

Make time to go fishing



Fisheries in Yorkshire Summer 2017



Every summer stillwater fisheries suffer disease outbreaks. These can cause the deaths of thousands of fish and impact on the businesses or angling clubs that run them.

With recent milder winters and fluctuating spring temperatures we are seeing an increase in the number of disease outbreaks. Parasites and other forms of disease multiply in the warming water at a faster rate than the fish's immune response can cope with. The stresses of spawning can also lead to infection.

Diseased fish become sluggish or gasp at the surface, or they may have physical symptoms such as white patches along their bodies. This leads to a reduction in catch rates. You can get expert support on managing fish health by contacting our [fish health team](#).

If you see dead or diseased fish please ring our Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60

Koi herpesvirus (KHV) is a very damaging and easily spread virus that affects common carp and varieties such as koi. Outbreaks occur in summer, when water temperatures are high. Anything up to 100 per cent of the carp population may die from KHV. Outbreaks of the virus are publicised on the [gov.uk website](#).

Dirty and wet fishing equipment 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.

Reel experts buy online
gov.uk/get-a-fishing-licence

Are you prepared for summer?



We are advising fishery owners to prepare in advance of any further heatwaves, particularly if their water(s) have had incidents in the past. If you do not have access to aeration equipment, do you know where you can obtain a water pump? If fish appear to be in distress take temporary measures such as banning keepnets during heatwaves. If you see signs of fish in distress, such as fish gasping for air, you can report it to our incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

Working Together

- Our contract with the Angling Trust has been extended for a further two years. Services to be provided by the Angling Trust include:
 - Increasing angling participation
 - Organising local fisheries forums
 - Providing advice on otter and seal predation Advice on invasive non-natives and angling litter
 - Tackling illegal angling; manage the volunteer bailiff service
 - Administering the [Angling Improvement Fund](#) to reinvest rod licence income to protect and develop fisheries and improve angling access facilities

The Angling Trust will also be providing our Cormorant Predation Advisory Service for the next two years, the aims of which are:

- Reduce the pressures experienced by fisheries which are threatened by cormorants
- Provide a point of contact
- Educate fisheries and anglers about predation issues and management options
- Ensure that fisheries and anglers take responsibility for their role in managing the problem
- Offer new and innovate ways of engaging with fisheries and anglers and provide information

- Projects to be supported in the first round of this year's Fisheries Improvement Fund are:
 - Silt reduction (Baker's Pond, Kilnhurst)
 - Reed raft installation to provide shelter from predatory birds (Portsmouth Reservoir, Todmorden)
 - Safeguarding water supply and improving fish passage (Triangle Dam, Halifax)
 - Riparian habitat improvements in the upper River Wharfe and Backstones Beck (Ilkley).
- We are starting a second round of Fisheries Improvement Fund projects this summer. This Fund is rod licence income made available to benefit anglers through improving freshwater habitats. If you have a project you would like us to consider, please contact [Paul Slater](#) (North and East Yorkshire) or [Joanne Kay](#) (South and West Yorkshire, North Derbyshire) **as soon as possible** so we can discuss your project and send you an application form.

Rivers

- Knostrop fish pass on the River Aire is now open. This was installed as part of the Flood Alleviation Scheme. Fish passes are currently in construction at Chapel Haddlesey, Knottingley and Crown Point. When completed large sections of the River Aire will be freely open to migratory fish such as salmon, eel and sea trout for the first time in over 150 years.
- We are working in partnership with Yorkshire Water to build fish passes on the River Don at Jordan's Dam (between Sheffield and Rotherham) and at Wharnecliffe Side. A fish pass is also being built at Yorkshire Water's Langsett Reservoir to allow brown trout washed into the reservoir to return back upstream into the Little Don.



We are working with the Wild Trout Trust, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Aire Rivers Trust and local angling clubs to notch seven weirs in the upper River Aire, to improve fish passage. We have also excluded cattle and sheep from over 2km of watercourse and installed over 3km of in-stream features such as baffles and willow spiling. Thirty hectares of new woodland containing 25,000 trees and 3.5km of new hedgerow have been planted to help slow the flow of water into the Aire.



Work has been completed on a series of in-channel features to improve habitat in the River Went, including this berm which narrows the channel and speeds up flow. The project site borders Ackworth School and teachers have been trained to run the Wild Trout Trust's 'Mayfly in the Classroom' programme and to carry out Riverfly monitoring in order to engage their students with the river.



We released 8,000 young grayling into the River Rother at Chesterfield to aid their re-establishment following improvements in water quality. The grayling were reared at the Environment Agency's fish farm near Calverton, in Nottinghamshire, using funding from rod licence sales. Anyone who wants to help improve Chesterfield's rivers could contribute by getting involved with the Wild Trout Trust's [Trout in the Town](#) scheme. Please contact [Jerome Masters](#) if you are interested in becoming a founder member.

A further 3,000 grayling were stocked into West Beck in the Hull Headwaters.

Enforcement

- Enforcement officers were out in force over the May Bank Holiday weekends and the start of the coarse river season, checking rod licence and for signs of illegal activity. Over this period we checked 882 anglers and produced 99 offence reports.
- We have carried out joint patrols with the Angling Trust's Voluntary Bailiff Service, the Police and local angling clubs on the River Wharfe to promote multi-agency working and encourage local angling club members to report potential fisheries offences.
- A Whitby man was sentenced to a 12-month community order for illegally fishing for salmon and sea trout and ordered to pay £2,985 in legal costs at Scarborough Magistrates' Court. He had in his possession 23 sea trout and two salmon. These were seized, along with two gill nets and other equipment. Gill nets are illegal to use within inland waters.



We are undertaking beach patrols to deter illegal fishing for salmon and sea trout. We also check legally set gear to ensure it complies with licence conditions, and undertake intelligence led covert surveillance operations. Over the summer we will be running joint boat and shore patrols with the North East Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) to monitor coastal fisheries.

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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