

THE SUMMER NEWS

Obviously, the first thing I must do is to apologise for the news column being delayed. This, largely due to circumstances outside my control.

Wherever you might be, I trust you have been able to enjoy your summer, in spite of the turmoil which the weather may have caused.

Institute of Fisheries Management **55th Annual Conference** **Chester Racecourse 15th-16th October 2024**

This International body has chosen the ancient city of Chester for the venue for the above conference.

The conference is aimed at all those who have an interest in finding solutions to the problems faced by both freshwater and marine environments. The conference will be addressed by speakers who are recognised, internationally, for their contributions in the sphere.

For more details visit www.ifm.org.uk and seek out the full programme.

FAIRY LIQUID

You will be familiar with the little ditty “Hands that do dishes.....” but did you know it may well be “Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects”?

I had no idea about this until I read the rear of the bottle recently. Where does your washing up liquid go – down the drain? There already exists data, from the 1960’s on the effects of the hormones in oral contraceptives, which came into use then in water – this particularly in London. More recently there has been more exotic contamination.

The ***Fishing News***, a commercial fisheries paper, reports that close to Rio de Janeiro, thirteen sharks taken there showed higher than previously discovered levels of cocaine! The cocaine is said to be but a small part of the larger problem of pollutants.

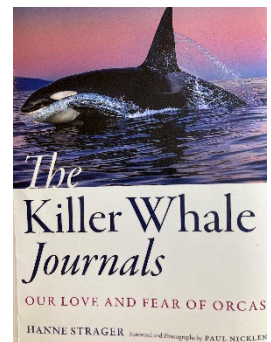


A WHALE OF A TIME?

The Icelandic authorities have caused some controversy when they issued permits for the taking of 128 whales this season, albeit this number is a 50% reduction on previous permits. The population itself is divided on whaling with 60% in favour and 40% against it. Unlike Faroe, where whale meat is for local consumption, the whale meat from Iceland is mainly exported. The majority of the processed meat goes to Japan. In Japan, a new whaling ship costing \$47 mil, was launched in 2024. The vessel, with a crew of over 100, will set to sea with a fleet of smaller catching vessels, on an eight month trip.

Whatever you think about whaling, it is worth remembering that the last whale came ashore in Scotland in 1952!

On a more positive note, I have been amazed at the insight into the way Orcas have been investigated and portrayed in the book by Hanne Strager.



If you wish to enjoy an enlightening experience, I would recommend, you try reading this book. The ISBN is 9781421446226 for the “Uncorrected Proof” version.



2025 CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS

As a Churchill Fellow myself, I am pleased to draw your attention to the fact that the Trust is now open for applications for Fellowships in 2025.

CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS

EXAMPLES IN WALES

1977	Forestry Practices
1988	Acidified Rivers
1992	Marine and Coastal Conservation
2007	Environment and Uranium mining
2008	Managing Non-native Species
2011	Saving the Eel
2020	Tidal Turbines & Dolphins
2020	Protecting Salmon Stock

www.churchillfellowship.org

Click on “Fellows Directory” for more examples.

29:05:2024 King Charles has confirmed he will be Patron. A position held by his late mother.

Applications for 2025 open 04:09:2024
Closure date 12:11:2014

In summary a Fellowship allows you to be funded to study anywhere in **the world** for 6 – 8 weeks. The above summary gives some examples.

SALMON PROBLEMS CONTINUE!

Things do not appear to be improving on the salmon front! I say this in spite of the amount of effort going into exploring this by a variety of bodies and groups. Anglers in Scotland are to see an increase on the number of rivers where catch and release, as in Wales, will become mandatory. This following the Scottish Government ruling that “the salmon stocks were unsustainable in 68% Of Scotland’s waterways”.



Should you be interested in this may I refer you to a paper really worth reading. It is not brief in size but persevere!

The reference I have is:

www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23308249.2021.1937044

[The Decline and Impending Collapse of the Atlantic Salmon \(*Salmo salar*\)](#)

It covers many interesting elements. That said, it suggests the Atlantic Salmon Stock is not reduced, by the usually quoted 66%, but it is now reduced by 89%. **Frightening.**

Of particular interest to me was the suggestion that IUU (Illegal, Unlicensed, Unregistered) boats are a major contributing factor. Hold on – I recall a 2019 Fishery Inquiry – I gave evidence - mentioning IUU effects – and it was ignored!

AND FINALLY

For those who fish in or near the Lake District – keep one eye over your shoulder! The DNA of a big cat has been confirmed, following a swab from a dead sheep!

Enjoy your Grayling season.