

### December 2021



#### A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

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- Club Trophies
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#### 1. Ticket prices

Having held ticket prices at the same level for two years the Committee has decided that for 2022 all ticket prices must rise by  $\pounds$ 5.00. This increase will just about cover inflation for the current year and still represents great value for over 20 miles of game fishing.

Please do support your club because without your membership it will not survive. Application forms for the 2022 Season are enclosed with this newsletter.

#### Full Membership (March - November 2022)

Adult	£105.00
Registered disabled	£90.00
Junior (up to 17 year)	£20.00
Life membership (after 3 years membership)	£1,312.50
Joining fee for new members	£20.00
New members under 17 years- 1st year	£ FREE

#### Weekly Visitor Tickets

Adult £75.00 Junior £20.00

#### Day Visitor Tickets

Adults £25.00 Junior £12.50

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS** (with a SAE <u>and</u> last season's catch return) directly to Trevor Sobey, (Honorary

Treasurer), Higher Trevartha Farm, Pengover, Liskeard, PL14 3NJ; before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 or attend the AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

## *Please note that members who do not renew before* 1<sup>*st*</sup> *April* 2022 *will be required to pay the Club joining fee again.*

#### 2. AGM Invitation

All current members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Liskeard and District Angling Club on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – starting at 19:30hrs - Constitutional Club, 9 Market St, Liskeard, PL14 3JH - in the upstairs meeting room. The AGM meeting will of course be subject to any Covid-19 restrictions in force at the time. In the event that the AGM were to be cancelled applications for next season must be posted to the Treasurer before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. Details can be found above.

Pay your subscriptions, collect your 2022 season ticket, hear about the club's news, (possibly) win a prize in the raffle, listen to the guest speaker, have your say and meet other members and the Committee. Perhaps even stand for the Committee?

#### 3. Club Trophies

Members are encouraged to submit catches that could qualify under one of the four categories: the Brown trout, Sea trout, Salmon and Junior Achievement. The current trophy holders are listed below.

	2021 Holder	older All Time Record	
Salmon	J Darlington 13lb	J Hawken 28lb 0oz	
Sea Trout	J Hake 7lb 8oz	A Bruce 21lb 0oz	
<b>Brown Trout</b>	Not awarded	G Hake 4lb 1oz	
Lynher	K Sobey		
Junior	Not awarded		

There is a submittal form at the end this newsletter – or you can download one from the Club website.

Please note all entries must be received by  $31^{\text{st}}$  December 2021 for 2022 awards.

#### 4. Sustaining fishing stocks

We are pleased to report that our members have, once again, showed great support for sustaining our fish stocks and all reported meeting our catch/release targets.

There are therefore **<u>no</u>** new measures being implemented for the 2022 season. However, current rules and regulations remain in force and members are kindly reminded of the importance of adhering to all of them to secure the future of our fishing. A copy of the rules is enclosed with your newsletter.

### A copy of all the rivers' rules can also be found on the LDAC website or contact the Secretary if you need a paper copy.

Failure to adhere to them would result in loss of all membership privileges.

#### 5. Lost and Found

Don't forget to contact the Honorary Secretary at secretary@ldac.org.uk if you have either lost or found any item on the clubs' waters. We do attempt to reunite any items reported to their rightful owners.

#### 6. Work Party changes

For 2022 the Club is introducing a new work party strategy.

Firstly though, all members are encouraged to keep bankside pathways clear as they fish through our various beats by careful clearing and removal of obstacles such as fallen branches. If any areas need additional resources the details can be emailed to the Secretary@ldac.org.uk. These will then be reviewed and dealt with by *ad hoc* work parties that are organised for such areas. It is expected that by giving the membership ownership of identifying problem areas more useful accessibility will be created.

The committee has also decided not to arrange the usual bank clearance days normally held in February. This is due to the fact that much in-river work is not feasible at this time of the year; also brambles and bracken are not actively growing then and so cannot be cut back. Instead, the committee thinks it more beneficial to arrange targeted work parties as and when needed throughout the season. We therefore plan to develop a database of members who are willing to turn out and help if available. To this end we would ask those of you who wish to assist to send your email addresses to our committee member Jon Hake who has kindly offered to co-ordinate such work; his email is jonhake@hotmail.co.uk.

#### 7. Chairman's Report

Following the effects of the pandemic on our fishing during 2020 I am sure that we all looked forward to getting back on our rivers during the 2021 season.

Unfortunately, it cannot be denied that the 2021 fish runs appear to have been somewhat disappointing. Whilst river levels were reasonable peal numbers across all our rivers were notably down on previous years this summer.

Over the last 10 years we have seen some winter flooding which almost certainly impacted on their spawning redds. However it is noted that netting continues unchecked across our Cornish estuaries and this must also be having an impact on our sea trout stocks. We hope that C-IFCA will resolve this situation soon (see Secretary's Report for more information).

Some fishing encouragement came from the fact that there were some very good-sized sea trout and spring salmon taken early in the season. On both the Fowey and Lynher small summer grilse around 4-6lb also came back in reasonable numbers.

Most exciting of all to report is that several returning fin-clipped hatchery fish were amongst those caught on the Fowey; all safely returned and several with accompanying photographic evidence. Only a few days ago I walked selected areas of the Draynes Spawning Sanctuary and witnessed a good number of large redds being dug, despite the lack of organised work parties in recent years the spawning gravels are not in bad shape.

There were however some issues that have built up and need to be tackled so it is planned to arrange some work parties during the summer months.

Whilst bank side paths will need some on-going attention they are still in a reasonable state of repair, this is mainly thanks to a few committee members who were dedicated enough to clear fallen trees and repair styles etc thus maintaining access during the past year and I would like thank them for their hard work and commitment.

It is now several years since we introduced changes to both our fishing methods and catch limits following talks with the EA. Whilst nobody welcomes additional restrictions, they were deemed necessary to help maintain fish stocks, to remain in charge of our own regulations and avoid mandatory bye laws. On the club website there are important documents relating to the club rules as well as detailing the club's requirements for Health and Safety whilst fishing our waters. It is every member's responsibility to make themselves aware of these requirements and to abide by them. If you are unsure of anything please just ask.

Hatcheries on both the Lynher and Fowey continue to operate with a few dedicated people and our thanks go to all those involved in the day-to-day running (see later section for Hatchery reports). Volunteers are always needed at the hatcheries; the role can be interesting and rewarding so should you be willing to assist please consider offering your services.

The newly acquired beat below Wainsford Bridge has proved both popular and productive, whilst the committee initially had some concerns about taking on another commitment at a time when fish numbers and membership were both in question it has proved to be a sound decision.

We have some of the best fishing available in this part of the country and I sincerely believe that if we continue with conservation

measures, look after our river catchments and support the hatcheries, our sport will still be there for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to thank our Secretary Paul Jordan for all his hard work in putting together this newsletter and all the members of the committee for their continued hard work and support for your Club.

On behalf of us all, I would like to wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM when we can keep you up to date in more detail but until then please stay safe.

Rob Williams

#### 8. Secretary's report

2021 got of to a slow start again with further Covid lockdowns and restrictions on public meetings. Our AGM scheduled for last February was therefore cancelled.

With further restrictions on public meetings in the first half of 2021 and the closure of our meeting venue for some time thereafter the Committee were unable to get together until September of this year.

We have nonetheless managed to maintain all of the Clubs functions and access to all waters during 2021.

You will no doubt recall the membership numbers for 2020 had fallen to an all-time low of 126 adult members (no doubt aggravated by the Covid situation) and the Club therefore decided that they would not renew the leases on either the Inny or West Looe to reduce costs in 2021.

Early in the New Year I was able to talk with the Duchy about this and they very kindly offered to reduce rates further to enable the Club to maintain access to that fishing. I would therefore like to take the opportunity to publicly thank them for that additional support. In addition a short stretch between the *Upper and Lower Boconnoc* beats on the Fowey became available (designated unsurprisingly as *Middle Boconnoc*) to the Club and this has now been incorporated into our Boconnoc lease.

With a very full agenda the business of running your Club is now back up and running in the real world. The Committee are able to plan ahead with some certainty and to meet up as a group to discuss and decide on various matters.

The drop in membership seen in 2020 seems to have stabilised now and we have exactly the same number of adult members in the Club this year (126). Whilst it is good to see that there has not been another drop off in membership the club continues to struggle to make ends meet as external costs are always rising and it is just the membership fees that generates the income we have to pay all the bills.

The Committee has decided that following the welcome freeze in subscriptions last year it is now necessary to increase fees once more. This decision will result in a £5.00 increase across the board.

Whilst small, this increase should enable the Club to just about break even in 2022 – provided our membership numbers do not drop any lower.

# The 2020 catch returns have now been received and the data gathered enables us to report on the results of our angling efforts.

The 2020 season saw a significant increase in the total of rod-caught salmon. From 2019 to the 2020 season salmon catches rose by 129% with 96 reported fish caught. Sea trout numbers also rose from a low of 136 in 2019 to 308 in 2020, up by 226%.

These 2020 figures are very encouraging, especially as the early part of that season saw a total ban on all fishing as a result of the first Covid lockdown and our fishing effort was down considerably.

On a river-by-river basis the Fowey fared best with the largest number of rod-caught salmon (62) in 2020 and it also produced the highest number of sea trout (218).

Catch/release for salmon on the Fowey was 99% (where just one fish was reportedly taken) and the corresponding figure for sea trout was also excellent, at 99%.

The Lynher reported 33 salmon caught in 2020 and a further 85 sea trout were also caught. Catch/release figures for the Lynher show a 100% return for salmon but a lower, more disappointing figure of 79% for sea trout.

The 4 other rivers contributed just 1 salmon (from the Camel; returned) and 5 sea trout (all returned) to the 2020 figures.

Whilst it is too early to speculate on the 2021 season the early weeks seemed to show a paucity of fish crossing the counter at Restormel (on the Fowey) and annual and 10-year average numbers were disturbingly low. Few salmon and sea trout were seen and even fewer were apparently being caught. However there was a slight up-turn in catches into the early summer.

The early lack of fish was exacerbated by what seems to have been very few summer peal entering any of our rivers and sea trout catches reported over the summer were very disappointing. However, all was not lost as an increase in water levels in late Summer and early Autumn seems to have led to a bounce back and many more MSW salmon were being reported as caught during October. Indeed one lucky member had 4 fish, up to 13lbs, off the Lynher in a single 2-hour session.

It is not clear why the peal run in 2021 appears to have been so poor but it certainly cannot be helped by the many miles of commercial netting that is continuing to take place in and around the estuaries of Cornwall all year.

Many members will be aware that responsibility for these matters lie directly with the MMO and Cornwall-IFCA, not the EA. The two organisations have been working for nearly a decade on a new bylaw to restrict commercial netting offshore to protect salmonids. Meanwhile the Devon and Severn-IFCA have had an effective by-law for this in place for many years.

After far too many years of what appears to be nothing C-IFCA finally proposed a by-law in November 2021.

#### Time to finally celebrate I hear you say? No.

Much to the disappointment of anglers and others, the new C-IFCA by-law was significantly watered down from that originally proposed and consulted upon publicly. The original draft had 1km offshore exclusion zones and net headlines set no shallower than 5m and was replaced (by Committee decision) to include just a 500m exclusion zone and a 3m headline despite hard evidence as to the need to set nets deeper and have meaningful exclusion zones to protect salmonid species at sea.

With almost no advertisement a brief consultation period was then opened and this Club, a key stakeholder, only found out about it through other channels 3 days before the deadline closed. It appears that many other angling stakeholders were also unaware what was happening.

Following discussions with SWRA, FRA and other interested parties it was agreed that it would be in the best interest of salmonids (and the Club) to have *something rather than nothing* for another decade. LDAC have therefore supported the by-law as drafted and comments stating that were forwarded to MMO and C-IFCA ahead of the closing date.

However, there is more uncertainty to follow. The C-IFCA by-law has now to be sent up to DEFRA for Ministerial approval and be formally *made;* but it has with it an Impact Assessment that suggests that local commercial fishermen will lose over £80mm in revenues if the by-law is signed off. This impact assessment (IA) has been heavily criticised as being wildly inaccurate, unbalanced and detrimental to the overall approval process. There is therefore concern that if weight is added to the IA then Ministerial approval could be withheld and we will return to the status quo of having no netting restrictions in Cornwall to protect salmonids.

#### WATCH THIS SPACE as they say.....

To keep abreast of any changes to your fishing please do remember to always log onto the Club website at ldac.org.uk.

*Remember: If we don't have your (latest) email address we cannot contact you - so please do send it to us as you read this newsletter. Email your address <u>NOW</u> to secretary@ldac.org.uk.* 

Paul Jordan.

#### **TURF LAWNS - Supplied or laid**

Grass Cutting/Strimming/Rockeries/Patios/Fencing Top Soil/Sand/Gravel/Rustic Walling Stone/Hardcore

All aspects of landscaping

Barrie Pearn: 07767 218857

#### 9. Treasurer's Report

2021 has again been a very challenging year for the Club financially.

Our income is solely reliant on membership numbers and we have seen these remain at the historically low level of 126 adult members.

Anticipating the future, and seeing a consistently *low* membership number for several years now we clearly need to raise income levels to allow the Club to break even in 2022.

## For 2022 the Committee has decided to increase all subscription categories by £5.00.

Adult subscriptions will therefore rise to  $\pm 105.00$  pa and Disabled subscriptions will rise to  $\pm 90.00$  pa.

All other rates will see the same increase of £5.00. See *Ticket Prices* Section earlier in this newsletter for further details.

**Renewal subscriptions must be received by the 1st of April 2022** to ensure we have sufficient cash-flow to operate the Club effectively. Failure to do so will mean that late returning members will again be liable for paying the full (re) joining fee of  $\pounds 20.00$ .

Subscriptions can be paid by cheque (payable to LDAC) or, if you prefer, by BACS (bank details below) – but those members renewing by BACS *must* also still notify the Treasurer by post, and provide a

SAE with their submitted catch returns to enable their season ticket to be sent out for 2022. Beware: *No ticket means No fishing!* 

Account Name	LDAC
Account number	80574988
Sort code	20 - 50 - 40

Could I finally remind all members that they should apply directly to the Treasurer with:

- Complete and accurate catch return form for 2021 season
- Membership renewal form duly completed (including an email address where ever possible)
- Cheque (if not paying by BACS) for appropriate amount, including any donations
- Stamped addressed envelope

#### The address to send it to is Higher Trevartha Farm, Pengover, Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 3NJ.

Trevor Sobey

#### Fishing Mayhem are the LDAC sole ticket agents.

#### Fishing Mayhem

Unit 1, St Marys Business Park Moorswater Industrial Park Liskeard, Cornwall PL14 4LN (Tel: 01579 558 558)

10% discount for our members on presentation of your LDAC season ticket.

#### **10.** Conservation & Hatchery News

#### **10.1** Fowey Hatchery

As I write this report in late November 2021 we are just about to complete another successful round of broodstock collecting. LDAC waters in the mid-Fowey have again proved to be the backbone of this work and thanks must go to Jason Drew and Jon Hake for their incredible efforts to get our adult fish to start the 2021/22 programme. Thanks too to the LDAC Chairman for his fish donated in October and also to *first-time-donator* Pete Tucson.

The 2020/21 programme was very successful in terms of both broodstock numbers into the Hatchery at Colliford and the 40,000 fish we ultimately stocked out.

We achieved our fin-clipping goal of 25% of the fish having their adipose fin clipped to mark them as Hatchery fish. Fin clipped fish are now quite a regular sighting on the Fowey which is great news. We had to turn down a really nice 8 1/2lb hen fish which was offered as broodstock in November because it was fin-clipped. We cannot use fin-clipped fish as broodstock so that we keep the DNA and genetic purity alongside the wild-spawned fish.

The weather finally turned in late November – not least to get the leaves down for the last couple of weeks of the fishing season – but to really drive down the water temperature. Fingers crossed for the main river temperature dropping in temperature to protect the wild spawning. We have our chillers ready to go should the water temperature hold up – this is another of the main benefits of the Hatchery where we have the ability to chill down the water in a warm winter as an 'insurance policy' against global warming.

Reminder – The Environment Agency are going to judge the success of the Hatchery based on fin-clipped fish caught. While this is somewhat flawed – it remains imperative that anglers should download and complete the FRA/EA Form each time a fin-clipped fish is caught at: <u>https://bit.ly/38RzofO</u>

**Richard Grieve** 

#### 10.2 Lynher Hatchery

Final results for the 2020-21 hatchery cycle were somewhat disappointing, as initial difficulties in establishing a new treatment regime following transferring to the use of Formalin40 necessitated the return of two larger hens prior to stripping.

With the remaining brood hens being small grilse the final egg count was in the lower 20,000's, and whilst egg losses were initially small a pump failure impacted on the final stocking figure, which, after these losses amounted to just over 18,000; split between swim-up and reared on fry.

Once again Covid restrictions applied for much of the time and we are indebted to Graham Hake and Nick Lintott for keeping the hatchery operating through this difficult time.

Encouragingly during the season a number of multi sea winter fish, predominantly hens, were taken, and this pattern continued once brood fish collection started for this year. A number of good size hens were put in the hatchery, but as in some previous years cock fish have been hard to find, and those taken were mainly small. However they do have a tendency to be more productive of milt than that the larger cocks.

Once again we are grateful to our brood stock collectors who have worked hard, particularly in tracking down cock fish.

We now have the task of keeping the brood stock free of infection until they are ready to strip, hopefully this will be during early December, although much depends on water temperature. The water cooler and new egg tray system introduced by Graham have proved successful in the last few years.

With all our volunteers getting older we could really do with some younger *new blood* so if you feel you could be interested please contact Arthur White. The commitment level is up to you, but any help, preferably on an agreed time pattern will be most welcome.

It is dangerous to predict the likely outcome of this year's egg production, but initial signs are encouraging, and hopefully an improvement will be achieved over the last two years' performance. 2020 catch figures for the Lynher indicate that the river has performed better when compared to the smaller South West rivers, and, whilst we cannot directly assess hatchery performance due to lack of fin-clipping, signs are that the fish run has improved. Perhaps this is the best measure of the likely success of the hatchery.

Arthur White

#### 11. Other issues

EA reports on Non-Indigenous salmonids in southwest waters have been received during 2021 and information can be found as set out below:

#### 11.1 . Spartic trout

The purpose of the advice note is to ensure:

- That all fishery stakeholders, including fishery managers and anglers, are alert to the recent captures of sparctic trout (or sparctic char) in the Tamar and Tavy catchment.
- To ensure that fishery managers and anglers know what to do should sparctic trout be captured in England.

#### *Figure 1. Sparctic trout captured in the Gunnislake fish trap, River Tamar.*



#### Background

Sparctic trout are a hybrid of the native Arctic char (Salvelinus

alpinus) and non-native Brook trout (Salvelinus fontinalis). In England, they are reared in aquaculture facilities and can be introduced to certain stillwaters for recreational fishing. It is an offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act, 1981 to release trout hybrids that are not ordinarily resident in Great Britain into the wild. Under the Keeping and Introduction of Fish Regulations, 2015, it is an offence to introduce any trout, including trout hybrids into any water without an Environment Agency permit. The Environment Agency will not permit the introduction of trout hybrids into rivers, streams or drains.

The EA have received a number of reports of sparctic trout being captured within the Tamar and Tavy catchments. The source of these fish is not currently known, but the EA are investigating the distribution and source of the fish

#### What you should do if you see or capture a sparctic trout

If you have captured or found a sparctic trout, please contact the Environment Agency through the contact details provided at the end of this note. If you are confident you have captured a sparctic trout, with the fishery owner's permission, please do not return the fish to the river.

In recording the capture of a sparctic trout, please collect and report the following details: date of capture or sighting; location of capture (grid reference if possible) and details of the site; fork length and weight; take a photograph of the fish. If you can confidently identify the fish as a sparctic trout, and you have the fishery owner's permission to retain the fish,

Please also: freeze and store the fish whole as soon as possible after capture; contact the Environment Agency, using the details below.

#### Reporting of captured sparctic trout by anglers.

Please contact the Environment Agency's Bodmin Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology Team, who are co-ordinating reports from anglers Contact details are: Email SWBODMINFRB@environment-agency.gov.uk.

**National Customer Contact Centre** You can also report any sparctic trout captures via the Environment Agency Incident Hotline on **0800 807060**.

#### **Annex 1: Identification sparctic trout**

Distinctive colouration and markings along flanks, a combination of the spots seen on Arctic char and marbled patterns of the brook trout. Spots are orange and pink. Leading edges of fins are white/ cream and the tail fin is often heavily spotted. The underbelly is cream coloured.



Figure 2. Sparctic trout (bottom) and sea trout (top).

#### Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

#### 11.2 Pacific Pink Salmon

The purpose of the advice note is to ensure:

1. That all fishery stakeholders, including fishery managers, anglers and netsmen are alert to the possibility of the return of pink salmon to English rivers during 2021-22.

2. To ensure that fishery managers, anglers and netsmen know what

to do should pink salmon be observed or captured in England.

#### Background

Pacific pink salmon were originally introduced into a number of Russian rivers in the 1960's and have slowly spread westwards subsequently colonising a number of rivers in northern Norway.

In 2017, unprecedented numbers of pink salmon were recorded in UK and other European rivers. These fish are believed to have *strayed* from rivers in northern Norway and Russia. The unusually high numbers of pink salmon observed in 2017 are thought to have originated from a particularly strong year class with good marine survival. Lower numbers of pink salmon were observed in 2019 although they were recorded further west.

Pink salmon have a distinct two-year life cycle and stocks can be distinguished by their year of return. Some stocks return in *even* years and others return in *odd* years. Russian and Norwegian pink salmon are derived from *odd-year* stocks and it is therefore possible that they will occur again in English rivers in 2021/2023.

Pink salmon spawn at a different time of year to Atlantic salmon (July through to mid- October), usually on the main river channel in the lower reaches of rivers although they have been observed in upstream tributaries. Juveniles hatch within 3 to 4 months and then quickly migrate to sea limiting their potential interaction with native salmonid species.



#### Pacific Pink Salmon in spawning condition

#### What we know about pink salmon to date.

It was previously thought that the environmental conditions present in UK rivers would not be favourable for colonisation by pacific pink salmon. However, in 2017, important information was gathered about the viability of these fish to reproduce in a number of Scottish rivers.

Monitoring found that the eggs removed from pink salmon spawning areas were viable and subsequently hatched into juvenile pink salmon. We therefore need to remain alert to the possibility that a viable populations of pink salmon could become established in English rivers.

In 2017, many pink salmon were reported from the licensed salmon drift nets fishery operating off the Northumbrian coast in north east England. Furthermore, 7 pink salmon were subsequently recorded by anglers in or close to English rivers (River Wear (2) Tyne (1), Coquet (1), River Hull system (1), Hampshire Avon (1), Frome (1) and from the mouth of the Solway estuary (1). In 2019, there were 7 recorded incidences of pink salmon across the UK and the Republic of Ireland (1 in Ireland, 1 in Wales, 3 in Scotland and 2 in a T-net set off the Northumbrian coast).

In June 2021, the Environment Agency has received a notification from Norwegian environmental authorities that pink salmon have been found in larger numbers and further south and west than in previous years. Whilst it is difficult to predict what will happen, the available information suggests that more pink salmon may be observed over the coming months in English rivers. Fishery managers, anglers and netsmen are requested to remain vigilant particularly if fishing in the lower reaches of our river systems. Many of the migratory salmonid net fisheries in the North East are now closed and therefore we will be more reliant upon reports from anglers.

From the specimens that were captured and recovered by the Environment Agency, no notable disease or novel parasites were detected. However, we need to remain vigilant and continue to investigate the possible risk of undesirable consequences arising from the presence of this species.

Fisheries management organisations across the UK are sharing advice to ensure that any appearance of pink salmon in England can be monitored and managed appropriately. This will include ongoing advice to stakeholders, awareness raising and liaison with other UK and international fishery managers to exchange information on any new situation.

# What should you do if you see or capture a Pacific pink salmon?

Pacific pink salmon are usually clearly identifiable from Atlantic salmon particularly when mature and in spawning condition – Please see Annex 1.

If you are confident that you have caught a pacific pink salmon, the fish should be humanely despatched. Please report the capture as soon as possible to the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 as this will enable the fish to be formally logged. This guidance applies to rivers with mandatory catch and release for Atlantic salmon in England.

If you are not confident that you have caught a pink salmon the fish should be released back to the river alive where it was captured. This is to ensure that no Atlantic salmon are retained in error.

If you have found a fresh, dead pink salmon, please contact the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

In recording the capture of a pink salmon, please collect and report the following details: date of capture or sighting; location of capture (grid reference if possible) and details of the site, method of capture, sex of fish.

If possible, please also: take a photograph of the fish; obtain a scale sample from the captured fish and store these in a paper envelope; freeze and store the fish whole as soon as possible after

capture; obtain a fin clip (an adipose fin clip or a clip from any other fins) as well as a sample of dorsal muscle tissue (at least 2cm x 2cm), and finally the weight and fork length measurement of the fish.

Recovered or retained pink salmon can also be stored in a suitable, sealed plastic bag in a standard domestic freezer before collection. Please also store the capture details together with the fish in a separate sealed plastic bag if at all possible. Please also be vigilant for any early or unusual spawning activity particularly during late July, August and September when pink salmon are most likely to be active in spawning areas – particularly in shallow, gravelly glides and runs. Any suspected activity should also be reported to us as soon as possible. For further information please contact: National Enquiries relating to pink salmon management Simon Toms, National Fisheries Management Team Leader, Environment Agency Mobile: 07778 991603 Email: simon.toms@environment-agency.gov.uk

Reporting of captured pink salmon by anglers and netsmen Please contact Jonathan Shelley who is co-ordinating reports from anglers Contact details for Jonathan Shelley are: Mobile: 07979 704 281 Email jonathan.shelley@environment-agency.gov.uk.

#### Annex 1: Identification of Pink Salmon

#### Pink Salmon: Ocean Phase

Pacific pink salmon, when fresh from the sea, are steel blue to bluegreen on their backs, silver on the flanks and white on their bellies. There are large black spots on the backs, upper flanks, adipose fins and tail – some of the spots on the tail can be as large as the fish's eyes. They are very uniform in size, reaching only 40 to 60cms in length. It is possible that at first sight, a fresh pink salmon may be confused with a small Atlantic salmon (see below).



#### Pink salmon: Freshwater phase

Note the shape of the tail, spots on tail and dark mouth. Breeding males are immediately identifiable because of their humps and they will almost certainly be running milt at this time of year. Their black tongues and heavily spotted tails are also very obvious. Females will show heavily spotted tails and be pinkish-brown on the flanks (see below).





### EA incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

#### 12. Season dates

#### **River Fowey**

Season dates	Sea Trout: 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> August
	Salmon: 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 30 <sup>th</sup> November

#### **River Lynher**

Season dates Sea Trout: 3<sup>rd</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> August Salmon: 1<sup>st</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> October

#### **River Seaton**

Season dates Sea Trout:  $1^{st}$  April –  $31^{st}$  August Salmon:  $1^{st}$  April –  $30^{th}$  November

#### **River Camel**

Season dates	Sea Trout: 1 <sup>st</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> August
	Salmon: 1 <sup>st</sup> May – 30 <sup>th</sup> November

#### **River Inny**

Season dates	Sea Trout: 3 <sup>rd</sup> March – 31 <sup>st</sup> August
	Salmon: 1 <sup>st</sup> March – 14 <sup>th</sup> October

#### **River West Looe**

Season dates	Sea Trout: 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 31 <sup>st</sup> August
	Salmon: 1 <sup>st</sup> April – 30 <sup>th</sup> November

#### 13. Website

Don't forget you can download colour maps, application forms, catch return forms, trophy forms and many other publications from the website. Go to **www.ldac.org.uk** 



#### TROPHIES

Members are encouraged to submit catches that could qualify for one of the four trophies:

- Brown trout •
- Sea trout •
- Salmon
- Junior Achievement

Members can either scan or detach the form below. Send or email to

Hon Secretary Lower Hollycoombe, Drift Lane Twowatersfoot, Liskeard Cornwall, PL14 6HH

Member's Name 1. Address

Membership No.

or your email address

2. Catch details Date River Species

Time Beat Weight

Measurements (if weight not known) Length (cm) Girth (cm) Catch method (delete as applicable) Fly / Spinner / Worm Witness (if available)

3. Name

Membership No.