



Sunbleak fish - *Leucaspius delineatus*

A small fish, usually less than 9cm, which is native to continental Europe but not the UK. It is found in rivers and lakes throughout Somerset, Hampshire and also in Dorset. Distribution thought to be increasing, although they can be confused with the native species bleak, roach, dace, chub. They compete with native species as they have similar diets and spawning areas, can be infected with parasites and are regarded as a pest to anglers.

Management Options:

Chemical Treatment

Rotenone treatment of enclosed waterbodies.

- Suitability:** Enclosed waters that can be hydrologically isolated from the environment for the duration of the treatment.
- Equipment:** Boat fitted with specialist biocide applicator. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.
- Efficiency:** Good, if the site is contained.
- Constraints:** Expensive and results in non-target impact on biodiversity and other fish species present. . Must be performed with Environment Agency approval/cooperation.

Species Introduction

Introduction of a piscivorous (fish eating) fish, such as Perch.

- Suitability:** Sites at which eradication is not a management outcome and where the presence of a predatory fish will not cause unacceptable non-target impact.
- Equipment:** Section 30 consent. Fish transporter. Life jacket and any other personal protective equipment deemed necessary after risk assessment.
- Efficiency:** Moderate, but will not achieve eradication.
- Constraints:** Does not eradicate the fish and will also have an impact on other species. . Must be performed with Environment Agency approval/cooperation.

Water Level Management

Drain, and preferably lime, the waterbody.

- Suitability:** Sites at which sensitive or protected native or commercial species are not present, or can be removed. Need to have complete control over drainage/refill of waterbody.
- Efficiency:** Good, if the site can be dried out completely, or limed, and is not subject to reinvasion.
- Constraints:** Rarely viable and results in non-target impact on biodiversity and other fish species present.

