

Where does your rod licence money go? | [View this email in your browser](#)

Make time to
go fishing



Welcome to your February newsletter from the Environment Agency's fisheries team

Full licences for the 2016/17 season will go on sale from 1 March 2016.



Where does your rod licence money go?

We sold a whopping 1.2 million rod licences in the financial year 2014 to 2015. We used the money from these sales to fund a host of projects to benefit both anglers and fisheries.

Fish can now move freely in the River Aire, Leeds, and the River Don, Sheffield, thanks to our work to remove weirs and build fish passes. Juvenile fish now have a safe place to spawn at Cossington Meadows reserve in Leicestershire and Clapham Common in London, thanks to the fish refuges we've built.

You can find out more about these and many other national and local examples in our 2014 to 2015 [annual fisheries report](#)

[See our annual fisheries report](#)

Non migratory
trout and
coarse licence



Environment
Agency

Expiry
31.03.2016

Please read the fishing byelaws at
www.gov.uk/freshwater-rod-fishing-rules

Proposed changes to rod licences in 2017

We've listened to your feedback on how we can make rod licences better. As a result, we're proposing a more flexible licence for you that also allows us to continue improving fisheries.

Our proposals include licences which:

- run for a year from whenever you buy them
- give you the choice of a licence covering 3 rods as well as the standard 2-rod licence
- are free for junior anglers

So that we can continue to fund our fisheries work, we are also proposing to increase the licence fee for the first time in 7 years.

These changes are not due to happen until 2017 so current rod licence options and charges will apply until then. Look out for more details on our proposals in future newsletters and in the angling press when we advertise them this spring.

Sharing the joys of angling

People fish for many different reasons. But can you remember what first reeled you in? Perhaps it was the thought of getting away from it all to relax and enjoy the wildlife? Maybe it was the thrill of catching a big fish or winning a match? Or perhaps it was the opportunity to socialise with friends and family? Whatever it was that first attracted you, we're sure angling is now an important part of your life.

So, when you buy your new rod licence in March, why not encourage someone you know to try fishing? **Find an event** and help a friend discover the pleasure of angling themselves. Maybe they'll get hooked as well!

[Find an event on Fishinginfo.co.uk](#)



Young people enjoying a day out with the Get Hooked on Fishing project
Photo credit: Get Hooked on Fishing

Helping young people net a brighter future

Angling is a sport which can be enjoyed by anyone of any age. The charity 'Get Hooked on Fishing' is another project that has benefitted from your rod licence money through the contract we have with the Angling Trust. The charity helps young people in socially or economically deprived areas learn valuable life skills through angling. Many have gone on to study angling or countryside related courses at college and later benefit from jobs in those fields.

Sarah Collins, the charity's Chief Executive said, "On many occasions the opportunities we have created using angling have been quite life-changing. We have helped youngsters improve their personal and social skills, their educational attainment and make more positive life choices. We create volunteering opportunities for them which enable them to give something back to their communities."

[Read about Get Hooked on Fishing's work](#)

[Find fishing events for young people](#)



Installing fish refuges at Abingdon Angling Club waters. Photo credit: Vince Battams, Abingdon Angling Club

Working together to improve angling

During 2015 to 2016, we helped many clubs and fisheries improve their sites by allocating £315,000 of rod licence money to the Angling Improvement Fund. The fund, run in partnership with the Angling Trust, helps angling organisations improve facilities, buy equipment, restore habitats or fund projects that get more people fishing more often. [Read about the fund-winning projects on the Angling Trust website.](#)

And if you're interested in applying for the next round of funding, [keep an eye on the website](#) as more information will be available soon.

[Read about the fund-winning projects](#)

Why buy a licence?

Find out [how buying a rod licence helps](#) to protect and improve the places you like to fish. Remember fishing without a licence is illegal. Check the rules for freshwater fishing at www.gov.uk/freshwater-rod-fishing-rules



If you wish to opt out of receiving any further reminders for the coming season please [unsubscribe here](#).