

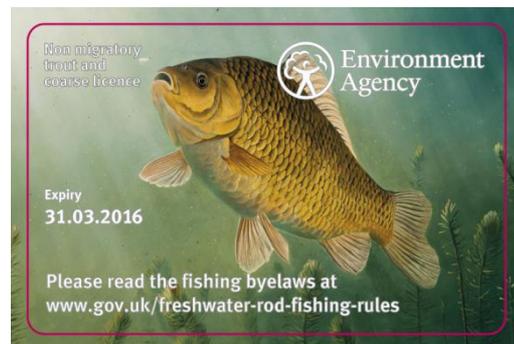
# Make time to go fishing



## Fisheries in Yorkshire

November 2015

This year, three sources of rod licence funding have been available to support fisheries project work by angling clubs or other organisations outside of the Environment Agency. A similar system is likely to be in place next year so please tell us your ideas by contacting [Claire Barrett-Mold](#) (West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire) or [Paul Slater](#) (North and East Yorkshire). We can then direct you to the relevant source of funding and help you develop your bid.



- **The River and Natural Fisheries Improvement Fund** can be used to improve coarse fish or trout habitats and stocks. It cannot be used to support projects on stocked or managed still waters, or projects aimed at salmon/sea trout. The money needs to be spent in partnership, with the total project value being at least double the amount being bid for from the fund. This can include 'in-kind contributions', which means you can count the time you spend volunteering on a project, or materials donated, as an equivalent cash value. Sadly though, you will not be able to count time spent developing the bid as an in-kind contribution.
- **The Trout Habitat Improvement Fund** is administered by the Wild Trout Trust (WTT). We have a long-standing partnership with the WTT, supporting their advisory visits, practical project development and 'trout in the town' work. The new fund helps pay for improvements to trout habitat identified during advisory visits, or for practical demonstration days to groups.
- **The Angling Improvement Fund** is administered by the Angling Trust and is open to all angling clubs and associations and commercial fisheries. Angling projects and other angling organisations are also welcome to apply. Applications are invited under a particular theme, for example 'Getting Kids into Fishing' or 'Protecting Fisheries from Predation'.

As part of our contract with the Angling Trust, the trust is also able to provide clubs and fishery owners with advice on how to identify and secure additional funding. [Andy Loble](#) is your Angling Trust Regional Officer for Yorkshire and Humber.

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## Have Your Say

- The South Yorkshire Fisheries Forum will take place at the Phoenix Sports and Social Club, Pavilion Lane, Rotherham, S60 5PA, on Wednesday 2 December at 18:45. The agenda includes discussion of the new ways that the Environment Agency is working with partners, including the Angling Trust. Mark Owen (Angling Trust, Head of Freshwater) will be presenting and answering your questions. The meeting is free and open for anyone to attend. Please let [John Cheyne](#) know if you have any suggestions for the agenda and book your place by going to <http://syorksforum2015.eventzilla.net>.

## Working Together

- You can use the [FishingInfo.co.uk](http://FishingInfo.co.uk) website to access the latest river level information. The mobile friendly website displays five days of Environment Agency river levels data with graphs and an interactive map. This free service replaces the premium-rate Rivercall phone line which closed on 1 November.
- Consultations on draft river basin management plans ran earlier this year. Summary response documents for each of the eight river basin districts, including our own Humber river basin district, are available [online](#) (or call 03708 506 506 for a hard copy).



Together with the Farming and Wildlife Partnership and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, we won the large scale habitat enhancement award at the Wild Trout Trust Conservation Awards with the Upper Aire Land Management and Habitat project. The award recognises the project as being an excellent example of a large government body successfully committing to and practicing true partnership working.

## Stillwaters

- Successful applicants to the **Angling Improvement Fund** this year have included two clubs from the Yorkshire & North Derbyshire area. Holme Brook Valley Park Angling Club, Chesterfield, received funding towards providing floating reed beds and coaching for juniors. Ayton Angling Association received a contribution towards improvements to their Larners Lake fishery, to encourage scouts and schoolchildren in North Yorkshire to take up fishing. Further details are available on the [Angling Trust](#) website.

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## Yorkshire's Rivers



'Low cost baffle' fish passes have been built on our River Laver gauging weir, Ripon (left) and on Eshton Beck weir (right) where the pass was built in partnership with the Canal and Rivers Trust.



- The Don Catchment Rivers Trust led 'Living Heritage of the River Don' project, in which we are partners, has recently been awarded 'Stage Two' funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Together with financial contributions from the Environment Agency, the Wild Trout Trust, Landfill Community Fund and Associated British Ports, a programme to improve fish passage on five weirs in Sheffield is now funded. Building work will begin next year.
- We are working with Yorkshire Water as they embark on a programme of fish passage improvements on several of their main river weirs. The work is funded by Yorkshire Water and approved by OfWat. We are also working with Yorkshire Water as they improve fish passage between reservoirs and their feeder streams, and on habitat improvements downstream of Ingbirchworth (River Don catchment) and Swinsty reservoirs (River Wharfe catchment).

A new culvert is being installed on Eller Beck as part of the Skipton flood alleviation scheme. Baffles on the base of the culvert will keep water deep enough for fish to swim through. They will also hold some gravel and natural bed material which will also ease fish passage. We have also provided funding to the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to carry out habitat improvements on Eller Beck as part of this project.



- We worked with the Wild Trout Trust and East Yorkshire Rivers Trust to run a demonstration day for landowners on the River Seph highlighting best practice woody debris management and how un-grazed buffer strips can benefit rivers. This was part of an ongoing project by the Derwent Catchment Partnership to carry out habitat improvement work in the North York Moors National Park, being paid for from Defra's Catchment Partnership Action Fund.
- The **Trout Habitat Improvement Fund** will be providing a contribution towards work on Eastburn Beck and the River Aire at Coniston. We will be working with the Wild Trout Trust and both projects complement the work of the Upper Aire Land Management and Habitat partnership.

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- The **River and Natural Fisheries Improvement Fund** is supporting Sheffield City Council's naturalisation of Porter Brook at Matilda Street and their search for further similar sites, where river restoration will benefit anglers. The Wild Trout Trust and SPRITE (Sheffield Partnership Rivers in Town Environment) are working with the council on this project.

## Biosecurity and Fish Disease



Several non-native sturgeon have been caught in the canals around Doncaster recently. Sturgeon should not be released into the wild as they can carry diseases which threaten native populations. There is also a welfare issue as captive fish may struggle to survive after release. Non-native fish can only be kept in fisheries under certain conditions and must be listed on the fishery's site permit. We inspect fisheries to ensure compliance with site permits.

- We are currently investigating numerous adult salmon and sea trout deaths on the River Esk that appear to be caused by fungal infection. This could be related to ongoing low river levels delaying the migration of these fish. We have collected a sample of affected fish and sent them to our National Fish Laboratory for analysis. Please contact [Pat O'Brien](#) for more information.

## Enforcement

- In July, August and September, our fisheries enforcement officers questioned 2,547 anglers with 274 being reported for various fisheries offences. Our patrols of the River Esk have resulted in the removal of ten illegal nets over the last four months.



We patrol the Yorkshire coastline to ensure that licensed netters are complying with local byelaws. Occasionally we find evidence of illegal netting, such as this net containing sea trout which had been hidden in undergrowth. We will prosecute where we have sufficient evidence and maintain a presence on the coast to deter potential offenders.

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](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk). Please report incidents to our 24 hour Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60.

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