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Voluntary Bailiff Service Information Sheet

- Voluntary Bailiff Service is an important partnership between the Angling Trust and the Environment Agency, and is funded by English freshwater rod licences.
- The 'VBS' is a part of the Fisheries Enforcement Support Service, also a partnership with the EA, which helps coordinate a multi-agency response to protecting fish and fisheries.
- The VBS now covers the whole of England, which is divided into six regions, each of which is managed by a FESS Regional Enforcement Manager, who is an experienced retired police officer and passionate angler.
- The VBS is diverse and inclusive.

There are two stages to the VBS: -

Phase 1

All policing today is 'intelligence-led', meaning that information received from incoming calls and other sources is used to generate patterns identifying locations, offenders and times. This means that resources can be efficiently and effectively deployed. The importance of this cannot be overstated, so Phase 1 Volunteer Bailiffs contribute by being 'eyes and ears', reporting what they see and hear to a high evidential standard.

Training is provided by law enforcement professionals of the Angling Trust, EA and police. Volunteers are provided Angling Trust-badged clothing, an ID card, VBS Handbook, pocketbook, and submit reports via an online, secure, website. Certain expenses are met, such as travelling to attend a pre-scheduled joint patrol with the EA and/or police, and training. Phase 1 VBs are not tasked to patrol specific areas, and can contribute as many or as few hours as they wish. A 'patrol', therefore, could include a fishing trip or an angling club bailiff patrolling his or her club water. VBs do, however, have the opportunity to undertake joint patrols with the EA and police, and contribute to high profile operations such as TRAVERSE, LEVIATHAN and CLAMP-DOWN. The VBS has been very carefully thought-through, is overseen and administered by professionals, and exists to support the EA.

Applicants are expected to self-declare any previous convictions, for consideration, and are informally interviewed, often by telephone, by the relevant REM. Successful applicants then attend a mandatory induction and training day; please see:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IPvwG_2lUs&feature=youtu.be&list=PLo-hwv5tIb1sFr56Wj25e8gnlMsvmJ7Av

Phase 2

During Phase 1, we get to know our VBs, who likewise can decide whether, if selected, they may like to go on to Phase 2 – which involves being warranted and working directly in support of EA fisheries enforcement officers to check rod licences and deal with certain fisheries offences.

Phase 2 candidates have to pass a competency-based interview, and are then provided training by the EA in law, process, conflict resolution and much else besides. Phase 2 VBs are then supervised by EA team leaders, and work in their teams. Phase 2 VBs can also continue contributing to Phase 1. Phase 2 is currently a pilot project in SE England, which, if successful, will be extended to other areas.

Further information

If you have any further questions, please give your REM a call: -

David Lees, NW REM:	07495 433618
Giles Evans, NE REM:	07495 433619
Kevin Pearson, Midlands REM:	07495 433620
Paul Thomas, Eastern REM:	07495 433621
David Wilkins, London & SE:	07495 433623
Nevin Hunter, SW REM	07495 433622

The VBS is now closed for applications in 2017. To express interest, and so that we can contact you when we resume recruitment for 2018, please contact the FESS Support & Administration Officer, indicating where in England you are based: karen.sarkar@anglingtrust.net.



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