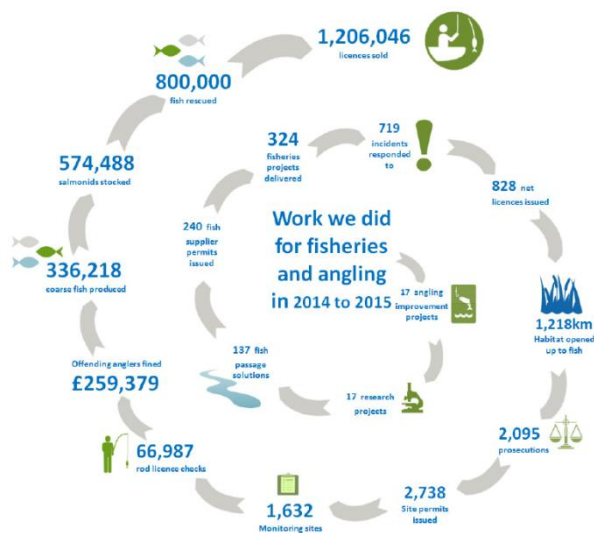


# Severn Angling News

Spring 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.

## National Fisheries Report



An [annual fisheries report](#) for 2014/15 has been produced and is now available online. This details fisheries activity and expenditure in England:

- fisheries monitoring and improvements
- enforcement and incident management
- angling and rod licensing information
- environmental and fisheries issues, e.g. decline of salmon and sea trout stocks
- partnership working

[Local area fisheries reports](#) are also available.

## Coarse fish close season

The close season for coarse fish starts on 15 March 2016. This coincides with warmer weather when coarse fish primarily spawn. The aim of the close season is to protect fish in spawning condition and to improve spawning success. This should ultimately enable adult fish to maximise their contribution to the next generation.

## #SpawningWatch

If you watch the rivers carefully you may be able to see some fascinating spawning behaviour.

If you have information or pictures of fish spawning you would like to share, please contact us on [@SHWGFBG@environment-agency.gov.uk](https://twitter.com/SHWGFBG) or join the [#spawningwatch](https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyMids) conversation at <https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyMids>

## Where can you catch coarse fish during the close season?

Canals and still waters do not have a close season, apart from a few designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This means there are still plenty of opportunities for catching coarse fish while spawning in rivers is protected. Find your local fisheries at: [www.fishinginfo.co.uk](http://www.fishinginfo.co.uk)

## Stop the Spread!



**Topmouth gudgeon: a small invasive non-native fish with a big impact on fisheries.**

Invasive non-native species and fish diseases can be spread inadvertently through clothing and fishing equipment which has been in contact with infected fish, water or sediment. These cause huge problems for fisheries and native species. Always assume that a waterbody could be contaminated, and take particular care when returning to the UK from fishing abroad.



## Be a responsible angler

**Check** your equipment and clothing for any animals or plant material.

**Clean** and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.

**Dry** all equipment and clothing for at least 48 hours. If not totally dry, make sure to disinfect.

## More information and reporting

The [Non-Native Species Secretariat](#) (NNSS) has a range of resources including ID sheets. There are also smart phone Apps you can use to identify and report invasive species.

- [Aqua Invaders](#)
- [Sealife Tracker](#)
- [Plant Tracker](#)
- [Tree Alert](#)
- [IFI Invasive Species](#) (Ireland)
- [That's Invasive!](#) (Europe-wide)

## Fish Focus: Ruffe



### **(*Gymnocephalus cernus*) the great invader**

- An aggressive fish, closely related to perch; typically grows to 10cm to 15cm in length.
- Native to the south and east of England.
- An invasive non-native species in some UK waters and in the Great Lakes of America though accidental introductions.
- Once introduced, ruffe populations can rapidly expand. They can mature after 1 year, and produce over 130,000 eggs per year.
- They out-compete other fish and heavily predate on invertebrates and fish eggs.



## Rod Licence for 2016/17

The new rod licence for 2016/17 is available from 1 April 2016. You need a licence to **#GoFishing** with a rod and line for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt and eel. There are two rod licences – salmonid and coarse fish - depending on which species you wish to fish.

### Why should you buy a rod licence?

- Rod licence money pays for promotion and improvement of angling and angled fish.
- It is the law and you could be fined up to £2,500 for fishing without a rod licence

### Where can you buy a rod licence?

- **Buy one in person** at the post office
- **Set up a Direct Debit** by emailing [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk) or phoning: 03708 506 506
- **Buy a rod licence online** at [www.postoffice.co.uk/rod-fishing-licence](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/rod-fishing-licence)

## Flooding impacts on fish

As floodwaters recede, river fish can get stranded in low-lying areas and small pools on land. Oxygen levels in these small areas of water can become depleted very quickly during warmer sunny weather or when many fish are present.

If you see stranded fish, or fish in distress call us immediately on our Incident Line: **0800 80 70 60**



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

**Brecht Morris**

Tewkesbury office  
02030 251480

**Liz Etheridge**

Shrewsbury office  
02030 251655

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0345 988 1188  
0845 988 1188

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