

Make time to go fishing



Fisheries in Yorkshire September 2016

Are you prepared for summer?

It's important that fishery owners take action now to minimise the risks to fish. Fishery owners need to prepare in advance of a heat wave, particularly if their water(s) have been prone to problems in the past. Fish suffer when oxygen levels are low and warm water holds less oxygen than colder water can.

For club waters, it might be a good idea for members to meet and agree an action plan. This could include organising a rota for checking on the fish early in the morning when dissolved oxygen levels are at their lowest. The plan may also include the bringing in of temporary measures, such as banning keepnets in spells of prolonged hot weather. If you do not have aeration devices such as paddlewheels, do you know where you could obtain a small water pump from? If only carp appear to be affected, and other species appear to be behaving normally, it could be a notifiable disease like Koi herpesvirus (KHV). Please be aware that it is an offence not to report a notifiable disease

If you do see signs of fish in distress, such as fish gasping for air, please report it to our Freephone **incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60**.

Have Your Say



We are working with Natural England to enable fish to pass Howsham Weir, River Derwent. Fish passage here will improve populations by allowing them to move freely to breeding, nursery, or feeding grounds.

The river and weir at Howsham are popular with canoeists and anglers so installing fish passage could affect these activities. We would like to hear your views on a series of options, and will work with representatives of interested groups to assess options before deciding on detailed design.

For more details see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/howsham-weir-fish-passage-consultation>

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- The Angling Trust East Yorkshire Forum, in association with the Environment Agency, is to be held on Wednesday 14 September at Blackburn Leisure Social Club, Prescott Avenue, Brough, East Yorkshire (HU15 1BB). Teas & Coffee will be served from 6:45pm, with the meeting starting at 7:15pm. This meeting is open to all anglers and fishery owners and is free to attend. For more details contact [lan Shephard](#)

Working Together

- The [Humber River Basin Management Plan](#) has been published. River basin management plans set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment.
- [Salmon stocks and fisheries in England and Wales in 2015](#) is now published. Annual reports on the status of salmon stocks and fisheries in England and Wales have been produced since 1997. These reports present a preliminary assessment for the latest year to assist in the management of Atlantic salmon stocks.
- Our [national fish survey data](#), up to 2014, are now freely available. You can use these data to learn more about how we operate, to carry out your research or build applications and services.
- The Angling Trust is inviting applications for a share of the £200,000 [Angling Improvement Fund](#) to help projects improve 'access for all' at fisheries. The money has come from rod licence sales in England and the fund is supported by the Environment Agency. The closing date is 6 September. The funding is open to inclusive projects seeking to increase participation by anglers who are currently prevented or discouraged due to poor access facilities in and around the fishery. Preference will be given to projects that address obstacles faced by people with physical, sensory, or learning impairments, or to those with long-term health conditions.

Disease and Biosecurity

Koi herpesvirus (KHV) is a very damaging and easily spread virus that affects common carp and carp varieties such as koi. Outbreaks of the disease occur in summer, when water temperatures are high, and can kill between 20 per cent and 100 per cent of carp in a fishery. KHV outbreaks have been confirmed at stillwaters in North, South and West Yorkshire, and locations are publicised on the [Gov.uk](#) website.

Dirty and wet fishing equipment (nets and unhooking mats) can spread diseases, including KHV, so disinfection is vital. There are two main ways of disinfecting fishing tackle. The first is to thoroughly dry equipment after fishing, preferably in direct

sunlight. If this is not practical, then a chemical disinfectant can be used. These include iodine-based disinfectants (iodophores) and Virkon®.



If net dips are used, make sure the chemicals are fresh and that anglers use them correctly. Be careful not to allow disinfectant to spill into the fishery. For the best possible protection, only allow anglers to use nets, weigh slings or unhooking mats supplied by the fishery. Please contact [Joanne Kay](#) (South and West Yorkshire) or [Pat O'Brien](#) (North and East Yorkshire) if you would like more advice.

Rivers

- We regulate hydropower and approve the design of fish passes associated with the developments. Work has started on hydropower schemes and fish passes at Chapel Haddesley Weir, River Aire, Altofts weir and Kirkthorpe weir on the River Calder, Aldwarke on the River Don, and Otley on the River Wharfe.
- Work has begun on fish passes at Steelbank and Brightside weirs on the River Don, as part of the Don Catchment Rivers Trust's 'Living Heritage of the River Don' project. The project has received Heritage Lottery funding and the Environment Agency are partners and funders. Further easements are to be built at Kelham Island, Lady's Bridge and Norfolk Bridge. Contributions have also been received from the Wild Trout Trust, Biffa Award, Yorkshire Water and Sheffield-based company, Gripple Ltd.



Low Mill weir on the River Wharfe at Addingham is a flow gauging station important for the forecasting of floods, and the management of water abstraction. We plan to install a new, efficient fish pass in 2017 (illustrated left).

- In partnership with the Wild Trout Trust, we are modifying up to eight weirs on Eastburn Beck in the Aire Catchment to improve access and habitat.
- Southburn Beck and Driffield Trout Stream in East Yorkshire are tributaries of the River Hull. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are working in partnership with us to restore over 2 km of the river and create and restore 9 hectares of wetlands. Habitat improvements here will help restore the River Hull Headwaters Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI).

- We are working on a number of habitat improvement projects at the moment. These include improving river banks on the River Aire (with the Wild Trout Trust) and along the River Nidd near Richmond (with Nidderdale Area of Natural Beauty, Yorkshire Water, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust and Natural England); as well as). On the River Went, we are installing woody debris with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Ackworth School, and the Wild Trout Trust.
- EA fisheries staff undertook a fish rescue on the River Rye near Helmsley at a section that dries up. On the 19 July, 430 Brown trout between 8 and 45 cm were rescued, 125 grayling of similar size were rescued alongside a combined total of 1,400 stone loach, minnow, brook lamprey and bullhead.



13,000 grayling were released into the River Rother, Chesterfield, in June. This is the second year of a five-year stocking programme. Grayling would once have been native to the River Rother but industrial pollution is likely to have caused local extinction of the species. The three-month old grayling all came from our fish farm in Nottinghamshire, funded by income from the sale of rod licences.

Enforcement



In April, May, and June we questioned 2,324 anglers in Yorkshire and reported 187 for various fisheries offences. Two offenders were recently in court, and in addition to being found guilty, they were fined a combined total of over £850. The money from rod licence sales is invested back in to fisheries work.

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. Please report incidents to our 24 hour Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60.

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