



The **Riverfly Partnership** (RP) is a network of more than 50 partner organisations representing anglers, conservationists, entomologists, scientists, water course managers and relevant statutory bodies, working together to protect the water quality of our rivers, increase our knowledge of riverfly populations and actively conserve their habitats. The Salmon & Trout Association (S&TA) host the RP on behalf of the Partners as part of S&TA's active engagement in the management and conservation of the aquatic environment.

The Riverfly Partnership:

- **Delivers the Anglers Monitoring Initiative (AMI)**
- **Publishes easy to use guides to the riverfly groups**
- **Implements species conservation work**
- **Forges academic links to further research**
- **Leads the primary portal for riverfly information**

The nationally endorsed **Anglers Monitoring Initiative** launched in 2007 in response to the demonstrated demand from groups to have an informed dialogue on the biological water quality of their local rivers with the statutory bodies. The programme trains interested groups at one-day workshops to monitor the water quality of their local rivers, using a standard 3 minute kick sample as used by the Environment Agency (EA)/Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and recording the presence and abundance of seven groups of riverflies. The riverflies are pollution sensitive and are commonly heralded as the canaries of our rivers.

The benefits of the initiative include:

- Identifying falls in water quality and alerting the EA/SEPA to further investigation;
- Acting as a deterrent to incidental polluters;
- Generating long term biological data of UK rivers that can be used to monitor change.

There are more than 300 sample sites being monitored regularly across the UK. Case studies show how pollution events first identified by the monitoring groups have led to successful EA prosecution of the companies responsible, and demonstrate the effective collaboration between the monitoring groups and the statutory bodies in helping to ensure the good ecological status of our rivers as required by the Water Framework Directive. The initiative is commonly cited as an example of best practice in conservation and the effective partnership of citizen scientists and statutory bodies.

New groups are encouraged to join the AMI. For further information contact The Riverfly Partnership.

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