

## **Crane Valley Partnership Fisheries Group Meeting Minutes**

Date: 27/08/15, 10:30AM

Location: The Shot Tower, Crane Park, Whitton

Attended by: Tom White (LWT), Neil Winter (EA), Amanda MacLean (EA) Joe Pecorelli (ZSL, FORCE), Claudia Innes (TW), Gareth Ryman (CR, LBH)

Apologies: Ilse Steyl (GC), Chris Slack (CR, LBH), Andy Willmore (LWT), Dave Harvey (TAC)

### **Stocking**

The group approved a further three years of stocking from the Environment Agency's Calverton fish farm as per the Crane restocking schedule. Stocking of chub, dace, roach, barbel and bream will take place in November/December of 2015, 2016 and 2017. Taking into account the stocking carried out in December 2014, this will complete a four-year programme.

1+ fish will be stocked because they adapt to their new environment more readily than older age classes, with better survival and growth. They are also easy to source. Stocking of 1+ fish over four years will allow the stocked species to establish a natural age structure and a breeding population by the end of the programme.

The group decided not to stock other species at this time. The Environment Agency's surveys indicate that there has been natural recovery of bullhead, stone loach, minnow, stickleback and gudgeon. Eels will recruit via the newly installed elver passes at Kidd's Mill and Mogden, while anecdotal evidence suggests that bleak, pike and perch may be recovering naturally.

The Environment Agency will continue to survey fish in the Crane at the usual sites on an annual basis, to allow the extent of recovery to be assessed by comparison with historic data. The Environment Agency will share the survey data with the Crane Valley Partnership each year. The Fisheries Group will review the survey data in late 2016 and consider the need to extend the stocking programme for future years or stock other species.

### **Actions:**

- Neil to amend dates in the stocking schedule and share with the group.
- Neil Winter and Tom White will arrange a site visit to investigate potential stocking sites that will be of most benefit for this year's stocking, avoiding barriers and allowing access to good habitat.

### **Barriers to fish movement**

The group agreed the need for a report detailing all the barriers to fish migration in the catchment. The report will prioritise barrier removal/easement projects on the basis of the benefits they would bring to the fish population, and will give

indicative/estimated project costs. This will put the CVP on a sound footing to tackle barriers in the most effective order.

**Actions:**

- Tom will write and circulate a draft application to the CVP Thames Water Fund to fund the production of a report on barriers to fish movement in the Crane catchment.
- Amanda will arrange extraction of data on barriers from the Environment Agency's AIMS (Asset Information Management System) database.
- Amanda has contacted Bella Davies at the South-East Rivers Trust asking her about how they overcame all barriers to fish passage on the River Hogsmill.  
More info: <http://www.southeastriverstrust.org/the-hogsmill-fish-passage-mission-continues/>
- Engage TAC with this work to see if they can contribute.