



Environment
Agency

FISHERIES ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

How we spend fishing licence income



We reinvest every penny from the sale of fishing licences to directly support angling and fisheries across England

- ✔ Stocking fish
- ✔ Protecting fisheries and preventing illegal fishing
- ✔ Improving fisheries habitat
- ✔ Working with partners
- ✔ Prioritising a sustainable future for fisheries.



455,439

- ✔ Coarse fish supplied and stocked



1,000+

- ✔ Project partners



265

- ✔ Successful prosecutions for fishing licence evasion



1,200

- ✔ Fish stock surveys



407

✔ Incidents at fisheries responded to



52ha

✔ Of stillwater fisheries enhanced



25

✔ Fish passes created and barriers/weirs removed



347km

✔ Of river habitats protected/improved



39,159

✔ Fishing licence checks



Nearly

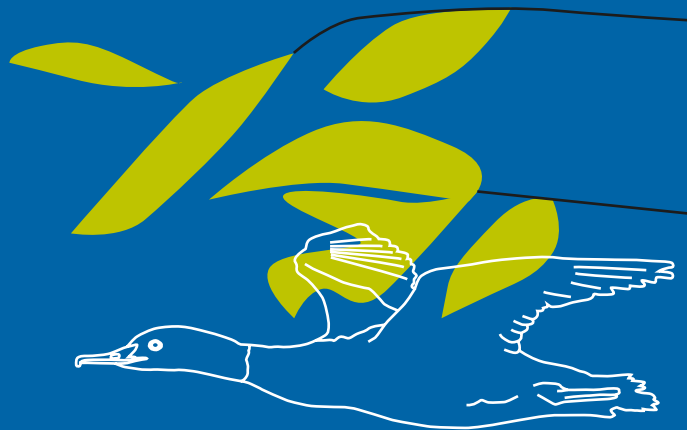
£21 million

✔ Of fishing licence income was invested to deliver the fisheries service



WORK ACHIEVED

The full story of how we spend fishing licence income



“

Every time an angler buys a fishing licence, they make an investment in the future of the sport they love.”



We're proud to say that **100%** of fishing licence income is reinvested back into angling.

Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 we sold **903,216** licences, which generated nearly **£21,000,000** of fishing licence income. This was reinvested to improve fisheries for people, the environment and angling.

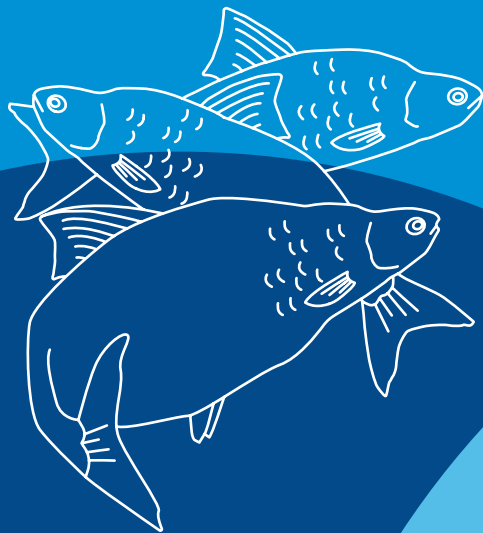
[LEARN MORE](#)

[i See all our reports](#)

Your fishing licence fee directly supports angling and fisheries across England, meaning we can:

- ✔ Improve fisheries habitat
- ✔ Improve fish stocks and fisheries
- ✔ Protect fisheries and reduce illegal fishing
- ✔ Secure a sustainable future for fisheries
- ✔ Work with partners to deliver more

Working with partners has helped increase participation in angling and allowed us to deliver projects that improve the habitats within our fisheries



Our partners:

✓ Ran **2,611** angler events

✓ Enhanced **168km** of rivers

✓ Introduced **38,464** people to the sport

✓ Conducted **4,253** river fly surveys

✓ Responded to **1,002** requests for advice on controlling predation

✓ Awarded over **£425,000** of fishing licence income through the Angling Improvement Fund and Get Fishing Fund



Partnerships mean we can achieve more!”

In 2022-23 we collaborated with over **1,000** partners. By pooling funds and resources with like-minded groups and organisations, we were often able to achieve more, and make an even bigger impact.

Some of the organisations that we worked with between 2022 and 2023 included The Angling Trust, Wild Trout Trust, Institute of Fisheries Management, the Riverfly Partnership as well as local river trusts, angling clubs and charities and many more. Thanks to these partnerships, we were able to give anglers:

- ✔ Improved fish stocks and habitats
- ✔ New facilities and greater accessibility at fisheries
- ✔ Promotional campaigns that enabled more people to try the sport
- ✔ Joined up enforcement and intelligence sharing

LEARN MORE

- i** [See more on partnerships](#)



Institute of Fisheries Management



Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water



WILD TROUT TRUST

Angling Trust

“

“Angling helps me access nature, experience peace and quiet and escape the stresses of modern day life.”

– Tom, Angler



As well as delivering advice to anglers and encouraging more people to access the sport, the Angling Trust also supports enforcement and undertakes predator control, invasive non-native species and biosecurity work.

38,464

people (of which 24,123 were juniors) try fishing for the first time at 2,611 events.

£197,939

of fishing licence income awarded through the Get Fishing Fund to 113 beneficiaries.

Responded to

1,002

otter/fish-eating bird problems.

Carried out

16,598

patrols through the Voluntary Bailiff Service (VBS).

1,047

incidents reported.



PARTNERSHIPS IN FOCUS

Wild Trout Trust (WTT)

With £120,000 funding from us, they:

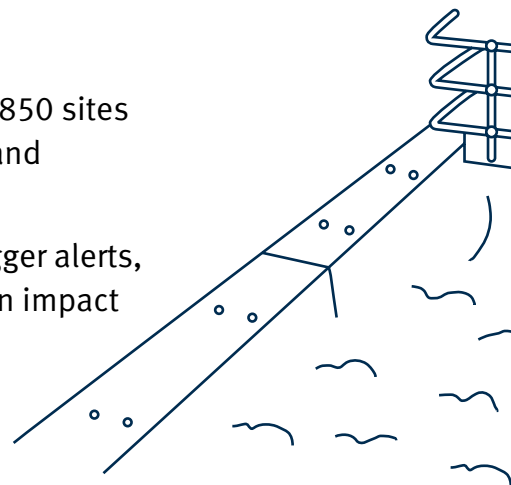
- ✔ Delivered 108 advisory visits and workshops
- ✔ Completed 9 river improvement projects
- ✔ Enhanced 168km of rivers across England



Riverfly Partnership

With £49,650 funding, their trained volunteers undertook:

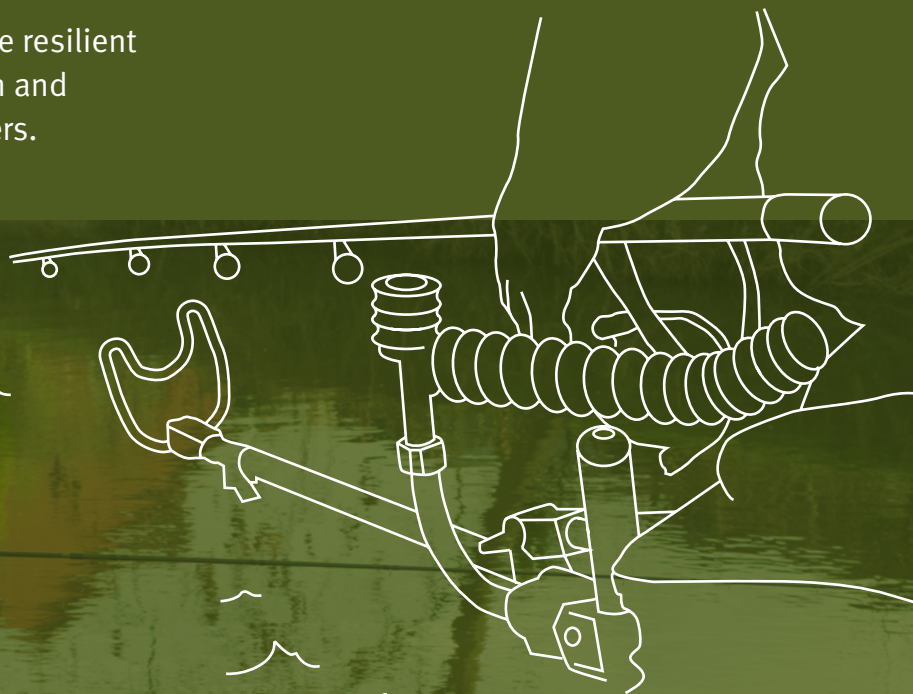
- ✔ 4,253 surveys
- ✔ Site monitoring at 850 sites across 355 rivers and 103 catchments
- ✔ Passed on 224 trigger alerts, indicating pollution impact



IMPROVING FISHERIES

Over **£1.5m** of your licence fee was invested into projects that helped improve the overall experience for anglers

These projects focused on creating more resilient fisheries, with enhanced habitat for fish and improved access and facilities for anglers.



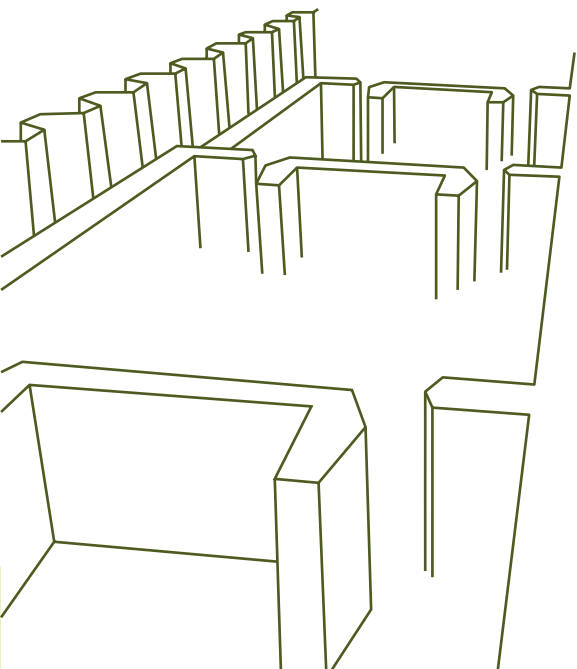
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Providing a habitat where fish can more easily spawn, feed and avoid predators or extreme weather means anglers have a better chance of catching them! Everyone benefits when we invest in enhancing fisheries.”

In 2022-2023 we directly funded over 153 projects that enhanced over 72km of river and 52ha of stillwater fisheries.

LEARN MORE

i [Learn more about improvement projects](#)



Angling Improvement Fund projects focused on protecting fisheries.

- ✔ 37 otter and cormorant predation schemes
- ✔ 18 non-native species control and biosecurity projects



198 Fisheries Improvement Programme projects.

- ✔ 72km of river was improved and protected
- ✔ Increased angler access at 52ha of stillwater fisheries, through platforms or pathway repair and construction
- ✔ Investment in specialist kit to protect fisheries from drought and climate change

Nearly **£1m** of licence fee income was invested in Fisheries Improvement Programme projects

Rivers and stillwaters across England benefited from our Fisheries Improvement Programme in 2022-23. The projects helped improve the fishing experience for anglers and protected a wide range of species including coarse fish, trout and eels.

✔ Helping fish access vital river habitat for spawning, feeding and taking refuge by building new fish passes.

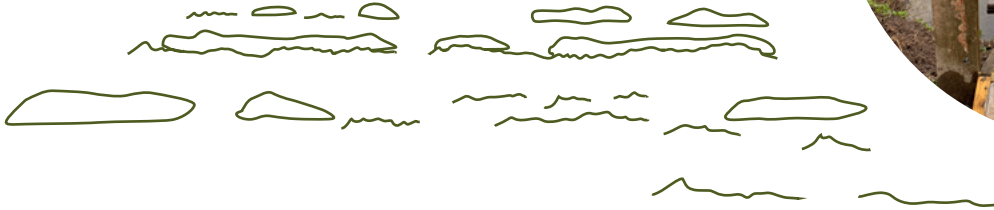
✔ Providing anglers with improved accessibility through the creation of new angling platforms, enabling more people than ever to enjoy the sport.

✔ Protecting of fish stocks.

✔ Enhancing fisheries habitat.

“

Since 2015, over **1000** projects have been successfully completed, with a total of **£7 million** invested from fishing licence sales alone.”



Chinnor Works Angling Society:

Improved fishery's resilience to cormorant predation and provided additional habitat.

- ✔ Three floating reed islands constructed, providing refuges and additional habitat.
- ✔ Three underwater reefs built to protect resident fish stocks from cormorant predation.

River Dore, Herefordshire:

Weir removal to improve river connectivity and fish passage for all fish species.

- ✔ Reinstatement of more natural river features replacing previously impounded section of river.

iCARP: Creating sustainable stillwater habitats for coarse fish, and enhancing the lakes as an angling and wellbeing centre.

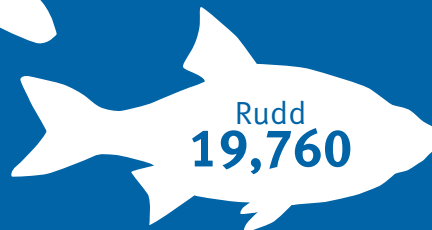
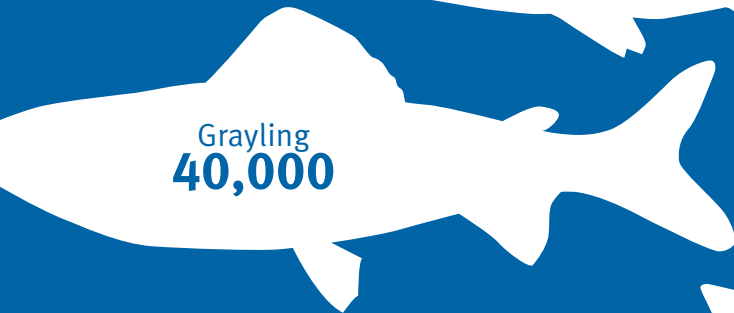
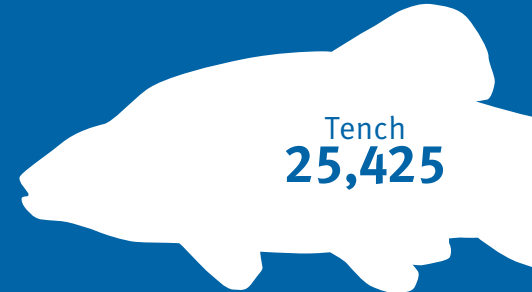
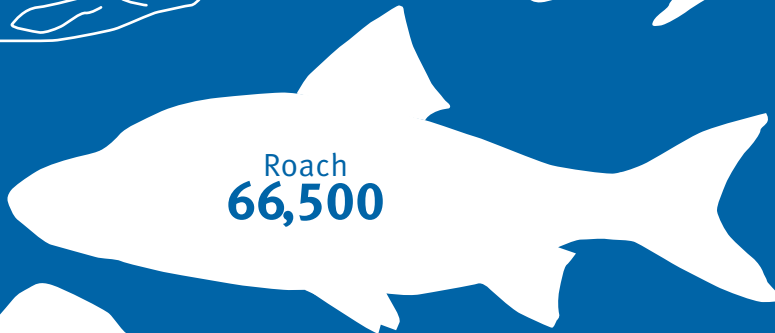
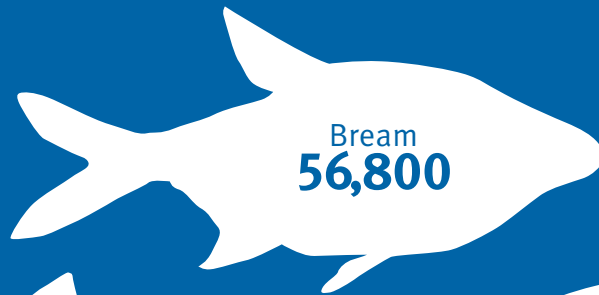
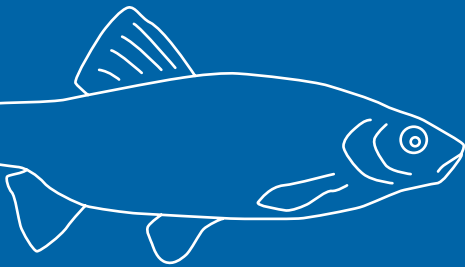
- ✔ Installation of an office, on-site therapy rooms and predator prevention fencing.
- ✔ Ground, tree and brush management.
- ✔ Creation of on-site facilities, swims and biosecurity options.

Ripple free fishery: Improving access on a prime free coarse fishery on the River Severn in Worcestershire.

- ✔ Construction and maintenance of 20 fishing platforms.

COARSE FISH STOCKING

With your help, we stocked over **455,000** fish into our rivers and stillwaters





Barbel
127,450



Chub
53,800



Crucian Carp
22,927

“

Thanks to anglers like you, we were able to restock our rivers and stillwaters with **455,439** fish”

We use fishing licence income to rear fish to release into our rivers and stillwaters. This provides anglers with a more enjoyable experience, but also means that we are ready to replenish stocks if there is an environmental incident. It also helps to kickstart recovery from longer term issues like pollution.

LEARN MORE

 [See more on fish stocking](#)



You help fund a world-class fisheries laboratory



112

fish mortality investigations



102

health checks, surveys & lab investigations



1,500+

queries supporting national incidents



34

fisheries investigated for fish kills, with full fish disease diagnostic investigations completed

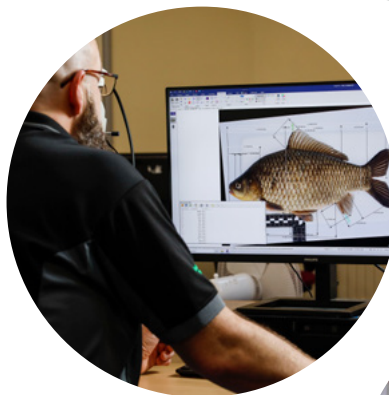
“

Fishing licence income helps fund the National Fisheries Laboratory in Cambridgeshire.”

Close monitoring of fish health, fish ageing and non-native fish puts us in the best position to ensure that we can protect fish and fisheries both today and in the future.

LEARN MORE

i [Learn more about the National Fisheries Laboratory](#)



When you buy a fishing licence it means we can keep pursuing unlicensed fishing and angling offences

Unlicensed anglers face a fine of up to **£2500**

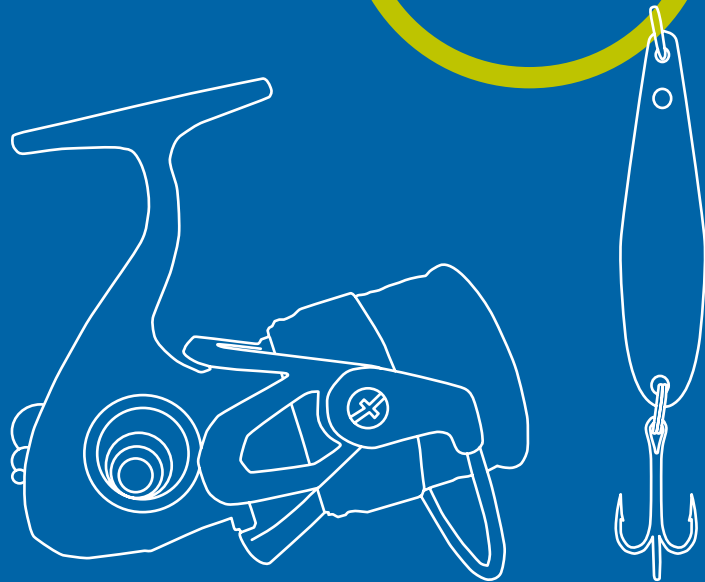
Play your part!
Report offences to **0800 80 70 60**

Always hold a valid fishing licence

✓ **39,159**
fishing licence checks

✓ **£49,493**
in penalties issued

✓ **137**
joint patrols with the
Voluntary Bailiff Service

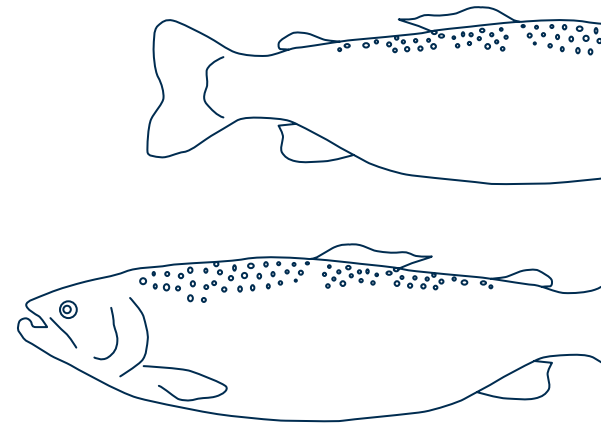


“

It's vitally important to protect fisheries and prevent illegal fishing so we work alongside the Angling Trust, police forces and other enforcement agencies to achieve this.”

LEARN MORE

[i See more on enforcement](#)



A LICENCE TO CHILL



Licence No.
1259091020

Issued 01/01/2023

12-MONTH FISHING LICENCE

We can be there when
an incident occurs
thanks to your fishing
licence fee



407

incidents responded to



“

Managing an incident effectively is the key to protecting our fisheries.”

Warm weather and algae in 2022-23 was the cause at over 50% of the incidents we attended. Your licence fee meant that we could attend to these events as well as other pollution, disease or environmental incidents.

Witnessed fish in distress, dead or dying? We can help.

**Call our hotline on
0800 80 70 60.**



MONITORING

We fund monitoring with fishing licence income because that knowledge helps us plan for the future



1,200

fish stock surveys



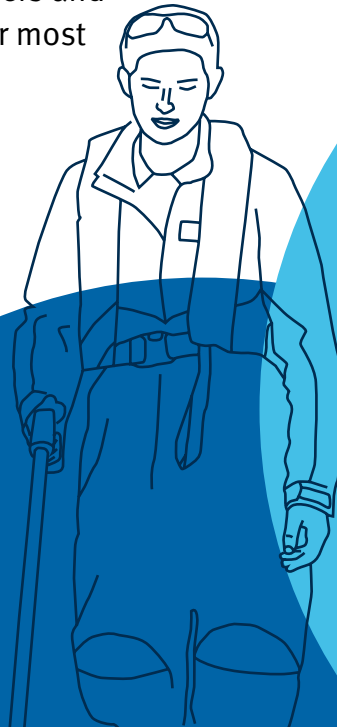
“

It's much easier to make decisions about managing fisheries and planning improvements when you understand the status of fish populations in our rivers and stillwaters.”

Our management decisions and reports on the state of the water environment are made on the basis of the information we gain from our regular and extensive fish stock surveys and water quality monitoring – this takes place on the rivers and stillwaters of greatest fishing interest or most at risk.

LEARN MORE

i [See more on monitoring](#)



Licence holders like you are fundamental to the future of angling

We hope you can now see how your support enables us to do so much for the sport you love! Whether you are new to the sport or it has been a life-long hobby, thank you for buying a fishing licence. Everything we were able to achieve this year was only possible thanks to you.

Paperless licence

Our goal is to be net carbon zero by 2030. One of the ways you can help us achieve this is by buying a digital licence. You might find it more convenient too, as you will receive your licence almost instantly by email or text. In 2022 to 2023 we saved 11.4 tonnes of carbon emissions by offering a paperless licence. Saving printing costs also means we have more money to reinvest back into fish and fisheries.

“

Fishing is a way and means for people to be able to access our wonderful environment. Buying your fishing licence each year enables us to invest into the sport we all love. It helps us protect and improve fisheries across England and also increase access to angling.

”

HEIDI STONE
PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT TEAM, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

**Witnessed fish in distress,
dead or dying? We can help.**

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