



Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan 2015

Authors

National Fisheries & Angling Team

Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Waterway Team

Local Fisheries & Angling Stakeholders



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 a workshop held on the 18th March 2015 with invitees from a wide range of clubs and organisations associated with fisheries and angling in

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the Manchester, Pennine & Potteries waterway area, 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.**

Many of 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 and 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.



Manchester Bury & Bolton Canal at Little Lever – a proposed flagship project site to manage the vegetation to allow fishing – action 2



Manchester Bury & Bolton Canal - a proposed flagship project site to make it suitable for fishing – action 2

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	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.				
1	Provision of improved signage at the following locations: Rochdale Canal Lock 13-51	Confirm the national guidelines for design & wording and make available the details of the national contract, confirming availability through e newsletter	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	<p>Flagship project – short term - Enhancement of a section of the Rochdale Canal within Todmorden AC licenced fishery– to enable the fishery to meet the criteria required to be considered for the Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Qualifying heat for the 2016 Canal Pairs Championship</p> <p>Flagship Project – Medium term– Manchester Bury & Bolton Canal, Knob End to Little Lever – managing aquatic vegetation to enable use of facility for angling for existing club and location for the development of Smithills School Angling Club</p>	<p>Fish population analysis to ensure fish stock suitability for match fishing. Restore fish stocks following unplanned dewaterings.</p> <p>Lead on finding the solution to managing the vegetation - probably by stocking</p>	<p>Waterway supervisor Development & Engagement Manager</p> <p>Development & Engagement Manager Waterway supervisor</p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>Environment</p>	<p>Todmorden AC</p> <p>Bolton DAA Environment Agency Smithills School</p>

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	Flagship project - Long Term – Restoring 5 miles of the Manchester, Bury & Bolton Canal in the Radcliffe area to make it suitable for angling activity which will help to put fisheries & angling at the heart of a larger integrated volunteer led restoration project. - Phase 1 restore a short length to make suitable for fishing in short term, and organise an event to celebrate the initial success	Technical Fisheries Management Advice. Agree licencing arrangements with club. Agree volunteering component of project with Volunteer Development Coordinator (VDC)	Development & Engagement Manager. Management of the volunteer effort. Support from VDC	Environment	Little Britain AC Environment Agency Local Authority Manchester, Bury & Bolton Canal Society Mersey Basin Rivers Trust
3	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 <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event signage to warn/inform users in advance & on the day 	Specific actions to include: <hr/> <i>Develop a template sign/banner for use at angling matches to inform other</i>	<hr/> <i>Issue advice notices via CRT notices & post on social media</i>	<hr/> <i>Communications Press office</i>	National Angling Advisory Group to advise on policy issues <hr/> <i>Clubs to adopt and post at agreed locations on site.</i>

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		<i>customers that a competition is in progress, and make available to clubs.</i>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towpath design, restoration & management 	Raise awareness of new towpath policy and support	Implement towpath policy - 'Better Towpath for Everyone – a national policy for sharing towpaths'. Monitor project in East Midlands on provision of bells to cyclists prior to adoption if successful.		Clubs to share with members and identify potential volunteer towpath rangers to promote safe and considerate behaviour.
		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	Customer Services Project managers	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish closer links & improve communication with the angling community. 	Ensuring regular attendance at Local waterway forums	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.
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>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>
6	<i>Improved safety & security to overcome fear of crime and increase personal safety, especially in urban areas</i>	<i>Implement regular patrols by the Voluntary Bailiff Service (see theme 4 below).</i>	<i>Through Development & Engagement Manager develop options and</i>		<i>Identify & assess high risk areas & nature of crimes, liaise with WW</i>

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		<i>Work with development & Engagement Manager to identify joint opportunities for local community involvement.</i>	<i>opportunities with local communities, clubs, partners and police to identify solutions</i>		
7	<i>Implement regional component of National Canal, Junior championship and other potential events e.g. National Lure canal championships</i>	<i>Establish a programme with the clubs in close partnership with the Angling Trust; share information with waterway and communications teams; help secure additional funding if possible through Fundraising.</i>	<i>Supporting & assisting on the ground issues e.g. temporary towpath diversions, event notification etc</i>	<i>Press</i>	<i>Clubs to apply. Angling Trust Competitions Committee for National Championships. Canal Championship Committee.</i>
8	<i>Work with Polish, Lithuanian and other migrant communities to integrate & 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 & assist local events & activities to spread message. Create photo opportunities & 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 multi lingual signs on fishery laws; Incident reporting and Angling Trust involvement</i>

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					and support can come from contacting radoslaw.papiewski@anglingtrust.net
9	To address the low participation rate of young people in angling, develop an annual local angling participation plan – the Go Fish Campaign - taster sessions, tie in with local events & open days	Lead on development & delivery, including availability of coaches, source equipment, encourage clubs to participate. Liaison with local partners to develop, identify funding opportunities. Link to Waterway Engagement Plan to help focus on key locations & communities.	Link to Waterway Engagement Plan to help focus on key locations & communities. Assist with local preparation.	Enterprise Funding	Angling Trust County Angling Action Groups Sport England Local Authority Angling clubs
10	Investigate opportunities to take part in angling through Sport England's Sportivate programme: Sportivate is aimed at people who are not particularly sporty but would like to play more sport. The programme offers six-to-eight weeks' worth of coaching sessions in a variety of sports including judo, rowing, tennis,	Work with partners to identify how clubs could benefit from taking part in this programme. Communicate with clubs.		Fundraising	Clubs to engage with NFAT & volunteer to take part. Angling Trust Environment Agency Sport England

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	<p>wakeboarding, free running and many more.</p> <p>The sessions will be free or subsidised so participants do not have to pay much to take part.</p>				
11	Development & distribution of a leaflet describing local fishing opportunities at high footfall locations, known as 'Welcome Stations'	Set out design criteria & provide content, including images. Confirm details with affected clubs	Waterway to support leaflet development & use at events & festivals.	Communications	Clubs to confirm details
12	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	Lobby for its removal at locations where the towpath is available for other CRT customers	Support national team & clubs.	Environment	Environment Agency Natural England
13	Open up sections of canal where angling is not currently permitted e.g. due to presence of power lines	Undertake site specific risk assessment with local H&S adviser. Subject to satisfactory outcome, reinstate the fishery.	Waterway to be involved in site specific risk assessment & implement agreed measures on the ground.	H&S team to risk assess with local electricity company & NFAT	Clubs to inform NFAT of sites that require investigating

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		<i>Represent CRT on National Overhead Power lines and safety working group</i>			
14	<i>Development of customer service standards for fisheries & angling nationally.</i>	<i>Fisheries management technical advice.</i>	<i>Contribute to development of CSS</i>	<i>Customer Service team</i>	<i>National Angling Advisory Group (NAAG) consultation</i>
15	<i>Promote, using improved communication tools, new 'fashions' in angling e.g. lure fishing.</i>	<i>Produce articles for CRT website & 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>

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Proud recipients of their fishing certificates following a day's tuition on the Rochdale Canal –action 9.

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Towpaths are a multi use environment where consideration of others for all users is important. Our new towpath policy¹ (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.

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

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Theme 2 – Develop & 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.					
16	Investigate reports where access to the fishery has been impaired, stopped or changed, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Footpath access from road to canal blocked at Summit Lock 36-37 by Rudge 	Once notified, liaise with WW to determine causes and any subsequent action Facilitate on site meeting and identification of solutions.	Liaise with NFAT Attend on site meetings Communicate decisions to clubs.		Clubs to inform CRT of incidents for Investigation Rochdale Council Todmorden to provide more details
17	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 & 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

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18	In partnership with local businesses identify parking for one off or weekend events		Development & Engagement Manager to engage with local interests to identify potential opportunities.		Clubs to seek early input & advice from CRT when planning large events
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>NFAT to liaise with WW once feedback received from club Provide fisheries management technical advice</i>	<i>Support volunteers work & provide materials & training where appropriate.</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to confirm number and location to NFAT & WW Identify volunteers to carry out</i>
20	<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>
21	<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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	Theme 3 – The opportunities to engage with local communities. We believe there are mutual benefits in promoting & achieving greater support to care for the local environment and support the Trust. Angling has proven ability to deliver community benefits, improved health & well being, social inclusion and outcomes for young people.				
22	<i>Work with local groups e.g. health & well being groups, Community Development Foundation, Clinical Commissioning Group, National Health service, the Charity Trust, to use angling as a tool to provide health & community benefits</i>	<i>Take lead role in exploring opportunities & options with partners</i>	<i>Development & Engagement Manager to assist with development of contacts and project development.</i>		<i>Clubs to come forward to be involved.</i>
23	<i>Maximize opportunities for Fisheries & angling participation at selected Waterway Festival & Open days as NFAT resources allow</i>	<i>Provide and manage relevant fisheries and angling display material through framework contractor, staff & volunteers; may include angling try it sessions</i>	<i>Liaise with other teams over planned events e.g. festivals</i>	<i>Press</i>	<i>Potential to be involved as volunteers and promote the local club existence & angling opportunities. CAAGs.</i>
24	<i>Establish a programme of Fish Rescue Education open days – FREDs.</i>	<i>Identify suitable locations in discussion with WW. Plan relevant structure & 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 help with preparation & promotion & running of the programme Communications - promotion & publicity.</i>	<i>Offer volunteers to help out if required Promote days and opportunities for involvement</i>

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Theme 4 – Take advantage of the opportunities for volunteering & adoptions. Anglers 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 and angling clubs by working in partnership.					
25	<i>Recognise & formalise the existing volunteering effort carried out by angling clubs.</i>	<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>	<i>Develop volunteering opportunities alongside NFAT. Keep records of volunteering effort and provide regularly to NFAT</i>	<i>Volunteering team to contribute to development</i>	<i>NAAG consultation on policy & opportunity to grow volunteering</i>
26	<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 & promote guidance on how angling clubs can contribute to CRT objectives on volunteering. Fisheries management technical guidance.</i>	<i>Facilitate, coordinate and manage local delivery across different volunteer groups</i>	<i>Environment National Volunteering</i>	<i>Clubs to engage with membership & public on the opportunities. Community Volunteer Service, Challenge, youth organisations</i>
27	<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>	<i>Manage the Voluntary Bailiff service volunteers Develop training programme with Angling Trust</i>	<i>Be aware of new service Establish rapport and relationships</i>		<i>Promote and encourage volunteers to take part to achieve access to warranted officers. Clubs to report incidents to police to allow build up of</i>

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		<i>Represent the Trust on the Angling Trust & Environment Agency VBS Board</i>			<i>intelligence & information which can be used to initiate action Angling Trust Environment Agency Local police CPOs</i>
28	<i>Introduce an annual volunteer of the year award in recognition of outstanding contribution to maintaining & improving CRT Fisheries & Angling interests</i>	<i>Set up criteria & process for identification.</i>	<i>Support with local feedback & knowledge.</i>	<i>Volunteering</i>	<i>Support process for identification. Seek nominations once introduced.</i>
29	<i>Recruit volunteer mooring wardens to assist the boating team with overstaying continuous cruisers & other mooring issues</i>	<i>Work with boating & 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>
30	<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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Theme - 5 – Improving communication between the Trust and its customers. We recognise we need to improve our dialogue with anglers, raise awareness of the benefits of fisheries & 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.					
31	'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
32	Improve local communication between the waterway and local angling clubs over events, incidents, project developments and future works programmes and ensure angling clubs are included in the consultation process as part of wider stakeholder consultation on planning issues. (see also action 61 – environmental appraisal policy)	Fisheries Management Technical guidance	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		Clubs to keep contact details up to date with NFAT & engage when given the opportunity

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33	Angling clubs to notify the National 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)
34	<i>Establishment of a Manchester, Pennine & Potteries 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 & advise on business planning priorities</i>	<i>Facilitate & support with WW.</i>	<i>Liaise with NFAT</i>		<i>Representatives from angling Clubs River Trusts Angling Trust CAAGs Environment Agency</i>
35	<i>Consider the establishment of an annual Fisheries & Angling customer forum to highlight forthcoming work & 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 & Engagement Manager</i>		<i>Representatives from angling Clubs River Trusts Angling Trust</i>

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36	<p><i>Improvements to the Fisheries & Angling website with improved layout & content, photographs, ease of navigation & to include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Introduction of a weekly fisheries & angling update of events, matches & their results and news.</i> - <i>More club information & increased connectivity between them.</i> - <i>details of licenced water</i> - <i>new pages to include fish species guide, looking after our fish, learn to fish, the history & heritage of angling</i> - <i>how to report an emergency</i> - <i>common questions & answers</i> 	<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><i>Lead on development of information</i></p> <p>.....</p>		<p><i>Web team</i></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><i>Clubs to provide any data gaps</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p><i>Smithhill School</i> <i>John Essex</i> <i>MEM Fisheries</i></p> <p>.....</p>

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		<i>Make the waterway Code of Practice available on the website</i>			
37	<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>
38	<i>Promote and adopt social media platforms e.g. Twitter, Facebook</i>	<i>Adopt these tools routinely for CRT communications. Encourage take up in clubs. Arrange suitable training for angling clubs who express an interest.</i>			<i>Encourage and adopt new communications channels Publicize and encourage training opportunities and benefits</i>
39	<i>Production & Promotion of Fisheries & 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. 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>
40	<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. Promote work in newsletters</i>			<i>Clubs to bring forward potential projects</i>

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41	<i>Improved promotion of fisheries & angling locally e.g. Waterway offices</i>	<i>Provide technical support</i>	<i>Take opportunities to include fisheries & angling content in printed, display and exhibition material</i>		
42	<i>Develop materials for a specialist fisheries & angling stand for CRT events</i>	<i>Develop materials. Develop & 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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43	<p><i>Communication with non-anglers to achieve a broader understanding of the benefits that fisheries & 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, Partnership Boards; provide expert guidance, advice and support, presentations.</i></p>	<p><i>Waterway to promote understanding through its network and partners using national material.</i></p>	<p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p><i>Provide local stories and information to support</i></p>
44	<p><i>Communication with public on the history & heritage of fisheries & angling</i></p>	<p><i>Provide Fisheries & Angling information to the waterway museums to promote history, current and future use.</i></p> <p><i>Develop & promote Welcome Station Leaflet locally</i></p>		<p><i>G. Boxer, Head of J. Essex Museums</i></p>	

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45	<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. Run angling taster days for CRT staff, Partnership Board, volunteers.</i>		<i>Communications</i>	

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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.					
46	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.	Fundraising Environment Enterprise	Clubs to identify work areas, cooperate, agree priorities and help write bids. Local Authorities Environment Agency Sport England
47	Work with Salford Friendly AS to access funding to improve their fishery and to see how their experience of accessing funding could be made available to other clubs locally	Provide technical fisheries management advice Continue dialogue with the club to identify opportunities, disseminate through e newsletter or other routes as required		Enterprise Fundraising	
48	Work with the newly formed River Mersey Basin Trust to access funding to help improve the local catchment area	Provide technical fisheries management advice		Enterprise Fundraising	
49	<i>Encourage clubs to develop project proposals to improve fisheries & increase participation and to bid for funds from the Angling Trust Angling & 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>Fundraising</i>	<i>Angling Trust Environment Agency All clubs</i>

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50	<i>Encourage clubs to develop project proposals to improve fisheries & increase participation and to bid for funds from the Sport England Small Grants fund and Inspired Facilities Fund</i>	<i>Support bids which meet the criteria laid out by Sport England</i>		<i>Fundraising Enterprise</i>	<i>Sport England Angling Trust Environment Agency</i>
51	<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>Fundraising</i>	<i>Clubs to identify possible projects</i>
52	<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>Fundraising</i>	<i>NAAG advice</i>
53	<i>Make clubs aware that waterway wanderers water is available to rent.</i>	<i>Put details on Fisheries & Angling website</i>		<i>Web</i>	

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>				
54	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:	None currently identified			

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	Theme 8 - Predation & 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.				
55	<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>
56	<i>Work with Environment & the Waterway to publicize the presence of non native plants & animals, encourage participation in actions to help reduce their spread, record & report their presence and take part in control options using volunteers where possible.</i>	<i>Use e newsletter to publicize, including methods for identification & ways to limit their spread. Log reports of presence and pass on to Environment. Work with clubs to identify & use volunteers to implement actions.</i>	<i>Implement control options where required using staff, contractors or volunteers as necessary.</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Report incidents of non natives to NFAT. Seek volunteers to help with control options where agreed with CRT</i>
57	<i>Increase knowledge of distribution of signal crayfish within Waterway on Peak Forest & Trent & Mersey Canal</i>	<i>Work with clubs to map presence and manage the population at local level if considered appropriate</i>	<i>Volunteer Development Coordinator to help</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to provide to NFAT more information on distribution, locations and number. Identify potential</i>

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		<i>Approve requests for applications for crayfish trapping to the Environment Agency on CRT owned/managed fisheries, including ongoing research on the River Lee.</i>	coordinate volunteer effort		volunteers to carry out mapping. Environment Agency
58	Control non native plants as required following receipt of reports - Floating pennywort on northern section of Trent & Mersey Canal - Giant hogweed, Peak Forest, Manchester, Bury & Bolton canal	Pass on reports received from clubs. Keep clubs informed of actions.	Waterway to lead	Environment	Clubs to inform waterway of presence
59	<i>Manage the control options for certain non native species e.g. cormorants, goosanders</i>	<i>Log information available. Liaise with Environment Team. Consult with local fishing clubs and waterway teams and seek advice, input & support from Fisheries Management Advisors of Angling Trust on catchment approach and techniques to use.</i>	<i>Volunteer Development Coordinator to help coordinate volunteer effort</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to provide to NFAT more information on distribution, locations and number. Identify potential volunteers to carry out mapping.</i> <i>Environment Agency Natural England Angling Trust</i>

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		<p><i>-Authorise the use of non lethal techniques for scaring, on a waterway basis, to reduce the impact of piscivorous birds on fish stocks where CRT owns fishing rights, in consultation with other regulatory bodies, partners and fishing clubs.</i></p>			
60	<p><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></p> <p><i>- Zander are known to be present in some locations e.g. Trent & Mersey Canal</i></p>	<p><i>Liaise with local clubs & Environment team to log and map information.</i></p> <p><i>Assess & agree management options in discussion with regulatory authorities.</i></p> <p><i>Implement action as required</i></p>		<p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p><i>Clubs to inform NFAT of non native species</i></p> <p><i>Environment Agency</i></p> <p><i>Defra.</i></p>

Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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



Common bream



Chub



A typical canal roach



Lamprey

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Theme 9 - Fish stocks & 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.					
61	<p><i>Ensure the fishery resource including protected species and sites is protected from potential adverse impact e.g. dredging, vegetation management, water level lowering, fish rescues & pollutions, spawning & habitat protection, and that appropriate communication & mitigation is implemented when required</i></p> <p><i>Protected species to be protected are: . eel, bullhead, crucian carp, spined loach, brook & river lamprey, brown trout, Twaite & Allis shad, salmon</i></p>	<p><i>Develop the Fisheries & Angling section of the Environmental Appraisal Policy.</i></p> <p><i>Publicize & raise awareness to ensure compliance.</i></p> <p><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></p> <p><i>Provide fisheries management technical advice on planning applications and other teams on developments likely to have an impact on fish stocks e.g. hydropower</i></p>	<p><i>Review operating activities to minimize impact & identify possible improvements to practice.</i></p>	<p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p><i>Clubs to act as eyes and ears on the ground, be active consultees and report incidents</i></p>

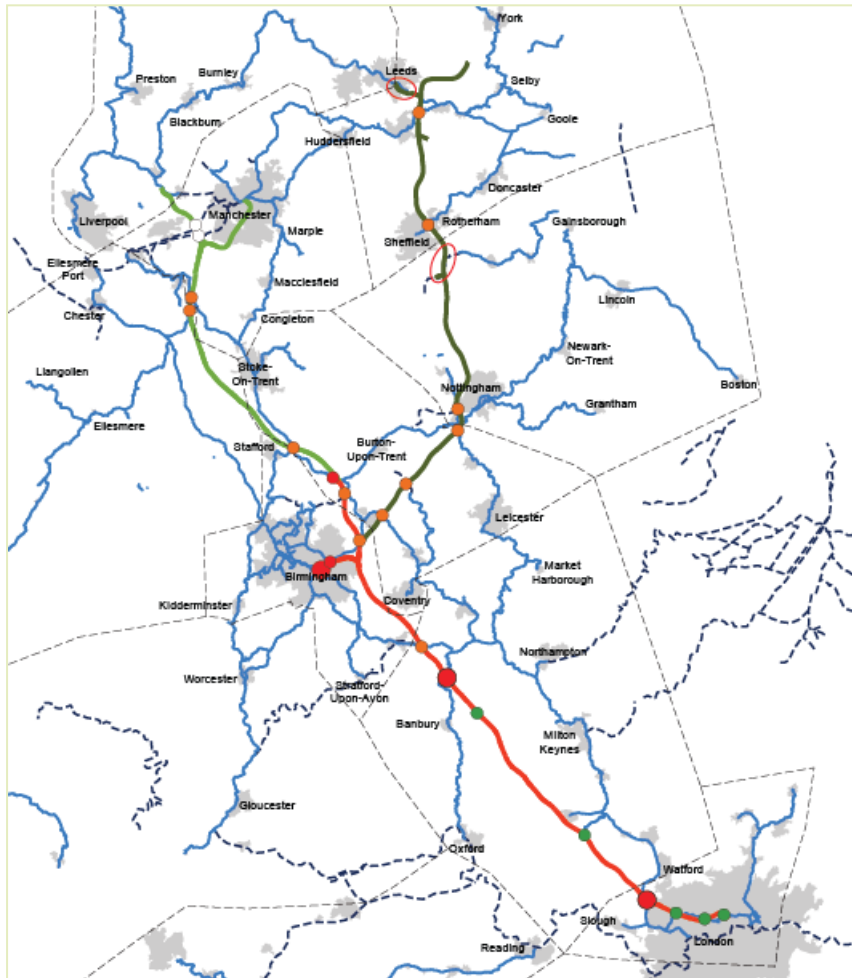
Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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62	<i>Concerns expressed that pike population is too high</i>	<i>Fish population survey to assess current pike population and manage accordingly if necessary</i>		<i>Environment</i>	<i>Todmorden AC water</i>
63	<i>Seek an increased understanding of existing fish stocks for their better protection and restoration , including recording presence of protected species</i>	<i>Investigate lengths where Tomorden have expressed concern to F&A team Rochdale Canal Lock 16-17 Rochdale Canal Lock 19-25 Rochdale canal Lock 29-30 Rochdale Canal Summit Lock to Littleborough</i>		<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to provide match catch data to CRT volunteer weekly to allow increased knowledge of patterns and trends.</i>
64	<i>Restoration of fishery on Rochdale Canal spur@ Earl Street which is overgrown & choked</i>	<i>Site meeting to view & discuss early options & opportunities</i>	<i>Attend site meeting</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Heywood DAS</i>
65	<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>Crop fisheries (canal & stillwaters) not used for fishing or removal of fish non target fisheries. Seek sources of 3rd party stock fish to be donated to CRT. Plan & implement, through Fisheries management term contractor.</i>			<i>Environment Agency Clubs bring forward suitable locations & fish</i>

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		<i>Stock fish on Trent & Mersey following pollution at Barlaston, following court case</i>			
66	<i>Reduce and prevent fish theft & 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 & ears.</i>	<i>Clubs to act as eyes & ears on the ground. Log & report any incidents observed.</i>
67	<i>Reduce/mitigate the impact of the building of the High Speed Rail Link (HS2) on access to the Aire & 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 & DAA Clubs to become involved</i>
68	<i>Develop & implement appropriate management strategies to improve fish habitat e.g. provision of far bank refuges such as floating rafts & spawning boards</i>	<i>Liaise across CRT teams to identify opportunities</i>	<i>Facilitate & engage with improvements where possible using Trust teams & volunteers</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to see if volunteers available</i>

Manchester, Pennine & Potteries Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan



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 67)



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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.					
69	Rochdale Canal – Summit Lock 36-37 – very acidic feeder from Chelburn reservoir with a pH of 4.3-4.5; and water at Summit East lock 37 – pH 5-5.5	Work with Environment to mitigate impact & feedback activity & results to local club		Environment	Todmorden AC
70	Vandalism at canal locks leading to dewatering - opportunity for public & clubs to be eyes & ears on ground for information to Trust.	Alert clubs & ask for feedback	WW to respond to intelligence & information received	Environment	Clubs to feedback any information, act as eyes & ears
71	Report of an iron work discharge at Radcliffe on the Manchester Bury & Bolton Canal			Environment to investigate & respond to club	
72	<i>Clarity on who to contact in the event of fish being in distress or dead</i>	<i>Promote externally reporting routes via angling newsletter & on NFAT website</i> <i>Internally, ensure internal colleagues are aware that NFAT are informed when fish are reported as distressed/dead - through environmental section</i>	<i>Liaise with NFAT during incident and help implement any necessary actions locally</i>		<i>Club to act as eyes and ears and report any incidents of pollution, distressed & dead fish to EA (0800 807060) & CRT Fisheries & Angling/Environment teams.</i> <i>Clubs to inform Environment team and</i>

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		<i>of Toolbox Talk, Source, EIA process</i>			<i>Environment Agency if pollution apparent but no fish in distress</i>
73	<i>Provide expertise and advice on the impacts on fish of reservoir lowering, drain downs & water transfers & 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 & dead fish to EA (0800 807060) & CRT Fisheries & Angling/Environment teams. Clubs to inform Environment team and Environment Agency if pollution apparent but no fish in distress</i>

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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.