

Fisheries in Yorkshire

November 2011

Stocking Fish

- New live fish movement regulations will be introduced on 1 April 2012, replacing current stocking and removal authorisations, and licences to keep non-native fish. There will be less paperwork, but fisheries and the wider environment will continue to be protected. We will focus on those movements which pose a greater risk to fisheries and the environment. We will let you know more nearer the time, but for now, please contact [Nigel Hewlett](#) (01480 483969) from our fish movements team if you have any questions. The new scheme involves:
 - a single, permanent fish movement permit for each fishery;
 - a single, permanent permit for fish suppliers to operate;
 - carrying consignment notes with fish in transit;
 - telling us in advance of certain high risk movements.
- To get your Site Permit, all you will need to do is phone or email us - no forms are involved. If you can think ahead about what fish you plan to stock or remove in the foreseeable future, we can make your permit flexible to meet your needs, although you will be able to call us if you need to make changes. Your fish supplier will need a copy of your permit, or your reference number to get a copy from us.
- This autumn sees a significant event in the recovery of the River Don. Our release of 1,000 young barbel will mark the end of our regular stocking plan for this river. Environment Agency fisheries teams generally stock rivers to restore fisheries, for example following water quality, or habitat, improvements or significant pollution events. As natural populations recover and become self-sustaining we are able to reduce the number of fish we stock.
- This autumn we will be stocking:
 - River Aire: 2,500 barbel
 - River Colne: 250 dace
 - River Derwent: 1,000 barbel
 - River Don: 1,000 barbel
 - River Rye: 1,000 chub, 1,000 barbel
 - River Swale: 1,000 barbel
 - River Wiske: 500 dace
- Next summer we will be stocking:
 - River Colne: 4,000 grayling
 - Costa Beck: 500 grayling
 - Pickering Beck: 500 grayling
 - Isle Beck: 500 grayling
 - Kilpin Beck: 500 grayling
 - River Skell: 1,500 grayling

Working together

- Do you, or your club, have an idea for a project and need some help with funding? Each year the Environment Agency is able to support a number of projects with funding, raised from rod licence income. If you have a habitat improvement project in mind for a river, we might also be able to bid into our new Environment Programme fund (separate from rod licence income). This is particularly suited for large-scale habitat improvement projects. We are looking forward to seeing your ideas.
- We are helping fund project officers for the East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust, the Don Catchment Rivers Trust, River Esk Action Committee and the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust. These project officers will be working to improve the ecology of our rivers, helping us meet our Water Framework Directive obligations.
- Our third annual trout and grayling strategy newsletter has been published and will soon be on our [website](#). This contains articles on grayling genetics as well as the impact of stocking fertile brown trout on the genetics of wild fish. Please contact trout@environment-agency.gov.uk if you would like a copy, or have any comments.
- We are working with the Calder and Colne Rivers Trust to tackle floating pennywort on our rivers. We are sharing our success in tackling the issue with our partners, including British Waterways and the Don Catchment Rivers Trust. A significant recent funding boost is allowing us to make good progress towards our goal of a floating pennywort-free Yorkshire. Please contact biodiversity officer [Andrew Virtue](#) if you find a patch of pennywort that you think we have missed. You can read more about floating pennywort in our booklet [Managing invasive non-native plants](#)



Floating pennywort on the River Calder.

- The Environment Agency is part of Sheffield's Riverlution. This is a river friends network designed to bring together individuals, groups and organisations to support each other and share ideas and resources to make Sheffield's rivers and waterways the best they can be. Join the Riverlution at www.riverlution.org.uk or call 0113 213 4926.
- The Don Pilot aims to explore new ways of getting people involved in restoring rivers to their former glory. People from 27 different organisations have now begun to look at how we can all work together for the benefit of the River Don and surrounding area. This is one of ten similar pilots happening across the country, running until December 2012, the findings of which will be used to improve our work in all river catchments. Please contact project officer [Stuart Jenkinson](#) if you want to know more.
- We would like to thank everyone involved in the Environment Agency / East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust's River Hull Angling Championship 2011. This match was fished on 16 October between West Beck Confluence and the northern outskirts of Hull, and attracted 210 anglers from across the UK. Hull Angling in Schools and Hull & District Angling Association held a junior match on the

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Beverley Canal on the same day, in association with the River Hull event. The Hull Championship was won by Michael Anderson with 3.46kg of roach from the Beverley shipyard stretch. The runner up Gary Chadwick who caught 3.30kg (mainly roach) at Wilfholme. Nigel Beamson was third, with a 2.93kg mixed bag from the non-tidal stretch at Hempholme Boats. In total more than £4500 was paid out in prizes. We recorded catch information to help us with our monitoring of the fishery. For full results see yorkshrefishing.net or contact [Michael Lee](#) from our Sampling and Collection team.

- The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs have published a new strategy [Biodiversity 2020](#) which sets out how the government biodiversity policy for the next decade. The mission for this strategy by 2020 is “to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people”.
- The Dearne Access Group have made progress towards a voluntary agreement for canoe access on the river. There are still some issues to resolve over access during fish spawning seasons. Members of the group are planning a "shopping trolley clearance" in the river.
- We have been working with the Angling Development Board to set up County Angling Action Groups (CAAGs) to deliver angling participation events across Yorkshire and Northumbria. Over 1500 people have been fishing this year for the first time at events organised by the CAAGs.
- We are recruiting a new team member for the York based Fisheries and Biodiversity team, following Richard Atkinson's departure after nearly twenty year's service. The York team will also soon be joined by a new Team Leader as Phil Young returns to an Environment

Management team following his year-long assignment.

Have your say

- The South Yorkshire fisheries forum will be at Ulley Country Park, Rotherham on the evening of Wednesday 7 December. We will be talking about issues local anglers have told us are important in South Yorkshire. Numbers will be limited, due to room size, so if you would like to come please contact fisheries officer [Pete Turner](#) to book your place.
- The East Yorkshire fisheries forum included a discussion on the subject of predators. There wasn't time to fully cover the subject on the night, so we are working with the Yorkshire Branch of the Institute of Fisheries Management to hold a workshop on the topic next year.
- We held our most recent web chat in September, and the questions and answers can still be read on yorkshrefishing.net. Subjects range from the effects on wildlife of the ban on lead weights to the Environment Agency's relationship with the RSPCA. For the first time we also posted the questions and answers on Twitter (follow fisheries officer @PeteTurnerEA).
- Net Limitation Orders are used to secure sustainable exploitation of salmon and sea-trout stocks by controlling the number of licensed nets. The limits in the Order also consider the interests of those who are licensed to fish and are dependent for their livelihoods on the fishing to ensure they are protected. We are currently drafting a new Net Limitation Order, and would like to discuss the proposals informally with all interested parties before April 2012, when we will formally publish our proposals. We welcome any input and evidence you are able to offer at the present time. For more information

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please contact the project manager [Jonathan Shelley](#) (07979 704281)

- Defra are carrying out a consultation on the future of engagement following proposals to abolish statutory Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committees (FERACs). Details are available on [Defra's website](#). The consultation closes on 23 January 2012.

Dry weather update

- As of October, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, parts of Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, and west Norfolk are still in drought because the water resources situation (especially groundwater) has not improved. In Yorkshire Area we are no longer restricting any of our abstraction licence holders as river levels have returned to normal. However we still have concerns about South Yorkshire reservoir levels and the Rivers Don and Rother. Current river level data can be found on our [website](#).

Yorkshire's rivers

- We have helped Doncaster and District Angling Club install thirteen angling platforms next to the River Don at Crimpsall, near Doncaster. We contributed half the funding from rod licence income, with the remainder being raised by the club.
- We have produced a fish pass prioritisation study which will become the tool to strategically plan a ten-year programme of fish pass construction over the next 10 years. We have formed a working group with Rivers Trusts, British Waterways and British Canoe Union to implement the plan.

- We have begun detailed design work for a fish pass at Adwick gauging weir on the River Dearne. Design work has been completed for a fish pass at Rodley on the River Aire, with construction expected to start soon. Construction of three fish passes at Malin Bridge (Sheffield) will begin next year, having been delayed to avoid working in the brown trout close season.
- Work will soon begin on installing in-channel features in the River Don as it flows through central Sheffield. This work is being carried out as mitigation for the environmental effect of recent flood risk management work in the city centre.
- Our Upper Aire Project will tackle sediment and rural diffuse pollution issues. The project was launched at Skipton Farmers market where we provided advice and guidance on land management and soil erosion. Our partners, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and the Yorkshire Wild Life Trust supported this event. We are also working on a similar project in the upper Wharfe.



We caught brook lamprey in Barlow Brook, Derbyshire, during a recent survey. This is our first official record of the species in the Rother catchment, where brook lamprey were thought to have died out as a result of the Industrial Revolution.

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- We are providing technical advice to the River Wharfe Anglers Association as they collect wild brown trout in upper Wharfedale this November. This is to support a trout stocking project. From 2015, we will only consent the stocking of triploid (sterile) brown trout into rivers, unless 'wild' trout have been collected, reared and re-stocked into the same river. Many angling clubs are already stocking triploids, but some clubs favour fertile 'diploid' fish. The Wharfedale trout will be reared on in captivity and then released back into their home river. This is an option for other fishery groups. Please contact Fisheries Technical Specialist [Pat O'Brien](#) for more information on how this could work for you.



We have removed a weir on the River Sheaf in Sheffield, restoring habitat and migration routes for fish and native crayfish.

- We will soon be starting a joint project with the East Yorkshire Chalk Rivers Trust to improve the habitat of a 1.5km section of West Beck. Work will include installing large woody debris to provide habitat and cover for fish and invertebrates, as well as changing the channel to increase the variety of flows and depths. We have also just finished work with the Trust to improve the habitat at King's Mill on Driffeld Beck. Here, the river had become over wide and was very shallow. We repaired the bank using live willow weave, restoring the channel and protecting a nearby public footpath.
- As part of our flood risk management work, we will be carrying out channel and vegetation management this winter on the Rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe, Ouse Derwent, Hull, Aire, Calder, Dearne and Don and their tributaries. We are also hoping to start the following work from November 2011 onwards:
 - River Wharfe - replacement of trashscreens at Nun Appleton.
 - East Yorkshire - improvements to an outfall on Westlands Drain and a new access to a tidal structure on Holderness Drain
 - South Yorkshire - scrub clearance at Sykehouse and downstream of Doncaster.
- We are developing projects to improve some of our flood defence structures next year. Potential projects include:
 - River Ure - refurbishment of Roecliffe pumping station, embankment repairs near Milby and repairs to outfalls at Myton Ings.
 - River Swale - erosion control at Great Langton.
 - East Yorkshire - repairs to tidal structure, Burstwick New Clough,

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new access to Gypsey Race in Bridlington and embankment repairs near Hutton

- North Yorkshire - refurbishment of Selby pumping station.
- Please contact [David Smith](#) from our Operations Delivery Technical Team for more information on our flood risk management work.

Stillwaters

- The past two winters have been extremely cold. When ponds and lakes freeze over this can cause problems for fish especially when snow settles onto ice. This stops light from reaching underwater plants, so they cannot produce oxygen. If this happens, the amount of oxygen in the water can drop, killing fish. Effects can be particularly severe if ponds are shallow, overstocked, or have a lot of silt or other organic material on the bed. Good fisheries management can therefore help reduce the chance that you will have problems during long periods of ice cover. Aeration systems can also be used to keep a small area of pond ice-free.

Enforcement

- We have listened to feedback from anglers buying their licence online. A frequent suggestion for improvement was around a shopping basket facility. The Post Office website has now been upgraded to include this feature, which will give you a faster journey through the site and let you buy several licences, for yourself, family or friends, at the same time.
- Over the first half of the year, we have questioned 6,224 anglers and reported 525 for various fisheries offences. During

the same period there were 175 convictions in the magistrates courts resulting in fines of over £17,000 and costs being awarded to the Agency of £21,000. The average cost to an illegal angler during that period was well over £200. Several anglers were fined £350 with £127 costs for fishing without a licence making their days fishing a very expensive one.

- We recently held a workshop for angling clubs from West and North Yorkshire to discuss various enforcement issues and will be holding a similar event for East and South Yorkshire clubs early in 2012. Please contact fisheries officer [Peter Mischenko](#) to find out more.
- In order to protect stocks of eel, a close season has been set for adult eel netting / trapping. The close season runs from 11 December to 31 March (inclusive). Standard eel fishing conditions are on our [website](#). If you see evidence of netting which you think is illegal, call 0800 807060 and we will investigate. All rod-caught eels must now be released.

For more information or paper copies please contact:

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PO Box 544
Rotherham
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03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri 8am to 8pm)
enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

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