



South East Fisheries and Angling Action Plan 2015



Authors:

National fisheries and angling team

London and South East regional team

Local fisheries and 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 8 April 2015 with invitees from a wide range of clubs and organisations associated with fisheries and angling in the South East region, together with the fisheries and angling experience and technical knowledge of our fisheries and angling team.

The actions are grouped by themes, listed below:

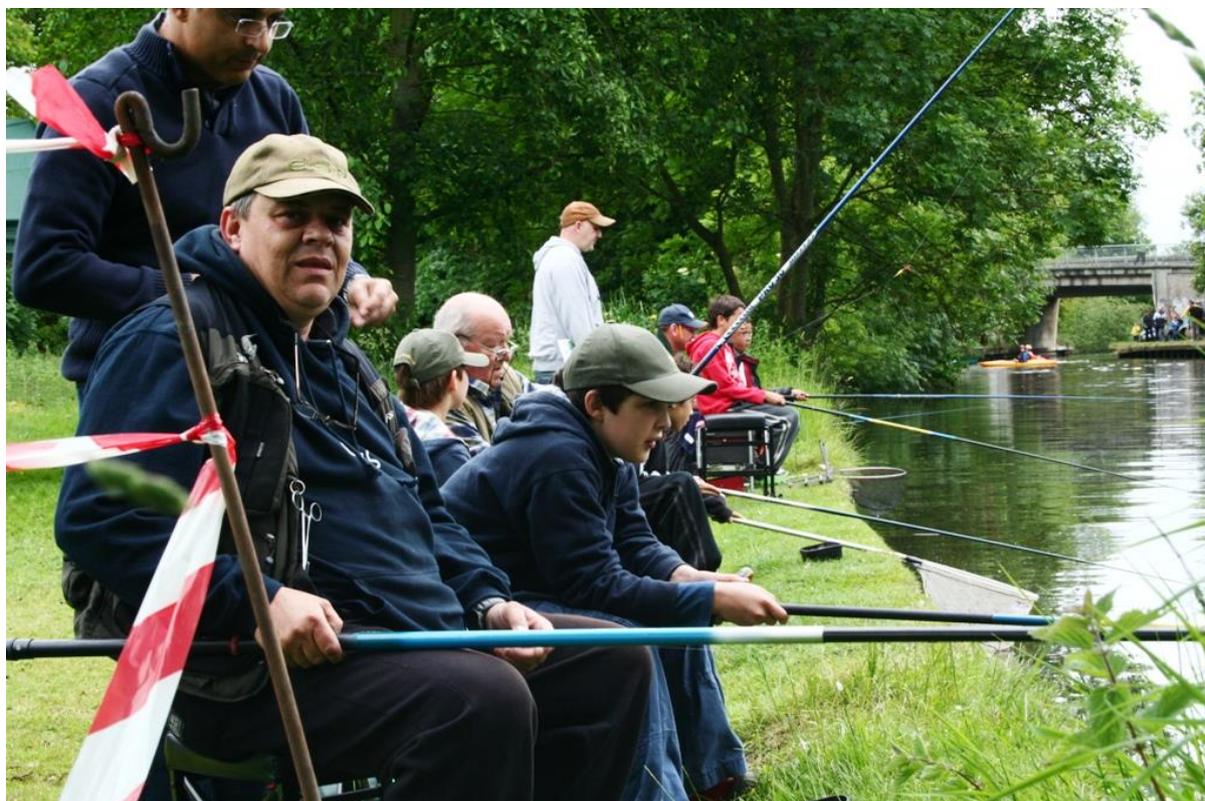
- 1. Retain existing angling customers and attracting new ones**
- 2. Develop and improve access to the fishery**
- 3. The opportunities to engage with local communities**
- 4. Take advantage of the opportunities for volunteering and adoptions**
- 5. Improving communication between the Trust and its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

The actions identified in the plan will be delivered by a range of organisations: the Canal & River Trust's own teams - National 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 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' three 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.



In this plan, we want to get more people of all ages fishing the canals



And make sure those less able are also able to take part by providing suitable access in the right location.



No.	Action	Role of the Trust Fisheries and Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the Trust regional team	Role of other Trust team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
Theme 1 - Retain existing angling customers and attract 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	<p>Facilitate increased understanding and cooperation across representatives of other towpath customers e.g. anglers, Sustrans, cyclists, walkers to establish rapport, better understanding across different waterway groups, and opportunities to work together on joint projects</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towpath design, restoration and management 	<p>Develop a template event sign/banner for use at angling matches to inform other customers that a competition is in progress, and make available to clubs</p> <hr/> <p>Input fisheries and angling needs into next update of towpath design manual or as part of development of Customer Standards process.</p> <hr/>	<p>Issue advice notices via Trust notices and post on social media</p> <hr/> <p>Create safer towpaths through a range of measures including education, awareness and physical improvements</p> <hr/> <p>Cut back overgrowing vegetation to improve line of sight and improve visibility at critical points.</p> <hr/>	<p>Communication s Press Office</p> <hr/> <p>Customer services Project managers</p> <hr/>	<p>Clubs to adopt and post at agreed locations</p> <hr/> <p>Clubs to inform region of locations where vegetation management necessary</p> <hr/>

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	<p>Support and facilitate, make clubs aware.</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish closer links and improve communication with the angling community. 	<p>Support and facilitate, make clubs aware.</p> <hr/> <p>Ensuring regular attendance at region user forums.</p>	<p>Implement towpath policy - 'Better Towpath for Everyone – a national policy for sharing towpaths'</p> <hr/> <p>Customer forum agenda to include a Fisheries and Angling component</p>	<p>Enterprise – ensure best practice promoted when looking for funding. AMP- 3rd party works- Ensure best practice implemented and policy requirements considered in project delivery.</p> <hr/>	<p>Clubs to share with members and identify potential volunteer towpath rangers to promote safe and considerate behaviour.</p> <hr/> <p>Clubs to become actively involved in customer forums.</p>

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2	<p>Improve club signage at following locations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watford Piscators @ each end of pound - GUC Mainline locks 37-38 - Turnover Bridge to Marsworth Bridge (inc no fishing area) - Restoration of 'no mooring, angling only' signs opposite old Marsworth Trust operational yard - Review all signs, Tring reservoirs and canal - Leicester line, Old Kings Head water - Install 'no fishing' signs between Slapton Lock and the road bridge - Review the GUC Market Harborough arm for fishing, No fishing and boating signage. 	<p>Confirm the national guidelines for design and make available the details of the national contract Attend on site meeting</p>	<p>Customer Operations Team to liaise with clubs over sites and agree who will undertake installation i.e. waterway, or club acting as volunteer</p>	<p>Heritage</p>	<p>Identify locations where signage is required to regional team and NFAT. Local council and farmer consent may be required</p>

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3	Run an annual fishing match between waterway clubs and tenants with a different club arranging and hosting the event on their section	Promote through Trust website & angling press	Liaison with clubs		Clubs to lead and take forward and discuss local arrangements with region and notify events coordinator.
4	Raise awareness of the incidence and impact of dog mess on towpath customers, provide and maintain disposal facilities in discussion with local authorities to reduce occurrence	Support and facilitate	Work with local authorities to provide signage and patrols from dog wardens. Encourage bagging of poo and removal to home. Undertake a trial at Stoke Bruerne using volunteer dog wardens.		Clubs to identify priority areas to waterway team using canalrivertrust.org.uk Work in partnership with Waterway to tackle
5	We need to ensure that angling clubs are aware that they can use our facilities (toilets) around the network.	Communicate to club members via e newsletter that these facilities can be used.	Region to 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.

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6	Flagship project: – reduce the number of zander to prevent their spread and increase number of cyprinids by installing habitat improvements in the GUC between Braunston and Milton Keynes including the Northampton Arm and Leicester line from Norton Junction to Watford Lock.	Direct fisheries term contractor to carry out boom boat electric fishing to remove zander. Install habitat improvements. Launch an appeal to raise funds to implement actions. Consider bid to Angling Trust Angling and Fisheries Improvement Fund		Funding	Clubs to see if they would be willing to contribute to cost of removal annually
7	To encourage more people to fish more often, implement regional component of National and Junior Canal championship and other potential events e.g. National Lure canal championships	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.	Supporting and assisting on the ground issues e.g. temporary towpath diversions, event notification etc	Press Fundraising	Clubs to apply. Angling Trust Competitions Committee for National Championships. Canal Championship Committee.

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8	Work with Polish, Lithuanian and other migrant communities to integrate and educate them into customs and practices of UK angling – adopt the approach described in Angling Trust Building Bridges project	In partnership with Angling Trust, discuss how this should be taken forward locally – aim to hold one angling event per waterway	Support and assist local events and activities to spread message. Create photo opportunities and media activity.	Press	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 radoslaw.papiewski@anglingtrust.net

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9	Improvements on GUC Watford - develop a project with multiple benefits to address a range of issues - perceived low fish stocks, unauthorised fish removal, integration of migrant anglers, increasing junior angling involvement - and target appropriate funding sources to allow implementation	Provide fisheries management technical advice Support bid writing by National Angling Development Manager. Consider bid to Angling Trust Fisheries Improvement Fund.	Development and Engagement Manager support with contacts and project development.	Funding	Watford Piscators
10	To address the low participation rate of young people in angling, develop an annual angling participation plan involving taster sessions at high footfall events and sites e.g. Festivals, Canal Museum Stoke Bruerne, supported by an angling participation pathway	Liaise with local partners to develop, identify funding & availability of coaches. Link to Waterway Engagement Plan to help focus on key locations and communities.	Link to Waterway Engagement Plan to help focus on key locations and communities.	Enterprise. Funding. Sports Development Manager.	County Angling Action Groups Angling Trust Clubs/ Northampton Nene Sport England Local authorities County Sports Partnerships Schools Colleges
11	Development and distribution of a leaflet describing local fishing opportunities at high footfall locations, known as 'Welcome Stations'	Set out design criteria and provide content, including images. Confirm details with affected clubs	Waterway to support leaflet development and use at events and festivals.	Communications	Clubs to confirm details

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	Existing and future Welcome Stations include Foxton, Stoke Bruerne, Braunston, Tring, Watford Locks, Aspley, Banbury				
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 Trust customers	Support national team and clubs.	Environment	Environment Agency Natural England
13	Open up sections of canal & reservoir where angling is not currently permitted e.g. due to presence of power lines South Oxford canal Weston Turville reservoir South Oxford Canal. Oxford to Kidlington	Undertake site specific risk assessment with local H&S adviser. Subject to satisfactory outcome, reinstate the fishery. Represent Trust on National Overhead Power lines and safety working group	Waterway to be involved in site specific risk assessment and implement agreed measures on the ground.	H&S team to risk assess with local electricity company and NFAT	North Oxford AS Kidlington AS Prestwood DAC

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14	Development of customer service standards for fisheries and angling nationally.	Fisheries management technical advice.	Contribute to CSS	Customer Service team	National Angling Advisory Group (NAAG) consultation
15	Promote, using improved communication tools, new 'fashions' in angling e.g. lure fishing.	Produce articles for Trust website and social media. Open dialogue with clubs on how to take forward. Discuss implications with local waterway teams			Local clubs come forward to be involved. Lure Canal Angling Society

Towpaths are a multi use environment where consideration of others for all users is important. Our new towpath policy¹ (action 1) 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 and improve access to the fishery. Anglers need safe and secure car parking and safe access onto and along the towpath to their fishing pegs, meeting the needs of disabled anglers where possible and reasonable. The towpath is managed as a multi use environment where all customers must acknowledge the needs of others.					
16	<p>Improve access to and along the towpath to encourage greater participation by making it easier and safer for anglers (Trust will be able to help clubs in providing better access through projects undertaken by the Trust teams and volunteers from other organisations).</p> <p>Following locations identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aylesbury arm, improvements to towpath to include angling facility improvements • GUC - Stoke Hammond access bridge 102 – replace concrete blocks steps onto canal with similar to those at Chelmscote bridge 108 • GUC – Croxley Green to Rickmansworth • GUC Market Harborough arm, glue factory (off B6047) 		<p>Register locations to be improved following receipt of information from clubs. Arrange site visits as required with the clubs.</p> <p>Develop costs for business plans.</p> <p>Arrange into work programmes/ schedules as appropriate</p> <p>Support volunteer activity with materials.</p> <p>Involvement of towpath taskforce volunteers.</p>		<p>Email region on locations where access needs improving</p> <p>Report any trips, slips and falls caused by poor access to waterway.</p> <p>Luton AC</p> <p>Watford Piscators</p> <p>Tring Anglers</p> <p>Aylesbury Vale DC</p> <p>Wreake AC</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock 15-16 of Aylesbury arm, Tesco section • Stile at Croxley Glen to Rickmansworth, • Stile access with steps is difficult for anglers – consider other options e.g. gate with slope 				Old Kings Head
17	<p>National access survey – identify access points to the fishery with their associated parking, pinch points/problems.</p> <p>Clubs to bring forward locations where access and parking is not sufficient for discussion with local regional team and to identify new opportunities on Trust and non Trust owned land.</p>	<p>Facilitate & support Set up a working group to develop a recording template. Once notified, liaise with region to determine causes and any subsequent action</p> <p>Facilitate on site meeting and identification of solutions.</p>	<p>Review feedback</p> <p>develop results into a package of actions on a local basis to form a bid for funding to improve Register locations to be improved following receipt of information from clubs.</p> <p>Arrange into work programmes/schedule as appropriate.</p> <p>Development and Engagement Manager to engage with local</p>	Fundraising	<p>Clubs to carry out own audit and report information back to region and NFAT.</p> <p>Clubs to engage with Trust to highlight locations where parking limited particularly at critical times.</p> <p>Email region and NFAT on critical locations where access needs</p>

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			interests to identify potential opportunities. Assistance with local landowner details.		
18	<p>Improve parking at the following identified locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The use of the paddock at Bulbourne Bridge (133) and lock 45 - Tring station Bridge 135 - Marshcroft lane, bridge 134 – improve and increase space available - Bridge 28 Elkington – potential area too rutted and uneven making parking impossible - Bridge 110 to surface & control of overhanging trees - Investigate rough ground diagonally across the canal from at bridge 110 for development for parking - Investigate and if appropriate create new parking area opposite the Globe PH for anglers and boaters 	Facilitate on site meeting with region and clubs and identification of solutions.	<p>Liaise with NFAT</p> <p>Assess potential for volunteers to help with this work</p> <p>Develop costs for business plans</p> <p>Attend on site meetings</p> <p>Communicate with customer clubs</p>	Estates	<p>Engage with local parish councils. Tring Anglers Tring Anglers/ London AA</p> <p>Tring Council</p> <p>Old Kings Head</p> <p>Luton AC</p> <p>Luton AC</p> <p>Luton AC</p> <p>Luton AC</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular cutting of hedges & verges of the lane at Grove Church (bridge 116) & bridge 123 - Great Western Arms @Aynho - Lower Heyford village - Capels wharf & Hunton Bridge - GUC, Market Harborough arm, glue factory (off B6047) 				<p>Banbury & DAC Banbury & DAC</p> <p>Kings Langley AS Wreake AC</p>
19	Reintroduction of fishing to 400m of tow path to the north of Cowroast marina	Lead on discussion to gain approval across	Waterways Manager to formally approve the change of use. Amend signage as required, and vegetation cleared around signs. Some hedge trimming along back of towpath path.		London AA Marina
20	Restore disabled platforms, and signage at Wilstone pound, Aylesbury Arm	Fisheries management technical advice NFAT contractor available to install platforms	Site meeting to review and identify options and cost for business planning	Enterprise	Tring Angles Dacorum & Tring Rural Councils
21	Improve access over Bear brook – construct new footbridge at Oaklands Road, Aylesbury Arm (HP20 1AP) locks 14-15	Support and advice	Possible match funding	Estates Enterprise	Tring Anglers Aylesbury Vale DC Environment Agency

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22	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.	Provide fisheries management technical advice	Support volunteers work and provide materials and training where appropriate.		Identify volunteers to carry out
23	Improvements to four fishing platforms @ Weston Turville reservoir to enable angling to take place following exposure of overhead power lines from vegetation management	Fisheries term contractor to carry out work. Funding to be raised.	Support with materials where possible.	Funding	Prestwood & DAC
24	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.	Contract National Fisheries management Contractor to produce	Input into design proposals	Environment	Adopt design when available
25	Take opportunities to incorporate improved access and parking for angling in planning applications.	NFAT to consider as part of internal consultations on planning applications received by the Trust	Waterway to consider as part of internal consultations on planning applications received by the Trust	Planning Environment	Clubs to respond to planning applications highlighting need for community access



Weston Turville lake – a location for the installation of four new fishing platforms

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	Theme 3 – The opportunities to engage with local communities. We believe there are mutual benefits in promoting and achieving greater support to care for the local environment and support the Trust. Angling has proven ability to deliver community benefits, improved health and well being, social inclusion and outcomes for young people.				
26	Development of a visitor centre at Tring Reservoir and adjacent canal to include facilities for junior and disabled angling	Provide fisheries management and angling information as required	Possible match funding Establish project group to investigate feasibility	Estates Enterprise	Dacorum BC, Aylesbury vale DC, Tring TC, Chiltern AONB, HMWT, Rothschild Small Grants Trust
27	Development of community water for all canal customers - Aylesbury Arm locks 15-16 Tesco section	Upgrade to take account of fisheries and angling needs	Support concept of development Possible match funding	Section 106 funding Fundraising	Aylesbury Vale DC Police Community liaison
28	Creation of a community fishing club at Hemel Hempstead	Lead on discussions with LAA & other parties to make the fishery accessible to young people in Hemel Hempstead	Development and Engagement Manager	<i>Enterprise</i>	London AA Watford Angling Coaches Herts & Middlesex Angling Development Group Boxmoor & District Angling Society Ltd Dacorum Angling Project London AA

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29	Maximise opportunities for public involvement at Trust Open days to promote fisheries and angling	Provision of fisheries and angling exhibition material using national fisheries management contractor, staff and volunteers	Identify timings and locations to NFAT.	Communications	Local clubs invited and to provide volunteers
30	Establish a programme of Fish Rescue Education open days – FREDs.	Identify suitable locations in discussion with region. Plan relevant structure and content of days, and deliver as required in conjunction with fisheries management framework contractor.	Liaise with NFAT over drain down programme once confirmed by National delivery teams.	Education help with preparation and promotion and running of the programme Communications - promotion and publicity.	Offer volunteers to help out if required Promote days and opportunities for involvement

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Theme 4 – Take advantage of the opportunities for volunteering & adoptions. Fisheries & angling interests already make a valuable contribution to the network. We believe there are more opportunities if we can harness the interest, enthusiasm and commitment of anglers, angling clubs and fisheries interests by working in partnership.					
31	<p>In partnership with the Environment Agency and the Angling Trust, roll out the Voluntary Bailiffing Service as part of managing Waterway Wanderers scheme.</p> <p>Note: individuals do not have to be an angler to take part in this activity.</p>	<p>Manage the Voluntary Bailiff service volunteers</p> <p>Develop training programme with Angling Trust</p> <p>Represent the Trust on the Angling Trust and Environment Agency VBS Board</p>	<p>Be aware of new service Establish rapport and relationships</p>		<p>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 and information which can be used to initiate action</p> <p>Angling Trust Environment Agency</p>

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32	Flagship project Quantify the impact of any personal and societal benefit that occurs through club based volunteering and social action	Develop a brief to commission a survey of c30 angling clubs based in the South East to more fully understand, appreciate and recognise the impact angling clubs have on wider society and waterways Develop a brief for a research agency (including recommendations of survey methods)		A. Northen	D. Pilkinton to inform, consult and involve the partnership board/ waterway manager
33	Recognise and formalise the existing volunteering effort carried out by angling clubs.	Collate and review current volunteering effort to distinguish between contractual obligations as set out in agreements and additional activity which could be classified as volunteering.	Develop volunteering opportunities alongside NFAT. Keep records of volunteering effort and provide regularly to NFAT	Volunteering team to contribute to development	NAAG consultation on policy & opportunity to grow volunteering
34	Assess how angling clubs can increase their volunteering contribution to help maintaining the canal infrastructure and help improve habitats for fish and other wildlife	Produce and promote guidance on how angling clubs can contribute to Trust objectives on volunteering. Fisheries management technical guidance.	Facilitate, coordinate and manage local delivery across different volunteer groups	Environment National Volunteering	Clubs to engage with membership & public on the opportunities

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35	Recruit volunteer mooring wardens to assist the boating team with overstaying continuous cruisers & other mooring issues	Work with boating and enforcement to identify role for volunteering by angling clubs to check overstaying boats on different types of moorings.		Boating -enforce new regulations relating to continuous cruising. Enforcement	Club volunteers to be trained if role agreed with relevant teams.
36	Introduce an annual volunteer of the year award in recognition of outstanding contribution to maintaining and improving Trust Fisheries and Angling interests	Set up criteria and process for identification.	Support with local feedback and knowledge.	Volunteering	Support process for identification. Seek nominations once introduced.
37	Review the standard angling agreement to ensure it is kept up to date with new developments e.g. changes in legislation, volunteering.	Implement changes as new agreements are renewed		NAAG Legal	

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Theme 5 – Improving communications between the Trust and its angling customers. We recognise we need to improve our dialogue with anglers and fisheries interests, raise awareness of the benefits of fisheries & 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.					
38	'Meet the teams' who deliver locally - publicise 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 region	Provide contact details to clubs		Clubs to update details as required
39	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.	Fisheries Management Technical guidance Promote use of social media to promote angling events	WW team to provide routes for communication. WW manager to take forward for local stakeholder consultation. Waterway Forums need to include anglers as invitees and a fisheries and angling section on the agenda		Clubs to keep contact details up to date with NFAT and engage when given the opportunity

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40	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)
41	Establishment of a SE 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 and advise on business planning priorities	Facilitate and support with region.	Liaise with NFAT		Representatives from angling Clubs River Trusts Angling Trust CAAGs
42	Consider the establishment of an annual Fisheries and Angling customer forum to highlight forthcoming work and receive feedback on the fishery.	Compile list of guest speakers to help make forums more attractive to new audiences	Support from Development and Engagement Manager		Representatives from angling Clubs River Trusts Angling Trust

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

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		Make the waterway Code of Practice available on the			
44	Work with partners to develop a national web based teaching programme as a basic introduction to canal fishing	Lead on the development of material with specialist support as required from the NAAG subgroup.		Web team to help promote Environment	Smithills School, Bolton Angling Trust NAAG
45	Promote and adopt social media platforms e.g. Twitter, Facebook	Adopt these tools routinely for CRT communications. Encourage take up in clubs. Arrange suitable training for angling clubs who express an interest.			Encourage and adopt new communications channels Publicise and encourage training opportunities and benefits
46	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	Manage production process. Build up and maintain database of contacts.			Clubs to encourage members to sign up to receive, provide feedback and ideas for future content
47	Explore opportunities for increased partnership working with the Environment Agency to increase the	Set up regular contact with EA. Promote work in newsletters			Clubs to bring forward potential projects

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	profile of each organisation, their work and future project opportunities.				
48	Improved promotion of fisheries and angling locally e.g. Waterway offices and externally	<p>Liaise with Communications Team regarding fisheries and angling benefits, and provide material which endorses this approach.</p> <p>Investigate opportunities to promote fisheries and angling benefits to 'Friends of the Trust'</p> <p>Target the biggest clubs locally to build rapport and improved relationships.</p>	<p>Take opportunities to include fisheries and angling content in printed, display and exhibition material</p>	Communications	
49	Develop materials for a specialist fisheries and angling stand for Trust events	<p>Develop materials.</p> <p>Develop and train a team of volunteers to help man an exhibition stand.</p> <p>Seek volunteers through clubs and newsletter.</p>		Volunteering	Clubs to seek volunteers
50	Communication with non-anglers to achieve a broader understanding of the benefits that fisheries and angling provide.	<p>Provide material and adverts to other sources e.g. boating and waterway, cycling, walking magazines and websites.</p> <p>Provide guidance to internal teams on the benefits of angling</p>		Environment	Provide local stories and information to

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		and nature and importance of fisheries as aquatic ecosystems. Attend other Waterway Customer group meetings and Forums, Partnership Boards; provide expert guidance, advice and support, presentations. Run angling taster days for Trust staff, Partnership Board, volunteers.			
51	Communication with public on the history and heritage of fisheries and angling	Provide Fisheries & Angling information to the Canal museum at Stoke Bruerne to promote history, current and future use on the canal. Develop and promote Welcome Station Leaflet locally		G. Boxer, Head of Museums. Museums Manager for Stoke Bruerne	J. Essex

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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.					
52	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 and Engagement Manager to develop and deliver projects at waterway level.	Environment Enterprise	Clubs to identify work areas, cooperate, agree priorities and help write bids. Local Authorities Environment Agency Sport England
53	Encourage clubs to develop project proposals to improve fisheries and increase participation and to bid for funds from the Angling Trust Angling & Fishery Improvement Fund	Support bids which meet the criteria laid out by Angling Trust	Waterway to be kept informed of proposals to avoid duplication.	Funding	Angling Trust Environment Agency All clubs
54	Encourage clubs to develop project proposals to improve fisheries and increase participation and to bid for funds from the Sport England Small Grants fund and Inspired Facilities Fund	Support bids which meet the criteria laid out by Sport England		Enterprise	Sport England Angling Trust Environment Agency
55	Develop new income streams where possible e.g. evolution of Waterway Wanderers scheme into Angling Friends.	Provide expertise to fundraising team so that potential friends product is appropriate for likely friends customer base.		Fundraising	NAAG advice

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56	Organise local appeals to raise funds for small local projects that will make a difference to the lives of local people and wildlife	Identify suitable projects	Take the lead on local appeals.	Enterprise	Clubs to identify possible projects
57	Make clubs aware that waterway wanderers water is available to rent.	Put details on Fisheries and Angling website		Web	

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	<p>Theme 7 - Fish passage and migration - we will continue to identify structures that are barriers to fish migration and which are limiting fish spawning and distribution. The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 sets standards for a broader definition of water quality including ecological issues such as fish passage to be achieved by 2027 through a series of 6-yearly Plans. The Trust is required to “have regard to” the actions set out in the Plans; The Eels Regulations 2009 give the Environment Agency powers to serve notice requiring construction of eel passes to provide access to habitat for elvers or access to the sea for mature eels. We will need to work with a range of statutory and non statutory partners to develop proposals on a site by site basis including identifying possible funding sources.</p>				
58	<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>Grand Union Canal at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weir at Old bank Mill • Clems Weir • Sappi Graphics South weir • Tooveys Labyrinth • Tooveys Weir • Kings Langley We 	<p>Review list of structures from Environment team to confirm presence/absence of these.</p> <p>Prioritise across Trust 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 and raise awareness with partners.</p>	<p>Environment - lead Operations and Assets Enterprise Fundraising Heritage</p>	<p>Environment Agency Rivers Trusts Riparian Owners Natural England Clubs</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oualtine weir • Hunton Bridge weir • Helicopter weir • Grove Mill weir • Ironbride Lock • Curley weir • River Colne outlet • Batchworth fixed weir • Colne weir 				
59	<p>Investigate options and opportunities at sites notified to us by the Environment Agency as “Critical” sites for eel passage under the Eels Regulations :</p> <p>Oxford Canal at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weir 26 Aynho Weir • Hampton Gay Weir No3 	<p>Review list of structures from Environment team to confirm presence/absence of these.</p> <p>Prioritise across Trust 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 and raise awareness with partners.</p>	<p>Environment - lead Operations and Assets Enterprise Fundraising Heritage</p>	<p>Environment Agency Rivers Trusts Riparian Owners Natural England Clubs</p>

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<p>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.</p>					
60	<p>Problem with crayfish reported at – Watford Piscators -Marsworth reservoir</p>	<p>Approve requests for applications for crayfish trapping to the Environment Agency on Trust owned/managed fisheries, including ongoing research on the River Lee.</p>		<p>Environment</p>	
61	<p>Cormorant problems reported at: - Watford Piscators - Tring waters - Tring reservoirs</p>	<p>Consult with local fishing clubs and waterway teams and seek advice, input and 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 Trust owns fishing rights, in consultation with other regulatory bodies, partners and fishing clubs.</p>			<p>Environment Agency Natural England Angling Trust Banbury & DAC Luton AC</p>

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62	Mink problem identified at: - Aylesbury Arm & Tring cutting - River Ouzel (Luton AC)	Consider organising a course for clubs on best practice on how to set mink traps and humane disposal of mink; consider widening invite to clubs in neighbouring areas. Consider running more subject to demand		Environment	Clubs to register an interest with Trust. Upper Ouse Fisheries Consultative
63	Manage the control options for certain non-native fish species e.g. zander, bitterling, catfish, topmouth gudgeon, motherless minnow, grass carp, ide, sturgeon	Log information available. Liaise with Environment team. Assess and agree management options in discussion with regulatory authorities. Implement action as required		Environment	Clubs to inform NFAT of non-native species Environment Agency Defra.
64	Work with Environment & the Waterway to publicise the presence of non-native plants and animals, encourage participation in actions to help reduce their spread, record & report their presence and take part in control options using volunteers where possible.	Use e newsletter to publicise, including methods for identification and ways to limit their spread. Log reports of presence and pass on to Environment. Work with clubs to identify & use volunteers to implement actions.	Implement control options where required using staff, contractors or volunteers as necessary.	Environment	Report incidents of non-natives to NFAT. Seek volunteers to help with control options where agreed with Trust

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65	Improved information on otter populations and their impact on fish stocks	Offer support to Colne consultative		Environment	Colne consultative monitoring otter populations
66	Ensure all waterway customers and all Trust routine day to day activities do not spread non-native species	Lead communication with clubs and include in routine comms e.g. newsletter, to encourage adoption of the 'check, clean and dry' message, and incorporate into environmental appraisal process	Adopt the 'check, clean and dry' message	Boating Communications Environment All Trust teams that work in the field.	Clubs to communicate with members



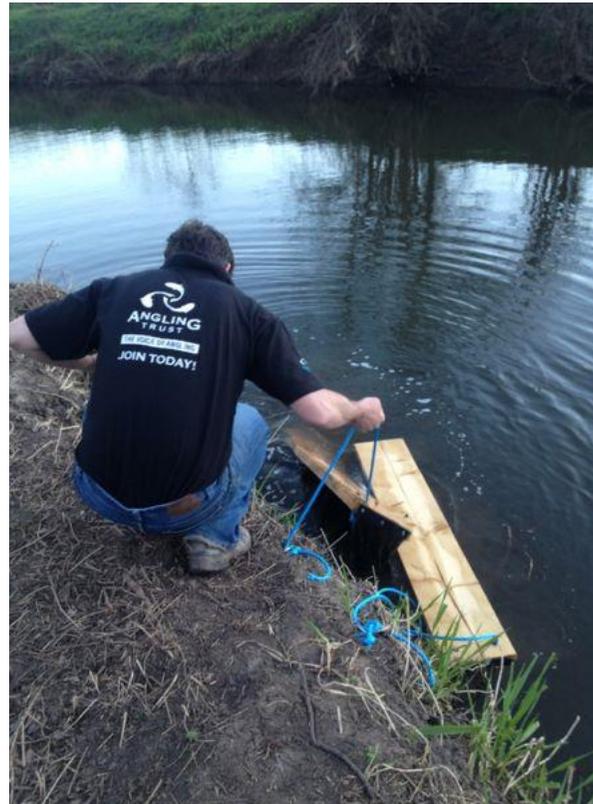
We need to look after our native fish by removing or reducing pressure on them. Here we are electric fishing to remove non-native zander to slow and stop their spread.





But we also need to prevent damage to habitat by improving our environmental impact assessment and improve habitat where it is poor – not much cover for fish here.

In places, we aim to increase fish stocks by supporting improved spawning, here with the use of spawning boards



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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.					
67	Seek an increased understanding of existing fish stocks for their better protection and restoration , including recording presence of protected species	<p>Develop a methodology for collection of fisheries data, including option of using match catch data, and scale sampling collection</p> <p>Collate fish population data from fisheries management activities e.g. fish rescues carried out by Fisheries Term Contractor, and provide data to EA where requested.</p> <p>Identify locations where fish stocks are poor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake fish population survey at Weston Turville SSSI, subject to funding availability 		Fundraising	<p>Offer input & support with local waterway knowledge, including match catch data where requested, and volunteers to collect scale samples.</p> <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>Rivers Trusts</p> <p>Natural England</p>

No.	Action	Role of the Trust Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the Trust regional team	Role of other Trust team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northampton arm following recent kerosene pollution Liaise with Environment and regional 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 Provide advice and feedback to local waterway teams and angling clubs on the quality of the local fish stocks			
68	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 and pollutions, spawning and habitat protection, and	Develop the Fisheries and Angling section of the Environmental Appraisal Policy. NFAT to sign of works affecting licenced clubs Publicise and raise awareness to ensure compliance	Review operating activities to minimize impact and identify possible improvements to practice.	Environment	Clubs to act as eyes and ears on the ground, be active consultees and report incidents

No.	Action	Role of the Trust Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the Trust regional team	Role of other Trust team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
	<p>that appropriate mitigation is implemented when required</p> <p>Protected species to be protected are: eel, bullhead, crucian carp, spined loach, brook & river lamprey, brown trout, Twaite & Allis shad, salmon</p>	<p>Implement training programme for Trust operatives who undertake small scale fish rescues as part of lock stoppages – to include use of pumps in locks guidance</p> <p>Provide fisheries management technical advice on planning applications and other teams on developments likely to have an impact on fish stocks e.g. hydropower</p>			
69	<p>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</p>	<p>Stock at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the GUC at Saddington tunnel, d/s to Kilby Bridge where 8 miles canal affected following pollution - Dixons Gap (fish sourced from Aylesbury Canal Society marina) - Sandy bridge (bridge 110) Old Linslade (fish sourced from GUC Horton area where power lines 			<p>Wigston AC</p> <p>Tring AC</p> <p>Luton AC</p>

No.	Action	Role of the Trust Fisheries & Angling Team (NFAT)	Role of the Trust regional team	Role of other Trust team (Other)	Role of External Partner or Angling Club (Ext)
		<p>prevent angling from taking place</p> <p>- South Oxford canal, Oxford to Banbury, (fish sourced from various sections of canal inaccessible to angling)</p>			<p>Banbury & DAC Kidlington AC Oxford & DAC North Oxford AC</p>
70	Reduce/mitigate the impact of the building of the High Speed Rail Link (HS2) on access to the canal fishery and any potential impact on fish stocks.	<p>Provide fisheries management technical advice in discussion with developers, clubs and other Trust teams. Consider options to mitigate impact e.g. alternative access points on offside</p>	Liaise across CRT teams	Estates Legal Environment	Clubs to become involved
71	Creating opportunities for high quality specialist fishing opportunities e.g. lure fishing – London FAAP Regents canal.	<p>Identify opportunity, liaise with local clubs to encourage opportunities Manage the fish stocks to support identified fishery</p>	Offer input & support with local waterway		Lure Canal Angling Society
72	Develop and implement appropriate management strategies to improve fish habitat e.g. provision of far bank	Liaise with across Trust teams to identify opportunities	Facilitate and engage with improvements where	Environment	Clubs to see if volunteers available

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	refuges such as floating rafts and spawning boards		possible using Trust teams and volunteers		
73	Establish Dukes Pool, as a special site for the protection and conservation of Crucian carp as part of the National Crucian Conservation project	Arrange for removal of existing fish. Stock with crucian carp		Environment	Environment Agency Angling Trust North Oxford AS
74	Reduce and prevent fish theft and the use of illegal methods to catch fish	Log feedback from voluntary bailiff service, other teams and the public. Liaise with EA over possible actions. Highlight illegal methods on the website.	Support by reporting any incidents observed.		Clubs to act as eyes & ears on the ground. Log and report any incidents observed.
75	Investigate the restoration of the Broadwater lake fishery, Cosgrove, Milton Keynes	Lead on feasibility and analysis of opportunities. Seek funding as required.		Environment Enterprise	

Some of our typical canal fish:



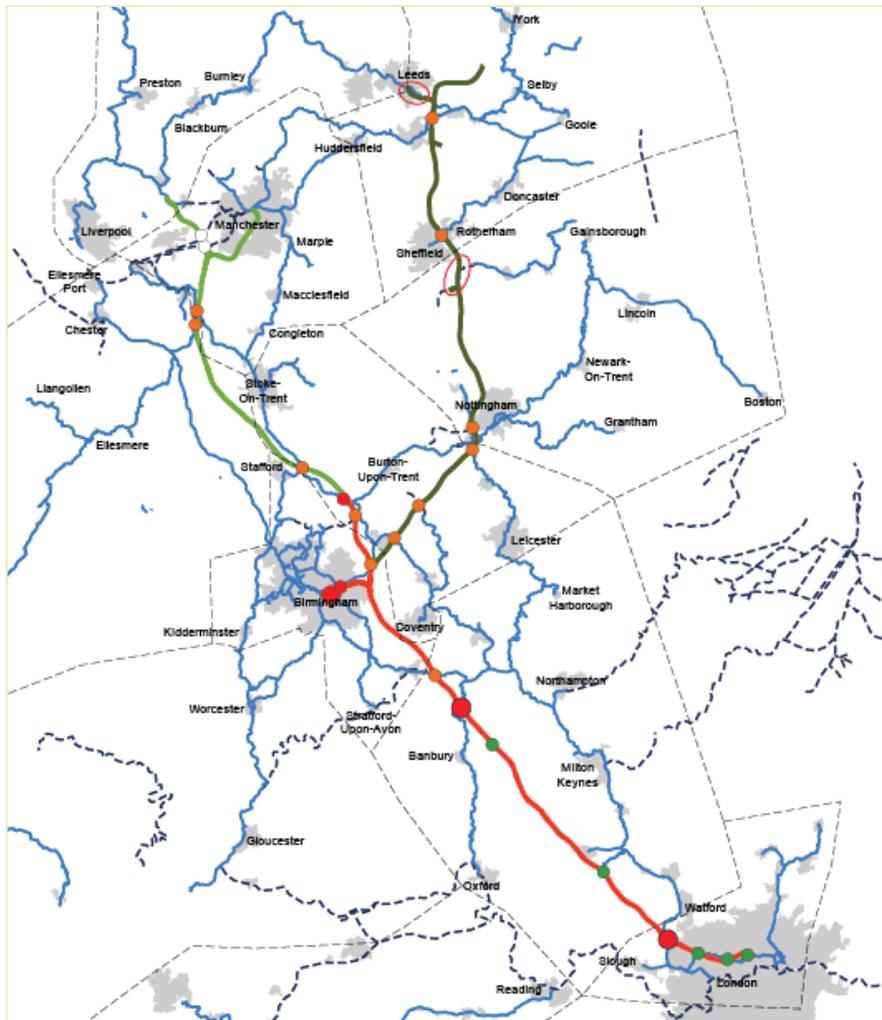
Roach



Perch



Common bream



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 70)



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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.					
76	Tring STW discharge into Wendover Arm at Gannel Bridge Berkhamstead STW discharge to GUC	If fish in distress, manage the fisheries term contractor to take appropriate action		Environment	Tring Anglers London AA Club to act as eyes and ears and report any incidents of pollution, distressed & dead fish to EA (0800 807060) & Trust Fisheries & Angling/ Environment teams. Clubs to inform Environment team and Environment Agency if pollution apparent but no fish in distress
77	Potential lack of management of road silt settlement sumps on the M25 junction 19 which drain into GUC			Environment	Kings Langley AS Club to act as eyes and ears and report any incidents of pollution, distressed & dead fish to EA

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					(0800 807060) & Trust Fisheries & Angling/ Environment teams. Clubs to inform Environment team and Environment Agency if pollution apparent but no fish in distress
78	Provide expertise and advice on the impacts on fish of reservoir lowering, drain downs and water transfers and water quality issues	Input fisheries management technical guidance.		Environment	Club to act as eyes and ears and report any incidents of pollution, distressed & dead fish to EA (0800 807060) & Trust Fisheries & Angling/ Environment teams. Clubs to inform Environment team and Environment Agency if pollution

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

Fisheries and 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.
- Led 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 and Angling Team

The National Fisheries and Angling Team includes:

- National Fisheries and Angling Manager - John Ellis
- Fisheries and Angling Manager - Carl Nicholls
- Fisheries and Angling Manager - Paul Breslin

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