



Angling Trust East of England Fisheries Forum

September 27th 2017

Oaklands Hotel

89 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0HH

In Association with The Environment Agency

Notes and Q&As

Meeting opened by Kelvin Allen, Angling Trust Regional Chair

Environment Agency Fisheries Update - Marcus Sibley and Ben Norrington

Marcus explained about the welcome and needed increase to his local teams funding and how this will be used to improve fisheries in the region, here are a few bullet points from his presentation:

- An extra Fisheries Officer in Norfolk (increase from 3 to 4 full time posts).
- A fixed term contract Fisheries Officer until March 2018
- 2 full-time FEOs and 1 Support Officer covering Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk
- Additional Support Officer is in training (Norfolk based)

Details about the increase in funding and subsequent increases to fisheries resources are in Marcus and Ben's presentation that can be downloaded from the AT website, just copy the link below into your browser, then scroll down to the list of PDF documents.

<http://www.anglingtrust.net/page.asp?section=844§ionTitle=East+of+England+Forum>

At the start of his presentation Ben told of the funding workshops available to anglers, clubs and fisheries that help with making a funding application for rod licence cash and how the EA offer fishery management advice to carp fisheries if they need it.

Q – I watched a video of the EA taking dace out of the river to take Claverton Fish Farm to be grown and then released back into the river.

A – There are low cost solutions for stocking like the Avon Roach Project spawning boards.

Q – I think when the fishery bylaws changed in 2007 this coincided with the decline in eels. I coach starters and kids on how to handle and unhook eels, then I see a guy with a boat and eel traps with probably two hundred weight of them! What do I say to the ones I'm coaching?

Q – Licence checking on the broads – in summer we have a lot of holiday makers come to fish, do they get their licence checked?

A – There are joint patrols on the broads in summer. Paul Thomas said that signage at fisheries is important to help with this.

Q – Have we got figures for licence evasion in the region?

A – There is an evasion rate of 9% in Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.

Q – Why can't we get the boating companies to check for a licence before hiring a boat?

A – Kelvin - I'll cover this point of licence checking and evasion on the broads in my presentation. Paul Thomas said that the guy who rents boats in Tewkesbury asks for a licence number and won't rent without one.

Broads Angling Strategy - Kelvin Allen - An overview of the plan and its objectives

Q – There's no fishing at Bramerton, but I've been there today and there were people fishing from boats!

Q – There are documents about fishing at Bramerton that say fishing should always be present, so I know that some bad decisions have been made historically.

A – I'm not saying change will happen over-night but we will work with the local community to move forward.

Q – I think it's the anglers themselves that have been the driving force to take this strategy forward.

A – The members will own this company and will hold themselves responsible.

A copy of Kelvin's presentation can be downloaded from the AT website use this link to take you to the East of England Fisheries Forum page and scroll down to the list of documents:

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Match Fishing on the Yare – Andy Wilson-Sutter

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