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B.A.A.NEWS

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March 2013

Become a bailiff!

See page 2

How to fish Coppice in winter!

See YouTube link on page 4

Want to join The Angling Trust?

See page 13

The BAA needs you!

The BAA is looking to enlarge its workforce of volunteer bailiffs, in order to increase the amount of bailiffing on all its waters in all its areas. This can be a healthy and rewarding job, where you will be the face of the Association. No previous experience of bailiffing is required as training will be given. All we ask is that you enjoy and are capable of walking river, canal and pool banks and that you can be available on a reasonably regular basis to assist in bailiffing waters, both on your own, with a partner and also be a part of proactive team bailiffing.

Anyone who would like to assist in this challenge, please contact the BAA office in Hagley

Is anybody there?

Due I suspect to a combination of the prolonged rain and flooding making our rivers very difficult to fish this past year and the recent cold winter weather. Over the past few months our reader's letters and fishing news items have been dwindling away to almost nothing. So if you get the opportunity to fish, or want to raise an issue, don't forget the BAA News. Take you camera and send us photos and words about your days fishing.

Fishing news

Another report from our bailiff Colin

Member Dave Beasley called to Coppice Pool to see his son Andy who had been fishing for the Silvers and couldn't resist having a go himself.

By using just a top three and top four Dave had a number of small fish but he also had two cracking perch one of just over 3lb and the other about 2½lb, see photo.

Andy, who fishes for the RAF ended the day with an estimated 12-13lb of roach & skimmers.

Andy said that after the tragedy of the fish kill that took a number of the large carp and bream, the small fish seem to have thrived and now Coppice is an ideal silver fish venue and he is able to practice different methods and set up rigs etc.

Dave who helps run a local Junior Angling Club said he loves fishing Coppice and now with the numbers of silver fish in the pool and the way that the BAA working party have built pegs all around the pool that are safe and young angler friendly. Coppice would be a brilliant club contest venue and a revenue earner for the BAA, thought should be given to allowing nets and contests on the water.

Check out the link below from Shakespeare's James Robbins fishing Coppice in November.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDeYUXKgoxc

Regards

Colin Townsend

Severn in flood at Arley

Harbour Inn fishery

Upstream of footbridge

In early February I visited Arley to find the river in flood again. It was just in its banks and going down. I walked downstream from the footbridge to Victoria Railway Bridge on the Harbour Inn bank and upstream a couple of meadows on the other bank. Unsurprisingly no anglers were there fishing as steps, platforms and usual fishing spots were all well under water.

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
Barbel						
			River Severn			
Steve Swain	13	5	Mid Severn	Pellet and feeder	03/03/2012	April 2012
Malcolm Ford	12	3		Luncheon meat	28/07/2012	Aug 2012
Steve Swain	12		Mid Severn	Halibut pellet on 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder	14/03/2012	April 2012
Brian Rossiter	11	12	Severn Stoke	Cage feeder & banded pellet	19/10/2012	Nov 2012
Steve Swain	11		Mid Severn	As above	10/03/2012	April 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
			River Avon			
Chris Blunt	15	4	Fladbury	2 x 11mm pellet	14/03/2012	April 2012
Chris Blunt	14	1	Fladbury	2 x 11mm pellet	12/01/2012	April 2012
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
Steve Welland	10		Wasperton	Meat	11/03/2012	April 2012
Brian Rossiter	10		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013
Chris Blunt	8	12	Fladbury	Pellet	14/03/2012	April 2012
Brian Rossiter	7		Fladbury	Banded pellet & feeder	07/01/2013	Feb 2013
			River Teme			
John Morgan	10	5	Stanford Bridge		?	April 2012
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

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
Jack Parkes	20	2	Coppice		24/03/2012	April 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

Mirror Carp

Pools

Michael Cross	31		Coppice	Boilie	25/03/2012	April 2012
John Morgan	29	11	Coppice	Zig rigged pop-up	09/05/2012	June 2012
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice	Boilie	03/04/2012	April 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
Chris Blunt	4	12	Fladbury	Bread	14/03/2012	April 2012

River Teme

Cameron Preece	4	4	Broadwas		Aug 2012	Sep 2012

Grayling

River Teme

Tim Gilson	1	0	Lindridge	Ledgered maggot	Feb 2012	April 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

Roach

River Severn

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

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

Executive update

Life membership awards

Dave Jones

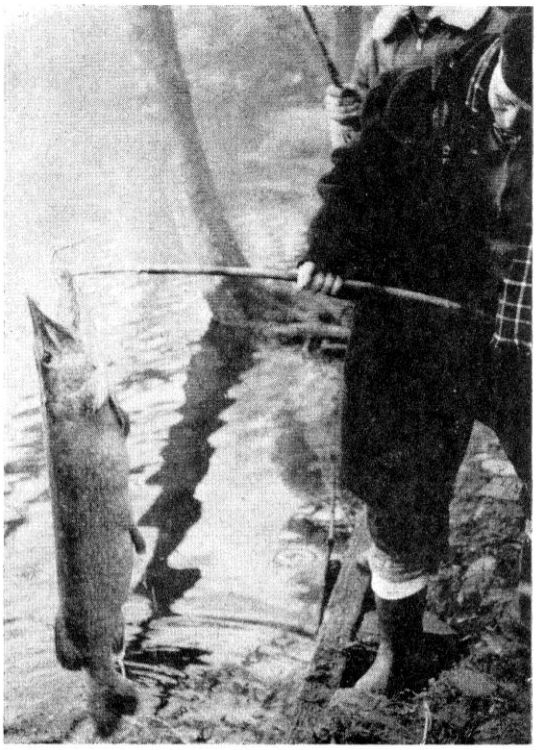
Brian Collins

Presentations of an illuminated address and a monetary reward, commemorating their induction as Life Members of the Association, were made to Dave Jones and Brian Collins. In presenting the awards, the Chairman Ian Rees thanked both for their 20 years of unstinting effort on behalf of the Association.

Archive extracts

Midland Angler

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



The gaff bends as it takes the strain of this 22½-pounder, caught last month by Paul Goss in Sawmills Lake, Wotton Underwood, Bucks . . .

DEAD BAITS ARE BEST FOR BACK-END PIKE

says
FRED TAYLOR

A ledgered herring or sprat could be just the medicine for that end-of-season 20-pounder.

THERE are many times (as Jim Wheat so rightly said in last month's issue) when movement, irrespective of what it is that moves, means food to hungry pike. Having caught pike (none of them very large) on a variety of shining monstrosities from a large number of waters, I am still puzzled as to why any self-respecting pike should seize a chunk of wood or metal and try to eat it merely because it moves. In these instances movement may denote food, but I do not think that is always the case. Neither do I believe that movement is necessary to make pike feed. To a really hungry pike anything which moves could be taken for food; to the not-so-hungry pike with room for a "little bit more" the spinning lure which falls on its nose may also be accepted as food, but I feel that the pike takes it before it has time to make up its mind not to! It is a reflex action on the fish's part. The full-to-the-brim pike which takes a lure that constantly flits and vibrates past its lie, takes it out of sheer cussedness, having been teased into doing so. In this case I feel sure that movement does not represent food as far as the pike is concerned.

It is difficult to decide just what is necessary to tickle a pike's appetite. Waters are so vastly different and the pike in them act so differently. Even in the same waters conditions can be so varied that at times the pike in them behave almost as if they were a different species.

Jim Wheat mentioned movement of a shrimp in a tropical fish aquarium, but here, of course, the water temperature would be constant and one would expect the fish to react to movement in the same way all the time. One could hardly expect this of a cold and torpid pike during the winter months when the water temperature is near to freezing point.

I am not suggesting that pike will not react to movement in cold weather, but I do suggest that they will not continue to do so as often as they do in summer and autumn when the water temperature is much higher. I think Jim right when he says that pike will not move far for food when it is cold.

In my experience they will not move far at that lightning pace we know so well. They will, however, sidle up to a dead bait or a tethered live bait and devour it at leisure. This is an instance where movement of the bait has no effect whatsoever on the pike's behaviour. I think that even in the coldest of weather the pike still move around in search of food—slowly and with a minimum of effort. Should a bait pass within an inch of their noses they will sup

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it up, but they will not stir themselves to chase food. It is a different matter, though, if they should sense a dead fish in the vicinity during their prowling. No chase is necessary here; no vicious strike to kill the luckless creature; no energy to be used up. The pike has all the time in the world to amble up to the dead fish, shovel it up and eat it.

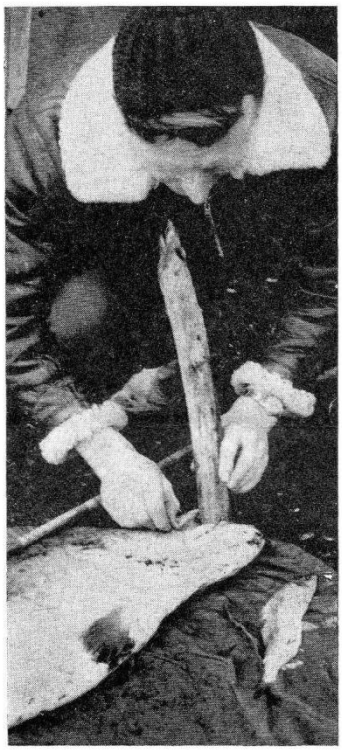
I saw a perfect example of this a few weeks ago when a local club held a pike contest on one of our small rivers. It was very cold, and live-baiting, spinning and dead baiting were all being tried. I personally spent several hours working a mounted sprat through the better known pike lies but never moved a fish. Yet stationary baits lying on the bottom in the same vicinity accounted for several pike—even as I spun.

Cold water conditions, however, are not the only reason why pike often prefer the stationary dead bait to one which moves. At this time of year pike—especially females—are heavy with spawn and there is little doubt that this causes them to slow down their rate of living considerably. This fact is often borne out by the poor fights experienced with back-end fish. There is no doubt that these late season fish require a lot of food to prepare them for their forthcoming spawning period and much of this food is taken in the shape of dead fish. Dead fish contain as much nutriment as live ones, and much more than metal spoons and plugs.

Having carried out many hours of experimental fishing with dead and live baits, I am confident that the bait most likely to catch a back-end 20-pounder is a stationary dead-bait. It can be a sprat, a herring, or a natural resident of the water, and although this fishing requires less skill than spinning it is certainly productive on most waters.

Of course, a dead bait in the wrong place will catch nothing, but, unlike the spoon or plug, it does not have to be placed within an inch or two of the pike's nose. It is sufficient if it rests in the right area and to help matters the water in that area can be given a decidedly fishy flavour by the use of a ground bait consisting of chopped or minced fish. Pike can be attracted from a long way off and induced to feed in this manner. Sometimes it is a slow game, sometimes excitingly fast, but there is always a thrill to be had when a big pike takes and the line strips off the spool.

One of the main advantages of the dead bait is in fact its *lack of movement*. It stays where it is put and



. . . And this is the bait it fell for—a herring fished on the bottom.

does not try to bury itself in weed. Threaded on to the trace it is virtually snag-proof, and if the swim bladder is left intact so that the fish sinks slowly with the hooks undermost and out of sight, it will come to rest lightly on a soft weed or silt and not become buried.

Dead baits have now accounted for so many large pike that 20-pounders are no longer news. Even so, I do not use the 20-pounder as the yardstick with which to measure successs in pike fishing. I have had some grand sport with 10 and 12 pounders caught on a light outfit and small sprats as bait.

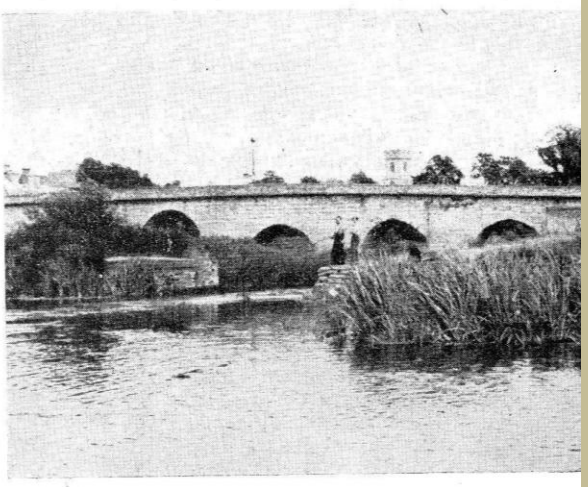
Returning again to the question of movement, there are some waters (and I am thinking of very clear water in particular) where the movement of the bait has to be very life-like before it is taken. There are indeed waters where the capture of a pike on a spoon or artificial lure is virtually unheard of, despite the fact that these waters have been fished continually by expert spinning enthusiasts. I feel sure that the extreme clarity of the water is the reason for this, for whereas a spinning lure is refused, a dead natural bait fished on a sink-and-draw mount is very deadly. It seems obvious to me that in these clear waters a pike can tell immediately whether a lure is a fish or a lump of metal. I have many times seen a pike follow a vibrating spoon and sheer off at the last moment, only to take a mounted dead-bait minutes afterwards.

Studying this on the Upper Ouse for some time I came to the conclusion that it was the vibrations of the lure which caused the initial movement of the pike and not the mere movement of the lure. A lure which moves but does not vibrate is less likely to move a pike in the Upper Ouse than one which has a violent vibratory action. When the water is slightly coloured the lure will be taken nine times out of ten, but when the water is clear it is invariably refused at the last second. A camouflaged vibrating spoon two feet up-trace from a mounted dead bait at the business end of the tackle will often prove deadly in very clear water. The vibrations move the pike in the first instance and the dead bait is taken when it is seen to be a fish and not a glittering piece of tin.

A lot has still to be learned about the ways of pike, and luck will always play a big part in the catching of the really big ones. Some of the old theories, however, although containing more than a grain of truth, are not necessarily reliable all the time. Among them are the ones which suggest that all pike baits must move with a life-like action and that dead fish catch no pike.

Is Pollution Breeding More 2 lb. Roach ?

asks JIM WHEAT



The Avon at Bidford suffers from pollution but still provides some top quality roach

DURING the past few months a number of angling writers have discussed the reasons for the remarkable increase in the number of roach of 2 lb. and upwards caught by present day anglers. Some attribute it to the fact that the keeping of records is a comparatively modern mania; others suggest that anglers of today are more skilful than those of yesteryear.

However, all are agreed on one thing—that more 2 lb. roach are being caught nowadays **"in spite of increased pollution."**

As a Midlander whose nearest river is the poor, miscoloured Avon, I have other views. I am tempted to make the apparently strange suggestion that increased pollution is in fact the main reason why our rivers hold more 2 lb. roach than before. And I say that without attempting to minimise pollution or condone it in any way.

Consider what has happened to the stream Shakespeare knew so well. Undeniably there are large sections which are so polluted with town sewage that they will not support fish life. The water has a ruddy brown stain rather than colour. I have seen martins in the Spring, newly arrived, with their once white breasts gleaming rose pink in the pale sunlight as they dip and wheel prettily, taking insects from the swift-moving stream.

But this is a local effect. I think there is a larger pattern that should be considered. Near the source of pollution, the effluents discharged into the stream are so concentrated that they are too much for this still small river to digest, as it were.

The poisonous content of these wastes, such as industrial cyanide, is no doubt diluted by the river itself and also by the addition of millions of gallons of water obtained from local wells and by a maximum of ten million gallons a day of water (or what is left of it) which has been transported by pipe from the River Severn.

The Avon has more water than it did before the growth of the towns now along its banks, and we must realise that this extra water is carrying bacteria and all the necessary ingredients to support plant and insect life. The snag (as far as I am concerned) being near to the source, is that there is too much of it. As a keen gardener I know that strange things take place when a piece of ground is too heavily manured. This is happening to my part of the Avon.

Further down, ten or twenty miles further down, anglers are delighted with their catches especially after prolonged wet periods when there is plenty of diluting water coming along. Of course, the river has digested the pollution, and in it the plants luxuriate. So do insects—and roach. For roach eat greenstuff as well as grubs and flies.

Sections of the river around Bidford, Pershore and Tewkesbury are yielding heavy fish. The first two yield large roach, and Tewkesbury is becoming famous for its bream. Now these two fish have similar tastes for environment and food. So much so that they easily hybridise and cause confusion to the record seeker.

Another factor which must surely be influencing weed growth, and therefore fish growth, is the greatly increased use of fertilisers for farming. Fertilisers are readily soluble, or become soluble after weathering. They are readily leached out of the soil, and, in solution, inevitably reach the water-way.

This being undoudtedly true, one might argue that it should bring increased weights of other fish such as perch and chub. But at this point we must consider the nature of the river and what it has become. The polluted water higher up is, as I have said, stained a reddy brown. In a dry spell it is not muddy, for it is the country that brings muddiness—not the towns.

Cultivation has removed almost entirely the forest with which the area was once clothed. With the timber went the roots that held the soil in place. Places where woodland comes down to the river's edge are now very, very few, hedges are non-existent and there is nothing to prevent bank erosion. It is little wonder that the dredger is often at work, clearing away mud banks to hasten the flow.

This silted up condition of the river is very much to the liking of the roach, and thus we find the real reason for their present-day ascendancy. The loss of much trout and salmon water to pollution is regrettable, but we must recognise that a quarter of a million people cannot live together without altering appreciably the conditions that exist for other people or other beings.

The kite, once the commonest of birds, was the scavenger of mediaeval towns where sewage works were non-existent. Nowadays with modern processing—and however we may snort at the word "modern," it is infinitely better than a heap at the street corner—the kite has disappeared to a small anonymous valley in Wales. His going left room for the sparrow, which owed its rise to the dung heaps of the stables where cab horses were kept in their thousands. Both birds were scavengers, dependant upon man for their sustenance. Have the roach now become their logical successors?

Fisheries report

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

River Avon

At the AGM last November a member notified the BAA that the footbridge over the stream at Wick was in a poor state and required repair. The rotten timber supports and planks have now been replaced with new. The photo above shows the footbridge after repair.

Repair work on the fence around the recently purchased Meadow 1 just downstream of Jubilee Bridge at Fladbury has been carried out. This is prior to preparation of car access and parking.

The fence around Stubbs pool has been repaired.

A new footpath has been established at Cleeve prior

River Fisheries

Fisheries are planning to carry out surveys of our river fisheries to see what repair work is required to timber steps, platforms etc resulting from the prolonged flooding. If you are aware of flood damage please let us know by email or phone call to HQ.

We have already surveyed platforms at the Danery, Blackstone, Ribbesford, Fladbury and Pensham and found lots of work to do.

The Angling Trust - Our Mission:

- Promote angling
- Campaign for anglers' rights and the environment
- Lobby governments and agencies
- Protect our waterways and marine environment
- Develop angling as a sport for young and old
- Support angling interests

Read more and **JOIN NOW** at www.anglingtrust.net
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Angling Trust

Media Release

February 1st 2013
For Immediate Release

Angling Trust calls for Environment Agency action on declining fish stocks in the Rivers Severn and Teme

The Angling Trust has written to the Environment Agency asking for answers to questions raised by anglers on the state of coarse fish stocks in the River Severn and its tributaries, notably the River Teme.

Because of the decline in fish numbers on these rivers, clubs and businesses are losing members, day ticket and tackle sales on a daily basis. These are important rural businesses which rely on healthy fish stocks to continue employing staff and providing benefits to the local economy and to people and communities.

The letter to Dafydd Evans, Area Manager at the Environment Agency is copied below.

Andy Jones, Secretary of Montgomery Anglers Association and Assistant Manager at Total Angling, Shrewsbury said:

"We have been asking the Environment Agency questions about the downturn in match and pleasure angling catches for over five years and not one representative from the Agency has been able to answer us or has seemed willing to do anything to improve the situation. The Environment Agency just will not admit that there is a serious problem with fish stocks and they continue to ignore a simple fact, which is how good the fishing has been on the river Severn in the past and how poor it has become now. Local anglers fully support this letter from the Angling Trust and hope that now, at last, something will be done to improve things. Our club memberships, retail income and the local economy have been affected by fewer anglers coming to fish the Severn here and that's a real shame because in the past the river has produced amazing catches of roach, dace and chub. If the Environment Agency act now then things can get better."

Sir John Roberts, Chairman of Shropshire Anglers Federation commented on the decline in fishing on the Severn:

''It is now time for anglers to shout and shout loud. This has to stop. Summer floods have played a part in natural egg and fry losses and the constant onslaught of predation cannot be accepted by us." Sir John continued "The competition scene in Shrewsbury has seen income in the £1,000s five years ago reduced to less than £100 in 2012. Local clubs and Federations alike have seen their revenue halved."

The Angling Trust's letter to the Environment Agency is copied below:

To Dafydd Evans
Area Manager
Environment Agency

CC: Tony Bostock, Director, Severn Rivers Trust
Geoff Bateman, Head of Fisheries, Environment Agency

Thursday, 31 January 2013

Dear Dafydd,

I am writing to you following our conversation regarding the very poor state of coarse fish stocks in the River Severn and its tributaries, notably the River Teme. I have been contacted by a number of member clubs and tackle shops on the upper and middle sections of the river and on the River Teme, and they have given me compelling evidence that there is a very serious decline in fish numbers on this very important fishery.

This is a subject that has been raised with the Environment Agency by anglers and angling clubs on numerous occasions in recent years and yet it is difficult to see if any concrete action has resulted.

At the Angling Trust midlands forum meeting last year, anglers were told by your officers that the floods in recent years had led to damage to several year classes of fish. Your officers also gave a presentation about the work that is going on in a small number of tributaries to improve spawning habitat and to remove barriers to migration. Anglers were also asked to fill in match catch returns and to send these in to the Agency. However, many of our members have stopped holding matches because the catches are so poor. I have attached match results from Shrewsbury from 2007 to 2010 that demonstrate a stark decline in catches.

The Angling Trust is also aware that cormorant and goosander predation have increased significantly, particularly on the Upper Severn, and as you know we are campaigning for greater freedom for angling clubs and riparian owners to control these avian predators. We hope that there will be an announcement about this soon.

However, we believe that the fish populations should be able to withstand both floods and predation and that the root causes of the decline are not being tackled at anything like the scale or speed required for a fishery of this size and importance. There needs to be a proper assessment of the water quality in this river system and the availability and accessibility of habitat for fish to spawn and hide from floods and predators.

I am therefore calling on the Environment Agency to carry out such an assessment and to draw up a Fishery Action Plan to restore coarse fish stocks in the river. I would imagine that the catchment walkover studies carried out to help with delivery of the Water Framework Directive would provide a list of actions required to address diffuse pollution and other issues in the Severn and that these would form the basis of the Plan. We would be very happy to facilitate consultation with our membership and we will do all we can to encourage them to help with its delivery.

I am aware that the Severn Rivers Trust is planning to install roach spawning boards, a project that might help that one species in the future. Our members have already committed to helping with that project. However, the Rivers Trust does not have the necessary resources at the moment to carry out the scale of work required to get this river back on the road to recovery. Once the Fishery Action Plan has been completed, we would support substantial partnership funding from the Environment Agency being provided to the Rivers Trust to support delivery of the plan.

All this will take time. Many of our member clubs are losing members, day ticket and tackle sales on a daily basis and they do not have time to wait. These are important rural businesses and they rely on healthy fish stocks to continue employing staff and providing benefits to the local economy and to people and communities.

Therefore we urge the Environment Agency to stock fish to the upper river and the Teme to compensate for those that might have been lost in the floods, which would do something to restore stocks in the short term.

If you would like to discuss this with me, then please do not hesitate to get in touch. I would however welcome a written reply to this letter, as our members will be keen to know what action is going to be taken to address the current situation.

Given your previous experience as Head of Fisheries, I won’t need to remind you of the Agency’s statutory duty to "maintain, improve and develop fisheries" on behalf of the millions of anglers who pay their rod licences each year. They are keen to know how those substantial funds are to be used to restore their fisheries, the capital value of which will be affected by further inaction.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Lloyd
Chief Executive
Angling Trust & Fish Legal