

THE GLEN'S ANGLING CLUB
SECRETARY'S REPORT
May 12th 2018.

This past year is yet another poor year for the rod angler on the Glendun and the Glenariffe Rivers. The Cushendall River fished the best. With above average rainfall all through the summer months, then very little rain during September and October, we had only a few spate floods for salmon to run.

One of the positives from this past season was a good run of Sea Trout in all three rivers. Some of them as big as 2lb and above. Fortunately for the Sea Trout when they swim out to sea, they stay in local waters, before returning to their native river. The Salmon swim vast distances across the northern hemisphere to waters around the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Then, eventually, they return after one or sometimes two years. Large numbers of them are lost along the way. The scientists are now providing figures that show that they believe as few as 3% are returning as adult salmon. At present across the world, a great deal of scientific work is being done to try to stop this decline, before the wild salmon become a distant memory.

The next big meeting of the 35th Annual Meeting of The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO), will take place on June 12th to the 15th in Portland, Maine, USA. They are due to discuss the many concerns about the demise of the wild salmon.

We were unable to electro fishing during November or December 2017, due the above average rain fall, which caused consistent floods. We decided late in December not to put brood stock in the hatchery but to leave it for one year. With the help of the Bushmills Salmon Station, we have been restocking now for the almost 15 years, using our own hatchery for the last 3 years.

One outstanding item under AOB from the 2016 AGM, was the lack of a fresh water lake for our club members. A privilege we have had for many years. The committee have looked at a number of options. We have arranged that our club members to fish the Turnagrove Lake on the Drones Road Armoy. Members are requested to show his or her Glens Angling Club yellow membership card on arrival. They can then fish all day for a reduced special rate of £10. (Catch and Release). If you want to take any fish home it will cost £3 more.

The Club membership is slightly down on other years as very few young anglers seem to be coming into the sport. Gary Houston from Sport N.I. is promoting fishing for both the young and old, of both sexes, with the aim to encourage greater participation in the sport. To get involved his contact details are www.anglingni.com or E-mail gary@anglingni.com. Office Telephone No.: 02889549314.

The club membership fees for 2018 are now due.

This years Fees are:

Non-Locals - £30,

Local's (those members living in Cushendun, Cushendall or Glenariffe) - £25,

Seniors 60 years or older - £10

Junior (under 18) - £1 per season.

The main habitat project currently being undertaken by the Club is the building of new holding pools in the Cushendall River at the Old Mill Race Stretch above the grave yard.

Unfortunately, during the past year, we have lost a number of our Club members. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts, at this time.

I would like to finish by thanking all those persons who made my position interesting during the past year.

- All the members of our Committee.
- Robbie Marshall, Jim Haughey (Ulster Angling Federation). These directors, attend meetings on our behalf, keep us informed of ministerial and committee developments. They also advise us on matters relating to our Club insurance (for both members and Club Officers) and liaise with MEAD Sport & Leisure Limited.
- To all the staff at the Bushmills Salmon Research Station. Tim Delargy, Teddy Roughlan and Richard Kennedy, together with all the others that work tirelessly behind the scenes to maintain the salmon & trout in our local rivers.
- To the Department Agriculture Environment Rural Affairs (DAERA) staff, who advise us on a number of issues pertaining to these local rivers, habitat, restocking and caring for our wild salmon, feeding fry through to fingerling stage etc.
- To all those persons I have had the pleasure to work with or meet in association with rod angling during the past year past year, I thank them for the pleasure of their company.
- I thank you, the Club members, for your support during this past year.

Please try and attend your AGM meeting on May 23rd 2018.

Tight Line

Hugo McCormick
(Hon Sec)