

Est. 1883

---



# B.A.A. NEWS



---

Tel 01562-882116 Fax 01562-882126  
Email [baajnw@btinternet.com](mailto:baajnw@btinternet.com) Website [www.baa.uk.com](http://www.baa.uk.com)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/BirminghamAnglersAssociation?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamAnglersAssociation?fref=ts)

---

August 2014

## Carp in keepnets

See page 2

## Unknown angler

See page 5

## EA Severn Angling News

See pages 19-20

# Bailiffing

## Watch out, there's a bailiff about

Association bailiffs have been out at hotspots on the River Severn and River Avon this month to check for illegal angling during one of our busiest months of the year. Whilst a number of non-members have been removed from our water, this is still a relatively low percentage and most of the anglers checked have been genuine members enjoying the fine weather and mostly good fishing.

If you have any doubts about other anglers along the stretch you are fishing, don't forget that as a member, you have the authority to ask to see their membership. After all, you've paid for yours so why should they fish it for free? If you could do this, it would be a great help towards keeping our waters free for our members to enjoy and to stamp out illegal angling, but we would advise you to speak to another fellow member first, so they can accompany you for your own safety.

If you do have to take any action or have any information about illegal activity, please report it to the BAA office or update the Facebook page.

Thank you  
Kevin Pearson  
Superintendent Bailiff  
Birmingham Anglers' Association



## Executive update



### Carp in keepnets

The BAA Executive Committee have agreed a new clause in the Association Bye-laws which will outlaw the keeping of carp in keepnets - except during official contests. The new bye-law comes into immediate effect and states:

*No carp shall be retained in any keepnet, carp sack, or any other vessel, at any Association pool or lake, with the exception of fish caught whilst participating in a bona fide contest sanctioned by the Association.*

This means that keepnets can now be used at Coppice Lake but not for retaining carp except during a bona fide match. This aligns the regulation regarding keepnets for all our pools and lakes. The existing notices at Coppice have been updated.

Anglers using keepnets at any of our pools or lakes may be requested by bailiffs to show the fish in the keepnet.



# Fishing news



## Next generation

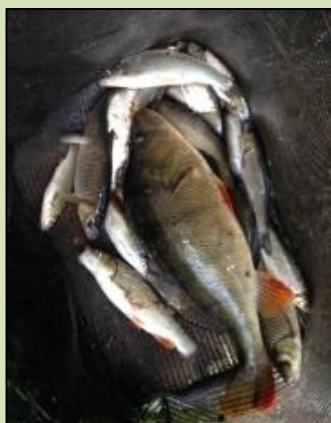


Hi,

Good to see young barbel, this little chap was caught at Fladbury today.

Colin Townsend

## Early season stick float sessions



Perch, dace, chub & roach caught from Knowle Sands. Fish responding well to hemp and maggots fished on the stick float lots of bites and good sport on a low clear river. Dace, chub & roach caught from Quatford.

Craig Cope

## Holt Fleet chub



Hi.

Popped up to Holt Fleet Weir Monday evening 30th June and amongst a nice mixed bag of chub, roach and dace I caught this PB chub of 4lb 13oz. It was caught on a swim feeder with worm as a hook bait.

Thanks

John Morgan



## Unknown angler



Dear BAA

I took these pictures of a gentleman at Coppice Lake 2 years ago. It was the biggest fish in the lake at the time known as 'Big Scale', which was around the 30lb mark.

The chap in the photo had no camera so I took a few snaps but have carried these photo's ever since in my tackle box on the hope I would bump into him, but 2 years and still no joy!

I was wondering whether you could help by maybe putting the photo on your website newsfeed in the hope somebody will recognise him as when I took these photo's the angler was overwhelmed with his capture.

Many thanks for your help. Keep up the good work.

Kind Regards

Stuart Robertson

*Ed; if you are the angler please email us at BAA HQ and we will send you the pictures and Stuart's letter.*

*Stuart, apologies for the delay in including this item, no excuse just forgot!*

## Kev's reports



Report from Coppice on Wednesday 2nd July, catch was 110lb 3oz commons all coming off the top.

lb	oz	lb	oz
15	14	12	4
8	2	12	6
10	7	6	1
14	5	9	13
12	11	7	14



Report from Coppice on 15th July, the weather was hot and the fishing was great. Had 24 carp of which 3 mirrors and 21 commons to a total weight of 312lb.

Commons				Mirrors			
lb	oz	lb	oz	lb	oz	lb	oz
10	9	7	5	14	0	15	13
9	3	11	15	17	3	15	1
9	12	7	15	15	2	15	9
11	11 x 2	10	5	8	13		
09	13	9	7	10	1		
13	9	14	3	13	8		
9	8						

Thanks for the new rope :)

Kev



## From Facebook



Dan Hancox with a 22.3lb common from Coppice Lake this morning Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July.  
Post on BAA Facebook page by Scott Lote.

# Fishing news record

## for last 6 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	date caught	BAA News edition
--------------	----	----	----------	--------	-------------	------------------

### Barbel

#### River Severn

Shaun Barrett	11	0	Arley LB	Meat	22/06/2014	July 2014
Matt Maybury	10	4	Blackstone	Maggot	07/03/2014	Apr 2014
Chris Manns	9	3	Knowle Sands	Double super-glued 12mm ellipse pellets		Apr 2014
John Snape	8	12	Arley	Double 8mm pellet	21/06/2014	July 2014

#### Pools

Kevin Smith	6	12	Coppice		19/06/2104	July 2014
Roger O'Malley	5		Coppice	Spiced luncheon meat	May 2014	June 2014
Graham Beck	5		Coppice		mid-March	July 2014
Graham Beck	4		Coppice		mid-March	July 2014

### Bream

#### Pools

Kevin Smith & Son	4	1	Coppice		04/04/2014	May 2014
-------------------	---	---	---------	--	------------	----------

### Common Carp

#### Pools

Dan Hancox	22	3	Coppice		26/07/2014	Aug 2014
Graham Beck	21	8	Coppice	Bread flake	mid-March	July 2014
John Wyld	19	4	Coppice	Coconut banana pop-up boillie	01/03/2014	Apr 2014
Steve Middleton	19	0	Coppice	Corn		Apr 2014
Roger O'Malley	16	0	Coppice	Halibut pellet/corn		June 2014

### Mirror Carp

#### Pools

Kevin Smith	15	13	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	15	9	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	15	1	Coppice		15/07/2014	Aug 2014
Kevin Smith	14	13	Nordley 2		31/05/2014	July 2014

### Chub

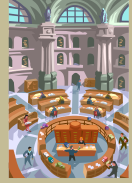
#### River Severn

Chris Manns	5	1	Knowle Sands	Bread flake		Apr 2014
Chris Manns	4	14	Knowle Sands	Bread flake		Apr 2014
John Morgan	4	13	Holt Fleet	Worm	30/06/2014	Aug 2014





# Archive extracts



Below are extracts from the August 1956 and 57 editions of the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

## Beware Those 'Old Masters' — They're Often Wrong

SOME years ago, after merely dabbling at the sport, my brother and I decided to take it up rather more seriously and for that reason we travelled further afield, joined clubs and read an immense amount of literature.

During this eager search for experience and a better understanding we became at first interested, and finally slave bound, by the theories put out by one of the "Big Fish Masters" in his many books. Reading those books through the close season gave us as big a thrill as struggling with a twenty pound carp. The fellow was so persuasive that we were completely hooked.

The first day of that particular season was wet, like too many of its predecessors, and arriving at our local inconsiderable stream we weighed up the conditions in the manner of men who knew. Admittedly we had omitted to bring certain essential items of tackle such as thermometers and glass bottomed viewing cabinets, but we were remarkably confident.

The river was in full spate. High and foaming where it creamed over obstructions, it swept tremendously past carrying lots of swirling debris with it. It looked to be alive with fish; it felt of fish, fish were everywhere; it was that kind of day.

Trembling with excitement we weighed it all up in seconds. Not for nothing had we read up the Master's dictums for three fishless months. The printed word came back to mind.

"When the river is in flood and the current strong, a float and 6x bottoms are useless in the main stream. In any event the fish are not there. They are in the pools and holes in the banks. They are feeding fast and furiously on the food scoured from the banks in the higher reaches that is swept from the edge of the main bore into the comparative

says

A. J. Wheat

calm of the pool. Here it settles quickly. Therefore fish deep and with a ledger."

We ledgered deep. Just how deep those pools were we had scarcely before realised. So completely had we been taken over by the Master that not once during that long morning did we vary our tactics. We caught nothing. We had monumental patience. For June it was cold and damp. A sharp wind harried us and there was no cover. We tried every bait in the Old Master's Book. We never had a "knock."

Shortly before we were due to leave I took a stroll and half-a-mile away I met another angler wielding his rod and line as frequently as a brutal waggoner might ply his whip. He was red faced and sweating, fishing the main stream that gushed past him.

Sympathetically I said: "A bit dead this morning." His jaw dropped, his rod point dropped. "Dead?" he croaked. "Dead?—Man, it's ALIVE."

"Show him the net," he commanded his young son. And the lad obediently drew on yards upon yards of keep-net bulging with lusty, flipping, wriggling two-pounders.

We burned the Old Master's books. We thought back over our own experience and realised that our almost instinctive feeling that this was a "fishy" day was based upon self-taught knowledge.

Of course, our cardinal error was not in ledgering but in ledgering exclusively all morning. We should have been more pliant in our methods.

Some time later, on a different river, under entirely different conditions, none of my usual methods

or baits were of any use. Furthermore, no one else was doing a thing. Unless the day was to be a flop something new had to be tried.

The river was slow, the day was hot, everything everywhere was listless, people were packing up or going to sleep. Not a "fishy" day it seemed.

So I thought up a new dodge. I stripped float and weights from my line and, knowing that the weight of the hook alone was sufficient to sink it. I threw a small handful of maggots into the unfishiest looking spot and followed quickly with my baited hook.

The cloud of wrigglers dropped into the gloom. Before they were out of sight, there was a swarm of vague shapes and all the maggots were taken quickly, including the one on the hook.

I had a nice half-pound roach. Until my maggots gave out I had a glorious time.

It was enlivening sport with little indication that the bait was taken—just a tightening on the line and then—strike! If the fish had time to detect the hook before the strike he would blow it out and none of his school-fellows would take it after it had been rejected. Yet they came afresh to each new cast.

The instructive thing was that these fish were coming after bait properly presented. In the general melee for free falling maggots they were unable to pick out the lethal one. Also, they were making long forays to get them and were coming from lays where I had already patiently presented them with the same bait in an artificial manner.

Thus, it is not a question of the right bait in the right place, but, rather, the right bait in the right manner. A question of deceit against obvious temptation. How much better was this second day over the first, and how it restored my confidence!



By DAVID  
ASHLING

## FROM THE NATURALIST'S ANGLE

Dead fish floating belly-up on top of the water are not necessarily the result of pollution. One of the many diseases to which fish are prone may be the cause.

AT this time of the year, complaints of fish mortalities are most frequent, and whilst many deaths are due to prevailing natural conditions of drought and low water, a surprisingly large number are attributable mainly to disease.

Firstly, it should be realised that summer conditions play no small part in these "epidemic" deaths of fish. The disease-causing organisms multiply much more rapidly in warm water—a rise of ten degrees centigrade will speed the reproductive rate by two to three times. Again, it follows that the dilution of these organisms is less in times of low flow and low water; in other words, each gallon of water will contain more organisms, with a correspondingly greater risk of infection to fish. Summer conditions often result in deoxygenation of the water, either by natural means or from pollution, as I've explained in a previous article. An infected fish is less able to withstand these adverse conditions, and though healthy roach will live for a time in water containing only 1 part per million oxygen, those infected with Black-spot or similar diseases will soon float bottom up.

This being so, a brief discussion of the most common fish diseases should interest the angler with an enquiring mind, and may stimulate him to examine his own stock with a more critical eye.

The commonest affliction of fish is fungus; almost everyone has seen this grey, fuzzy growth on fish and it's certain that the spores of this fungus family (*Saprolegniaceæ*) exist in all waters. However, the fungus is not the primary attacking agent, for it only develops in existing

lesions of the skin. These lesions may be caused by mechanical injury such as rough handling or fights during spawning but it's thought that the commonest cause is an infection by bacteria. Again, it seems that fungus alone doesn't kill fish, but its weakening effect gives full rein to the toxins of the primary bacilli.

A bacterial disease often associated with fungal attack is called scale-ruffling, and is commonest in small ponds and stews. Here, the scales around the tail are lifted and the underlying tissue has a dark red, bruised appearance. The fish gradually become weaker and die from the effects of the bacterial poisons. The disease is commonest in fish like roach which have large loosely-set scales.

Many anglers are becoming increasingly worried about the incidence of Black-spot disease, or Diplostomiasis. The small brown or black spots develop on all parts of the body and fins, and if opened with a pin they can be seen to contain a transparent cyst in which lies a tiny worm. These are young stages of a sucking worm or fluke, and only develop to adults if the fish is eaten by a bird such as a heron or cormorant. The fish are infected by even younger forms which develop in water snails after the eggs pass out of the body of the bird. Light infections with Black-spot disease don't do much harm, but heavy infestations of young fish may have a serious weakening effect, and open the door to other fatal diseases.

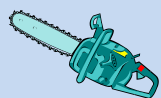
By contrast, another disease is called White-spot disease, or Ich-

thyophthiriasis, if you want to break your jaw!

The fish show tiny white spots on the head and body, but don't confuse them with breeding tubercles which develop on the heads of minnows at spawning time.

Anglers often land fish which show a marked protrusion of one or both eyes—a condition which is ambiguously termed "Pop-eye." There are at least five causes of this condition, one being due to severe infestation of the eye-ball with larval flukes, something like Black-spot disease. A second form of "Pop-eye" can occur when the water is super-saturated with air, a third form from a cataract which attacks the lens of the eye, and a fourth from a disease of the kidneys in which fluid accumulates behind the eyeball and pushes it out. The fifth cause is a result of thyroid deficiency, like Graves disease in humans, but I have never heard of this occurring in nature.

Finally, what can we do about fish diseases? Disappointingly enough, the answer is virtually nothing. We can't treat rivers and lakes with therapeutic chemicals, nor is it practicable to remove diseased fish to treat them. If you see any **dead** fish though, try your best to get them out and away from the water, to prevent the spread of disease. Where the disease has an intermediate host like fish-eating birds, some relief can be obtained from scaring or shooting the birds (unless protected). The best we can do at all times is to ensure that our waters are not over-crowded and to prevent any pollution which may initiate or aggravate adverse water conditions.



# Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out work at the following fisheries during July;

<b>River Avon</b>	<b>Work done</b>	<b>July date</b>
Swifts	Strimmed	2
Wood Norton	Strimmed	2
Marlcliffe A & B	Strimmed	3
Charlton 4, 5 & 6	Strimmed	3
Bidford RB	Strimmed	9
Bidford LB	Strimmed	9
Nafford	Strimmed	16
Eckington	Strimmed around pegs, farmer has not cut field alongside river.	21
Woodend	Strimmed	23
Mythe Farm	Strimmed	29
<b>River Severn</b>		
Knowle Sands 1 & 2	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and pegs, cut back trees, strimmed path through wood (2).	2
Hallow 4 & 5	Strimmed car park track, car park and pegs dug out steps and pegs and cut back trees.	7
Quatford	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and pegs and trimmed trees.	9
Hallow 1, 2 & 3	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and pegs and trimmed trees.	14
Eardington Brook Section	Strimmed path from car park to river, along length of upstream bank and downstream through wood to field. Strimmed and dug out pegs and trimmed trees.	16
Knowle Sands 3 & 4	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and pegs, cut back trees.	21
Stanley	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and pegs, cut back trees.	23
<b>River Teme</b>		
Broadwas	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and pegs, cut back trees.	28
Eastham Bridge	Strimmed pegs, dug out steps and pegs, cut back trees.	30
<b>Pools</b>		
Uckinghall	Strimmed and cut back trees.	23



## Pictures from the travels of the Fisheries team



Eardington Brook Section looking upstream over the rosebay willowherb from where Hay Brook joins the River Severn.



Knowle Sands 3 & 4, river up after recent thunder storms.



Knowle Sands 2, in the wood looking downstream over a low summer river



Hallow 4 & 5 platform and steps dug out.





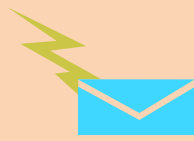
Quatford, there's a peg in here somewhere!



Quatford, cut through to peg.



Hallow 1, mind your head!



# Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to [baajnw@btinternet.com](mailto:baajnw@btinternet.com) titled for attn of BAA News Editor.

When sending in a comment can you please let us know if you don't want your name included?

The Editor will act as moderator for items to be included.

-----

I visited Broadwas last week as I was in the area on holiday. The river level was very low.

I walked most of the section. It looked like a couple of pegs were fishable but generally the banks were very overgrown and it would be difficult to get down to the river in most places.

You may wish to consider a work party to open up access.

Sorry I can't volunteer to help...I live in Brighton.

It's the first time I've visited the river since 1987. It has changed beyond all recognition since then.

Jeffrey Middleton

*Ed: Thanks for your email. So far this spring/summer we have been busy cutting back vegetation on our River Severn and Avon fisheries, the last Severn fisheries are due to be done next week (21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July), then we start on the Teme.*

*Doing Broadwas and our other Teme fisheries is always a pleasure as they are such attractive locations. In previous years when working on the Teme we have occasionally been asked by anglers to leave it as it is as they like the River in its natural state!*

*The picture below was taken at Broadwas a couple of years ago with a number of fallen trees after the winter floods, always a problem on the Teme.*



-----



Last week I informed you that we had seen at Ripple the infamous seal, which now appears to reside in the Severn.

This week we have done it again!

We went over to Grimley on Saturday and for the first time in my life saw an otter in the wild.

It was easy to see as it just swam by along the far bank until a boat came downstream.

I am getting quite a collection of unusual animals as last year I reported a Harris Hawk landing behind me on the river bank, at Stourport-on-Severn.

Albert Baker

*Ed; You lucky person, I'm always on the look-out for otters but have not seen one yet.*

-----

Pleased to hear of the ban on keep nets for carp agreed by the committee - perhaps the same ban could have been extended to barbel, as these are clearly fish that do not benefit from being kept in nets, particularly in the summer.

I've particularly enjoyed some good fishing at Mythe Pool recently, with some clonking bream and tench - all in the margins. The bailiff there appears particularly efficient and helpful.

Neil Jones

*Ed; when we discussed the bye-law change at the last Executive meeting, the question of retaining barbel in keepnets was raised, but it was thought that the main damage from keepnets was to large carp not being able to turn and damaging pectoral fins. With most people having digital cameras or cameras in their phones perhaps anglers could photograph their catch and return it direct to the water with no need to retain in a keepnet except in matches, I'm sure many do, I never take a keepnet with me when fishing.*

-----

Mythe pool, a day out to catch a tench turned up 31 bream from 4-6lb fishing Pole/corn for about 130lb.

Yogi

-----

*Ed; the letters below (pages 16-17) are an extract from a discussion on the BAA Facebook page initiated by the message from 'Fishy Business' directly below. Any thoughts from our readers on the questions raised?*

Any plans to sort out the once beautiful Walcot? It's been very sad to see the demise of this once fine fishery and the BAA's lack of care for it. Indeed, with the exception of the carp focused Coppice, the club's pools are a shadow. With a bit of effort they could be transformed into specimen waters for tench, bream and pike and give something different to the non-carp obsessed anglers. The Midlands lack quality stillwaters, tench and pike fishing so I believe there would be great interest.

Fishy Business

Yes would be nice to see some local stocked pools of pike.

James Gormley

Fishy - I raised your suggestion re' Walcott at the recent Executive meeting. Removing or reducing the weed at Walcott is a very big job and would need to be done regularly, Walcott Estate has done weed cutting on the whole lake in the recent past. Walcott also suffers from a large cormorant population so the weeds do provide a degree of protection for the fish. Our suggestion for fishing Walcott is to use a rake on a rope and clear a small patch to fish in, the disturbance of the lake bed attracting fish such as tench. In recent months some members of the Exec' have been suggesting stocking some of our pools with tench, crucians etc, that is ongoing. Putting Pike into some of our pools would be a much more contentious proposition and I believe would currently be resisted.

BAA

Thanks for the reply. As for Pike, they would only be resisted by those with antiquated views. It's well known that waters with a balanced predator/prey make up are the most successful at sustaining healthy fish stocks. As for Walcot, it needs managing using the significant funds the BAA make through membership shown in your latest set of accounts. It's no good have all that money sitting there if it's not reinvested sensibly to maintain your assets. Cormorants can be controlled under license now. Perhaps you could ascertain what the lake actually contains now after years of pretty much being left to rack & ruin. It just needs some tlc like all the club's stillwaters, which fishing wise are quite poor. Both Walcot and Mythe are picturesque venues that with some attention and some restocking of tench, crucians, rudd, roach and pike could provide all year opportunities for anglers who do not want to sit under a bivvie for days on end waiting for an alarm to go off. The BAA offer excellent value but the 'match' orientated mindset needs to change since this part of angling is declining along with the affiliated clubs. Anyway, hope you don't mind me raising these issues. Cheers.

Fishy Business



Fishy, Can I suggest that you put together your suggestions in an email and send it to the BAA at [baajnw@btinternet.com](mailto:baajnw@btinternet.com) and mark it for inclusion as a Readers Letter in the BAA News. This gets a wider readership than Facebook within the BAA Management and Executive and may provide useful ideas as the future direction of the Association is considered, it should also generate wider discussion/reaction amongst our members. I would suggest that when you state items such as 'it is well known that waters with a balanced predator/pike make up are the most successful at sustaining healthy fish stocks' you provide references/hyperlinks etc. to articles backing this up. Thanks for your input and discussion.

BAA

Just for starters in case anyone wants a read. <http://www.pffa.co.uk/pike-information/the-case-for-pike/> <http://www.pacgb.co.uk/pikeinyourwaters.pdf> Also, bear in mind some of the country's best fisheries such as Linear or those on the Cotswold Water Park are fine examples of fisheries with a balanced mix of species that people flock to from far and wide to catch all sorts and pay good money to do so. Pike are seen as an asset, especially since they are targeted through the autumn/winter when most fisheries are quieter.

<http://www.pffa.co.uk/pike-information/the-case-for-pike/>

Fishy Business

I just wanted to say that I have spent a few sessions at Uckinghall Pool in the last couple of weeks and found the fishing absolutely outstanding, with both quality bream and tench to be had. Sometimes leaving a lake to naturalise is the best thing that can happen to it. I'm about to switch to the rivers but I'll definitely be back there for my early season tenching next year (proof of pudding photo attached).



Alan Sheldon

Via Facebook

# Match Reports

**If you want to report the results of a contest you have organised on BAA waters, please email details.**

Halesowen RBL

Saturday 21st June

River Avon at Fladbury below the bridge, the river was up 9ins to 1ft.

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>	<b>drms</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ken Whitmore	15	5	0	Peg 2, roach, chub to 2lb and skimmers on stick float and caster
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul Skidmore	10	8	0	Peg 16, skimmers and small chub on maggot feeder
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Steve Horton	8	14	0	Peg 3, barbel to 6lb plus small chub on maggot feeder
4 <sup>th</sup>	Lawrie Mulheron	5	2	0	Peg 15, small chub, skimmers and hybrids to maggot feeder

Report from - Lawrie Mulheron

Companions AC  
Summer Shield

Sunday 13th July

Bredon, River Avon

		<b>lbs</b>	<b>ozs</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	D Webb	30	0
2 <sup>nd</sup>	D Mills	5	14
3 <sup>rd</sup>	A Attwodd	5	1
4 <sup>th</sup>	J Smith	2	3

Report from - Dave Gumbley



## Severn Angling News

Summer 2014

The magnificent River Severn, the longest river in the UK, 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 river.

The summer 2014 newsletter contains:

- 'Spawning watch' 2014
- Match catch feedback
- Update on the Severn fish surveys 2013
- New Angling Trust FMAs
- Stillwater fisheries heat up

### 'Spawning watch' 2014

Coarse fish have been spawning due to the warm weather during the close season – did you see them?

#### When and where to look for spawning fish

	Spawning requirements
Barbel	April to July, 14°C Gravel and pebbles, 30 to 40 cm depth
Carp	May to July, 18°C Still waters and canals in vegetation
Chub	May to July, 18°C Multiple spawning on gravel
Gudgeon	May to July, 17°C Sand or gravel amongst vegetation
Sea lamprey	May to July, 12°C Build redds in gravels and cobbles
Shad	May to June, 10°C Broadcast spawning in gravel areas

To find out more about this follow us on twitter <https://twitter.com/EnvAgencyMids> and search for #spawningwatch. If you have any information about where fish have been seen spawning or have pictures of spawning fish you would like to share, please contact us or join the conversation.



Barbel spotted spawning in the River Teme

### Match catch feed back

Much of the data we analyse comes from you. This is because sampling in large rivers can be very difficult and potentially dangerous – rod catches are sometimes the only way to find out what fish are present and in what numbers. In addition to your match catch results we sometimes attend matches to measure fish and take scales for ageing, this tells us about the strength of year classes that make up the population.

#### What do we ask you to do?

Fill out a Freepost match catch card. This contains a few questions about the match and what was caught.

#### What happens to your match catch results?

The match catch results are entered into a database and analysed. To give feedback to individual clubs we usually need at least 10 returns per year. However, even a small number of returns can feed into the analysis of the state of fish stocks in the river. The number of returns received in the last decade is shown overleaf.

#### Match catch returns for 2013

In 2013 we received 16 match catch returns from the River Severn, 94 % of these were from one club. Most of these returns were from the lower Severn area from below Coalport to Maisiemore weir

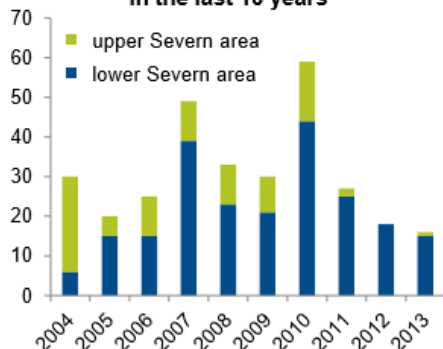
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

1 of 2

### How else can you help?

We would like to attend matches in different areas of the river to get more of an insight into fish stocks. We can attend six matches per year; if you would like us to attend one of your matches or need a match catch card please contact us.

**Numbers of match catch returns received in the last 10 years**



### Severn fish surveys 2013

The Environment Agency's Analysis and Reporting (A&R) team are currently writing up a report containing all the fish survey information collected for the River Severn.

### “Anglers play a vital role in assessing the River Severn fish stocks”

Martin Fenn, A&R Technical Specialist

### What is in this report?

The Environment Agency has employed several different strategies to get a better understanding of the fish population. Fry surveys results are very promising. However, hydroacoustic surveys and data from anglers are best able to assist us to assess the population size and growth rates of adult fish.

#GoFishing

More fishing for your money  
postoffice.co.uk/rod-fishing-licence



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

**Sam Chapman**  
Fisheries  
Gloucestershire  
01684 864498

**Brecht Morris**  
Fisheries  
Worcestershire  
01684 864517

**Liz Etheridge**  
Fisheries  
Shropshire & Herefordshire  
01743 283477

customer service line  
03708 506 506

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

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
0345 988 1188  
0845 988 1188



**The A&R team electric fishing the River Severn on a boom boat**

### New Angling Trust fisheries management advisors

DEFRA has funded three posts at the Angling Trust with your rod licence money. These Fisheries Management Advisors started in April and will be able to help clubs and fisheries address avian predator issues.

**For more information on the role of these Advisors and their contact details, see the Angling trust website: [www.anglingtrust.net](http://www.anglingtrust.net)**

### Still water fisheries heat up

Warm weather can result in low oxygen levels, stressed fish and outbreaks of disease. However, fishery owners can do something about this.

### Warm weather advice

- Be prepared, have aerators ready
- Check oxygen levels
- Consider lowering stocking levels
- Consider reducing fishing effort
- Suspend the use of keep nets
- Increase shade where possible

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