



### Salmon fry begin their journey

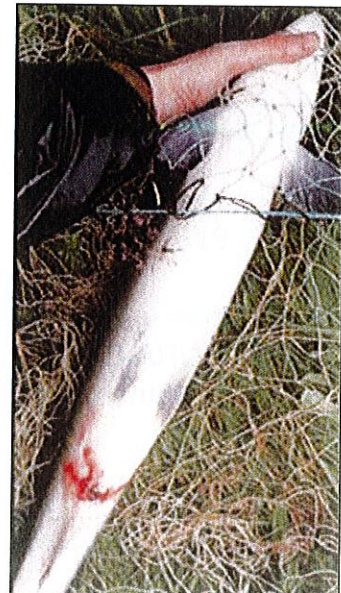


In July 2009 approximately 800 Salmon fry, kindly donated by Exe Valley Fisheries were introduced to the River Otter near Churchinford.

### RED VENT SYNDROME

Andy Locke of the Environment Agency has reported an increasing occurrence of Red Vent syndrome in Salmon stocks; 3 hens in 3 years have been taken from the fish trap on the River Axe at Weycroft. This condition produces swollen and / or bleeding vents in Wild Atlantic salmon.

If you discover this condition please contact the Environment Agency with details- date of capture / weight / location on 01392 316116 or the Emergency (24 Hour) Hotline 0800 807060.



## CHAIRMANS REPORT

Once again another year has flown by all too quickly with the 2009 fishing season being remembered for high levels of rain fall and swollen rivers!

The main events for the year were the approval of the river basement management plans by the Secretary of State following consultation and representation from a number of different bodies. The South West River Basin Plan is a substantial document and concentrates on the pressures facing the water environment and the actions that they feel are required to address them. The full plan can be accessed through the Environment Agency website and I would recommend any of you that are interested to take a few minutes to visit and look at its contents. It will be interesting to see what funding and projects materialize as a direct result of the plan that will in turn effect the River Otter but lets not hold our breath! The South West Rivers Association continues in representing all of us throughout the region and should be fully supported in its efforts in providing the voice of 20 individual River Associations throughout Devon, Cornwall and West Dorset.

2009 has also seen the formation of the Angling Trust in January after a merger of 6 organisations involved in Angling and Fisheries to create a single representative body for Game, Course and Sea Angling. The Trust has been recognized as the national governing body for angling and as such provides a voice at national level which should be supported.

My main plea for 2010 is help and assistance from the membership in supporting and providing information to the association throughout the year. In addition, we are desperate for additional committee members and require an additional 2/3 members with ideally some coming from the lower river. Arm twisting! will be commencing shortly but if you would like to become a committee member then please let me know.

## RAINFALL

Rainfall for the year to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 was 991 mm. This is a little below average which may surprise some people.

Winter level was 590 mm which is about average however the rainfall for the summer period April/September was 401 mm which is below average for this period.

## PAUL ELLIOTT 1947-2009

The committee was very sad to hear the death of Paul Eliot in September. Paul was a dedicated SWRA Council Member and a pioneer of eggbox technology in the region. His help and assistance with our eggbox scheme was very much appreciated and he will be sadly missed.

## BEAVERS IN THE SOUTH WEST

South West Water plan to introduce beavers to the catchment of Roadford Lake in the Tamar system. The committee have very significant concerns about what is called a 'reintroduction'.

The Environment Agency's position is in line with ours- *'We remain concerned regarding the possible introduction of beaver to the wider Tamar catchment and especially their potential to impact upon migratory salmonid populations. In particular, juvenile salmon habitat and the sedimentation of in stream gravels which would occur through the formation of dams and lodges.'*

If you see any evidence of Beaver activity please report to a member of the Committee

## RIVER OTTER- RECENT RECORDED SEA TROUT CATCHES

2000	117	2005	63
2001	74	2006	53
2002	165 (and one salmon)	2007	49
2003	117	2008	87 (and one salmon)
2004	53		

## 2009 – A REVOLUTIONARY YEAR FOR ANGLING

The Angling Trust - [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net) - was launched in January 2009 after a historic merger of six organisations involved in angling and fisheries to create a single representative body for game, coarse and sea angling.

This single, representative body now has about 12,000 individual members and more than 1,150 clubs in membership. The national media now has a single point of contact whenever an issue relating to anglers comes up. The Angling Trust has been recognised by the government as the National Governing Body for angling, this enables the Trust to unlock funding at a national and county level to spend on increasing angling participation. The Trust has built the foundation of a modern organisation to work for the benefit of the largest participation pursuits in the country.

If you would like to help build solid foundations for this new organisation, then please send donations to Angling Trust, Eastwood House, 6 Rainbow Street, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8DQ.

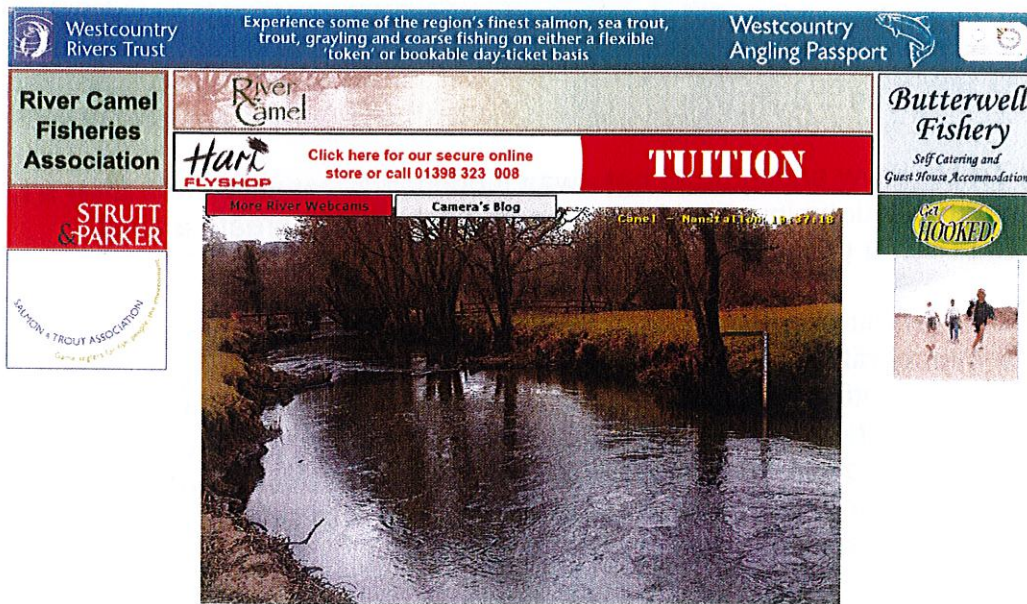
Donations can also be made at [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net) or by phone to 0844 7700616. Individual membership is just £20 per annum (life membership is £400).

## PROPOSED WEBCAM ON THE RIVER OTTER

The committee has been approached by Farson Digital who have just signed a sponsorship deal with the West Country Rivers Trust. The Trust is very keen to promote West Country Fishing Tourism and they see the introduction of webcam's on South West Rivers as a great vehicle to do so. Thirteen cameras are now up and running and here are some statistics as at 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010-

Camera Location	River	Online Date	Visits
Avon Mill - Loddiswell -TQ7 4DD	Avon	14/11/09	4,029
Stanburys Garage - Dulverton - TA22 9DN	Barle	19/8/09	15,509
Butterwell - Nanstallon - PL30 5LQ	Camel	27/7/09	13,062
Exe Valley Fishery - Exebridge - TA22 9AY	Exe	23/4/09	32,902
Wainsford Estate - Twowatersfoot - PL14 6HT	Fowey	12/11/09	3,574
Rockford Inn - Brendon - EX35 6PT	Lyn	20/10/09	7,314
Mason's Garage - Rilla Mill - PL16 7NT	Lynher	6/12/09	1,802
Mole Cottage - Watertown - EX37 9HF	Mole	28/6/09	6,316
Tamar Cottage - Horsebridge - PL19 8PJ	Tamar	5/12/09	2,298
The Abbey Wall - Tavistock - PL19 0AA	Tavy	5/12/09	5,868
Murchs' Antiques - Umberleigh - EX37 9DU	Taw	22/5/09	19,065
Fingle Bridge Inn - Drewsteignton - EX6 6PW	Teign	21/10/09	9,117
Clinton Estates - Dolton - EX20 3EH	Torridge	19/8/09	9,082

Live images of the current river conditions are held in a webpage which could include a River Update and Blog. Here is an example showing the River Camel-



The committee will be in discussion with Farson Digital in the coming months, if you have any particular comments on this idea please contact our Secretary or Chairman.