Est. 1883

# B.A.A.NEWS

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August 2013

## Evesham Angling Festival, see us there 24th–26th August - See page 20

## Teme lamprey - See page 11

## EA Teme rescue- See page 21-25

## Angling Trust, cormorants & Severn seals- See page 26-29

# Fishing news

## Teme & Avon fishing

4lb 8oz chub

8lb 3oz barbel

5lb 2 oz chub

6lb zander

As an afterthought to my letter regarding Lampreys in the Teme *(see Nature Views page 11)* I thought I should comment on the early season fishing on the river.

On the opening day a session at Cotheridge produced a few small Barbel up to about 4lbs (legered luncheon meat) and a couple of chub to 4lb 8oz coming to ledgered cheese. As you can see the Chub is in poor condition and looks as if it has not long bred. The following week on the 22/6/13 was not as productive for numbers but did produce a nice barbel of 8lb 3oz which fell to luncheon meat on a rolling ledger. This last weekend, 6/7/13 was by far the worst for quantity but did bring my best Chub so far this season of 5lb 2oz which as you can see is in perfect condition and fell to free lined cheese. All these fish were from the Cotheridge stretch.

Strangest catch of the season so far though was on the Barton stretch of the Avon at Barton weir on 29/6/13 which produced a 6lb 0oz Zander. Not unusual or exceptional in itself but this fish came from the fast water below the weir (I admit I was fishing for Barbel) and it fell to ledgered luncheon meat. All I can assume is that the meat moving in the current induced the fish to attack. Zander aren't something I normally fish for so this fish is a PB for me but it does seem a bit of a cheat to take a fish from what is normally considered the wrong type of swim and most certainly on the wrong bait.

Regards,

Tony Barnett

# Teme barbel

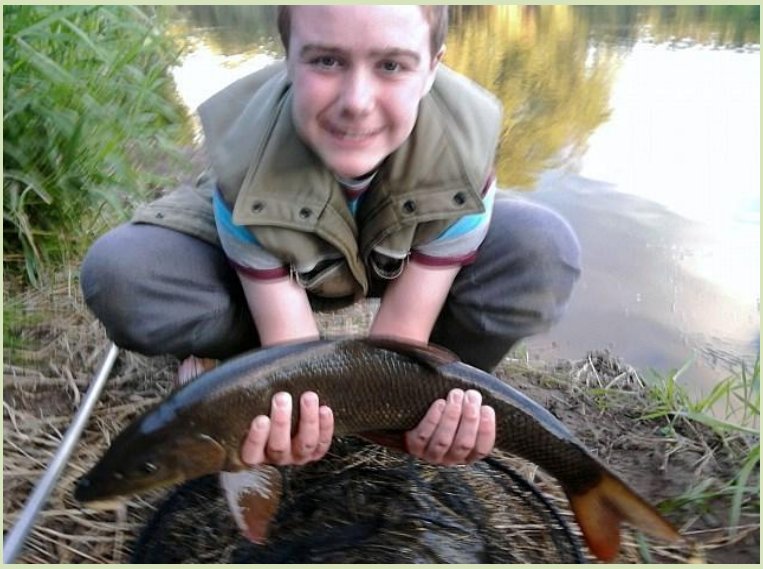
Hi,

I caught this prime Teme Barbel last Monday (15th July) weighing in at 11 pounds. I caught it at midday in very hot conditions. The river has not been easy but have caught on most visits to Broadwas and Cotheridge. Mainly Chub at Cotheridge

Regards

Colin Salmon

# First for the Severn



Hi BAA, just thought I would send in this picture for the newsletter next month. On the 3rd July me and my dad went to the Danery on the Severn. I was ledgering maggots on 4lb line and managed to catch this 7lb barbel. My first River Severn barbel!

Thanks BAA

Matt (Age 14)

# Avon barbel

Caught this seasons best barbel, on the Wark Avon at 13lb 8oz on hemp & garlic cheesy pellets on the 12/3/13.

Mark Farmar

# Fladbury Weir success

A picture of my son Alan Newstead  with his best Barbel of 10lb 2oz caught at Fladbury Weir on the first outing of the new season, cheers BAA.

Brian Newstead

# Mythe Pool bream

Not sure if this is a bit late now, but thought you may like to know about my tench fishing trip to Mythe Pool.

Arrived at about 4.30am on 4th June, knowing that my best chance of catching some of the tench would be early hours. I was concerned that the sun was already up and bright – maybe too bright for the tench. I saw a couple roll, but nothing after that.

After a few casts around to find weed free areas I fished two rods, one of them cast to a favoured area close to lily pads. Both fished with open ended feeders hair rigged corn for the first rod, soft pellet for the one near the lilies.

No action for some time despite re-casting and trying different baits. In final desperation I tried a lump of luncheon meat on the 'lily' rod and after about 2 minutes had a bite that nearly pulled the rod in, but I didn't connect. Next cast (still on the meat) produced a slower bite and I made no mistake hitting it and landing a near 7lb bream.

Over the next 2 hours I managed a further 6 bream all in the 6-7lb bracket and all on meat cast to the lily pads. Bites became less frequent and a lot more tentative, so I packed up at around 11.30 am, by which time it was pretty hot.

Although I didn't catch my target species, I was very pleased to catch bream of such a good stamp – given that I have sometimes struggled at Mythe. It's a beautiful natural lake and just proves results can be gained if putting the effort in, not to mention getting up early! Most of the bream fought much harder than I've come to expect and were in good condition.

John Snape.

# Fishing session of the month

Hi,

Thought I'd let you know about a wonderful fishing trip with my life long best friend Darren Lynton to the Weir at Holt Fleet on Friday evening, July 5th.

Between us we caught what we estimate was over 100lb of Roach, Hybrids, Bream, Barbel and Chub in around 6hrs of fishing.

2 of the Roach were over 1lb in weight with the biggest being 1lb 4oz, 2 Bream were over 5lb, the biggest was 5lb 6oz, we both had Barbel of 8lb 2oz, which was a personal best for Darren and we both had personal best Chub. Mine weighed in at 4lb 11oz and Darren's was 4lb 4oz.

In all, we caught around 40 fish with the smallest Barbel being 5lb.

All the big fish were weighed on digital scales which helped estimate a lot of the weights of the smaller fish.

We do not get much time to fish together any more due to young family's and work etc but it must go down as one of the finest evenings fishing I have ever had, in beautiful surroundings and with wonderful company.

I will get Darren to forward his photos of his Chub and Barbel if possible.

Please find my photos attached. There is a slight stain on them; this is due to dirt under the lens of my camera phone!!

Many Thanks,

John Morgan

# Fishing news record

## for last 12 months

| fish/catcher | lb | oz | location | method | date caught | BAA News edition |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Barbel** | | | | | | |
| | | | **River Severn** | | | |
| Gaz from Wigan | 12 | 6 | Middle Severn | | 28/07/2012 | July 2013 |
| Brian Rossiter | 11 | 12 | Severn Stoke | Banded pellet & feeder | 19/10/2012 | Nov 2012 |
| ? Nichols | 10 | 8 | Severn Stoke | | 21/08/2012 | Oct 2012 |
| Brian Rossiter | 10 | | Severn Stoke | Banded pellet & feeder | 19/10/2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Karen Summerfield | 9 | 2 | Ribbesford | | ? | Oct 2012 |
| John Morgan | 8 | 2 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Darren Lynton | 8 | 2 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Matthew Roberts | 7 | | Danery | Ledgered maggots | 03/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Chris Manns | 6 | 12 | Underdale | Water at 5°C | 03/03/2013 | April 2013 |
| | | | **River Avon** | | | |
| Mark Farmar | 13 | 8 | | Hemp & Garlic cheesy pellets | 12/03/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Mike Bothwell | 10 | 2 | Wasperton | 1 inch cube of meat | 03/01/2013 | Feb 2013 |
| Alan Newstead | 10 | 2 | Fladbury Weir | | | Aug 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** | | | |
| Colin Salmon | 11 | 0 | | | 15/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Tony Barnett | 8 | 3 | Cotheridge | Luncheon meat rolling ledger | 22/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| **Bream** | | | | | | |
| | | | **River Avon** | | | |
| Graham Beck | 6 | | Marlcliff | Maggots/maggot feeder | Aug 2012 | Sep 2012 |
| | | | **Pools** | | | |
| John Snape | 7 | | Mythe | Luncheon meat | 04/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Colin Weed | 4 | | Coppice | | 14/08/2012 | Sep 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 3 | 13 | Coppice | | 28/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| **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** | | | |
| Graham Sheldon | 22 | 1 | Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Dec 2012 |
| Graham Sheldon | 20 | 8 | Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Dec 2012 |
| Jim Clarke | 19 | | Coppice | | | July 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 17 | | Coppice | | 14/08/2012 | Sep 2012 |
| Andy Marsh | 16 | 4 | Nordley Pool 2 | PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins | 27/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| 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 |
| Andy Marsh | 13 | 1 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 12 | 13 | Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Andy Marsh | 12 | 4 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Colin Weed | 9 | 12 | Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Kevin Smith & Son | 9 | 6 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 01/06/2013 | July 2013 |

# Leather Carp

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Canals** | | | |
| Jonathan Albutt | 19 | | Birmingham Worcester | Stalking tactics in the margins | ? | Oct 2012 |

# Mirror Carp

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **Pools** | | | |
| Scott Lote | 20 | | Coppice | | ? | Oct 2012 |
| Scott Lote | 18 | | Coppice | Mainline cell topped with pop up corn covered in korda goo | 08/06/2013 | July 2013 |
| Andy Lea | 17 | 13 | Coppice | Single dumbbell with no free offerings | 22/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 15 | 13 | Coppice | | 28/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| Kevin Smith | 15 | 7 | Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 13 | | Coppice | | 27/04/2013 | May 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 11 | 8 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Kevin Smith & Son | 11 | | Nordley Pool 2 | Taken off top on pop-up | 01/06/2013 | July 2013 |
| Colin Weed | 11 | | Coppice | | 14/08/2012 | Sep 2012 |
| Andy Marsh | 9 | 14 | Nordley Pool 2 | PVA bag with pellets, hair rigged cheesy hemp/garlic pellet tight in margins | 27/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Andy Marsh | 9 | 12 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 20/05/2013 | June 2013 |
| Kevin Smith & Son | 8 | 6 | Nordley Pool 2 | | 01/06/2013 | July 2013 |

# Chub

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **River Avon** | | | |
| David Wood | 6 | 7 | Marlcliff | | ? | Sep 2012 |
| Paul Wood | 6 | 5 | Marlcliff | | ? | Sep 2012 |
| Gary Watts | 2 | 8 | Pershore | Gary's first chub of the season | 16/06/2013 | July 2013 |
| | | | **River Severn** | | | |
| John Morgan | 4 | 11 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Darren Lynton | 4 | 4 | Holt Fleet weir | | 05/07/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Chris Manns | 4 | 0 | Underdale | Water at 5°C | 03/03/2013 | April 2013 |
| | | | **River Teme** | | | |
| Tony Barnett | 5 | 2 | Cotheridge | Free lined cheese | 22/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Tony Barnett | 4 | 8 | Cotheridge | Ledgered luncheon meat | 16/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |
| Cameron Preece | 4 | 4 | Broadwas | | Aug 2012 | Sep 2012 |

# Perch

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **River Severn** | | | |
| Joe Boles | 2 | 8 | Arley RB Harbour | | 15/09/2012 | Oct 2012 |
| | | | **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 |

# Tench

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **River Avon** | | | |
| Derek Gabb | 3 | 14 | Pershore LB | Hair rigged cut down boillie and swim feeder full of pellets | Aug 2012 | Oct 2012 |
| | | | **Pools** | | | |
| Tony Barnett | 5 | 4 | Uckinghall | Float fished single red maggot | 06/10/2012 | Nov 2012 |

# Zander

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | **River Avon** | | | |
| Tony Barnett | 6 | 0 | Barton Weir | Ledger luncheon meat | 29/06/2013 | Aug 2013 |

# Nature views

## Lamprey on the Teme

In the July BAA news you have a short article on the possibility of Lamprey in the Teme.

Please find attached two photos taken on 6/7/13 at Cothridge, just after the rapids upstream of the "bedstead" swim of two mature breeding Lamprey. The photos are poor quality but show the two fish, one in very bad condition but the other in excellent condition. Both fish were about 2' 6" long and going from the size and markings were sea lampreys, Petromyzon marinus rather than river lampreys, Lampetra fluviatilis; or brook lampreys, Lampetra planeri. Both fish were anchored to rocks via their mouth. As you can see in the photo named Lamprey2 the bottom gravel has been "cleaned" which makes me think these pair either had just or were about to breed this being typical behaviour of breeding Lampreys.

This is the first time I have seen Lampreys in the Teme but I have seen them on a number of occasions on the Severn round the Welshpool area.

This would seem to confirm that the Teme is active as a Lamprey breeding river.

Regards,

Tony Barnett

## Coppice nature

As a result of the decision to close Coppice Lake for fishing during July, me and my Fisheries colleagues have spend time there manning the pumps to raise the oxygen level in the water. Apart from the task of setting up the pumps and periodically topping up the fuel, it has not been a particularly busy pastime. This has given me the opportunity to observe and photograph the nature around the lake. Some of which are shown below;

Spear Thistle

Teasel

Rosebay Willowherb

Greylag Goose

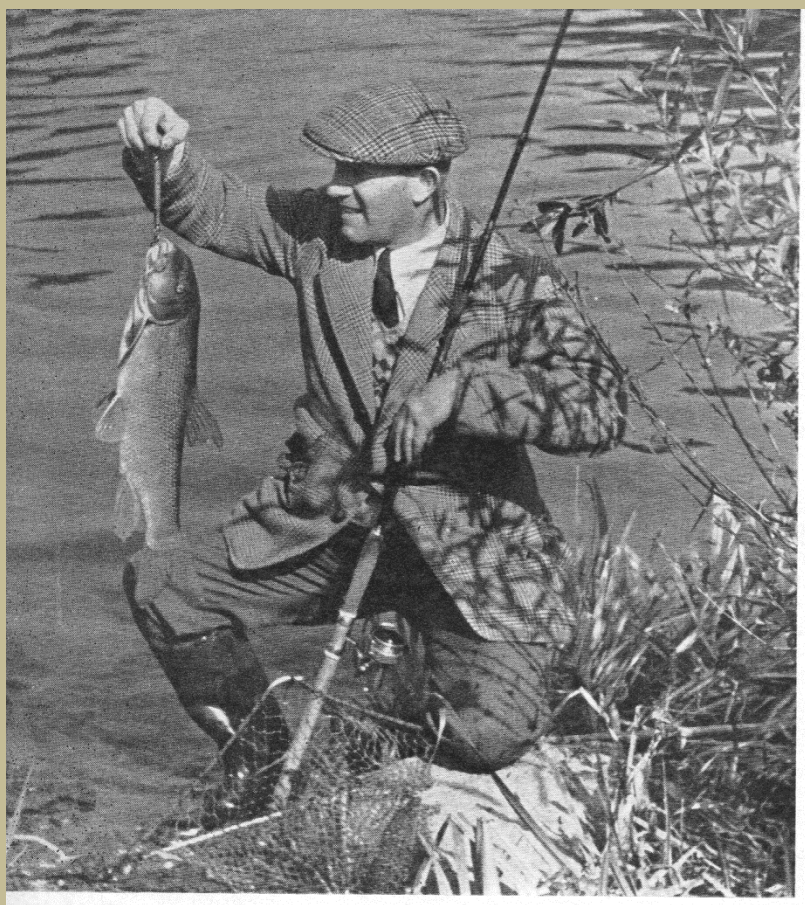
Ringlet Butterfly

A local heron, the only angler on the lake

# Archive extracts

## Midland Angler

Below are extracts from the August 1961 edition, the forerunner to the BAA News.



*The Severn now holds barbel every bit as big as this Hampshire Avon beauty.*

*Now Its . . . .*

# *BARBEL FOR EVERYONE !*

*There's no doubt about it — barbel have established themselves in the Severn. The result should be new and exciting sport for Midlanders.*

Says DENNIS GANDER

NOW that barbel are enjoying a wider distribution and can now be caught on the Severn as well as the Thames, the Hampshire Avon, the Stour and other rivers, more anglers can indulge in this hard-fighting fish. Although a few barbel can be had accidentally whilst roach fishing, to get big ones, or to make a good catch of barbel, one must understand their feeding habits.

In my experience, barbel will feed in quite a wide range of water temperatures. They are soon influenced by changes in water levels, but it takes a big drop in temperature to put them off feed; indeed, it is possible to go on catching barbel right up to the first heavy frosts.

The first couple of months in a season are far from the best for this species. Very few good fish are caught, and those that do come to the net are mainly small specimens not mature enough to spawn. The larger fish take some time to recover from this act.

Autumn, however, is a different proposition. Although the weather may be warm during the day time, temperatures drop several degrees as dusk approaches. This seems to give the bigger barbel the impression that a rise in water level is due and as a result they often start to feed.

There is another reason too why larger fish tend to feed before dusk. Anglers baits can be seen easily during the daytime and small barbel, which outnumber the large, seem eager to rob their bigger brothers of the ball of cheese or paste that is offered to them. As the light fades the barbel depend more upon smell and touch rather than sight to find their food and consequently bigger fish can feed without being harassed.

An interesting fact about these fish is that they cannot see a bait when they are actually picking it up; that is why the angler often gets a preliminary 'knock' followed by a hefty pull.

The barbel has an undershot mouth to which four fleshy filaments, or barbules, are attached—two at the forward end and two at the rear. These barbules are extremely sensitive to touch and also contain smell organs. The forward barbules, which are shorter than those at the rear, guide the fish's mouth over the food; the rear barbules ensure that it does not travel too far forward by extending over the food and keeping in touch with it.

It is obvious, therefore, that a barbel must more or less make up its mind about a bait **before it** takes it.

Feeding off bottom, as they sometimes will, barbel approach their food in a slightly different manner. Having decided that the bait is

8

worth eating, they advance towards it from underneath or to one side in a sort of half-roll and suck it in. These are the fish that give a real 'banger' of a bite when float fishing.

Really large barbel, such as those of the Hampshire Avon, may cover large areas of water when feeding in this manner. I once watched one work over about a ¼-mile of river from bank to bank, the process taking a full hour.

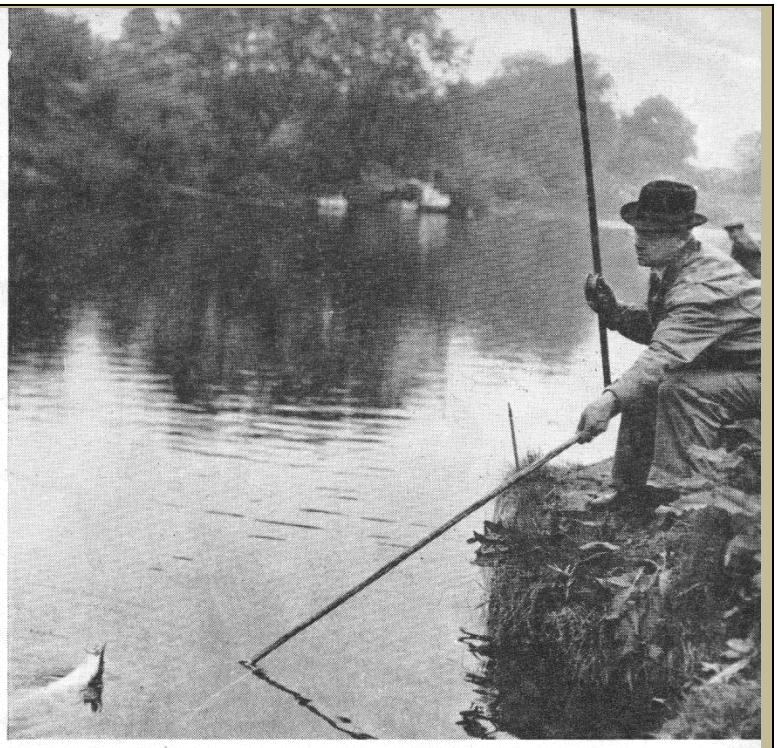
The fear barbel have of changing water levels invariably induces them to move into very shallow water when a river rises and becomes discoloured. The lack of visibility seems to give them a sense of safety. But the angler would be foolish to take liberties on such occasions. The slightest vibration on the bank will certainly send them scurrying elsewhere.

Barbel usually prefer the fastest water on a river, but this is not always the case. Always appreciative of an easy meal, they can sometimes be caught in pockets of slack water where food collects.

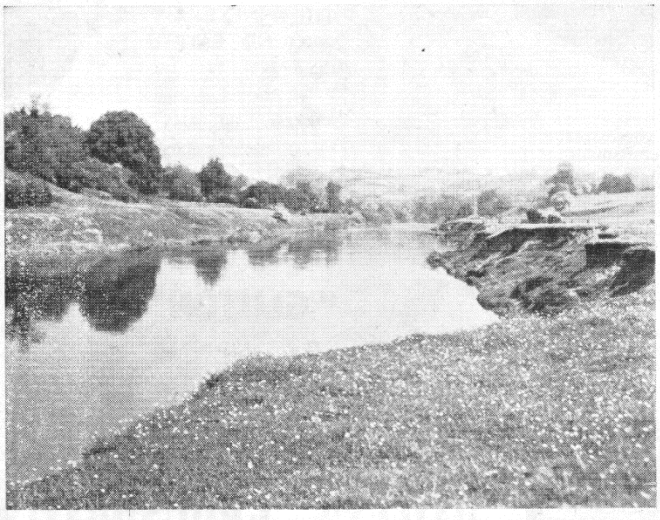
It is too early yet for the Severn's fairly new stock of barbel to be 'conditioned' to certain methods and baits, as is the case on the Hampshire Avon. Some years ago Bill Warren, the Avon chub and barbel expert, used to fish for chub with floating crust. The barbel soon realised that what was food for chub was food for them, and several large fish were caught by this method. Then the barbel became 'educated' and anglers had to revert to bottom fishing with cheese paste—a bait that nowadays is in turn being ousted by bread paste.

However, no such problems are likely on the Severn where barbel are unlikely to show any preference —or reticence—for a bait until they have been hooked and returned a number of times. Some of the Severn's broad, shallow runs might in fact, prove ideal for a method that very few barbel anglers ever think of using—a live minnow fished on ledger tackle with a very long trace between hook and lead.

There is no reason why it should not succeed, for barbel—particularly older fish—are not averse to eating spawn and small fry. Their own spawning habits seem to have taught them the value of flesh building foods. Such is the way of nature !



*The Yorkshire Ouse still holds some useful specimens*



*Several barbel have been caught—and returned—in this stretch of the Seven at Highley, below Bridgnorth.*

# NINE FISH WEIGHING 21-lbs.—FROM THE WORCESTER CANAL!!

by GEOFFREY FRANKS

The Worcester Canal, a water often frequented by match anglers at weekends, is not generally regarded as a place which produces good fish. Apart from the occasional decent bream, and in the last few seasons a few carp or pike, the catch of the average match and individual angler usually consists of small roach, perch and gudgeon with perhaps an occasional skimmer.

However, even the Worcester Canal has its moments, as I found the other morning.

I arrived at the Hanbury stretch of the canal at about 5 a.m. with the intention of trying for a carp or perhaps bream. I was not particularly hopeful as there had been a contest along this particular stretch the previous day and enough food is usually banged in at such times to put the fish right off until about Thursday. The weather was cloudy and very muggy with the promise of rain to come. The water was low—there had been no appreciable rain for several weeks—and was quite warm to the touch.

At first sight the canal looked dead. Not a fish rose and there was no evidence at all of any carp on the move in the rushes on the far bank where I intended to fish. I somewhat wistfully cast my large chunk of floating crust among the rushes and settled down to wait. An hour later my fears seemed well founded for not a fish moved and hardly any small fish had rippled the surface.

Then, quite suddenly and without warning, my floating crust disappeared with hardly a ripple and the line snaked out. A firm strike resulted in a tremendous splash as the fish tried to bury itself in the rushes, but after an exciting tussle in such a shallow, weedy and confined space a carp was landed on light tackle. It weighed 3 lbs. 4 ozs.—not a large fish, even for this water, which I know holds carp in the 10-15 lbs. class, but enough to test one's skill.

To cut a long story short six more carp took the crust. Two broke me in the rushes and the other three were landed, one by my younger brother who borrowed my rod. The others weighed 3¼ lb. 3¼ lb. and 4½lb. They went right off the feed at about 9 a.m. and proceeded to roll on the surface along a 50-yard stretch of the canal.

I knew there were quite a few carp in this water but I had never seen them in such numbers. Many fish between 5-15 lbs. bulldosed through the rushes and marginal weeds and two or three pairs of the larger fish thrashed the water into foam in some places as they appeared to chase each other along the margins. It was useless to fish for them as they were just not interested in food and I could only look on in amazement.

Although it was rather late, I decided to try for bream instead. I changed to lighter tackle and my large piece of bread flake was taken almost before it had reached bottom by a bream of 1½ lb. Four more followed in quick succession, all about the same size.

Shortly afterwards the bream went right off for reasons which soon became obvious. A huge shoal of small roach began to move steadily along the surface of the canal. At least thirty yards of the water was bulging with small rises made by thousands of fish. It was a fantastic sight. I thought at first that they were suffering from lack of oxygen, but they did not appear to be distressed; in fact they were very active.

Then, suddenly, accompanying the splashing of the rolling, thrashing carp, there came a new sound. Every few seconds a section of the roach shoal scattered or dived in alarm as perch struck at them from below. Many perch, good ones too, by the look of them, were worrying the shoal which still continued to rise. Occasionally a much more frantic scattering occured which seemed to suggest that the large pike I had seen there earlier this year was also having a meal. How I longed for a small spinner to flutter through that shoal. I might have added some good perch to my bag. And would you believe it, I couldn't catch one of those small roach to use as a live bait either.

Anyway I was more than satisfied. Nine fish weighing just on 21 lbs. is better than I had ever anticipated, and although the carp were small compared to those in better-known big fish waters, they certainly provided a welcome change from the smaller fish which is usually one's lot on the Worcester Canal.

I cannot explain why all the fish suddenly became so active. It may have been due to barometic pressure, light, warmth, the rain which was obviously in the air and came later—or perhaps the fish were just celebrating the match angler's departure. I just cannot figure it out. Any suggestions, anyone?

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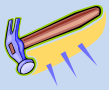
# Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out summer haircuts at:

River Avon
Wood Norton, Bidford LB, Marlcliff, Barton and Charlton 1-7.

River Severn
Arley Harbour Inn, Knowle Sands 1-4, Ribbesford and Hallow 4-5 track to BAA car park.

River Teme
Eardiston Mill downstream.

Pools
Nordley Pools 1 - 6.

## Coppice Lake closure

As you may be aware from the notice on the BAA website, Coppice Lake was closed for fishing during July.

Due to the prolonged period of hot weather, the lake water temperature had risen above 20°C and remained high being measured at 26°C. The water level had also dropped by about 18 inches due to the lack of rain. As a precaution to protect the fish, the lake was closed for fishing and pumps were run daily during daylight hours to boost the water oxygen levels.

No dead fish were seen during the weeks the pumps were running. When the sun was shining on the lake about 200 double figure carp were often visible cruising close to the surface, none of which looked in any distress. Possibly due to the lack of easy food supplied by anglers, the lake became very muddy as the fish churned up the lake bottom looking for food.

# 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.

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For your info'

On Thursday 4th July I fished at Ladyham. I found on the peg I fished several bag of litter had been left. I was visited by a bailiff (Nigel) He saw the problem and took the rubbish away. I also found a day ticket with the litter which I passed on to him. He did not have a camera with him, but I did and took some pictures and said I would pass them on to you.

Kind Regards

Martin Hayward

*Ed; Thanks for your email and pictures. Will keep you updated if it is possible for the BAA to take any action, but generally it is difficult to identify and pursue day ticket holders.*

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Dear Editor

You can imagine my disgust when I came across these on a trip to Eardiston on the beautiful river Teme. In my opinion those who leave objects like this on the bank should be banned from the BAA for the foreseeable future. Imagine the damage something like this could do to the local wildlife.

Neil Jones

Gloucester

*Ed; Where we can identify people who leave litter we will take action, but generally that is a rare occurrence. What we have to do is keep pushing the message not to litter.*

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I would just like to say thank you to the very helpful gentleman who processed my membership so quickly. I phoned your office on Wednesday 10th July 2013 and joined your association and by the time I arrived at my holiday destination on Thursday my membership card was waiting for me. I also met two of your bailiff's on the banks of the Severn, both of whom were very friendly and courteous. Thanks again for helping me to enjoy a good weeks fishing.

Regards,

Alan Curry

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Hello I'm an avid angler in the US, primarily in New York and New Jersey but I travel around the country and the world. I'm predominantly a fly fisherman but I utilize all types of equipment and techniques. Recently I saw a television program on the World Fishing Network showing a tournament based somewhere in England and I was fascinated. The anglers rotated to various "pegs" or positions (similar to driven pheasant/duck/partridge hunts which I am familiar with). They also used these very long rods which appeared to break down into smaller sections, using no reels. I'm VERY interested in both the tournament and especially the equipment! What is it? Is it available here in The States? Who manufactures it? Is it expensive? What type of line/terminal tackle is in use? As you can see I have many questions....I'd certainly appreciate any information and or assistance you can provide. Thank you for your help.

Be well!

John Montefusco

*Hi John,*

*What you probably saw was a 'coarse fishing' competition. In the UK and Europe it is very popular. Anglers sit along either a river bank or lake, at fixed intervals on purpose built 'pegs' and fish with rods known as poles. These can be up to 16metres long and break down into many sections. The terminal tackle is a short length of line ( a little deeper than the water) to which is attached a hook and a float (or sighter) which disappears under the surface when a fish takes the bait. Usually the 'pole' is fitted with an internal length of elastic which stretches when a fish is hooked to absorb the weight of the fish. The angler will, when he hooks a fish, break the sections of pole down until he can net the fish. The method of fishing allows for very precise placing of the bait and for delicate presentation. Try and look out for 'Fish – o – Mania' a major competition which is due to be held next weekend. The event will be shown live on satellite TV over here, Check it out on the Sky Sports UK web site.*

*Tight lines and good luck.*

*John Williams*

*General Secretary*
*Birmingham Anglers Association Ltd.*

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Hi,

Just a quick email to give a big pat on the back to the fisheries working party. I bumped in to them several weeks ago whilst they were clearing pegs on the Harbour stretch on the River Severn. For years the BAA have been renowned for having the fishing rights to some of the best river fishing venue's you could wish to fish however large parts of these venues have been inaccessible and the pegs virtually unfishable. For years my fishing tackle has included a spade, machete and weed rake and I have often had to spend a good hour clearing a peg and swim before fishing.

The last few years I have noted a total change in the access to our waters and the quality of the pegs and this is in large part thanks to the fisheries working party who give up their spare time so that the rest of us can have a better days sport. Well done lads, a big thank you from me and keep up the good work.

I feel a recent letter in the July news edition from a member who scratched his eye a little off. Although terrible that this should happen to anyone, I do not feel that you can blame the BAA or suggest the working parties do more work!. Those river fishing enthusiasts amongst us must part enjoy our sport because it takes us out into the wilds of the English country side....with that comes the lovely overgrown areas where the vole makes his home and the grass snake hunts his prey. These are lovely things to see and we don't really want them all cut back. The fisheries party do a cracking job making the pegs fishable, it is not there job to remove all vegetation that could be walked in to. If you want to fish a nice open sterile area then go to one of the many carp pools alternatively just be more careful

Cheers
Ben Keen

*Ed; on behalf of the fisheries team thanks. I remember seeing you on the Harbour Inn stretch back on the 8th July.*

# Executive update

## Evesham Festival

The 2013 Evesham Angling Festival will be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, Saturday 24th to Monday 26th August at Crown Meadow (WR11 4ST) off Abbey Road near to Abbey Bridge. As usual the BAA will have a stand at the Festival where we will be using our new exhibition trailer for the first time. So please visit the Festival for a great day out and come along to see us.

# Bailiffing

## Bailiffing activity

Bailiffing statistics for the year to date show a total of 329 operations have taken place, with 1279 anglers and others checked and 105 removed, giving an overall evasion rate of 8%.

# Match Reports

*If you want to report the results of a contest you have organised on BAA waters, please email details.*

Lower Gornal A/C  Sunday 28th July  Pensham 1 & 2, River Avon

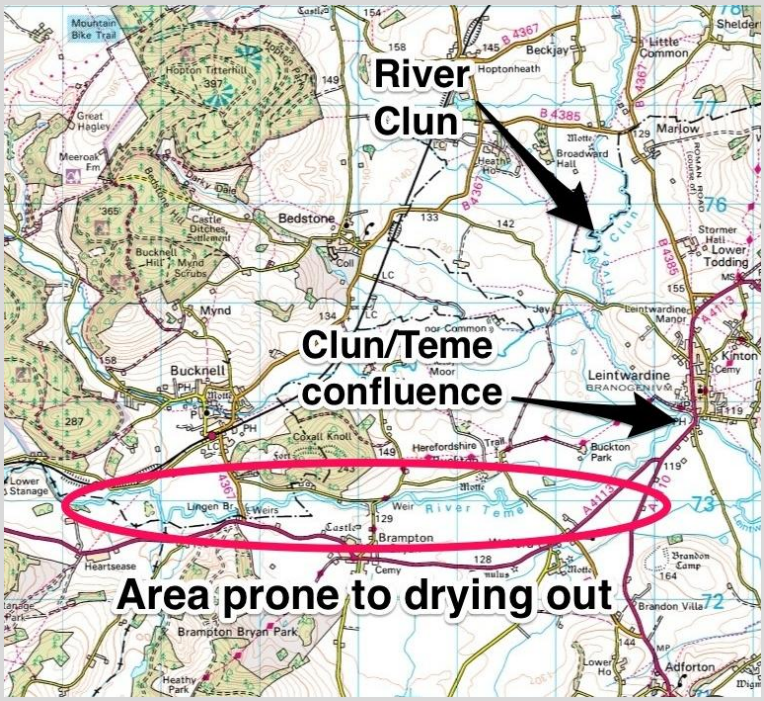
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | Kevin Sidaway | 20lb | 15oz | 4 bream & several small chub |
| 2nd | | 8lb | 7oz | |
| 3rd | | 6lb | 14oz | |
| 4th | | 5lb | 1oz | |

10 anglers fished, all first 4 weights included a large bream
Report from Gordon Beardsmore

# River Teme fish rescue

The River Teme is one of England's finest lowland rivers. It rises near Newtown in Wales, meanders through Shropshire and Worcestershire before joining the mighty River Severn just below Worcester. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest for its entire length.

Despite its size, however, sections of its upper reaches are prone to drying out during periods of dry weather. This is a fairly frequent occurrence, happening, on average, around once every three years. The stretch most at risk is from Knighton to the confluence with the River Clun at Leintwardine.




Drying out happens very quickly with low flows changing to a completely dry river bed within a day or two.

Because the upper parts of the Teme rely on catchment runoff (rather than groundwater) for its flow, an extended period of dry weather quickly translates into low flows and then drying out. That is what has happened this year. The record-wet year of 2012 topped up our reservoirs and groundwater reserves very nicely but the lack of rainfall runoff for the last month (combined with high temperatures and evaporation) has resulted in the upper Teme (and other similar rivers) starting to dry out.

**Fishy haven**

The Teme is an excellent fishery and is home to a wide range of game and coarse fish. It is very popular with anglers who travel great distances to sample its challenges. The upper Teme is an especially valuable spawning ground for salmon and trout.

You may have thought that a drying river wouldn't cause too many issues as the fish (being sensible creatures) would just move downstream as things dried out. The problem is that as the flows reduce, large, deep pools of water get cut off as the main river bed becomes dry. The fish tend to seek these pools out as they are deeper and cooler and tend to contain cover (weeds and fallen trees).

The sun then gets to work on these pools, warming them quickly and oxygen levels in the water fall quickly. Obviously, in time, the pools themselves will dry out.

**Launch the rescue team**

We monitor high risk river areas like the upper Teme on a regular basis during dry weather. Our fishery officers have years of experience of where and when to look.

Once we know fish are becoming stranded and rescue is possible we scramble our rescue teams from Shrewsbury, Kidderminster and Tewkesbury (depending who's closest).

We use electrofishing to catch the fish in the pools. A small electric current is passed through the water which is sufficient to momentarily stun fish. There is quite an art in knowing where to look for the fish and how to efficiently get the optimum charge to the right spot!

Members of the rescue team scoop them up in nets as they come to the surface and put them into buckets of water.

The fish are then transferred to a large aerated tank of water towed by a Landrover. This keeps them safe and happy until the rescue is complete. They are then taken downstream to a location where flows will be maintained and released.

**Teme haul**

During the morning of 18th July we rescued around a hundred large fish from a dozen or so pools. Sadly the small fish and fry cannot be rescued. Some beautiful brown trout were saved as well as salmon parr, stone loach and bullheads.

In addition we scooped up lots of brook lamprey and returned them to a safer place.

Work like this is made possible by the money we receive from rod licence sales. We hope that anglers agree that it is important work in safeguarding the natural fish stocks in our rivers.

If you see and dead fish or fish in distress please call our incident hotline 0800 80 70 60

**Note:**

The above article was written by Dave Throupe, Environment Agency Manager for Hereford and Worcestershire and is available via the following hyperlink;

http://davethroupea.wordpress.com/

# Angling Trust & Environment Agency Agree Plan for Severn Seal

## Joint Statement

At a meeting in Tewkesbury on Wednesday, the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency agreed a plan for managing the presence of a seal in the lower River Severn, acknowledging that the seal is causing a localised impact on specimen fish such as barbel and chub and is potentially impacting on salmon, shad and lamprey in the Rivers Severn and Teme.

Angling's representative body, the Angling Trust, has therefore agreed an action plan with the statutory agency to address the short term problem of the seal in the river and to identify longer-term solutions.

**The plan comprises the following:**

- The Environment Agency recognises the actions fishery owners can take to protect their fisheries. It has agreed to provide the necessary authorisations for the British Divers Marine Life Rescue to use a net in the river with the intention to remove the seal humanely and return it to the marine environment where it belongs. This approach will only be possible if a regular pattern of behaviour can be established, and even then involves substantial practical challenges.

- If this does not prove possible, then the Environment Agency has agreed to support the Angling Trust, working with its member clubs and riparian owners on the river, with trials of Audio Deterrent Devices (known as 'Scrammers'). This will occur if the seal is reported being present in a particular location where fish congregate for any length of time, such as below weirs and on spawning gravels, where it might be impacting on fisheries.

- The Environment Agency has also agreed to work with Natural England to seek the relevant permissions for the deployment of these devices by trained volunteers from local angling clubs.

- The Angling Trust and Environment Agency have agreed to carry out research into the feasibility of a permanent acoustic deterrent to prevent further seals entering freshwater in future. This technique has been deployed successfully in Sweden and Seattle on salmon rivers.

- Subject to such a deployment being found to be feasible on the River Severn, and the existing seal leaving or being removed from the river, the Environment Agency will seek to contribute funding and technical assistance to the deployment of a permanent solution.

- The Angling Trust will hold a Regional Forum meeting in the autumn to discuss this long term solution with its members and to launch any fundraising initiative that might be required.

Anglers and members of the public are urged to report all sightings of the seal to seal@anglingtrust.net to help identify patterns of behaviour. There have been no reports of the seal's movements for over a week.

**Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust said**: "local anglers have been very concerned about the impact of the seal on fish stocks and fishing and we have received a large amount of correspondence from members on this issue. We welcome the Environment Agency's recognition of the impact on the specimen fishery and that its officers have agreed to work closely with the angling community to identify workable short and long term solutions."

**Dafydd Evans, Area Manager for the Environment Agency said**: "We recognise the concern by anglers of the impact on specimen fish and that fishery owners can take action to protect their fishery. We will work closely with the angling community to investigate practical solutions to deter predation by seals"

# Angling Trust team hails breakthrough over cormorant problem

Anglers and fishery managers have today welcomed the decision by the Natural Environment and Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon to replace the current bureaucratic and wholly inadequate system of licensing the control of cormorants with a new catchment-based approach which will allow for predator control based on local needs rather than arbitrary national limits. The Angling Trust's Action on Cormorants campaign received high profile political and celebrity backing including from TV presenter Chris Tarrant.

The Angling Trust has invested a huge amount of time and energy over the past three years campaigning for angling clubs and fishery managers to have the right to protect fish stocks from predation by cormorants.

Bird numbers have exploded out of control since the 1980s to the point where the survival of many fish stocks was being dangerously threatened. For example, on the once famous Hampshire Avon Environment Agency surveys have shown a virtual collapse of roach in the middle reaches of the river where cormorant predation is the highest. Salmon smolts attempting to return to the sea have been dangerously depleted in many rivers endangering successful recruitment in future years and rural fishery businesses have seen their livelihoods threatened as a result of unsustainable predation.

Although details are yet to be fully clarified, the main features of the catchment-based system look set to include:

- An end to arbitrary national limits on numbers of birds to be shot.
- Three regional advisors to be appointed to support fishery managers, funded by Defra.
- Cormorant numbers to be assessed annually by catchment.
- As long as the conservation status of the birds are not threatened, the scheme will continue annually.

In his letter to the members of the Defra review group Richard Benyon made clear his determination to protect fish stocks saying: 'We must balance how inland fisheries and aquatic bio-diversity can be protected from fish eating birds in an effective, proportionate and timely way. 'During the review process the Angling Trust published a 10,000 word 'Dossier of Destruction' illustrating the impact that the increase from 2,000 to nearly 30,000 of over-wintering cormorants has had on fisheries, angling clubs and rural businesses. There were 80,000 hits on the Trust's special Cormorant Watch website recording sightings of the birds.

Angling Trust Chief Executive Mark Lloyd said:

'Back in 2010 the Angling Trust persuaded Richard Benyon to review the hugely-bureaucratic rules which have completely failed to protect fisheries and wild fish stocks from the dreadful affects of a near 15-fold increase in cormorant numbers in the UK over the last 25 years. Time after time we had reports of angling clubs and fisheries whose stocks were in real trouble only being allowed to shoot a couple of birds a year when literally hundreds of these lethal predators were wreaking havoc on the local fish stocks.

'We're delighted that we have won a major decision from the government this week to announce sensible predator management measures and will work with them to find a sensible balance between birds and fish in each and every catchment. The current situation had got completely out of control and real action on cormorants has been long overdue.'

Angling Trust Campaigns Chief Martin Salter added: 'This is looks like being really good news for both angling and fisheries and is a tribute to years of hard work by many people who were not prepared to stand idly by and watch our fish stocks being decimated by squadrons of cormorants, many of which are European birds not native to the UK. At long last, those of us who care for the nation's fisheries will be given a chance to deliver a safer environment for young fish and threatened species.

'We are particularly grateful to Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon MP, his Labour predecessor Ben Bradshaw and all the other MPs from right across the political divide, including our colleagues in the All Party Parliamentary Group on Angling, who have supported this campaign. Thanks must also go to everyone who sent off one of the 100,000 postcards produced by the Angling Trust to lobby their MPs and to our friends in the angling and countryside media for regularly highlighting this important issue. Now the challenge is to make Mr Benyon's new scheme work so that our fish get a fighting chance to survive and breed.'

George Hollingbery MP, Chair of the APPG on Angling said:

'I particularly welcome Richard Benyon's insistence that it was perfectly possible to produce a scheme that allows for greater and more effective control of cormorants without endangering the conservation status of either birds or fish. I hope everyone will now get behind what is an entirely sensible approach based on the needs and challenges in individual catchments.'

The declining roach stocks of the Hampshire Avon became a centrepiece of the Action on Cormorants campaign with a 16,000 petition from the Avon Roach Project being presented to Richard Benyon in February 2012 by a delegation that included celebrity anglers Chris Tarrant and Feargal Sharkey and wildlife film maker Hugh Miles.

TV presenter Chris Tarrant said:

'At last we seem to have a government minister who is prepared to take action to enable angling clubs and fishery managers to protect our vulnerable fish stocks from unsustainable predation by squadrons of these lethal predators whose numbers have expanded incredibly over the last 20 years'.

Trevor Harrop from the Avon Roach Project welcomed the news saying:

'We are delighted by this announcement, and see it as a victory for common sense. Now, we look like having the right to protect our vulnerable and endangered fish populations, the work we do through the Avon Roach Project to restore the river's natural fish population stands a far greater chance of succeeding.'

RSPB member and award winning wildlife film maker Hugh Miles added:

'At long last we are seeing some sensible concessions to save our valuable fish life from the tragedy of unsustainable predation by cormorants. This follows years of hard and dedicated work by the Angling Trust and many others and represents a real triumph for all those who have contributed to the campaign.'

Environment Agency data shows that angling in England & Wales is worth in excess of £3.5 billion to the economy and generates nearly 40,000 jobs. Rural businesses have warmly welcomed the Government announcement on greater controls of fish-eating birds.

Adam Fox-Edwards from the Arundell Arms in Lifton, Devon, the premier game fishing hotel in the South West said:

'It is important that both the public and politicians realise the huge economic value of both our fish and fisheries. Cormorant numbers have spiralled out of control in recent years and it is vital for businesses such as ours that a sensible balance is restored.'