

Severn Angling News

Summer 2016

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 about what we are doing for angling in your rivers.

River coarse fishing

Coarse fishing on rivers is open from 16 June. Remember that some late spawners like barbel may still be laying eggs in the gravels. Handle fish carefully to maximise survival:

- Play fish as quickly as possible
- Unhook fish in the water if you can
- Take photographs of fish in their natural habitat if you can and release carefully

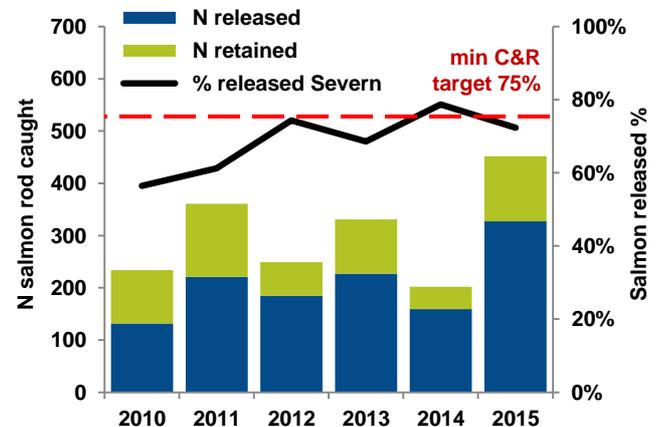


Find your local fisheries at: www.fishinginfo.co.uk

Salmon Fishing

From 16 June you can catch and take salmon from the Severn catchment. However, we would encourage all anglers to consider whether they need all the salmon they retain. Voluntarily observing catch and release plays an important role in preserving our salmon stocks. But remember that 100% catch and release of salmon and sea trout applies on the River Wye

In 2015 the percentage of salmon caught and released in the Severn was 72%, down from the previous year's 79%. The national target is a minimum of 75% release of rod caught salmon.



Variation in salmon catches and percentages released in the River Severn.

How can we help salmon stocks?

- More information leads to better management. Try submitting catch information online: www.gov.uk/catch-return
- It is illegal to sell, offer for sale or have in your possession for sale a rod caught salmon or sea trout. Report offences on **0800 80 70 60**
- Local anglers can help conservation of salmon by allowing the spawning of those fish that have successfully made it back into rivers from the sea.

#SpawningWatch

If you watch the rivers carefully you may be able to see some fascinating spawning behaviour. Barbel and sea lamprey may still be spawning on gravel beds.



If you have information or pictures of fish spawning you would like to share, join the **#spawningwatch** conversation at <https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyMids>

Top mobile app

People who are out and about on the river can contribute through citizen science to our knowledge of rivers and wildlife.



This is a mobile app and web map for bringing together information on natural and man-made barriers to fish migration such as weirs, sluices, culverts, waterfalls, fallen trees, etc.

www.river-obstacles.org.uk

Help with avian predators

DEFRA has been funding posts at the Angling Trust with your rod licence money. These Fisheries Management Advisors are available to help clubs and fisheries address avian predator issues.

You do not need to be a member of the Angling Trust to benefit from this advice.

For more information

- Email: cormorants@anglingtrust.net,
- Call the Angling Trust: 0844 7700616

Your rod licence money pays for...



A Wild Trout Trust demonstration day.



Summer blues

While we may love a hot and sunny summer, this can be a very stressful time for fish. There is an increase in the likelihood of algal blooms and resulting low dissolved oxygen. Coarse fish experience spawning stress and may be more susceptible to disease. Flows can become very low in rivers and streams

If you see any fish are in distress or you have a fish kill, call the Incident hotline: **0800 80 70 60**

Warm weather advice for still waters

- Be prepared, have aerators ready
- Consider lowering stocking levels
- Consider reducing fishing effort and suspend the use of keep nets
- Increase shade and cover where possible

Fish Focus: Barbel



(*Barbus barbus*) the pig fish

- First introduced to the River Severn in the 1950s from south east England.
- Barbel migrate upstream to find high quality gravel areas in fast water to spawn in the summer. Access to these areas is reduced by barriers
- Males develop tubercles around the head (small raised dots) at spawning time.
- Gudgeon look a lot like juvenile barbel but these have four barbels and lack the iridescent shine of gudgeon.

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

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency