



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DIRECTOR **PAUL KNIGHT** EXPLAINS ALL THE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT THE SALMON & TROUT ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS.

The past few months have been dominated by the move towards a potentially unified body for angling and fisheries in England (see Chairman's Message on p9), and the way in which we can operate more effectively in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Meanwhile, much has happened since I last reported in the autumn, and we are in the midst of important issues covering all aspects of our work; the environment, fish stock management and education:

## WATER

In November, the Blueprint for Water was one year old, and a review was held in the House of Commons to report on progress. Sadly, despite much debate in the media following the summer floods, little has been achieved in terms of tackling water pollution, catchment restoration or, indeed, flood management. You will see the report

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on page XX, and why we are still concerned over the Government's genuine commitment towards delivering Water Framework Directive objectives and establishing a sustainable aquatic environment.

## FLY LIFE

The success of the Riverfly Partnership's Anglers' Monitoring Initiative (AMI), whereby more than 20 courses were held during the 2007 season, and monitoring groups were established in many new locations, has really confirmed the importance of this environmental monitoring project. The Environment Agency (EA) has committed resources to AMI for a further

three years and, together with match funding from other sources, has enabled us to plan, with our partners, for the recruitment of a professional staff to roll out the project even wider during 2008 and beyond.

## SCOTTISH NETTING CAMPAIGN

With the closure of the Irish salmon drift net fishery last year, attention has switched to the remaining mixed stock fisheries operating in the UK, especially in Scotland. We have included a leaflet with this magazine, outlining our campaign to facilitate the buy-out of all Scottish coastal mixed stock salmon fisheries, and we already have negotiations in hand with several fishery owners.

## SCOTTISH BIG BOOK

Lawson Devery has organised production of a Scottish version of the *Brown Trout Big*

*Book*, which has been distributed to all 2,500 or so primary schools north of the border. This has been a tremendous initiative, greatly increasing our Scottish educational profile.

## FISH STOCK MANAGEMENT

Extended consultations are still underway concerning the future management of all the game fish species in England and Wales, through the EA's new Sea Trout and Salmon Strategy and the review of the EA Trout & Grayling Strategy. We cover both issues inside, but suffice to say they are little like the curate's egg – good in many parts, but concerning in others.



Above: Paul Knight.

## SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

I am delighted to report that, since Nina Gray joined us in the autumn, she has worked extremely well with the Water Resources Committee to respond to a plethora of consultations on future water management issues. In between times, she has also undertaken some important research work, especially over endocrine disrupters and inter-tidal habitat, and produced succinct policy statements for both issues. More about these inside and on the website, but our ability to operate at this scientific level is a great boost to the S&TA's operation.

Finally, my thanks, as always, to all those volunteers who have helped us on many fronts at both national and local levels, and to the Fishmongers' Company, who continue to give us such loyal support. Without all your efforts, this would be a far harder job for such a small team! \*

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