

Have you caught a fin clipped Grilse?

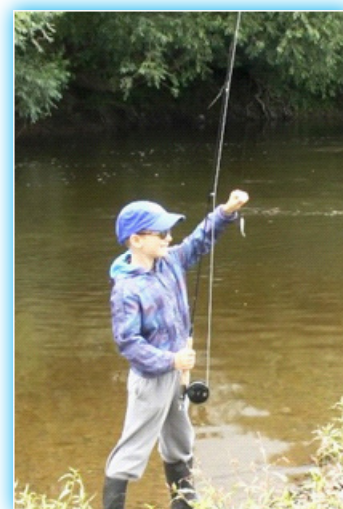
This is a photograph of a 5lb fin clipped salmon caught on the Plas Madoc beat of the Conwy on the 22 Aug. The fish was last of three caught by the same angler, unfortunately in his excitement he did not think to check if they were fin clipped – they may have been! Have you caught a fish on the River Wye and forgotten to check? Maybe next time you catch a fish you will check more carefully and if it is fin clipped report it to WSA at stuartsmith@wyesalmon.com or RWGA at www.rwga.co.uk.



Letton Court Fly Fishing Day

Super weather conditions at Letton Court on 21st August helped make the latest and last of the season adult and junior fly casting courses a great success. Beat was donated by Letton Court Estates and Fishery owner Brian Powell. The 25 anglers taking part along with the many spectators had a wonderful day out. junior anglers took part in an introductory course run by Dave Smith including casting tuition, knot tying, entomology.....hunting invertebrates in the river. One or two even tried fly tying under the guidance of expert Geoff Franks. Their afternoon was spent practising new skills with the only girl in the class Isla Kendall once again leading the way and catching a trout.

In the senior section APGAI instructor Chris Price was kept busy guiding adults. The appearance of a number of salmon along the beat during the day increased enthusiasm and a number of rods attempted to hook up, unsuccessfully on this occasion. The event was supported by a display of rod,



reels and lines by Sportfish and long time Wye gillie and RWGA Chairman Geoff Franks provided a demonstration of salmon fly tying. Attracting around 50 people with lunch in the form of a BBQ, the event was an opportunity for those present to mix and meet fellow anglers and to discuss their experiences along with an opportunity to view the Letton Court beat, Fishery owner Brian Powell was on hand to provide details of season rod availability. A raffle with prizes donated by Ian Thorpe of Golden Mile Fishery, Sportfish, Airflo and WSA helped raise funds for the SNR Project.

Programme for 2014 events will be published early in the new year with courses for both youngsters and adults. If you are interested contact Dave Smith on 07969300422 or Stuart Smith on 07789133263.

WSA Activities

WSA online shop is now up and running at WSA Tackle Shop , selling bespoke flies, spindle flies and some used fishing tackle. Salmon Flies offered for sale are by Geoff Franks, every fly is hand tied to order and Geoff will copy other patterns and use different hooks if required. Spindle Flies are also hand made to order by their inventor Peter Thornley, these have proven deadly on the River Wye and many other rivers since their invention. Angling for salmon with the Spindle Fly isn't designed to take the place of the traditional fly but is a proven alternative for those wishing to fish with spinning gear or when the water is unsuitable for the fly.



SNR Project Update

Progress continues apace with our joint WSA/WSFOA/NRW Semi Natural Rearing [SNR] Pond project. CEFAS registration documents have now been received for 4 ponds in Herefordshire at Hardwick, Redbrook Farm [Duchy], Caradoc [2] and 1 in Gloucestershire at Bigsweir. Plans are now complete therefore to stock 49,000 fin clipped parr to those ponds in November this year.

Pond	Nant Gwyn	Hardwick	Redbrook farm	Caradoc 1	Caradoc 2	Bigsweir	Total
NGR	SO 032 480	SO 262 439	SO 538 290	SO 55928	SO 563 274	SO 545 051	
Existing or New Build	Existing	Existing	Existing	Existing	Existing	Existing	
Online, Offline or Spring Fed	Spring-fed	On-line	Off-line	Off-line	Off-line	On-line	
Main River or Non Main	Non-main	Non-main	Non main	Main	Main	Non-main	
Estimated Pond Size Data	Dims: 38m x 18m Av/Depth: 1.50m	Dims: 40m x 40m Av/Depth: 1.20m	Dims: 80m x 25m Av/Depth: 1.20m	Dims: 50m x 17m Av/Depth: 1.20m	Dims: 50m x 12m Av/Depth: 1.20m	Dims: 50m x 25m Av/Depth: 1.50m	
Actual Width	15	40	100	50	50	50	
Actual Length	34	40	30	17	12	25	
Avge Depth	1.50	1.50	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.00	
Capacity [@10 fish per cu Metre]	7,650	24,000	36,000	10,200	7,200	12,500	97,550
Suggested Pond Stocking 2013 [Agreed with JT]	4,000	15,000	15,000	3,500	3,500	8,000	49,000

Along with our existing pond at Nant Gwyn managers have been appointed for each of these ponds;

David Holland.....Nant Gwyn [existing manager]
 Geoff Maynard.....Hardwick
 Lyn Cobley.....Caradoc
 Tony Mobley.....Redbrook Farm
 Charles Hopkinson.....Bigsweir



SNR Project Update continued

Progress has been made with planned pond in Powys at Cross Gates [now called Dolau Jenkin Farm pond] with final approvals received from Powys CC. This pond is high up river on the banks of the Irfon and work is now planned to commission for use in 2014 adding 8,000 to our capacity. A local Land Agent has joined our team to assist in the preparation of plans and quotations for the improvement of inlet, fitting of a new outlet sluice along with fencing and netting for what would be a protected site. Work expected to begin early in the new year. An estimated budget of circa £8000 has been established and we now seek donations to match these expected costs before proceeding.

Shortlisted SNR Ponds



SNR Project Update continued

Owners of another pond in Powys at Doldowlod [feeding the main stem for the Nant Treflyn brook] have a draft access and usage lease and indicate approval. A pre application submission has been made to NRW



Permitting Office for permissions and we await their comments prior to preparing the full application. This is likely to be a significant project with both metered abstraction and discharge to be constructed and could add a further 15,000 to our capacity. Again. If approved, a protected pond and anticipated commissioning for use in 2014.

Two ponds identified on the Camdwr in Ithon catchment near Llanbister [see map attached] with a very enthusiastic owner were visited by WSA project team and NRW hatchery staff. Ponds are in a very suitable position within 50 yards of stream with good spring fed flow and with a potential

capacity for 8,000 fish. However water quality not so good with oxygen levels falling below required standards. The owner is considering what options he has in order to improve the ponds. We await his feedback with a view to revisiting later in the year.

Another pond high up on Lugg catchment at Lingen in Herefordshire has also been identified and visited by the same group. On an unnamed tributary this man made pond has a capacity for 15 to 20,000 fish and our visit indicated very good flow and water quality although with slightly high pH reading which has subsequently verified and would not be an issue in the cooler winter months. We will retest in Oct/Nov to confirm. We are seeking the advice of the EA Midlands permitting office as to a way forward within the next few weeks. This pond is fenced, lined and likely to require an outlet sluice along with some minimum works on inlet controls. Another for 2014 maybe.



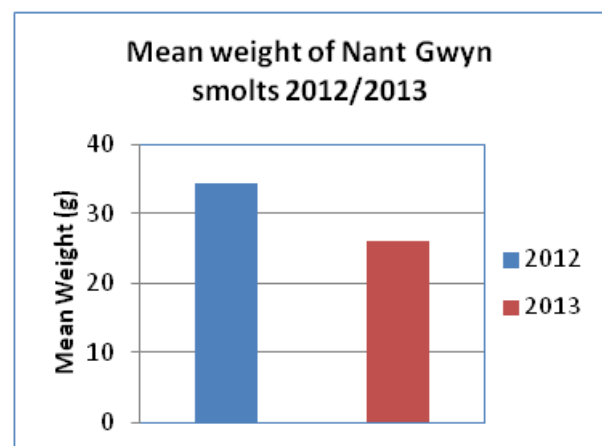
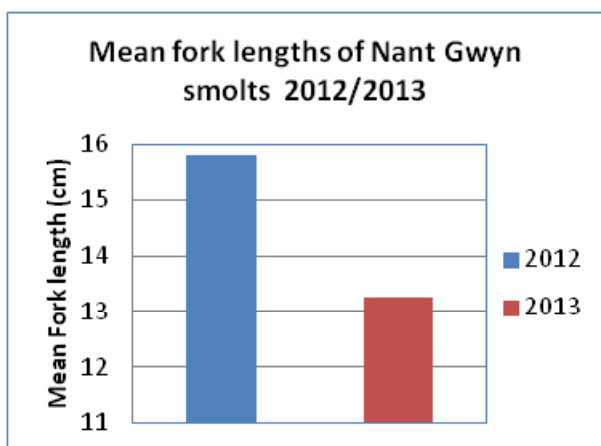
Conversations with Llysdyman Estate at Newbridge on Wye where a proposed hydro electric scheme pond could double as an SNR pond and two ponds identified near Hampton Court on the Lugg are in abeyance whilst work is progressed on all above. With a combined potential of 85 to 90,000 I think we have plenty to keep the team busy.

Stock Monitoring

Hatchery staff begin grading of parr on 06/Sept preparing correct number for each pond with a traceable parentage line based on the DNA (e.g Nant Gwyn has 4K from X families, Hardwicke 15K from Y families etc).

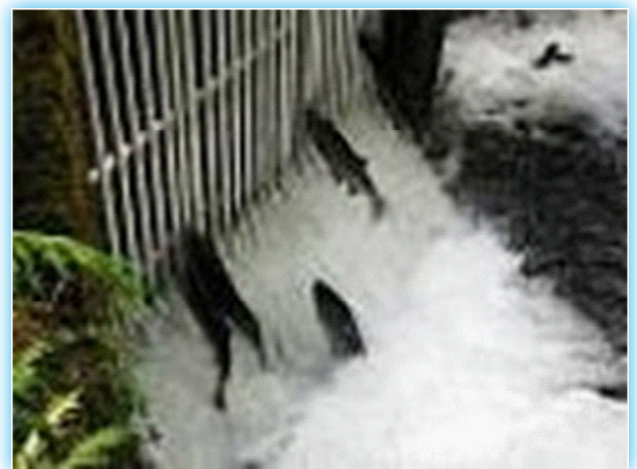
DNA sampling for stock monitoring trials have continued and In conjunction with local anglers and gillies hatchery staff member Oli Brown intend sampling 20 fish with the buccal swabs [butterfly swab testing kits]. These will be sent off to Exeter university for proving and we should have the results back in November to confirm suitability before rolling out full scheme to anglers & gillies next year. This might also allow the elimination in future seasons of the practise of fin clipping parr for identification.

Final results from 2013 smolt release from Nant Gwyn show Mean fork lengths and average weights significantly lower for 2013 than 2012. However parr were 3-4g lower average weight entering the pond in November 2013 and the growth period over late winter early spring was significantly smaller. Smolting percentage was 96% and survival estimated to be 97%



We keep being told Hatcheries don't work

This is a photograph taken at the Robertson Creek Fish Hatchery in British Columbia showing migratory fish attempting a return to the hatchery where they were born and stocked out from. We hear a similar situation is experienced at the SNR pond on the River Conwy in North Wales. The BBC Alba channel carried an informative piece recently on the recovery of the River Lochy where rod catch numbers have gone from a low of 32 to 1500 at present and seem to be on their way back towards the heyday figure of around 2000. We continue to hope



Pond Maintenance



WSA Maintenance Team Leader Jon Taylor organised the first of the season's maintenance days at Nant Gwyn on Sunday 8th Sept. Jon commented 'a huge vote of thanks to all who attended bringing the "weapons of grass destruction" and for the sterling work done, leaving the pond ground-work ready for the next stocking'. As can be seen from the photo the pond is now in good order ready to receive the next batch of parr in early November.

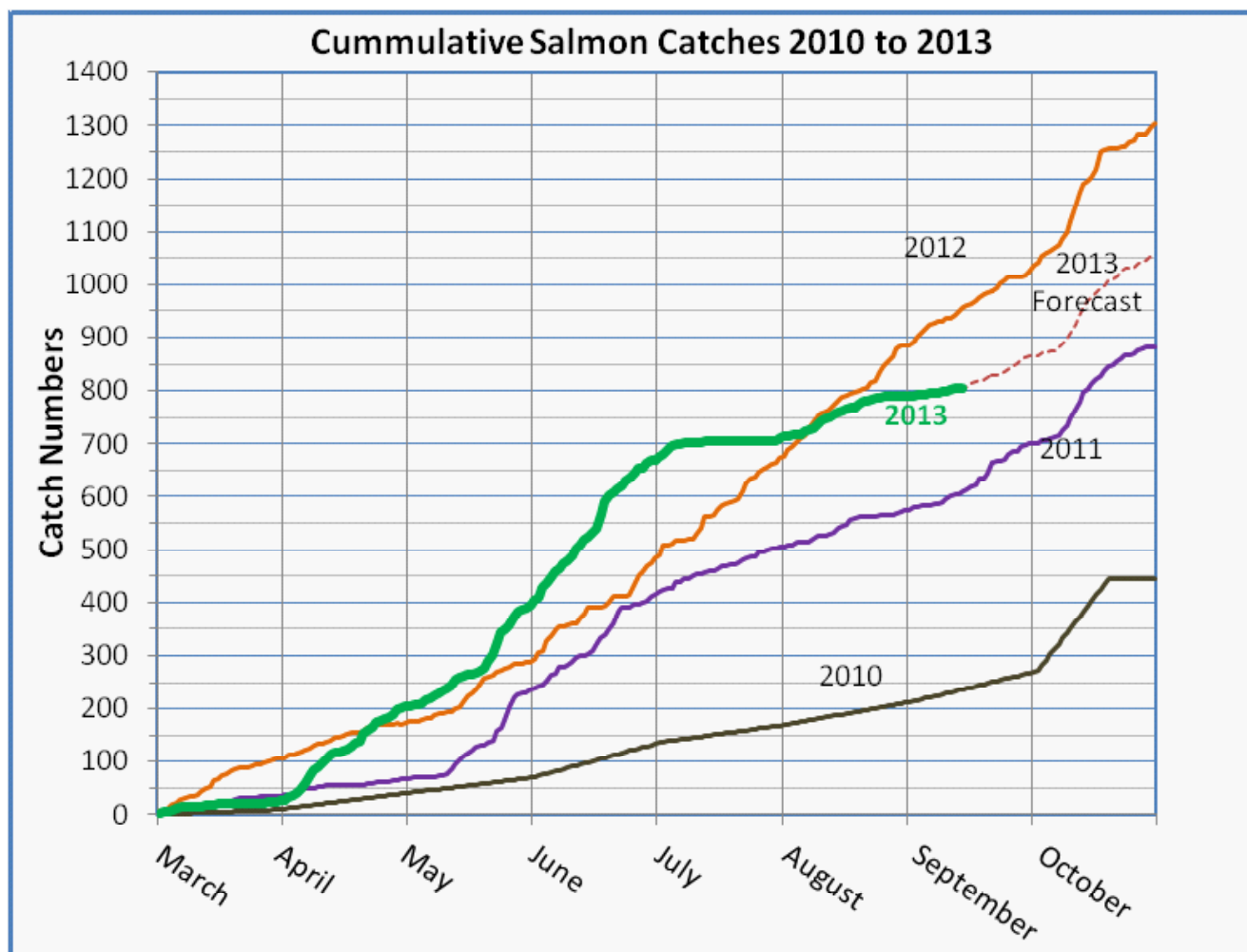
Endangered Eels

As we explained in our last newsletter during 2012/13 WSA joined forces with Golden Valley Fish and Wildlife Association [GVFWA] to help save the endangered River Wye Eel. Earlier in the year we were able to purchase 32,000 elvers from commercial netmen and a team of volunteers from GVFWA & WSA were able to distribute these amongst a limited number of waters in the Wye catchment. In 2012 GVFWA members had carried out a smaller stocking in the River Dore, in the fishery survey results obtained recently from E.A. Midlands Eels were totally absent from the samples. The stocking in 2012 should have been indicated in this survey although elvers would have been only 12 months or so-old and relatively small and therefore very possibly missed. We would expect next year to show some indication of the 4000 stocked on our first year and we would be disappointed if 2015 did not show significant change. GVFWA are currently investigating ways of making a more robust planned stocking for 2014, more robust and broader in its application. This may need some elvers to be reared in captivity in oxygenated filtered tanks for stocking-out later when better-developed. To do this some specialist aquaculture equipment and tanks may be required. Some of this equipment has been located and may be available to borrow.



Access To Welsh Rivers

On 22nd July the Minister for Culture and Sport, John Griffiths AM announced a review of the legislative framework relating to access and outdoor recreation in Wales. There was a meeting at Builth Wells RWSG on 15th September regarding this proposal and its effects on angling and anglers in Wales. The meeting was lead by Rachel Evans of the Countryside Alliance along with Mark Lloyd of the Angling Trust. It appears that if the minister has his way there will be unfettered access to all the rivers and inland waters in Wales. This includes Canoeing and Rafting as well as Wild Swimming. WSA are involved in these meetings and are currently signing up for Membership to the Angling Trust and Fish Legal, we encourage fellow anglers to join as individuals. We will advise on developments as they occur. Visit our website regularly.



All the best from the Wye Salmon Association.