

# Fisheries in Yorkshire

February 2012

## Working Together

- If you have a fisheries improvement project that you would like us to help fund, please get in touch. Income from coarse and trout rod licence sales supports partnership projects that will benefit licence holders. We aim for a 3:1 gearing on projects - that is three parts partner contribution to one part rod licence funding. Examples of projects include:
  - Habitat improvements (stock-proof fencing to protect riverbanks, new reed beds, riffle creation)
  - Access improvements (footpaths and angling platforms)
  - Reducing the impact of predators (reed rafts, otter-proof fencing)
- Our funding for coaching events is now distributed by the County Angling Action Group. Please contact Fisheries Officer [Pete Turner](#) for more information.
- Ecological projects of £50,000 or more may be eligible for the [Catchment Restoration Fund](#). This is a new funding stream for third sector groups that we will be running for Defra. There will be two rounds of bidding this year, with deadlines of 29 February, and mid May.
- New Live Fish Movement Regulations were to be introduced in April, but this has been delayed. We will let you know when we have a new start date. For more information please contact [Nigel Hewlett](#) in our Fish Movements team (01480 483959).
- The England and Wales Fisheries Group guides and reviews our performance. Major angling organisations are part of this group. Papers and minutes can be downloaded [here](#).
- Mark Reid and Mike Lee have recently joined our Fisheries and Biodiversity team. Mark is the Team Leader for North and East Yorkshire. Mike is the lead contact for East Yorkshire.
- 'Our Work, Your World' describes the wider work of the Environment Agency. You can download this booklet from our [Publications Catalogue](#) (Product Code GENE0610BSOL-E-E).
- British Waterways is to become a new charitable trust; the Canal & River Trust. The new Trust will take over the running of British Waterway's existing network.



- **This recently caught River Aire barbel was reared in our fish farm before its 2009 release. We know this because a small orange mark we put on its head is still visible. Please let us know if you catch a marked fish. Your evidence will help support the work we do.**

- Please take care to '[check, clean and dry](#)' tackle especially when moving between sites where native and signal crayfish may be living close together to avoid spreading the non-native invasive, or crayfish plague. This is particularly important on the Aire and Dearne catchments, and in Sheffield's rivers.
- Help prevent the spread of fish disease by making sure your tackle is cleaned after use. Cleaning, then thoroughly drying in sunlight is best, but chemical disinfectants can also be used. If using chemicals, tackle needs to be submerged for at least 15 minutes. Chemicals need to be fresh as they become inactive over time. Manufacturer's instructions and health and safety advice must be followed. Disinfectant washings should be disposed of in a way that does not harm the environment – not tipped into water containing fish or other aquatic life.

## Have your say

- We want to know what issues concern you in West Yorkshire. We will be holding our Fisheries Forum at Phoenix House, Leeds, on the evening of Wednesday 14 March. Please contact Fisheries Officer [Peter Mischenko](#) to book your place and raise items for discussion.
- Ask the experts how to reduce risks to your fishery from otters, cormorants, seals and signal crayfish at the Institute of Fisheries Management's Predator Workshop, Goole Leisure Centre, on 18 February 2012. Tickets cost £10 (including tea/coffee and lunch) and need to be bought in advance from [careers@ifm.org.uk](mailto:careers@ifm.org.uk).

## Dry weather update

- Groundwater and reservoir levels would normally start increasing in the autumn but the lack of rainfall in 2011 has delayed this winter's recharge. Groundwater levels in Hull and East Yorkshire and in the Derwent catchment remain lower than usual. Our [Drought Prospects Report](#) states that these areas are at moderate risk of drought in 2012

## Yorkshire's rivers

- The River Colne is showing signs of improvement following severe pollution in recent years. Eighty-nine brown trout were caught at one of our survey sites last year, of which 82 were young-of-the-year fish, contrasting with one trout in 2010, and no fish in 2009. We are also catching grayling again. We have been helping the river recover by stocking grayling, and by moving trout from other parts of the river into affected reaches.
- We are working with partners to survey rivers where fish populations are poor and develop projects to improve them. Surveys will look at barriers to migration, sources of pollution, non-native species and land management practices. Projects include the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust's Upper River Wharfe and Darley Beck projects, and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Upper Aire Project. These will reduce rural diffuse pollution and sediment input. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust are also working with us on Ea Beck, where we will encourage native plant growth along the river's edge.
- Our habitat creation and flood risk scheme beside the River Don at Fishlake has won a prestigious Green Apple Environment Award, recognising the contribution the project has made to enhancing the environment.

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- The River Wharfe wild trout (diploid) rearing trial has gone well this winter at Bolton Abbey and we hope to continue to assess this as a future stocking option. The restriction on stocking diploid trout after 2015 has generated much debate and we will continue to provide advice and guidance upon request.
- We are working to ensure that river abstractions are screened to protect eels and elvers, and that eel passes are built to restore historic migration routes. Yorkshire Water have recently fitted 2mm screens to protect elvers at abstractions on the Rivers Ouse, Ure and Wharfe.
- In February, construction work will begin on Yorkshire Water's new fish bypass channel at Rodley Weir (River Aire), which we are supporting.



- **British Waterways will be carrying out small scale spot dredging in March and April at Beal Lock, Keadby Lock, Linton-On-Ouse, Milby Cut, Naburn Lock, Oxclose Cut, Selby Lock and Westwick Cut.**
- We have recently issued a permit for an additional hydropower installation at Linton-on-Ouse. Fish passage and screening measures will protect and improve fish migration.
- Sheffield City Council have granted planning approval for a hydropower

scheme at Kelham Island, Sheffield. We worked with the Council to secure a condition that a fish pass must be included.

- If your club fills out our match catch reporting cards, can you please now return these to Fisheries Officer [Mike Lee](#)? These reports help us monitor fish stocks in our rivers. If your club would like to join the scheme, please contact Mike for more information.
- The Dearne Access Group met again in January and made some positive steps forward in reaching an agreement over canoe access arrangements. The Group will meet again in March to finalise these arrangements and potentially explore investment opportunities.

## Stillwaters

- Rising water temperatures in spring can trigger outbreaks of disease in fish, particularly carp. Signs of disease include lesions, large numbers of leeches or lice, erratic/slow or sluggish swimming. If you think fish are dying of disease at your fishery report it - 0800 807060. Information on fishery management and fish diseases can be found on our [website](#) and on the [aquatic animal health and movements](#) website.
- Algae growth in ponds can be controlled by adding barley straw in spring. Straw should be bundled loosely in bags to allow water circulation around the straw. As the straw rots, it releases chemicals that slow down algae growth. We can provide further advice on the use of barley straw on request.
- We are working with Sheffield City Council to develop a fishery on the Manor Estate, Sheffield. We had hoped to dig the pond last year, but are now looking at a 2012 start date. A planning application has been submitted and the decision is due in March.

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- We have helped Kilnhurst and District Angling Association pay for a chalk treatment to reduce organic silt in Baker's Pond. Too much silt can reduce oxygen levels and trap nutrients.
- Work is nearly finished on a pond at Heckmondwike, part of the ABLE Project. We will stock the pond next year and are working with the County Angling Action Group to train a coach for the site.
- We have begun visiting fisheries keeping sturgeon and catfish to ensure licences are being complied with. If kept in the wrong place, or without adequate screening these fish can escape and damage native fish stocks.
- Working with Natural England, we issued two authorisations to river lamprey netters. Conditions attached will help ensure a sustainable fishery and allow us to monitor the species, for which the Humber is a Special Area of Conservation.

## Enforcement

- Over the first three-quarters of 2011/12 we questioned 7,421 anglers and reported 607 for fisheries offences. During the same period there were 219 prosecutions resulting in fines of over £22,421 and costs being awarded to us of £26,172. The maximum fine for fishing without a licence was £365. Maximum costs awarded were £400.
- Please report pollution incidents to us promptly - 0800 807060. We investigate pollution reports and take enforcement action where necessary. Recent incidents include:
  - A potentially harmful release of surface water from Leeds Bradford Airport to Carleton Beck which resulted in a £45,000 fine and work to reduce the possibility of future incidents.
  - Helping the Emergency Services deal with a spillage of brewer's yeast on the M1, following fears that it could pollute watercourses.



- 'Don't steal, cook or kill fish' posters are available from the [Angling Trust](#). Rod licence and close season posters are on our [website](#).
- Would your angling club be willing to only sell year books / day tickets to anglers that produce a valid Environment Agency rod licence? This would enable us to make best use of our resources as we would not need to regularly check anglers fishing on your waters. Please contact Fisheries Officer [Peter Mischenko](#) for more information.

For more information or paper copies please contact:

National Customer Contact Centre  
PO Box 544  
Rotherham  
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03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri 8am to 8pm)  
[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Follow us on Twitter @EnvAgencyYNE and fisheries officer @PeteTurnerEA

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