

# Lower Ouse & Fenland Fisheries Consultative Association

8 April 2019

## 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:

- To date x5 sites have been completed, x4 on the river Nar and x1 on the Bourn Brook.
- Click [here](#) to see the latest fish caught from the river Nar.

### Fisheries enforcement:

- For monthly enforcement figure updates please click [here](#).
- We carried out a joint raid with Norfolk Police Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT) in Kings Lynn following Facebook posts of freshwater fish for sale. No evidence on site, no further action taken.
- X2 setlines removed from the Twenty Foot Drain near Graysmoor Pit.
- Further bags of cannabis root balls have been discovered on the Twenty Food Drain along Coldham's Bank during a close season patrol. Please report any you find to the Police on 101.
- Since the start of the close season x7 anglers have been found fishing; x1 on the Great Ouse at Brandon Creek, x2 on the Lt Ouse at Lt Ouse village and x4 on the Great Ouse in Bedford.
- Joint Angling Trust VBS, Police and EA close season enforcement patrols planned over the May Bank Holidays.
- The bailiffs are more than happy to carry out rod licence checks at fisheries with club officials, if your 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.
- Any suspected illegal fishing activity or equipment e.g. nets, traps, set lines should be reported to the Environment Agency's Incident Hotline on 0800 807060 and please request the NIRS reference number.
- VBS stage 2 is happening in our area, expressions of interest should be directed to Paul Thomas (Angling Trust Regional Enforcement Officer).

### Fisheries incident response:

- The fisheries team have so far responded to 3 incidents in 2019.
- To date these all look like algal related mortalities e.g. spikey diatom blooms.
- If you see dead or distressed fish anglers are reminded to phone the incident hotline number immediately on 0800 807060.

customer service line  
03708 506 506

incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

floodline  
03459 88 11 88

## Winter fisheries investigations:

- We carried out an ARIS and side imaging sonar survey in Isleham marina on the river Lark in Suffolk. It was solid with silvers and large common bream shoals. We plan to return in summer and monitor the entrance to the marina and see if the fish population ventures out into the main river channel after dark.
- Click [here](#) to see some ARIS footage.

## Habitat enhancement:

- Gravel jetting a known chub spawning riffle on the river Ivel at Henlow in Bedfordshire, click [here](#) to see a video of this.
- Don't forget, this kit is available for angling clubs to borrow from us, we'll provide a demonstration and if a fisheries officer is available we could potentially deliver the kit, all you need is fuel and willing volunteers.

## Fish and eel passage 2019/20:

- Fish and eel pass planned at Brandon Stauch Sluice in Brandon on the Lt Ouse.
- Fish and eel pass planned at Gas Pool Sluice in Mildenhall on the river Lark.
- Fish and eel pass has just been completed on (insert structure name) at Harston on the river Cam, click here to see photos.

## Winter stockings:

- In February we stocked 8,000 chub into the upper Great Ouse as part of the upper Ouse restoration project following last year's large scale pollution incident. These were some of the largest chub Calverton Fish Farm have every produced, up to 20cm, click here to see some photos.
- In February we stocked 171 blue dyed barbel into the upper Great Ouse and Ivel. These were some of the largest fish Calverton Fish Farm have every produced, some up to 3lb in weight, click here to see some photos.

## Match catch data:

- Angling clubs are still encouraged to submit angling match catch data, this crucial supporting evidence is utilised in our fisheries reports.
- Huge thank you to those clubs which have submitted catch data.

## 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)
- The 2019/20 successful bids include:
  - Angling Tourism in the Fens; awarded £5000 - questionnaire/data gathering exercise with the ultimate aim of extracting more money out of local authorities for angling in the Fens.
  - Middle Level Commissioners awarded £5000 - fenland bank repairs, habitat creation and angling platforms project.
  - Upper Ouse Fisheries Consultative Association (UOFCA) awarded £8000 - options appraisal and implementation of barbel conservation for the Upper Ouse (Phase 2).
  - River Lane Fishery awarded £3,000 - gravel pit restoration project to benefit anglers and wildlife.
  - Saffron Walden Angling Club awarded £1,600 - Whittlesford Pit restoration project (Phase 3).

- Cambridge Fish preservation & Angling Society (CFPAS) awarded £2,000 - Andersons Lake restoration project (Phase 2).

### Annual fisheries report:

- The annual fisheries report (April 2017 to March 2018) is now available to download from the gov.uk website, please click [here](#).
- This is looking like being the last of these reports.

### Ouse Washes update:

- The water quality monitoring sondes are now in and transmitting water quality data. Click [here](#) to access the website.
- Work is still progressing on planned Earith Sluice 'freshening flow' project. It's unlikely to be delivered this year, so in the meantime we are currently in the process of applying for the required permits to install a temporary siphon pump to transfer water from the Tidal River Great Ouse into the Delph in preparation for what could be a busy year due to drought, this would be one less incident for the fisheries team to respond too.

### FCRM routine maintenance programme:

- By now you should have received the area FCRM routine maintenance programme. Please provide any comments before the 28 day consultation deadline.

### Social media update:

- Like and follow our team on Facebook (@OuseFishEA) for all the latest fisheries information, please click [here](#).
- 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 post/tweet/or retweet these from our social media accounts.