

Watsonian Angling Club Report 2019-2020

2019 was our worst season on record. Wild salmon numbers are in serious decline around the world and there is no real explanation as to why this is – various theories have been advanced from the inevitable global warming argument, to the impact of salmon farms with the consequential spread of parasites, to high seas fishing. The least apocalyptic theory is that it is a cyclical thing but it is all conjecture. In an average year in the past we could get up to something like 50 fish – in 2012 we had 69. Last year we had 7. To an extent it was a self-fulfilling prophecy in that the river was seriously under fished as fishers were so pessimistic.

In recognition of this, day rods on the beat are free this year. I will still need to issue permits, both to control numbers and satisfy the law, so please contact me if you wish to fish. We were optimistic that this year would be better but so far, although the Tweed generally is fishing fairly well, we are still struggling, with only one fish so far as of mid September.

Trout fishing is also available and can be very good. There was a fish of 4 pounds taken from the beat last season which is a superb wild fish by anyone's standards. The trout season, however, closes at the end of September, while salmon fishing continues to the end of November.

You can contact me on john@john-buchanan.com