

North Wales and Borders Waterway Fisheries and Angling Action Plan 2015



Authors

National Fisheries & Angling Team

North Wales & Borders 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 new clubs and lapsed and new angling customers. We aim to improve the angling experience, the fish stocks and the 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 13th May 2015 with invitees from a wide range of clubs and organisations associated with fisheries and angling in the North Wales & Borders 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 Angling & Fisheries, 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 once by the National Fisheries & Angling Team. 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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	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	<i>Explore opportunities to allow fishing in marinas – most marinas are privately owned and most do not allow fishing but in some cases it might be possible to negotiate some degree of fishing access</i>	<i>Dialogue on request on case by case basis; in most cases, it will be inappropriate as fishing rights are not owned by CRT. Raise across CRT teams.</i>	<i>Contribute to liaison across teams.</i>	<i>Boating</i>	<i>Clubs to bring forward suggestions</i>
2	Flagship project – Wybunbury <i>vegetation control, enhancement & adoption</i>	<i>Develop proposals in liaison with WW: – specification for vegetation control - potential habitat enhancements. Provide fisheries management technical advice</i>	<i>Liaise with NFAT & Agree specifications listed. Agree schedules of work. Manage volunteers.</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Engage across Trust to agree project details. Arrange volunteers to carry out works schedules</i>
3	Improve club signage at sites notified to the Trust by clubs:	Confirm the national guidelines for design and make available the details of the national contract Attend site meeting previously agreed.	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.

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4	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="232 762 674 831">• <i>Event Signage to warn/inform users in advance & on the day</i> <li data-bbox="232 1002 674 1070">• Towpath design, restoration & management 	<p data-bbox="689 722 1106 951"><i>Develop a template sign/banner for use at angling matches to inform other customers that a competition is in progress, and make available to clubs</i></p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="689 1002 1106 1182">Input fisheries & angling needs into next update of towpath design manual or as part of development of Customer Standards process.</p> <hr/>	<p data-bbox="1106 722 1473 831"><i>Issue advice notices via CRT notices & post on social media</i></p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1106 1002 1473 1182">Create safer towpaths through a range of measures including education, awareness & physical improvements</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1106 1313 1473 1383">Cut back overgrowing vegetation on towpath to</p>	<p data-bbox="1473 722 1682 831"><i>Communication Press Office</i></p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1473 1002 1682 1145">Customer services Project managers</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1473 1233 1682 1383">Enterprise – ensure best practice promoted</p>	<p data-bbox="1682 722 1980 831"><i>Clubs to adopt and post at agreed locations on site.</i></p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1682 1313 1980 1383">Clubs to inform WW of locations where</p>

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		<p>.....</p> <p>Support & facilitate, make clubs aware.</p>	<p>improve line of sight and improve visibility at critical points.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Implement towpath policy - 'Better Towpath for Everyone – a national policy for sharing towpaths'</p>	<p>when looking for funding. AMP- 3rd party works. Ensure best practice implemented & policy requirements considered in project delivery.</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>vegetation management necessary. enquiries.northwalesborders@canalrivertrust.org.uk 0303 040 4040</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Clubs to share with members and identify potential volunteer towpath rangers to promote safe and considerate behaviour. Association of Pleasure Craft Operators</p> <p>.....</p>

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	<p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish closer links & improve communication with the angling community. 	<p>.....</p> <p><i>Ensuring regular attendance at Local waterway forums</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Make the waterway Code of Practice available on the website</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>Waterway forum agenda to include a Fisheries & Angling component</p> <p>.....</p>		<p>Clubs to become actively involved in customer forums.</p> <p>.....</p>
5	<p><i>We need to ensure that angling clubs are aware that they can use our facilities (toilets) around the network.</i></p>	<p><i>Communicate to club members via e newsletter that these facilities can be used.</i></p>	<p><i>WW to promote the use of facilities (make angling clubs aware of locations) and make keys available as required.</i></p>		<p><i>Communicate to club members that these facilities can be used.</i></p>
6	<p><i>To encourage more people to fish more often, implement regional component of National & Junior Canal championship and other potential events e.g. National Lure canal championships</i></p>	<p><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. Promote on website & via social media</i></p>	<p><i>Supporting & assisting on the ground issues e.g. temporary towpath diversions, event notification etc</i></p>	<p><i>Press Fundraising</i></p>	<p><i>Clubs to apply. Angling Trust Competitions Committee for National Championships. Canal Championship Committee.</i></p>

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	<i>Hold the Welsh heat of canal championship annually on either Llangollen, Montgomery or Monmouth & Brecon Canals</i>				
7	<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>Angling Trust Environment Agency Police Wildlife Liaison officers 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 and support can come from contacting</i>

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					radoslaw.papiewski@anglingtrust.net
8	<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 e.g. Festivals, supported by an angling participation pathway</i>	<i>Liaise with local partners to develop, identify funding & availability of coaches. Provide specialist fisheries technical guidance in waterway Engagement Plan to identify the key issues from NFAT perspective.</i>	<i>Link to Waterway Engagement Plan to help focus on key locations & communities.</i>	<i>Enterprise Funding</i>	<i>County Angling Action Groups Angling Trust Clubs Sport England Local authorities County Sports Partnerships Schools Colleges</i>
9	<i>Development & distribution of a leaflet describing local fishing opportunities at high footfall locations, known as 'Welcome Stations'</i>	<i>Set out design criteria & provide content, including images. Confirm details with affected clubs</i>	<i>Waterway to support leaflet development & use at events & festivals.</i>	<i>Communications</i>	<i>Clubs to confirm details</i>
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&S advisor. Subject to satisfactory outcome, reinstate the fishery. Represent CRT on National Overhead Power lines and safety working group</i>	<i>Waterway to be involved in site specific risk assessment & implement agreed measures on the ground.</i>	<i>H&S team to risk assess with local electricity company & NFAT</i>	<i>Clubs to bring forward locations to be investigated.</i>

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11	<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. Confirm locations with local waterway.</i>	<i>Support national team & clubs.</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Environment Agency Natural England Natural Resources Wales</i>
12	<i>Development of customer service standards (CSS) 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>
13	<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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Towpaths are a multi use environment where consideration of others for all users is important. Our new towpath policy¹ (action 4) 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.					
14	<p>Improve access to and along the towpath to encourage greater participation by making it easier & safer for anglers (CRT will be able to help clubs in providing better access through projects undertaken by the Trust teams & volunteers from other organisations)</p> <p>Investigate & improve access and safe parking at locations identified by clubs to the Waterway:</p> <p>Shropshire Union Canal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -Coole Pilate road bridge • Henhull (moorings car park) <p>Llangollen Canal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swanley road bridge • Burland road bridge, Wrexham road <p>Montgomeryshire AA</p>	<p>Raise profile & awareness with colleagues from other national teams e.g. Estates, Boating, Business & Property Development</p>	<p>Register locations to be improved following receipt of information from clubs. Arrange site visits as required with the clubs. Develop costs for business plans. Arrange into work programmes/schedules as appropriate.</p>		<p>E mail WW on locations where access needs improving. Wybunbury AA</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitehouse Bridge to Welshpool <p>Where access to the towpath is difficult for anglers and those in wheel chairs because of the presence of steps, consider the installation of ramps in place of the steps</p>		<p>Support volunteer activity with materials.</p> <p>Ensure compliance with DDA</p>		
15	<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>Provide fisheries management technical advice</i>	<i>Support volunteers work & provide materials & training where appropriate.</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Identify volunteers to carry out</i>
16	<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 & any proposed locations</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Adopt design when available</i>
17	<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.					
18	<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 help develop across groups & lead projects locally</i>		<i>Clubs to come forward to be involved.</i>
19	<i>Maximise opportunities for public involvement at Trust Open days to promote fisheries and angling</i>	<i>Provision of fisheries & angling exhibition material using national fisheries management contractor, staff & volunteers</i>	<i>Identify timings & locations to NFAT.</i>	<i>Communications</i>	<i>Local clubs invited & to provide volunteers</i>
20	<i>Establish a programme of Fish Rescue Education open days – FREDs.</i>	<i>Identify suitable locations. 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 - preparation, promotion & running of the programme. Communication - 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.					
21	Continue with the local policing arrangements put in place by NFAT at Market Drayton Marina by the fishing club to avoid previous problems of fishing at night and anti social behaviour	Continue to support	Continue to support		Hodnet AC
22	<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 don't have to be an angler to volunteer under this scheme)</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 & 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. Clubs to report incidents to police to allow build up of intelligence & information which can be used to initiate action.</i></p> <p><i>Angling Trust</i></p> <p><i>Environment Agency</i></p>

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23	<i>Recognise & formalise the existing volunteering effort carried out by angling clubs.</i>	<i>Collate & review current volunteering effort to distinguish between contractual obligations as set out in agreements and additional activity at the Trust request 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>
24	<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</i>
25	<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>
26	<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</i>	<i>Club volunteers to be trained if role agreed with relevant teams.</i>

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				<i>continuous cruising. Enforcement</i>	
27	<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.					
28	'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
29	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 63 – environmental appraisal policy)	Fisheries Management Technical guidance. Ensure regular attendance at customer forums	WW team to provide routes for communication e.g.in a local waterway update on the waterway website. 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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30	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)
31	<i>Maximise opportunities to promote canal fishing in Wales by maintaining strong relationships with key fisheries groups, Government ministers to improve relationships, identify opportunities and partnership working</i>	<i>Communicate with respective heads of Fisheries in Natural Resources Wales (Rob Evans) & Welsh Government (Jeremy Frost) Maintain membership of English Fisheries Group</i>	<i>Support on local project delivery</i>		<i>NAAG provide policy advice</i>

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32	<i>Establish a North Wales & Borders 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 Natural Resources Wales Environment Agency</i>
33	<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>
34	<i>Improvements to the Fisheries & Angling website with improved layout & content, photographs, ease of navigation & to include: - Introduction of a weekly fisheries & angling update of events, matches & their results and news.</i>	<i>Promote opportunity to clubs.</i>		<i>Web team</i>	<i>Clubs to provide match result and catch data, forthcoming events to NFAT volunteer on a weekly basis</i>

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	<p>- More club information & increased connectivity between them.</p> <p>- details of licenced water</p> <p>- new pages to include fish species guide, looking after our fish, learn to fish, the history & heritage of angling</p> <p>- how to report an emergency</p> <p>- common questions & answers</p>	<p>Lead on collection of data</p> <p>Work with partners to collect material</p> <p>Lead on information collection</p>		<p>Environment team</p>	<p>Smithhill School</p> <p>John Essex</p> <p>MEM Fisheries</p>
35	<p>Work with partners to develop a national web based teaching programme as a basic introduction to canal fishing</p>	<p>Lead on the development of material with specialist support as required from the NAAG subgroup.</p>		<p>Web team to help promote Environment</p>	<p>Smithills School,</p> <p>Bolton</p> <p>Angling Trust</p> <p>NAAG</p>
36	<p>Promote and adopt social media platforms e.g. Twitter, Facebook</p>	<p>Adopt these tools routinely for CRT communications.</p> <p>Encourage take up in clubs.</p>			<p>Encourage and adopt new communications channels</p> <p>Publicize and encourage training</p>

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		<i>Arrange suitable training for angling clubs who express an interest.</i>			<i>opportunities and benefits</i>
37	<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>
38	<i>Explore opportunities for increased partnership working with Natural Resources Wales and the Environment Agency to increase the profile of each organisation, their work and future project opportunities.</i>	<i>Set up regular contact with NWR and EA. Promote work in newsletters</i>			<i>Clubs to bring forward potential projects</i>
39	<i>Improved promotion of fisheries & angling locally e.g. Waterway offices 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.</i>	<i>Take opportunities to include fisheries & angling content in printed, display and exhibition material</i>	<i>Communication s</i>	

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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		<p><i>Investigate opportunities to promote fisheries & angling benefits to 'Friends of the Trust'</i></p> <p><i>Target the biggest clubs locally to build rapport and improved relationships.</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales websites identifies the opportunities for canal fishing & promotes it along with other inland freshwater fishing opportunities.</i></p>			<p><i>Natural Resources Wales</i></p>
40	<p><i>Develop materials for a specialist fisheries & angling stand for CRT events</i></p>	<p><i>Develop materials.</i></p> <p><i>Develop & train a team of volunteers to help man an exhibition stand.</i></p> <p><i>Seek volunteers through clubs and newsletter.</i></p>		<p><i>Volunteering</i></p>	<p><i>Clubs to seek volunteers</i></p>

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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41	<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>Run angling taster days for CRT staff, Partnership Board & volunteers.</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>

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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42	<i>Communication with public on the history & heritage of fisheries & angling</i>	<i>Provide Fisheries & Angling information to the Trust museums to promote history, current and future use & opportunities on the canal locally. Develop & promote Welcome Station Leaflet locally</i>		<i>G. Boxer, Head of Museums</i>	<i>J. Essex</i>

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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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.					
43	Work programmes and projects within the Trust are integrated with the needs of other teams to provide multi themed outcomes e.g. to incorporate a fisheries & angling component of physical improvements and/or community involvement e.g. participation, health	Identify Fisheries & Angling needs across waterway teams, promoting FAAP Liaise with clubs over opportunities	Liaise with NFAT over opportunities	All teams	Clubs to promote FAAP
44	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	Development & Engagement Manager to help match across customer and external groups, & develop & deliver projects at waterway level.	Fundraising Environment Enterprise	Clubs to identify work areas, cooperate, agree priorities and help write bids. Local Authority Environment Agency Sport England
45	<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>

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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46	<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>
47	<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>
48	<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>
49	<i>Make clubs aware that waterway wanderers water is available to rent.</i>	<i>Put details on Fisheries & Angling website</i>		<i>Web</i>	

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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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>				
50	<p>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:</p> <p>Structures identified at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunts Small Sluices, 4 No • Vale Royal Upper Sluice • Saltersford Sluice • Dutton Sluices 	<p>Review list of structures from Environment team to confirm presence/absence of these.</p> <p>Prioritise across CRT and EA</p> <p>Provide fisheries management technical advice</p> <p>Consult with clubs</p> <p>Support programmes of work to allow fish movement over identified barriers to migration.</p>	<p>Promote & raise awareness with partners.</p>	<p>Environment - lead</p> <p>Operations & Assets</p> <p>Enterprise</p> <p>Fundraising</p> <p>Heritage</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Rivers Trusts</p> <p>Riparian Owners</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Clubs</p>

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sutton Weir 				
51	<p><i>Investigate options and opportunities at sites notified to us by the Environment Agency as "Critical" sites for eel passage under the Eels Regulations :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dutton Sluice Sutton weaver weir Dee locks 	<p>Review list of structures from Environment team.</p> <p>Prioritise across CRT & EA</p> <p>Provide fisheries management technical advice</p> <p>Consult with clubs</p> <p>Support programmes of work to allow fish movement over identified barriers to migration.</p>	Promote & raise awareness with partners.	<p>Environment – lead</p> <p>Operations & Assets</p> <p>Enterprise</p> <p>Fundraising</p> <p>Heritage</p>	<p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Rivers Trusts</p> <p>Riparian Owners</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Clubs</p>
52	<p>Issues identified for fish passage at Penarth weir:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> u/s migration only at high flows Potential hydropower site could improve situation but possible design layout reported in feasibility in 2010 identified potential issues over position of the fish pass with respect to u/s & d/s attraction flows. 	<p>Review design in consultation with partners when permit application received by NRW.</p>	Promote & raise awareness with partners.	<p>Environment - lead</p>	<p>Severn River Trust</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales (NRW)</p> <p>Riparian owners</p> <p>Severn Trent Water</p> <p>Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Environment Agency</p>

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53	Support the need for a fish pass at Horseshoe falls, River Dee in a way which does not affect the World Heritage Site & Scheduled Ancient Monument but allows the feeder to Llangollen Canal to operate effectively and protects fish stocks	Work with Environment to find suitable solution & mitigation to allow lamprey to continue to spawn following upgrading of the screening to the feeder stream to prevent salmon access.	Promote & raise awareness with partners	Environment - lead	River Trusts Natural Resources Wales Riparian owners

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan



Lamprey have special protection

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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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.				
54	<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 Communication Environment All Trust teams that work in the field.</i>	<i>Clubs to communicate with members</i>
55	Excessive growths of non-native plants azolla impacting fishing opportunities at: Azolla @ Ellesmere Port Pennywort	Work with WW to implement controls	Identify through length inspections & feedback from clubs Implement control options e.g. weevils	Environment	Notify WW when identified
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 &</i>	<i>Use e newsletter to publicize, including methods for identification & ways to limit their spread.</i>	<i>Implement control options where required using staff, contractors or volunteers as necessary.</i>	Environment	<i>Report incidents of non natives to NFAT.</i>

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	<i>report their presence and take part in control options using volunteers where possible,</i>	<i>Log reports of presence and pass on to Environment. Work with clubs to identify & use volunteers to implement actions.</i>			<i>Seek volunteers to help with control options where agreed with CRT</i>
57	<i>Cormorant & goosander problems reported across the waterway</i>	<i>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. - 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>			<i>Environment Agency NWR Natural England Angling Trust</i>
58	<i>Mink problems identified on the River Weaver at sites identified to us by the clubs</i>	<i>Work with Environment team to organise a course for clubs on best practice on how to set</i>		<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs register an interest with CRT.</i>

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		<i>mink traps and humane disposal of mink; consider widening invite to clubs in neighbouring areas. Consider running more subject to demand</i>			
59	<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 & 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 Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

Some of the non-native species impacting our fisheries:



Azolla



Floating pennywort



Cormorant

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

Some of our typical canal fish



Roach



Perch



Common bream



Eel

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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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.				
60	<i>Planning for the development of new marinas should include mitigation for fisheries impacts on the surrounding local canal</i>	<i>Provide fisheries management technical advice during the consultation process. Consult with clubs</i>		<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to contribute to planning development</i>
61	<i>Excess weed growth on the Montgomery Canal impacts fishing opportunities</i>	<i>Develop a management plan for key fishing pegs to enable some fishing activity to take place all year round. Consult with club</i>	<i>Liaison with NFAT</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Montgomery AA to contribute to plan</i>
62	<i>Seek an increased understanding of existing fish stocks for their better protection and restoration , including recording presence of protected species</i>	<i>Develop a methodology for collection of fisheries data, including option of using match catch data, and scale sampling collection Collate fish population data from fisheries management activities e.g. fish rescues carried out by Fisheries Term Contractor, & provide data to EA where requested.</i>			<i>Offer input & support with local waterway knowledge, including match catch data where requested, & volunteers to collect scale samples. Environment Agency Rivers Trusts Natural England NWR</i>

North Wales & Borders Waterway Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

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		<p><i>Identify locations where fish stocks are poor</i></p> <p><i>Liaise with Environment & 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, restocking and species management</i></p> <p><i>Provide advice & feedback to local waterway teams and angling clubs on the quality of the local fish stocks</i></p>			

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63	<p><i>Ensure the fishery resource including protected species and sites is protected from potential adverse impact e.g. asset improvements, dredging, vegetation management, water level lowering, fish rescues & pollutions, spawning & habitat protection, and that appropriate 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>NFAT to sign of works affecting licenced clubs</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>
64	<p><i>Identify sources of fish for restocking and undertake a national programme of restocking meeting local priorities</i></p>	<p><i>Crop fisheries (canal & stillwaters) not used for fishing</i></p>			

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	<i>where possible, ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements at all times e.g. ILFA licencing, EA/NWR holder site permits, CEFAS regulations</i>	<p><i>or removal of fish non target fisheries.</i></p> <p><i>Drain down stillwaters.</i></p> <p><i>Seek sources of 3rd party stock fish to be donated to CRT.</i></p> <p><i>Stock at:</i></p> <p><i>No priorities identified</i></p>			<p><i>Environment Agency</i></p> <p><i>Clubs bring forward suitable locations & fish</i></p>
65	<i>Reduce and prevent fish theft & the use of illegal methods to catch fish</i>	<p><i>Log feedback from voluntary bailiff service, other teams and the public.</i></p> <p><i>Liaise with EA over possible actions.</i></p> <p><i>Highlight illegal methods on the website.</i></p>	<i>Support by reporting any incidents observed.</i>	<i>Act as eyes & ears.</i>	<p><i>Clubs to act as eyes & ears on the ground.</i></p> <p><i>Log & report any incidents observed.</i></p>
66	<i>Creating opportunities for high quality specialist fishing opportunities e.g. lure fishing – London FAAP Regents canal.</i>	<p><i>Identify opportunity, liaise with local clubs to encourage opportunities</i></p> <p><i>Manage the fish stocks to support identified fishery</i></p>	<i>Offer input & support with local waterway knowledge & actions</i>		<i>Lure Angling Society</i>
67	<i>Develop & implement appropriate management strategies to improve fish habitat e.g. provision of far bank</i>	<i>Liaise with across CRT teams to identify opportunities</i>	<i>Facilitate & engage with improvements where</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Clubs to see if volunteers available</i>

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	<i>refuges such as floating rafts & spawning boards</i>		<i>possible using Trust teams & volunteers</i>		

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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.					
68	Barnhurst STW discharges to Shropshire Union Canal at Autherley junction & has caused significant fish kills in the past	Inform clubs of need to be vigilant.	Observe & report any distressed fish or pollution incidents as described to right.	Environment - monitor discharge results, & act on changes in colour etc	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
69	<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</i>			<i>Club to act as eyes and ears and report any incidents of pollution, distressed & dead fish to EA (0800 807060) & CRT Fisheries &</i>

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		<p><i>reported as distressed/dead - through environmental section of Toolbox Talk, Source, EIA process</i></p>			<p><i>Angling/Environment teams. Clubs to inform Environment team and Environment Agency if pollution apparent but no fish in distress</i></p>
70	<p><i>Provide expertise and advice on the impacts on fish of reservoir lowering, drain downs & water transfers & water quality issues</i></p>	<p><i>Input technical fisheries management guidance.</i></p>	<p><i>Liaise with NFAT during incident and help implement any necessary actions locally</i></p>	<p><i>Environment</i></p>	<p><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></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, Natural Resources Wales & APPAG.