

# Annual fisheries report 2014 to 2015

## Yorkshire Area

### This Environment Agency area report comprises:

- a selection of projects from 2014 to 2015 which have benefited fisheries and delivered positive outcomes
- a summary of fish pass installations and obstruction removals in the area
- a summary of all fisheries projects including partnership work

### 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.

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.

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.

During January, February and March 2015 our enforcement officers questioned 1,246 anglers and reported 118 for various fisheries offences. During the same period we dealt with 21 illegal fishing reports made to our 24-hour incident hotline.

### Crucian carp and angling participation

We developed a stocking plan for the pond at Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet, managed by Education for Angling and Sheffield Council. Necessary repairs to the dam head meant it had to be drained and the fish removed. Crucian carp were the first species to be introduced by us from our fish farm at Calverton, and to protect them from cross breeding it has been agreed that no carp will be stocked into the fishery. Later in the year the Council sourced further fish to get the fishery back up and running.



## Weir removals (fish passage and habitat restoration)

We funded and led a project to remove Newlay Lower (Leeds) weir on the River Aire, with support from the Aire Rivers Trust. Similarly, on the River Don we removed a section of Ward End weir (Sheffield). A section of weir was left standing as a visible reminder of the city's industrial heritage. Both removals have provided free passage for fish and restored upstream habitat (benefiting fish and invertebrates). We also influenced the removal of a large weir by Oughtibridge Mill on Ewden Beck at its confluence with the River Don.



## Habitat improvements

Major habitat improvement projects were undertaken on the River Laver and Kex system and Bishopdale Beck, which are tributaries of the River Ure. The projects included 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.



## Fish passage

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



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03708 506 506

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0345 988 1188

## Fish passes/obstructions

In 2014 to 2015 we removed 4 weirs and installed 7 fish passes - 6 for multi-species and one for eel. This opened up 77.5km of habitat for fish.

### Summary of projects delivering fisheries benefits

£ Below is a summary of projects we have delivered, together with a list of other environmental improvement projects that have helped to deliver benefits to Fisheries; many in conjunction with our partners. We have included the time of our fisheries officers in the funding considerations for the projects below as their posts are funded by rod licence income. Considerable amounts of their time and expertise has been provided for the projects. Many projects will receive funding from government or from other parts of the Environment Agency e.g. flooding, the Environment Programme or Water Framework Directive budgets however where contribution has included rod licence income, this has been noted.

Project Title	Outcome or benefit	EA Funding (£)	Match funding (£)	Total Cost
River stocking	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.			
River Stocking	We are also releasing 1,000 barbel into the River Aire, the last of six years of stocking for this river.			
Rodley fish pass and habitat scheme (bypass channel) on River Aire	Yorkshire Water led partnership. About 12km upstream river opened up, and 150m of new river habitat created Including planting and successful monitoring of the pass	£25K	>£500K	
Newlay lower weir on River Aire	Weir removal - created diverse river habitat, previously ponded by the weirs, as well as providing fish passage.	£11k		
Ward End weir on River Don	Weir removal - created diverse river habitat, previously ponded by the weirs, as well as providing fish passage.	£56k		
Ewden Beck weir on River Don system	Weir removal - created diverse river habitat, previously ponded by the weirs, as well as providing fish passage.	£staff time		
Broomhead weir on upper River Don system	All weir removals, so created diverse river habitat, previously ponded by the weirs, as well as providing fish passage. Deliver in partnership with Yorkshire Water.	£11k		
Crakehill	1 LCB fish pass and 1 eel pass installed			
Sprotborough weir on River Don	Large Larinier baffle fish pass and eel pass delivered in partnership with Canal & Rivers Trust, along	~£450K (includes DEFRA	~£50K	~£500K

	with other local partners.	funds)		
Naburn eel and lamprey pass	Eels and lamprey will now be able to successfully navigate the barrier of Naburn weir, and access the upstream reaches of the River Ouse. The Environment Agency has therefore successfully upheld its responsibility under the Eel Regulations	80K		
Cock Beck eel pass	Investigations into improved access for eels to Cock Beck; compliance with the Eel Regs	11K		
Selby dam eel pass	Improve passage for elvers to Selby Dam; compliance with the Eel Regs	160K		
Linton Bridge eel pass	Improved eel passage; compliance with the Eel Regs	23.3K		
Watton Beck eel pass	Investigations into improved access to Watton Beck; currently eel can only access the watercourse at certain times. Compliance with the Eel Regs	10K		
Buttercrambe eel pass	Improved access for eels and lampreys over Buttercrambe Weir. Compliance with the Eel Regs	26.3K		
Bishopdale Beck Project	1.460 km of stock-proof riparian fencing erected and 100 trees planted – habitat improvement.	15K		
Crakehill fish easement – River Swale	Improved fish passage for coarse fish and eels.	50K		
Crucian Carp Ark Site Creation	Source of genetically pure Crucian Carp, conservation of a red list species	2K		
Doing more for the Derwent - Buttercrambe lamprey monitoring	To use Durham university's lamprey tagging trial to see whether the recently installed eel tiles allow River lamprey to ascend the previously impassable fish pass; this will allow the species to penetrate further up the Derwent to spawning areas	10K	20K	
Wilfolme pumping station eel pass feasibility project	To review the feasibility of improving passage for eels into Beverley and Barmston Drain	2.7K		
Filey Sea Bird By-catch Project	Enhanced reputation; this fishery is now seen an example of best practice by Natural England who have used it at other marine sites.	5K	6.3K	
River Hull Headwater RSA Restoration Project	Channel narrowing, raising riffles, creation of a backwater and well as soft engineering downstream of the intake weir to the fish farm	50K	12K	

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River Laver Fish Pass Project – weir removal at Laverton	Improved fish passage and access to the rest of the Latham catchment	25K	250K (wider fish passage scheme fund)	
Ruswarp Weir Hydroacoustic Fish Passage Study	Enhanced knowledge and understanding of the interactions between Sea Trout, the fish pass and hydropower	35K	5K	
Holme House Farm Eel Pass project – River Foulness	Installation of elver tile pass	10K		

**LIT 10380**