



Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (YDRT) and Ure Salmon Group (USG): De-Combining Forces

YDRT is primarily a science-led deliver charity working with a range of partners, including the Environment Agency, as part of a coordinated catchment based approach. The YDRT is the host organisation of the local catchment partnership – the Dales to Vale River Network. This partnership brings together a range of partners to delivery much more than each organisation can achieve by working in isolation. YDRT is not a campaigning organisation but seeks to work with people with a range of views in order to deliver environmental improvements and to connect people with their local river. All activities must have scientific justification.

The Ure Salmon Trust dissolved in 2016 and became part of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, in the form of the Ure Salmon Group (USG). This was very controversial with many YDRT members being opposed because of the USG's primary focus on salmon stocking. The trustees agreed that the USG could continue to stock, providing it raised sufficient funding to pay for all stocking operations including staff time and it had permission from the Environment Agency as the regulator.

After due consideration of the USG's stocking plan for 2019/20, the Environment Agency has not granted approval for salmon stocking to be undertaken this year. The USG board has decided to challenge the Environment Agency's decision. Recognising that this compromises the YDRT's position as catchment host and delivery partner on several important Environment Agency-funded projects, the USG board has decided to split from the YDRT. This will allow them freedom to carry out their campaign and leave YDRT to focus on project delivery and partnership working.

This decision was made amicably with full trustee agreement. The two parties agreed that they can better support each other as different organisations.