

GOLDEN VALLEY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION



HEREFORDSHIRE EEL PROJECT UPDATE

16 August 2017

Bi-annual electro fishing survey results – River Dore

15 eels caught, measured and returned by Environment Agency survey team, representing a 15-fold increase in eel numbers since the beginning of the project!'

Sizes as follows (coloured into perceivable age classes)

495, 478, 407, 370, 350, 304, 301, 234, 220, 210, 180, 154, 140, 120, 110

(Green age class is thought likely to be from the April 2017 stocking)



Above – EA team in action



Above – eels and brown trout.



Above and below— One of the largest eels of the day, with a smaller brother.



Above -Two runs were made.



Above and below – more eels, all in great condition.





Above – more strong and healthy eels.



Above and below – measuring up





Above and below – more measuring-up





And more...





There were also some beautiful grayling (above) and brown trout (below)
(As well as brook lampreys, bullheads and some good sized stone loach).



Golden Valley Fish and Wildlife Association would like to thank Anna Elkin and the dedicated and careful Environment Agency team for conducting this valuable survey! 😊

ⁱ 15 eels represents a fifteen-fold increase on pre-2012 levels on the River Dore (prior to the start of the Herefordshire Eel Project) (From Environment Agency survey data, which showed eel numbers to be between 1 and zero from all available data on River Dore sites surveyed prior to this date.) (This contrasts with a flat-lining or downward trend, or complete absence, in other River Wye tributaries). Since 2012 the Herefordshire Eel Project has saved-from-export-by-purchase, and returned to Herefordshire waters, over a quarter of a million babyeels.

<http://www.rossgazette.com/article.cfm?id=109044&headline=A%20quarter%20of%20a%20million%20elvers%20saved%20from%20export%20restocked%20to%20Herefordshire%20Rivers§ionls=news&searchyear=2017>