

UPPER DEE ANGLING FEDERATION



Mr Mick Bates
Chairman Sustainability Committee

THE VOICE OF 10.000 ANGLERS

Chairman
Ken Bathers
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Cefn Mawr
Wrexham
LL143AY
Telephone 01978 820608
14th August 2009

Dear Mr Bates,

RE: Access to rivers in Wales.

As Chairman of the Upper Dee Angling Federation I represent 10.000 anglers, we had a very good access agreement with the then Welsh Canoe Association, however in 2004 a new head was appointed to run the Association, the first thing he did was to tear up the access agreement , he then went on to do the same with all the access agreements in Wales.

Our Federation had many meetings with the Canoe Association to come to some agreement , there response each time was they wanted unlimited access to the River Dee , at the time I was Chairman of the Conservation Committee Welsh Salmon & Trout Angling Association a delegation led by me met with Carwyn Jones the Minister responsible for the Countryside & Fishing, the unlimited canoe access issues was put to the Minister and how serious the impact would be to our rivers in Wales, another meeting was held in the Assembly with the new Minister Jane Davidson she was briefed on the serious issue of unlimited access to all Inland Waterways in Wales.

If the law was changed allowing unlimited access the river Dee we would be overrun with canoeist from England ,the likes of Liverpool , Manchester , all the Midland Cities are a very short journey to North East Wales .

Angling clubs , Angling Syndicates and Riparian owners control the number of anglers who fish there waters to protect the delicate balance of the eco system, the River Dee has a S.S.S.I. and a S.AC and with the Atlantic Salmon now an endangered species it vital we keep control and regulate the use of this very important river system.

You should heed the advise from the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency that canoeing must have agreed access and egress points and only on high water levels.

Anglers have to abide by laws and byelaws on each river system , failing will mean a fine or even a prison sentence, the same must apply to canoeist .

The Upper Dee Angling Federation are willing at any time to negotiate an access agreement with the canoeist , the illegal trespass by them at present on the river Dee is becoming a major problem.

Ken Bathers

Cc to Karen Sinclair AM : Martyn Jones MP.

Members : Bala Angling Association, Capenhurst Angling Association, Corwen Angling Association. Prince Albert Angling Society
Llangollen Angling Association, Maelor Angling Limited, and Midland fly Angling Association.