

# Merthyr Tydfil Angling Alliance Page 1

## Newsletter Winter 2020



For those of our members who are new and those who may not know realise we have kept a religious check on our salmon catches since we first purchase our Kemys water in 1979. We are grateful to Gary Davies one of our life members for doing this as it is an important part of realising what our fishing is worth.

We purchased the Kemys in 1979 with some of our funds. A ten year interest free loan from Welsh Water and the balance paid by what was then a Sport Wales grant to purchase fishing. In the ten years we paid back the loan and the deeds held as security were returned to us.

Our appetite to move on led us to be interested in in looking at more salmon fishing.

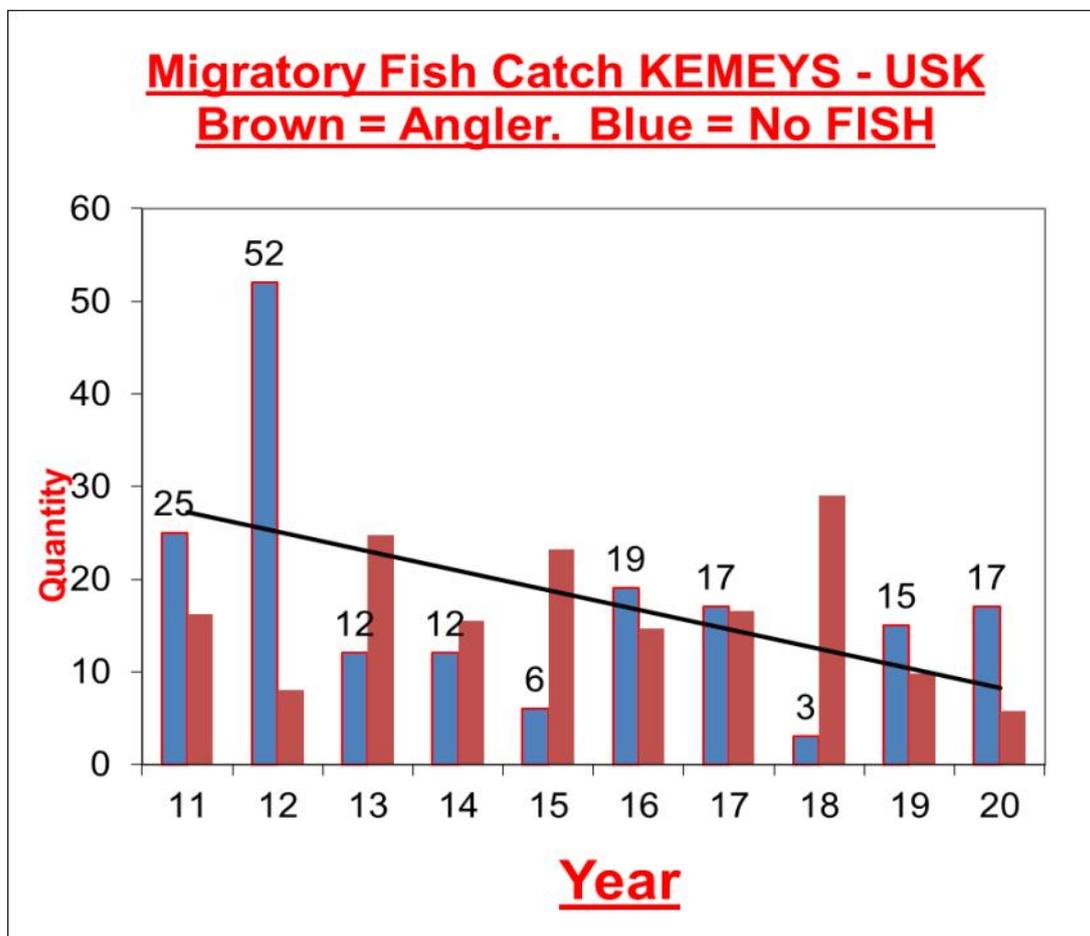
When the Mardy fishery came up for sale in 1987 we investigated the possibility to purchase this as our current liability to Welsh Water was coming to an end. It took some skilful negotiations and by then we had accrued half the purchase price which proved to be the deciding factor. A loan was negotiated with the Natwest Bank over a fixed term of ten years at a fixed rate of interest. This enabled us to budget our costs towards this commitment. We had not spent all our funds and when in 1992 we were offered the Ysbytty water we were able to add this to our fishing.

During the 1990's the owner of Pyscodlyn fishery living away offered to let us use his fishing as he was not finding time to use it. This agreement where he could come and fish his water with the option to also fish any of our beats extended our Mardy fishing for further four to five hundred yards. This continued for twenty years when the owner offered it for sale and we were able to complete on the purchase.

In 2019 the offer arose to join in with the Gwent and Isca Anglers to take over the management of the Abergavenny Town water. This was successfully negotiated and our management on this beat over the last two years has been a success. This is only part of the hard work that has gone into securing for our members a substantial amount of Salmon and Wild Brown Trout fishing.

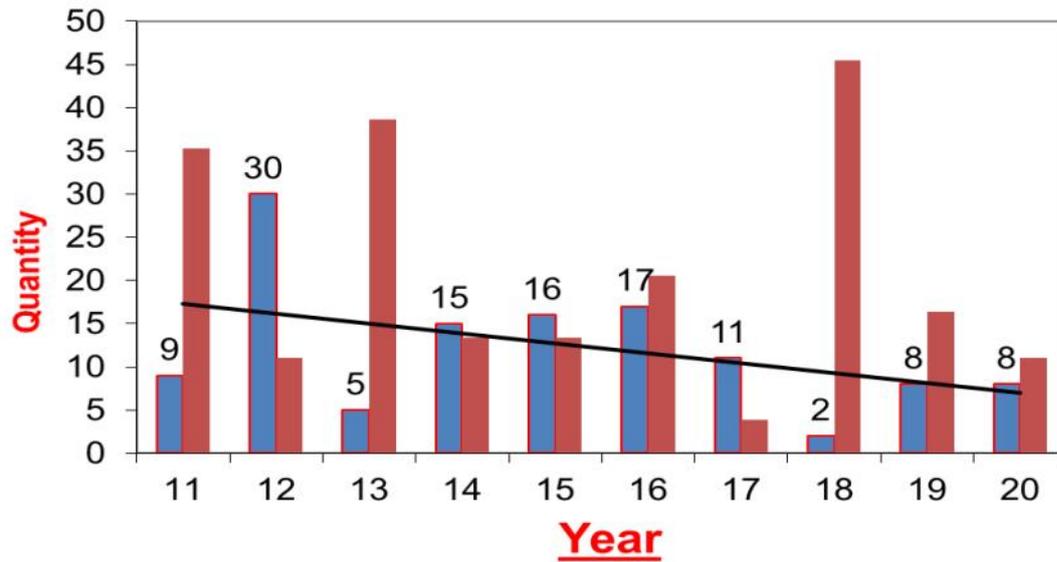
The other side of the coin however has been out work in the Merthyr valley.

Below are the graphs showing the Salmon catch variation on our three Usk Fisheries for 2020

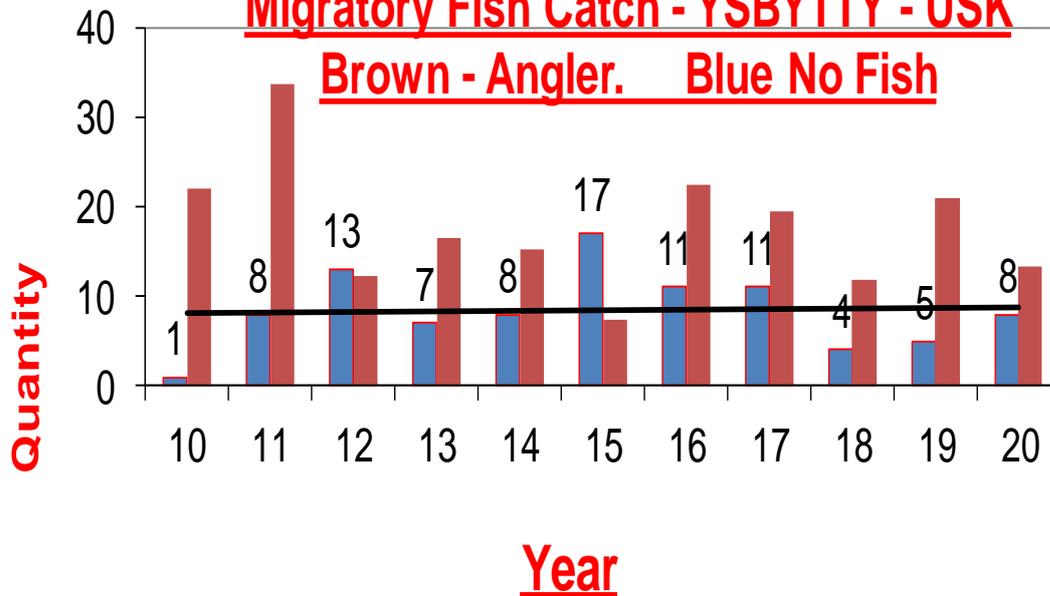




**Migratory Fish Catch - MARDY - USK**  
**Brown - Angler. Blue = No Fish**



**Migratory Fish Catch - YSBYTTY - USK**  
**Brown - Angler. Blue No Fish**



Please note the catch is more than 2019 which was a very poor year. However covid restrictions did not help our catch return as at the back end of the year many of our members were unable to fish for various reasons. This was at a time when the Salmon were putting in a strong appearance on the Usk.

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On Saturday the 14th November we had a delivery of Carp for both Top Pond Penywern and Cyfarthfa Lake. Some pictures below.



One of our new fish taken by Dai Fletcher weighing in at 24 lb 2 oz.

The stocking of new carp into Top Pond and Cyfarthfa has proved popular with anglers who are braving the cold weather in numbers. The understanding is, and with the work taking place cutting the trees along the current A465, that the work on the road will be starting in the spring. We are working with Merthyr Council and the contractors to see what improvements we can make to Middle Pond to benefit us. We know we will lose about 30 - 40 meters of the pond near to the road. We are not sure if the water level need to be dropped while work is taking place. It is for this reason that currently we will not be doing any work on Middle Pond.

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A good days fishing for Luke Astley on Cyfarthfa Lake. They weighed between 10lbs and 19 lbs