

# Lower Ouse & Fenland Fisheries Consultative Association

1 October 2018

## East Anglia West Fisheries Update

The following document provides LOFFCA members and anglers with up to date area fisheries information together with details of our recent activities.

### Fisheries monitoring programme:

- Four post pollution surveys have been completed on the upper Ouse; Brackley, Westbury, Water Stratford and Buckingham. Brackley, which was just upstream of the point of pollution, recorded 7 species including brown trout, no fish were caught from either Westbury & Water Stratford and only minor species were found at Buckingham.
- The survey team are currently on the middle Ouse continuing with the routine programme, surveying four sites between Bedford and Brampton, the fifth site at Offord has been dropped this year due to 100% pennywort coverage.
- The second round of post habitat enhancement monitoring on the Rush bypass channel in Cambridge was completed on the 13 September 2018. Species present included; chub, dace, perch, eel, brown trout and minor species. This was the first recorded capture of brown trout from this new bypass channel.
- Relief Channel hydro-acoustic survey is complete, download the latest fish distribution map from the Angling Trust Eastern Region Fishery Forum website; please click [here](#).
- See the LOFFCA Facebook page for the latest fish photos, please click [here](#).

### Fisheries enforcement:

- Across the Great Ouse Catchment in 2018, 1,037 rod licences have been checked between January and June.
- Of these 1,037 checks, 1,015 were 'new checks'.
- In total 30 offence reports were issued.
- East Anglia prosecution statistics

Month	Prosecutions Concluded	Successful Prosecutions	Success Rate	Fines	Average Fine	Costs	Average Costs	Cautions	Case Files Received
April	22	21	95%	£1,902	£91	£2,416	£115	0	27
May	13	12	92%	£1,495	£125	£1,360	£113	1	19
June	5	5	100%	£733	£147	£637	£127	3	10
July	1	1	100%	£75	£75	£127	£127	1	20
August	8	8	100%	£1,182	£148	£912	£114	1	17

- Last weekend the enforcement officers had a result, acting on intelligence received they undertook a joint operation with Suffolk Police (Rural Crime Team) and caught two anglers fishing a private water where no angling is permitted click [here](#) for more information.
- The bailiffs are more than happy to carry out rod licence checks at fisheries with club officials, if you keen to accompany the bailiff please get in contact ([chris.middleton@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:chris.middleton@environment-agency.gov.uk) or 07881 512038) and I'll provide the bailiffs contact details.

**customer service line**  
03708 506 506

**incident hotline**  
0800 80 70 60

**floodline**  
03459 88 11 88

- Any suspected illegal fishing activity should be reported to the Environment Agency's Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60.

## Fisheries incident response:

- On the 30 July 2018 we attended at Cat 1 fisheries incident on the Old Nene in March town centre. We received reports of dead and distress fish but upon arrival with the chemical aeration equipment we quickly established that the dissolved oxygen levels had recovered, so there was no requirement to dose hydrogen peroxide. More than 400 fish were lost in total including; roach, tench, bream, perch, pike, zander, goldfish and koi carp click [here](#) for further information.
- On the 7 August 2018 KHV was confirmed at Ashlands Lake in Buckinghamshire following a carp only mortality, click [here](#) for further information.
- On the 28 September 2018 KHV was confirmed at Gatton Water in Norfolk following a carp only mortality, click [here](#) for further information.
- If you see dead or distressed fish anglers are reminded to phone the incident hotline number immediately on 0800 807060.

## Fish & eel passage:

- Burt Mills pre-barrage fish and eel pass on the river Cam is now operational click [here](#) for some photos.
- Fish and eel passage on the river Rhee at Harston will be delivered this financial year.
- Outline design completed for a larinier fish pass on the river Cam at Jesus Green Lock.
- Design options are currently being considered for fish passes at Baits Bite and Bottisham lock on the river Cam, this is all part of the Cam Connections project.
- Feasibility study into a fish pass in Thetford near Nuns Bridges connecting both the Thet & Lt Ouse.

## Habitat enhancement:

- As part of mitigation for installing new navigation moorings on the Relief Channel, we've requested that fish refuges are attached underneath, to provide fish refuge from predation. The cages were designed by us and also incorporate spawning media, click [here](#) for further information.
- We plan to monitor their use with the ARIS imaging sonar and GoPro cameras. As waterways replace navigation moorings across the catchment we'll request this as standard feature.

## Match catch data:

- On the 2 September 2018 the Beds Hospital Cup, organised by Blunham Angling Club, was held on the middle section of the river Great Ouse between Oakley and Kempston. The match recorded some fantastic weights of silver fish, particularly roach. More than 360lb of fish were caught between 57 anglers, 20lb won the match, with another 11 anglers recording double figure bags and a number of anglers recording 8lb plus weights. The best three pegs weren't drawn so the total could have been far greater. Other species present included; dace, bleak, perch and chub.
- On the 16 September 2018 the AT regional Shield match was also held on the same middle section of the river Great Ouse between Oakley and Willington. More than 400lb of fish were caught between 72 anglers and again roach were the dominant species. The winning angler recorded 24lb of fish followed by 22lb and 15lb respectively. Other species present included; dace, bleak, perch, chub and minor species.

## Fisheries improvement programme (FIP):

- Please keep the potential habitat enhancement/fish passage projects coming through, click [here](#) for further information or contact me directly on [chris.middleton@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:chris.middleton@environment-agency.gov.uk)
- Rod licence sales are down therefore unable to release a second round of funding in 2018/19.
- From the 2019/20 financial year AT will only be funding predator control. FBG will be responsible for delivering what was the angling improvement fund as well as the current FIP fund.

## Fisheries videos:

- In partnership with Cambridge Fish Preservation & Angling Society (CFPAS) we've produced an angling coaching video from Parklife 2018 event held at Milton Country Park in July. This should be going out on EA social media shortly.
- We have produced a video showing the fish rescue from the river Lark in Bury St Edmunds. This should be going out on EA social media shortly.
- We created a mini duckweed skimmer video following a visit to a Cambridgeshire carp syndicate, please click [here](#). The bailiff was a fabricator by trade and created the skimmer in his lunch break, he then purchased a 3 inch trash pump and the kit has proven to be a huge success removing tonnes of this problem plant. I'll be approaching a few fabricators over the next months to obtain some quotes as we'll be looking to purchase 2/3 units which angling clubs can borrow. As with all our kit we lend out, angling clubs will need to collect/return the skimmers, hire or purchase their own trash pump and replace the unit if stolen.

## Social media update:

- Follow our team on Twitter (@OuseFishEA) for all the latest fisheries information, please click [here](#).
- Please send us your catch photos/videos and we'll happily tweet/retweet these.