

East Midlands Waterway - Fisheries & Angling Action Plan – April 2015

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 and encourage communities to play a leading role in keeping the tradition alive on their local waterways. The strategy also outlines how the Trust wants to work with communities to improve facilities and access for anglers and in particular to grow the numbers of people involved in the sport by attracting more young people.

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 and improve the experience for anglers. The actions identified in this plan were those discussed in a workshop held on the 9th February 2015 with invitees from a wide range of clubs and organisations associated with fisheries and angling in the East Midlands.

No.	Action	Role of the CRT Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the CRT Waterway Team (WW)	Role of other CRT team (Other)	Role of External Partner and Angling Club (Ext)	Timescale for specific actions
1	Communications Angling Clubs and other customers need better communication in general and specifically information about angling and non-angling events	Advise clubs that they can sign up for a "My Trust" account to receive updates automatically. Ensure fisheries and angling is considered in any national CRT consultation. Advise clubs that they need to let waterways know about their events.	Need to ensure all events are publicised and encourage clubs to advise the waterway of events. Let clubs know they can sign up for a "My Trust" account to receive updates automatically. Share the procedures for reporting incidents (e.g. pollution) with clubs	Central teams to advise waterway of works and other activities that may affect angling.	Angling clubs to advise CRT of their events	NFAT / WW to communicate to all angling clubs about the "My Trust" accounts - 31.05.15 NFAT / WW to advise clubs to let CRT know about events – 31.05.15 WW to share procedure for reporting incidents with clubs – 31.05.15
2	Respect We need to ensure customers using the waterways show consideration to all other customers.	Produce a video (and put link on website) to explain the needs of anglers to others and to explain to anglers what impact their actions may have. Publicise the "Better towpaths for everyone" document.	Signage and physical measures to be installed at key areas to encourage cyclists to change their behaviour. Branded bells (working with a partner) to be issued free to cyclists.	Enterprise team to consider anglers in any future development works	Angling clubs to communicate particular areas of concern and to consider how they can use the limited space efficiently.	WW to install signs along the Notts Beeston towpath - 31.07.15 WW to develop the idea of branded bells - 31.07.15 NFAT to produce and upload video.

		<p>Contact the 'building bridges project' to develop an approach to educating foreign nationals with regard to angling.</p>	<p>Talk to cycling organisations about promoting a considerate approach to use of towpaths and publicise the "Better towpaths for everyone" document</p> <p>Work with angling clubs to promote events that include foreign nationals.</p>			
3	<p>Vegetation Management</p> <p>We need to keep on top of hedge, tree, channel weed and grass maintenance to keep the towpath width and channel available.</p>	<p>Take ownership of the impact of works on anglers through involvement in the Environment Appraisal process.</p> <p>Consider how consultation on works with anglers can best be delivered.</p>	<p>Ensure hedge cutting, grass cutting and tree management is carried out in a timely fashion and to a suitable specification.</p> <p>Update core works with any regular vegetation management needed (e.g. channel weed removal)</p> <p>Develop biannual vegetation management update for angling clubs – e.g. April and October issues.</p>	<p>Contract team to ensure contract works are carried out and to communicate any issues to the waterway for onward communication.</p>	<p>To advise CRT of any problem areas.</p>	<p>WW to develop and issue first biannual vegetation management update - 30.09.15</p>
4	<p>Habitats</p> <p>We need to consider the effect on fisheries habitats of our works (e.g. tree cutting).</p> <p>We need to create or improve suitable habitats along our waterways.</p>	<p>Take ownership of the impact of works on anglers through involvement in the Environment Appraisal process.</p> <p>Consider how consultation on works with anglers can best be delivered.</p> <p>Identify suitable habitat designs and use the</p>	<p>Ensure that the needs and wishes of anglers are communicated to those designing and carrying out works.</p> <p>Improvements to habitats to be carried out where possible – works suitable for adoptions.</p>	<p>Environment Team to ensure fisheries habitats are considered as part of the approvals process.</p> <p>National teams to work on water quality and discharge issues.</p>	<p>Anglers to report issues so that changes can be made to our working practices.</p> <p>Angling clubs and other organisations to identify suitable locations for new habitat creation.</p>	<p>WW to record issues raised by angling clubs and take action as possible - ongoing</p>

		Environment Appraisal process to promote their introduction	Seek funding and partnerships to improve habitats where possible.			
5	Access We need to ensure where practical that there is available secure car parking to reduce the need to walk long distance and generally improve accessibility and access to our waterways.	-	To maintain existing parking sites. Improve disabled access and access in general onto and along our towpaths.	Enterprise team to seek funding to improve towpaths and access to angling.	To identify where improvements are needed.	WW to survey access points for DDA improvements along the Chesterfield Canal – 31.10.15 WW to record improvement ideas raised by angling clubs and take action as possible - ongoing
6	Facilities We need to ensure that angling clubs are aware that they can use our facilities (toilets) around the network.	Advise clubs that they can use our facilities.	Promote the use of facilities (make angling clubs aware of locations) and make keys available as required.	-	Communicate to club members that these facilities can be used.	WW to ensure the facilities and keys are available and to publicise the use of facilities to anglers – 31.05.15 NFAT to advise all clubs that they can use facilities.
7	Improved participation We need to encourage more participation and particularly youth participation to ensure the sustainability of angling and our fisheries.	Online competitions for all types of fishing. Use the British Lure Fishing championships as a catalyst for promotion of lure fishing, which is a useful way of encouraging participation. Lead on angling participation projects in association with clubs, the angling trust and others. Work with Lure Canal AS to promote responsible fishing techniques.	Creation of taster days and simplification / standardisation of the process for taster days More use of social media to promote angling Works with Princes Trust. Advertise and / or consider partnering with clubs to promote competitions.	-	Follow up on taster days with competition days and other support.	WW to develop one taster day year (minimum)- next one 06.06.15

		<p>Creation of an online fishing game on our website.</p> <p>Promotion of Family Fishing.</p> <p>Promote competition days and the idea of taster days.</p>				
8	<p>Management of unlet waters</p> <p>We need to promote our Waterway Wanderers scheme (how we manage unlet waters) through improved publicity</p>	<p>Improve the publicity around the Waterway Wanderers scheme and consider evolving it into the Angling Friends scheme with for example an online application system.</p>	<p>Active management of the unlet waters along the River Witham.</p> <p>Mapping of ownership of the River Trent.</p>	-	-	To be confirmed.
9	<p>Publicity</p> <p>More publicity is needed for angling in general, particularly competitions, through various forms of media. We also need to improve angling and fisheries publicity at CRT office / welcome stations.</p>	<p>Web site to be updated on a regular basis; press releases using full scope of media; production of the anglers update.</p> <p>Link to other national projects such as Family Fishing and National Fishing month to be enhanced.</p> <p>Run education days in connection with fish rescues to promote angling.</p> <p>Develop a volunteer based approach to attendance at open days</p>	<p>Hold open days for fish rescues.</p> <p>Work with partnerships to promote angling events and Regular press releases about good works related to angling and fisheries.</p> <p>Encourage angling club adoptions.</p> <p>Use of photographs of angling rather than the usual boating at office entry points and welcome stations</p>	<p>Media and communications team to assist where possible.</p>	<p>Angling clubs to forward suitable stories and articles for onward publication.</p>	<p>WW – hold a fish rescue open days – 31.03.16</p> <p>WW - Kiln to be used as a trial location and to be rebranded for angling - 31.10.15</p>

10	Improving the River Witham Fishery - *Flagship Project* The River Witham used to be a very popular fishery but it has declined and now needs to be revived.	Advise waterway on the actions needed for a Partnership approach to catchment approach. Ensure there is waterway wanderer bailiffing as there are no bailiffs at present.	Ensure weed management plan is enacted. Work with partners to provide habitats along the river. Discuss water level management with the EA. Part fund a diffuse pollution study with EA.	Contracts team to ensure weed cutting continues as planned. Environment team to assist with design of habitats.	Take every opportunity to publicise this issue to raise awareness	WW to continue to run the weed management plan – 01.05.15 to 31.10.15 WW to part fund a diffuse pollution study – done WW to discuss water level management with the EA – 30.06.15
11	Volunteering / Adoptions We need to promote the adoption of waterways by angling clubs.	Promote the concept of angling clubs adopting sections of our waterways. Define the difference between an adoption and a lease.	Develop an adoption action plan that considers angling clubs as a source of adoptions. Contact community angling clubs to discuss the possibility of adoptions of currently unused sections of waterway.	Volunteering team to promote the idea of angling adoptions.	To consider where they may be able to adopt sections of waterway.	WW to produce an adoptions action plan – 31.05.15 WW to contact community angling clubs to discuss the possibility of adoptions – 30.06.15
12	Sustainability We will where possible and necessary restock our fisheries to maintain their value.	Move fish from one area to another in a sustainable fashion to maintain the value of fisheries based upon national priorities. Look at fundraising opportunities for restocking	3 rd party funding opportunities for restocking to be sought. Erewash canal restocking to be taken funds as funding permits.	-	Areas of concern to be identified.	NFAT to use current funding to restock the Erewash – done
13	Bailiffs We need to promote the hard work done by the bailiffs of the fishing clubs	Voluntary bailiffs scheme to be promoted wherever possible and assist waterway with training of bailiffs ¹ by developing an accredited scheme.	Run training courses for bailiffs Recruit volunteer bailiffs for non-let waters	-	Angling clubs to promote the scheme amongst their members.	NFAT to develop accredited scheme then WW to courses.

	and make them more visible and integrated within CRT.				
14	<p>Angling agreement improvements</p> <p>Improve our angling agreements to assist clubs in managing angling and fisheries in their areas.</p>	To make changes to national standard agreement wording where reasonable and practical to do so in line with the changes to our national strategy.	-	-	<p>To advise where current wording is restrictive</p> <p>NFAT to determine necessary changes to the standard agreement.</p>

Notes

1. <http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=1021§ionTitle=Best+Practice+Guide+for+Angling+Club+Bailiffs>