

Make time to go fishing



Fisheries in Yorkshire

February 2015

Finding out more about fisheries enforcement



Booking is now open for a Fisheries Enforcement Workshop to be held at Coverdale House, York, on Saturday 9 May. Please contact [Paul Coulson](#) to book your place. The day long course will be delivered by experienced enforcement professionals and include sessions on the law, how fisheries enforcement works, general good practice, and the bigger picture of Rural & Wildlife Crime. Cost is £25 per person. A buffet lunch is included. Similar workshops have been successfully held across the country and are run in partnership by the Angling Trust, Institute of Fisheries Management, National Wildlife Crime Unit and ourselves.

We have also worked with our partners to write a [Best Practice Guide for Angling Club Bailiffs](#) and a [Guide to Fishery Law and Enforcement](#) (with the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science).

Have your say

- Our annual programme of fisheries forums begins on Tuesday 24 March at Brighthouse Civic Hall, from 6.45pm. This meeting will have a West Yorkshire focus and will be followed by events in North, East and South Yorkshire later in the year. Forums give you the chance to meet and talk to your local Environment Agency fisheries team as well as Angling Trust staff and volunteers. Wherever you live, you are welcome to attend any, or all, of the meetings. Items on the March agenda include an update from the Aire and Calder Partnership, a talk about the Riverfly Partnership and the usual updates from the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust. Please contact John Cheyne on 07794 234546 to book your place.

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Working together

- [Andy Loble](#) is the Angling Trust's Regional Officer for Yorkshire and Humber. Andy will be helping County Angling Action Groups to run angling participation events across the region. We part-fund the Angling Trust's Regional Officers to help promote angling.
- We regulate hydropower schemes on our rivers. This includes ensuring screening and fish passage provision follow best practice. Proposals for new schemes appear on our list of [applications for abstracting or impounding water](#) following a period of confidential pre-application discussion with applicants. Notices are displayed for 28 days and you have an opportunity to comment if you are concerned about a proposal. Hydropower schemes also require planning permission so you can also send comments to the local planning authority. Proposed plans will be available to view on local authority planning websites.



If you catch a salmon or sea trout in the Don, Aire, Rother, Dearne, Calder or Colne please let [Neil Trudgill](#) know where and when you caught it, along with its length and weight. Close-up photos, especially of the head, tail and fins will help him confirm the species. Three or four scales, taken from the area shown, will also tell us a lot about the fish. Please use tweezers to remove the scales if possible. Your information will help us track how fish passes are helping these fish return to our rivers.

- A training course will be held at East Riddlesden Hall, near Keighley, on Saturday 7 March to train new volunteers in sampling and recording techniques used by the [Riverfly Partnership](#). Please contact [Joanna Hood](#) for more information or to book your place. Riverfly data supplements our monitoring programme and helps guide future investigative work. The partnership is a network of nearly 100 organisations working together to protect the water quality of our rivers, further the understanding of riverfly populations and actively conserve riverfly habitats.
- A new phone app is being developed which will act as a free electronic logbook for recording your fishing experiences and help us map the distribution and health of wild freshwater and marine fish. You can help by completing a [five minute survey](#) about the data you would like to record. The app is being developed by the Angling Trust, ourselves and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science. More information is on the [Angling Trust website](#).

Stillwaters

- We helped Phoenix and Parkgate Angling Club rescue fish after a dam wall sprang a leak at Ravenfield Ponds, Rotherham. The fish are being held in another pond on site whilst repairs are carried out. We have also recently netted Lewden Springs Fishery, Barnsley, to help the new owner assess stock levels and plan future management, as well as helping Leeds and District Amalgamated Society of Anglers survey Polo Pond at Kippax Park. We have provided fisheries management advice to a number of fisheries, including Holmebrook Park, Chesterfield, and Williamthorpe Ponds, both near Chesterfield. Please contact [Joanne Kay](#) (South & West Yorkshire) or [Tom Pagett](#) (North & East Yorkshire) if you would like our help at your fishery.

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Yorkshire's rivers



New baffles on our gauging weir at Crakehill, River Swale, have improved upstream fish passage, shown above, before (left) and after (right) installation. In 2015 we plan to work with the Don Catchment Rivers Trust to install baffles on two weirs on the River Dearne, and with the Canal and Rivers Trust and Aire Rivers Trust to install baffles on Eshton Beck, near Gargrave. We also plan to install baffles on our gauging weir near the confluence of the River Laver with, the River Ure, Ripon. This will complement the recent removal of a redundant Yorkshire Water weir at Laverton on the River Laver by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, for which we funded the initial feasibility study.

- Work is due to start later this year on two new collapsible weirs to replace Crown Point (pictured) and Knostrop weirs. This is part of the [Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme](#). Both weirs will include fish passes. The work also involves the removal of the island separating the canal from the river, upstream of Knostrop weir. Elsewhere, in the next few months, we are looking to partially remove Beeley Wood Lower weir and Ward End weirs in Sheffield, as well as working with the Aire Rivers Trust to partially remove Newlay Lower weir, Leeds.
- Fish passes have been designed for Brightside and Steel Bank weirs on the River Don, as part of the Don Catchment Rivers Trust led 'Living Heritage of the Don' partnership project. We are also working with Sheffield City Council as they begin design work on Sanderson's weir.
- By the end of March we will have completed work on eel passage improvement works at Naburn weir (River Ouse), Market Weighton lock and Barmston Sea Outfall. We are also working with the University of Durham to monitor the effectiveness of studded tiles to help lamprey migrate through the fish pass at Buttercrambe weir (River Derwent).
- This year we will be beginning a five-year programme to restore the River Rother's grayling population. We will be releasing young-of-the-year grayling bred at our fish farm in Calverton into the river in Chesterfield.



We have worked with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust to improve habitat in West Beck and Eastburn Beck, near Driffield. Gravel riffles have been created and the channel narrowed using willow, flow deflectors and large pieces of wood.

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Biosecurity

- Demon shrimp have been found for the first time in Yorkshire. Surveys on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal have shown it to be widely present from Skipton to Bradford. We are surveying the River Aire to see if it has entered the river system. The most likely route of this invasion is from the Lancashire end of the same canal where it is already well established. Demon shrimp is an invasive non-native species and a threat to native shrimps, other invertebrates, eggs and small fish. You can help stop the spread of invasives by following the [check, clean, dry](#) procedure.
- A new website is being launched which will provide maps of the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) across Yorkshire. INNS Mapper will use data from the [Plant Tracker](#) app to provide up-to-date maps. The website is being launched at the Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield on 12 March. Please [register](#) to book your place. INNS Mapper has been developed by the Yorkshire Invasive Species Forum – the Environment Agency, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Calder & Colne Rivers Trust.

Enforcement

- During October, November and December 2014 our enforcement officers questioned 825 anglers and reported 53 for various fisheries offences. During the same period we dealt with 12 illegal fishing reports made to our 24 hour hotline 0800 807060.
- We have carried out checks on the condition of screens at two fisheries, one wishing to stock F1 carp and the other wishing to stock ide. We need to check that screening is in place to prevent these fish from escaping into rivers, where they could compete with native species. The Import of Live Fish Act 1980 has now been replaced by new legislation, but we will need to continue to carry out screen checks before we can authorise stocking of non-native fish under the new system.
- Members of Skipton Angling Association reported an angler they suspected of fishing without a licence to a passing police officer who took his details and sent a statement to us, knowing that we work with other organisations to protect our fisheries. We took the case to court. The angler was found guilty, fined £175 and ordered to pay costs of £127.47 and a victim surcharge of £20.
- We are carrying out boat patrols in the tidal Ouse to check compliance with trap designs and licence tags in the river lamprey fishery.
- Government introduced new rules for fish suppliers and fishery owners in England in January. The regulations will continue to protect fisheries and the wider environment from the risks of spreading damaging non-native fish species and fish diseases, and the consequences of inappropriate stocking. Each stocked fishery now needs a site permit, on which we may condition, for example, health checking, screening of inlets or outlets, or removal of non-native fish. Fish suppliers will need issued a supplier permit and must carry a consignment note when transporting fish. Please contact our [fish movements team](#) for more information (01480 483968).
- As part of the new fish movement regulations all brown trout stocked into rivers and online stillwaters must now be infertile triploids or reared from wild broodstock. [Ian Dolben](#) examines the reasons behind this in his [blog](#).

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