

Severn Angling News

Autumn 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.

Incidents forward look

Algal blooms and die back

If autumn is warm and sunny we may see algal blooms. These cause low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) events as algae multiply and cause peaks (day) and troughs (night) in water oxygen levels.

However, if we get a cold snap, algal blooms quickly die. This increases bacterial activity as dead plant matter is broken down. Bacteria also use oxygen, so this results in low DO throughout the day and night. Aeration to increase oxygen is the only option in this case, as is minimising the likelihood of an algal bloom.

Foam on rivers

Foam has been seen on the river during the summer after rainfall events which wash plant matter into the river. These instances of foam are likely to increase in the autumn.



Foam on the River Severn after rainfall

'Natural' foam is caused by the release of fatty acids from rotting vegetation; this interferes with bonds between water molecules and where water and air are mixing (i.e. below weirs, on windy days) causes foam to form. This is harmless, but lasts a long time forming unsightly 'rafts'.

Man-made foam can be caused by a range of chemicals, but these tend to breakdown quickly. As a result this foam is usually seen near the source of the pollution.

If you are concerned about a pollution event, or would like to report fish in distress, call our incident line with as many details as possible regarding what you have observed and where: **0800 60 70 80.**

Tackling fisheries crime



Illegal fishing detected in Operation Stone

The Environment Agency primarily deals with environmental crime and fishing offences that violate National and Local Byelaws. Including, fishing without a valid licence, fishing in close seasons, taking inappropriate fish or using prohibited equipment or bait. However, stealing fish or stealing fishing by angling without permission is an offence under the Theft Act.

Operation Stone

Stone is a joint EA and police operation, detecting offences of fish removal and theft at night on the Rivers Severn and Avon. These operations are intelligence-led and have resulted in over 50 offences being reported since June.

Operation Leviathan

Leviathan is a Police operation partnered with the Angling Trust and Environment Agency that targets Fisheries and Rural Crime. Coordinating Leviathan is Mike Shuttleworth. He would be happy to discuss any intelligence that anglers can provide, or can provide advice on crime prevention at your fishery.

Contacts

Both the Agency and the Police rely on the intelligence you provide to catch offenders.

To report fisheries theft to the police, email on mike.shuttleworth@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk, or call **101** (in emergency 999).

To report Angling offences to the Environment Agency, call **0800 80 70 60**

Remember the close season for salmon and sea trout starts 8 Oct

Close and restricted seasons are vital to protect our fish stocks during important migration and spawning times.

www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-fishing-byelaws

Match Catch Returns

The winter coarse fishing season is approaching. If your club has river matches, remember to fill in and return a Match Catch Reporting Card.

Sampling in large rivers can be difficult and dangerous – rod catches may be the only way to find out about the fish present. To give feedback to individual clubs we usually need at least 10 match returns per year. However, even a small number of returns can provide information on the state of fish stocks. A card or electronic form is available from your local fisheries officer.

Your rod licence money pays for...



Conservation translocation of genetically pure crucian carp

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

Sam Chapman

Gloucestershire
01684 864498

Brecht Morris

Worcestershire
01684 864517

Liz Etheridge

Shropshire
01743 283477

Bill Burleigh

Herefordshire
07887625482

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188
0845 988 1188

www.gov.uk/environment-agency



River Teme barbel study

A Bournemouth University PhD study has begun on barbel in the River Teme. This work is taking place with the support of the Severn Rivers Trust, the Barbel Society and the Environment Agency

Catherine Roberts will be investigating a variety of aspects of barbel and other coarse fish. This will include tracking movements, assessing reproduction, recruitment and habitat availability.

Please keep an eye out for her on the river banks. Catherine is also hoping to collect as much information and knowledge on barbel from local anglers. Please email her for more details: cgutmannroberts@bournemouth.ac.uk

Fish Focus: Common bleak



(*Alburnus alburnus*) The Silver Pearl

- These fish grow to about 20cm in length, have colourless fins, a pointed head, large eyes and upturned mouth.
- They swim in schools and are very silver; their scales are delicate and are easily dislodged.
- Bleak scales have been used to manufacture artificial pearls.