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# B.A.A. NEWS



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November 2012

## **2013 membership rates**

See page 2

## **2013 AGM change of venue**

See page 16

## **Invasive shrimp found in West Midlands**

See page 17

# 2013 membership and ticket rates

The BAA Executive has approved the subscription rates for 2013 as listed below. Two membership categories have been abolished and a new one added.

## Membership

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Full        | £35 per year |
| Senior      | £25 per year |
| Junior      | £15 per year |
| Family      | £75 per year |
| Infant      | £2 per year  |
| Non-Fishing | £10 per year |

## Tickets/permits

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Day ticket           | £8 per day    |
| Night fishing permit | £10 per night |

Ladies membership has been abolished due to the EU Gender Directive which from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 makes it illegal to discriminate on the ground of gender i.e. different prices for different genders. From 2013 female members between the ages of 17 and 65 will need to purchase a full membership.

Joint membership has also been abolished due to the low numbers sold.

A new Non-Fishing membership has been introduced from 2013. This is for all people who accompany members fishing BAA waters but do not fish themselves; this ensures they are covered by the Associations insurance when at one of our fisheries. Examples of this would be; parents taking a junior member fishing; a carer for a disabled angler.

Night fishing permits will be charged at a flat rate of £10 per night for all our fisheries where night fishing is allowed. This is a change from previous years where night fishing at Coppice Lake was charged at a higher rate.



# Fishing news



## Fish of the month – Red letter day at Severn Stoke



Hello,

Just thought I would write to let you know about how well the Severn was fishing today. The attached picture was the best (11 lb 12 oz) of 11 barbel (also had another at 10 lb) at Severn Stoke.

Arrived at 11.00am and couldn't believe nobody was fishing. Set-up by a nice crease along the "banking" river and I was in business within 10 minutes and carried on catching until 5.00pm when I finished.

All fish were caught on the cage feeder and banded pellet.

Brilliant day.

ATB

Brian Rossiter

## Thank you



Just a quick note to say thank you to the BAA for providing me with some of the best days out of any kind I've had in recent years.

I live in Eastbourne, but joined the BAA two years ago and travel up to fish the river Severn between Bridgnorth and Worcester probably about once a month.

For £32 a year, I can't think of anything else these days that represents better value for money. Sitting by the river in some of the most beautiful scenery in the England I can't think of a better way of spending the day. I'm no expert angler by any means, but I've had some great fishing, and been given some great hints and tips by fellow members and just to prove it, I attach a picture of a barbel I caught a couple of weeks ago on hair rigged sweetcorn.

Sitting at my favourite peg at Eardington, watching the wildlife, and just relaxing it's a bonus if my rod tip bends round and I'm into a hard fighting barbel or anything else for that matter!

Only one gripe really - those canoes!! I know the river is not the sole domain of anglers, but they really can spoil a nice day. Needless to say I avoid the river at weekends!

I also hear a lot about the dreaded Himalayan Balsam - but it's a really shallow rooted plant and takes about 10 minutes to clear a decent swim!!

Thanks again

David Melling



## Uckinghall tench



As you can see in the attached photographs we have an excellent condition tench (caught Uckinghall, 06-10-12, float fished single red maggot). The fish appears to have nothing wrong with it and has not suffered any predator attacks, has perfect condition fins and mouth, clear eyes and had a full covering of slime with no sign of disease. The pocket radio included in the pictures for scale is 4 3/4" x 2 3/4".

The length of the fish is approximately 24" which I would expect to easily be a 10lb plus fish (1) even at this time of year but this weighed in at 5lb 4oz.

This is the reason for this email. The fish appears to be lacking in girth and although being quite broad across the "shoulders" is obviously very underweight. The fish was also quite lethargic only taking a few minutes to land on light tackle. All these factors seem to point to this fish, despite appearances, being unhealthy.

Given the ease with which a good number of small fish can almost always be taken from Uckinghall I wonder if this fish is suffering from malnutrition possibly due to overstocking (I mean natural overstocking, not deliberate BAA overstocking) of the water.

I realise that this could just be a fish towards the end of its natural life span (24" is after all generally considered about the maximum length for a tench) and as such be a fish that won't make it through a bad winter but I would ask you to consider this email if you happen to get any other reports of surprisingly underweight fish from Uckinghall as this could be a precursor of problems at the water.

(1) I assume this both from personal experience of having taken a number of doubles over the years and from various scientific researches into tench growth rates. The only other reason I can think of for such a weight is what I would consider very far fetched in that the fish has only recently spawned. A ridiculous idea even given the strange weather conditions this year.

Kindest Regards,

Tony Barnett

Hi Tony,

I think the fish is a male and they do tend to be slimmer than their female counterparts. I don't think it looks out of proportion for what it is and I agree that judging by the stunted tail, it may well be an old warrior. The fact that the fish is still feeding at this time of year would suggest that it is healthy, as the first thing fish do when poorly is to stop feeding. A nice fish all the same.

John Williams  
General Secretary

## Kev's Coppice update

Had a good day at Coppice, but it was very slow, very cold and very foggy. I saw three other anglers having a fish out when me and my 2 mates were there. Arrived at 6am, Colin and Greeny arrived about 6:20am.

Colin got the 1st carp of the day a common at 9lb 12oz that was him for the day.



I had 4 carp, a 15lb 7oz mirror and 3 commons at 14lb 1oz, 13lb 9oz and 12lb 13oz. One got away.





That was our day at Coppice, can I just say it was nice to see a bailiff.

Kev of Birmingham



# Fishing news record

## for last 12 months

| fish/catcher        | lb | oz | location        | method   | BAA News edition |
|---------------------|----|----|-----------------|--|------------------|
| <b>Barbel</b>       |    |    |                 |  |                  |
| <b>River Severn</b> |    |    |                 |  |                  |
| Steve Swain         | 13 | 5  | Mid Severn      | Pellet and feeder  | April 2012       |
| Malcolm Ford        | 12 | 3  |                 | Luncheon meat  | Aug 2012         |
| Steve Swain         | 12 |    | Mid Severn      | Halibut pellet hook bait on size 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder        | April 2012       |
| Brian Rossiter      | 11 | 12 | Severn Stoke    | Cage feeder & banded pellet  | Nov 2012         |
| Steve Swain         | 11 |    | Mid Severn      | As above   | April 2012       |
| Brian Newstead      | 10 | 14 | Holt Fleet      | 14mm halibut pellet  | May 2012         |
| ? Nichols           | 10 | 8  | Severn Stoke    |  | Oct 2012         |
| Brian Rossiter      | 10 |    | Severn Stoke    | Cage feeder & banded pellet  | Nov 2012         |
| Karen Summerfield   | 9  | 2  | Ribbesford      |  | Oct 2012         |
| Roy Price           | 9  | 1  | Arley           | 2 x 8mm halibut pellets over bed of 3mm pellets                      | Aug 2012         |
| Bob Bennett         | 9  | 1  | Erdington       | 2 x 12mm halibut pellets   | Aug 2012         |
| Andy Lea            | 8  | 9  | Danery          | 3 x 8mm halibut pellets fished over pellett, groundbait and hemp mix | July 2012        |
| <b>River Avon</b>   |    |    |                 |  |                  |
| Chris Blunt         | 15 | 4  | Fladbury        | 2 x 11mm pellet  | April 2012       |
| Chris Blunt         | 14 | 1  | Fladbury        | 2 x 11mm pellet  | April 2012       |
| David Holland       | 10 | 12 | Wasperton       |  | Aug 2012         |
| Rob Holland         | 10 | 8  | Wasperton       |  | Aug 2012         |
| Steve Welland       | 10 |    | Wasperton       | Meat   | April 2012       |
| Chris Blunt         | 8  | 12 | Fladbury        | Pellet   | April 2012       |
| Tim Gilson          | 6  | 8  | Nafford         |  | Jan 2012         |
| David Holland       | 6  |    | Fladbury        |  | Jan 2012         |
| David Johnson       | 5  | 1  | Fladbury        | 12m bloodworm boilie, barbel bomb & hemp groundbait                  | Mar 2012         |
| <b>River Teme</b>   |    |    |                 |  |                  |
| John Morgan         | 10 | 5  | Stanford Bridge |  | April 2012       |
| Steve Welland       | 10 |    | Stanford Bridge |  | Aug 2012         |



## Bream

### River Severn

|            |   |   |              |  |           |
|------------|---|---|--------------|--|-----------|
| Pete Jones | 7 | 8 | Birds Meadow | Magic Black ground bait feeder, small worm and red maggot on hook. | Dec 2011  |
| Ben Keen   | 6 |   | Ladyham      | Maggot/groundbait feeder   | July 2012 |

### River Avon

|               |   |   |           |                        |          |
|---------------|---|---|-----------|------------------------|----------|
| David Johnson | 7 | 5 | Fladbury  | 2 x 6mm elipse pellet. | Dec 2011 |
| Oli Johnson   | 6 |   | Fladbury  | 2 x 6mm elipse pellet. | Dec 2011 |
| Graham Beck   | 6 |   | Marlcliff | Maggots/maggot feeder  | Sep 2012 |

### Pools

|                |   |   |             |                                       |           |
|----------------|---|---|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Darren Davies  | 6 |   | Mythe Pool  | Double sweetcorn with open end feeder | June 2012 |
| Shawn Townsend | 5 | 8 | Stubbs Pool | Mainline Cell boilies.                | Dec 2011  |
| Kevin Smith    | 5 |   | Coppice     |                                       | May 2012  |
| Kevin Smith    | 4 | 8 | Coppice     |                                       | May 2012  |
| Kevin Smith    | 4 |   | Coppice     |                                       | May 2012  |
| Colin Weed     | 4 |   | Coppice     |                                       | 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 | Oct 2012 |
|-----------|---|--|---------|---|----------|

### Pools

|             |    |    |            |                      |            |
|-------------|----|----|------------|----------------------|------------|
| John Morgan | 22 | 5  | Coppice    | Bottom fished boilie | June 2012  |
| Jack Parkes | 20 | 2  | Coppice    |                      | April 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 20 |    | Coppice    |                      | May 2012   |
| Sam Chapman | 19 | 6  | Mythe      |                      | Aug 2012   |
| Kevin Smith | 17 |    | Uckinghall |                      | June 2012  |
| Kevin Smith | 17 |    | Coppice    |                      | Sep 2012   |
| Kev Abel    | 15 |    | Coppice    |                      | Sep 2012   |
| Kevin Smith | 14 | 1  | Coppice    |                      | Nov 2012   |
| Kevin Smith | 13 | 9  | Coppice    |                      | Nov 2012   |
| Kevin Smith | 12 | 13 | Coppice    |                      | Nov 2012   |
| Colin Weed  | 9  | 12 | Coppice    |                      | Nov 2012   |

## Ghost Carp

### Canals

|             |    |   |                |                      |           |
|-------------|----|---|----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| John Morgan | 24 | 8 | Staffs & Worcs | Bottom fished boilie | June 2012 |
|-------------|----|---|----------------|----------------------|-----------|

## Leather Carp

### Canals

|                 |    |   |                                  |  |          |
|-----------------|----|---|----------------------------------|--|----------|
| Jonathan Albutt | 19 |   | Birmingham<br>Worcester          | Stalking tactics in the<br>margins         | Oct 2012 |
| Steve Ridd      | 13 | 5 | Trent & Mersey<br>Canal, Fradley | Foul hooked when<br>plugging for predators | Feb 2012 |

## Mirror Carp

### Pools

|               |    |    |         |                   |            |
|---------------|----|----|---------|-------------------|------------|
| Michael Cross | 31 |    | Coppice | Boilie            | April 2012 |
| John Morgan   | 29 | 11 | Coppice | Zig rigged pop-up | June 2012  |
| Kevin Smith   | 20 |    | Coppice | Boilie            | April 2012 |
| Scott Lote    | 20 |    | Coppice |                   | Oct 2012   |
| Kevin Smith   | 17 |    | Coppice |                   | May 2012   |
| Kevin Smith   | 15 | 7  | Coppice |                   | Nov 2012   |
| Colin Weed    | 11 |    | Coppice |                   | 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 | Aug 2012   |
| Chris Blunt   | 4 | 12 | Fladbury  | Bread                   | April 2012 |
| Tim Gilson    | 3 | 10 | Nafford   | Luncheon meat.          | Jan 2012   |

### River Teme

|                |   |   |          |  |          |
|----------------|---|---|----------|--|----------|
| Cameron Preece | 4 | 4 | Broadwas |  | Sep 2012 |
|----------------|---|---|----------|--|----------|

## Grayling

### River Teme

|            |   |   |           |                 |            |
|------------|---|---|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Tim Gilson | 1 | 0 | Lindridge | Ledgered maggot | April 2012 |
|------------|---|---|-----------|-----------------|------------|

## Perch

### River Severn

|           |   |   |                     |  |          |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------|--|----------|
| Joe Boles | 2 | 8 | Arley RB<br>Harbour |  | Oct 2012 |
|-----------|---|---|---------------------|--|----------|

### Pools

|            |   |   |         |                      |          |
|------------|---|---|---------|----------------------|----------|
| Tim Gilson | 2 | 9 | Coppice | Float fished maggot. | Jan 2012 |
|------------|---|---|---------|----------------------|----------|

## Pike

### River Avon

|             |    |   |          |                        |          |
|-------------|----|---|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Neil Walker | 16 | 7 | Fladbury | Paternostered sardine. | Feb 2012 |
| Neil Walker | 13 | 9 | Fladbury | Paternostered sardine. | Dec 2011 |
| Tom George  | 13 | 8 | Fladbury | Lamprey dead bait.     | Dec 2011 |

## Roach

### River Severn

|          |   |   |        |   |           |
|----------|---|---|--------|---|-----------|
| Andy Lea | 2 | 4 | Danery | 3 x 8mm halibut pellets fished over pellet, groundbait and hemp mix | July 2012 |
|----------|---|---|--------|---|-----------|

## Tench

### River Avon

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

### Pools

|              |   |   |            |                                |          |
|--------------|---|---|------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Tony Barnett | 5 | 4 | Uckinghall | Float fished single red maggot | Nov 2012 |
|--------------|---|---|------------|--------------------------------|----------|

## Zander

### River Avon

|               |   |   |         |                    |          |
|---------------|---|---|---------|--------------------|----------|
| Rob Hawkswood | 8 | 8 | Pensham | Ledgered mackerel. | Jan 2012 |
|---------------|---|---|---------|--------------------|----------|



# Executive update



## Number of rods permitted

In the October edition of this magazine the Readers Letter below was published suggesting an increase in the number of rods permitted from 2 to 3 at a small number of specific waters.

*Dear BAA,*

*On a recent trip to Mythe Pool I was thinking about my options and where to place my rods. As on most sessions to both Mythe and Walcott Lake I thought to myself 'wouldn't it be nice if I could drop a 3<sup>rd</sup> rod down the margin' allowing me to cover all possibilities. This got me thinking about your 2 rod limit rule and whether it still has a place on lakes such as these. Here are just some of the reasons why I believe this rule should be lifted on both of these lakes;*

*Both are large and have ample space to accommodate 3 rods without being obtrusive to others.*

*Both are 'natural' and not overstocked like the other lakes on the BAA book where I do believe this rule should remain.*

*Neither gets busy and on most of my weekend sessions I see only a handful of other anglers present.*

*Neither is heavily stocked with carp so will not attract the undesirables which generally cause arguments by not considering others when casting*

*Both lakes can be difficult at the best of times and I have heard many a conversation where a member has sworn never to return.*

*I, along with many others in the Midlands, go through the expense of buying 2 rod licenses as it allows me, where allowed, to use 3 rods. On bigger more natural lakes it allows me to cover my options and get the best from my swim. I strongly believe that the BAA should drop the 2 rod limit on both Mythe Pool and Walcott Lake to give its members the best possible chance of catching these lakes natural residents. Would you consider lifting the 2 rod limit rule for a period of 12 months??*

*Best regards, Anthony Chance*

The Executive reviewed the request during the October meeting and has decided to leave the rod limit at 2 for all waters for the following reasons;

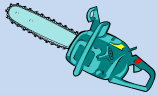
There is no mass representation for the suggested change.

The use of 3 rods would not be feasible on some waters.

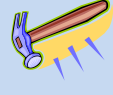
Two rods are ample on any river or pool.

The Executive thanks Anthony for his comments and suggestion.





# Fisheries report



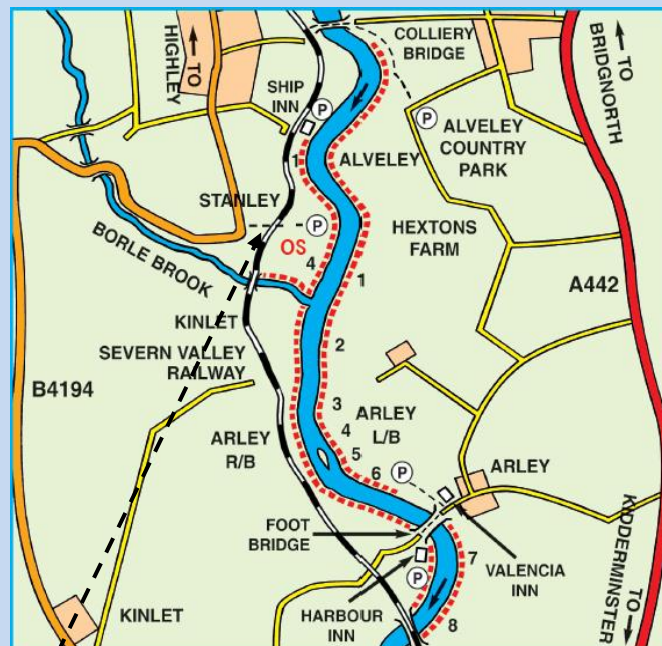
## Aberbechan bridge repairs

Aberbechan Bridge has been closed for the past 12 months for repairs and this has caused disruption to our access to the fishery.

The bridge repairs have now been completed, access to our fishery is now available again and our car park has been resurfaced.

## Kinlet & Stanley car park access

We have received the following information and request from Severn Valley Railway regarding the level crossing access adjacent to our Kinlet and Stanley Fishery car park, see map below;



Re: Coombys Farm Crossing Severn Valley Railway

Mr Williams

I understand that your members use the above crossing to access the car park on the West bank of the Severn near Highley. As you will see from the attached notice, we are proposing to alter the classification of the crossing and are giving users the opportunity to make representations to the SVR in respect of these proposals. Can you please make your members aware of this matter. Notices will also be posted locally.

**Regards**

**Chris Bond**  
**Infrastructure Manager**  
**Severn Valley Railway (Holdings) plc**



## PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is to inform you of proposed changes to the existing level crossing known as "Coombys Farm Crossing" This is located at map reference SO753817 and accessed from the B4555 via an unnamed track.

The classification of the existing arrangements is known as a "User Worked Crossing for vehicles" and requires the user to operate gates that are normally closed across the road. This method of operation also requires that once clear of the crossing, the user closes the gates back to their default position. For many years the Severn Valley Railway has observed continued misuse in the operation of this crossing in that the user operated gates are rarely left in the closed position. Concerns over the safety of the crossing have resulted in a proposal to reclassify the existing arrangement as an "Open Crossing". This type of crossing does not have gates, only road traffic signs are provided. This places the responsibility onto crossing users to give way to trains at the crossing.

As part of a consultation exercise The Severn Valley Railway would like to give users the opportunity to make any representations regarding the proposed changes. You may write to:-

Infrastructure Manager, Severn Valley Railway, The Railway Station, Bewdley,  
DY12 1BG

Alternatively you can also email [infrastructure@svr.co.uk](mailto:infrastructure@svr.co.uk)

Any representations regarding this matter should be received by 30<sup>th</sup> December  
2012

**In the meantime users are reminded of their responsibility to use the crossing correctly and ensure the gates are left closed to road traffic upon their departure.**

# Bailiffing

## Fly tipping at Fladbury



We currently have a problem with fly tipping at the road entrance to our downstream fishery. The bailiff is organising a truck and trailer for its removal.

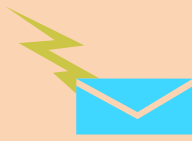
# AGM change of venue

The BAA AGM is due to be held on Thursday 8 November 2012. Originally the meeting was scheduled to be held at the usual venue of The Centennial Centre, however due to circumstances entirely not of our making, that venue is no longer available. Accordingly the meeting has been relocated to nearby premises at the Botanical Gardens, Westbourne Rd. Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3TR.

You can download the AGM agenda and a location plan for the Botanical Gardens by Ctrl+Clicking the hyperlinks below;

[http://www.baa.uk.com/uploads/agm\\_agenda\\_2012e8a2ea95.pdf](http://www.baa.uk.com/uploads/agm_agenda_2012e8a2ea95.pdf)

[http://www.baa.uk.com/uploads/location\\_map\\_botanical\\_gardensb9e6e9e4.pdf](http://www.baa.uk.com/uploads/location_map_botanical_gardensb9e6e9e4.pdf)



# Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to [baajnw@btinternet.com](mailto: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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I read with interest every month the BAA news letter and wish to say a big well done to you guy for putting it together, and our members for keeping us all up to date, so a big well done to everyone.

There seems to be one common feed with the news letter though that I am sick to death of, LITTER, LITTER, and LITTER. It seems to me that these idiots are taking the micky out of our club leaving it on signs which say "take your litter home", leaving it in trees, or car parks.

These people have no respect for the environment they fish in so I'm guessing they have no respect for the fish they catch. They are probably the same people that get my back up by throwing litter out of car windows while driving along.

Can the BAA not amend its rules from next year stating people caught deliberately leaving litter will prosecuted and fined a minimum of £500. A rule change could be sent out with every membership card.

I feel these people just don't give a damn and the only way to make them is to sting them in the pocket for the good of our club, and the future of our fishing.

Best wishes tight lines, David Harley

*Ed; Thanks for your letter. The chances of getting a case of littering to court would be very slim, probably expensive and we cannot stipulate the size of any resulting fine. That's why we keep on about it in this magazine to try and change the behaviour of the few that do leave litter.*

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I fished the peg where the duck trap is, it was a nightmare I could hear them in my sleep. There are two options; the farmer is trapping for market or he has a shoot and is releasing them on his shooting day I think the former as the ducks are almost tame and would make poor sport.

Now a little history, in the eighteenth century there were many of these trap sending thousands of ducks to market in London. There is one left I think at Boarstall. It's a large pond with three or four arms running off; these are netted and get narrower to the end. Now the strange part, the decoy man has a small brown dog it is always called Piper, which comes out of a gap jumps a small hurdle and goes back in, the ducks follow it up the netted arm and the decoy man jumps out the ducks panic and are trapped in the net. All the ducks are ringed now and released I don't think our ducks are so lucky.

Danny Nicholson



# Environment Agency news release

## Invasive shrimp found in West Midlands

The shrimp, *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*, which is a relative of the 'killer shrimp', has been found on the River Severn at Tewkesbury and Bevere near Worcester. It has also been found on two canals in Worcestershire. This is the first time this non-native shrimp, which has been shown to be invasive on mainland Europe, has been found in this country.

The shrimp was found after samples were taken from the River Severn by APEM for Severn Trent Water. Experts were then able to conclusively identify the species as *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*. Shortly after, other populations were discovered on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. The sites are spread over a distance of approximately 38 kilometres.

While this new invasive shrimp species is related to the 'killer shrimp', we are uncertain at this stage what its impact might be. Until we have better information we will, as a precaution, treat it as a high impact species. An immediate assessment of the risks of this shrimp has been commissioned.

We now have a dedicated team in place to establish how far the shrimp has spread along the river and canal network. The local response is also being supported by a National Task Group involving staff from Defra, Welsh Government and expert advisors from the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales.

The Environment Agency and Canal & River Trust are urging all water users to help slow the spread of this invasive species by helping publicise the bio-security advice available at [www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry). All water users should check, clean and dry all their equipment after use, before using it at another location. Boat users must be particularly careful to ensure that boats and kayaks are drained, cleaned and dried. Boat trailers must also be thoroughly cleaned after use. Anglers should ensure that nets and other equipment are cleaned and dried thoroughly.

If you think you have seen an unusual shrimp, please email a photograph to [alert\\_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alert_nonnative@ceh.ac.uk) for identification.

David Throup, Environment Manager for the Environment Agency said, "We are concerned that this invasive species has been found in the Midlands. We now have a dedicated team whose focus is to establish the degree of the problem, and whether the shrimp has spread wider than the locations already found. We are treating this as a priority so that we can come up with a plan to help contain it's spread as far as possible."

Chris John, National Ecologist for the Canal & River Trust said, "As the charity responsible for caring for 2000 miles of canals and rivers across the country, one of our primary aims is to protect the nations waterways from invasive species such as this. We need the support of people that enjoy the waterways to prevent the shrimp spreading by checking, cleaning and drying any clothes, equipment or craft that could carry invasive species, before and after they visit the waterways, and by reporting any suspected sightings of the shrimp through the dedicated email address."

### **National Task Group**

The national response to this species in England and Wales is being led by a Task Group involving staff from Defra, the Welsh Government and expert advisors from the Environment Agency, Natural England and Countryside Council for Wales. The Task Group coordinates the implementation of national response measures and key actions to prevent further spread of *D. Villosus* and *D. haemobaphes* and protect vulnerable sites from invasion. This group reports to the GB Non-Native Species Programme Board who oversee non-native species management issues across Great Britain.

### ***Dikerogammarus haemobaphes***

This species originates from the Ponto-Caspian region of Eastern Europe around Black Sea, and has invaded Western Europe largely as a result of a canal link created between the Danube and the Maine, a tributary of the Rhine, in 1992.

It is up to 18mm long, similar in size to our native freshwater shrimp. It may have striped or spotted markings, with two distinctive humps on the tail. It prefers to live in zebra mussel beds, but will also use a range of other freshwater habitats for cover, including aquatic weeds, mud and gravel.

*Dikerogammarus haemobaphes* is the less aggressive relative of *Dikerogammarus villosus*, the 'killer shrimp'. It is a rapid breeder, producing three generations per year, with each female laying 100 or more eggs. In Europe *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes* kills and competes with a range of native species, such as freshwater invertebrates, and particularly native shrimps. It also scavenges and eats plant matter. This alters the ecology of the habitats it invades.



For more information about non-native species visit:

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/home/index.cfm>

To view the Invasive Non-native Species Framework Strategy visit

<https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/index.cfm?sectionid=55>

### The main messages from the EA for anglers

Here are the main messages on the invasive shrimps that have been found in the Lower River Severn and adjoining canals – *Dikerogammarus haemobaphes*. It is the first time that it has been found in the UK and is a similar species to that found in Grafham Water – *D. villosus*. It originates from the Danube and in recent years has spread to Western Europe where it has severely impacted on native shrimp populations.

We want everyone to follow the check-clean-dry principles:

**Check** your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

**Clean** and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

**Dry** all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

Slowing the spread will be difficult due to the size of the catchment and the open nature of the canal system. Following the advice above will help slow its progress and can prevent accidental introduction to isolated water bodies.

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As a result of the discovery of these shrimps in the West Midlands, the Angling Trust has issued the following media release;

### **Demon Shrimp discovery means ballast convention must be ratified**

#### ***Angling Trust claims further delay on invasive non native species would be negligent***

The news that the Demon shrimp (*Dikerogammarus haemobaphus*) has been discovered in the River Severn and is almost certain to spread to other river systems could be devastating for anglers and extremely damaging for our fisheries.

The Angling Trust is demanding that the government immediately announce the ratification of the International Maritime Organisation's International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments. Ballast water transfer has been identified as a major pathway for invasive species to spread across the globe, threatening ecosystems as they are moved. This Convention has been ratified by countries as far away as Antigua but not by the UK. The Trust has today written to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Transport, Stephen Hammond MP, pointing out that further delay would be 'negligent'.

The Demon Shrimp, like the Killer Shrimp which found its way into a number of still waters last year, is a non-native species and is predatory on other insect life. It could therefore dramatically affect the availability of the main food source for most species of fish and many birds, with unknown but potentially disastrous consequences.

Angling Trust chief executive Mark Lloyd said:

"This news is similar to the recent discovery of a killer fungus that could decimate ash trees in our woodlands. Put alongside the existing problems of signal crayfish and the recently arrived Killer Shrimp, it is vital that the government takes all appropriate steps to reduce threats from invasive non native species to our environment.

"As an island we have an advantage over other countries and we should make the most of that by cutting off the known routes by which these species can invade. An obvious one would be immediately to ratify commonsense and long overdue measures to prevent their transfer through ships' ballast. We call on DEFRA to work up an integrated strategy to tighten up on controls on imports, and to increase public awareness and education about bio-security measures needed to stop these species from spreading further in the UK."

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