

# Make time to go fishing



## Fisheries in Yorkshire

**August 2014**

### **New rules on brown trout stocking into rivers from 2015**

In 2007 we adopted a target to reduce the stocking of fertile, farm bred brown trout into rivers and eliminate it totally by 2015. By 2012 the reduction in diploid stocking was 64% for England.

We have funded a three year study at the University of Stirling which aimed to increase our knowledge of triploid brown trout and provide answers to remaining concerns from stakeholders.



### **Have your say**

On Thursday 2 October, the Environment Agency and Angling Trust East will be hosting their joint Yorkshire Fisheries Forum at Beverley Conservative Club from 6:30pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to come along and discuss the issues that matter to you. Numbers will be limited due to room size, so if you would like to come please contact John Cheyne ([John.Cheyne@Anglingtrust.net](mailto:John.Cheyne@Anglingtrust.net)) to book your place.

In September 2014, we will be launching our River Basin Management Plan and Flood Risk Management Plans consultation running until March 2015. Let us know what you think about the courses of action we have proposed. Your views will help us decide which issues need to work on first.

### **Working together**

- Angling Trust, Environment Agency, Met Office and Post Office have developed [www.fishinginfo.co.uk](http://www.fishinginfo.co.uk) - a new website providing information on where to fish; angling coaches and events; angling weather conditions and data on river levels.

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- River Hull and Derwent Angling Championships 2014

Once again, we have joined forces with the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust and East Riding of Yorkshire Council's events team to deliver two days of match fishing on the rivers Yorkshire Derwent and Hull. This event which also allows us to survey the status of coarse fish stocks is in its fourth year. Unlike in the previous years the matches are hosted on separate days: River Hull Championship is being contested on Saturday 27 September and the Derwent Championship on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Anglers are welcome just to fish one day, however there are prizes for the best placed anglers after both rounds of the competition. Tickets are on sale now in tackle shops in Hull, York and Leeds. Tickets are £5 and must be bought before the competition.

## Stillwaters



We respond to reports of fish in distress and take samples for our National Fish Disease Laboratory where disease is suspected. [Pete Turner](#) holds a carp collected during a recent health check sample netting. In this case, no disease was discovered.

If you see fish in distress, please **report it to us through our 24 hour hotline 0800 80 70 60.**

## Yorkshire's rivers



We have worked with the owners of the Oughtibridge Mill site on the River Don over many years to reduce the impact of their abstraction on Ewden Beck (pictured). This September, the weir will be removed.

Other current fish pass projects include:

- Removal of Beeley Wood weir on the River Don.
- Recently completed fish passes at Burley Mills and St Annes Mills on the River Aire. We were partners in this Aire Rivers Trust led, Defra funded project, along with Leeds City Council.
- Working with the Don Catchment Rivers Trust and match funding their Heritage Lottery project to improve fish passage in Sheffield city centre.
- Providing technical advice and support to Sheffield City Council at Sanderson's Weir.
- Funding and project managing the installation of baffles on Eshton Beck weir (Aire catchment), in partnership with the Canal & Rivers Trust.
- Building fish passes on our gauging weirs at Crake Hill (River Swale) and Mallory Weir (River Laver) and a bypass channel for lamprey at Naburn weir (River Ouse)

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A new larinier fish pass has recently been installed at Goldsborough Mill on the River Nidd as a condition of the new hydropower scheme at the site.



Major habitat improvement projects are finished on the River Laver and Kex system and Bishopdale Beck, which are tributaries of the River Ure. The projects include new fencing, tree planting and measures to address bank erosion. The work was carried out by the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust working in partnership with us.

## Biosecurity



We surveyed a stillwater fishery following a report of topmouth gudgeon made to us by a member of the public. We were able to confirm this invasive species was not present. **Please help protect our fisheries by reporting invasive fish to us on our 24 hour hotline 0800 80 70 60.**

## Pollution and fish kills



Our officers were on site and liaising with the fire brigade and site owners during the recent fire at Ferrybridge C Power Station which sits alongside the River Aire near Castleford. Water used to fight the fire is being stored within the power station's cooling system and we're helping the company determine how best they can dispose of it without harming the environment.



Environment Agency officers were on site and liaising with Hull City Council following a fish kill in Hull's Victoria Dock. Sixteen hundred fish, mainly roach, succumbed to depleted oxygen levels as a result of the recent hot and thundery weather.

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## Enforcement

- During April, May and June 2014 our enforcement officers questioned 2,407 anglers with 195 anglers being reported for fisheries offences. Patrols during the coarse fish close season resulted in 18 'fishing out of season' offences being reported. If you suspect illegal fishing to be taking place please report it to our 24 hour hotline 0800 807060.
- Prior to 1 April 2014 it was legal to import carp from Israel for stocking into fisheries. Due to concerns over the possibility that Israeli carp could introduce KHV into our fisheries, Defra have introduced a new control under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Regulation 18 requires that fish that are imported with the intention of their introduction into the wild can only originate from approved KHV disease free sources and cannot be vaccinated against the disease. As there are currently no sites that meet these criteria in Israel, there have been no imports of carp for stocking into fisheries since April.



One of our fisheries officers checking a rod licence this summer

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