

DEVON AVON WATER QUALITY GROUP
Notes of meeting at Follaton House, Totnes
Tuesday 25th September 2012

Attendance:	Representing
Stuart Watts – Chair (SW)	Aune Conservation Association (ACA)
Peter Marsh (PM)	ACA
John Peters (JP)	ACA and South Devon AONB
Glenis Pewsey (GP)	South West Water
Neil Osborne (NO)	Environment Agency – Principal Environment Planning Officer, WR
Mike Blackmore (MB)	Wild Trout Trust
John Roberts (JR)	AFA
Tracy Reeve (TR)	Environment Agency - Senior Environment Planning Officer
Roger Furniss (RF)	South West Rivers Association
Robin Toogood (RToo)	South Devon AONB Manager
Robert Torr (RTor)	Environment Agency (EA) - Communications Officer
Martin Ross (MR)	South West Water Environment Manager
Bruce Stockley (BS)	Head of Fisheries WRT
Karensa Lawrie (KL)	WRT
Chris Klee (CK)	Formerly of SW Fisheries Advisory Committee
Apologies	
Kelvin Broad (KB)	Environment Agency - Fisheries Technical Specialist
Michael Cooper (MC)	Avon Fishing Association (AFA)

Agenda Item	Description	Action
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence.	
2 & 3	<p>Notes of meeting of 30th May and matters arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes were agreed as read • Terms of reference had been modified by the SWW legal team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SW has appended an appendix which includes the objectives of the group and underpins what the group is trying to achieve. • Split of waterbody. After 2015 the main Avon waterbody will split into two. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some discussion over pH failure and whether this can be influenced in the future to achieve GES. Lessons may be learnt from work being carried out in other catchments. • RF provided the document “Rehabilitating Gravels in Rivers and Streams” – David Sear. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members will try to obtain an electronic copy to circulate, otherwise TR to scan and circulate. ○ WRT to liaise with group members over possible gravel augmentation sites. 	<p>All</p> <p>BS/KL</p>
4	<p>Shrimp Priorities for the Avon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BS presented a Geo-Pdf showing various layers and the 	

	<p>boundaries of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JP requested further information to be added. ○ Barriers to fish migration were discussed and the EA list from the WIP document was observed to be out of date. ○ Action to Rob Torr to circulate an updated list of barriers and members of the group to add any local knowledge and feed back through RT. Photographs to accompany. ○ RTor also to circulate the model from the Teign and Dart ○ BS to accept, incorporate and disseminate resulting info' ○ PM – need to identify and prioritise all the barriers. ○ BS – agreed to respond with a timescale for fish passage assessment within four weeks. ○ RT – it has been established that Venn Weir belongs to the EA and this is the lowest and biggest obstruction so should be priority. ○ JP – agreed to try to obtain a copy of the PhD thesis by Peter Beale 	<p>RTor</p> <p>RTor BS</p> <p>BS</p> <p>JP</p>
5	<p>Fish Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WRT to carry out 20 semi quantitative electro-fishing surveys to inform re fish populations. Note technique is aimed at juvenile Salmon habitat (Crozier and Kennedy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BS – invitation for volunteers to train and help with survey work. ○ RTor to provide details of previous fish surveys to ACA ○ RTor to check what records of Redd Count data is held by the EA • Venn Weir Fish trap. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there old records from this trap? <p>Could this trap be brought back into use and what permissions would be required?</p>	<p>GP</p> <p>RTor RTor</p> <p>RTor RTor</p>
6	<p>Water Releases from Avon Dam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP described the opportunity to generate HEP on spill water and shared an explanatory document. • This winter will be the first full trial. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We need to know how fish will respond to changes in flow/quality/temperature. ○ NO – agreed to share the suite of WQ parameters that have been monitored so far. ○ GP – taking the project slowly and is reassured that the releases to date have not been observed by group members to have any detrimental effect. • Need to agree protocol for Fisheries Bank releases as these seem to have been neglected in the past. Kelvin Broad to update the group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to know the critical volume of water to trigger smolt movement. ○ Review other dam sites where fishery banks are effectively triggered. ○ JP to share WQ work ○ Since April is the key time for smolt movement, a release next April as a trial was suggested. 	<p>NO</p> <p>KB</p> <p>JP</p>
7	<p>Weirs and fish passes as obstacles to fish movement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTor briefed the group on the issues at Gara Bridge Weir 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EA and LA potential enforcement action ongoing. ○ Need to raise awareness that now is a sensitive time for the Salmon run. 	
8 & 9	<p>Discussion, Conclusion and recommendations</p> <p>Covered throughout the meeting but again the main action points are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA to circulate “Rehabilitating Gravels in Rivers and Streams” • WRT to liaise over gravel augmentation site • RTor to circulate draft list of barriers and all to input local knowledge and return. • EA to firm up protocol for Fishery bank releases. 	<p>TR BS/KL RTor</p> <p>KB</p>
10	<p>Next Meeting - Follaton House</p> <p>1300, Tuesday 5th February 2013</p>	<p>RToo/SW/KL to arrange room</p>