

South West Lakes

Game Fishing Strategy

2019-2021

Background

South West Lakes Trust is a registered charity with a remit to deliver conservation of the environment and built heritage and provide opportunities for public access, recreation and education at in-land waters across Devon, Cornwall and West Somerset.

The Charity has its on trading subsidiary, South West lakes Ltd. which runs angling, watersports, camping and café operations across a number of its lakes. Profits from our trading activity are Gift Aided to South West Lakes Trust to further its charitable work.

This is a unique management arrangement within the UK water industry, providing wider benefits to the environment and communities in our region.

South West Lakes Trust Priorities

The Trust aligns its work with the following five campaigns:

- **Active Outdoors** - Encouraging healthy and active lifestyles
- **Building Outdoor Skills** - Providing training and personal development
- **Discovering Local Culture** - More people engaging with their heritage and culture
- **Love Your Lakes** - Protecting our habitats for the future
- **Play & Explore** - Improving lakeside play areas

Game Fishing Strategy

In November 2018 the Board of South West Lakes approved a three year strategy for its game angling operations with the following aims:

- To improve the trout fishing offer to provide an enhanced experience for our anglers
- To ensure the game fishing operation is sustainable in the long term to realise the potential of our fisheries

South West Lakes Trout Waters

Stocked rainbow waters with some wild browns

- **Kennick**, near Bovey Tracey, on Dartmoor, Devon
- **Siblyback Lakes**, near Liskeard, on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall
- **Stithians**, near Redruth, West Cornwall
- **Burrator**, near Yelverton, on Dartmoor, Devon

- **Wimbleball Lake** on Exmoor also offers stocked rainbow fishing but is operated by a third party.

Stocked and wild browns

- **Roadford Lake**, near Okehampton, Devon
- **Fernworthy**, near Chagford, on Dartmoor, Devon
- **Colliford Lake**, near the A30, on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall

Free wilderness fishing for wild browns

Avon Dam, Meldon and Venford, on Dartmoor, **Crowdy**, on Bodmin Moor and **Wistlandpound**, North Devon

How We Developed Our Plan

- Survey of regular game anglers across all waters
- Detailed analysis of the situation at each trout water
- Meetings with local fly-fishing clubs
- Face to face discussions with local anglers at various venues
- Discussions with suppliers of trout stock
- Analysis of stocking and sales records
- Reconvened Game Angling Advisory Group to test proposals
- 3 Year Action plan formulated
- 3 Year Plan approved by SWL board in November 2018

Summary of Plans for 2019

- Increased stocking budget for 2019
- Start renewing the boat fleet, with two new Coulam boats at Roadford Lake
- Trial of new stocking strategies at two waters to reduce cormorant predation
 - Minimum stock size at Kennick
 - Bigger fish profile at Burrator
- Audit and sampling of all stocking activity and research on the optimum stocking strategy for future years
- A focus on improving our Brown Trout waters
 - Double stocking at Colliford with brown fingerlings
 - Double stocking at Roadford using existing stocking profile

Summary of Plans for 2019

- Exclusive 2 week boat fishing opportunity at Fernworthy
 - 15th to the 28th July
 - Two boats available
 - Priority booking for Season Ticket holders
- Trial of lure fishing for perch at Roadford Lake in August (boat fishing only). All trout season ticket holders will get priority booking
- Review of all the rules and regulations before the season starts
- Greater discipline with catch returns. We are committed to ensuring catch returns are posted on our website by Tuesday each week.
- An “All Waters” catch return will be created each week to enable an “at a glance” picture of our trout fishing

Summary of Plans for 2019

- New fishery maps are being created for all waters. Example below:



Summary of Plans for 2019

- Pursue funding for a Trout Angling Development Officer
- Redesign of the trout fishing website to enable easier navigation
- Integration of all SWL's waters in the Westcountry Rivers Trust Angling Passport Scheme
- All revenue in excess of budget at the end of June to be reinvested in additional stock in the 2019 season

New Ticket Options 2019

- The majority of day ticket and season ticket prices will remain unchanged for 2019.
- Single price for Junior Ticket on any water - £5.00 "Take your son or daughter fishing for a fiver" (2 fish catch limit then C&R)
- Single "All Waters" season tickets for under 18's for £100 with weekly bag limit of 4 fish to encourage more young anglers
- Single price for a boat on any water - £15.00 per day, £10.00 for Season Ticket holders (2 extra fish bag limit), £5.00 after 5 o'clock (if available & no extra fish)

New Ticket Options 2019

- Single Brown Trout Water Season Ticket (Castabout) - access to all 4 Brown Trout waters - £225 (12 fish bag limit per week)
- Trout Tour Ticket - fish four different trout waters in a fortnight for £65.00 (16 fish limit - 4 per water) – particularly aimed at holidaymakers and visitors to the SW
- Long Weekend Ticket - Friday, Saturday & Sunday - 20% discount on the price of three day tickets for any single water.
- 3 Hour Anytime ticket at Burrator only. Same price as evening ticket, 2 fish limit.

Proposals By Water – SHORT TERM

Water	
Burrator	Higher initial stocking and greater focus on 3lb + fish to prevent cormorant predation and measure survival rates. Allow boat fishing from start of season, aided by new debris boom and upgrade boats to Coulam.
Colliford	Increase fingerling stocking to build top class brown trout fishery in the longer term
Fernworthy	Maintain stocking plan with special boat fishing event in mid-summer – limited availability with advance booking opportunity for season ticket holders
Kennick	Maintain stocking plan – No fish to be stocked under 2lb
Roadford	Double volume and budget of stocking plan and pilot special lure fishing opportunity from mid-summer targeting the prolific head of perch
Siblyback	Increasing stocking plan – increase total numbers of fish stocked by reducing numbers of larger fish
Stithians	Continue to work closely with CAST fishing club and target more day ticket sales and tourist trade

Proposals By Water – LONG TERM

Water	Long-term plan ideas
Burrator	Potential for a “Big Fish” water for rainbows with additional measures to encourage higher wild brown trout recruitment rates. Possible major project for volunteer workforce to enhance breeding and nursery habitat as per Wild Trout Trust report
Colliford	Work to gain permission for angling boats and develop world class brown trout fishery in the longer term.
Fernworthy	Potential for routine boat fishing for season ticket holders.
Kennick	Maintain stocking plan and improve bankside facilities.
Roadford	Work to remove restrictions on stocking rainbow trout and develop as SWL’s premier trout fishery.
Siblyback	Improve the bankside facilities for anglers. Improve boat fishing facilities and emphasise exclusive boat fishing areas.
Stithians	Focus on retaining the loyalty of local trout anglers and encourage greater use by visiting holiday makers.

Fishing Seasons & Opening Dates

Trout Fishery	Season Dates
Burrator - stocked rainbows & wild browns	9th March - 31st October
Colliford - stocked & wild browns	15th March - 12th October
Fernworthy - stocked & wild browns	15th March - 12th October
Kennick - stocked rainbows & wild browns	16th February - 31st October
Roadford - stocked & wild browns	15th March - 12th October
Siblyback - stocked rainbows & wild browns	2nd March - 31st October
Stithians - stocked rainbows & wild browns	9th March - 31st October

Season Ticket holders preview days;		
Burrator	Friday	8th March
Kennick	Friday	15th February
Siblyback	Friday	1st March
Stithians	Friday	8th March