

Make time to go fishing



Yorkshire Fisheries Newsletter

May 2018

Please allow us to keep in touch

On 25 May the General Data Protection Regulations come into force. The regulations change the way companies and organisations can handle your personal data, and how you can be contacted. As a result, we need to hear from you if you want to continue receiving this newsletter. Please email us at nesouthleedsfrb@environment-agency.gov.uk or we will have to delete your details.

Supporting the next generation of anglers

In 2017 we introduced a free junior fishing licence for under 16s. Now, one year on, figures have shown a huge increase in the popularity of the sport among children.



More than 79,000 free junior licences were issued last year – that's a 53% increase on the year before.

So, if any children in your circle of family and friends are getting too wrapped up in their game consoles, TV and social media, there's never been a better time to get them hooked on fishing instead!

Did you know one in 11 anglers are junior anglers?

From April, the age of free junior licences changes from 12-16 to 13-16. (Under-13s won't need to buy a licence). Get a fishing licence via GOV.UK - it's quick and easy to do, and it's the only site you need.

Have your say at the West Yorkshire Fisheries Forum

The Angling Trust West Yorkshire Forum will be held on Thursday 5 July at Brighouse Civic Hall. The meeting is open to all anglers and fishery owners and is free to attend. You can find out more at <http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=854>

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New licence images released



Our new rod licence designs for 2018 have just been released. Remember to check your licence is valid before you go fishing. The simplest way to renew or change your licence is to do it online at <https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences/buy-a-fishing-licence>

Crucian stocking for 2018

Over the past few years we have been stocking farm reared crucians across the length and breadth of the country to help conserve stocks and improve accessibility to anglers. The fish are reared at Calverton, our specialist fish farm. This year we would like to do the same again. We have approximately 18,000 fingerlings (0+ year fish, circa 3-5 cm long) to be stocked out by the end of June 2018.

If you know of some local clubs and fisheries that may benefit from having some of these fish, then please let us know by 25 May. You can contact Mike Lee, our crucian lead at mike.lee@environment-agency.gov.uk

Investing rod licence money

Our Fisheries Improvement Programme is one way that we use rod licence money to improve your fishing. In order to receive funding, projects funded through this programme need to demonstrate benefits to anglers and all projects are on regularly fished waters. In 2018 the money will be invested in the following areas:

Rivers	Stillwaters
Cockhill Beck Habitat Improvement	Dewsbury Angling Club Dam Floating Islands
Thornton Beck Fly Fishery Revival	Farnham Lake Reed Planting
Upper Severn Improvement Project	Ferens Park Ultrasonic Algae Control
Upper Aire Tributaries	Hull Parks Weed Control
	Ravenfield Specimen Pond Habitat Improvement
	Ireland Colliery Poolsbrook Fishery Bank Restoration

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New film about Yorkshire rivers



To coincide with World Fish Migration Day, we have produced a short film highlighting some of the great work done across Yorkshire to improve fish passage and improve habitat for migratory fish. You can find the film on our Youtube channel.

youtu.be/JZpEHaiKrY

Improved data for our maintenance programme

Our Flood and Coastal Risk Management maintenance programme for 2018/19 has been published on gov.uk as an interactive map. This is a significant improvement on the previous spreadsheet-based version searchable by postcode only. You can now zoom to your area of interest and find all the locations where we anticipate works taking place in the next year.

As part of our FCRM maintenance programme, there is £58k funding allocated for tree and hedge planting to mitigate for the impacts of tree works. In 2018 this funding will be provided in the following areas:

Catchment	Locations	Partner
Upper Aire	Otterburn & Airton Keighley-Shipley (multiple sites)	Yorkshire Farming & Wildlife Partnership Bradford Environment Action Group (BEAT)
Lower Aire	Beal, Snaith	Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
Calder	Fenay Beck	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT)
Dearne	Houghton washlands	RSPB

Are you prepared for summer?

Each summer our fisheries teams up and down the country are extremely busy responding to lots of reports of fish in distress as a result of sudden spells of hot weather. In some cases teams across England have deployed emergency aeration devices to increase oxygen levels in the water. It's important that fishery owners take action now to minimise the risks.

We are advising fishery owners to prepare in advance of any heatwaves, particularly if their water(s) have had incidents in the past. If you do not have bespoke aeration

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devices like paddlewheels, do you know where you could obtain a small water pump from or a generator?



If the water is a club water it might be a good idea for members to meet up soon and agree an action plan, It could include organising a rota for checking on the fish early in the morning when dissolved oxygen levels are at their lowest and look for any signs of fish in distress. The plan could include bringing in temporary measures such as banning keepnets in spells of prolonged hot weather.

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**. Remember, notifiable diseases must be reported by law.

Enforcement Summary

Between January and the end of March, our fisheries enforcement officers questioned 1387 anglers with 42 being reported for fisheries offences. If you see someone fishing illegally, phone our 0800 80 70 60 hotline so we can investigate.

Protecting our rivers



Our enforcement officers have recently been out on the Ouse between Naburn and York to check compliance with the close season for coarse fish. The boat allows us to cover long distances checking the licences of anglers fishing for salmon, and making sure anglers are not fishing for coarse fish out of season. We'll be undertaking a number of patrols between now and the start of the coarse fishing season on the 16 June.

Get in touch

If you have any queries or comments on this newsletter, please phone us on 03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri 8am-8pm) or email enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. Please report incidents to our 24 hour hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

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