

Wye Salmon Association

Newsletter February / March 2025

'Whilst my current health problems will likely restrict my presence on the water this season, I hope all our members take every opportunity to wet a line with the hope, if not, the expectation to catch one of our silver tourists, maybe from one of the beats in our GMROR scheme. Whilst the 2024 season on the Wye was the worst experienced, along with a good many other UK Salmon rivers, fish are still coming and they are still there to be caught. So let's wet a line when conditions allow, you never know.

Our Steering Team and citizens science volunteers will continue working very hard on your behalf through 2025 pursuing the powers that be, participating with influential bodies in mapping out the way forward on salmon stock recovery or tackling agricultural and sewage pollution. If you are interested in joining our efforts and wish to volunteer as a citizen scientist, or act and take part in directly supporting our Steering Team please contact our Team at enquiries@wesalmon.com.

Good luck for the new season and I hope to be joining you on the bank very soon, and maybe see you at one of our Open Day events later in the year'

Tight Lines and Good Luck, Stuart Smith Chairman.



Florence at Bigsweir, River Wye

GMROR

(Get more rods on the river)

With the New Season approaching (March 3rd) we would like to wish everyone a super season full of catches, just

missed, long range releases and many, was that a takes?

GMROR will be open for booking when you receive this and many people have already signed up to take advantage of the opportunities.

Whitney Court is proving popular as it should and along with Red Lion is one of the top spring beats.

Lastly, as most of you are aware, Stuart Smith is recovering from serious illness and has temporarily stepped back from WSA to aid his progress, please make all booking requests via gmr@wyesalmon.com.

[Click Here to Email Your Comments to WSA or
Email: enquiries@wyesalmon.com](mailto:enquiries@wyesalmon.com)

Salmon Fishing Conditions and 2025 Catch Blog

<https://www.wyesalmon.com/information/>

for the new catch blog.

Prospects for 2025 Salmon Season

After rises in levels at the beginning and end of January, the river was cold but falling as low as 1.24 at Redbrook until heavy rain over the final weekend of February has brought the river into quite a large spate which will ruin the lower river into the opening week at least.

Interestingly some kelts had been noted around the Hereford area over the past few weeks but they will now be gone with the flood water. When the spate finally falls there may be a few 3SW fish anywhere from Builth Wells to Monmouth 😊. Spinning or Fly you might ask, depends on the height and clarity. The old favourite for Wye spring fish was a green and yellow devon 2.5 - 3 inches, they look odd now with a single hook but they will still work, maybe try a willie gun in various sizes or a wye thunder Geoff Franks pattern, all you need is a taking fish to present it to As pf today 2nd March the lower river is still out @ 1.85, but the river around Ross is clearing and coming into a reasonable condition. Good luck and tight lines.

Finally I hope that you have all tied your flies, the weather may have given you a few more days



In my opinion the most difficult part of fly tying is holding their feet still!



Geoff Franks Wye Thunder



Willie Gun Tube





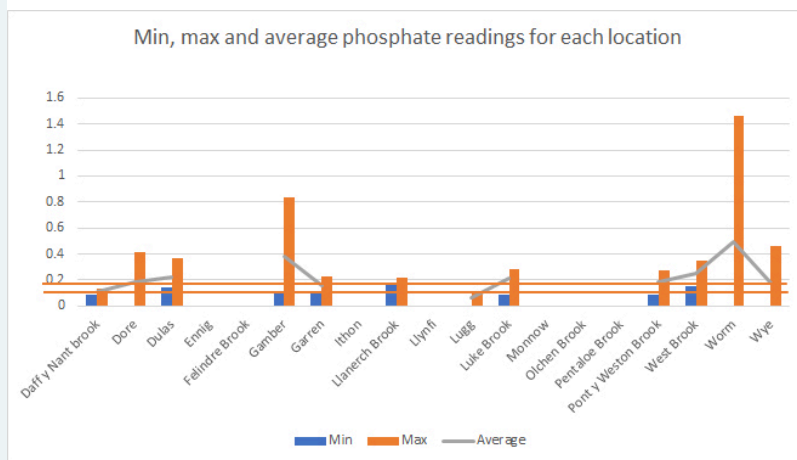
Citizen Science

WSA Citizen Science volunteers sample the Wye and its watercourses on a regular basis, the graph summarizes

their work for February. As you can see, the phosphate levels in the Worm and the Gamber, both significant tributaries of the Wye are well above the target levels set by statutory bodies. These levels lead to excess algal growth that in turn prevents or slows the growth of the water crowfoot that the Wye used to be famous for. It is this evidence that informs the decisions of those bodies into taking action to revive the river.

We're always looking for more volunteers to collect samples, particularly on the Ithon, the Llynfi and Felindre Brook. All equipment and training will be provided along with a WhatsApp group to post queries and to keep in touch with other volunteers. If you'd like to take part email Chris Enstone, WSA Citizen Science co-ordinator at chrisenstone1951@gmail.com

Target level of phosphates 0.092 to 0.153 Defined by red lines in Graph Below



*** NEW ***

Wye Salmon Association

Open Day & Casting Clinic Event

Provisional Date 24th May 2025

at Whitney Court

The World is waking up and it is not just that Spring is coming.....

The major Atlantic Salmon organisations are now aggressively pushing for significant changes in the pace of action to address the need to not only protect Atlantic Salmon populations but to rebuild them.

Since the beginning of 2025, the Atlantic Salmon Trust, the Missing Salmon Alliance and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation have attacked Governments and regulators, around the Atlantic, to table actions that demonstrate what actions they have in place to stop population decline, rebuild populations and ensure high levels of long term sustainability – irrespective of climate change impact.

This is being seen as a significant change and one which has already been recognised by the Scottish government and has seen considerable success in Norway. See links below.....

The work of WSA engaging with many major Atlantic Salmon orientated organisations is now putting us in a position where we can play a part in bringing focused actions to stop the decline and improve the Wye's Atlantic Salmon population. Salmon fishing on the Wye and the support of WSA's membership adds massively to our engagement – please keep doing what you do.....

The updating WSA's Salmon Action Plan, currently underway, will reflect the above, meaning there are going to be many opportunities for members to get involved in Salmon specific projects – small and large so please let us know if you want to get more involved via enquiries@wyesalmon.com.....

PTV

Here is the link to the Scottish Government paper that I mentioned above....

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/conservation-atlantic-salmon-scotland-through-gene-banking-principles-considerations/>

Here is the NASCO link to the Norway activities that I mentioned above....



Wye Salmon Association

Felindre

Nr Hay on Wye

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