
 **B.A.A. NEWS** 

Tel 01562-882116 Fax 01562-882126
Email baajnw@btinternet.com Website www.baa.uk.com

April 2013

B.A.A News Anniversary

On-line edition is two years old

Beware Rod Licence renewal rip-off

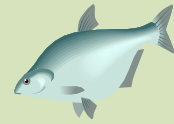
See page 11

Acorns Childrens Charity Hospice Match

See page 15



Fishing news



Claines carp



Friday 8th March. My mate Ken Legg and myself decided to give the canal a rest and fish the river Salwarpe at Claines. Ken on the pole and I fished ground bait feeder with maggot. After around 20 minutes I had a wrap around bite and five minutes later landed a 6lb 2oz common carp on 16 hook to 3lb bottom. This was the only bite we had before we packed up due to rain and muddy banks. I only rejoined the BAA this year, to make a change from fishing commercials all the time and Ken coming from Bolton had never fished the the BAA waters in the West Midlands before, this was our 5th session out following three fruitful sessions on the Birmingham/Worcester canal catching between 2lb and 8lb of roach, perch and skimmers and one struggle on the canal between Kidderminster and Stourport. We are looking forward to trying the rivers Avon and Severn later in the year.

I have attached a photo of the carp which you may wish to include in your news letter.

Martin Dugmore

Happy angler

Hi,

Just to report, as a new member this year, I fished the Underdale stretch in Shrewsbury on a couple of occasions recently and had a small barbel a couple of weeks ago when the river was up and again on Sunday just gone (the 3rd March) I had a nice barbel of 6.75lb and a 4lb Chub. This was despite water temps being around 5C.

Thanks from a happy angler.

Chris Manns

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
Barbel						
River Severn						
Malcolm Ford	12	3		Luncheon meat	28/07/2012	Aug 2012
Brian Rossiter	11	12	Severn Stoke	Cage feeder & banded pellet	19/10/2012	Nov 2012
Brian Newstead	10	14	Holt Fleet	14mm halibut pellet	Sept 2011	May 2012
? Nichols	10	8	Severn Stoke		21/08/2012	Oct 2012
Brian Rossiter	10		Severn Stoke	Cage feeder & banded pellet	19/10/2012	Nov 2012
Karen Summerfield	9	2	Ribbesford		?	Oct 2012
Roy Price	9	1	Arley	2 x 8mm halibut pellets over bed of 3mm pellets	13/07/2012	Aug 2012
Bob Bennett	9	1	Erdington	2 x 12mm halibut pellets	13/07/2012	Aug 2012
Andy Lea	8	9	Danery	3 x 8mm halibut pellets over pellet and hemp mix	28/06/2012	July 2012
Chris Manns	6	12	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013
River Avon						
David Holland	10	12	Wasperton		14/07/2012	Aug 2012
Rob Holland	10	8	Wasperton		14/07/2012	Aug 2012
Mike Bothwell	10	2	Wasperton	1 inch cube of meat	03/01/2013	Feb 2013
Brian Rossiter	10		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013
Brian Rossiter	7		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013

River Teme					
Steve Welland	10		Stanford Bridge	July 2012	Aug 2012
Bream					
River Severn					
Ben Keen	6		Ladyham	Maggot/groundbait feeder	16/06/2012 July 2012
River Avon					
Graham Beck	6		Marlcliff	Maggots/maggot feeder	Aug 2012 Sep 2012
Pools					
Darren Davies	6		Mythe Pool	Double sweetcorn with open end feeder	May 2012 June 2012
Kevin Smith	5		Coppice		03/05/2012 May 2012
Kevin Smith	4	8	Coppice		03/05/2012 May 2012
Kevin Smith	4		Coppice		03/05/2012 May 2012
Colin Weed	4		Coppice		14/08/2012 Sep 2012
Common Carp					
River Severn					
Andy Keen	9		Ladyham	Stick float fished tight to bank, single white maggot, 18 hook, 1.7lb hook length, 3lb mainline	17/09/2012 Oct 2012
River Salwarpe					
Martin Dugmore	6	2	Claines	Ground bait feeder with maggots on 16 hook & 3lb hook length	08/03/2013 April 2013
Pools					
John Morgan	22	5	Coppice	Bottom fished boilie	09/05/2012 June 2012
Graham Sheldon	22	1	Coppice		Oct 2012 Dec 2012
Graham Sheldon	20	8	Coppice		Oct 2012 Dec 2012
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice		03/05/2012 May 2012
Sam Chapman	19	6	Mythe		26/07/2012 Aug 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Uckinghall		03/06/2012 June 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		14/08/2012 Sep 2012
Kev Abel	15		Coppice		18/08/2012 Sep 2012
Kevin Smith	14	10	Coppice		02/11/2012 Dec 2012
Kevin Smith	14	4	Coppice		02/11/2012 Dec 2012
Kevin Smith	14	1	Coppice		Oct 2012 Nov 2012
Kevin Smith	13	9	Coppice		Oct 2012 Nov 2012
Kevin Smith	12	13	Coppice		Oct 2012 Nov 2012
Colin Weed	9	12	Coppice		Oct 2012 Nov 2012
Ghost Carp					
Canals					
John Morgan	24	8	Staffs & Worcs	Bottom fished boilie	2010 June 2012

Leather Carp

Canals

Jonathan Albutt	19		Birmingham Worcester	Stalking tactics in the margins	?	Oct 2012
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Mirror Carp

Pools

John Morgan	29	11	Coppice	Zig rigged pop-up	09/05/2012	June 2012
Scott Lote	20		Coppice		?	Oct 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		24/04/2012	May 2012
Kevin Smith	15	7	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
Colin Weed	11		Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012

Chub

River Avon

David Wood	6	7	Marlcliff		?	Sep 2012
Paul Wood	6	5	Marlcliff		?	Sep 2012
Matthew Smith	6	0	Pershore	2 x 12mm halibut pellet	04/07/2012	Aug 2012

River Severn

Chris Manns	4	0	Underdale	Water at 5°C	03/03/2013	April 2013
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River Teme

Cameron Preece	4	4	Broadwas		Aug 2012	Sep 2012
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Perch

River Severn

Joe Boles	2	8	Arley RB Harbour		15/09/2012	Oct 2012
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Pools

Mark Latham	3	8	Coppice	Float fished double maggot	06/11/2012	Dec 2012
Dave Beasley	3	0	Coppice		03/02/2013	Mar 2013

Roach

River Severn

Andy Lea	2	4	Danery	3 x 8mm halibut pellets over pellet and hemp mix	28/06/2012	July 2012
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Tench

River Avon

Derek Gabb	3	14	Pershore LB	Hair rigged cut down boillie and swim feeder full of pellets	Aug 2012	Oct 2012
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Pools

Tony Barnett	5	4	Uckinghall	Float fished single red maggot	06/10/2012	Nov 2012
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Executive update



Stubbs Pool

The Fisheries Committee have raised a proposal to turn Stubbs Pool into a 'silver' fish fishery with the stocking of roach, rudd, perch, tench and bream. On the assumption that the required fish can be purchased, this work is planned to be carried out over the winter of 2013/14.

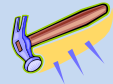
Projects for 2013

Projects include;

- Provision of disabled fishing peg and access at Fladbury.
- Offside access to Birmingham/Worcester Canal.
- Possible junior events.
- Evesham festival 24th – 26th August.



Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out work at the following fisheries since the last edition;

River Avon

Surveys carried out at Fladbury and Pensham had shown a small number of pegs in need of repair at Fladbury after the recent floods. These will be carried out during the close season when river level permit.

River Severn

Fallen tree removed from the river at Ribbesford by the Environment Agency.

Surveys carried out at Hallow, Ribbesford, and Ladyham have shown a significant number of pegs in need of repair after the recent floods. These will be carried out during the close season when river level permit.

River Teme

Trees still in river at Bransford, Environment Agency informed.

Pools

Nordley: Cut back of trees and vegetation around Pool 5.

Uckinghall: Renewal of rotten platforms and removal of fallen trees and branches.



Archive extracts



Midland Angler

Below are extracts from the April 1959 edition, the forerunner to the BAA News.

J. NEVILLE describes how . . .

He Learnt To Fly Fish — On A Canal !

TO ninety per cent. of the anglers in this country fishing inevitably means sitting on a basket and watching a float from which is suspended a maggot on a tiny hook. No matter whether the fish are feeding at the surface or on the bottom, that is the way they fish and no one is going to convince them that any other way is worth while.

The remaining 10% are "trout only" anglers—men who think that game fish are in a much higher class than coarse fish as far as brains and cunning and fighting spirit are concerned.

Now, I am no angling snob. I am willing to try any method for any type of fish. But I must admit that a fish taken on the fly does give me a certain sense of satisfaction that cannot be obtained from any other method. I have seen the sudden swirl of water as a fish takes my fly thousands of times now, but I still experience that thrill of almost disbelieving surprise each time it happens.

And, strange as it may sound, more often than not it is a coarse fish that provides that sudden feeling of exhilaration. For despite the views of the trout purists, chub, dace and other members of the coarse tribe do have brains and do provide worthwhile thrills on fly tackle. I have seen a trout rise at and take my fly over and over again, but have never seen a roach or a chub give a "repeat performance." One missed rise with them and you've had it! In fact I am confident that if "trout only" fly fishers gave dace a trial they would have all their work cut out to "hit" one rise in three.

Believe it or not, my first attempt at fly fishing was on a canal, and my tackle consisted of a roach rod with an old sea-fishing line. I felt self-conscious, rather like a poacher fishing with maggots on a strictly preserved dry-fly-only trout stream as I clumsily lashed my fly out onto the water. But to my great delight the very first cast produced a chub bigger than I had ever caught before.

Since that day, using more orthodox tackle, I have caught many fish of several species on fly. And many a time I have seen a look of amazement in the eyes of other more conventional anglers as I pulled out fish after fish whilst their floats lay motionless.

My stock of flies would make the "purists" shudder, for nearly all my fish have been caught on one of three patterns—Red Tag, Coachman or Bluebottle. With these I have taken brown trout, rainbow trout, roach, rudd, chub, dace, grayling, perch, bleak, minnows and pike. Even carp have risen to them.



The author with a useful chub taken from a water most fly fishers would never dream of visiting.

In order to relieve the rising blood pressure of the very dry-fly men who frequent the banks of well-cared for chalk streams, let me say here and now that I know perfectly well that on some waters and under some conditions accurate imitation of the fly on the water at that particular moment is needed in order to catch any trout at all, and that on some occasions a more delicate and skilful presentation of the fly than I am capable of is called for or the fish will be put down. Nevertheless, although it takes years of practice to become really skilled at casting a fly, I would guarantee that within half-an-hour I could teach almost anyone to cast a fly well enough to deceive at least a few fish under favourable conditions.

REAR YOUR OWN WORMS — AND SHOW A PROFIT

Raise all the worms you need for fishing purposes and still have enough left over to sell to a tackle dealer each week—that is the interesting prospect put forward by Tom Parsons, an American, in a rather unusual new book, *How To Make Earthworms Pay* (Abelard Schuman, 15/-).

Written primarily for youngsters with the object of encouraging them to make an honest bob or two, it nevertheless contains a great deal of useful information for anyone contemplating the construction of a back garden "wormery."

Frank Oates contributes the illustrations which include a number of suggestions for advertising and other methods of disposing of one's crop of wrigglers.

TROUTING ON SMALL WATERS
In introducing *Brook Fishing*, by

L. Baverstock, Herbert Jenkins Ltd. provide a topical and useful addition to their "How To Catch Them" series of 3/6 booklets. For at this time of year trout on small waters is often one of the most profitable as well as fascinating methods of fishing.

It has, too, the added advantage of being cheap. More often than not a polite request for permission to roll a worm or cast a fly is all that is needed.

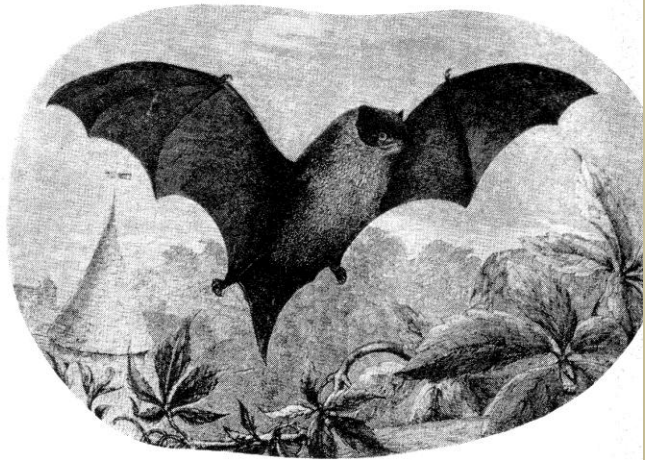
The author is no purist; he practices both methods. He believes in offering the fish the bait they fancy, whether it be dry or wet fly, caddis, creeper, grasshopper or any one of a dozen or more natural baits to be found "on the spot."

Equally extensive is the amount of information and instruction he has managed to condense into so small a volume.

Your Waterside Companions . . .

by 'TAG' BARNES

THE PIPISTRELLE — First of The Radar Experts



ANGLERS who fish at dawn and dusk will be familiar with a small bird-like creature that performs wonderful aerobatics, twisting and turning over the water in the half light of day before miraculously flitting with unchecked speed and unerring accuracy between the branches of the trees.

It is most likely to be the commonest and smallest of our British bats—the pipistrelle, the first of the radar experts.

All bats have small eyes and poor eyesight and it was many years before science discovered how they managed to perform such aerial displays without coming to grief by dashing themselves against some obstruction or other.

It is now thought that they possess a very intricate mechanism which enables them to emit high pitched sounds, which they receive back whenever they meet a solid object in their path—a very similar principle to modern radar equipment.

Pipistrelles have a wing span of about 8 inches. Their mouse-like bodies are covered in long silky hair which is kept well groomed by constant licking with the tongue. Despite this washing, however, bats are often infested with parasites, which makes them unwelcome guests if they ever take up residence in inhabited quarters.

They spend most of the day sleeping,

in colonies, in the roofs of old buildings, in holes in trees, or caves and crevices in rocks. They also hibernate in such places during winter.

It is quite an experience to find a colony of bats hanging by the feet upside down with their membranous wings wrapped tightly round their bodies. One young a year is born, blind and naked, and is suckled by the mother; she also flies with it clinging to her breast for about the first fortnight of the infant's life.

The food of bats consists wholly of insects which are caught in flight. Bats also drink while on the wing, and if you watch closely you will see them pause over the water for a brief moment with their wings held up while they take a quick sip.

It is not unknown for a bat to take the artificial fly of anglers fishing at night for sea-trout. One such incident was described in "Anglers' Forum" a couple of years ago by Mr. R. B. Taylor, of Birmingham, who related how he had rescued a bat that had mistaken an artificial fly on the end of a piece of line tangled in a tree branch for a natural insect.

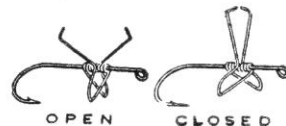
A less painful feature about bats is that by bending their tails forwards they can form a sort of pouch. Into this they pop any insect taken in flight which is too large to be mastered. After it becomes subdued in the pouch it is removed and eaten.

Because bats are somewhat fearsome looking creatures they are often

destroyed by ignorant people who do not realise how harmless they are and how much good they do by destroying thousands of mosquitoes and other insect pests. They are usually the same kind of people who kick a pike to death immediately they have it on the bank, or beat to a pulp a sleeping grass snake.

Personally, I am always pleased to see little pipistrelles hawking over the water—especially when I am settling down for a spell of night fishing and am being "eaten alive" by mosquitoes!

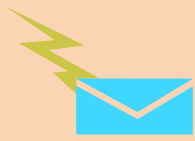
THE 'AYRBRO' LIVE FLY HOOK



Pat. No. 797327

Without doubt live fly fishing is a deadly method of killing trout and chub, and is often the means of tempting exceptionally heavy and shy fish. Suitable baits include Mayflies, Blue-bottles, Daddy Long-legs, Grasshoppers and Beetles of many species, also White Grubs. The "Ayrbro" hook is fitted with a small spring clip, which permits the fly or insect to be mounted instantly and without killing it. Stocked in sizes 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 & 14

Wholesale only from
THE AYRBRO LIVE FLY HOOK CO.
Compton Coney Road,
East Wittering - Sussex



Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to baajnw@btinternet.com titled for attn of BAA News Editor.

When sending in a comment can you please let us know if you don't want your name included?

The Editor will act as moderator for items to be included.

Hi John

I had the pleasure of fishing at Birds Meadow near Tewksbury yesterday. I was really disappointed not to catch much of serious consideration but that is fishing.

One thing though that got my back up was the speed of some boats up the river. They were followed by a 3ft wash behind and consequently dislodge debris along the bank. This then came down the river to cause much grief. It is my intention now to take a video camera with me to record any offenders and I will send a copy to the Environment Agency for them to 'consider' in the future. The litter that was left by anglers was an eyesore and I felt compelled to clear up through embarrassment for our club The same was true on the Arrow/ Avon connection last week.

I think it will take me a lifetime to fish every venue and peg on the BAA. But, there are worse ways to spend my leisure time.

Yours sincerely

Andy Reeves

Hi Andy,

Thank you for your comments which I have passed on to the editor of BAA news. If, whilst you are out fishing, you see evidence of wrongdoing, whether it be unlawful fishing, illegally taking of fish etc then you should report it at once to the Environment Agency (who's job it is to enforce the bye-laws) and also to the BAA.

John Williams

This month you have been concerned about no one contacting you with news on fishing etc. In January I sent you a mail through this same means regarding the seal and what was being done etc. I received no reply from you as regards the problem. I know it is not your direct responsibility but as a member of your club and a very concerned one at that, i think you could have done more to put pressure on the Environment Agency people to do some thing about it! There are now reports of concern of dwindling stocks of fish through various reasons and as a direct result of the seal damage I guess there are a lot less big barbel in the middle and lower Severn. Why was nothing done? I seen this seal on several occasions with 10 pound plus fish in its gob on the TV, it was a disgrace! As regards to bailiffing I fish every week unless weather is dire and I haven't

been asked once for my BAA card. I see people starting to night fish on venues that aren't supposed to be night fished, I see Eastern Europeans eating what they are catching, it's a total disgrace! Do you have any bailiffs controlling the BAA waters? There won't be any quality fishing left in a few years time. Put an extra £5 on a annual card and employ some proper bailiffs to police your waters, surely a viable answer?

Regards, a very concerned barbel angler on BAA waters.

A Rosner

Ed: Thanks for your letter in response to my request in last months edition.

I have checked back on all Readers letters forwarded to me since November last year and cannot find one from you regarding the seal.

The most recent item I have seen about the Severn seal was a video on the BBC News website taken by paddle boarders near Gloucester (see hyperlink below). This may indicate that the seal is returning toward the sea as the recent flood levels drop.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21758944>

As reported in our February and March editions, the Angling Trust did apply for a license to shoot the seal after anglers raised concerns about its impact on fish in the river, but reached an agreement with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue to relocate it to the sea without harming it. I don't know the outcome of that.

Regarding your concern about lack of BAA bailiffs, all our bailiffs are volunteers who dedicate time and effort in checking our fisheries. My experience is somewhat different to yours; I have been bailiffed when fishing our waters. Please let us know the locations where you fish and don't see bailiffs.

If in the future the BAA did decide to employ bailiffs, my very quick and rough estimate of the cost employing equipping and running a small team of 3 full time bailiffs would add about £15 to the cost of annual membership.

Please report any instances of illegal fish removal and night fishing at venues it is not allowed to BAA HQ as soon as you are aware of it so that we can take the required action. We do pass illegal fish removal information onto the EA and are aware of recent arrests made by them and police of people illegally taking fish from the lower Severn.

Angling Trust Info'

Beware Rod Licence Rip-Off Says Angling Trust

Following complaints from anglers angered by the re-emergence of a website offering rod licence renewals which charges an additional £11 for 'processing services' the Angling Trust is warning anglers not to pay a penny more than they need and is encouraging everyone to use the completely free service provided by the Environment Agency and the Post Office.



Buried away in the small print at www.rodlicence.net are details of the extra charges, none of which is necessary.

"Rodlicence.net offers you third party data processing services, for which we charge a service and administration fee of £5 for short-term licences and £11 for full licences."

The site offers no additional benefits to anglers for these charges. Indeed, it is worse than the official sites because it does not provide anglers with a licence number immediately and so they could be prosecuted if they go fishing while they wait for their licence to turn up in the post.

Angling Trust campaigns coordinator Martin Salter said:

"It beggars belief when we are in the middle of a nasty recession which has hit hard the pockets of so many people that there are organisations out there seeking to charge anglers 40% extra on the cost of a coarse fishing licence for absolutely no benefit at all. Of course the situation has been made worse by the government's ridiculous ban on marketing by public bodies like the EA which has adversely affected rod licence sales and has prevented the Agency from getting its message out to the wider angling public about renewals. This has opened the door once again to the profiteers who are hoping to make a quick buck at anglers' expense."

He added:

"The Angling Trust has been lobbying MPs and government ministers to allow the EA to market rod licences and the correct process for renewals as they provide an irreplaceable source of income for both angling and fisheries. However, in the meantime we strongly advice all anglers to avoid these websites like the plague that they are and to apply either on line at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/fishing/31497.aspx>

Or visit their local Post Office in person."

The Environment Agency website has been amended to warn people that there is no need to pay any processing charges whatsoever.

Angling Trust launches new multi-lingual poster to support the campaign against illegal close season fishing

The Angling Trust is playing its part in the campaign against illegal close season fishing with a new publicity blitz aimed at making sure that all anglers are aware of the rules.

To help combat this growing problem and support its member clubs and fisheries the Angling Trust has produced a [simple but effective new poster](#) that spells out the rules in five different languages. Clubs just need to download the poster from the Trust's website, print and laminate it, then post them in prominent positions on their rivers, lakes and canals which are shut during the close season.

Martin Salter, National Campaigns Coordinator for the Angling Trust said:

"Fishing for coarse fish between March 15th and June 15th (inclusive) on rivers and some stillwaters and canals is illegal. Yet many people still don't seem to be getting the message, as fishing during the close season is one of the most common illegal angling activities in England. There can't be an angler in the country who hasn't seen someone ignoring the rules on one of their local waters. Not only is it illegal, it's also really annoying!"

Ignorance of the rules is a poor excuse, but it is the one most frequently used when an approach is made to an angler caught in the act. Hopefully these new posters will help deter the usual culprits and at worst they will at least mean that rule breakers have no excuse when they get caught!"



European Reports Highlight Scale of Cormorant Impact on Fish

The Angling Trust is highlighting two reports from Europe that show that numbers of cormorants across Europe are their highest for 150 years. The studies further strengthen the case for action to be taken to protect fish stocks in the UK from unsustainable predation by cormorants.

The first report was commissioned by the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee from Professor Ian Cowx of Hull University's acclaimed Fisheries Institute and the other is the European Commission's clarification on derogation under the Birds Directive which provides important information to support any moves by the UK Government to open up the current inadequate licensing system for controlling cormorant numbers.

A review of the licensing of fish eating birds has been carried out over the past two years following pressure from the Angling Trust for the Environment Minister to act to protect fish stocks. One of the aims of Professor Cowx's report was to recommend a management strategy to reduce the damage caused by cormorants to fisheries and aquaculture.

Key findings:

- Cormorant numbers across Europe are now at their highest for at least 150 years, in excess of 500,000 birds
- There has been an upsurge of cormorants in inland waters in Europe since the late 1980s
- Cormorants are causing direct damage to fisheries and indirect damage to ecosystem dynamics including forestry, water quality and biodiversity
- Countries need a structured management plan including lethal control
- A large scale management plan on Lake Huron in North America worked: cormorant populations in

North America were reduced by 160,000 birds, nests in the Lake Huron area were reduced from a peak of 5,500 nests to 500. This resulted in a rapid recovery of fish stocks

- Each Member State should organise their response to cormorants drawing on lessons from the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

The second report provides the European Commission's clarification on derogations allowed under the Birds Directive. The report can be downloaded from our website [HERE](#) (5.8Mb file).

Key Points:

- Allowed to protect fauna & flora and to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water
- Annual report by Member States to EC required
- Have to show "no other satisfactory solution" to lethal control
- Denmark & France have National Management Schemes
- Derogations to protect eels from predation in eel management plans is acceptable
- Derogations to protect marble trout, grayling and salmon are acceptable where their conservation status is at risk
- Measures should be aimed not at maintaining specific population levels of cormorants but to provide necessary protection for fish and fisheries.

QUOTE

Chief executive of the Angling Trust Mark Lloyd said: "These two reports are highly significant as they clarify beyond argument that the EU Birds Directive is no barrier to allowing member states to take the necessary action, including shooting, to protect fisheries from unsustainable predation by cormorants whose numbers have exploded in recent decades. Without healthy fish populations in our rivers, streams and lakes many other types of wildlife will suffer, and we will lose the huge benefits of angling to the economy and society. Cormorant numbers are doing untold damage to our fish and fishing, which is why the Angling Trust has persuaded the government to review the current and wholly inadequate system of licensing controls on their numbers and the damage they do. We urge the Minister to act as soon as possible now that the review has concluded."

Fish Legal Info'

CHARITY'S COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF RIVERS QUESTIONED

Fish Legal, a not-for-profit membership association, has used a freedom of information request to reveal that the Canal & River Trust (CRT) has earmarked 45 sites on 14 rivers for commercial development of hydropower; a money-making programme which could cause great damage to fish stocks and other aquatic wildlife.

Many of these rivers are recovering from centuries of industrial pollution. Fish Legal, which acts as the legal arm of the Angling Trust in England, is concerned that multiple developments on individual rivers could cause serious cumulative damage to fish habitat and migration. It could also destroy the cherished landscapes of our iconic waterways. Nine sites have been identified on the River Calder in Yorkshire, seven on the River Trent, five on the River Severn, four on the River Don and four on the River Weaver [See below for list]. There may be other schemes planned by other groups on these rivers in addition to those CRT wants to develop.

The Canal & River Trust is a new charity which has recently replaced British Waterways and its objects require it "to further for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and landscape of inland waterways...". Fish Legal has written to the CRT's trustees raising concerns that its plans to profit from large scale hydropower development might conflict with this objective and its status as a charity. Charities are required by law to work for the public benefit, but this development work appears to be for internal commercial gain at the expense of the environment. CRT's trustees have so far failed to reply to these specific concerns Fish Legal has raised.

In November last year Fish Legal took CRT to court and succeeded in preventing one highly-damaging development at Sawley weir on the Trent, which had been progressed by the CRT with its developer, knowingly without the permission of an angling club that owned fishing rights at the weir. Anglers now fear that many more damaging sites will be developed without proper regard for fisheries and the legal rights of clubs and anglers.

When making its freedom of information request Fish Legal Solicitors also sought assurance from the Chief Executive of the CRT, Robin Evans, that the charity:

“shall not seek to develop hydropower at any other fishery without first notifying and consulting fully with anglers, and then only progressing it further after receiving the written agreement from those anglers that hold potentially affected rights”

However, Mr. Evans refused to give this assurance, merely saying that the CRT “do not think it is appropriate” because each case will be different. This would suggest that there are sites under consideration where they still may want to disregard the rights of anglers.

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal said: “This industrial development activity by a charity leaves serious questions to be answered. Is it really being operated for the public benefit – as required by law and in accordance with its charitable objects – or is it seeking profit for internal gain? How does the development of commercial hydro installations over rivers and fisheries fit in with their recreational and environmental duties? What environmental assessment has the charity carried out of the cumulative impact of all these developments on rivers, fish stocks and angling? We will be pressing them for answers.”

Media Contact: Mark Lloyd, 07973 468198, mark.lloyd@anglingtrust.net High resolution images of hydropower developments available

Notes to Editors: Please [CLICK HERE](#) for a list of all the sites which the Canal & River Trust has identified for hydropower developments.

Fish Legal is a membership association founded in 1948 (when it was known as the Anglers' Co-operative Association). It takes legal action against polluters and others who damage its member angling clubs' and riparian and fishery owners' waters throughout the UK. Fish Legal members come together in the common of interest of conserving the aquatic environment and fisheries. In England it acts as the legal arm of the Angling Trust, with which it has a close partnership. Its unique work is made possible by contributions from club, riparian and fishery owner members and also from its many individual supporters, who are dual members of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal.

Fish Legal and Angling Trust general enquiries: 01568 620447. admin@fishlegal.net; www.anglingtrust.net; www.fishlegal.net



**IN AID OF
ACORNS CHILDRENS HOSPICE
MAY 4th**

Bridges 11 to 13

Peg draw at bridge 11 Lisle Avenue

Peg draw 9:30am

Fish : 10:30 am- 15:30pm

Adult £20.00

Junior £15.00

There will be a raffle on the day.

To book your place please email charity anglers.

charityanglers@gmail.com