temperatures peaked. Trout are known to get stressed when temperatures reach around 18°C; on some of our waters temperatures of 23°C were recorded which is dangerously high for trout and certainly will put them off feeding.

Hot dry temperatures also have a great influence on the fly life, and many species particularly the upwinged species avoid flying as they risk overheating; the above family also become quickly dehydrated being incapable of taking up liquids. Understanding the requirements and abilities of these insects and trout responses to temperatures is crucial when recording populations from just a visual aspect. I heard many anglers reporting poor hatches throughout those days when temperatures were reaching the high twenties; the simple fact is this is to be expected. Many of these species of insects are capable of emerging or egg-laying outside their normal active times and these may arise when most anglers are in bed. Evidence of this was seen by amount of freshly emerged duns of the Blue Winged Olive coming to my light trap well into dark, regular mass emergence of Small Dark Olives and Olive uprights just after dark and large falls of *Caenis* spinners two hours before sunrise.

Is this change in emergence times the future trend for our invertebrates due to climate change? Who knows! But those who collect data on species distributions are recording changes not just on flight periods, but also a northerly migration of some species.

The true numbers of some species of emerging invertebrate go unseen by anglers, particularly those species that never emerge in mass on the surface, or crawl out onto land, but can sometimes be very abundant in the larvae or nymph stage. The obvious reasons are that we only see a snapshot of a small part of a river while fishing and we cannot be there all the time. The only real way to measure invertebrate populations is by regular systematic sampling of the riverbed over several parts of a selected stretch of river, but this does not in any way offer a true indication of diversity of species and abundance within species of the entire river as environmental problems can be localised and that micro habitats will also change over its course.

If the insects are not active, the fish won't be as active, so choosing your fishing times was important this season, but once the temperatures got to dangerous levels there was not a lot you could do - apart from going to a spring fed river!

Overall a challenging season, and each year is different. Over the 36 years I have fished these waters I have seen previous unproductive seasons followed by exceptional ones such as 1990 and 1991, hopefully next season will bring regular freshets to keep water temperatures low. If every season was the same it would get boring!

Andrew Dixon PAA Hon Secretary



CARLISLE ANGLING ASSOCIATION 2018 REPORT

The 2018 season was mixed to say the least for Carlisle Angling Association.

The unfavourable outcome of the NLO review coupled with extreme low water for much of the season kept many anglers away from the river.

Once water did come in the early autumn catches increased as more anglers ventured out. Most of the fish landed were coloured and appeared to have been in the system for some time. The lower pools of CAA fished the best, but given the right water conditions, fish were taken from our middle and upper pools also, which was encouraging showing fish were still willing to move through.

Trout fishing has been steady, but the low, warm weather again restricted angling. The heaviest trout recorded was estimated to be in excess of 6lb, on a size 18 Greenwells dry fly caught in the Rickerby Park area, before being released.

In June members enjoyed the usual casting event with Clive Mitchellhill and Jim Fearn from Guide Fly Fishing it was good to see new faces as well as members attending the event. This day is as popular as ever.

After 2 years of negotiations with the Land Registry, the club has finally secured a further 1700m of fishing on the lower Caldew, from Holmehead weir downstream to where the Caldew meets the main Eden. This will be a big asset for the club with access to some firstclass trout and grayling fishing.

The club also purchased tickets for members to use on the Border Esk for the first time.

Volunteers have been busy once again with repairs to fencing and bank work. We have a good group of volunteers who regularly show up to assist in maintenance.



Members have also been involved in counting both Goosanders and Cormorants as part of the catchment wide licence to control the numbers of these birds.



Cormorants on the lower Eden



Members have also been on training to count Redds as part of monitoring stocks on the main Eden itself and its tributaries, especially the Caldew system.

The club now has a Pollution Officer who will be responsible for collating local pollution incidents and reporting back to REDFA's new Pollution Co-ordinator.

The Honorary bailiffs have been busy with over 200 individual patrols taking place and it is good to have them report a substantial drop in the number of incidents of people fishing without permits.

With an already falling membership, we can only hope that current members continue to support the club and new members come in, despite 100% catch and release being introduced.

Nigel Austin

Honorary Secretary. Carlisle Angling Association.

Kirkby Stephen & District Angling Association - 2018 Report for REDFA

The fishing on our waters was very poor in 2018. It didn't help that we had 10 weeks with no rain. The more successful anglers were taking trout on nymphs and wet fly fished upstream.

Unfortunately, our member numbers dropped by 14%. This was mainly members who were not local. We are not sure why they did not renew. Possibly the poor fishing in 2017 and the fact that the Eden has yet to recover from the effects of Storm Desmond.

Day tickets were also down which is a major concern as we rely heavily on this income. The reduce number of tickets is again probably due to poor fishing unless you hit the right time and place. Our local members are getting older and indications for the 2019 season are that some of these members will not renew.

A major concern is the trout are not feeding as they use to, rising regular to surface to feed. Members reported that although there is a fair amount of surface fly life the fish are not feeding on them. An investigation as why not would be very helpful if we wish the River Eden to retain its reputation for good trout fishing.

Colin Edney KSDAA Secretary 25th February 2019

C/o Four Winds, Church Brough, Kirkby Stephen, CA17 4EW
Tel. 017683 42073 or Email colin.ksdaa@gmail.com

Brampton Angling Association Report on the 2018 Season

Our Chairman's report for 2019 acknowledged that if there were to be the perfect storm in the angling world this past season would tick most of the boxes. Climatic extremes of a cold start after the Beast from the East followed by heat and drought and then by variable and inclement weather affected fishing conditions significantly. That said, Members enjoyed some good fishing between the weather's changing moods. Unsurprisingly, catches were down on usual levels and particularly so for grayling. All fish reported as caught were returned.

We also had to adjust to some key personal changes, always a risk for a small association like ours. But, in the event, we managed fine. This caused us, together with reflecting on membership pressures and particularly the trend of decline in junior members, to consider how we can be better placed to plan for and forge a sustainable future.

Through working with partnering fisheries and clubs we were only too aware of similar, additional and greater pressures for them. Offering wild trout and grayling fishing, BAA waters obviously attract anglers with those specific interests. The fishing and possibly the "shadow of Hadrian's Wall" location seems to have generated an increase in visitor ticket sales which has helped – and, in turn, contributes to the local economy and community. Some visitors commented favourably on their experience of our fishing and stated their intent to return. We will continue to encourage and support visitors.

There has been an encouraging if small increase in Members' commitment and contribution to the Association and the partnering groups of the Eden and Cumbrian fisheries and conservation groups during the last year and we are looking forward with some positivity to 2019 and beyond despite the pressures many are experiencing.

Peter Cray BAA Secretary

Borderlines - 2019 programme.

It looks like being another busy year for the team at Borderlines who will be working closely with Eden Clubs and the Nith Catchment Fishery Trust. <https://www.borderlines.org.uk>

After a productive meeting with REDFA in January this year we have outlined two events as taster sessions in the Eden catchment this summer - both centred on smaller Stillwater locations where new anglers have a chance to catch trout and get "hooked". CAA and PAA are acting as host coordinators and hopefully this may act as a catalyst and duplicate the success of the Nith initiative within the Eden catchment and encourage new young, older and returning anglers to the sport.

The diary of events in and around Dumfries for the coming season is now complete and ready to roll.

Last year was the second season for the Nith Young Anglers Club. During that time we have seen great progress with both ability and confidence developing in those participating, in fact those in their second year are now helping the newcomers get going !!

The "Club" starts initially with a taster day - <https://www.rivernith.com/angling-taster-days>

This can be a day`s fishing on a beach, local river or lake. All the equipment is supplied and with continuous Professional guidance available, parents (who are strongly encouraged to attend and take part) often become future anglers in their own right as well as becoming mentors for the children.

The programme of events runs all season and covers many areas of the angling typically available in the UK. The continuity that a season long programme provides, is we believe, one of the main reasons for it's success and local clubs often benefit from not only one but two generations of new anglers joining their ranks !!

It is crucial that we halt the decline of people leaving or not taking up fishing as we have seen of late. With funding sources forever getting more scarce the task becomes very difficult.

On a final note, the Lowther Show 10/11 August is also a great showcase for angling recruitment and is a great place for all clubs, societies and associations to get together and show just what we have in Cumbria.

Glyn Freeman of Borderlines

Secretary - Derek Kelly, Secretary 17 Lockhart Gardens, Annan DG12 5EY
Mobile: 07788726495 Email - derekkelly60@gmail.com

5. Pollution Monitoring Initiative - Anglers/Clubs/REDFA & EA

One of the main problems facing the Eden catchment and its fisheries has been the regular and at times frequent reporting of pollution incidents, many associated with farm pollution.

In response to these continued reports of both historic and new incidents of source and diffuse pollution entering the main Eden and many of its tributaries and other reports concerning livestock e.g. cattle poaching, REDFA have appointed a Pollution Co-ordinator to work with Clubs and Riparian interests.

This comes at a time when new Farm Rules and codes of practice are being implemented by DEFRA and with EA resources stretched there are many occasions when officers cannot attend reported incidents.

The new Pollution co-ordinators role will be to assist REDFA Members, Clubs and anglers (who are the river watchers on the ground) with reporting incidents of pollution and breaches of these new farm rules and where necessary collate details. This means keeping an up to date data base of information including dates, log numbers of incidents reported to the EA hotline, locations with grid references, type of pollution and follow up action taken by the Environment Agency Land and Water Team.

In December 2018 an initial meeting took place with Mike Ashwin and Nigel Austin, (REDFA pollution co-ordinator) with James Brown, EA Environment Officer, and Ben Wilson, EA Land and Water Team Leader, at the EA Offices in Penrith.

This meeting was extremely positive and outlined what happens within 30 minutes of an incident being reported via the EA hotline. Details of the incident and log number are passed to the on-call Environment Officer. They then allocate a Category number to the incident based on evidence received and classify the incident as a 1, 2, 3 or 4. The category number allocated indicates the level of response from the EA.

Category 1 would be a major pollution event with fish and invertebrate kill such as the incident in Skitwath beck in 2017, and Category 4 a minor event.

This scheme is new but has already identified a number of farm related incidents on the upper catchment on Robbery Water and following several reports of farm waste entering the water course, in January 2019 a challenge was mounted to the EA as to what action was being taken. Photographs taken by Mr. John Dumont helped with identifying the source of the incident and led to the EA instigating visits by Environment Officers to the farm and farmer responsible.

The work carried out by Mr. Dumont and others over a period of time and at their own cost has been commendable and provided a huge amount of information on pollution on the Eden catchment.

The New Farm Rules implemented in April 2018 by DEFRA means farmers and land owners have responsibility to prevent water pollution in its many forms and remain compliant in storing and application of slurry, treatments and herbicides, use of land and livestock impact on water courses.

Reports of pollution or even suspected incidents must be made immediately to the EA incident hotline (0800 80 70 60) and a log number obtained. This can then be passed back to Mr. N. Austin to add to REDFA's own log of incidents. The EA Pollution team will be providing REDFA with a summary report each quarter of incidents and responses at our liaison meeting. This will highlight hotspots in the catchment where action needs to be directed and taken.

Some clubs are already active within this scheme, having already appointed individual club pollution officers to liaise with REDFA co-ordinator. We need to extend this so that we receive reports of note from all clubs and individuals with incident log numbers, grid references and details of the pollution to the new pollution co-ordinator. Fortunately very few incidents are Category 1, but continued reports of even low level pollution may have an accumulative and lasting impact, or could escalate to a more serious category event.

Pollution is one of biggest threats to the Eden catchment as a whole and we need to work together to report, manage and prevent further Category 1 events. All anglers need to be active in monitoring the river and its becks and reporting incidents to the EA with evidence to back up the report such as photographs.

Mr. Nigel Austin, REDFA Pollution Co-ordinator can be contacted on 07708281957 for further information and to report incidents.

6. Solway 2018 Byelaws, Process & Impact

The Solway Eden & Border Esk - 10 year time limited Byelaws were formally notified as being approved by the Defra Minister in conjunction with the Net Limitation Orders for the Solway Haaf net fishery on the 5th June 2018.

- All salmon to be returned - rod & net fisheries for 10 years (with a potential 5 year byelaw review)
- Sea trout limit - River Eden annual rod angler limit of two fish and a one fish per day angler limit.
- Net licenses reduced to 75 haaf net, with a max annual total net sea trout quota of 420 fish.
- Net fishery - Daily close period reduced and is now midnight to 6.00am
- Net fishery - Weekly (weekend) close period withdrawn

The Byelaw salmon conservation case for both Rivers being based on the River Eden`s past 5 year record of performance to Conservation Limit and the Eden as the “weakest stock in what is a complex fishery”.

For Eden & Border Esk, Mandatory C & R was proposed by the EA to Defra on Natural England criteria for the Eden`s Special Area of Conservation. The test being that the River Eden spawning stock was required to exceed Conservation Limit target in 4 out of the last 5 years.

REDFA & ELIA (Esk & Liddle Improvement Association) final proposals for an annual angler limit of one salmon and the whole river meeting 90% C & R compliance, whilst promoting 100% C & R was rejected by the EA & NE.

REDFA & ELIA formed a Rod group in January 2018 to steer our Consultation objections and sought the advice of Legal solicitors to ensure the Byelaw case justification and process were compliant.

The Secretary corresponded with the Defra Minister requesting a Local Inquiry be held to hear the concerns of Rod fisheries over the economic Impact of reduced rod effort to fisheries & related businesses. Concerns were also expressed over potential impact to stocks where clubs, syndicates & Riparian interests withdrew from stock protection and enhancement programmes. All these points were fully covered in our objections to the formal Consultation. The Minister responded by declining to hold a Local inquiry.

The Secretary referred our concerns to the Angling Trust who supported our objections in their consultation response. However Fish Legal were not in a position to act for or represent Solway interests.

As we approached the June deadline, the EA communicated on the 8th May that a "package of measures" were under consideration by the Defra Minister. REDFA requested under freedom of information that the EA disclose what measures and supporting statements & documents had been sent in its package of measures to the Minister.

We received notification on the 24th May that the Defra Minister was confirming the Byelaws but it was not until the 5th June that the final signed Order and papers were received by REDFA.

The protracted three year Solway Byelaw process, which was adjourned to consider the English S5PA & Byelaws and Scottish Consultation & River Grading system has been the source of considerable frustration. The failure to consider the economic impact to the rod Fishery and the net benefit to stocks that

fisheries secure has made the enforcing measures difficult to accept. The decision not to maintain stock counters and traps at Corby and Holmehead weirs to provide reliable stock trend data adding to this.

A meeting scheduled with the assistance of Rory Stewart MP between EA, NE, REDFA & ELIA in October 2018 to present and propose new objectives and actions to an updated Salmon Action Plan, met with no positive outcome. The catchment now has NO Eden Fishery Plan or agreed Improvement Plans to direct resources to return stocks to favourable status.

As a result REDFA & ELIA representatives met with George Eustice the Defra Fisheries Minister & David Mundell the Secretary of State for Scotland in London on 4th February. A 25 page REDFA & ELIA presentation pack was used and referred to in the 40 minute meeting which included historic 2018 and forward projected 2019 financial losses on both Rivers. These contained statements from the lower Eden fisheries - Grinsdale & Beaumont, Cargo, CAA & Warwick Hall.

REDFA sought assurance that the EA review this evidence of financial impact and specifically reconsider the accuracy of the Solway Byelaw - 5 year Eden assessments. Historic catch records and recalculations were provided to support these requests.

Reported NW angler rod effort (EA reporting of annual days fished for salmon & sea trout) in the last four years is now 50% of reported days fished in the 1990`s. In the last 20 years Rod exploitation rate variables applied as Rod catch multipliers for flexing rod catch to total spawning stocks have not been revised on the River Eden since the 1999 SAP.

The impact of the Solway byelaws has been marked on many lower Eden beats, less so on waters where Club memberships provided a variety of NW rivers to fish. The effect of the summer drought didn't really influence season rod uptake as decisions had already been made by angler.

But estimates show a figure of 25 - 35% reduction in let rods with many rods citing C & R as the reasons they have moved to other waters (notably the Tyne) and in some cases anglers giving up fishing altogether. These were estimates REDFA forecast to the EA together with reductions in Capital asset values and rental income as lowered rod effort resulted in reduced rod catch.

We expect to hear from the EA regarding our byelaw assessment request in the near future.

mja redfa/hwatfcc march 2019

7. The National 2019 Salmon Byelaws

With the proposed 2018 National Byelaw consultation running concurrently with the Solway NLO & Byelaw review there was the recipe for considerable confusion. And so it proved !.

With the EA deferring and delaying implementing the proposed National Byelaws in 2018, some Eden & Border Esk anglers read this delay as applying to the Solway byelaw process.

Further misunderstanding arose as the National River C & R proposals were framed on quite different stock assessment criteria to the proposed Solway Byelaws.

For the National Byelaws it is **Individual River Classifications of Risk status** that define the C & R measures applying to individual rivers i.e. where for **AT – At Risk Rivers** (mandatory angler C & R was proposed) and for **PAR – Probably at Risk Rivers** (90% C & R river targets proposed).

The EA had taken the Eden & Border Esk Rivers out of the National Byelaw C & R process as the Solway Rivers were undergoing their own Byelaw review. But as many rod fisheries and anglers realised there was still the prospect that the proposed National Method restrictions for salmon could still be applied to All Rivers in England.

The National 2019 Salmon byelaws are now published and effective this year for schedule 1 & 2 listed English Rivers where 100% C & R applies to three AR rivers and all recovering rivers.

Again we stress that for the River Eden & Border Esk the individual River Byelaws apply.

A downloadable copy of National Byelaws is attached to this Angling Trust/EA press release

https://www.anglingtrust.net/news.asp?section=29§ionTitle=Angling+Trust+News&itemid=4764&dm_i=3XSU,IVPJ,2NFO0Z,21GIU,1

The proposed National Method restrictions have also now been removed (these were for hook size, use of trebles, lures & landing nets and would have applied to All Rivers including the Solway rivers). The reasons for the EA withdrawing the method restrictions were explained by Heidi Stone EA as:-

“The fishing restriction byelaw (Byelaw 13 as advertised) was withdrawn. We took a very close look at all of the responses we received back and I made the call that, although the intention was sound, the delivery was flawed. To prohibit flying Cs and other methods was impossible to set out legally. The intention to fish with care and empathy cannot be set out in a byelaw and, we have made the decision to proceed with improving angler handling, equipment, methods and (I hope) the ultimate safe release of salmon through codes of practice. This will be reviewed in 2020. If there are areas where things have not improved, we will consider local byelaws for certain methods or gear”.

Developments in 2017-18 and deferment of the 2018 national byelaws

In the North West, REDFA & NWATFCC had been involved in a lengthy process of meetings and discussions with the EA's national Salmonid advisers over improvements to the accuracy and reporting of data in the annual stock assessment and more complex investigations over the river classification model defining river Stock status.

The 2018 national Byelaw proposals and conservation case were built on the 2016 river classifications and five year forward 2021 stock predictions, which assessed 10 monitored Salmon Rivers in England to be AR - At Risk. Of these 10, six were in the NW - the Rivers Ribble, Derwent, Lune, Wyre, Crake & Calder. NWATFCC challenged the EA over the NW Classifications on a number of grounds prior to the Stoneybeck Inn, Anglers Forum event in Feb 201 and as part of the National byelaw Consultation..

REDFa & NWATFCC in collaboration with CPWF (Campaign for Protection of Welsh Fisheries) commissioned statisticians from the University College of Dublin to evaluate the River Classification model and consider other alternatives.

The conclusions and qualified statement from the **Statisticians Report** led NWATFCC to request the Defra Minister defer the 2018 Byelaws, review the 2016 Assessments and reconsider improvements to stock reporting and use of current river classification methodology.

The 2018 Byelaws were subsequently deferred and the EA & Cefas reviewed all English Rivers through the updated 2017 assessments revising the 2019 byelaws. As a result only three English Rivers were assessed to be “At Risk” . Of these only the West Cumbria Calder remained an AR River in the NW.

Further recommendations were made in August 2018 by NWATFCC & CPWF through the Angling Trust to the Defra and Welsh Cabinet Secretary over revising applied rod exploitation rates used in the annual assessments and modelling and methodology improvements. These are under consideration by the EA, NRW, Cefas and NASCO and we await confirmation of how rod fisheries will be consulted on these.

100% C & R is an emotive and divisive instrument in managing rod fisheries, where the marginal gain is at best 1-2% of spawning stock, as it is on the River Eden.

REDFa has held the position that there will be a net negative loss to stocks where fisheries protection and enhancement programmes are threatened by loss of revenue and where Regulators and Conservation bodies fail to act to address the real cause of impacts on our stocks.

mja redfa/nwatfcc march 2019

8. Avian Predation Licensing issues & Impact assessment

≈ see Eden Monitoring Report for Bird count data & Impact assessment ≈

This is the 5th year that REDFA has coordinated the Eden Avian Predation Management under its licensing conditions set by natural England. This was the Angling Trust - Defra/NE pilot scheme launched in 2014 that we took advantage of to group catchment wide activities.

In 2017 NE introduced a number of restrictions on the lower 10 km of waters as a result of their assessment that our operations could be impacting on cormorants & goosander in a proposed extended pSPA – Special Protection Area beyond the existing Solway Firth SPA. Restrictions were placed on the River Derwent Predation licence also.

REDFa & DOA collaborated and sought the assistance of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal. Two meetings and a series of communications took place between national NE policy advisers and local NE managers and wildlife specialists. A Fish Legal solicitor was present and Mark Owen (Freshwater Campaigns) for the Angling Trust.

A good deal of frustration felt over NE's reluctance or inability to present estimated Impact assessments in terms of loss of annual fish stocks (total annual fish biomass). Bird count data (REDFa & British Ornithology etc) is available for both catchments and their neighboring lakes and inshore marine. Both Rivers are important and predominantly salmonid fisheries, each failing to meet Special Area of Conservation targets for protected Atlantic salmon and thus in "Unfavourable condition status".

In August 2018 both Rivers applied for small upper catchment areas to be added to their licenses, had these returned by NE and subsequently were required to submit two further applications with lengthy and in some cases unreasonable supporting information.

Eight months on we are waiting for approval, which we expect will be in March.

In the meantime REDFA is working on and will be presenting its own Impact assessment for fish loss on the Eden using reliable data and different scenarios of resident & visiting bird populations, wintering and nesting populations and estimated brood numbers.

This is presented as a first draft in the Eden 2018 Annual Monitoring Report.

REDFa has registered a three year project on the Eden Catchment Management Group projects portal, seeking funding for three annual "In river" smolt tracking studies and a third year (2022) link to the proposed Atlantic Salmon Trust project to monitor smolt migration losses from the Solway out through the Irish sea.

9. NWATFCC & REDFA submission to 2018 Scottish Salmon Farming Inquiry

In 2017 Paul Knight, the Chief Executive for S&TCUK (and our England & Wales NASCO representative) met with NW rivers representatives of the NWATFCC to discuss the worsening trends in smolt mortality and saw video footage of lice infestation on Eden rod caught herling.

From this the REDFA Secretary drafted and finalised a NWATFCC motion with S&TCUK to be presented and approved by the England Fisheries group for :-

"Cessation & phasing out of Open Cage Salmon Farming operations on the Scottish coast" including further additional recommendations.

This was supported by the NGO`s within the England Fisheries Group (excluding EA, NE, & Defra as regulatory bodies) and communicated to the Defra Fisheries Minister on 21st February. George Eustice who responding to this on the 29th March.

The motion was then taken by Paul Knight to the NASCO special conference in Sweden in June 2017 held to consider the Impacts of Aquaculture on migratory salmonids.

This become the headline campaign slogan for the S&TCUK and 27 environmental NGO`s and other bodies in June 2018 in its Salmon Farming Moratorium press release, calling for a moratorium on all new open cage marine salmon farms.

*In 2018 the Scottish Government relented to widening concerns at these operations and held a full Public Inquiry into the **Environmental impacts of salmon farming** held by the **Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee***

REDFA & NWATFCC made a detailed 10 page submission to the inquiry of the potential impacts to our NW migratory stocks, falling rod catches, fisheries revenues and failing Conservation status. This is available, with supporting letters from S&TCUK on the REDFA link & homepage www.edenfishing.co.uk

The Inquiry by ECCLR found in favour of raised objections to Salmon Farming and its environmental impacts and as we now know, their recommendations and future Scottish Government Policy and regulation of the industry is under the spotlight and subject of fierce debate.

10. Water abstraction and REDFA`s Objection to the UU`s Ullswater DPO application

≈ please see the Eden Monitoring report for historic River flow & level charts ≈

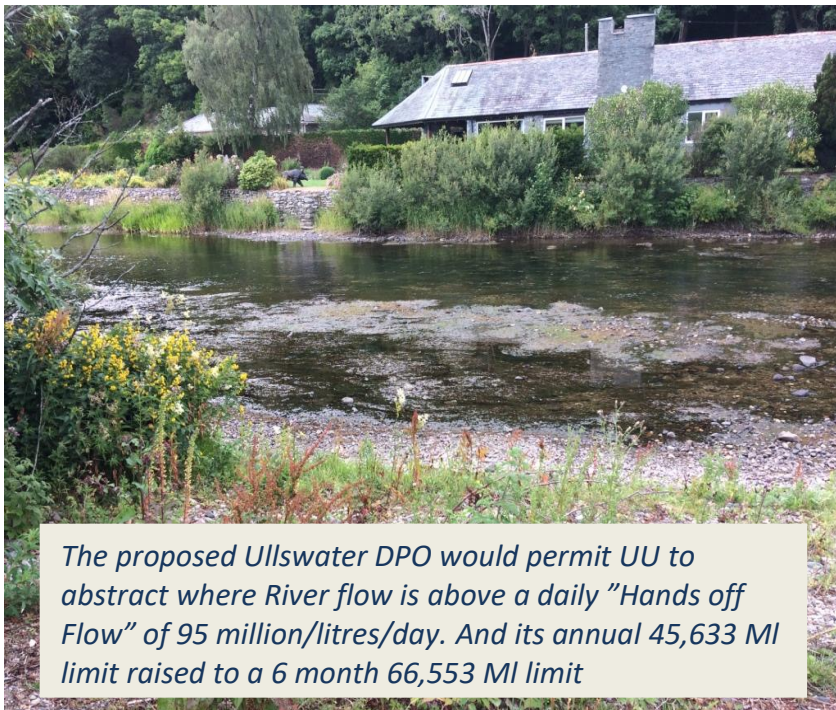
With two successive years (2017 -18) of prolonged spring & early summer periods of near drought conditions REDFA has been monitoring the effects of rainfall on river levels and total river flow (cubic/metres/sec) on the mainstem River Eden and its important River Eamont artery.

Surface water abstractions and intentions by United Utilities to vary its current abstraction conditions were seen by REDFA as a red line that needed to be resisted to protect natural flows in the Eamont and downstream Eden.

In 2017 REDFA and a number of Eden fishery representatives met with the EA, UU and its consultants over concerns to licensed abstraction in its proposed Ullswater Drought Permit Order consultation document.

Essentially those concerns being the justification for relaxing of conditions of River Eamont “hands off flows” permitting water to be abstracted at lower River Flow conditions and to significantly increased total 6 month volume limit, with flexibility to extend to 12 months.

In July 2018 and facing water shortage pressures UU submitted a revised application for an Ullswater DPO to be granted by the EA. The notification process was short, not well publicised and when the Secretary visited the EA offices not all the relevant documents where available for viewing.



The proposed Ullswater DPO would permit UU to abstract where River flow is above a daily "Hands off Flow" of 95 million/litres/day. And its annual 45,633 MI limit raised to a 6 month 66,553 MI limit

The River Eamont from charted flow data provides between 25 – 50% of River Eden flows below Waters Meet

← The River Eamont at Pooley Bridge on 21.07.18 running at a 125mm or 5" river height at the Pooley Bridge gauging station.

The River fell to its lowest height on 28th July - 114mm or 4.5inches height, approx 0.6 Cubic/metres/sec flow and a daily flow of approx 52 million/litres/day

The lowest recorded river flow was on 3rd Sept 1983 - 57mm river height, approx 0.5 Cu/metres/sec flow and a daily flow of approx 43 million/litres/day

REDFA had 48 hours to review the new application and supporting documents, including the various layers of environmental assessment of impact and make a response. The Secretary found strong grounds for objection in respect of the detail and conclusions made re environmental impact assessment of reduced flows and lack of appropriate monitoring of designated protected features – Atlantic salmon & lamprey in the SAC & SSSI.

A detailed objection was submitted by REDFA on 26th July, the only party or organisation to do so. On 6th August REDFA received a response and answers from UU to a number of the objections and replied to UU & the EA on the 7th August that there remained eight questions that had not been satisfactorily answered. REDFA informed the Angling Trust who asked to become a registered organisation of interest to the objection. On the 24th August, UU withdrew the application.

Since that time UU have provided a number of detailed information disclosures that REDFA sought on river monitoring and historic management and logging of Ullswater abstraction. A scheduled meeting took place on the 21st November including UU, REDFA, EA & NE where discussions centred on working towards revising a draft DPO, impact assessments and abstraction conditions that REDFA would not object to. Jamie Birley and Gareth Pedley contributed and were present in these discussions.

mja redfa/nwatfcc march 2019

11. Corby weir progress report

At a meeting with the Environment Agency (EA) on 22 January 2019, yet more detailed discussions took place to resolve final proposals for the removal or modification of this unacceptable barrier to fish migration at Great Corby in the River Eden. A river designated as a Special Area of Conservation, and as a Site of Special Scientific interest due to "protected fish" and fish of all species which migrate up and down the river. It is agreed as no longer an option to seek to relocate the Weir from its' present position.

The latest programme for proposed action by the EA includes:

- *Options Development.....September 2018 to March 2019*
- *Detailed Design.....April 2019 to March 2020.*
- *Procurement of Construction....November 2019 to March 2020*
- *Enabling Works.....May 2020 to June 2020*
- *Construction.....June 2020 to October 2020.*

Issues yet to be resolved include:

1. EA to explain why a proposed "Shallow V Weir" structure is their preferred option. Drawings to be provided and the justification why taking down the Weir to base slab and calibrating a hardened bed structure is rejected. That Lampreys and other migrants can ascend and descend a "Shallow V Weir" in all water conditions. That prior project information is to be reviewed to ensure that all previous designs and monitoring are not wasted or discounted in error, but included as appropriate.
2. EA to confirm when a new Lease has been concluded and signed with the adjoining Landowner (so that the project can proceed).
3. EA to take account of all Natural England requirements for the project, together with all Planning Consents required
4. EA to arrange all funding.
5. EA to consider Fish Counter options, as the original counter promised and installed originally has not provided salmon specific counts or to the required accuracy or efficiency (by comparison the River Tyne has an operational Counter)
6. The next meeting, at which decisive progress MUST be made is scheduled for June 2019, and we hope that 8 years effort by REDFA to try to modify or remove this illegal structure will result in decisive action.

Adrian Brown, 25 February 2019

12. Canoe access to the River Eden& Local Access Agreements

In February 2018 REDFA representatives met with the Cumbria Regional Waterways Adviser of the British Canoe Union (BCU). This meeting followed requests for assistance from River Eden Riparian Owners who were experiencing Canoeists accessing their waters and disregarding the terms and conditions of long standing Local Access Agreements (LAA) made between the BCU and the riparian owners.

We learned, at that meeting, that national policy from the national canoeing body, British Canoeing regarding Local Access Agreements was changing and that a new Access charter was being launched whereby existing and new agreements did not need to be observed or promoted in future. The reason given was that the BC now believed that there is a legal right of navigation in all rivers, and canoes can be paddled wherever and whenever canoeists like. BC claim that they do not have a mandate to agree any LAA on behalf of canoeists and that they are not prepared to observe or abide by the terms of any such agreement. The BC has now issued its' "Charter for Open Access" which gives effect to the changed policy. <https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/news/2018/british-canoeing-launches-access-and-environment-charter>

Fish Legal, and the Angling Trust representing angling interests, are adamant that the Legal position is as clear and unambiguous as it was before and that expert legal advice and recent rulings to that effect, uphold the current position that no general right of navigation exists in all rivers. Accordingly, all those seeking to paddle canoes on rivers require consent for access from the owners of the Legal rights in the river, including riparian land and fishing rights.

<https://www.fishlegal.net/page.asp?section=928>

This conflict continues today, and REDFA propose to advise local BC representatives that where any existing LAA on the Eden is ignored or disregarded, then any rights within that LAA will be withdrawn and all Canoe paddlers will be required to have specific consent for access from the owners of the existing rights in the river.

This proposal is supported by the Angling Trust & Fish Legal. Canoeing interests or their national body British canoeing will be requested to met and renegotiate existing LAA`s where these are not being observed or where new riparian interest need to be incorporated as signatories to Agreements.

Adrian Brown 25/2/2019

13. Signal Crayfish in the River Caldew

A signal crayfish population was first discovered in the Caldew by EA in June 2012 but it was quickly established that they had been there for over 17 years, so now they have been present for over 24 years. It is likely that they spread from a garden pond on one of the tributaries, at a time when there would have been no legal restrictions.

When the population was discovered in 2012, possible control / eradication mechanisms were considered, including poisoning. However, there was no guarantee that this would have been successful and there would have been a great risk to the biodiversity of the river. There is no specific monitoring of the signal crayfish in the Caldew, and the EA and NE have received no recent records, although ERT did report a record at Bog Bridge after Storm Desmond. The main population appears to be at the confluence with the Warnell.

There have been no reports of signal crayfish in the rest of the Eden Catchment. It is hoped that due to the Caldew Catchment being remote from the other sub-catchments that they will not spread beyond the Caldew. The signal crayfish is widespread and well established in other parts of England and Wales, especially in the south-east of England.

Whilst there are no specific studies quantifying what the effect of signal crayfish are on the salmonid populations in the River Caldew there is much evidence detailing their impact elsewhere (e.g. on the Trout Trust website).

The introduction of signal crayfish (and associated crayfish plague) is the main reason for the decline of native white-clawed crayfish populations in the UK. It also has wider dramatic effects on freshwater foodwebs through heavy predation of many invertebrate (particularly soft-bodied) species and fish eggs and fry.

Burrowing by dense populations can cause enhanced erosion of riverbanks, contributing to siltation and the degradation of riverine habitat mosaics. It can also contribute to problems with flooding, livestock safety and the stability of bankside structures. Crayfish also occupy the refuges used by salmonid fish, and predate fish eggs and fry, so reducing the value of commercial fisheries.

Control of non-native crayfish is extremely difficult and costly, and all attempts at trapping signal crayfish have so far failed to locally eradicate the species. In some cases, attempts at control have exacerbated the situation by removing the larger crayfish that would otherwise prey on smaller ones, creating denser cohorts of adults.

In a few instances it may be possible to eradicate new colonies, but only if they are detected early and they occur in relatively small, controllable sites - broad spectrum biocide application (e.g. using Rotenone) is currently the only viable option for eradication, but this eliminates a wide variety of native fauna.

The current strategy to protect remaining native crayfish populations has focused on providing them with well-protected refuge areas ('ark sites'), on halting the spread of non-native crayfish and the preventing introduction of plague vectors into habitats with remaining native crayfish populations.

Karen Slater

Natural England Lead Advisor (SSSI), Border and Eden Team, Cumbria

Wild Trout Trust 2018 REDFA report

Over the last few years, the WTT has been working in collaboration with the Environment Agency to provide help and advice across Cumbria through the Angler Engagement project. In 2018, the project provided three walkover habitat assessments, salmonid redd identification workshops, general advice on habitat improvements and practical habitat demonstration workshops. In West Cumbria, the entirety of Lostrigg Beck was walked, identifying a range of issues including bank erosion which was subsequently addressed through a bank protection workshop.



Bank protection workshop on Lostrigg Beck.



In December, representatives from Eden angling clubs were invited to the Lyvennet to learn about river habitat and how to locate and identify salmonid redds (a follow-up to previous events). The workshop included discussion around the vital natural river processes that are required to for successful salmonid spawning and recruitment.

A walkover of the Lightwater with representatives from Penrith AA and ERT highlighted issues of channel modification, septic tank pollution and siltation (similar issues were identified on the other walkovers).



Septic tank pollution (left) & fine sediment issues (right) identified on the Lightwater.

If you would like to receive free advice or assistance from the Wild Trout Trust, please contact Gareth Pedley – gpedley@wildtrout.org (Tel. **07500870583**).

Eden Rivers Trust 2018 summary for REDFA Annual report

2018 was the first year of Eden Rivers Trust's new strategic plan A Healthy Eden for All, which contains 18 five year objectives under the 4 main pillars of our programme: Connect (community engagement and profile raising); Improve (natural habitat and water quality); Protect (iconic wildlife); and Enable (organisational development).

Highlights this year – achieved with a great many partners:

Connect – a large exhibition at Tullie House on the river Eden with 10,000+ visitors called Eden Rivers Wonder world, a Litter monster project, a new website, Rivers for Life programmes in schools across the catchment including animation days and the creation of illustrations for 'The Adventurous Salmon' book, 10,000 trees planted in the Eden catchment creating habitat and slowing the flow to help mitigate future flooding and the successful conclusion of a five year apprenticeship programme.

Improve and Protect – A new wetland on the Lyvennet at Little Beck, flood mitigation projects scoped for Cairnbeck sub catchment, kested hedges and leaky dams in the Roe and Ive and habitat improvement in Troutbeck. We refurbished ERT soil aerators for a spring soil aeration drive in the Eden, farming facilitation fund groups are growing, we have been promoting new rules for water and supporting the trials for the future Environmental Land Management Schemes. In the in the upper Lyvennet and Scandal beck we are starting to work with farmers, with habitat improvement planned for next year. We host the Catchment Partnership who are working with us to bring together large amounts of data for a revised catchment plan which will detail priority catchment management projects for the next few years. Electrofishing on the Petteril and at project sites continued (see monitoring report), and some upper catchment crayfish surveys.

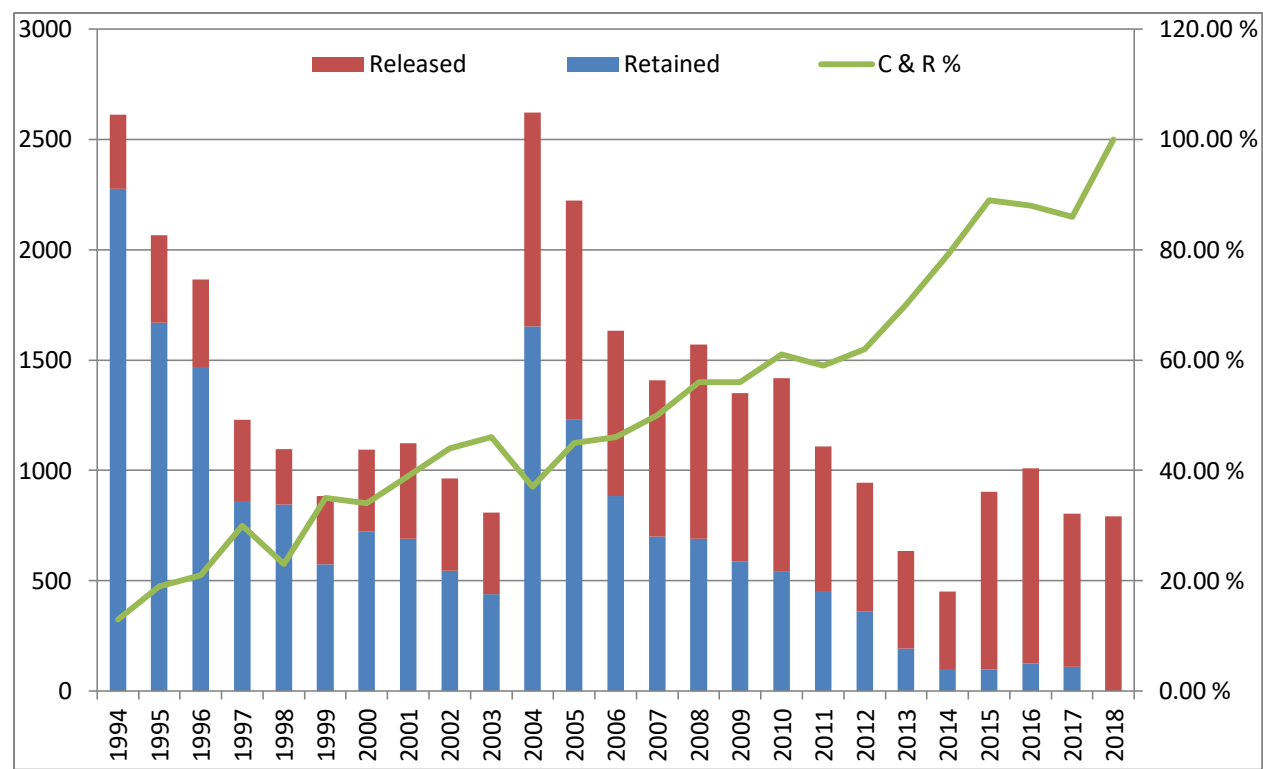
Enable - We have also been improving the organisation through strengthening the staff team, developing the new strategic plan and a fundraising strategy. The relationships with Penrith Sainsbury's, the Supporters day and various other profile raising and fundraising events are an important part of this work.

In 2019 we look forward to: a huge programme of on-the-ground river restoration works; revision and development of a community engagement and volunteer programme - linked to more work under our protecting species and habitats objectives, as well as health and well being; our Supporters Day; launch of the Eden catchment plan and the next phase of Environment Land Management trials.

ERT is happy to speak to REDFA member clubs at their meetings at club meetings they only need to ask, more information can be found in our annual report, at our Supporters meeting in May and on the website.

Elizabeth Radford
CEO of Eden Rivers Trust

River Eden reported Salmon rod catch – EA angler catch 1993 - 2014 & REDFA 2015 - 2018



Year	Caught	Retained	Released	C & R %
1993	1425	1307	118	8.00 %
1994	2613	2277	336	13.00 %
1995	2066	1669	397	19.00 %
1996	1864	1469	395	21.00 %
1997	1229	858	371	30.00 %
1998	1096	844	252	23.00 %
1999	883	573	310	35.00 %
2000	1093	724	369	34.00 %
2001	1122	689	433	39.00 %
2002	963	544	419	44.00 %
2003	808	439	369	46.00 %
2004	2622	1653	969	37.00 %
2005	2223	1230	993	45.00 %
2006	1634	884	750	46.00 %
2007	1407	701	706	50.00 %
2008	1571	689	882	56.00 %
2009	1350	587	763	56.00 %
2010	1418	541	877	61.00 %
2011	1109	454	655	59.00 %
2012	943	361	582	62.00 %
2013	634	191	443	70.00 %
2014	451	96	355	79.00 %
2015	902	97	805	89.00 %
2016	1009	124	885	88.00 %
2017	804	111	693	86.00 %
2018	791	0	791	100.00 %

REDFA stats – 1.36 correction to EA applied
 " " 1.32 " " "
 " " 1.28 " " "
 REDFA Provisional estimates

River Eden fisheries						REDFA	collated	Salmon	Returns				
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	TOTAL	C & R	C & R
2013 Rockcliffe → Warwick	1 (1)	4 (4)	16 (16)	15 (15)	28 (28)	22 (9)	9 (3)	130 (51)	177 (99)	66 (39)	468	265	57%
Wetheral → Armathwaite			3 (3)	17 (17)	25 (25)	7 (7)	2 (2)	10 (6)	24 (22)	3 (2)	91	74	81%
upstream of Armathwaite				2 (2)	9 (9)	6 (6)	1 (1)	14 (13)	33 (33)	37 (37)	102	102	100%
Total rod Fishery returns	1 (1)	4 (4)	19 (19)	34 (34)	62 (62)	35 (22)	12 (6)	154 (71)	234 (144)	106 (78)	661	441	67%
EA angler rod returns		4 (3)	19 (19)	33 (33)	58 (57)	30 (18)	31 (16)	120 (48)	230 (156)	107 (92)	634	443	70%
Eden & Esk Haaf returns						46	192	299	42		579		
2014 Rockcliffe → Warwick	1 (1)		5 (5)	7 (7)	9 (9)	20 (16)	12 (7)	142 (94)	58 (44)	68 (51)	322	234	73%
Wetheral → Armathwaite				7 (7)	5 (5)	6 (4)	2 (1)	7 (5)	10 (9)	22 (22)	59	53	90%
upstream of Armathwaite			1 (1)	5 (5)	5 (5)	4 (4)	16 (15)	26 (26)	22 (21)	46 (46)	125	123	98%
Total rod Fishery returns	1 (1)		6 (6)	19 (19)	19 (19)	30 (24)	30 (23)	175 (125)	90 (74)	136 (119)	506	410	81%
EA angler rod returns			5 (5)	22 (22)	19 (19)	28 (17)	22 (16)	143 (91)	75 (55)	135 (128)	451	355	79%
Eden & Esk Haaf returns						58	60	65	20		203		
2015 Rockcliffe → Warwick			19 (19)	24 (24)	58 (58)	47 (39)	92 (72)	139 (97)	88 (79)	55 (50)	522	438	84%
Wetheral → Armathwaite			16 (16)	30 (30)	71 (71)	20 (17)	9 (7)	47 (44)	10 (9)	6 (6)	209	200	96%
upstream of Armathwaite		1 (1)	5 (5)	14 (14)	36 (36)	27 (26)	4 (4)	37 (35)	19 (18)	28 (28)	171	167	98%
Total rod Fishery returns		1 (1)	40 (40)	68 (68)	165 (165)	94 (82)	105 (83)	223 (176)	117 (106)	89 (84)	902	805	89%
EA angler rod returns			17 (17)	61 (61)	124 (124)	83 (61)	105 (74)	151 (110)	109 (92)	47 (42)	697	581	83%
Eden & Esk Haaf returns						48 (23)	72 (29)	92 (8)	29 (2)		241	62	26%
2016 Rockcliffe → Warwick		4 (4)	8 (8)	18 (18)	81 (81)	122 (106)	133 (104)	103 (87)	125 (107)	102 (90)	696	605	87%
Wetheral → Armathwaite			16 (16)	24 (24)	22 (22)	10 (10)	48 (38)	16 (12)	22 (20)	10 (7)	168	149	89%
upstream of Armathwaite			2 (2)	5 (5)	7 (7)	8 (7)	25 (19)	27 (24)	34 (31)	37 (36)	145	131	90%
Total rod Fishery returns		4 (4)	26 (26)	47 (47)	110 (110)	140 (123)	206 (161)	146 (123)	181 (158)	149 (133)	1009	885	88%
EA angler rod returns		4 (4)	12 (11)	46 (46)	88 (88)	96 (73)	130 (95)	97 (77)	138 (127)	142 (134)	753	655	87%
Eden & Esk Haaf returns						156	119	84	7		366		
2017 Rockcliffe → Warwick		1 (1)	2 (2)	7 (7)	30 (30)	84 (84)	57 (44)	103 (83)	57 (47)	17 (12)	425	362	85%
Wetheral → Armathwaite			4 (4)	4 (4)	11 (11)	19 (19)	25 (22)	27 (23)	25 (22)	12 (12)	149	135	91%
upstream of Armathwaite				1 (1)		13 (13)	19 (17)	36 (24)	86 (77)	56 (55)	230	196	85%
Total rod Fishery returns		1 (1)	6 (6)	12 (12)	41 (41)	116 (116)	101 (83)	166 (130)	168 (146)	85 (79)	804	693	86%
EA angler rod returns	1 (1)	4 (4)	17 (17)	40 (40)	84 (84)	74 (76)	69 (53)	112 (83)	112 (105)	95 (94)	626	563	86%
2018 Rockcliffe → Warwick		2 (2)	4 (4)	30 (30)	21 (21)	20 (20)	27 (27)	131 (131)	160 (160)	127 (127)	522	522	100%
Wetheral → Armathwaite		2 (2)	10 (10)	7 (7)	6 (6)	5 (5)	3 (3)	7 (7)	25 (25)	10 (10)	75	75	100%
upstream of Armathwaite				3 (3)	10 (10)	9 (9)	3 (3)	39 (39)	76 (76)	54 (54)	194	194	100%
Total Rod Fishery returns		4 (4)	14 (14)	40 (40)	37 (37)	34 (34)	33 (33)	177 (177)	261 (261)	191(191)	791	791	100%
(Bracketed figures are C & R)													

04.11.18		Eden Bird Count - 1/2 ft extra overnight water - full high tide in lower reaches - low cloud intermittent rain - poor bird feeding conditions, bird count numbers affected									
Map ref	Map boundaries						Goosander	Cormorant	Merganser	Heron	Kingfisher
Eden 1 - 5	Old Sandsfield to Grinsdale						18	15		8	3
" 6 - 10	Grinsdale to M6 Bridge						44	12			
" 11 - 15	M6 Bridge to Warwick Bridge						28	83		3	
" 16 - 19	Warwick Bridge to Brocklewath						21	103			
" 20 - 25	Brocklewath to Armathwaite						15	13		7	
" 26 - 30	Armathwaite to Lazonby						26	101		12	
" 31 - 35	Lazonby to Langwathby						16	62	3	7	
" 36 - 41	Langwathby to Lyvennet confluence						24	15		15	
" 42 - 46	Lyvennet confluence to Appleby bridge						17	3		6	3
" 47 - 51	Appleby to Warcop						2	6		2	
" 52 - 56	Warcop to Kirkby Stephen						3	3		6	
EDEN mainstem totals							214	416	3	66	6
Caldew 1 - 5	Caldewfoot to Dalston						16	7		3	
Irthing 1 & 2	Irthing & BAA waters						2	1		2	
Eamont 1 & 2	PAA Lower waters - Whinfell to Pooley Bridge							4	10	3	1
Main Tributary totals							18	12	10	9	1
Lakes &	Whins pond						6	15			
Reservoirs	Blencarn,Wet Sleddale, Haweswater, Ullswater							8			
04.11.18 Bird Count - Catchment totals							238	451	13	75	7
11.03.18	" " " "						242	161	2	22	2
05.11.17	" " " "						208	219	5	56	15
12.03.17	" " " "						378	457	3	50	6
20.11.16	" " " "						385	351	10	70	13
20.03.16	" " " "						326	324	12	21	5
08.11.15	" " " "						290	304	5	48	4
15.03.15	" " " "						364	107		37	2
30.11.14	" " " "						435	218	12	67	11
16.03.14	" " " "						331	195	15	20	3
07.03.2004	" " " "						285	86	4	59	10

16. REDFA & Eden 2019 events

March 10th - Eden Bird Count

June/July - Junior Angling events – hosted by CAA & PAA dates to be confirmed

August 10 & 11th - Lowther Show & Fishing Island

November 3rd - Eden Bird Count

REDFA 2019 Meeting dates

January 15th - GPC

March 13th - AGM

April 9th - GPC & Election of Officers

June 25th - GPC

October 15th - GPC Agenda, Minutes and notes of the above are viewable at www.edenfishing.co.uk

EA incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

REDFA Pollution Coordinator - Nigel Austin 07708 281957

For more information on any of the content discussed in the ERT report please contact:

Eden Rivers Trust, Telephone: 01768 866788

*Fish surveys & River Restoration: **Alasdair Brock - Head of Conservation** alsadair.brock@edenrt.org*

*Crayfish, invertebrate and invasive surveys: **Suzie Grainger - Volunteers coordinator** suzie@edenrt.org*

REDFA Membership 2017 – 2018

18 Riparian Owner Members

Harrison & Arter (Grinsdale & Beaumont)
Charles Ecroyd (Low House)
Church Commisioners
Eden Owners Association
Tim Fetherstonhaugh (The College)
John Garnett (Park Broom)
Ian Gregg (Life Member)
Victor Gubbins (Eden Lacy)
John Harris (Brackenburgh)
Jane Hodgson (King Garth)
Richard Aldridge (Cargo)
Nick Marriner (Warwick Hall)
Giles Mounsey - Heysham (Castletown)
Ken Pallister (Haggwood)
Jane Pollock (Winderwath)
Mike Sandison
Myles Thompson (Nunwick Hall)
Serena Williams – Ellis (Garden of Eden & Lazonby)

6 Club Memberships

(12 individual affiliated members)
Brampton Angling Association
(John Harper & Peter Cray)
Carlisle Angling Association
(Nigel Austin & Eric Glaister)
Kirby Stephen & District Angling Association
(Irene Downing & Colin Edney)
Penrith Angling Association
(Jamie Birley & Andrew Dixon)
Prince Albert Angling Society
(Andrew Strickland & John Kirby)
Yorkshire Fly Fishers Club
(Matt Eastham & Bob Milne)

3 REDFA Officers

(Paul Davidson, Adrian Brown, Mike Ashwin)

61 - Individual Members

W. Addison	John Dumont	R. Mather
David Armstrong	Matt Eastham	Bob Milne
Tim Bacon	Charles Ecroyd	M. Metcalfe
Dave Bateman	Charles Egerton	Clive Mitchelhill
Jamie Birley	Gordon Evans	G. Naylor
Ian Bedson (Trust)	Glyn Freeman	J. Naylor
A. Bell	Brain Gent	James Norris
W. Blake & Son	James Gubbins	Neil Parkinson
Chris Bowman	Nico Gubbins	Mr & Mrs Perry
Bob Bradney (Life Member)	Victor Gubbins	John Rawlinson
Sandy Bradney	Mike Harrison	Tony Ronan
Tony Britton (Life Member)	Goerge Holmes	Alan Sephton
Adrian Brown	Warwick Ivill	Adrian Sharpe
Ian Bullough	Geoff Johnston	Julian Shaw
M & H Calvert	Simon Kaye	P. Stevens
Dr J. E Carty	Alec Kelly	Mark Strong
G.D Cawley	Derek Kelly	Allan Swann
Raymond Clark	Nick Lloyd	Ben Tinnion
Terry Cousin	James MacLaren	Harold Tongue (Life Member)
Irene Downing	Nigel Madden	Ian Whitfield (Life Member)
		Dr P.F.M Wrigley

RIVER EDEN & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION - Membership Application form & payment

New members are welcome to join - please complete the subscription form below and post to :-
Mr Mike Ashwin, Secretary, The Barn, Skirwith, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 1RH

The subscription rates below are for the 2018 -19 season and subsequent renewal dates of 1st
November each year Member name

Address

..... Postcode

Email tel number.....

Instructions to your bank to pay by Direct Debit :- Please pay the Subscription or donation
(delete as appropriate) the sum of £..... to

RIVER EDEN & DISTRICT FISHERIES ASSOCIATION

HSBC Bank PLC, PO Box 5, 29 English Street, Carlisle, Cumbria CA3 8JW

Sort Code 40 - 16 - 22 Account Nos 71414658

Name & Address of Member Bank details

To :- The ManagerBank/Building Society

Address

..... Post Code

Signature Date

The first payment being made immediately, and on first day of November in every
Year until further notice from me in writing, and debit the amount/s paid to my account.

Alternately by cheque to :- River Eden & District Fisheries Association.

REDFA 2018 – 19 subscription rates:-

- Riparian Owners - Scale A £250.00
- " " " B £150.00
- " " " C £100.00
- Individual £10.00
- Clubs with salmon, sea trout & trout waters £5.00 per full time member
- Clubs with trout & occasional migratory species £3.00 " " " "
- Associated commercial activity £ by donation

The A.G.M is held and Annual Report made available to members in February each year.
Reports and Meeting minutes are available at www.wedenfishing.co.uk