


B.A.A. NEWS



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February 2013

Avon January barbel

See pages 3-4

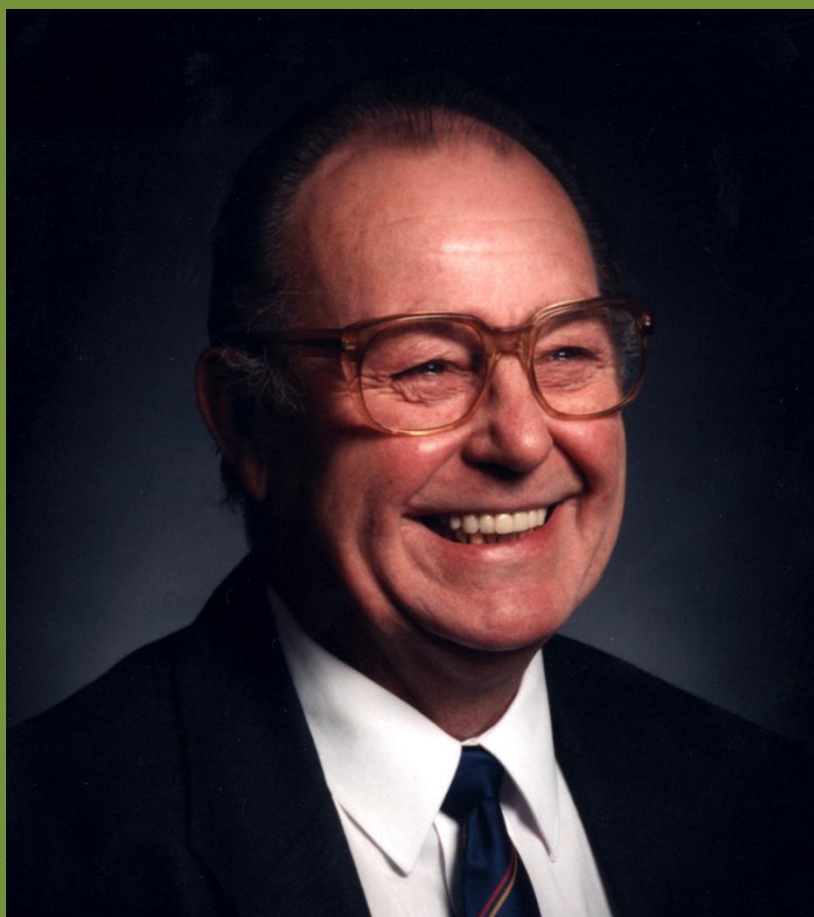
BAA buy another Avon meadow at Fladbury

See page 8

Archive extracts is back!

See pages 9 – 11

TJ Turner



Sad news to report; the former BAA Vice President and Treasurer T J (Tommy) Turner passed away on Wednesday 9th January at the age of 79 having not recovered from a stroke which he suffered the previous Friday.

Tommy joined the Executive Committee in 1978 and was elected Vice president in 1983. He took on the role of Treasurer in 1984 succeeding Jack Davis and remained in that post until he retired from the committee in 2000.

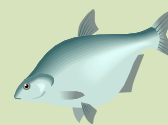
Tommy's philosophy on life was 'live for today'.

On fishing he said 'It's like a religion, I must go fishing, I need to go fishing, I will fish 'till I die'.

The sincere condolences of the Association go to Wife Joan, his three daughters and his many grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by us all.



Fishing news



Happy New Year



Hi

Thought you might like the picture of my Wasperton barbel of 10lb 2oz, caught 3rd Jan 2013.

Weather was mild, about 11 and after lots of rain around Christmas period the river level had fallen but still had plenty of colour. Fished with pellet for most of day with no joy, finally tried a 1 inch cube of meat just as the light was fading and the bite was almost instantaneous.

Not only my first double but first from Wasperton.

Thanks and Happy New Year

Mike Bothwell

Ps thanks for getting my new permit and that of Dave Woodfield out so quickly before Christmas, much appreciated.

Bailiffed barbel



Walking the Fladbury stretch in early January, local bailiff Colin Townsend witnessed member Brian Rossiter landing his second barbel of the day after only fishing for 40 minutes.

Brian had also caught a cracking 10lb barbel right at the start of the session and this second one was beautifully coloured and estimated at 7lb. It was caught on banded pellet using the pellet feeder.

Regards,

Colin Townsend

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

| fish/catcher | lb | oz | location | method | date caught | BAA News edition |
|---------------------|----|----|-----------------|---|-------------|------------------|
| Barbel | | | | | | |
| River Severn | | | | | | |
| Steve Swain | 13 | 5 | Mid Severn | Pellet and feeder | 03/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| Malcolm Ford | 12 | 3 | | Luncheon meat | 28/07/2012 | Aug 2012 |
| Steve Swain | 12 | | Mid Severn | Halibut pellet on 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder | 14/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| Brian Rossiter | 11 | 12 | Severn Stoke | Cage feeder & banded pellet | 19/10/2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Steve Swain | 11 | | Mid Severn | As above | 10/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| Brian Newstead | 10 | 14 | Holt Fleet | 14mm halibut pellet | Sept 2011 | May 2012 |
| ? Nichols | 10 | 8 | Severn Stoke | | 21/08/2012 | Oct 2012 |
| Brian Rossiter | 10 | | Severn Stoke | Cage feeder & banded pellet | 19/10/2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Karen Summerfield | 9 | 2 | Ribbesford | | ? | Oct 2012 |
| Roy Price | 9 | 1 | Arley | 2 x 8mm halibut pellets over bed of 3mm pellets | 13/07/2012 | Aug 2012 |
| Bob Bennett | 9 | 1 | Erdington | 2 x 12mm halibut pellets | 13/07/2012 | Aug 2012 |
| Andy Lea | 8 | 9 | Danery | 3 x 8mm halibut pellets over pellet and hemp mix | 28/06/2012 | July 2012 |
| River Avon | | | | | | |
| Chris Blunt | 15 | 4 | Fladbury | 2 x 11mm pellet | 14/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| Chris Blunt | 14 | 1 | Fladbury | 2 x 11mm pellet | 12/01/2012 | April 2012 |
| David Holland | 10 | 12 | Wasperton | | 14/07/2012 | Aug 2012 |
| Rob Holland | 10 | 8 | Wasperton | | 14/07/2012 | Aug 2012 |
| Mike Bothwell | 10 | 2 | Wasperton | 1 inch cube of meat | 03/01/2013 | Feb 2013 |
| Steve Welland | 10 | | Wasperton | Meat | 11/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| Brian Rossiter | 10 | | Fladbury | Banded pellet & feeder | 07/01/2013 | Feb 2013 |
| Chris Blunt | 8 | 12 | Fladbury | Pellet | 14/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| Brian Rossiter | 7 | | Fladbury | Banded pellet & feeder | 07/01/2013 | Feb 2013 |
| David Johnson | 5 | 1 | Fladbury | 12m bloodworm boilie, barbel bomb & hemp groundbait | 26/02/2012 | Mar 2012 |
| River Teme | | | | | | |
| John Morgan | 10 | 5 | Stanford Bridge | | ? | April 2012 |
| Steve Welland | 10 | | Stanford Bridge | | July 2012 | Aug 2012 |

Bream

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| River Severn | | | | | |
| Ben Keen | 6 | Ladyham | Maggot/groundbait feeder | 16/06/2012 | July 2012 |
| River Avon | | | | | |
| Graham Beck | 6 | Marlcliff | Maggots/maggot feeder | Aug 2012 | Sep 2012 |
| Pools | | | | | |
| Darren Davies | 6 | Mythe Pool | Double sweetcorn with open end feeder | May 2012 | June 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 5 | Coppice | | 03/05/2012 | May 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 4 | 8 Coppice | | 03/05/2012 | May 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 4 | Coppice | | 03/05/2012 | May 2012 |
| Colin Weed | 4 | Coppice | | 14/08/2012 | Sep 2012 |

Common Carp

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|------------|---|------------|------------|
| River Severn | | | | | |
| Andy Keen | 9 | Ladyham | Stick float fished tight to bank, single white maggot, 18 hook, 1.7lb hook length, 3lb mainline | 17/09/2012 | Oct 2012 |
| Pools | | | | | |
| John Morgan | 22 | 5 Coppice | Bottom fished boilie | 09/05/2012 | June 2012 |
| Graham Sheldon | 22 | 1 Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Dec 2012 |
| Graham Sheldon | 20 | 8 Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Dec 2012 |
| Jack Parkes | 20 | 2 Coppice | | 24/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 20 | Coppice | | 03/05/2012 | May 2012 |
| Sam Chapman | 19 | 6 Mythe | | 26/07/2012 | Aug 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 17 | Uckinghall | | 03/06/2012 | June 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 17 | Coppice | | 14/08/2012 | Sep 2012 |
| Kev Abel | 15 | Coppice | | 18/08/2012 | Sep 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 14 | 10 Coppice | | 02/11/2012 | Dec 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 14 | 4 Coppice | | 02/11/2012 | Dec 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 14 | 1 Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 13 | 9 Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 12 | 13 Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Colin Weed | 9 | 12 Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |

Ghost Carp

| | | | | | |
|---------------|----|------------------|----------------------|------|-----------|
| Canals | | | | | |
| John Morgan | 24 | 8 Staffs & Worcs | Bottom fished boilie | 2010 | June 2012 |

Leather Carp

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| Canals | | | | | |
| Jonathan Albutt | 19 | Birmingham Worcester | Stalking tactics in the margins | ? | Oct 2012 |

Mirror Carp

| | | | | Pools | | |
|---------------|----|----|---------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| Michael Cross | 31 | | Coppice | Boilie | 25/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| John Morgan | 29 | 11 | Coppice | Zig rigged pop-up | 09/05/2012 | June 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 20 | | Coppice | Boilie | 03/04/2012 | April 2012 |
| Scott Lote | 20 | | Coppice | | ? | Oct 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 17 | | Coppice | | 24/04/2012 | May 2012 |
| Kevin Smith | 15 | 7 | Coppice | | Oct 2012 | Nov 2012 |
| Colin Weed | 11 | | Coppice | | 14/08/2012 | Sep 2012 |

Chub

| | | | | River Avon | | |
|----------------|---|----|-----------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| David Wood | 6 | 7 | Marlcliff | | ? | Sep 2012 |
| Paul Wood | 6 | 5 | Marlcliff | | ? | Sep 2012 |
| Matthew Smith | 6 | 0 | Pershore | 2 x 12mm halibut pellet | 04/07/2012 | Aug 2012 |
| Chris Blunt | 4 | 12 | Fladbury | Bread | 14/03/2012 | April 2012 |
| | | | | River Teme | | |
| Cameron Preece | 4 | 4 | Broadwas | | Aug 2012 | Sep 2012 |

Grayling

| | | | | River Teme | | |
|------------|---|---|-----------|-----------------|----------|------------|
| Tim Gilson | 1 | 0 | Lindridge | Ledgered maggot | Feb 2012 | April 2012 |

Perch

| | | | | River Severn | | |
|-------------|---|---|------------------|----------------------------|------------|----------|
| Joe Boles | 2 | 8 | Arley RB Harbour | | 15/09/2012 | Oct 2012 |
| | | | | Pools | | |
| Mark Latham | 3 | 8 | Coppice | Float fished double maggot | 06/11/2012 | Dec 2012 |

Roach

| | | | | River Severn | | |
|----------|---|---|--------|--|------------|-----------|
| Andy Lea | 2 | 4 | Danery | 3 x 8mm halibut pellets over pellet and hemp mix | 28/06/2012 | July 2012 |

Tench

| | | | | River Avon | | |
|--------------|---|----|-------------|--|------------|----------|
| Derek Gabb | 3 | 14 | Pershore LB | Hair rigged cut down boillie and swim feeder full of pellets | Aug 2012 | Oct 2012 |
| | | | | Pools | | |
| Tony Barnett | 5 | 4 | Uckinghall | Float fished single red maggot | 06/10/2012 | Nov 2012 |



Executive update



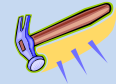
Fladbury Meadow 1



The BAA has just completed the purchase of the meadow (Meadow 1) on the right bank of the River Avon immediately downstream of Jubilee Bridge. Meadow 1 is alongside our existing downstream Meadow 2. It is intended to provide vehicle access into Meadow 1 for anglers; until this is completed access will remain on foot as at present from existing car parking. We will keep you informed of plans and progress.



Fisheries report



Due to a concern raised at the last AGM about the safety of the footbridge over the stream into the River Avon at Wick. Weather and floods permitting, it is planned to repair the footbridge during February.



Archive extracts



Midland Angler

Below are extracts from the February 1959 edition, the forerunner to the BAA News.

FEBRUARY, 1959
The
Vol. 13. No. 8

MIDLAND ANGLER

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Annual subscription 14/- post free. Single copies 1/2 post free.

Wanted – A Cure For Floods

IT happens every winter with monotonous regularity. The snow comes and goes, the inevitable floods descend upon us once more and river fishing of any sort is completely written off for weeks on end. The tackle dealer is virtually out of a job and the angler champs the bit peevishly every Sunday morn. Then, a few months later, scarcely before water levels have settled

down to normal, come the equally monotonous and regular warnings of a threatened water shortage and a request to cut down consumption as much as possible.

Crazy, isn't it? In winter there is more water than we know what to do with. In summer there is not nearly enough to go round. And apart from doing their best to see that countless millions of gallons of water run to waste sea-wards as quickly as possible, the authorities seem to do little to rectify matters.

It has been suggested that the proposed extraction of 30,000,000 gallons of water a day from the Bewdley area by Birmingham Corporation would go a long way towards taming the Severn's winter floods. But that is mere wishful thinking. It would have about as much effect as the fire engines did when they pumped water from the bank-high Severn whilst fighting a fire at Bridgnorth during the catastrophic 1957 "All-England."

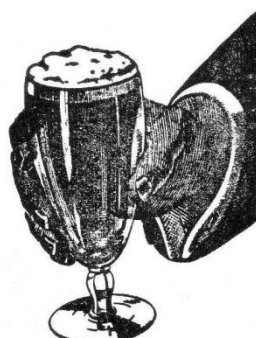
What we really need—and this would also help to solve the serious problem of excessive water abstraction during the summer months—is a series of huge reservoirs designed to tap off surplus winter water and store it until later in the year. Such a project might not wipe out flooding entirely but it would go a long way towards alleviating the misery and discomfort caused to riverside dwellers at this time of year, and at the same time provide anglers with many welcome acres of new fishing water.

In some instances the quality of the water might not please local authorities, and considerable treatment might be necessary to make it fit for drinking purposes, but that too would not be without its compensation. In fact, by drawing public attention to the unhappy condition of some of our rivers it could quite easily become our strongest weapon against pollution.

Anglers'
most popular catch —

Ansell's

The Better Beer



unbeatable
for quality
and strength!

10 a Canal Pike . . .

MOVEMENT SPELLS FOOD ! says JIM WHEAT

SOME time ago I kept tropical fish in a glass aquarium. I fed them on biscuit meal, dried flies, daphnia and tube worms. They looked pretty. The falsely contrived scene had a serene beauty. Even the dog liked it.

One day, whilst these foreign creatures were leisurely pulling tube worms out of the sandy bottom, I introduced a live fresh water shrimp from a nearby brook. Puff! Instantly there was action. This little dark coloured creature scurried for shelter in the brightly lit prison. He was like a rugby international with a dazzling display of 3 D jinking. Up, down, E., N., S., W.

But it was his effect on the tropicals that stays with me. They suddenly became intensely concentrated in purpose. The gently waving tube worms were forgotten.

This was movement. This was life. This was better food! And they meant to get it.

When they did catch it, they found it was useless to them. Beneath its hard scaly covering it was safe. They caught it several times and each time let it escape again.

Now the points that I want to stress are these. Firstly, it was a new form of life to them. Secondly, it moved (and how it moved!) and movement meant food. And thirdly, they were a long time learning that it was in fact not food. While it moved they would pounce and take it.

When I am spinning I think of that shrimp. I take comfort from the knowledge that my spoon, plug, devon, pickled minnow or whatever it is need not necessarily resemble exactly what it purports to be. It may resemble nothing in my quarry's experience. What it must have is movement. Frantic, urgent movement.

It can move fast, for a fish intent on catching his prey can move faster than the human eye can see. Let him just make up his mind that this moving, glittering thing is to be examined and the next instant he is examining it. He has a mouthful of treble hooks and the rest is up to you.

Unless he is very hungry he will probably not go far to get it. You have to choose your spots for most success. Let your lure flit past his nose and any pike, adapted through a million years for just this one thing, will pounce. Fish are wonderfully shaped as we all know, for this sudden



"I don't suppose I will meet a 30 lb pike in my canal."

better than sitting on that stool, getting pins and needles and throwing in maggots for idle roach.

No fish will travel far after a rapidly moving twinkle, so you have to drop the twinkle right in front of him. You have to learn the likely-looking places and cast right up to them. I like a small lure, and with it an old fly rod. I get good control and I don't suppose I shall meet a 30 lb. pike in my canal. Anyway, a small lure makes a small splash. My tiny spoon, hitting the water thirty yards away, sounds to me exactly like small fry breaking the water—the sound that I hope (and believe) every predatory fish associates with the chase and food. Mr. Pike is then in a receptive mood when he sees my twinkling lure.

I am sure this is so, for so often have I hooked a jack before my lure has travelled far. It is almost as if I had thrown it into his mouth.

Find your fishing spots, cast right up to the reeds, or right under the trees, retrieve in spurts and dashes, vary your methods and work hard—that's the drill these wintry days.

SEVERN WATER EXTRACTION WORRIES MINISTRY

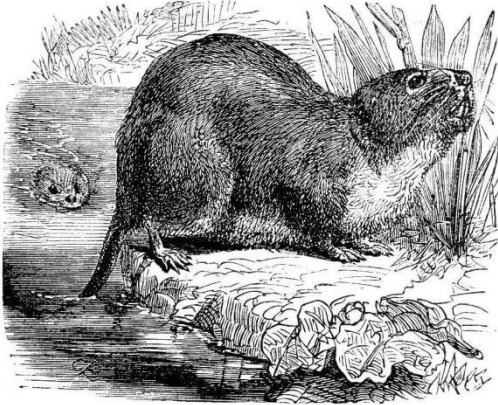
The Ministry of Housing is to call a meeting of various local authorities in order to discuss the possible effect of new schemes to extract water from the Severn.

Birmingham has applied for permission to take 30,000,000 gallons a day from Bewdley; South Staffs. Waterworks Co. propose to extract a similar amount from the Bridgnorth area; Coventry hope to increase the amount drawn off at Upton by an additional 10,000,000 gallons a day; and Cheltenham Water Board has sought permission to considerably increase its extraction rate.

The Minister is of the opinion that demands of this nature will have a noticeable effect on the Severn and that before they are agreed to a complete hydrological survey of the river should be carried out.

Your Waterside Companions . . .

by TAG BARNES



The Water Vole — The Animal With A Lid In Each Ear

IT is often said that there is more to fishing than just catching fish—that many things combine to make an enjoyable day's sport. Some of them are absorbed into the mind subconsciously, there to fit happily into the angling day, not forgotten, but taken for granted. That well-trodden path to the river, for example; the old wooden bridge under which you throw your spoon bait; the first glimpse of the carp pool through the trees; the rooks and jackdaws winging slowly overhead on their way to roost.

There are other occasions when some special event fits more permanently into memory's jigsaw—the kingfisher that alighted on the rod—the huge wedge of geese sinking into the glowing sunset—the stooping kestrel lifting a squealing mouse from the opposite bank—the lovely cock pheasant that ran into your car on the way home and now rests safely in the boot!

Yes, anglers fishing quietly by the riverside are in the fortunate position of being able to observe Nature far better than the followers of any other sport. Yet, surprisingly, the average angler knows little about the habits and life of the things he sees. A few words about some of the creatures one comes across either in or by the water may perhaps help to

make their outings even more interesting.

Let's make a start with an animal that most people have met—the water vole, or, as he is more often than not wrongly termed, the water rat. The two creatures are, however, quite different. A rat's head is sharply pointed, a vole's gently rounded; the vole is a much plumper creature altogether—and more likeable. He is a clean animal and 99% of his food consists of green vegetation. Occasionally, it is believed, a vole may eat a small fish, but nobody, has so far proved conclusively that fish form part of a vole's regular diet.

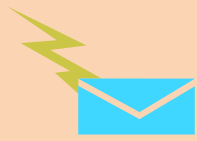
Like most other wild creatures, they are cunning—particularly where food is concerned. They have been known to cross a large field, and after removing the pods from dwarf beans to shell them in an expert manner. On one occasion a water vole was seen to climb a ladder resting against a plum tree in an orchard and feed on the fruit. With equal cunning they will burrow shafts underneath choice morsels they wish to sample in order to reach them without being seen.

Voles are strong swimmers and can stay submerged for 20 seconds or more. Their ears are equipped with a sort of lid that closes down when

they submerge and keeps out the water. They live in bankside tunnels fitted with entrances and exits both above and below the water line. Like the squirrel they start to store up food during the Autumn, but unlike the squirrel they do not hibernate and only lie up in very severe weather.

Young voles are usually born around the time the coarse fishing starts and can swim and dive at a very early age. They have their enemies, of course, among them herons, rats, otters, stoats, pike, owls—and I have heard of cannibal trout eating them. With so many other animals after their blood they have to be cunning and usually rise to the surface under cover of a patch of weed until they have made sure the coast is clear.

The water vole I remember best was one that kept me company during a week's fishing in Somerset. At first he was very shy, diving with a loud "plonk" at the slightest move I made. But before the end of the week we were the best of friends and he would sit on a bed of weed not four feet away. There he nibbled away at a water plant held between his front paws, afterwards spending several hours washing himself. I thoroughly enjoyed the fishing that week, and when sport was not all it might have been it was nice to have "somebody" to talk to!



Readers' letters



If you have any items, thoughts, issues you want to air in the BAA news, please email it to 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.

Dear Fishing Fanatics,

Here's something to 'catch' your imagination and 'reel' you in!

An Evening of Tall Stories and much, much more featuring arguably the best known angler in the world **BOB NUDD MBE**.

Bob Nudd was the first English angler to win four individual World Angling Championships and he represented England at international level for 24 years.

Bob along with special guest angler Des Taylor, who specialises in Carp fishing and comedy host and fishing enthusiast Steve Shanyaski, will share an in depth insight into the wonderful world of fishing and will also feature a question & answer session.

Date: Wednesday 3rd April

Location: Tamworth Assembly Rooms

Ticket Prices: Tickets are £12.50 / £11.50 (concessions)

10% off for a group booking of 10 + people.

For more information on this show please visit our website www.tamworthassemblyrooms.co.uk or call the box office on 01827 709618.

Kind Regards,
Sarah Bradshaw
Arts and Events Apprentice
Communities, Planning and Partnerships
Tamworth Borough Council
Marmion House, Lichfield Street, Tamworth, Staffs, B79 7BZ
Tel: 01827 709314

Severn Barrage could be "Absolutely devastating"

Angling Trust media release _ Thursday 10th January 2013.

A Proposal to build a Barrage across the Severn Estuary 'could be absolutely devastating', MPs have heard.

The Angling Trust, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and RSPB told the House of Commons Energy & Climate Committee they all supported tidal energy development in the Severn, but that the current proposal lacks detail and claims that it would not unacceptably damage wildlife and large areas of habitat are "not realistic".

As well as doubting claims about the environmental impact of the barrage, all four organisations expressed support for future alternative smaller projects in the Severn Estuary to test and develop new tidal energy technology which Britain could export globally.

Angling Trust National Campaigns Coordinator Martin Salter told the Committee a full-width barrage across the estuary would mean fish dying due to sudden changes in water pressure and salinity, and through turbine strikes. He said:

"Claims that these turbines are fish friendly are absolute guff. This is 24/7 fish mincing. Turbines kill fish above a tip speed of 6-7 metres per second. The Hafren proposal is for a tip speed of 9 metres per second. How on earth can they make press statements that these are "fish-friendly". They are simply not.

"This drives a coach and horses through all environmental protections that governments have signed up to. The impact could be absolutely devastating on both the commercial fishery, on the recreational fishery and on highly protected habitat."

WWT Chief Executive Martin Spray told MPs:

"This represents such a massive investment and such a massive change to the estuary that we do need more information. We have got to get a little more clever about how we address the environment. There is potential for energy generation but we have to come up with environmentally sustainable, acceptable and sensible solutions."

RSPB Head of Site Conservation Policy Kate Jennings said experiences elsewhere suggest smaller projects would be a better way to test new technologies rather than repeat experiences in the Netherlands:

"The experience in the Eastern Scheldt estuary in the Netherlands where they built a storm surge barrier in the 1980s is the best comparator for the Severn Barrage. What they found is that 30 years after construction the estuary is still losing intertidal habitat. They think it will go on losing habitat for at least a century.

"The official Government study into the Severn Barrage proposal in 2010 showed that there would be significant effects on the populations of 30 species of birds and that in addition to the Severn it would also have negative impact on at least five other internationally important wildlife sites nearby."

Kate also addressed claims that a barrage would reduce flood risk by protecting against storm surges, telling MPs a barrage could actually increase flood risk upstream:

"There are other forms of flood risk. A significant one being fluvial (rivers) and managing that relies on the ability to get water out of the Severn. Holding it back behind a barrage would compromise that and tide-lock drainage. We don't have enough details of the proposals."

The Angling Trust, WWT, and RSPB have also agreed a joint position regarding the Severn Barrage with several other environmental organisations - WWF-UK, the Wildlife Trusts, Wye & Usk Foundation, Marine Conservation Society, Severn Rivers Trust, Salmon & Trout Association and Campaign to Protect Rural England. The agreed position was sent in a letter to Hafren Power and Peter Hain who supports the barrage proposal. The position was summarised as:

"We support the deployment of renewable energy as an essential element of the steps required to decarbonise the UK economy, and acknowledge the potential of the Severn Estuary for renewable energy generation.

"However, we believe that renewable energy deployment can and should be delivered without unacceptable impacts on the environment. To date we have not been presented with sufficient detail on the current proposal, or any assessment of the impacts of that proposal, which would allow us to consider the extent to which its impacts would differ from those of the completely unacceptable high head Cardiff to Weston barrage (especially in the long term). That said, we remain deeply sceptical that a shore-to-shore barrage can be delivered without unacceptable impacts on the environment.

"Given the likely scale of the impacts of such a development, and the associated environmental, social, technical, legal and investor challenges and risks, we believe that an approach which focuses on smaller scale deployment, sited and designed to maximise energy output whilst minimising environmental impact, is more likely to deliver an acceptable solution in a timescale compatible with the urgent need to address climate change and maintain electricity supply."

Further details of the environmental organisations' concerns were outlined in the letter as below:

We attach great value to the Severn Estuary for its international importance for wildlife, and for the economic and social benefits that this provides;

We see climate change as the greatest medium to long term threat to biodiversity, and we support the deployment of renewable energy as an essential element of the steps required to decarbonise the UK economy and maintain our electricity supply. We also acknowledge the potential of the Severn Estuary for renewable energy generation;

That said, we recognise that, like all forms of development, inappropriately designed and/or sited renewable energy developments can cause serious, irreparable and unnecessary harm to biodiversity;

To date we have not been presented with sufficient detail on the current proposal, or any assessment of the impacts on the impacts of that proposal, which would allow us to consider the extent to which the impacts of the current proposal could differ from those of the completely unacceptable high head Cardiff to Weston barrage (especially in the long term);

However, we remain deeply sceptical that a shore-to-shore barrage on the scale of that envisaged can be delivered without unacceptable damage to the Severn Estuary, its wildlife

and heritage, and the tourism, recreational and commercial activity that this supports.

We acknowledge that the Severn Estuary is a highly dynamic ecosystem that will change over time (and has done so in the past). The very nature of the estuary means that all devices installed to generate electricity from it will in some way affect that ecosystem. We wish to see an approach to the development of renewable energy proposals that delivers maximum energy yield for minimum environmental impact. If current technologies cannot achieve this, then efforts should be concentrated on the development of less damaging alternatives.

The key concerns of the NGOs regarding the impacts of a Severn Barrage are:

- Impacts on the geomorphology, including longterm changes following construction of a barrage structure;
- Impacts on hydrology and sea level, including near and farfield effects, impacts on flood risk, water quality, wave climate, land drainage and groundwater;
- Impacts on estuarine habitats - including both habitat loss at the time of construction, and that associated with changes in geomorphology and the tidal regime following construction;
- Impacts on birds including those associated with habitat loss and change;
- Potentially fatal impacts on rare and highly protected fish species populations including direct and indirect (cavitation effects) mortality through collision with turbine blades (a risk exacerbated by with multiple passages through the turbines), delays to fish migration, enhanced predation, changes in water quality and salinity, and the loss of fish nursery habitat. Most of these fish populations are already well below 'Favourable Conservation Status' and are therefore particularly vulnerable to further pressures; 90% of the world's Twaite Shad population risks extinction and 25% of England and Wales' salmonid habitat could be excluded by a barrage;
- Impacts on coastal and terrestrial habitats, including those associated with changes in sea level, hydrology and water quality;
- Impacts on the landscape, seascape, archaeological and amenity value associated with both the construction of a barrage and associated impacts and infrastructure.

Key Challenges for Hafren Power:

We believe that there are five key tests which must be satisfied by proponents of any tidal barrage or other renewables technology proposal in the Severn Estuary before any scheme could be considered for consent (whether via a hybrid bill or any other mechanism):

1. The assessment of the nature and scale of the environmental impacts of the proposed barrage on the estuary must be robust and subject to rigorous peer review based on terms of reference agreed with NGOs in advance. This will require not only an understanding of the impacts of the proposed development, but also of the structure, function, and ecology of the estuary (e.g. fish behaviour within the estuary). A robust assessment of impact is a prerequisite for the identification of potential mitigation and compensation measures;
2. To achieve this, all technologies must have been developed and adequately tested, in conditions which accurately mirror those found in the Severn Estuary;
3. Environmental impacts on geomorphology (including intertidal habitat loss), birds, fish, water quality and adjacent terrestrial habitats over the full life of a barrage structure must - as a minimum - be demonstrated to be within the realms of what it is practically possible to compensate for on a like for like basis within the UK;

4. It must be demonstrated that required 'like for like' compensatory measures can be secured and delivered in advance of construction, and will be effective in the short, medium and long term;
5. Impacts on jobs, land drainage and flood risk etc, along with the costs of compensatory measures, will need to be factored into any analysis of the economic feasibility of a proposal, and will need to demonstrate that the proposal would provide a good deal for taxpayers AND consumers.

Application of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3) and 6(4) tests will act as a litmus test for the viability and acceptability of any proposal. These require that the nature and scale of impacts on all Natura 2000 sites affected (SPAs, SACs and (as a matter of UK Government policy) Ramsar sites) be thoroughly assessed. If it is not possible to ascertain that the development will not have an 'adverse effect' on one or more of these sites, it may only be consented if it can be demonstrated that there are no less damaging alternative solutions that could deliver the same public interest, that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest why it should proceed in spite of its effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 site(s), and that sufficient, adequate and effective compensation can be secured to maintain the coherence of the Natura 2000 network of SPAs and SACs in the short, medium and long term.

Recent Developments:

In November 2012, RegenSW and partners published a new discussion document, "Bristol Channel Energy: A Balanced Technology Approach", which outlines most of the known ideas for marine energy generation from the Bristol Channel/Severn Estuary system and proposes adopting a multi technology approach. The report's authors highlight that the key advantage of this approach would be to enable the incremental roll out of a series of large scale energy schemes as technologies are proven and their environmental impacts can be properly managed. We welcome this discussion document and the approach it advocates, which could facilitate a better understanding of the impacts of tidal energy generation at much lower risk to investors, the environment, and the wider business and resident communities.

For further information please contact

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Angling Trust acts to relocate seal to protect Severn fish stocks

Angling Trust media release _ Thursday 15th January 2013.



One of several ducks that the seal has been photographed eating on the river Severn at Bewdley.

The Angling Trust is demanding urgent action to remove a seal which has taken up residence in Bewdley on the River Severn, some 75 miles from its natural home in the sea, and has been eating its way through large numbers of the local coarse fish population.

Bewdley is a very important stretch of river for fishing in the UK, and contains a number of large barbel, pike and chub, among other species. The seal has been observed eating large numbers of these fish every day for several months and it is now endangering the future of angling in the town, which is an important source of income for local shops and businesses. The mammal has also been spotted eating ducks and large pike, which are normally safe from any predators on the river.

Although the seal has been in the river since October 2012, Angling's representative body the Angling Trust was only notified of its presence shortly before Christmas. Most seals that come into rivers do not stay for long, and return to the sea in a few days. However this creature has taken a liking to the area, possibly because members of the public have apparently been feeding it.

The Angling Trust has written to the Environment Agency urging them to take action to remove the seal both to protect local fish stocks from unsustainable predation and to protect the seal itself. The creature can be lawfully shot on receipt of a licence from Natural England but anglers would rather it was returned safely to the sea where it belongs. Sadly, this request has been declined by the Environment Agency despite their statutory duty to 'maintain, develop and improve' fisheries in England and Wales and the fact that they have helped with the removal of seals in the past.

The Angling Trust has also contacted the Marine Divers Marine Live Rescue (MDMLR) organisation, who would have been willing to help, but from their experience of trying to capture seals in rivers said that it would be impossible to capture the animal safely in the fast flow of the River Severn.

On the recommendation of the MDMLR the Trust has now placed an order with Aquatec, a company in Scotland which provides seal scarers - known as scrammers - which emit a high-pitched noise that deters seals from fish farms. Although they only have a range of 50 metres, it is thought that they might be deployed on a boat and used to drive the seal downstream. Unfortunately the lead time for an order is as much as four weeks and there is no guarantee that this tactic will work.

As a last resort to protect fish stocks the Angling Trust has been forced, on behalf of its member clubs, to contact Natural England to secure a licence to shoot the seal using a qualified marksman if no other solution can be found. Although this option will clearly be highly unpopular with the crowds of people who have come down to watch the seal, it may be the only course of action available to save the fishery from being irreparably damaged by this predator which has got stuck above several locks and weirs.

Seal populations are extremely healthy around the UK coastline and numbers have grown rapidly in recent years. They are regularly killed in Scotland under licence to protect salmon and sea trout stocks in estuaries.

Angling Trust chief executive Mark Lloyd said:

"We think that the Environment Agency or Natural England should have taken action before now to protect vulnerable fish stocks in the River Severn, but as they have not, we have responded to anglers' concerns by investing our members' donations and subscriptions to find a number of potential solutions to this very difficult issue. This marine predator cannot be allowed to carry on eating its way through freshwater fish that have taken decades to grow to a size which can draw anglers from all over the country to fish for them."

He described the grim choice faced by the authorities:

"If no action is taken in the next month, long lasting damage will be done to one of the country's most treasured river fisheries which will be a major set-back to the local economy and the enjoyment of thousands of anglers. This animal belongs in the sea and its presence so far inland is not natural. Its path back to sea has been blocked by man-made weirs and it may have been tempted to stay by people feeding it titbits. We will try everything possible to remove it humanely, but more drastic action may be the only option if these methods do not work."

Anglers secure agreement for safe relocation of 'Keith' the Severn Seal

Angling Trust media release _ Thursday 23rd January 2013.

Anglers secure agreement for safe relocation of 'Keith' the Severn Seal

The Angling Trust is pleased to announce that it will not be pursuing an application to Natural England for a licence to shoot the Severn seal following the conclusion of an agreement with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue service which will see both organisations working together to relocate the mammal back to the sea, out of harm's way and to protect vulnerable freshwater fish stocks. The longer the seal remains away from its natural habitat, the greater the risk of it coming to harm from eating food thrown to it by the public or being injured by lock gates or boat propellers.

Recent drops in river levels have improved the prospects of the animal either being rescued, or heading out to sea. The Angling Trust felt that it had little choice but to consider reluctantly securing a licence in response to requests by local clubs and anglers and after the Environment Agency and Natural England failed to take any action whatsoever to manage the situation, despite ongoing and severe damage to a freshwater fishery by a marine mammal.

Shooting was always seen as the very last resort and in any case would have had to be licensed by Natural England. Seals do not enjoy absolute protection as some have claimed. In Scotland, the equivalent organisation licenses more than 1,000 seals to be killed every year to protect fish stocks and salmon farms.

Although the Environment Agency (EA) declined to act to protect the coarse fishery in the River Severn, the Angling Trust has learned that in the past the EA had assisted in the removal of seals from the Rivers Towy and Cleddau in Wales to protect salmon and sea trout stocks.

The Trust has entered into an agreement with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue to work together to monitor the seal's movements and to rescue it if it remains in one place for any length of time and is calling on all anglers to report sightings of the seal on the middle and lower Severn to seal@anglingtrust.net so that its progress can be tracked.

Alan Knight OBE, Chairman of the British Divers Marine Life Rescue said: "The Angling Trust and the representatives of the local angling clubs have been utterly committed from the start to finding a solution which avoided any harm coming to the seal but minimised damage to fish and birdlife. They consulted the BDMLR on several occasions and have been very understanding of the complex issues involved in rescuing marine mammals. They have followed up on all the suggestions we have made about finding a solution that would get the seal back out to sea where it belongs, unharmed. We understand the approach they have taken to try to manage this situation on behalf of the angling community and their concern for freshwater fish stocks in the Severn. However, it's great that we will now be working together to find a safe and humane solution to prevent this, and other seals, becoming stranded, injured or worse."

Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the Angling Trust said: "Anglers have only ever sought to protect the vitally important River Severn fishery and really didn't want to see any harm coming to the seal. But in the face of inaction by those agencies whose job it is to protect fish and wildlife something had to be done to get things moving and our original statement on this situation has served that purpose. It is also pretty frustrating to hear that Scottish and Welsh salmon rivers seem to get better protection than an important English coarse fishery.

We are looking forward to our new partnership with the BDMLR, who are the top experts in this field, and to work with the angling community to rescue 'Keith' who must be very bewildered with all the media attention and crowds. Anglers are the eyes and ears of the riverbank, and regularly report pollution incidents throughout the year. They are in the best place to let both us and the BDMLR guys know of any problems. Anglers can send us details of sightings via the contact us page on our website or to seal@anglingtrust.net with information about the whereabouts of the Severn seal, and any others, so that we can get them back out to sea safely where they belong.

In the meantime we are calling on the public not to feed this or any other seal that ventures into freshwater. It only makes matters worse and hinders attempts at relocation."

The new partnership between the Angling Trust and the BDMLR has been given a warm welcome by **local wildlife campaigner Lenni Sykes, who has spoken out for the protection of the seal.**

Lenni, a natural history writer with extensive experience in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation said: "I am delighted to have clarification from the Angling Trust that they do not wish to shoot the seal. They are being proactive in co-operating with seal rescue experts and have followed up on advice and ordered a scammer to deter the seal. Meanwhile, I am grateful that they are encouraging their members to pass on sightings so we can evaluate when and where the seal might be captured successfully and returned to the sea."

Notes;

"Scrammers" are sonic deterrents which cause no harm to wildlife and have been used before to deter seals.

Seal numbers around our coasts are apparently increasing by 5% a year. There is more information about this here:

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/protected-species/which-and-how/mammals/seal-protection/>

Footnote: 'Keith' the seal has vanished from the river at Bewdley. He has not been spotted for over a week and there are unconfirmed reports of him having been seen floating downstream below Worcester.