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B.A.A.NEWS

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August 2012

Headlines

Litter Lout fined - See page 2

River Teme after the floods - See pages 16-17

Angling Trust's Action on Cormorants campaign - See pages 20-23

Coppice Lake to re-open on 12th August - See BAA website for details

Evesham Festival

The annual Evesham Angling Festival at Crown Meadows runs through the August Bank Holiday weekend from Saturday 25th through to Monday 27th August. As in previous years the BAA will have a stand at the show, so come along enjoy the show and come and visit our stand. For more information Ctrl + Click on the festival website link below;

http://www.eveshamfestival.com/

Bailiffing

LITTER LOUT FINED FOR LEAVING RUBBISH AT COPPICE LAKE

Back in May, before the disaster which befell Coppice Lake and which caused its closure, a party of three members spent a weekend at the fishery, including fishing at night.

Subsequently our Bailiff, on a routine visit to the pool, found a large black bin liner full of rubbish dumped on the car park. The bag contained the remnants of a fishing trip including empty cans and bottles, food packaging etc.

Following some diligent investigation work by Superintendant Bailiff Dave Webb, the person responsible for dumping the rubbish was identified and the case was referred to the Association's General Purposes Committee (G.P.C.). This is the body made up of members from the Executive Committee which is charged with dealing with all alleged breaches of the Association's Bye-Laws.

The GPC contacted the member concerned, who had little alternative but to hold up his hands to the charge of deliberately discarding rubbish on Association property. The GPC approved that a fine of £50 be levied on the member and that he be barred from having any further night permits for a considerable period. These sanctions were subsequently endorsed by the whole Executive Committee.

The member, who for the purposes of this Newsletter shall remain anonymous, accepted the ruling and has since paid his fine. The moral of the story is this; **DON'T DISCARD RUBBISH ON ANY BAA FISHERIES AND THINK YOU WILL NOT BE FOUND OUT!**

On this occasion the member at least retained membership – the next person found out may not be so fortunate.

Fishing news

Fish of the month – 6lb Pershore chub

After looking on the website at the records for the fish caught I thought I should let you of a whopper I caught.

On Wednesday 4th July on the River Avon at Pershore I was fishing a double 12mm Halibut on a Hair rig with a sliding lead hoping for maybe a Barbel or large Chub when in my last hour I hooked into a large chub, after 15 minutes of fighting it finally hit the scale's at exactly 6lb. However this was only witnessed by one other person being my father in law.

Many Thanks,

Matthew Smith

Manor Farm barbel

This is the best fish of the 4 caught at Manor Farm on Sat 14th July with the river just in the bank. It weighed 10lb-12oz.

My brother Rob had one 10lb-8oz and 2 smaller ones.

Thanks,

David Holland.

Excellent day

Hi All

Just thought I would share this 9lb 1oz barbel with yourselves caught at Arley today, 13th July. It was one of 5 fish ranging from 4lb 6oz to this monster; all were taken on double 8mm halibut pellet over a bed of 3mm halibut pellet and all within a 4 hour session.

Cheers

Roy Price.

Golden Oldie

I thought you might like to see the attached pictures of my recent capture from Mythe Pool - 19lb 6oz. This is the first of the older residents that I've managed to fool - taken from just behind the platform in my swim, as the lake was approx' 4-5 feet above normal level. Apologies for the poor pictures, I haven't quite mastered self-take pictures yet - something that I intend to sort out for my next trip!

Many thanks, Sam Chapman

Barbel trip 2012

For the past 15 years these four Norfolk Anglers have spent an annual long weekend on the Middle Severn barbel fishing;

Richard Rowell (BAA day ticket)
Kim Barnet (BAA day ticket)
Martin Stephenson (BAA member)
Bob Bennett (BAA member)

This year saw not the best river conditions! Arriving on Friday 13th you would have thought this should have told us something? But we continued with our quest which incidentally saw many other anglers seek the comfort of a carp pool or the pub.

We took the trouble in the pouring rain to find slack water, behind flooded willows, natural features such as bends in the river, anything that causes an eddy that slowed the ravages and force of the river in flood. And although the number of fish caught in the chocolate brown water this year was lower than in more clement times, we all caught. In fact for the 4 days we caught 51 barbel, 1 chub, 2 eels and 3 1lb roach. These might not be the best of result but it shows even though the conditions are dreadful "to say the least" DON'T GIVE UP. We would like to make a serious point here, in these conditions be careful, keep in calling distance; it is wise to be with another angler, even if it's just to take the micky.

We also would like to take the time to thank the BAA Fishery's Team for doing a great job keeping the river bank clear. Well done guys and thank you, and finally to Bob Duce your Editor and life long friend of Bob Bennett for his daily phoned updates from the environment agency web site on the river conditions further up stream (the rivers gone up 2 meters at Welshpool!) CHEERS MATE this cheered us up no end.

The following were all caught at BAA Erdington Brook Section and Stanley and the British Legion stretch in Bridgnorth.

Totals	Richard	Martin	Kim	Bob	Other fish caught
Fri	1	1	3	1	4lb chub Richard
Sat	2	3	0	2	2 eels Kim
Sun	4	2	4	9	Bob had the best fish of the trip 9lb 1oz barbel
Mon	4	4	4	2	3 roach to 1.5lb Richard & Kim
Tue	3	0	1	1	

Bob Bennett

Ladyham barbel

Hi there.

These photos show 2 barbel caught from the River Severn at Ladyham on the 25/06/2012.

Regards,

Jeff Brittain

Good day at Nordley

I popped over to Nordley Pool 1 with my mate Colin on Saturday 7th July for a days fishing and what a day it was. I had carp after carp to a grand total of 148 pounds, the biggest being 11lb of which I had 3, one of them was a mirror carp, the smallest being 5.5lb common carp. I had a total of 18 carp two of which are mirror carp at 7lb and 11lb. I've listed below my total catch.

Common carp - 8lb, 8 lb, 9.5 lb, 11 lb, 8 lb, 8.5 lb, 6lb, 9 lb, 5.5 lb, 9 lb, 8 lb, 8 lb, 8 lb, 5.5 lb, 11 lb and 7lb.

Mirror carp - 7 lb and 11lb.

Colin had a 4 lb common carp.

Thanks Kev of Birmingham

Barbel in the dark

10lb barbel from Teme (Stanford Bridge) last week....great sport.

Steve Welland from Nuneaton.

Barbel from the weir pool

Hi,

Just thought you would like to know, I caught 2 barbel from the lock island Holt Fleet on Saturday 28/07/12, one a fantastic 12.3 lbs on luncheon meat, the second 7.8 lbs on halibut pellet. Both fish we're in fantastic condition and gave a really good account of themselves.

Many thanks,

Malcolm Ford

Fishing news record

for last 12 months

fish/catcher	lb	oz	location	method	edition
Barbel					
			River Severn		
Steve Swain	13	5	Mid Severn	Pellet and feeder	April 2012
Malcolm Ford	12	3		Luncheon meat	Aug 2012
Steve Swain	12		Mid Severn	Halibut pellet hook bait on size 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder	April 2012
Steve Swain	11		Mid Severn	Halibut pellet hook bait on size 7 hook, pellet & hemp feeder	April 2012
Brian Newstead	10	14	Holt Fleet	14mm halibut pellet	May 2012
Reece Wilkes	9	7	Arley		Oct 2011
Dave Mantle	9	4	Highley		Nov 2011
Phil Milnethorpe	9		Stanley Waters		Nov 2011
Roy Price	9	1	Arley	2 x 8mm halibut pellets over bed of 3mm pellets	Aug 2012
Bob Bennett	9	1	Erdington	2 x 12mm halibut pellets	Aug 2012
Andy Lea	8	9	Danery	3 x 8mm halibut pellets fished over pellett, groundbait and hemp mix	July 2012
			River Avon		
Chris Blunt	15	4	Fladbury	2 x 11mm pellet	April 2012
Chris Blunt	14	1	Fladbury	2 x 11mm pellet	April 2012
Big John	14		Fladbury	2 x 8mm hair rigged halibut pellets on 12 hook with boilies & pellets in PVA bag on hook.	Nov 2011
David Holland	10	12	Wasperton		Aug 2012
Rob Holland	10	8	Wasperton		Aug 2012
Richard Edwards	10	4	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Richard Edwards	10	3	Fladbury		Nov 2011
Steve Welland	10		Wasperton	Meat	April 2012
Peter Niblett	9		Nafford	Hair rigged pellet.	Oct 2011
Chris Blunt	8	12	Fladbury	Pellet	April 2012
Tim Gilson	6	8	Nafford		Jan 2012
David Holland	6		Fladbury		Jan 2012
David Johnson	5	1	Fladbury	12m bloodworm boilie, barbel bomb & hemp groundbait	Mar 2012

			River Teme		
Barry Hope	13		Broadwas		Oct 2011
John Morgan	10	5	Stanford Bridge		April 2012
Steve Welland	10		Stanford Bridge		Aug 2012
Kevin Wilson	8	8	Stanford Bridge		Nov 2011

Bream

			River Severn		
Graham Cole	8	13	Birds Meadow		Nov 2011
Pete Jones	7	8	Birds Meadow	Magic Black ground bait feeder, small worm and red maggot on hook.	Dec 2011
Ben Keen	6		Ladyham	Maggot/groundbait feeder	July 2012
			River Avon		
David Johnson	7	5	Fladbury	2 x 6mm elipse pellet.	Dec 2011
Oli Johnson	6		Fladbury	2 x 6mm elipse pellet.	Dec 2011
			Pools		
Darren Davies	6		Mythe Pool	Double sweetcorn with open end feeder	June 2012
Shawn Townsend	5	8	Stubbs Pool	Mainline Cell boilies.	Dec 2011
Kevin Smith	5		Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	4	8	Coppice		May 2012
Kevin Smith	4		Coppice		May 2012

Common Carp

			Pools		
John Morgan	22	5	Coppice	Bottom fished boilie	June 2012
Kevin Smith	21		Coppice		Oct 2011
Jack Parkes	20	2	Coppice		April 2012
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice		May 2012
Sam Chapman	19	6	Mythe		Aug 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Uckinghall		June 2012
			Canals		
Will Peace	18		Worcester Canal, Alvechurch		Sep 2011

Ghost Carp

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

Leather Carp

Canals

Steve Ridd	13	5	Trent & Mersey Canal, Fradley	Foul hooked when plugging for predators	Feb 2012

Mirror Carp

Pools

Brendon Almquest	31		Coppice		Nov 2011
Michael Cross	31		Coppice	Boilie	April 2012
John Morgan	29	11	Coppice	Zig rigged pop-up	June 2012
Greeny	24		Coppice		Oct 2011
Kevin Smith	20		Coppice	Boilie	April 2012
Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		May 2012

Chub

River Avon

Matthew Smith	6	0	Pershore	2 x 12mm halibut pellet	Aug 2012
Chris Blunt	4	12	Fladbury	Bread	April 2012
Tim Gilson	3	10	Nafford	Luncheon meat.	Jan 2012

Grayling

River Teme

Tim Gilson	1	0	Lindridge	Ledgered maggot	April 2012

Perch

Pools

Tim Gilson	2	9	Coppice	Float fished maggot.	Jan 2012

Pike

River Avon

Jonathan Harcourt	18	7	Fladbury	Wobbled smelt.	Oct 2011
Neil Walker	16	7	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine.	Feb 2012
Neil Walker	13	9	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine.	Dec 2011
Tom George	13	8	Fladbury	Lamprey dead bait.	Dec 2011

Roach

River Severn

Andy Lea	2	4	Danery	3 x 8mm halibut pellets fished over pellet, groundbait and hemp mix	July 2012

Tench

Pools

Cliff Townsend	6	4	Mythe Pool	Red maggot block end feeder.	Nov 2011
Tim Gilson	4	3	Apperley		Oct 2011

Zander

River Avon

Rob Hawkswood	8	8	Pensham	Ledgered mackerel.	Jan 2012

Executive update

Nordley shoot cancelled

In the October 2011 edition we reported that the BAA had agreed for a winter shoot (1st September to 31st January) to take place at the Lakes on Thursdays every two weeks commencing 2012. Since the initial request the BAA has received no further communication from the individuals concerned. As a result the agreement to allow the shoot at Nordley is cancelled.

Fence at Barton

The fence put in place across the river bank at Barton restricting access to the downstream end of the fishery has been removed.

Coppice Lake catches feedback

When Coppice Lake re-opens on the 12th August, we would appreciate feedback from Anglers on their catches for all fish species but especially carp. Information that would be helpful would be number and type of fish caught, weights for the big ones and your views on how it now compares to prior to the fish kill. Photos would also be helpful (I'll include them in Fishing News).

Archive extracts

Midland Angler

Copied below are two extracts from the Midland Angler, the forerunner to the BAA News.

December 1946 edition

BARBEL for the SEVERN ?

THOUGH the barbel is an indigenous fish in this country, the fact remains that it is to be found in few of our rivers. To the natural question "Why?" one can only suggest that it is particular about it's food and tipple. Sixty years ago the Trent held a good stock of this fish. Today apart from a single specimen taken in the Severn, near Bewdley, last season, one never hears of them. In the last annual report of the Trent Board, no mention is made of a single capture. There can be only one explanation. If you want the fish with barbules or "whiskers" you must go to the Thames, the Hampshire Avon, one or two other smaller rivers in the South or to the Yorkshire Ouse and Swale. If the efforts of the Severn Board are successful, Midland anglers may make acquaintance with this fine fighting fish.

Writing to us on the subject, a Thames angler, whose admiration for the species leads to the description of himself as a "barbel maniac," informs us that the nearest likely river for Midlanders is the Ouse at St. Ives in Huntingdonshire. A strong advocate of its wider distribution, he is delighted with the attempts to introduce barbel to the Severn and thinks that river and others with gravelly beds would make suitable habitats. Assurances of this kind are encouraging and the appearance in home waters of a fish that can fight more vigorously than a pike and as well as a salmon is heartily welcomed. Anyway, it will be a very interesting experiment to see whether Kennet barbel will take kindly to Midland rivers.

Winter Weather.

Like the farmer, the angler being also dependent to a large extent upon the weather for the success of his efforts, is said to be always complaining of never getting exactly what he wants. Whether this charge is true or not need not be argued. The fact is indisputable that the angler this year has had to face weather vagaries that take a lot of beating. Beyond a short spell of proper summer-like weather when the thermometer soared to 80 in the shade, nothing seems to have gone right with a proper regard for the calendar. And now November, never a kindly month, has left behind it the record of the heaviest rainfall for forty years, of rivers breaking their bounds to flood a big acreage, and of high winds to add to the winter's discontent. In the circumstances the angler has behaved nobly. Has it stopped his fishing? No. Others may have cowered over a fireplace in the vain hope of extracting a little warmth from something that is falsely called coal, but the angler, like Casabianca is "a creature of heroic blood" and defying the elements, however rude and boisterous, went forth hopeful always and often more successful than he anticipated. This is not the time or the occasion to review the coarse fish season of 1946, but we fancy it will be found that notwithstanding all drawbacks Midlanders will not come out so badly after all.

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September 1946 edition

Latest News of the "Big 'Un"

This year's event is proving to be more popular than ever before, over 5,000 entries having already been received. There are, however, large numbers of anglers who, owing to holidays during the original dates fixed for the selling of tickets, have been unable to enter. Thanks to the co-operation of midland angling associations, who have so willingly allowed the use of their waters, an unlimited number of entries can be pegged down, and it has been decided, therefore, to continue to accept entries until all demands have been met. Tickets can be obtained either at the Thorp Street headquarters of the B.A.A., on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, or from the Secretary, Mr. W. T. Ward, at 156, Inkerman Street, Birmingham.

Fishing will commence on Sunday, October 6th, at 10.30 a.m., and finish at 1.30. Every competitor must have a keep-net. All species of fish are eligible, and only eels or fish that are too big for the keep-net may be weighed dead. Worms and maggots are the only hook and groundbait allowed, and the water must not be disturbed in any way before the start. When the whistle sounds for the end of the match, competitors must remain by their pegs until the umpires arrive to weigh in their catch.

Lady competitors, veterans over 70, or disabled men should see that their umpire enters details on his lists.

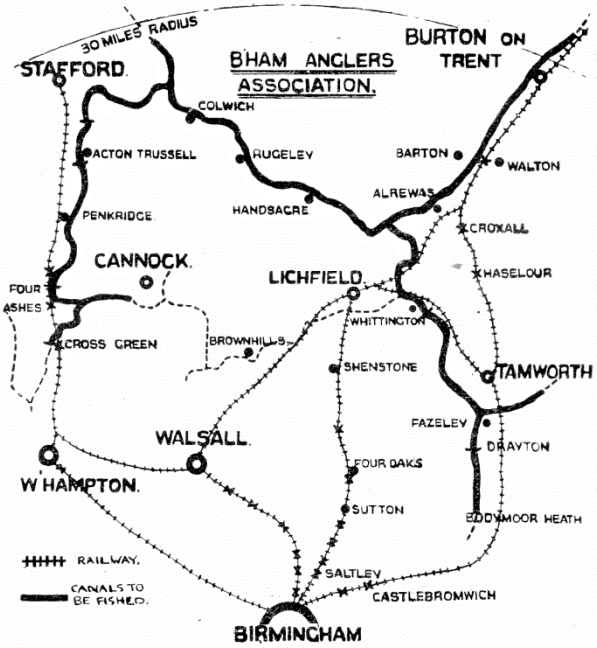
Entries for the Mitchells and Butler Trophy, open to the best three from any club, will be accepted at the waterside. The fee is 1/-, and the whole of the proceeds are devoted to the benevolent fund.

The five special trains for the match will leave as follows:—

No. 1. 7,42 a.m., from Birmingham, calling at Vauxhall, Aston, Witton, Perry Barr, Great Barr, Bescot, Walsall, Lichfield, Alrewas, Barton, and arriving at Burton-on-Trent at 9.13 a.m. The return train leaves Burton at 5.45 p.m.

No. 2. 7.15 a.m., from Birmingham, calling at Vauxhall, Aston, Gravelly Hill, Erdington, Chester Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield, and arriving at Lichfield at 8.13 a.m., where a connection can be made with No. 1 train to Burton-on-Trent. The return train leaves Lichfield at 6.30 p.m.

No. 3. 7.5 a.m., from Birmingham, calling at Monument Lane, Soho, Smethwick, Spon Lane, Oldbury, Dudley Port, Tipton, Deepfields, Ettingshall Road, Wolverhampton, Four Ashes, Gailey, Penkridge, and arriving at Stafford at 8.35 a.m. The return train leaves Stafford at 5.35 p.m.



No. 4. 7.50 a.m., from Birmingham, calling at Vauxhall, Aston, Witton, Perry Barr, Great Barr, Bescot, Walsall, Four Ashes, Gailey, Penkridge, and arriving at Stafford at 9.17 a.m. The return train leaves Stafford at 6.0 p.m.

No. 5. 7.20 a.m., from Kings Norton, calling at Selly Oak, Birmingham, Saltley, Wilnecote, Tamworth, Elford, Barton, and arriving at Burton-on-Trent at 8.48 a.m. The return train leaves Burton at 5.30 p.m.

Details of special road transport facilities will be announced in the local Press as soon as possible.

One final word. Please be quite sure that no litter of any sort whatsoever is left on the banks.

The map shows the stretches of water booked for the contest, and we wish every entrant good luck, and the tightest of lines.

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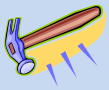
Fisheries report



The Fisheries Work party has carried out work (summer haircuts) at the following fisheries since the last edition. Progress on the river fisheries has been slowed by the recent floods, but we have completed 35 venues since the 8th June

River Avon
Bidford RB
Cropthorne
Switfts Water
Wood Norton 1 & 2

River Severn
Hallow 1-5
Knowle Sands 3 & 4

Pools
Coppice Lake (preparation for re-opening)
Nordley Pools 1-6

Teme news

Record rainfall this year caused the Teme to top its banks on every BAA section on two occasions since the start of the river season. Members who regularly fish the river will have noted the considerable damage that has occurred to the banks in many places. Particularly badly affected are Cotheridge and Bransford. At Cotheridge, above the car park, a large willow straddles the river across one of the most popular pegs, while below the car park the river in one spot is at least twenty feet wider. At Bransford, the banks resemble the after-effects of a tsunami and the majority of the pegs are no longer fishable because of fallen trees. The Environment Agency will be contacted and hopefully the pegs will be reinstated as soon as possible. Members fishing the Teme should be prepared to cut their own toe-holds where the banks are steep as erosion has removed most that were there.

However, on a positive note, good fish are still being caught and the floods have created swims which were previously unfishable.

Cotheridge

Bransford

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.

Hi I've been a member for the past 4 years now. I was looking at your website the other day and thinking it's a bit plain and not much happening on it.

So can I say may be a forum so members can chat/post info about the water they are fishing, info about baits that's working well on a pool/river or Q&A or even make new friends as you can do this all from your smart phone? Can I also say how come you don't have an APP for the iPad/iPhone come on BAA move with the times?

Thanks,

Kev of Birmingham

Ed; Thanks for your feedback on the website.

Currently I would not want to have a BAA on-line discussion forum (similar to Maggotdrowning.com) for the reason that all the posts would need to be reviewed by a moderator before being published on the forum. That could be a full time job and something we don't currently have the resource to support. A Twitter feed may be a better alternative for us, where we can post messages of interest to our followers, and they can send us info on their fishing which we can then send out to all our followers. These messages are restricted to a maximum size of 140 characters and can be received on PCs, smart phones and tablet computers

What iPad/iPhone App would you envisage we require? To produce one we would need to define the required App, and then engage a web developer to produce the App which would have a significant cost and finally get agreement from Apple to have our App available for download. This is not something we see a current need for.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the item in the July news letter regarding Coppice, and bearing in mind I know nothing about fishery management, three points were of interest:

First excessive ground bait, while I have not seen it happen often, on my last visit before closure, a huge amount of surplus bait was thrown in by one angler when leaving the lake. I'm not joking when I say it would have lasted me a week, and this from someone who gave a running commentary on all "14" fish he caught, for all the lake to hear, seemingly an all the gear no idea angler. One wonders if a lot of bait just lies rotting on the bottom, not good practice.

Vegetation, more plants would seem a good bet, not the stuff that's taken over Stubbs please, Coppice is somewhat bare, more rushes around the lake and a number of lily pads would certainly enhance the lake, add interest, and encourage natural food of which there must be little. Bearing in mind the head of fish, I sometimes wonder what they would all eat if it were not for artificial food thrown in. You mentioned the large carp overgraze the oxygen making plants, which would indicate more are needed, they like natural food.

And finally, there is obviously a huge number of fish in the lake, no doubt many thousands, probably tens of thousands of small skimmers etc all taking oxygen. These do provide good sport for those happy with small silvers and a good stock is necessary, but would not netting and removal of a large number of the smallest be good for the lake?

One more finally as a side note, I have fished the lake many many times and the carp caught are never less than six or seven pounds, they spawn every year, so where are all the small carp, where are the one, two pound and 8 ounce carp, it puzzles me, any ideas?

Many thanks,

Graham Beck.

Ed; Thanks for your comments on Coppice. The BAA Fisheries Team carried out a test fishing session in early July to help with the decision of re-opening. The methods used were mainly float/maggot and some feeder with an absolute minimum of groundbait used. Everyone caught fish continually throughout the 4 hour session, which were mainly roach followed by skimmer bream and perch with a single large eel hooked but not landed. No carp of any size were caught, but a number have been seen swimming close to the surface.

Your point about carp sizes is interesting. When we removed the dead fish at the time of the fish kill. All the dead carp were large double figure fish, but there were plenty of dead roach and bream of all sizes, we also only found three dead perch and one eel. It will be interesting to see the type and size of fish caught when the pool is reopened on Sunday 12th August.

I agree with your view on an increased level of vegetation in the pool. Reeds and lily pads would improve the appearance of the water, help with water oxygen levels and provide refuges for the fish against cormorant predation. I will keep you informed on what plans the BAA has for Coppice.

Ed; Last month Mark Charnock wrote to us raising concerns about fish handling as a result of an incident he witnessed at Stanley Waters. Mark's concerns were discussed during the August BAA Executive Meeting. It was decided initially to include articles in future BAA News editions on good fish handling and welfare, and as a result of these articles if necessary include new rules in the byelaws.

Angling Trust

Media Release

Monday 30 July 2012

It's time to let MPs hear anglers' anger over cormorant damage

Get behind the Angling Trust's *Action on Cormorants* campaign

The Angling Trust has today launched the Action on Cormorants campaign which urges anglers to write to their MPs supporting the call to put cormorants and goosanders on the general licence on an annual, reviewable basis. This would give them the same status as rooks, crows, jays and magpies whose numbers can be controlled without resort to specific licence. Currently angling clubs and fishery managers have to use a bureaucratic, cumbersome and ineffective licensing system which has completely failed to protect stocks of vulnerable silver fish and salmon smolts in most parts of the country. Cormorant predation also has had a significant impact on endangered species such as the European eel.

The campaign is supported by ten fisheries, angling and wildlife organisations including the Salmon and Trout Association, the Angling Trades Association, The Rivers Trust and angling celebrities such as TV host Chris Tarrant and singer Feargal Sharkey. Other partners include the award winning Avon Roach Project which features in a specially made campaign video by wildlife film maker Hugh Miles. There is a dedicated webpage at www.anglingtrust.net/cormorants, an online message facility and 80,000 postcards to be distributed to anglers via fisheries and tackle shops.

Anglers will be asked to contribute to a 'house of horrors' picture gallery to get across to MPs and the public the horrific damage these birds can do. Action on Cormorants also urges MPs to follow the lead of members of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Angling and become parliamentary supporters of the campaign to protect our fish.

In 2010 the Angling Trust won the agreement of Fisheries minister Richard Benyon to review the current ineffective licensing regime for controlling cormorant damage to our fisheries. The Defra Review Group is due to report shortly and the minister is expected to make an announcement in the winter.

Angling Trust National Campaigns Coordinator Martin Salter said: "We need every MP's office to be flooded with postcards and emails demanding that we have the right to protect our fish from the ravages of cormorants and goosanders. We know that our opponents on this issue are preparing a challenge and will seek to claim that a fourteen fold increase in cormorant numbers isn't a

problem when we all know that it is. Fortunately our campaign has the support of RSPB members who also love to fish and we have the fish stock surveys and match catch data to prove without doubt that the predator prey balance is out of kilter and needs to be addressed."

Angling Trust Chief Executive Mark Lloyd said:
"This is an opportunity for thousands of anglers to stand up and be counted. It will only take a few minutes to support our campaign to let MPs know that we care passionately about protecting our fish stocks and that we want action on cormorants and goosanders now. We want a new system that will give fishery managers the opportunity to control these birds responsibly without expensive and unnecessary bureaucracy. Please contact your MP now and, if you can, make a donation to our Action on Cormorants Fighting Fund or join the Angling Trust to help us campaign more loudly on cormorants and other important issues affecting angling and fish stocks."

Paul Knight, CEO of the Salmon & Trout Association, said:
"Fish deserve as much protection as their predators. We have to manage on an ecosystem basis, with healthy wild fish populations in balance with their predators. We can no longer give greater conservation status to any one species just because it has more popular appeal, and so fishery managers need a flexible and rapid licensing system which enables them to protect threatened fish stocks at particular times, such as during the annual downstream migration of young salmon and sea trout."

Some of the top names in angling have pledged to support the campaign which was officially launched on the banks of the river Severn, a river once famous for its catches of roach and dace.

Local businesses in the Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury areas have been badly affected by the reduction in silver fish stocks and the cancellation of the regular fishing competitions which drew visiting anglers from all over the country.

Award winning film maker and RSPB member and former employee Hugh Miles said:
" The cormorant is a silver fish killer unparalleled in nature whose numbers have increased to such an extent that the middle reaches of many rivers, including my local Hampshire Avon, are now all but devoid of once common and sought after species such as roach. Well balanced ecosystems need a healthy balance between predator and prey and we need action now to restore that vital balance and give our fish a chance."

George Hollingbery MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Angling said:
"I have witnessed first hand the damage that squadrons of cormorants have done to my local waters, where, in some cases fish stocks have been so badly depleted that they are no longer functioning fisheries. Angling delivers both environmental and economic benefit to communities the length and breadth of the UK. It is only right and proper that we allow fishing clubs and fishery managers the right to protect our fish from unsustainable predation."

Des Taylor, angling columnist and long standing RSPB member said:
"One of my great loves in angling is seeing and enjoying the birdlife whilst I sit there on the bank. But when an unsustainable imbalance occurs, as has happened with the huge increase in the number of

cormorants and goosanders on our waters, something has to be done to protect vulnerable fish species. We simply cannot sit there and watch our fish stocks go down to unacceptable levels. I back the Angling Trust's stance on the cormorant problem in this country one hundred per cent and urge everyone to get behind them now. "

Former match legend and all round angler, Jan Porter of Shimano said:
"It's vital that as anglers we all wise up on how much impact these invasive birds are having on our fish stocks. Getting behind the campaign en masse is crucial to ensuring that everything possible is done to reduce a threat which is proliferating out of control. The price of a fishing licence these days - when many other water users pay nothing - should include much more support to help & protect many coarse and game fisheries and fish from being wiped out."

Angling Times columnist and river ace, Dave Harrell said:
"We need every single angler to get behind this campaign as it is one of the most important things they will ever do. We all know how much damage these birds have caused and it is imperative that the law is changed as soon as possible. Without change, we will continue to see fish stocks damaged and greatly reduced but with anglers support, I am sure we can achieve our objective. However, without that support, the future of many fisheries in this country will remain seriously threatened."

ENDS

Photo caption:
1. Photograph of the campaign launch with the giant Action on Cormorants postcard on the banks of the River Severn at Bewdley with Mark Owen (Angling Trust Freshwater Campaign Manager), Dave Harrell, Jan Porter, Martin Salter and Des Taylor.

Available from admin@anglingtrust.net:
2. PDF of the Action on Cormorants postcard and message to MPs

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Notes to Editors:
Action on Cormorants is supported by the Angling Trust, Salmon and Trout Association, Angling Trades Association, The Rivers Trust, Avon Roach Project, Atlantic Salmon Trust, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, Countryside Alliance, Predator Action Group, Wild Trout Trust.

Cormorants - Key Facts

• Biodiversity of our rivers and many still waters are at serious risk from excessive predation from cormorants

• Numbers have exploded in the last two decades to unsustainable levels

• Rivers and waterways are failing under the Water Framework Directive and of those failing over 50% do so due to poor fish stocks

• Waters that have been heavily impacted by cormorants take years to recover under the present system – sometimes failing all together

• Populations of indigenous species like roach on the Hampshire Avon are under serious threat of extinction

• Modification of our rivers by man has resulted in salmon and sea trout being increasingly vulnerable to cormorants and goosanders as they try to migrate to sea through weirs and hydropower plants

• Direct threat to designated endangered fish species protected under European legislation

• Over wintering cormorants estimated at 23,000. Each individual eats at least one pound of fish EVERY DAY (2,760,000lb of fish each winter)

• Numbers increased by non-native immigrants (European sub-species Carbo Sinensis) from mainland Europe

• The present licensing system is woefully inadequate and does not give us the capabilities to protect our fish properly.

• The Eel Management Plans submitted and accepted by the European Commission estimate that between 29 & 43 tons of endangered eel is eaten by cormorants every year in England and Wales.

• The government's Moran Committee acknowledged the damage that cormorants can do to inland fisheries