



INSTITUTE OF
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

**Be Pro-Active: Do's and
Don't of Fisheries
Management During a
Drought**

OHES Environmental



Presented by Andy Went

Being Proactive - The Do's and Don'ts

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You've recognised your fishery is at risk...

What's next?

- Use your risk assessment to guide your fisheries management decisions.
- Integrated drought planning into your Fishery Management Plan
- Create an Emergency Plan



What management tools (in practical terms) are at hand for the fishery owners?

- **Managing Angling Impact**
- **Managing Water Quality**
- **Managing Suitable Fish Stock Levels**
- **Managing Aquatic Weed**
- **Managing Riparian Input**

to name a few.....



Managing angling pressures to reduce fish stress during extreme weather conditions

What practical measures are there....

- Manage angling pressures (reduce numbers or match schedule close ponds/lake, restrict numbers of rods used)
- Limit bait and groundbait use (ban groundbaits and bait from bait boats, restrict use of some baits)
- Introduce keepnet and carp sack bans (catch and release only)
- Limit methods of fishing permitted (i.e. ban method fishing)

I'm sure there are many more.....



Managing Water Quality...

I would say this is the most important factor of them all

- Know your water: Monitor water parameters (depths, temperatures, DO%)
- Manage fish stock levels (correct stocking densities)
- Control nutrient inputs into the fishery (bait limits, run-off interception, wildfowl faeces)
- Be prepared with emergency equipment (aeration, pumps, H₂O₂)
- Discuss with you local EA fisheries Officer (devise a plan)
- Manage aquatic and bankside vegetation (regular tree and vegetation management)



Managing Suitable Fish Stock Levels...

The basis of all good fishery management practices...

- Manage fish stock to suit the fishery
- Select the fish species/sizes to suit
- Regularly crop unwanted fish stocks to maintain sustainable levels and promote health and growth
- Do not overstock the fishery

By not addressing the above then you will leave your fishery more susceptible to extreme weather impacts if and when they happen



Managing Aquatic Weed and Bankside Vegetation

Consider simple vegetation management...

- Manage submerged weed impacts (DO +ve and –ve)
- Manage trees and leaf litter
- Increase marginal vegetation (+ve impacts on nutrient levels)
- Install floating islands (+ve impact of nutrients)
- Control algae levels (barley straw, ultra-sonics, H₂O₂)



Managing Riparian Inputs....

What do I mean by riparian inputs?

- Direct run-off (road drainage, building sites, agricultural/farmland etc..)
- Tree/leaf litter
- Surface water discharges (& STW discharges)
- Septic tanks
- Slurry tanks
- Pesticide/fertiliser inputs
- Industrial input (cooling water etc..)



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It's all in the preparation!

Any Questions?

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