How smart are fish? Integrating what scientists and fishers know

The talks in this event will challenge the commonly-held view of fish as robot-like animals with no intelligence and a 30 second memory, which often leads to fish conservation being ignored in favour of more charismatic animals. As our first talk will show, this view is very far from the truth. Fish vary of course, but the group as a whole have a well-developed capacity for learning, a good memory when this is needed and perform many complex behaviours that in mammals, for example, would be deemed intelligent or “smart”. Thus fish form mental maps, use tools, build complicated structures and develop traditions. The dissonance between popular image and reality arises because most people do not have the time or opportunity to discover just how complex fish behaviour is. However, it needn’t be this way. Recreational anglers spend a lot of time observing and interacting with fish, so in this session we will explore what they have to say about how smart fish are. We will draw on the experience and observations of our second speaker, a lifelong angler and commentator, and also, we hope, on the expertise of anglers in the audience. Our aim is to promote creative discussion between people with different perspectives and to highlight the value of the traditional knowledge that anglers possess and pass on to successive generations.

At:
Institute of Zoology,
Outer Circle,
Regent's Park,
London,
NW1 4RY

from 18:00 to 2100 on 2\textsuperscript{nd} November 2016, including refreshments

There is a maximum of 150 places. Please register your name, email address and phone number by 26\textsuperscript{th} October 2016 at Eventbrite using the link \url{http://preview.tinyurl.com/jsaws6w}
The speakers

_Felicity Huntingford_, Universities of Stirling & Glasgow has worked on the behaviour of fish for more than 45 years, having a special interest in their social interactions and how they avoid predators. She served as President of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles (dates) and of the World Council of Fisheries Societies and is the 2016 Buckland Professor of Fisheries. 


_Charles Jardine_ is a renowned angler with extensive knowledge of fish, their behaviour and the ecosystems that support them, gained throughout a life-time of angling and fly-fishing. He started fishing at three and was fly fishing at six. As early as 1959, he and his father were operating a catch-and-release policy on the Lesser Stour. Charles became an angling columnist for _The Daily Telegraph_ and a contributor to fly-fishing magazines and wrote Sotheby’s Guide to Fly Fishing, a best-selling book of the genre.

The programme

18:00 Arrive/ refreshments
18:30 Felicity Huntingford - How smart are fish and why does this matter?
19:15 Charles Jardine - Fishing for knowledge: observations of a life-long angler
20.00 Open discussion. How do fishers learn what they know and how can we use this knowledge?
20:30 Refreshments

Attendance is free, but tickets need to be reserved at Eventbrite

[http://preview.tinyurl.com/jsaws6w](http://preview.tinyurl.com/jsaws6w)
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with Felicity Huntingford and Charles Jardine