

**Angling Trust Midlands Forum
Trent
23rd November 2016
Holiday Inn**

Meeting opened by Dave Kent, Angling Trust East Midlands Regional Chair

**Angling Trust Update, plus news about new Angling Trust
Kayak Signage Campaign – John Cheyne, Angling Trust,
National Regions Manager**

Angling Trust Update Presentation – Available to download from:

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=836§ionTitle=Midlands+Region>

Post presentation Q&A session with John

The Angling Improvement Fund and the successful bid for cash from Nottingham Piscatorials to improve their waters was one of the topics covered in John's presentation. Dale Whittaker from the club gave a testimonial about how the grant has helped the club get more people fishing and how straight forward the process of applying to the fund is.

Q – Is the 7m rule enforceable for Kayaks too?

A – There isn't an official 7m rule, that's an old gentleman's agreement between sailing club's rowers and anglers. However, we are considering asking for the idea to be re-discussed however implementation will be difficult.

Q – Angling Trust suggest voluntary agreements with canoeists and kayakers but what benefit do kayakers bring to the table? Our club has lost members because of them!

A – Kayakers negotiate voluntary access agreements with landowners, fishing clubs don't have to be involved with these agreements, but very often it is beneficial to be part of the discussions. The voluntary access agreement on the Wye is an example of where kayakers are given access to the river at times when angling is not possible due to flood conditions meaning that there are far less issues with kayakers at other times.

Q – You mention that canoeing on non-navigable rivers without the landowner's permission is trespass. Is the same true on still waters?

A – Yes it is. We feel that signage is the first step to take in tackling the problem. Another difficulty is that many of them don't belong to a club or organisation.

Q – On the Derwent when all the kayakers turn up, there aren't any parking spaces left for anglers.

Q – There's jet skis coming from Barton and Shardlow and going up the river Dove!

A – David Kent is going to talk to the Enforcement Officer at Burton about jet skis and speed boats coming out of Shardlow.

Q – As riparian owners on the Derwent what can we do to take action against kayakers?

A – Take a civil action for trespass.

Q – Cormorants are a problem for our club, the statistics are horrific. The Angling Trusts' Richard Bamforth has helped us though. Are these birds originating in China and are they invasive non-native species? Can the Angling Trust do more to help with regards representation?

A – (Mark Owen Head of Freshwater Angling Trust) Swedish Scientist has investigated whether these birds are coming from china, and there looks like there are some serious problems with this theory. I was involved in 3 years of negotiations with DEFRA and the minister allowed for an Area Licence, he also said if the number of cormorants shot requires increasing, he would review the numbers. There are 27,000 cormorants in the UK, in Denmark there are 50,000 and lots of their water is devoid of fish! The cormorant is the most studied bird in the world and even if numbers were impacted, we know their numbers would recover the following year.

Q – How can salmon and trout be protected from predation?

A – There are many different methods, it very much depends on the type of water. We are in the process of producing a report that looks at the issue of predation on Salmon Smolts as part of the 5-point approach to Salmon.

Q – What is the legal procedure to have a local marksman involved?

A – You will need a licence and the officer will tell you how many birds you can shoot. Before a licence is issued you will need to demonstrate that lots of work has been done with non-lethal methods. We can put you in touch with Richard Bamforth who can come out and advise.

Q – It's the practicalities of using a licence on our waters, when we've got a motorway on one side and a wildlife centre on the other.

A – It can be difficult, but again Richard Bamforth can advise.

Environment Agency Update, including pollution Issues on the Trent – Simon Ward and Callum Underhill, Fisheries Officers explain how they have been working to improve fish stocks in your region

EA Update Presentation – Available to download from:

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=836§ionTitle=Midlands+Region>

Post presentation Q&A session with Simon, Callum and Steve Laurie

During Callum's presentation, he told about a problem on the Trent of a few bad anglers tipping their nets into bags or the boot of their cars when no one else was about to witness the crime.

Q – The Nottingham Canal suffers fish theft and poaching from Eastern Europeans! Do you include the canal in your checks?

A – Yes we do, please report these incidents using the hotline number, found on your licence.

Q – There were 2 Eastern Europeans hitting carp on the head in our park pond

A – Again it is vital that this sort of intelligence is reported. Please come and see me at the end to pass on all your information regarding this.

Q – Can you explain how the VBS has been helping you with enforcement?

A – There's a lot of value with the VBS and we get a lot of good intelligence from the VB's having people properly trained to report incidents makes a big difference.

Q – Do you check for illegal activity at weirs where salmon can get held up?

A – When we get calls telling us they are building up we will go out and check nothing untoward is happening.

Q - Steve Laurie wanted to ask the forum what it thought about not having keepnets as a way of combatting fish theft?

A – At the end of a session, youngsters like to look at what they've caught.

A – Club members should be allowed to use them but day ticket anglers shouldn't as it always seems to be anglers on a day ticket committing the offence.

Q – Do you find that anglers emptying their nets into their boot at the end of a session is a big problem for you?

A – There are currently two main offences being called into us and this is one of them!

Q – Can club bailiffs ask to see a rod licence?

A – Yes, if it's written in to the club's rules, but they can only act on the broken club rule not the offence of no rod licence.

Q – If commercial fisheries make so much money, why can't they make it their rules to check licences too?

A – We do encourage this but to make it compulsory would require a change in the law and there are a number of issues.

Q – Can we have a copy of the latest fish survey report?

A – Yes, please get in touch and we'll pass it on.

Q – Sewage at Shardlow and from the airport, can the EA investigate the levels of discharge meet safe limits?

A – Please get in touch and we'll get involved to check the licence is fit for purpose.

Q – Does the EA check the state of eggs and juveniles of coarse fish after a pollution incident like they do for salmon and trout?

A - This is a valid point and they are taken into consideration but it's not formal like with salmon, after a pollution we normally stock fish and fry for 5 years to enable successful breeding and maturity.

Q – River level monitoring stations are on the lower stretches of river, why can't we have them on the upper stretches too?

A – Monitoring Stations are run by a business needs basis and they are very expensive, the site would have to tell us something about flood risk!

Avoiding the spread of KHV and protecting your fishery – Jason Mewett, CEFAS, Fish Health Inspector

Post presentation Q&A session with Jason

Q – What fish does KHV affect?

A – King Carp, Koi and F1's

Q – What conditions at a fishery can start KHV?

A - KHV is a warm water disease, from 15 degrees upwards and we see it. It used to be July when we saw it but now were seeing it in mid to late June.

- If there's an algal bloom at a fishery, low dissolved oxygen levels can bring it on!
- If we investigate a mixed fishery and it's only the carp dying, we will get involved.
- From our investigations in to the disease we see distinct DNA differences and were finding that the virus is coming from ornamental ponds – this is the highest risk.
- Sick fish go dark in colour, turn lethargic and can congregate around an inlet.
- Infected fish do feed and when put in a keep net, they release mucus because they get stressed.

Q – What do you do when you first go into a fishery suspected of coming down with KHV?

A – We will meet the fishery owner if at all possible, or we will enter the fishery and start an investigation.

- Take samples
- Containment of the fishery/stop the movement of fish
- Infected water will be closed
- We also stop the movement of fish and equipment
- Disinfectant facilities are installed
- Run some tests – may take up to 10 days for results
- If the results are positive, we retest
- We check to see if there's another fishery further downstream
- For the first 12 months after being diagnosed no new fish may be stocked – if fish are stocked, the next time temperatures rise another outbreak will occur.
- If I owned a fishery, the best thing I could do would be to supply the nets.
- Fisheries then have to supply disinfectant dips for nets and we would recommend dipping in and dipping out when leaving.
- When the fishery is open again, it's all about containment.
- We've had 32 outbreaks this year - the worst year for outbreaks to date.
- As a department, we suffer from under reporting, if we don't know about an outbreak we can't do anything about it.

Q – Do over stocked fisheries suffer more?

A – We don't know but this year it's been mostly on commercials. Overcrowding leads to stress, if stressed fish carry the virus then that's when the disease surfaces.

Q – What disinfectant do you recommend fisheries to use?

A – The best is Virkon it's pink in colour and costs between £50 and £60/kg, nets need to be dipped in this for a minimum of 2 minutes.

Q – When VERKON is mixed, how long does it last?

A – When it turns white, change it. Also, if there is anything living in it, change it. A PH test will tell you the concentration.

Q – How long will the virus live in a stink bag for?

A – We have tested for 18 hours and it was still present.

Q – How many day light hours are required to kill it?

A – It's best to make sure the net is completely dry.