



B.A.A. NEWS



Tel 01562-882116 Fax 01562-882126
Email baajnw@btinternet.com Website www.baa.uk.com

December 2012



Happy Christmas

BAA bailiffs rescue Ollie – see page 2

Hydropower scheme stopped – see page 13

Angling Trust updates - See pages 14 to 17

Bailiffing

Ollie the owl



Whilst bailiffing along the River Severn at Arley on the 7th November, our two bailiffs Dave Jones and Dave Gumbley came across a tawny owl caught up in some fishing line hanging precariously over the river. They called the RSPCA and two officers came out and rescued the owl. It was taken to their office to check it over and make sure everything was alright prior to it being released. On further investigation by our bailiffs it is believed that the bird had been caught up for a day or two. Luckily our bailiffs happened along when they did.

Please do not leave any line on the bank. If you get snagged in the trees and it is possible and safe to do so try and remove the line.

If you find any wildlife in distress the RSPCA number is 0300 1234 999.

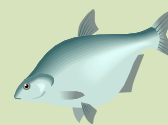
Ed; the picture above is from Wikipedia, it's not Ollie!

Bailiff activity update

During 2012 up to the end of October, 3015 anglers had been checked by bailiffs with 143 being asked to leave the fishery for not having a membership card or day permit.



Fishing news



Contributor of the year

Hi all for the last time this year. I went to Coppice for 52 hours to finish off my year with a bang went on Friday 2nd November. Got there about 6am till Sunday it was cold, wet and muddy but I stood fast. I had 2 common carp in 52 hours; 1 @ 14lb 4oz pic' below



And the other was 14lb 10oz pic' below



Thanks for reading about all my trips see you next year

Thanks KEV OF BIRMINGHAM

Ed: Thanks for all your contributions throughout the year. I've just had a look through the 2012 BAA News editions and you have contributed to eight of them, mostly about your visits to Coppice Lake, but you have also visited Nordley (when Coppice was closed), Marcliff and Uckinghall. Your reports and pictures from Coppice have been very useful for us showing that the fishery has recovered well after the fish deaths in early summer. Although the size of carp being caught now has reduced, the fish look healthy and in good condition. Thank you.

Thank you BAA



Dear All,

Just a few lines to thank everyone at Birmingham Anglers for the great job you do for all the members of the Association.

I have only been a member for a year and a half but every venue I have been to, I can see the hard work that has been done.

A typical example of the hard work and professionalism of the volunteers is the Coppice Pool near Stratford. It was very upsetting to hear of the fish deaths in the summer. But thanks to the hard work and dedication of the people at Birmingham Anglers it is slowly but surely getting back to its best.

I fished for the first time after the fish deaths a few weeks ago (middle of October). I was absolutely delighted to catch over a dozen carp. The best weights being 20lb 8oz and 22lb 1oz.

Although the fish deaths at Coppice were a terrible blow, I feel in the long term it may prove beneficial, with the less big fish competing for the food source. I think the lake will come on leaps and bounds.

Please find enclosed pictures of a few fish caught in October (some of the healthiest I have ever seen).

In closing I would like to thank everyone at Birmingham Anglers for providing a fantastic service, it is very much appreciated.

Yours Sincerely

Graham Sheldon

Ed; thanks for your hand written letter and photos. I've typed up a verbatim copy of your letter above.

Coppice perch

Hi

Just to let you know I went to Coppice Lake today (6th November) and had a great day. I caught a 3lb 8oz perch which is now my personal best, so please could you update the record for perch at Coppice, thanks a lot. Picture coming soon as I am waiting for another member to email it me as I forgot my camera, cheers for now,

Mark Latham

Ed: I've spoken to Mark about this and unfortunately the emailed picture has not arrived. If you are the member who took a picture of Mark's perch at Coppice on the 6th November, please email it to Mark or BAA HQ and I will include it in a later edition.

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 hook bait on size 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 fished over pellett, groundbait 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
Steve Welland	10		Wasperton	Meat	11/03/2012	April 2012
Chris Blunt	8	12	Fladbury	Pellet	14/03/2012	April 2012
Tim Gilson	6	8	Nafford		25/12/2011	Jan 2012
David Holland	6		Fladbury		23/12/2011	Jan 2012
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
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River Avon

Graham Beck	6	Marlcliff	Maggots/maggot feeder	Aug 2012	Sep 2012
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Pools

Darren Davies	6	Mythe Pool	Double sweetcorn with open end feeder	May 2012	June 2012
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Kevin Smith	5	Coppice		03/05/2012	May 2012
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Kevin Smith	4	8	Coppice	03/05/2012	May 2012
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Kevin Smith	4	Coppice		03/05/2012	May 2012
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Colin Weed	4	Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012
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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
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Pools

John Morgan	22	5	Coppice	Bottom fished boilie	09/05/2012	June 2012
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Graham Sheldon	22	1	Coppice		Oct 2012	Dec 2012
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Graham Sheldon	20	8	Coppice		Oct 2012	Dec 2012
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Jack Parkes	20	2	Coppice		24/03/2012	April 2012
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Kevin Smith	20		Coppice		03/05/2012	May 2012
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Sam Chapman	19	6	Mythe		26/07/2012	Aug 2012
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Kevin Smith	17		Uckinghall		03/06/2012	June 2012
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Kevin Smith	17		Coppice		14/08/2012	Sep 2012
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Kev Abel	15		Coppice		18/08/2012	Sep 2012
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Kevin Smith	14	10	Coppice		02/11/2012	Dec 2012
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Kevin Smith	14	4	Coppice		02/11/2012	Dec 2012
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Kevin Smith	14	1	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
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Kevin Smith	13	9	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
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Kevin Smith	12	13	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
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Colin Weed	9	12	Coppice		Oct 2012	Nov 2012
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Ghost Carp

Canals

John Morgan	24	8	Staffs & Worcs	Bottom fished boilie	2010	June 2012
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Leather Carp

Canals

Jonathan Albutt	19		Birmingham Worcester	Stalking tactics in the margins	?	Oct 2012
Steve Ridd	13	5	Trent & Mersey Canal, Fradley	Foul hooked when plugging for predators	10/01/2012	Feb 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
Tim Gilson	3	10	Nafford	Luncheon meat.	25/12/2011	Jan 2012

River Teme

Cameron Preece	4	4	Broadwas		Aug 2012	Sep 2012
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Grayling

River Teme

Tim Gilson	1	0	Lindridge	Ledgered maggot	Feb 2012	April 2012
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Perch

River Severn

Joe Boles	2	8	Arley RB Harbour		15/09/2012	Oct 2012
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Pools

Mark Latham	3	8	Coppice	Float fished double maggot	06/11/2012	Dec 2012
Tim Gilson	2	9	Coppice	Float fished maggot.	Dec 2011	Jan 2012

Pike

River Avon

Neil Walker	16	7	Fladbury	Paternostered sardine.	15/12/2012	Feb 2012
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Roach

				River Severn		
Andy Lea	2	4	Danery	3 x 8mm halibut pellets fished over pellet, groundbait 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

Zander

				River Avon		
Rob Hawkwood	8	8	Pensham	Ledgered mackerel.	Dec 2011	Jan 2012



Executive update



Nordley Pools closed for shooting

As detailed on the BAA website, the Association has made an arrangement with the local shooting syndicate at Nordley to hold a shoot on the land around Nordley Pools on certain Thursdays during the coming winter.

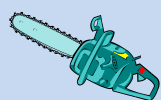
Naturally the pools will be closed to members whilst the shoots are in progress between the hours of Sunrise and 1.00pm.

Signs will be erected at each entrance to the pools to warn members that a shoot is to take place.

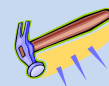
The dates in question are: Thursdays, 13, 27 December, 10, 24 January and 1 February.

Exhibition trailer purchased

The BAA has purchased a secondhand exhibition trailer. After refurbishment and fitting out with permanent BAA fixtures and displays it is expected to use it at future shows, enabling the BAA to increase its presence and visibility at these events.



Fisheries report



Fisheries Team outing



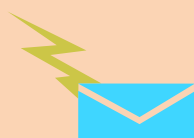
The Fisheries team organised a self funded day out fishing in mid October to celebrate another years hard work maintaining the BAA's fisheries. It is a tradition (for 2 years anyway) that we do this on a non BAA water, so about a dozen of us arrived at a day ticket fishery at Holme Lacy on the River Wye. The river was already in running high and coloured and continued to go up a further 3 feet during the day.

The fishing was difficult and had to be done close to the bank out of the main force of the flood. Barbel, roach, dace and chub were caught, mainly by feeder fishing but a couple of dedicated float fishers persisted where the swims allowed out of the main flood.

After being broken by what felt like a barbel early in the day your editor had no more bites. So towards the end of the day I left my rod to get a box of different bait, to turn around and see rod and reel disappearing down the Wye after what was probably a violent barbel bite. Well at least it gave me an excuse to buy a new barbel rod and reel and taught me a lesson for the future!



The day was completed with a fine Gurkha meal at the Roadmaker Inn at Newent.



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.

Interesting to see several specimen fish apparently caught out of season on the website. I am a little surprised that they were accepted for publication. Perhaps I missed the abolishment of the close season on the rivers. Interesting to see what you have to say, or are the dates on the list all wrong.

R. G. Forster

Ed; I answered a similar readers question in the October. As I said then the dates are for the BAA News edition the catches are reported in, not when they were caught. Details of when the fish were caught are normally included in the dialogue the contributor sends with the pictures. If there are any issues with items people submit we don't include it, which is a rare occurrence.

To prevent further confusion, I have added an additional column to the Fishing News Record listing the date the fish were caught.

Match Reports

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

Companions AC

Sunday 11th November

Bolehall, River Anker

Fur & Feather match

1 st	D Gumbley	9lb	6oz	roach
2 nd	P Vickery (Sid)	3lb	8oz	
3 rd	J Smith		4oz	

River clear, fishing superb

Report from Dave Gumbley

Hydropower scheme stopped

Fish Legal has won an historic injunction against a multi-million pound hydropower development on the River Trent at Sawley Weir, in the process exposing major failings in the regulatory process.

The membership association Fish Legal, acting for its member the Pride of Derby Angling Association (PDAA), has won the biggest case in its 64 year history by securing an injunction to stop impending construction of a flagship hydropower scheme at Sawley Weir on the River Trent. The case was heard at a four day trial in Nottingham County Court against developers the Small Hydro Company and the Canal and River Trust (CRT - previously known as British Waterways).

Fish Legal's expert lawyers and legal counsel fought the case on the grounds that the development would have destroyed the PDAA's 1,200 members' enjoyment of their prime stretch of river fishing on which they own the freehold rights. The Judge found that the developers and the CRT did not consult with the PDAA until very late in the planning process, and that they should have made much more careful enquiries about the fishing rights at the outset. Indeed it appears that the company and the waterways charity CRT turned a blind eye to those rights in an attempt to sideline those with most to lose from the scheme – anglers. The Judge recognised that they either ignored or were aware of the risks, both to the scheme and the fishing rights, but they pushed forward with their plans anyway.

If the scheme had gone ahead, the natural riverbanks would have been transformed into a 150 metre-long concrete and steel industrial facility with floodlights and alarms sounding off at intervals. Anglers were expected to access their fishing via a locked security gate into a fenced compound and to perch themselves and their equipment on a series of metal platforms suspended up to eight feet above the river. The developer's own health and safety witness conceded in court that this would put them "at risk of death". The Judge ruled that the club should not be forced against its will to accept the proposal at the expense of its valuable fishing rights and that the scheme should not go ahead.

The company had tried to pressurise the club to accept its plan and, in spite of the anglers' objections, pressed ahead with seeking an Impoundment Licence for the development from the Environment Agency (EA), which was granted.

The EA's decision to grant the licence has been roundly criticised by Fish Legal and the Angling Trust as a failure of the regulator to fulfil its statutory duty to consider and give due weight to fisheries when granting impoundment licences. In this case, its 'consideration' was limited to a single (unclear) sentence: "*Part of Pride of Derby's fishery lies within the weir pool affected i.e. increased periods of reduced flow during operation of the turbine*". This minimal level of attention is utterly inadequate from a public body which has a statutory duty to maintain, improve and develop fisheries (i.e. angling) and the Judge's decision that the fishing rights would be significantly harmed demonstrates the EA's failure in this regard.

What's more, by granting the licence, the EA handed the company a statutory defence to any claims against it for damage to the fishery caused by modifying water levels and flow rates. Fish Legal therefore had to limit its civil legal action to the narrower point of the impact on the club's access to the fishery and the physical ability of its members to fish

there, but they still won the case.

The scheme at Sawley was one of many being planned in the region by the Small Hydro Company, but there are also hundreds of others planned across the country by other private companies, often backed by private equity and major financial institutions, who are engaged in a gold rush to make profits from generating hydropower principally because of generous feed in tariffs from the taxpayer.

Even if all the 26,000 sites identified by the EA which might be suitable for hydropower were to be developed, they would still generate less than 0.5% of the nation's electricity supply but would have a major strategic impact on fish and fishing. Low head hydropower therefore makes a negligible contribution to tackling climate change, but has a very significant impact on freshwater ecology. Taxpayers' funds would be far better spent on promoting energy efficiency, where no such unequal 'tradeoffs' are required.

The club would never have been able to fight the case without the support of Fish Legal, which met all the costs and risks, which could have totalled hundreds of thousands of pounds if the developers had won. This is only possible because of the fighting fund accumulated over decades from the donations and membership subscriptions of tens of thousands of anglers and angling clubs. There is no chance that the club could have stood up to the might of the developers and their expensive lawyers without Fish Legal's unique legal protection (an appeal, which would increase the legal costs yet further, is still possible).

Coincidentally, Fish Legal (then called the Anglers' Co-operative Association) was founded back in 1948 shortly before winning a landmark case against pollution for the Pride of Derby Angling Association against British Celanese Ltd in 1952, and then on appeal to the Court of Appeal. PDAA member George Elliott joined the ACA at the time and is still an individual member of Fish Legal and the Angling Trust to this day.

George Elliott said: *"Thankfully Fish Legal was able to defend our fishing from this terrible development. I have fished at Sawley weir for decades and have caught barbel, pike, carp, chub, dace, perch and roach from the weirpool. I am so pleased that we will be able to carry on fishing there in the future. It was quite ridiculous to suggest that we should have to fish from metal platforms above the river. Every angler should be a member of the Angling Trust and Fish Legal – together they take action to protect our fish and fishing."*

Andrew Kelton, Fish Legal Solicitor, said: *"I hope that developers will learn from this landmark case that it is vitally important to discuss any proposals at the earliest possible stage with angling clubs who own or lease fishing rights on rivers. If they don't, they could find themselves in court and having to tear up their expensive plans."*

Mark Lloyd, chief executive of Fish Legal and the Angling Trust said: *"We are delighted to have been able to defend one of our member angling clubs in this historic case against an aggressive developer, who was granted an impoundment licence by the so-called Environment Agency to spoil a beautiful river and a prime fishing spot with an ugly, environmentally-damaging turbine purely to turn a profit out of taxpayers' subsidies. Even a thousand of these schemes would make a negligible contribution to tackling climate change, but each one would have a significant impact on the water environment."*

Keith Fisher, the Vice Chairman of the angling association, having been questioned for three hours in court by the developers' QC, said that: *"it was a relief that it was all over and that the bully boy tactics used by the developers had not won through"*.

Alan Miller the secretary of the Pride of Derby Angling Association said: *"It's quite a relief that we have won and this special place for fishing is protected for future generations of our members. Some of our members travel considerable distances to fish at*

this spot. We are truly grateful for all the hard work and dedication that has been put in by the Fish Legal team".

Angling Trust media release

Fishing for Life Strategy launched at Angling Summit

A strategy to get more people fishing and help projects that use fishing to provide support to people in need was launched at the Angling Summit in London today.

The new strategy, Fishing for Life, was launched by Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon to encourage more people to try angling. The Environment Agency and Angling Trust developed the strategy that builds on angling's proven ability to promote wellbeing, support local communities and contribute to the economy.

As part of the development of the strategy, two national surveys were carried out by research organisation Substance which involved more than 29,000 anglers and 780 organisations working in angling. The results of these surveys were presented at the Summit.

The Summit heard:

- how fishing is helping young people learn to concentrate, take responsibility and achieve better results at school;
- the benefits that people derived by disabilities, recovering war veterans and the mentally ill from learning how to fish, and how to meet their needs;
- the need for access to local waters so that people can regularly benefit from going fishing, and the possibilities for community groups to build angling into regeneration plans;
- the importance of healthy freshwater and marine fish stocks to the future of angling participation;
- the need to promote the benefits of angling to a wider audience.

The strategy will be delivered over the coming years by a wide range of organisations working together to develop plans to deliver the four elements of the strategy:

- Encouraging people to take up and continue fishing so it becomes a habit for life - **getting the fishing habit;**
- Recognition of angling's role in improving the nation's health, increasing educational attainment and reducing crime and anti social behaviour - **transforming and**

changing lives;

- Improving people's lives by using angling as a catalyst for bringing people and society together - **focus on people and places;**
- Recognising that fish and fishing are at the heart of a better environment - **hands up for the environment;**

Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon said:

"As a keen angler myself, I am delighted to be involved with such a worthwhile project. Angling is a great sport for men and women of all ages - it's enjoyable and it gets you outside, enjoying our wonderful waterways and seas and getting all the health and wellbeing benefits from being outdoors."

Mark Lloyd, chief executive of the Angling Trust said:

"Working on this strategy has been an inspirational experience for us all. There is so much fantastic work being done throughout the country to use fishing to transform people's lives and to protect wonderful watery places. Our job now is to use the strategy to make other people aware of angling's many benefits and to encourage organisations to work together locally and nationally. We are very grateful to the tens of thousands of anglers and the hundreds of angling organisations which have contributed to creation of this exciting new strategy."

Politicians speak their minds in The Angle

Angling Trust secures strong political support on bass, cormorants, hydropower, unlimited canoe access and a new Charter for Angling.

Angling Trust campaigns chief and ex-MP Martin Salter went back to the party political conferences to make the case for fishing and to take the political temperature on the issues that are important to anglers. He came away with some highly significant pledges in exclusive interviews for the Trust's member's magazine 'The Angle' with three of the politicians who matter most to angling.

On cormorants and hydropower the new **Environment Secretary Owen Paterson** showed that he was on the side of responsible anglers who want to do the right thing by the environment and invited the Trust to work with him on a Government review of renewable energy projects.

On anglers' concerns over hydropower Owen Paterson said: "Of course there's a role for hydropower in the energy supply mix but we must work with the grain of nature and not against it and I'm not at all happy about schemes that reduce river flows to environmentally damaging levels and contain 'fish mincing turbines'.

Anglers are right to be concerned about damage to fish stocks and this is just one of the reasons why the government will be announcing a review of renewable energy policy. I can assure you that there will be a robust submission by Defra to which the Angling Trust will be most welcome to contribute."

Mr Paterson also had some encouraging words for anglers campaigning for better protection for fisheries suffering from cormorant predation. He said: "There's a review underway in my department precisely because we realise that there are real problems on many of our fisheries. I can assure you we will be decisive and I am on record as saying we must never be frightened of managing our wildlife where appropriate.

I know of successful businesses that have been badly damaged by excessive predation by cormorants and we must give our inland fisheries the protection they need to remain healthy and productive."

Then **Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon** gave a cast-iron commitment to resist the campaign by the British Canoe Union (BCU) to trample over anglers' rights with a statutory 'right to paddle' in every river and stream in the country and had some warm words for those campaigning for improved bass conservation.

On canoeing Mr Benyon said: "I want to be really clear about this. While we want more people to get out and enjoy activities in the countryside they must be complimentary. There are plenty of places to canoe where it is appropriate and others where it is not. There will be no change to our policy of supporting voluntary access agreements as the only way forward. Anglers and fishery owners spend a lot of time and money caring for our rivers and streams and their rights deserve to be respected."

Turning to the bass minimum landing size: "I have this old fashioned view that creatures should be allowed to breed at least once before we seek to harvest them for food. That's why I authorised the review of the current bass minimum landing size and we shall have to see what that throws up."

Martin Salter also interviewed the Shadow Fisheries Minister Tom Harris at Labour's conference in Manchester.

Tom Harris reconfirmed his party's support for angling saying: "There are real benefits for the whole community in having an army of passionate advocates for the environment out there on the banks of our lakes, lochs, streams and rivers. Anglers are a great early warning system and government should make more use of them and their knowledge and expertise.

He pledged to update Labour's Charter for angling ahead of the next general election saying: "I want to work with all the angling bodies on a policy that positively promotes angling and encourages more young people, in particular, to take up the sport.

The Angle is sent to all clubs and fisheries affiliated to the Angling Trust and Fish Legal and to their 15,000 individual members.

Martin Salter said: "Most of us go fishing to escape from work and politics but there's no escaping the fact that the hard work we've put in to building relationships across both sides of politics in the UK is paying off. There's some really significant stuff in all these interviews with Owen Paterson making it clear that he recognises our case on key issues such as hydropower and cormorant predation. For Labour, Tom Harris couldn't be more supportive and wants more young people to take up the sport while Richard Benyon doesn't pull his punches on unauthorised canoeing or the need to preserve our bass stocks and estuaries.

We are also doing some great work with George Hollingbery MP, the new chair of the All Party Angling Group at Westminster and I think it's fair to now claim that angling in this country has never had such strong influence now we are professional and united."

Mark Lloyd, chief executive of the Angling Trust added: "Getting interviews with politicians at this level would have been unthinkable for angling organisations before the formation of the Angling Trust four years ago. The combined effect of our growing membership and Martin Salter's political skills mean that anglers now have a serious voice in the corridors of power. I know that there are thousands of anglers who have been waiting to see whether or not the new unified body for all anglers will have any real influence before they become members. We need their support today so that we can press home vitally important arguments about the future of fish stocks and fishing."

BAA Office Christmas closure

The BAA office will close down for the Christmas break from 24 December to 1 January inclusive.

