

Make time to go fishing



Fisheries in Yorkshire February 2018

Have Your Say

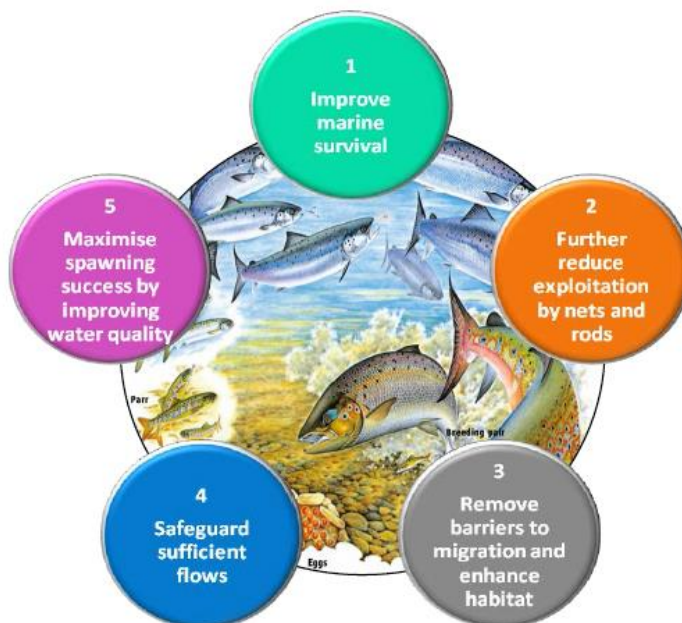
We will formally advertise proposed byelaws to protect salmon on GOV.UK in late February 2018. Anyone wishing to may respond either online or via letter. Our proposals are:

1. Stop the taking of salmon from the majority of net fisheries by 2019
2. For rivers with the lowest salmon stocks, a mandatory requirement to return all salmon caught. This will apply to all Yorkshire rivers, except the Esk
3. Voluntary catch and release targets for all other rivers. This will apply to the Yorkshire Esk
4. Restriction on the number, size and type of hooks that can be used when fishing

These measures are being proposed to protect salmon stocks across England (and in the Border Esk), which are currently among the lowest on record. The proposals come after an initial consultation last year to understand how the better management of salmon fishing can reduce the impact on salmon numbers.

Reducing the taking of salmon by rods and nets is one part of the [‘Salmon Five Point Approach’](#), jointly developed and committed to by a wide range of partners which include Government, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Angling Trust, River Trusts, Association of River Trusts and the Institute of Fisheries Management.

Guidance on catch and release best practice is available [here](#).



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- The Angling Trust East Yorkshire Forum in association with the Environment Agency is to be held on Thursday 22 March, at the Village Hotel, Henry Boot Way, Priory Way, Hull HU4 7DY Teas & Coffee will be served from 6:40pm, with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. This meeting is open to all anglers and fishery owners and is free to attend. To attend click [here](#).

Working Together

- We are inviting bids for the first round of the Fisheries Improvement Fund (FIP) and will need completed application forms to reach us by **16 March**. Please contact [Gail Hammond](#) if you are interested and she will put you in touch with your local Fisheries Officer. Projects need match funding, which can be other sources of money or 'in-kind' support (volunteer time, donated materials). FIP, along with the [Angling Improvement Fund](#) (administered on our behalf by the Angling Trust), reinvests coarse, trout and eel rod licence income into works to benefit anglers and fisheries. Further rounds of funding are likely during the year, so please get in touch to discuss your ideas even if you don't think you can meet the March deadline. We can then work with you to help prepare your bid so it will be ready when the next round is announced.
- Please be aware that you need consent from the Environment Agency or Local Authority before digging into river banks to create angling access. Poorly sited platforms can lead to bank erosion, damaged flood defences, or can make it impossible for our field teams to maintain defences to the required standard.

Disease and Biosecurity

- Are you prepared for spring? If you 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. Four of the [23 confirmed cases](#) of Koi Herpes Virus disease in England in 2017 occurred in Yorkshire. Controls placed on fisheries following an outbreak of KHV disease have been reduced from four years to one year post-outbreak. This is to include one entire season when water temperatures are high enough for the clinical signs of KHV disease (not including the season in which the outbreak occurred). For more information contact the [Fish Health Inspectorate](#).

- In autumn 2017 *Dikkeygammarus haemobaphes*, commonly known as Demon shrimp, were found for the first time on the River Derwent. They were found during routine analysis of a sample from Loftsome Bridge. Demon shrimp are one of the invasive Ponto-caspian shrimps which have been making their way across Europe. They were first found in the UK in 2012 in the Midlands and have since spread rapidly. Due to their recent and rapid spread it is unclear what effect they will have on the native fauna but reports from Europe suggest they will replace native shrimps and possibly impact the aquatic food chain.



Stillwaters

- Kilnhurst and District Angling Alliance have dosed their Baker's Pond fishery with a calcium carbonate product to reduce sediment build up. Funding for the project included a contribution from our Fisheries Improvement Programme.

Rivers

- In December, we released 12,000 juvenile bream, roach, chub and barbel into the River Derwent in Malton town centre. This is the second year of a five-year stocking plan to help improve coarse fish stocks in the river. Elsewhere, we also released 600 barbel into the River Dearne and 400 barbel into the River Wharfe, as part of ongoing plans to help populations in those rivers. All fish were raised at our Calverton fish farm, which is funded through rod licence income.



- East Yorkshire Rivers Trust have received Fisheries Improvement Programme funding to tackle siltation and improve habitat for trout and grayling on the River Seven near Sinnington on Sinnington Angling Club stretch.
- We have been working with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to help restore the Hull Headwaters Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). A 720m long section of West Beck has been restored, using coir logs, and flow deflectors. These measures will vary the flow and help remove silt deposits. Overgrown willows have been cleared so as to allow more light in and encourage the growth of the aquatic plant, water crowfoot.

- Yorkshire Water has completed fish passes at Langsett Reservoir, South Yorkshire and in Ponden Clough, West Yorkshire (pictured). We provided technical input. The passes will help brown trout move between the reservoirs and the spawning streams above the weirs. This year, Yorkshire Water are also due to begin construction of fish passes on their weirs at Wharnccliffe Side, and Blackburn Meadows, both on the River Don.



- We have supported the Don Catchment Rivers Trust as they made a successful bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery for their Hidden Heritage: Secret Streams project. We will be working with the Trust and providing match funding for habitat improvement work on the Rother and its tributaries as part of this project. Please let us know what activities you would like to see on the river by completing this short [survey](#).

- The owners of the Templeborough Biomass Power Plant, Rotherham, have built a fish pass on a weir on their site that spans the River Don. The weir was constructed by a previous owner of the site and the new fish pass was secured as a result of a planning condition we recommended to the Local Authority.
- Eshton Beck at its confluence with the River Aire suffered from sedimentation caused by cows and sheep entering the water to drink. We have installed fencing to exclude animals from the river and installed a solar powered pump and trough system. The resulting buffer strip along the banks will be planted with trees by Forest of Bradford volunteers assisted by staff from Systagenix, one of the landowners.
- We have been working with netters on the tidal Ouse during the river lamprey migration in order to determine whether the fishery for this conservation species is sustainable. As well as collecting data on catches, we have been transporting lampreys upstream of weirs to help them reach their spawning grounds. We are also working with the University of Durham to study the effectiveness of studded tiles in allowing river lampreys to migrate over weirs.



Enforcement

- An angler has received a total penalty of £597.47 after fishing without a licence and failing to state his correct name and address. The angler was reported on two separate occasions committing the same two offences for both incidents. Both incidents were heard at the same time by Hull and Holderness Magistrates Court.
- Between October and the end of December, our fisheries enforcement officers questioned 1,103 anglers with 58 being reported for fisheries offences. There were 70 Yorkshire prosecutions in court at an average cost to the angler being prosecuted of £256. Nationally, over the same period 11,824 anglers were questioned, 295 reported and 524 prosecuted with an average cost to the defendant of £272.
- Please report suspected fisheries offences to our free 24hr incident hotline 0800 80 70 60.

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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