

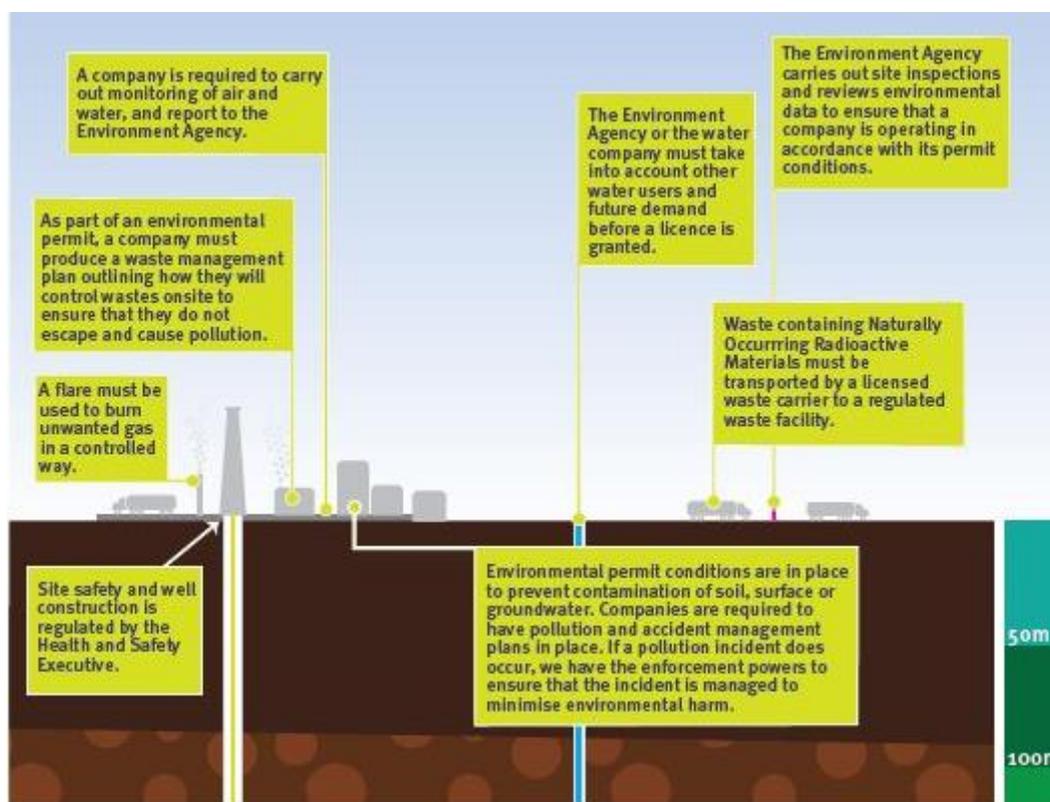
Make time to go fishing



Fisheries in Yorkshire: May 2016

'Fracking' is in the news as the benefits and risks are debated, including by fisheries interest groups. Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDL) have recently been awarded across large areas of Northern England, including in Yorkshire. PEDLs give the companies holding those licences exclusive rights to explore for and potentially produce oil and gas using both 'conventional' and 'unconventional' methods.

Hydraulic Fracturing (fracking) is an 'unconventional' technique used to extract natural gas from shale rock deep underground. It involves pumping water, sand and some chemicals at high pressure into shale rock to create narrow fractures. Gas escapes through the fractures and flows into the well to be captured. The Environment Agency works with a number of regulators to ensure onshore oil and gas activities take place in a way that is safe for people and the environment. Companies that want to explore for or produce oil and gas need environmental permits that include strict conditions to protect the environment. We only issue permits to organisations that demonstrate they can meet a permit's high standards. If an operator doesn't comply with their permit we have a range of enforcement powers including stopping the activities if needed. If you want to know more about our role email yorkshireoil&gas@environment-agency.gov.uk



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Working Together

- Please send your ideas for projects to improve **river fisheries** to [Joanne Kay](#) (South and West Yorkshire) or [Paul Slater](#) (North and East Yorkshire). Each Yorkshire Fisheries, Biodiversity and Geomorphology team will be allocated funding during the course of the year, raised from the sale of rod licences.
- Projects to improve habitat and angler access in **stillwater fisheries** may qualify for the [Angling Improvement Fund](#), rod licence project funding administered by the Angling Trust.
- The Angling Trust is delivering a series of bid writing workshops to help clubs write funding bids and access sources of funding. The Yorkshire event will be held on Wednesday 2 November at the Mercure Hotel, Hull, HU10 6EA, starting at 6:30 pm. Please contact [Rick Warner](#) for more information or [register online](#).

Stillwaters



We stocked crucian carp into Baker's Pond, Kilnhurst, and Tong Park, Baildon, as part of the [National Crucian Conservation Project](#) with the Angling Trust. The fish, raised at our fish farm, are available for stocking into small ponds and lakes, preferably with angler access. No carp/goldfish varieties can be present. Preference will be given to sites without pike. We also need permission to return in future years to crop fish to stock elsewhere. Please contact [Mike Lee](#) for more information.

- We provide a free fishery management advice service. If you would like to speak to us about how to improve your fishery please call 03708 506 506 and we may be able to help.
- **Please call our incident hotline 0800 80 70 60 to report dead, diseased or distressed fish.** After we receive your call a fisheries officer will contact you to discuss the situation and advise. As part of our service, we may visit your site and/or ask colleagues to attend to take water samples for analysis. We are also able to collect samples of fish for analysis at our National Laboratory should this be necessary. In the event of pollution we may be able to assist with emergency aeration while our environment officers investigate the source. Where an offence has been committed, we will proceed in accordance with our [Enforcement and Sanctions procedure](#).

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Rivers

- This year will see unprecedented investment in the River Don Fish Highway. We recently removed a section of Beeley Wood weir to restore upstream habitat and provide fish passage. In Sheffield, we are working in partnership with the Don Catchment Rivers Trust on their Heritage Lottery-funded improvements for Steel Bank, Kelham Island, Lady's Bridge, Norfolk Bridge and Brightside weirs, and with Sheffield City Council on their fish pass for Sanderson's weir. In Rotherham, a fish pass is planned for Ickles weir as part of a new waste to energy plant development. At Aldwarke weir a new hydropower plant will also include a fish pass.
- Yorkshire Water are working with ourselves and the Don Catchment Rivers Trust to identify fish pass options at Wharncliffe Side and Jordan's Dam on the River Don. Later in the year, weirs at Hempholme (River Hull), Battyford and Eastwood (River Calder), Crossflatts (River Aire) and Lobwood (River Wharfe) will also be studied, as will barriers upstream of Fewston and Langsett reservoirs. Where acceptable solutions are found these will be implemented over the next three years. Please direct queries regarding the projects to nick.lupton@yorkshirewater.co.uk
- Our naturalised bypass channel at Naburn weir, River Ouse, has been awarded the Sir John Fowler Award at the Yorkshire and Humber Institution of Civil Engineering Awards. The prize recognises excellence in civil engineering works. The bypass channel was designed to improve passage for migrating eels and lamprey.
- The Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust are progressing towards building flow deflectors to provide variety in the straightened canal-like section of the River Rother at Catcliffe. Work on site should begin in July/August, but we are still doing some work to ensure the project won't have any impact on flood risk.
- We are working with Chesterfield Borough Council to redirect the Doe Lea at Norbriggs back along its historic, meandering route, instead of the current straightened channel. Fish will benefit from a variety of depths and flows in the meandering channel, providing a greater range of habitats than would have been present before the work.



Income from the sale of rod licences helped pay for in-channel improvements on the Porter Brook following culvert removal and the construction of a new riverside park. The work was carried out by Sheffield City Council and the Wild Trout Trust.

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Biosecurity and Disease

- Our project with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to manage giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed on the Don, Aire and Calder catchments will be continuing through the coming year. To date, we have engaged over 150 landowners and have treated over 128 km of river.
- We are trialling a partnership with the River Stewardship Company to treat all Invasive Non-Native Species on our land on the lower River Don and River Aire. If successful, the scheme may be extended to other parts of Yorkshire.
- We are continuing our support for the Floating Pennywort Forum which co-ordinates the treatment of this species across Yorkshire. Membership includes the Canal and River Trust, the Calder & Colne Rivers Trust, the Don Catchment Rivers Trust and Yorkshire Water.



We have found demon shrimp in invertebrate samples from the River Ure, near Boroughbridge and Ripon. This invasive species has the potential to impact the aquatic invertebrate populations which form the base of the food chain in rivers. Once established in an area, there is little that can be done to remove them. The best defence to prevent its spread is to [check, clean and dry](#) clothes and equipment.

Enforcement

- Yorkshire Water has been fined £1.1 million for illegally discharging sewage into the River Ouse near York, and ordered to pay £27,000 costs. The Environment Agency prosecuted the company after discovering pollution in 2013.
- In January, February and March, our enforcement officers questioned 526 anglers with 31 being reported for fisheries offences. Over the same period, 24 reports were phoned through to the 0800 80 70 60 hotline relating to possible illegal fishing. We visited 29 locations during targeted enforcement carried out over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. 153 anglers were checked and 21 reported.
- We patrol rivers and the coast to target illegal fishing of salmon and sea trout and seize nets. Anyone caught illegally fishing or in possession of illegally-caught fish will face prosecution. Legally-caught fish carry an Environment Agency tag. It is against the law to handle, buy or sell wild salmon/sea trout caught by rod and line. We are visiting businesses to provide advice on how to identify illegally-caught fish.
- Police in North Yorkshire found a bucket containing live crayfish when searching a vehicle. Environment Agency staff identified them as non-native signal crayfish. It is illegal to transfer these between catchments. The driver pleaded guilty to handling crayfish. He was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £100 costs.

Please contact us for more information on any subject covered in this newsletter. Phone us on 03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri 8am to 8pm) or email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. Please report incidents to our 24 hour Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60.

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