

# South West Regional Fisheries

## Wessex Blandford Fisheries Report

### Enforcement

We are continuing work with Bournemouth and West Hants Water Company on the Christchurch Enforcement Partnership. We also want to increase enforcement in Poole Harbour by working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and using new surveillance technology.

We are investigating the illegal introduction of wels catfish into a lake at Ringwood. Resolution of the issue is likely to be difficult and we will be working closely with the angling club.

### Monitoring and data

#### Salmon on the River Avon

The spring salmon run on the Hampshire Avon was similar to last year, with numbers being down on the two years prior to that.

#### River Avon fish counter

A good number of grilse and sea trout arrived in mid August and passed through the Turbine House fish pass. We're hoping for a good run of fish when the autumn rains arrive. All hatches on the Great Weir will be covered and will provide a more accurate count for higher flow years. See [www.knappmill.co.uk](http://www.knappmill.co.uk) for more information.



*Fish in Loud's Mill fish pass*

### Loud's Mill Frome

Through monitoring at Louds Mill on the River Frome we've shown the effectiveness of the Larinier fish pass. Most of the tagged trout and grayling ascended the pass within a few days. Tagged salmon will continue to be monitored during the autumn.

### Projects

#### Managing River Avon water temperature

Higher temperatures in the River Avon are adversely affecting salmon populations. Human activity across the catchment is believed to be influencing the temperature of the river. We are working to establish ways to reduce the temperature in the River Avon and to identify by how much.

### River Frome salmonid habitats

Works are currently underway to improve salmonid habitats on the River Frome and the passage of migratory salmonids on the River Asker and River Cerne. Eel passage is also being improved on the River Piddle. These projects are aimed at resolving issues raised by the Water Framework Directive and have been funded by Defra .

### East Stoke - River Frome

The Environment Agency has been working closely with the scientists in the fish labs at East Stoke and is supporting salmonid science work at the site.

### Reducing diffuse pollution on the River Till

Diffuse pollution running into the River Till was affecting fisheries and the condition of the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We intercepted the pathway of pollution to the river. Natural England hope that the project will help to address this problem in 35 hectares of the River Till SSSI. This partnership involved landowners, Natural England, the Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency.

### Whitemill fisheries enhancement

We have teamed up with the National Trust and completed works on the River Stour at Whitemill to increase coarse fish flood refuge areas. These had been identified as limiting fish stocks in this area. This is phase one of the project with further works planned for 2010.



*Diggers at work at Whitemill*

### Wessex Chalk Streams Project

We will be working with riparian landowners and managers to promote wildlife-friendly river enhancement and management of the River Avon SSSI in Wiltshire, which includes the tributaries, Wylfe, Nadder, Till, and Bourne. It also focuses on the River Ebbel and associated wetlands as well as areas suitable for wetland restoration.

### Gravel cleaning

Gravel cleaning work on the spawning gravels on the Hampshire Avon and River Frome is underway and nearing conclusion.



*Pleased with his catch*

### Angling participation events

We've contributed £6,000 to partners who have run many successful coaching events. Partners have included Christchurch Angling club, Moors Valley Country Park and Wessex Angling Scheme.

### Coarse fish seminar

A successful coarse fish seminar was held by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust at Langford Lakes. The seminar included presentations on fish disease, new legislation and partnership working. Funding is still available for small coarse fisheries projects. Interested parties should apply to D-J Gent in the Blandford office by email: [dj.gent@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:dj.gent@environment-agency.gov.uk).