

Swanmeadow Fishery 2007 End of Season Report

2007 was one of the wettest summers on record and whilst the Usk did not suffer the disastrous flooding that other parts of Britain endured the River nevertheless ran high and deeply coloured for considerable periods of time.

Whilst meaningful fishing was often difficult the high water ensured that there were good numbers of migratory fish entering the river and therefore well distributed throughout the system.

During the periods when fishing was possible the quality of the sport available was superb and despite the fact that the river was often unsettled there were some excellent catches made. There was also a substantial run of Shad and although not recorded a number were taken on the fly in early summer.

Salmon were present in numbers from May onwards with the best months being June and August. The River during August maintained an excellent level for most of the month and those who managed to get out were well rewarded.

September was a drier month with the river falling away to being very low and clear and October then produced some quite glorious 'Indian Summer' weather with virtually no rainfall, which reduced the level even further when the season closed on 17th October.

At the end of October we had a days heavy rain which lifted the river and large numbers of salmon were witnessed running the salmon ladder on the River Grwyne on their way to the redds. With the great number of fish that ran the Usk this year it should be an excellent spawning season, and this coupled with the work that the Usk and Wye Foundation have carried out on the spawning streams it can only bode well for the future.

Swanmeadow has been the subject of considerable bank maintenance with greatly improved access to all the pools and the cutting back of vegetation and overhanging branches to facilitate casting throughout the entire length of the beat.