

Make time to go fishing



Fisheries in Yorkshire February 2017

The Environment Agency collects angling match catch data from across England's rivers to provide additional data to our fisheries survey programmes. This is a voluntary scheme, requiring clubs to fill out a free-to-return postcard.

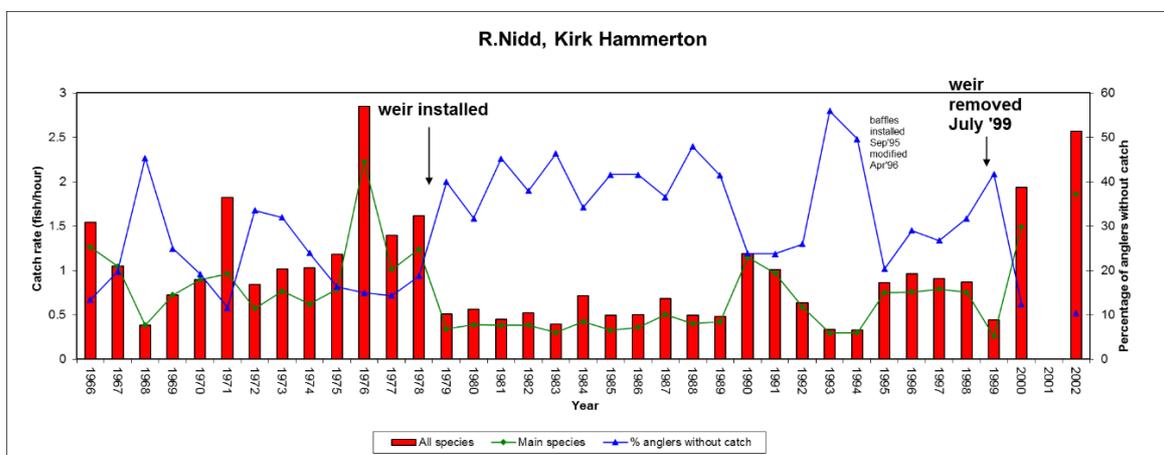
Match catch data can be used as supporting evidence for management decisions or as an indicator of change in fisheries. Time and time again it has been proven an invaluable source of data to paint a whole ecological picture.

We are keen to expand the number of clubs involved, particularly from the Aire, Calder, Don and Rother catchments. Ultimately your data can be used to improve your river.



We can provide a yearly summary to clubs who provide match cards through the year. This will highlight weights caught, the best performing stretches of a river, and which species of fish are most commonly caught. If your club is interested in taking part in the scheme please email [Sam Bartlett](mailto:Sam.Bartlett@ea.gov.uk) for more information.

As an example of how we can use your data, a flow gauging weir on the River Nidd was removed after match records confirmed that it was a major barrier to fish migration. The graph shows how the number of fish caught per hour dropped and the percentage of anglers without a catch increased after the weir was installed, and how the fishery improved after its removal.



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Have Your Say

- The Angling Trust West Yorkshire Forum in association with the Environment Agency is to be held on Tuesday 7 March at Brighouse Civic Hall, HD6 1RW. The free-to-attend meeting is open to all anglers and fishery owners. Tea/coffee will be served at 18:40 and the meeting begins at 19:00. Please [register](#) to attend and contact [Ian Shepherd](#) (07495 433613) to raise issues for discussion.

Working Together

- Our [Annual Fisheries Report](#) for 2015 to 2016 has been published, along with individual Area reports. In Yorkshire, we spent **£318,166** of Environment Agency funding on fisheries improvement project, which combined with **£478,054** spent by other organizations to make a total investment of **£796,220** in Yorkshire's fisheries. During the reporting year we removed two weirs and installed ten fish passes opening up 94 km of habitat or spawning ground. We responded to 25 fisheries incidents and three fish disease incidents. Please see the report for further details.
- We support the [getfishing.org.uk](#) website which lists angling events and fisheries to help people starting fishing for the first time or getting back into angling. Forthcoming events in Yorkshire include predator fishing academies at Hull & District Angling Association's Brough Complex. We also support the Angling Trust's [fishinginfo.co.uk](#) website for experienced anglers, where you can find a place to fish and check river levels.
- From March you will be able to buy your fishing licence online at [www.gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence](#), by phone on 0344 800 5386, or at your local Post Office.

Rivers

- We are currently preparing Fisheries Improvement Programme projects for 2017. This programme uses rod licence income to support habitat projects that will improve river fisheries. Please contact [Joanne Kay](#) (South & West Yorkshire) or [Paul Slater](#) (North & East Yorkshire) if you have a project and would like our help.
- Fisheries Improvement Programme projects are currently underway in the River Aire catchment. These include the installation of instream habitat, building stock-proof fencing, weir notching and bank repair. Sites include Kirby Beck and Gordale Beck as well as the Aire itself at Gargrave and Carleton. Bradford City Angling Association, Skipton Angling Association and the Wild Trout Trust are our partners.
- Design work for North York Moors National Park Authority's Egton Bridge fish pass project is being supported by Fisheries Improvement Programme.
- River restoration work has been completed on Elmswell Beck and Driffield trout stream, helped by the Fisheries Improvement Programme. The work was carried out by East Yorkshire Rivers Trust and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and included bank repairs, channel narrowing and gravel raking.

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- Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust have created five low lying berms and a backwater connected to the river at Catcliffe on the River Rother. The berms will improve habitat within the channel and also provide additional river's edge habitat. The backwater will allow fish to



shelter away from the main river channel. The Wildlife Trust secured funding from WREN for the project, as well as contributions from the Environment Agency. This section of river is fished by the Catcliffe, Treeton & Brinsworth Anglers Alliance.

- This easement at Lady's Bridge, River Don, Sheffield, is one of three completed by the Don Catchment Rivers Trust's Heritage Lottery funded 'Living Heritage of the River Don' project, in which we are partners. Two bottom baffle fish passes have also been completed.



- We carried out a fish rescue on Brough Beck as part of the Catterick Flood Alleviation Scheme. Trout and minor species were moved to facilitate some bed re-profiling work. The Flood Alleviation Scheme consists of a structure to restrict flow and the creation of some major earth banks.
- Stocking rivers with trout now requires fish to be sterile 'triploids' except where adult wild brood fish are obtained from the same river, reared in a fish farm and then stocked. Tanfield Angling Club (River Ure) have been stocking progeny from wild broodstock and we have providing advice to help plan future stocking.

- In December, we released the following fish, reared at our Calverton fish farm.

Tidal River Hull: 1,800 barbel, 1,500 chub, 1,500 bream, 750 dace

Non-tidal River Hull: 1,200 barbel, 2,000 chub, 1,500 bream, 750 dace

Middle Wharfe: 1,500 barbel

River Dearne: 1,050 barbel

Earlier in 2016, 8,000 grayling were released into the upper River Wharfe.



Stillwaters

RISING WATER TEMPERATURES IN SPRING CAN TRIGGER DISEASES IN FISH. PLEASE REPORT OUTBREAKS ON OUR 24hr HOTLINE 0800 80 70 60.

- Carr Vale Pond, near Bolsover, contacted us to tell us that a small number of carp had died and that other carp were unresponsive in the pond's margins. We sent a sample of carp to our National Fisheries Laboratory for analysis. Koi Herpes Virus disease has been ruled out. We will continue to work with the club as we investigate further.



- We are netting Patterson's Pond fishery, Mirfield, in February as we work with Thornhill Angling Club to investigate the performance of their fishery.
- Wire Mill Dam, Sheffield, suffered a fish kill in April due to a white spot infestation. We are now working with the angling club and Sheffield City Council to develop a management plan for the fishery, to reduce the risk of future outbreaks.

Enforcement

- In October, November and December 2016, our fisheries enforcement officers questioned 1,011 anglers with 45 being reported for fisheries offences. Over the same period, 28 reports were phoned through to the 0800 80 70 60 hotline which related to possible fisheries offences.
- Recent months have seen high penalties being imposed for fisheries offences committed by anglers resident in Yorkshire. These include:
 - **£1,858** after being found guilty of fishing without a licence. The case was proved in the angler's absence.
 - **£597** fine for fishing without a licence in the close season. This case was reported by a police officer.
 - **£427** for failing to provide a name and address to our enforcement officers. The case was proved in the angler's absence.
 - **£377** for an angler caught fishing without a licence by a police officer during Operation Traverse
- We have purchased a sonar unit to help us with fisheries enforcement. The sonar enables us to pinpoint the exact location of licenced and unlicensed traps and nets in rivers.

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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