

An Urgent Appeal from the Wye and Usk Foundation

2nd June 2010

Some Important news for our salmon

The salmon crisis continues with little change on either river. Faced with the prospect of the putcher rank at Lydney Park commencing operations on 1st June and, crucially, knowing how much more successful they are in low water, we have brokered a deal to stop them fishing this year. We have received good support for this so far but still need to raise between £5,000-£10,000 in a very short period of time.

We need to be quite clear that the purpose of the buyout is to put the maximum number of salmon on the redds of all rivers this year. The returning number of multi sea winter fish will be much reduced as they will have experienced the same problems at sea as last year's grilse. We do not anticipate that it will add much to the rod catch during 2010 – the buyout is a measure to safeguard the future of our salmon.

In 2000 we bought out the remaining estuary drift nets and putchers at Goldcliff (Usk) and Wyemouth. The Lydney putchers are the last major exploiters of salmon in the estuary. We are therefore seeking support from the River Severn, which will also benefit. In the longer term, it is anticipated that the recent enactment of the Marine Bill will allow a permanent cessation, but not until next year.

Known locally as the "Wall of Death," it appears from official returns that catches have varied between 346 and 1200 per annum with last year's total of just over 800 being a few below the 10 year average. Their best year of 1200 was in 2003, another dry year. Tagging research done years ago has shown that this fishery takes fish destined for all three rivers.

We are therefore appealing to your generosity and concern for our salmon stocks and seek your help to fund this buy off. This is an appeal to all Wye, Usk and Severn owners, fishers and supporters.

Please would you send what you can to our new address:

**The Coach House
The Old Rectory
Llanstephan
Nr Brecon LD3 0YR**

Or by credit /debit card to 01982 560788 or 357. If you are a tax payer, a gift aid form is at <http://www.wyeuskfoundation.org/joinus/index.php>

Please help us secure this buy out

Please contact us by email or phone if you have any questions.

Dr Stephen Marsh-Smith
The Wye and Usk Foundation www.wyeuskfoundation.org