

# North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan 2015



## Authors

National Fisheries & Angling Team

North East Waterway Team

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# North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

## Introduction

In September 2013 the Trust launched a new angling strategy, 'Be Inspired; Go Fishing', which set out how the Trust intends to work more closely with angling clubs to change perceptions of angling, encourage more people to try the sport, encourage communities to play a leading role in keeping the tradition alive on their local waterways as well as maintaining and improving the local water and bankside habitat. The strategy also outlines how the Trust wants to work with communities to improve facilities, access for anglers, and in particular to grow the numbers of people involved in the sport by attracting more young people as well as improving the environment in which fish live.

Fish are at the heart of angling and the aquatic environment. Good fishing relies on having healthy fish populations. Fish are a key indicator of water quality in a piece of legislation called the Water Framework Directive. We will work to achieve the targets set out in the directive to achieve good ecological potential (and status) for our waterways.

## Context

Many angling clubs feel marginalised in their relationship with the Trust and want to feel more valued as a customer. This action plan will serve to identify the priority issues that need to be addressed locally to strengthen relationships with existing clubs, to attract newcomers, improve the experience for anglers and the fish stocks and water environment on which fish, anglers and the food chain depends.

The actions identified in this plan were those discussed in workshops held on the 28<sup>th</sup> October & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 with invitees from a wide range of clubs and organisations associated with fisheries and angling in the North East, together with the fisheries and angling experience and technical knowledge of our fisheries and angling team.

The actions are grouped by themes, listed below.

1. **Retain existing angling customers and attracting new ones**
2. **Develop & improve access to the fishery.**
3. **The opportunities to engage with local communities.**
4. **Take advantage of the opportunities for volunteering & adoptions.**
5. **Improving communication between the Trust and its customers.**
6. **Funding.**
7. **Fish passage and migration.**
8. **Predation & non-native species.**
9. **Fish stocks & fisheries management.**
10. **Fisheries and water quality and quantity.**

The actions identified in the plan will be delivered by a range of organisations: the Canal & River Trust's own teams - National Fisheries & Angling, the Waterway, Environment, Fundraising teams - some by angling clubs and the Governing body, the Angling Trust, as well as Environment Agency, Rivers Trusts, Natural England, County Angling Action Groups, Sports Partnerships, local communities

and individuals. Although the plan is a description of local actions, many of the actions rely on activity being carried out and delivered by the National Fisheries & Angling Team. Their work is of benefit to all eleven waterways with many common features. These are described in italics in each theme.

## **Implementation**

The scale of ambition described in the plan is high. The key to delivery will be adopting a partnership approach and developing new income streams to deliver the identified actions. By working in partnership, we hope to be able to tap into a range of funding opportunities that may not be available to one of the partners on their own.

Inevitably, implementation of these plans will have to take account of funding opportunities available either through the Trusts' 3 year business planning cycles or external funding opportunities. It is clear that some of the activities will be ongoing for a number of years and relatively few can start until the appropriate funding is in place. The importance of this is reflected in the plan identifying the need for new funding streams to enable implementation of this plan.



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In theme 1, we aim to get more people fishing by:

Introducing new people to the sport, particularly young people,



organising and running canal championships



And getting people to fish more often by running special events



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	<b>Theme 1 - Retain existing angling customers and attracting new ones. We have a priority for more people to enjoy using our canals and for them to offer people a range of benefits including acting as guardians of the waterways now and in the future. Specifically we want this plan to encourage more people to go fishing more often, to support the existing club structure and maintain our fisheries.</b>				
1	Improve club signage: Huddersfield Broad - Mirfield AC Stanley Ferry – Mirfield AC Aire & Calder – Altofts – Mirfield AC Aire & Calder - Whitley to Heck – Mirfield AC Aire & Calder - Rotherham & DAF Calder & Hebble – Wakefield AC Mirfield Canal Old Bank AC– both limits & on bridge Battyeford Canal – Old Bank AC – both limits & in middle	Confirm the national guidelines for design & wording and make available the details of the national contract	Customer Operations Team to liaise with clubs over sites and agree who will undertake installation i.e. waterway, or club acting as volunteer	Heritage	Identify locations where signage is required to Waterways Team & NFAT. Local council & farmer consent may be required
2	<b>Flagship Project – Aire &amp; Calder Canal Fishery Development to International Standard</b> - joint initiative between NFAT, WW & club David Kent (Angling Trust) and Dick Clegg (England International Manager) will lead on assessing the current suitability of the Aire & Calder as a venue for hosting international events	Fisheries management technical guidance	Liaise with club, NFAT team, D Kent. Schedule into work plans	Enterprise Fundraising Partnership Board Marketing Press	Boothferry Joint AC Angling Trust Environment Agency

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	and provide full details of the improvements necessary to bring the A & C (or a section of it) up to the required standard.				
3	<p>Facilitate increased understanding and cooperation across representatives of other towpath customers e.g. Anglers, Sustrans, cyclists, walkers to establish rapport, better understanding across different waterway groups, and opportunities to work together on joint projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider establishment of working group with CRT, Sustrans to look at current &amp; future cycle routes along the NE towpath network to identify potential pinch points and solutions to mitigate.</li> </ul> <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Event Signage</i></li> </ul>	<p>Technical fisheries management guidance. Make clubs aware.</p> <p>Support with fisheries &amp; angling technical guidance</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Develop a template event sign/banner for use at angling matches which can be used to inform other customers</i></p>	<p>Explore interest in developing</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Issue advice notices via CRT notices &amp; post on social media</i></p>	<p>National Angling Advisory Group to advise on issues</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Communications Press Office</i></p>	<p>Clubs to nominate representatives to become involved.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Clubs to adopt and post at agreed locations on site.</i></p>

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		<i>that a competition is in progress, and make available to clubs</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish closer links &amp; improve communication with the angling community.</li> </ul>	<i>Ensuring regular attendance at Waterway user forums</i>	Customer forum agenda to include a Fisheries & Angling component. Identify joint projects to work together for the improvement of all users		Clubs to become actively involved in customer forums.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Towpath design, restoration &amp; management</li> </ul>	Raise awareness of new towpath policy and support	Implement towpath policy - 'Better Towpath for Everyone – a national policy for sharing towpaths'.	Enterprise – ensure best practice promoted when looking for funding. AMP- 3 <sup>rd</sup> party works- Ensure best practice implemented & policy requirements	Clubs to share with members and identify potential volunteer towpath rangers to promote safe and considerate behaviour.



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		..... Input fisheries & angling needs into next update of towpath design manual or as part of development of Customer Standards process.	..... Create safer towpaths through a range of measures including education, awareness & physical improvements	considered in project delivery. ..... Customer services Project managers	.....
4	Raise awareness of the incidence and impact of dog mess on towpath customers, provide & maintain disposal facilities in discussion with local authorities to reduce occurrence		Work with local authorities to provide signage and patrols from dog wardens. Encourage bagging of poo and removal to home		Clubs to identify priority areas to waterway team. Work in partnership with Waterway to tackle the issue.
5	<i>Organise heat of Canal Championship &amp; National Junior Canal Championship each year on the Aire &amp; Calder Canal, run jointly between NFAT, the local clubs and Angling Trust</i>	<i>Share information with waterway team, communications team; help secure additional funding if possible through Fundraising</i>	<i>Help with on the ground activities prior to the event</i>	<i>Funding - source potential sponsorship Communications</i>	<i>Clubs to act as on the ground hosts and match organisers, promote amongst membership and wider. Angling Trust</i>

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6	<i>To address the low participation rate of young people in angling, develop an annual angling participation plan involving taster sessions at high footfall events and sites e.g. Festivals, supported by an angling participation pathway e.g. Stainforth &amp; Keadby Canal</i>	<i>Liaise with local partners to develop, identify funding &amp; availability of coaches. Link to Waterway Engagement Plan to help focus on key locations &amp; communities. Make event listings available to waterways and clubs.</i>	<i>Link to Waterway Engagement Plan to help focus on key locations &amp; communities.</i>	<i>Enterprise Funding</i>	<i>County Angling Action Groups Angling Trust Clubs Sport England Local authorities County Sports Partnerships Schools Colleges Scunthorpe &amp; DAC</i>
7	<i>Development &amp; distribution of a leaflet describing local fishing opportunities at high footfall locations, known as 'Welcome Stations'</i>	<i>Set out design criteria &amp; provide content, including images. Confirm details with affected clubs</i>	<i>Waterway to support leaflet development &amp; use at events &amp; festivals.</i>	<i>Communications</i>	<i>Clubs to confirm details</i>
8	<i>Work with Polish, Lithuanian and other migrant communities to integrate &amp; educate them into customs and practices of UK angling – adopt the approach described in Angling Trust Building Bridges project</i>	<i>In partnership with Angling Trust, discuss how this should be taken forward locally – aim to hold one angling event per waterway</i>	<i>Support &amp; assist local events &amp; activities to spread message. Create photo opportunities &amp; media activity.</i>	<i>Press</i>	<i>Clubs to see if they can increase membership by incorporating eastern Europeans into membership, and make use of free signs on Angling Trust website - anti fish theft poster and</i>

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					<i>multi lingual signs on fishery laws;</i> <i>Incident reporting and Angling Trust involvement and support can come from contacting</i> <b><i>radoslaw.papiewski@anglingtrust.net</i></b>
9	<i>Open up sections of canal where angling is not currently permitted e.g. a close season applies because of the presence of a Site of Special Scientific Interest</i>	<i>Lobby for its removal at locations where the towpath is available for other CRT customers</i>	<i>Support national team &amp; clubs.</i>	Environment	Environment Agency Natural England
10	<i>Open up sections of canal where angling is not currently permitted e.g. due to presence of power lines</i>	<i>Undertake site specific risk assessment with local H&amp;S adviser.</i>  <i>Subject to satisfactory outcome, reinstate the fishery.</i> <i>Represent CRT on National Overhead Power lines and safety working group</i>	<i>Waterway to be involved in site specific risk assessment &amp; implement agreed measures on the ground.</i>	<i>H&amp;S team to risk assess with local electricity company &amp; NFAT</i>	<i>Clubs to inform NFAT of sites that require investigating</i>

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11	<i>We need to ensure that angling clubs are aware that they can use our facilities (toilets) around the network.</i>	<i>Communicate to club members via e newsletter that these facilities can be used.</i>	<i>WW to promote the use of facilities (make angling clubs aware of locations) and make keys available as required.</i>		<i>Communicate to club members that these facilities can be used.</i>
12	<i>Development of customer service standards for fisheries &amp; angling nationally.</i>	<i>Fisheries management technical advice.</i>	<i>Contribute to CSS</i>	<i>Customer Service team</i>	<i>National Angling Advisory Group (NAAG) consultation</i>
13	<i>Promote, using improved communication tools, new 'fashions' in angling e.g. lure fishing.</i>	<i>Produce articles for CRT website &amp; social media. Open dialogue with clubs on how to take forward. Discuss implications with local waterway teams</i>			<i>Local clubs come forward to be involved. Lure Canal Angling Society</i>

## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

Towpaths are a multi use environment where consideration of others for all users is important. Our new towpath policy<sup>1</sup> (action 3) seeks better infrastructure, better signs and better behaviour; the policy states that 'in general priority should be given to the slowest and those using the waterway'. The policy is supported by a code, see below:



### Towpath Code

Our *towpath code* is a common sense guide to sharing the towpath and what to expect of others. At its heart is the Trust's **Share the Space, Drop your Pace** slogan, a registered trademark.

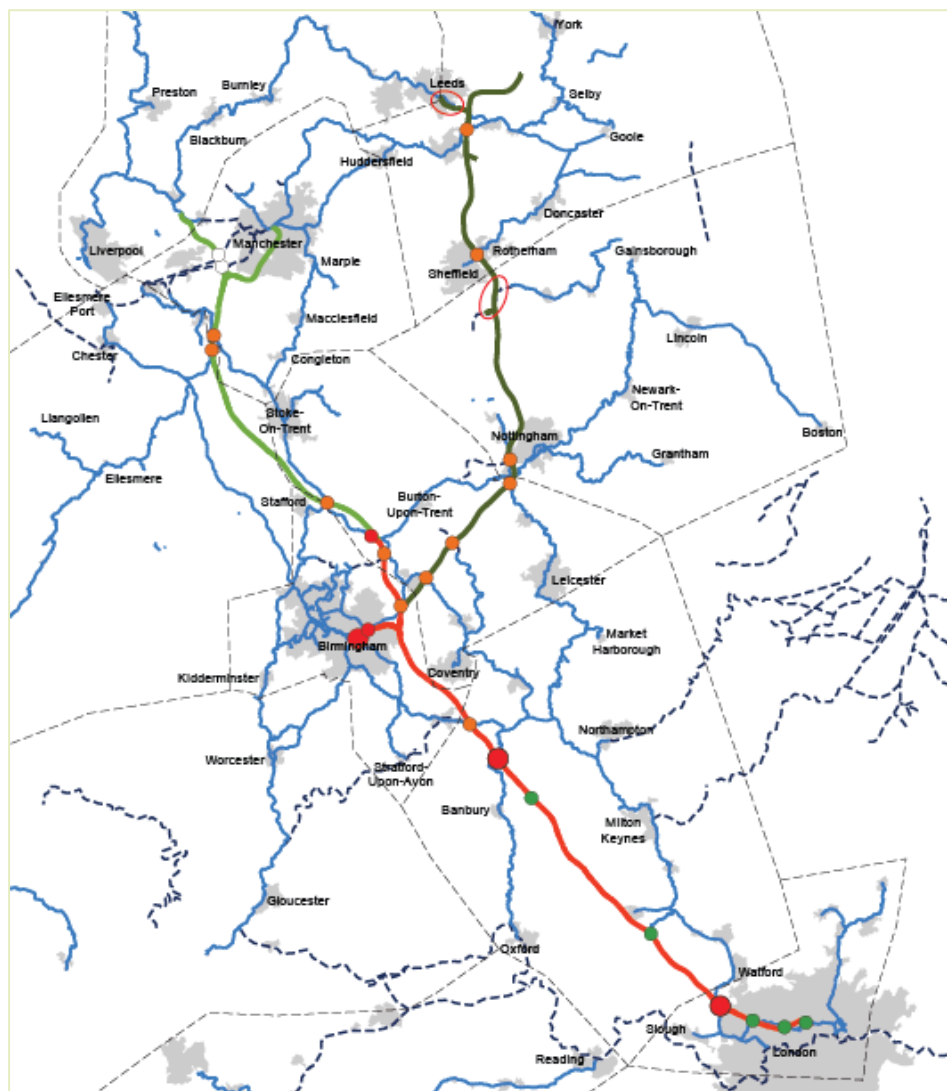
**Share the space** – towpaths are popular places to be enjoyed by everyone. Please be mindful of others, keep dogs under control, and clean up after them.

**Drop your pace** – pedestrians have priority on our towpaths so be ready to slow down; if you're in a hurry, consider using an alternative route for your journey.

**It's a special place** – our waterways are a living heritage with boats, working locks and low bridges so please give way to waterway users and be extra careful where visibility is limited.

<sup>1</sup> Better Towpaths for Everyone, A national policy for sharing towpaths; Canal & River Trust, 2015.

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The development of the high speed rail link from south to north means that it will cross many of our canals. We need to ensure the best possible solutions that minimize the impact on the fishery and access to it. (Action 21)



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	<b>Theme 2 – Develop and improve access to the fishery. Anglers need safe and secure car parking and safe access onto and along the towpath to their fishing pegs, meeting the needs of disabled anglers where possible and reasonable. The towpath is managed as a multi use environment where all customers must acknowledge the needs of others.</b>				
14	Better access and parking – clubs to bring forward locations where access & parking is not sufficient for discussion with local Waterway team & to identify new opportunities on CRT and non CRT owned land		Register locations to be improved following receipt of information from clubs. Arrange into work programmes/schedule as appropriate. Development & Engagement Manager to engage with local interests to identify potential opportunities. Assistance with local landowner details	Planning Estates Legal	Clubs to engage with CRT to highlight locations where parking limited particularly at critical times. E mail WW& NFAT on critical locations where access needs improving
15	Investigate reports where access to the fishery has been impaired, stopped or changed. Specifically, - Aire & Calder Canal – Crowcroft Bridge & Rawcliffe Bridge	Once notified, liaise with WW to determine causes and any subsequent action	Liaise with NFAT  Attend on site meetings		Clubs to inform CRT of incidents for investigation  Boothferry Joint AC

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	- Aire & Calder – Altofts, Kings Road Lock to Wood Nook Lock	Facilitate on site meeting and identification of solutions.	Communicate decisions to clubs.		Environment Agency  Walton AC
16	Carry out weed clearance and vegetation management to improve access to pegs and to open water at each peg: Calder-Hebble Navigation - Downstream Brookfoot lock and Bridge 17 Camms Mill - Downstream bridge 7 Ganny footbridge	Technical fisheries management guidance.	Site meeting to review and consider options		Brighthouse Club to be consulted and involved
17	Installation of 30 permanent fishing platforms, together with appropriate signage – River Don, Sprotborough	Technical fisheries management guidance. Fisheries term contractor available for installation as per framework contractor	On site meeting to review & identify opportunities	Enterprise Fundraising	Doncaster DAA Environment Agency Barn Energy/Yorkshire Hydro
18	Replacement of 4 damaged and destroyed platforms on the Calder-Hebble Navigation, d/s Brookfoot lock and Bridge 17 Camms Mill	Technical fisheries management guidance. National Fisheries Management contractor available to manufacturer & install	Site meeting to review & discuss options	Funding team	Brighthouse AC



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19	<i>Adoption of permanent peg numbers so these are clearly defined on the fishery to allow the club to carry out local vegetation management throughout the year to ensure the peg is fishable.</i>	<i>Fisheries management technical guidance.</i>	<i>On site meeting to review &amp; identify opportunities. Support volunteers work &amp; provide materials &amp; training where appropriate.</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Old Bank AC – specific details required  Identify volunteers to carry out</i>
20	<i>Fitting tough grass protection for Improved disabled parking on Aire &amp; Calder, Kings Rd lock</i>		<i>On site meeting to review &amp; identify opportunity</i>		<i>Mirfield AC - On site meeting</i>
21	<i>Reduce/mitigate the impact of the building of the High Speed Rail Link (HS2) on access to the Aire &amp; Calder fishery and any potential impact on fish stocks.</i>	<i>Provide fisheries management technical advice in discussion with developers, clubs and other CRT teams. Consider options to mitigate impact e.g. alternative access points on offside</i>	<i>Liaise across CRT teams</i>	<i>Estates Legal</i>	<i>Leeds &amp; DAA Clubs to become involved</i>
22	<i>Ensure access to the fishery for a CRT licenced customer is maintained following completion of the Leeds Flood alleviation Scheme</i>	<i>Liaise with scheme developer so that once the work is completed the customer still has access to the fishery</i>	<i>Work with NFAT to identify opportunities.</i>	<i>Operations &amp; Assets</i>	<i>Leeds DAA</i>

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23	<i>Produce a standard design for angling platforms which satisfies the needs of the Trust and its customers whilst ensuring the needs of the less able are addressed.</i>	<i>Contract National Fisheries management Contractor to produce</i>	<i>Input into design proposals</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Adopt design when available</i>
24	<i>Take opportunities to incorporate improved access and parking for angling in planning applications.</i>	<i>NFAT to consider as part of internal consultations on planning applications received by the Trust</i>	<i>Waterway to consider as part of internal consultations on planning applications received by the Trust</i>	<i>Planning Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to respond to planning applications highlighting need for community access</i>

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<b>Theme 3 - The opportunities to engage with local communities. We believe there are mutual benefits in promoting &amp; achieving greater support to care for the local environment and support the Trust. Angling has proven ability to deliver community benefits, improved health &amp; well being, social inclusion and outcomes for young people.</b>					
25	<i>Fisheries &amp; angling participation at selected Waterway Festival &amp; Open days as NFAT resources allow e.g. Dewsbury Water Festival</i>	<i>Provide and manage relevant fisheries and angling display material through framework contractor, staff &amp; volunteers; may include angling try it sessions</i>	<i>Liaise with other teams over planned events</i>	<i>Press</i>	<i>Potential to be involved as volunteers and promote the local club existence &amp; angling opportunities. CAAGs.</i>
26	<i>Establish a programme of Fish Rescue (fisheries management) Education Open days – FREDs.</i>	<i>Identify suitable locations. Plan relevant structure &amp; content of days, and deliver as required in conjunction with fisheries management framework contractor.</i>	<i>Liaise with NFAT over drain down programme once confirmed by national delivery teams.</i>	<i>Education team - help with preparation &amp; promotion &amp; running of the programme  Communications team - promotion &amp; publicity.</i>	<i>Offer volunteers to help out if required  Promote days and opportunities for involvement</i>

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<b>Theme 4 – Take advantage of the opportunities for volunteering &amp; adoptions. Fisheries &amp; angling interests already make a valuable contribution to the network. We believe there are more opportunities if we can harness the interest, enthusiasm and commitment of anglers, angling clubs and fisheries interests by working in partnership.</b>					
27	<p><i>In partnership with the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust, roll out the Voluntary Bailiffing Service as part of managing Waterway Wanderers scheme.</i></p> <p><i>Note – individuals do not have to be an angler to become involved in this activity.</i></p>	<p><i>Manage the Voluntary Bailiff service volunteers</i></p> <p><i>Develop training programme with Angling Trust</i></p> <p><i>Represent the Trust on the Angling Trust &amp; Environment Agency VBS Board</i></p>	<p><i>Be aware of new service</i></p> <p><i>Establish rapport and relationships</i></p>		<p><i>Promote and encourage volunteers to take part to achieve access to warranted officers.</i></p> <p><i>Clubs to report incidents to police to allow build up of intelligence &amp; information which can be used to initiate action.</i></p> <p><i>Angling Trust</i></p> <p><i>Environment Agency</i></p>
28	<p><i>Recognise &amp; formalise the existing volunteering effort carried out by angling clubs.</i></p>	<p><i>Review current volunteering effort to distinguish between contractual obligations as set out in agreements and additional activity which could be classified as volunteering.</i></p>	<p><i>Develop volunteering opportunities alongside NFAT.</i></p> <p><i>Keep records of volunteering effort and provide regularly to NFAT</i></p>		<p><i>NAAG consultation on policy &amp; opportunity to grow volunteering</i></p>

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29	<i>Assess how angling clubs can increase their Volunteering contribution to help maintaining the canal infrastructure and help improve habitats for fish and other wildlife</i>	<i>Produce &amp; promote guidance on how angling clubs can contribute to CRT objectives on volunteering. Technical guidance for fisheries management aspects</i>	<i>Facilitate and manage local delivery</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to engage with membership &amp; public on the opportunities</i>
30	<i>Recruit volunteer mooring wardens to assist the boating team with overstaying continuous cruisers &amp; other mooring issues</i>	<i>Work with boating &amp; enforcement to identify role for volunteering by angling clubs to check overstaying boats on different types of moorings.</i>		<i>Boating - enforce new regulations relating to continuous cruising. Enforcement</i>	<i>Club volunteers to be trained if role agreed with relevant teams.</i>
31	<i>Introduce an annual volunteer of the year award in recognition of outstanding contribution to maintaining &amp; improving CRT Fisheries &amp; Angling interests</i>	<i>Set up criteria &amp; process for identification.</i>	<i>Support with local feedback &amp; knowledge.</i>	<i>Volunteering</i>	<i>Support process for identification. Seek nominations once introduced.</i>
32	<i>Review the standard angling agreement to ensure it is kept up to date with new developments e.g. changes in legislation, volunteering.</i>	<i>Implement changes as new agreements are renewed</i>		<i>Legal NAAG</i>	

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<b>Theme 5 – Improving communications between the Trust and its angling customers. We recognise we need to improve our dialogue with anglers and fisheries interests, raise awareness of the benefits of fisheries &amp; angling to a wider audience and a better appreciation and awareness amongst different users of the aspirations, impacts and shared opportunities that exist across them all.</b>					
33	'Meet the teams' who deliver locally - publicize key local waterway team members and contact details and make readily available to clubs to aid improved communication and information sharing; clubs to provide and update information to NFAT team	Pass local club details on to WW	Provide contact details to clubs		Clubs to update details as required
34	Improve local communication between the waterway and local angling clubs over events, works and future works programmes e.g. dredging, towpath closure, vegetation management, changes to water levels etc that will affect the fishery, in good time and ensure angling clubs are included in the consultation process as part of wider stakeholder consultation on planning issues.	Fisheries Management Technical guidance  Promote use of social media to promote angling events	WW team to provide routes for communication. WW manager to take forward for local stakeholder consultation. Waterway Forums need to include anglers as invitees and a fisheries and angling section on the agenda	Environment Operations & Assets inform club when the work is led by them	Clubs to keep contact details up to date with NFAT & engage when given the opportunity

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35	Angling clubs to notify their local Events Coordinator of all forthcoming angling related events in order to reduce the risk of clashing with other competing events.	Periodically remind customers of the benefits and mechanism for notification	Waterway to issue Customer Advice Notice & help promote once informed by Events Coordinator.		Clubs to inform events coordinator as appropriate. Where a fishing competition is planned with 100 or more competitors complete the formal event application process to the Waterway Event Coordinator. (Clause 4.1.9 of standard agreement)
36	<i>Establishment of a NE waterway FAAP Steering Group comprised of 4-5 members representing the range of the geographic area; to act as ambassadors for the FAAP, promote to partnership Board &amp; advise on business planning priorities</i>	<i>Facilitate &amp; support with WW</i>	<i>Liaise with NFAT</i>		<i>Representatives from angling Clubs River Trusts Angling Trust CAAGs</i>
37	<i>Consider the establishment of an annual Fisheries &amp; Angling customer forum to highlight forthcoming work &amp; receive feedback on the fishery.</i>	<i>Compile list of guest speakers to help make forums more attractive to new audiences</i>	<i>Support from Development &amp; Engagement Manager</i>		<i>Representatives from angling Clubs River Trusts Angling Trust</i>
38	<i>Improvements to the Fisheries &amp; Angling website with improved layout</i>			<i>Web team</i>	

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	<p><i>&amp; content, photographs, ease of navigation &amp; to include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introduction of a weekly fisheries &amp; angling update of events, matches &amp; their results and news.</i></li> <li>.....</li> <li>- <i>More club information &amp; increased connectivity between them.</i></li> <li>- <i>details of licenced water</i></li> <li>.....</li> <li>- <i>new pages to include fish species guide, looking after our fish, learn to fish, the history &amp; heritage of angling</i></li> <li>.....</li> </ul>	<p><i>Promote opportunity to clubs.</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Lead on collection of data</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Work with partners to collect material</i></p> <p>.....</p>		<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Environment</i></p> <p>.....</p>	<p><i>Clubs to provide match result and catch data, forthcoming events to NFAT volunteer on a weekly basis</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Smithhill School John Essex Tony Keeling MEM Fisheries</i></p> <p>.....</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>how to report an emergency</i></li> <li>- <i>common questions &amp; answers</i></li> </ul>	<i>Lead on collection of material</i>			
39	<i>Promote and adopt social media platforms e.g. Twitter, Facebook</i>	<i>Adopt these tools routinely for CRT communications.</i> <i>Encourage take up in clubs.</i> <i>Arrange suitable training for angling clubs who express an interest.</i>			<i>Encourage and adopt new communications channels</i> <i>Publicize and encourage training opportunities and benefits</i>
40	<i>Production &amp; promotion of Fisheries &amp; Angling e newsletter – to be published 4 times per year to angling clubs and anglers who register their contact details to receive it</i>	<i>Manage production process.</i> <i>Build up and maintain database of contacts.</i>			<i>Clubs to encourage members to sign up to receive, provide feedback and ideas for future content</i>
41	<i>Explore opportunities for increased partnership working with the Environment Agency to increase the profile of each organisation, their work and future project opportunities.</i>	<i>Set up regular contact with EA.</i> <i>Promote work in newsletters</i>			<i>Clubs to bring forward potential projects</i>

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42	<i>Work with partners to develop a national web based teaching programme as a basic introduction to canal fishing</i>	<i>Lead on the development of material with specialist support as required from the NAAG subgroup.</i>		<i>Web team to help promote Environment</i>	<i>Smithills School, Bolton Angling Trust NAAG</i>
43	<i>Improved promotion of fisheries and angling to achieve a higher profile both internally and externally.</i>	<i>Liaise with Communications Team regarding fisheries and angling benefits, and provide material which endorses this approach. Investigate opportunities to promote fisheries &amp; angling benefits to 'Friends of the Trust' Target the biggest clubs locally to build rapport and improved relationships.</i>	<i>Take opportunities to include fisheries &amp; angling content in printed, display and exhibition material</i>	<i>Communications</i>	<i>Clubs to offer support where possible.</i>
44	<i>Develop materials for a specialist fisheries &amp; angling stand for CRT events</i>	<i>Develop materials. Develop &amp; train a team of volunteers to help man an exhibition stand. Seek volunteers through clubs and newsletter.</i>		<i>Volunteering</i>	<i>Clubs to seek volunteers</i>

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45	<p><i>Communication with non-anglers to achieve a broader understanding of the benefits that fisheries &amp; angling provide.</i></p>	<p><i>Provide material and advertorials to other sources e.g. boating and waterway, cycling, walking magazines and websites.</i></p> <p><i>Provide guidance to internal teams on the benefits of angling and nature and importance of fisheries as aquatic ecosystems.</i></p> <p><i>Attend other Waterway Customer group meetings and Forums, provide expert guidance, advice and support, presentations.</i></p> <p><i>Run angling taster days for CRT staff, Partnership Board, volunteers.</i></p>		<p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p><i>Provide local stories and information to support</i></p>
46	<p><i>Communication with public on the history &amp; heritage of fisheries &amp; angling</i></p>	<p><i>Provide Fisheries &amp; Angling information to the waterway museums</i></p>		<p><i>G. Boxer, Head of Museums</i></p>	<p><i>J. Essex</i></p>

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		<p><i>to promote history, current and future use.</i></p> <p><i>Develop &amp; promote Welcome Station Leaflet locally</i></p>			

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<b>Theme 6 - Funding - we know that by working in partnership to realise the extensive benefits angling can provide that we can attract funding to deliver angling projects. We will need to be innovative in seeking new funding opportunities.</b>					
47	Through collective and cooperative working across clubs identify common needs and actions and develop packages of projects against which funding bids can be built	Provide fisheries management technical guidance Support bid writing through National Angling Development Manager	Development & Engagement Manager to develop & deliver projects at waterway level.	Enterprise Environment	Clubs to identify work areas, cooperate, agree priorities and help write bids. LA EA SE
48	<i>Take opportunities to generate angling income from CRT fishing rights where they are currently not let to a licenced angling club – Naburn Lock, River Ouse</i>	<i>Meet local stuff to discuss current arrangements. Put in formal arrangement with paying customer club</i>	<i>Local waterway team</i>		<i>York &amp; DAC</i>
49	<i>Encourage clubs to develop project proposals to improve fisheries &amp; increase participation and to bid for funds from the Angling Trust Angling &amp; Fishery Improvement Fund</i>	<i>Support bids which meet the criteria laid out by Angling Trust</i>	<i>Waterway to be kept informed of proposals to avoid duplication.</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Angling Trust Environment Agency All clubs</i>
50	<i>Encourage clubs to develop project proposals to improve fisheries &amp; increase participation and to bid for funds from the Sport England Small</i>	<i>Support bids which meet the criteria laid out by Sport England</i>		<i>Enterprise</i>	<i>Sport England Angling Trust Environment Agency</i>

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	<i>Grants fund and Inspired Facilities Fund</i>				
51	<i>Develop new income streams where possible e.g. evolution of Waterway Wanderers scheme into Angling Friends.</i>	<i>Provide expertise to fundraising team so that potential friends product is appropriate for likely friends customer base.</i>		<i>Enterprise</i>	<i>NAAG advice</i>
52	<i>Organize local appeals to raise funds for small local projects that will make a difference to the lives of local people and wildlife</i>	<i>Identify suitable projects</i>	<i>Take the lead on local appeals.</i>	<i>Enterprise</i>	<i>Clubs to identify possible projects</i>
53	<i>Make clubs aware that waterway wanderers water is available to rent.</i>	<i>Put details on Fisheries &amp; Angling website</i>		<i>Web</i>	

## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

In **theme seven**, we are looking to improve the opportunities for upstream and downstream fish movement at structures along the waterway, incorporating salmon and eel fish passes:



Knostrop weir - a fish pass needed here!



Cooper Bridge with salmon and eel pass

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	<p><b>Theme 7 - Fish passage and Migration - We will continue to identify structures which are barriers to fish migration and which are limiting fish spawning and distribution. The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 sets standards for a broader definition of water quality including ecological issues such as fish passage to be achieved by 2027 through a series of 6-yearly Plans. The Trust is required to “have regard to” the actions set out in the Plans; The Eels Regulations 2009 give the Environment Agency powers to serve notice requiring construction of eel passes to provide access to habitat for elvers or access to the sea for mature eels. We will need to work with a range of statutory and non statutory partners to develop proposals on a site by site basis including identifying possible funding sources.</b></p>				
54	<p><i>Investigate options and opportunities to improve fish passage at sites notified to us by the Environment Agency under the Water Framework Directive regulations, where 'good status' for fish stocks cannot be achieved because of barriers to fish passage:</i></p> <p><u>SSYN:</u>  <i>Jordans Weir            Rotherham Weir            Aldwarke            Kilnhurst            Calder &amp; Hebble:</i></p> <p><i>Anchor Pit            Cooper Bridge            Myrtle Cottage</i></p>	<p><i>Review list of structures from Environment team to confirm presence/absence of these.            Provide fisheries management technical advice            Prioritise across CRT and EA            Consult with clubs            Support programmes of work to allow fish movement over identified barriers to migration.</i></p>	<p>Promote &amp; raise awareness with partners.</p>	<p><b>Environment-lead</b>  <i>Operations &amp;            Assets            Enterprise            Fundraising            Heritage</i></p>	<p><i>Environment Agency            Rivers Trusts            Riparian Owners            Natural England            Clubs            Barn Energy</i></p>



## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

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	<i>Battysford Ledgard Greenwood Broad Cut Kirkgate Bridge Thornes Wakefield Aire &amp; Calder Leeds Knostrap Thwaite Mills Lemonroyd Skelton Grange Ferrybridge Beal weir Haddlesey Ure – Boroughbridge Ure/Ouse – Linton Don - Thryborough</i>				
55	<i>Investigate options and opportunities at sites notified to us by the Environment Agency as “Critical” sites for eel passage under the Eels Regulations : River Weir 3, Thwaite Mills</i>	<i>Review list of structures from Environment team. Prioritise across CRT &amp; EA Fisheries management technical advice.</i>	<i>Promote &amp; raise awareness with partners.</i>	<b>Environment-lead</b> <i>Operations &amp; Assets Enterprise Fundraising Heritage</i>	<i>Environment Agency Rivers Trusts Riparian Owners Natural England Clubs</i>

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	Kilnhurst Horbury Junction / Calder Grove Haddlesey Nayburn Kilnhirst Aldwarke Weir River Weir 1, Ferrybridge Rotherham Weir Lower Altofts / Penbank Jordans Dam River Weir 2, Kirkthorpe Greenwood Weir Ledgard Weir	<i>Consult with clubs.            Support programmes of work to allow fish movement over identified barriers to migration.</i>			

## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

Some of the non-native species affecting our waterway are shown below, and our actions to tackle them described in theme 8.



Signal crayfish



Floating Pennywort



Cormorant

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No.	Action	Role of the CRT National Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the CRT Waterway Team (WW)	Role of other CRT team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
	<b>Theme 8 – Predation &amp; Non-native Species. Predation and the presence of non-native species can both impact on the ability of anglers to carry out their sport and have an adverse impact on the ecology of the waterbody. We need to better understand the distribution of all these species, work with experts to identify control options and limit their spread. Angling clubs can take advantage of the volunteering options that this theme offers in particular.</b>				
56	<i>Ensure all waterway customers and all CRT routine day to day activities do not spread non-native species</i>	<i>Lead communication with clubs and include in routine communications e.g. newsletter, to encourage adoption of the 'check, clean and dry' message, and incorporate into environmental appraisal process</i>	<i>Adopt the 'check, clean and dry' message</i>	<i>Boating Communications Environment All Trust teams that work in the field.</i>	<i>Clubs to communicate with members</i>
57	Review non-native presence at following locations & options for control if required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Japanese knotweed – River Don, River Calder, Battysford Canal,</li> <li>• Himalayan Balsam - River Don, River Calder, Aire &amp; Calder (Kings Road Bridge, Altofts; M62 Bridge to Fingers boat moorings)</li> </ul>	Pass on details to other teams	Carry out operational activities as identified by NFAT and Environment	Environment	Kilnhurst & DAA, Mirfield AC Old Bank AC Mirfield AC Wakefield AC Mirfield AC

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floating pennywort, River Calder Navigation, Calder &amp; Hebble</li> <li>• Giant hogweed, River Calder Navigation,</li> <li>• Mink, Calder &amp; Hebble</li> <li>• Excess weed growth @ Pocklington Canal</li> <li>• Azolla – Huddersfield Broad Canal</li> </ul>				Environment Agency Natural England Angling Trust
58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cormorants @ Calder &amp; Hebble &amp; throughout waterway</i></li> </ul>	<i>Consult with local fishing clubs and waterway teams and seek advice, input &amp; support from Fisheries Management Advisors of Angling Trust on catchment approach and techniques to use</i>  <i>- Authorise the use of non lethal techniques for scaring, on a waterway basis, to reduce the impact of piscivorous birds on fish stocks</i>		Environment	Environment Agency Angling Trust Natural England

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No.	Action	Role of the CRT National Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the CRT Waterway Team (WW)	Role of other CRT team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
		<i>where CRT owns fishing rights, in consultation with other regulatory bodies, partners and fishing clubs</i>			
59	Signal crayfish, Kirklees Cut, River Calder Navigation, Calder & Hebble	<i>Log information available. Liaise with Environment Team. Approve requests for applications for crayfish trapping to the Environment Agency on CRT owned/managed fisheries, including ongoing research on the River Lee.</i>		Environment	Environment Agency Natural England
60	<i>Where mink is identified as a problem</i>	<i>Consider organising a course for clubs (subject to demand) on best practice on how to set mink traps and humane disposal of mink; consider widening invite</i>		Environment	Clubs to register an interest with CRT

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		<i>to clubs in neighbouring areas.</i>			
61	<i>Manage the control options for certain non-native fish species e.g. zander, bitterling, catfish, topmouth gudgeon, motherless minnow, grass carp, ide, sturgeon</i>	<i>Log information available. Liaise with Environment team. Assess &amp; agree management options in discussion with regulatory authorities. Implement action as required</i>		<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to inform NFAT of non-native species Environment Agency Defra.</i>

## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

Our canals hold a wide variety of species, some of which are protected through legislation:



Common bream



Chub



Roach



Lamprey



## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

No.	Action	Role of the CRT National Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the CRT Waterway Team (WW)	Role of other CRT team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
	<b>Theme 9 – Fish stocks &amp; Fisheries Management. Good fishing relies on having healthy fish populations. Fish provide the basis of an extensive food web and several protected species rely on fish for their food. We will strive to maintain the standards set by legislation including for those fish and sites with special protection.</b>				
62	<i>Establishment of joint working group between NFAT, Waterway &amp; Environment teams by creating an environmental partnership to identify protection for bank and channel vegetation, and creation of new habitat where none is suitable on the Aire &amp; Calder Navigation</i>	<i>Facilitate &amp; support</i>	<i>Support site meeting &amp; joint working</i>	<i>Environment – support site meeting &amp; joint working</i>	<i>Walton AC Boothferry Joint AC</i>
63	Implement improvements to offside vegetation as agreed with club - Fish refuge construction X4 @ Calder & Hebble Navigation, upstream Brookfoot lock,	Fisheries Technical Management Advice	Arrange site meeting, agree options. Arrange into work programmes and schedules as appropriate	Environment	Opportunity for club volunteers
64	Off side vegetation planting @ Aire & Calder, Kings Rd lock to Birkwood lock	Fisheries Technical Management Advice	Attend site meeting as required		Mirfield AC to agree works with WW
65	<i>Develop &amp; implement appropriate management strategies to improve fish habitat e.g. provision of far bank refuges such as floating rafts &amp; spawning boards</i>	<i>Liaise across CRT teams to identify opportunities &amp; plan implementation as appropriate</i>	<i>Facilitate &amp; engage with improvements where possible using Trust teams &amp; volunteers</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to see if volunteers available to help implement River Trusts Wildlife trusts Landowners</i>

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66	<i>Pocklington Canal- support restoration of the fishery, including desilting &amp; vegetation control</i>	<i>Fisheries management technical advice</i>		<i>Restoration Enterprise Heritage Funding Operations &amp; assets</i>	<i>York &amp; DAA Natural England Wildlife Trust</i>
67	<i>Ensure the fishery resource is protected from potential adverse impact e.g. dredging, vegetation management, water level lowering, fish rescues and pollutions, spawning habitat protection</i>	<i>Develop the Fisheries &amp; Angling section of the Environmental Appraisal Policy.</i>		<i>Environment Operations &amp; Asset Waterways</i>	<i>Clubs to act as eyes and ears and report incidents</i>
<i>Publicize &amp; raise awareness to ensure compliance.</i>					
<i>Implement training programme for CRT operatives who undertake small scale fish rescues as part of lock stoppages – to include use of pumps in locks guidance.</i>					
		<i>Provide fisheries management technical</i>		<i>Environment</i>	<i>Environment Agency Rivers Trusts</i>

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	<p><i>Advice &amp; support on fisheries &amp; angling including</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>protected fish species e.g. eel, bullhead, crucian carp, spined loach, brook &amp; river lamprey, brown trout, Twaite &amp; Allis shad, salmon</i></li> <li>- <i>&amp; sites</i></li> </ul> <p><i>to Development &amp; Engagement managers, Operations &amp; Asset, Waterways</i></p>	<p><i>advice on planning applications and other teams on developments likely to have an impact on fish stocks e.g. hydropower</i></p> <hr/> <p><i>Identify locations where fish stocks are poor</i></p> <p><i>Liaise with Environment &amp; Waterway team and local clubs over possible reasons and options for change e.g. addressing local predator prey imbalances, habitat improvements, provision of fish refuges,</i></p>		<p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p><i>Natural England</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Offer input &amp; support with local waterway knowledge</i></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><i>Environment Agency</i></p> <p><i>Rivers Trusts</i></p> <p><i>Natural England</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Offer input &amp; support with local waterway knowledge</i></li> </ul>

## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan

No.	Action	Role of the CRT National Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the CRT Waterway Team (WW)	Role of other CRT team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
		<i>restocking and species management</i>			
68	<i>Seek an increased understanding of existing fish stocks for their better protection and restoration, including recording presence of protected species.</i>	<p><i>Develop a methodology for collection of fisheries data, including option of using match catch data, and scale sampling collection</i></p> <p><i>Collate fish population data from fisheries management activities e.g. fish rescues carried out by Fisheries Term Contractor, &amp; provide data to EA where requested.</i></p> <p><i>Provide advice &amp; feedback to local waterway teams and angling clubs on the quality of the local fish stocks</i></p>		<i>Environment</i>	<p><i>Offer input &amp; support with local waterway knowledge, including match catch data where requested, &amp; volunteers to collect scale samples.</i></p> <p><i>Environment Agency</i></p>

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69	<i>Identify sources of fish for restocking and undertake a national programme of restocking meeting local priorities where possible, ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements at all times e.g. ILFA licencing, EA holder site permits, CEFAS regulations</i>	<i>Seek donations of fish from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to improve the Trust's fisheries. Plan &amp; implement through Fisheries management term contractor. Stock fish at: Huddersfield Broad Canal @ Aspley Marina following pollution</i>			<i>Environment Agency Clubs to bring forward suitable locations  Mirfield AC</i>
70	<i>Potential management of pike population on the Huddersfield Broad canal</i>	<i>Fish population survey to establish an accurate estimate of population &amp; implement management plan if required</i>			<i>Mirfield AC</i>
71	<i>Reduce and prevent fish theft &amp; the use of illegal methods to catch fish</i>	<i>Log feedback from voluntary bailiff service, other teams and the public. Liaise with EA over possible actions. Highlight illegal methods on the website.</i>		<i>Act as eyes &amp; ears.</i>	<i>Clubs to act as eyes &amp; ears on the ground. Log &amp; report any incidents observed.</i>

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72	<i>Creating opportunities for high quality specialist fishing opportunities e.g. lure fishing – London FAAP Regents canal.</i>	<i>Identify opportunity, liaise with local clubs to encourage opportunities Manage the fish stocks to support identified fishery</i>	<i>Offer input &amp; support with local waterway knowledge &amp; actions</i>		<i>Lure Canal Angling Society</i>

## North East Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan



We need to prevent the use of illegal instruments to catch fish which can have unforeseen consequences; here, an otter has drowned in an illegally set fyke net – action 71.

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<b>Theme 10 - Fisheries and water quality and quantity - Good fish stocks rely on having adequate levels of water quality and quantity. We will work with partners to identify solutions and take forward actions where these are not of sufficient standard.</b>					
73	Investigate reports of ongoing poor water quality & pollutions at: - Huddersfield Broad Canal, - Bingley arms Road bridge, u/s bridge, from second hand car sales company	Involve NFAT once evidence of fish impact is reasonably likely		Environment - lead	Mirfield AC Wakefield AC
74	Manage water levels for the benefit of fish stocks: - report incidents of low water levels - Fitting of locking mechanisms to prevent operation of paddles and subsequent dewatering & draining affecting fishery @ Huddersfield Broad Canal	Fisheries Management Technical Advice	Discuss with local club to confirm way forward		Clubs to inform WW of incidents Mirfield AC
75	<i>Provide expertise and advice on the impacts on fish of reservoir lowering, drain downs &amp; water transfers &amp; water quality issues</i>	<i>Input technical fisheries management guidance.</i>		<i>Environment</i>	<i>Club to act as eyes and ears and report any incidents of pollution, distressed &amp; dead fish to EA (0800 807060) &amp; CRT Fisheries &amp; Angling/Environment teams.</i>



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					<i>Clubs to inform Environment team and Environment Agency if pollution apparent but no fish in distress</i>
76	<i>Clarity on who to contact in the event of fish being in distress or dead</i>	<p><i>Promote externally reporting routes via angling newsletter &amp; on NFAT website</i></p> <p><i>Internally, ensure internal colleagues are aware that NFAT are informed when fish are reported as distressed/dead - through environmental section of Toolbox Talk, Source, EIA process</i></p>	<i>Liaise with NFAT during incident and help implement any necessary actions locally</i>		<p><i>Club to act as eyes and ears and report any incidents of pollution, distressed &amp; dead fish to EA (0800 807060) &amp; CRT Fisheries &amp; Angling/Environment teams.</i></p> <p><i>Clubs to inform Environment team and Environment Agency if pollution apparent but no fish in distress</i></p>

## Fisheries & Angling in the Trust – A National Overview

- The Trust is responsible for looking after over 2000 miles of canal and river fisheries (aquatic ecosystems in which fish can live) and around 70 reservoir fisheries.
- Lead by the Fisheries & Angling team, the Trust is responsible for the protection of the £40 million worth of fish stocks present in our fisheries.
- This is essential both for the health of the wider ecosystem and the organisms that depend on fish for food and also, equally importantly for the sport of angling.
- We own the fishing rights on the majority of our fisheries, making us the largest owners of fishing rights in the UK.
- We currently have 224 angling club customers on the canal network. These clubs have a combined membership of around 61,000.
- We have around 30 stillwater and reservoir club customers. These clubs have a combined membership of 20,000 members.
- We directly manage nine reservoirs and estimate that around 20,000 different individuals visit these reservoirs each year.
- We have an annual income of circa £550k which we seek to maintain and increase
- The volunteer bailiffing effort is valued at around £1.5 million p.a.
- We launched our angling strategy 'Be Inspired, Go Fishing' in September 2013 to get more people going fishing more often and to increase the wider benefits we know angling can provide.

## The National Fisheries & Angling Team

The National Fisheries & Angling Team comprises a

- National Fisheries & Angling Manager - John Ellis
- Fisheries & Angling Manager - Carl Nicholls
- Fisheries & Angling Manager – Paul Breslin
- Fisheries Co-ordinator - Barbara Wilder

The Role of the National Fisheries and Angling Team

- Negotiation and management of the legal arrangements between customer clubs and the Trust
- Day to day client management of all the angling club customers
- Management of the Trusts commercial fisheries portfolio
- Management of the Waterway Wanderers scheme.
- The development and ongoing management of Fisheries & Angling Action Plans
- Contract management of the fisheries management framework term contract.
- Management of the Trusts fish restocking programme.
- Management and responsibility of the planned and emergency fish rescues including those associated with dredging and pollutions.
- Development of the sport of angling and angling management.
- Management of external and partner relations including the Advisory group, Angling Trust, Rivers Trusts, Environment Agency & APPAG.