

Make time to go fishing



Fisheries in Yorkshire

November 2014

Protecting our rivers

The River Don and its tributaries have suffered a number of serious pollution incidents during 2014. These have included contaminated water run-off that has been used to fight waste fires, as well as oil pollution unrelated to any known event. We treat all reports of pollution seriously. Please report any pollution to our 24 hour hotline 0800 80 70 60.

When we receive a report of a pollution incident we will send officers to the scene to verify the report. Where appropriate we will deploy equipment to contain the pollution, such as placing booms on the river. We will try to trace the pollution to its source and stop any more entering the river. We may carry out formal surveys to record the numbers of any dead fish, and monitoring to determine the effect on the river's fish and invertebrates.



Where we have evidence that a criminal offence has occurred, we will consider the appropriate [enforcement response](#) which may involve taking the case to court. Our monitoring data can be used to work out a restocking plan, if needed.

Away from immediate incident response, our work includes visiting sites with the potential to pollute to ensure that in the event of a spill, pollution can be contained and dealt with on site. As well as generally improving the quality of our rivers, our fish passage and habitat improvement work helps to ensure that fish populations are better able to either avoid polluted reaches or can recover in number more quickly following major fish kills.

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Have your say

- Come and talk to us, along with the Angling Trust, at the Yorkshire Fisheries Forum on Wednesday 3 December at the Phoenix Sports and Social Club, Rotherham from 6:30pm. Ian Harrison will be attending to speak about his work leading our team investigating pollution incidents in South Yorkshire. There will also be time to discuss any other fisheries matters that you would like to talk to us about. Please contact [John Cheyne](#) to book your place.
- A number of consultations are currently open. Please tell us your thoughts on:
 - River Basin Management Plans, which consider issues with, and actions to improve, the water environment. Please comment [online](#) before 10 April 2015.
 - Flood Risk Management Plans, which consider proposals to reduce flood risk for communities and deal with the impacts of flooding when it does occur. Please comment [online](#) before 31 January 2015.
- We will soon be consulting on a new byelaw requiring coastal netters to remain with their nets whilst fishing. Please contact [Amanda Green](#) for more information.

Working together

- You can read our [catchment summaries](#) to find out more about improvements in the water environment across Yorkshire. These will help you respond to our consultation on River Basin Management Plans (see 'Have your say', above).
- Our Flood and Coastal Risk Management teams will be carrying out work on trees to reduce the risk of flooding to rivers across Yorkshire, starting from the end of October. Work is carried out in consultation with ecology and fisheries officers, as well as local angling clubs. Please contact [Oliver Saunders](#) for more information.



The EYevents East Yorkshire Angling Championships took place this autumn, with the results adding to our knowledge of fish populations in the River Hull and River Derwent. Nigel Hirst (pictured) was overall champion, catching 8.930 kg on the Hull and 3.880 kg on the Derwent. The event is run by the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust in partnership with the Environment Agency.

- Don't forget to check www.fishinginfo.co.uk for information on where to fish, angling coaches and events, weather and river levels.
- Follow our fisheries, biodiversity and geomorphology team on Twitter for frequent updates on our work (@PeteTurnerEA, @CBarrettMoldEA).

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Stillwaters

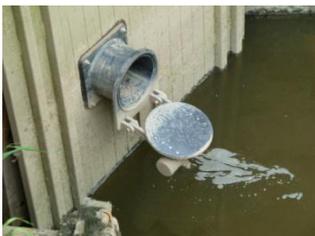


We provide a free fishery management advice service. If you would like to speak to us about your fishery please call us on 03708 506 506. As part of this service, we will be netting Woodhall Pond, Leeds, and Lewden Fishery near Barnsley after their owners told us about declining catches. We will look at species, numbers and growth rates in the ponds and use the data to plan future management.

- We will be stocking crucian carp into selected ponds in East Yorkshire as part of a national programme to provide safe havens for this threatened species. The fish have all been bred at our Nottinghamshire fish farm.

Yorkshire's rivers

- This winter we will be stocking 2,250 juvenile barbel into the River Dearne, the second year of our six-year programme to help restore the river's barbel stocks. We are also releasing 1,000 barbel into the River Aire, the last of six years of stocking for this river. We will monitor the population using electric fishing to see how successful stocking has been and decide whether further management action is needed.
- We are working with the Aire Rivers Trust to remove part of Newlay Lower weir (River Aire, Leeds) to improve fish passage past the structure.



We are installing 'pet flaps' on some of our tidal flap valves, such as at Nun Appleton, River Wharfe (pictured). These allow an extended period of access for eels and other fish when the main tidal flaps are closed.



We are using studded tiles to help eels climb over some of our gauging weirs, such as on the River Kyle, Newton-on-Ouse.



We have carried out a series of electric fishing surveys on the River Wharfe to map the distribution of salmon parr and establish the impact of barriers along the river. Salmon were found as far upstream as Otley. None were found upstream of the Otley weir.

- We have built nine angling platforms at Barmby Barrage, River Derwent, following requests from local anglers and the East Yorkshire Fisheries Consultative Committee. These platforms were paid for project funds dedicated to improvements on the Derwent.
- We helped the East Yorkshire Rivers Trust by moving fish away from habitat improvement works in progress on Elmsall Beck, East Yorkshire. Low water levels at the time combined with increased sediment could have harmed the fish without our joint intervention.

Biosecurity

- The discovery in October of [quagga mussels](#) in the south of England is a reminder of how important it is to [check, clean and dry](#) tackle and clothing. This mussel is a highly invasive non-native species which can form very densely packed colonies. It can bring about blooms of toxic blue green algae by feeding on other types of algae that naturally compete with the blue greens. Mussel larvae are not visible to the naked eye so the 'dry' stage is very important in preventing their spread.
- In 2014, rust fungus was released at four locations in Berkshire, Surrey and Cornwall, to control Himalayan balsam. More releases are planned for next year. Himalayan balsam probably won't die out completely but it is likely to be weakened, allowing native species to re-colonise.

Enforcement

- During July, August and September 2014 our enforcement officers questioned 2,549 anglers and reported 154 for various fisheries offences. During the same period we dealt with 78 illegal fishing reports made to our 24 hour hotline 0800 807060. Prosecutions include two anglers found guilty of fishing without a licence. The cases were proved in absence and each was fined £350, with £127 costs and £20 victim surcharge.
- This year we have received an unprecedented number of complaints regarding the licensed salmon and sea trout nets operating along the coast. These have included discarded catches and in one case a report of a dog becoming entangled in an unattended net. We are currently reviewing potential evidence to determine whether any offences have been committed before deciding on the appropriate course of action.

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

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