

Birmingham Anglers Association

Regarding Topmouth Gudgeon at Retreat Farm Pools Worcestershire

We have been notified by the Environment Agency of the presence of a non-native fish species topmouth gudgeon in three of our pools at Retreat Farm in Worcestershire.

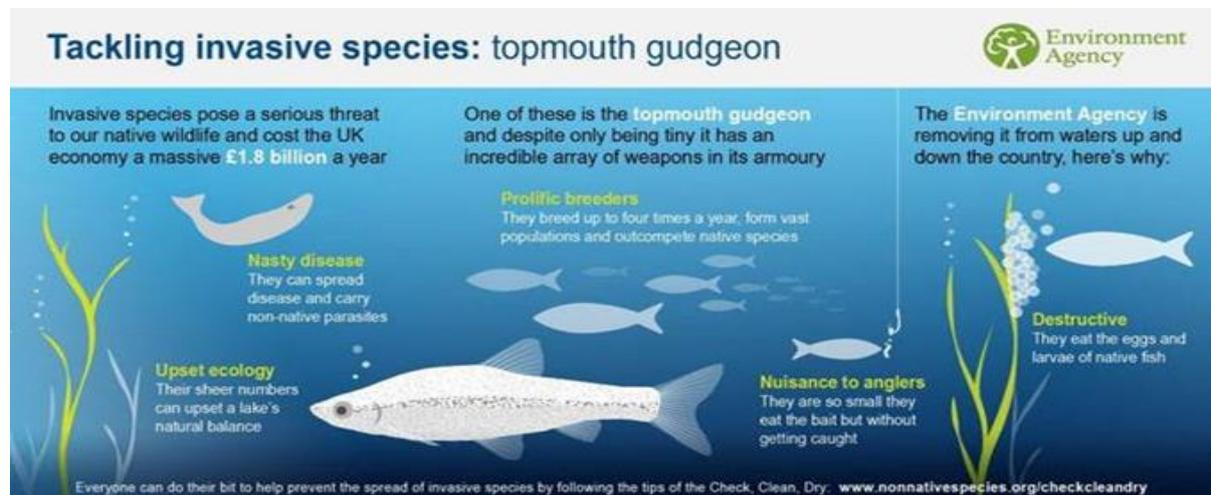
We are cooperating with the Environment Agency who will be providing a plan of action to safely eradicate the invasive topmouth gudgeon from this fishery.

Whilst the EA continue to investigate and develop this management plan for eradication, we have decided following guidance that the fishery will remain **closed**. The river fishing at Retreat Farm is unaffected and remains open to members.

We believe the closure is the correct course of action to reduce the risk of any spread of this highly invasive fish to any of our other waters or those nearby.

The EA inform us that the eradication is an intensive specialist piece of work and critically will be timed to occur outside of the topmouth gudgeon's long spawning season. Therefore we have been advised this work will have to occur through the winter. The local EA officers assure us during this operation they will do all they can to save as many of the native fish as possible and when safe, those healthy fish will be returned to the pools.

Topmouth gudgeon are a small freshwater fish native to Asia. They have quickly spread through Europe and have been introduced to the UK via the aquatic trade. They are extremely invasive causing great harm to our local fisheries. They breed successfully in large numbers, out-compete native fish and predate on invertebrates and the eggs and larvae of other fish.



A very good article can be found here.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/fishing/related-articles/the-fisheries-and-angling-team/tackling-the-topmouth-gudgeon>

You can also help stop the spread of invasive plants and animals by following the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign. Follow these three simple steps to avoid spreading invasive species that may be stowed away in your equipment or clothing.

We have attached PDF poster for Check, Clean, Dry.