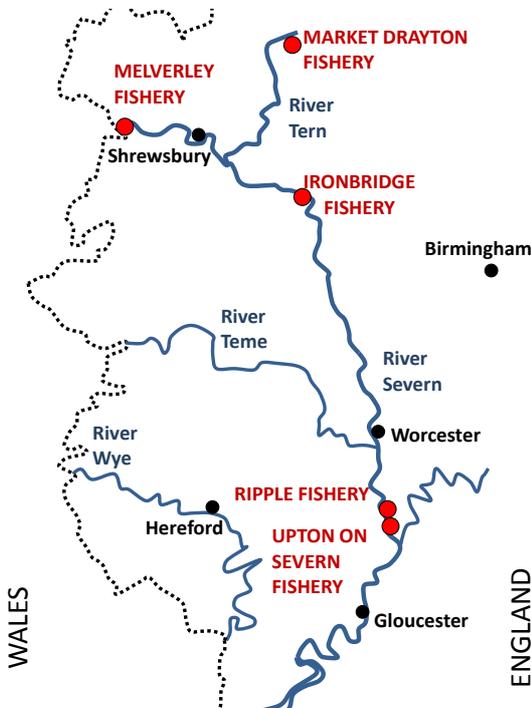


# Severn Angling News

Winter 2015

The magnificent River Severn, the longest river in Britain is home to salmon and coarse fisheries, as well as a number of rare fish species. This newsletter is a chance for us to tell you what we are doing for angling in your rivers.

## Free Fisheries



### What are free fisheries?

These are areas where no fee or 'ticket' is charged by the holder of the fishing rights. These are available to be fished for free by any rod licence holder or anyone under the age of 12. We hold a number of free fisheries in the Severn catchment. In addition, some councils and other organisations allow free fishing in their sections.

These are a great resource for someone who is just starting out with angling, or for those who don't belong to a local club. Our free fisheries are paid for by the rod licence and are available for you to use. If you notice any issues here with access or other problems with the fishery, please inform your local fisheries officer.

[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

### Where are these free fisheries?

- Market Drayton Fishery, River Tern
- Molverley Fishery, River Severn
- Ironbridge Fishery, River Severn
- Upton upon Severn Fishery, River Severn
- Ripple Fishery, River Severn

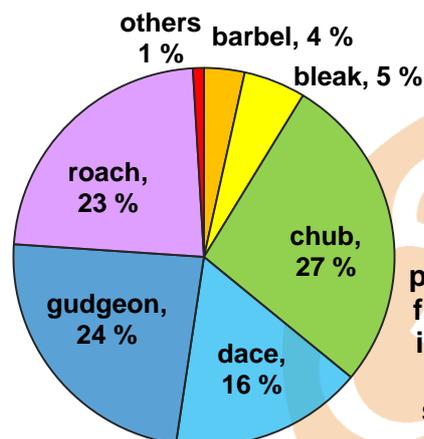
To find a fishery near you visit [fishinginfo.co.uk](http://fishinginfo.co.uk) which has been developed with the Angling Trust

## Autumn fry Survey results



We netted shallow areas for fish fry at nine locations along the River Severn in September. Fish fry are identified and counted; these results are then compared with previous years to give an indication of the strength of recruitment in 2015.

Fish species dominating in the catches varied between sites, and included roach, dace, bleak, gudgeon, chub and barbel. Minnow were the most abundant fish caught (61%); this is a good sign as these small fish are food for other species. This year seems to have been particularly good for roach and dace spawning.



**Overall percentages of fish of angling interest found in fry netting surveys 2015**



**Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) fresh run and in spawning colouration (cock and hen).**

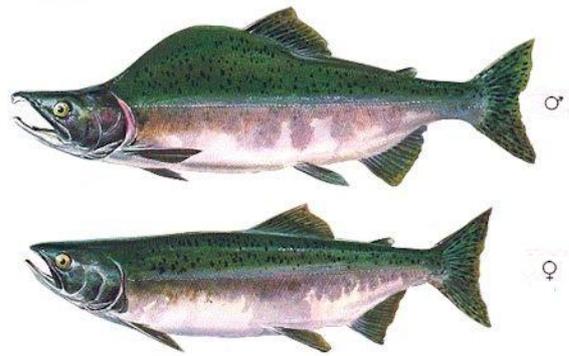
## No pink invasion detected so far in River Severn

There has been a report in the Angling Press that a Pacific pink salmon was caught in the River Severn. Unfortunately from the photograph it is clear that this is a coloured cock Atlantic salmon killed during the spawning run. This fish will have made the arduous journey back to its native river in spring; subsequently it has developed a hooked lower jaw (or kype) and coloured up to a red/orange/pink colour in the months it has spent in freshwater.

Native Atlantic salmon are in significant decline. To protect migrating and spawning fish, any Atlantic salmon or brown trout that are accidentally caught during the close season must be returned to the water with least possible injury.

### Identifying Pacific pink salmon

- They are the smallest of the Pacific salmon.
- They have large black spots above the lateral line, dorsal fins and on the tail.
- Males in spawning condition develop a kype and a large humped back.
- Fresh pink salmon adults are blue-green on the back, have silvers sides and a white belly.
- In spawning condition their sides becomes pink and their back becomes grey-green.



**Spawning condition cock and hen pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)**

### What should I do if I catch one?

If you suspect that you have caught a non-native fish species, please report this as soon as possible to the Environment Agency. We would ask that you do the following:

- **Hold on to the fish.** If possible retain the fish alive and unharmed; if you cannot do this the fish should be released after pictures are taken.
- **Take photographs.** Show as much of the fish as possible, and any notable features.
- **Call our Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60.** Make a note of the catch date, location and any other details. If you have the live fish we will advise you to either release the fish or will attend as soon as possible. Fish should not be removed unless formally identified.

## Your rod licence money pays for...



**Electric fishing surveys to assess fish stocks**

**Contact your local fisheries officers for more details on these or any other issues**

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