

FISHERIES ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

# How we spend fishing licence income



# Here's how we reinvested your licence fee to directly support angling and fisheries across England

- ✔ Stocking fish
- ✔ Protecting fisheries and preventing illegal fishing
- ✔ Improving fisheries habitat
- ✔ Working with partners
- ✔ Prioritising a sustainable future for fisheries



**726**

✔ Successful prosecutions for fishing licence evasion



**627,495**

✔ Coarse fish supplied and stocked



**317**

✔ Incidents at fisheries attended



**168ha**

✔ Of stillwater fisheries enhanced



**41**

✔ Fish passes created and barriers/weirs removed



**1,000+**

✔ Project partners



**602km**

✔ Of river habitats opened up/improved



**926**

✔ Fish stock surveys



**41,446**

✔ Fishing licence checks



Nearly

**£22 million**

✔ Of fishing licence income was invested to deliver the fisheries service

# The full story of what we do with fishing licence income



“

We reinvest 100% of fishing licence income to improve fisheries for people, the environment and angling.”



We're really proud that we can say that every penny from licence fees gets reinvested back into the sport.

We sold 934,760 licences between April 2021 and March 2022. Our thanks go to everyone who bought one, because collectively, you have helped us protect and improve everything you love about fishing.

LEARN MORE

[i See all our reports](#)

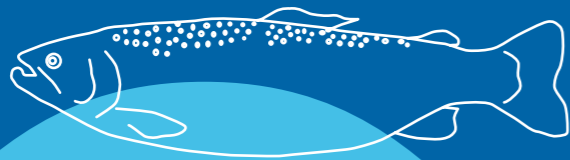
Your fishing licence fee directly supports angling and fisheries across England, enabling us to:

- ✔ Improve fisheries habitat
- ✔ Improve fish stocks and fisheries
- ✔ Protect fisheries and reduce illegal fishing
- ✔ Secure a sustainable future for fisheries
- ✔ Work with partners to deliver more

# By working with partners, we have been able to work at growing participation in the sport and deliver a range of habitat enhancement initiatives

## Our partners helped to:

- ✔ Run 1,707 angler events
- ✔ Enhance 137km of rivers
- ✔ Introduce 26,636 people to the sport
- ✔ Conducted 3,587 river fly surveys
- ✔ Responded to 1,000 requests for advice on controlling predation
- ✔ Awarded almost £400,000 of fishing licence income through the Angling Improvement Fund and Get Fishing Fund



## There's power in a partnership!"

That's why in 2021-2022 we chose to collaborate with 1,000 other like-minded groups and organisations. By pooling our funds and resources, we can often achieve more with our money.

Income generated by fishing licences, allowed us to join forces with organisations like The Angling Trust, Wild Trout Trust, Institute of Fisheries Management, the Riverfly Partnership as well as local river trusts, angling clubs and charities and many more. Anglers benefited from:

- ✔ Improved fish stocks and habitats
- ✔ New facilities and greater accessibility at fisheries
- ✔ Angling promotion campaigns that enabled more people to try the sport
- ✔ Joined up enforcement and intelligence sharing

### LEARN MORE

[See more on partnerships](#)



PARTNERSHIPS IN FOCUS

# Angling Trust

“

I find angling a peaceful experience that helps me to unwind and get away from the day-to-day stresses in my life.”

– Nigel, Angler



The Angling Trust delivers advice to anglers and works to help more people access the sport. It also supports enforcement and undertakes predator control, invasive non-native species and biosecurity work.

**26,636**

people tried fishing for the first time at 1,707 events.

**£195,785**

of fishing licence income awarded through the Get Fishing Fund to 118 beneficiaries including angling clubs, charities and other organisations.

Responded to

**994**

otter/fish-eating bird problems.

Carried out

**13,817**

patrols through the Voluntary Bailiff Service.

**766**

incidents reported.



PARTNERSHIPS IN FOCUS

# Wild Trout Trust

With our funding, they:

- ✔ Delivered 87 advisory visits and workshops
- ✔ Completed nine river improvement projects
- ✔ Enhanced 137km of habitat across England



# Riverfly Partnership

Trained volunteers undertook:

- ✔ 3,587 surveys
- ✔ Site monitoring at 724 sites across 324 rivers and 97 catchments

# Creating more resilient fisheries improves the overall experience for anglers like you

That's why we invested over £1 million of your licence income into projects that enhance habitat for fish and improve access and facilities for anglers.

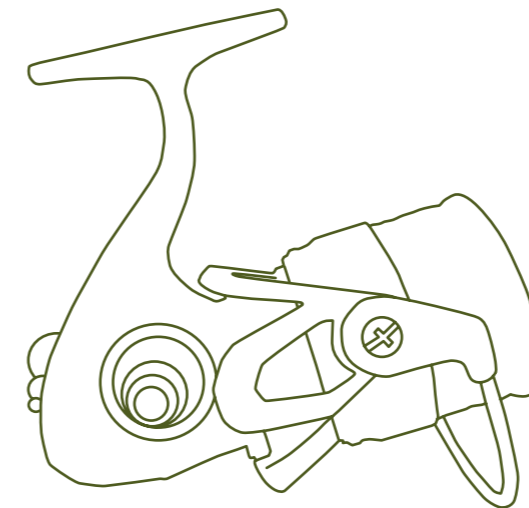


**When fish can spawn, feed and avoid predators or extreme weather more easily – anglers have a better chance of catching them! That's why we invest in enhancing fisheries, because everyone benefits."**

In 2021-2022 we directly funded over 200 projects that enhanced over 600km of river and 168ha of stillwater fisheries.

#### LEARN MORE

**i** [Learn more about improvement projects](#)



Angling Improvement Fund projects focused on protecting fisheries.

- ✔ 40 otter and cormorant predation schemes
- ✔ 10 non-native species control and biosecurity projects

Fisheries Improvement Plan projects.

- ✔ 122 projects focused on improving fisheries
- ✔ 129 projects giving anglers greater access to fisheries
- ✔ 41 fish/eel passes constructed and weirs/barriers removed

Environmental impact mitigation.

- ✔ £50,000 invested in specialist kit to protect fisheries from drought and climate change

# £1m invested in Fisheries Improvement Programme projects

In 2021-22 our Fisheries Improvement Programme delivered projects across England, in both rivers and still waters. The projects benefitted anglers, and helped protect a wide range of species including coarse fish, trout and eels.

✔ Protecting of fish stocks

✔ Enhancing fisheries habitat

✔ Building new fish passes to help fish access vital river habitat for spawning, feeding and taking refuge

✔ New angling platforms and improved accessibility, so more people than ever can enjoy the sport



“

Since 2015, over 850 projects have been successfully completed, with a total of £6 million invested from fishing licence sales alone.”



## **Plymouth and District Coarse Angling Club:**

Improved accessibility, water quality and aquatic habitats at three of the club's fisheries.

- ✔ Upgraded steps and walkways
- ✔ Four pegs refurbished
- ✔ New aquatic plants and coir bank protection installed

## **Windermere, Ambleside and District Angling Association Ltd:**

Floating island.

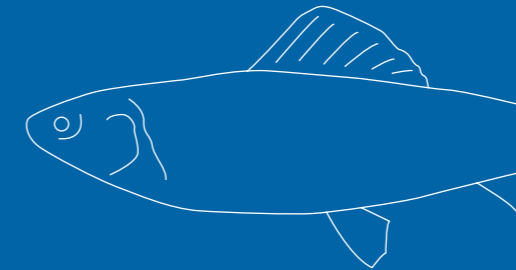
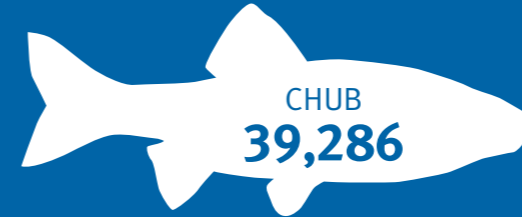
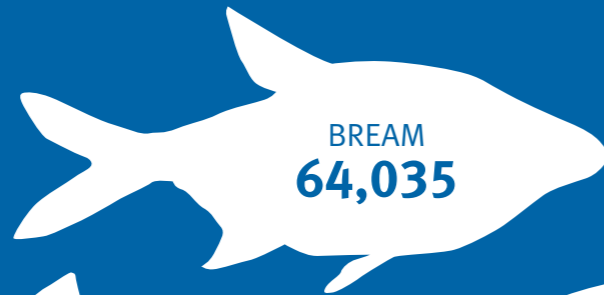
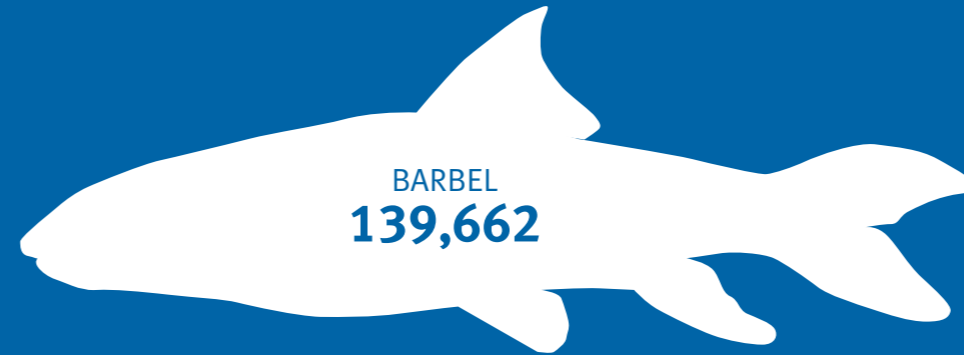
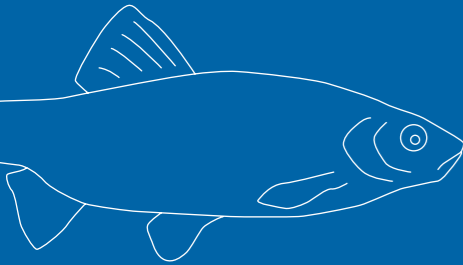
- ✔ Designed, built and installed floating islands to help mitigate issues of excessive nutrients and weed growth

## **Yorkley and District Angling Club:**

50 pegs and angler pathways improved.

- ✔ Joint match funding and volunteer time
- ✔ Club members installed platforms and upgraded pathways

# You helped put over 600,000 fish back into our rivers and stillwaters



“

In 2021-2022, we stocked our rivers and stillwaters with 627,495 fish for the benefit of anglers like you.”

Income from your fishing licence is used to rear fish to release into our rivers and stillwaters. Not only does this give you a more enjoyable angling experience, but it also means we can replenish stocks following an environmental incident, or kickstart recovery from longer term issues like pollution.

LEARN MORE

[See more on fish stocking](#)





# Your fishing licence funds a world-class fisheries laboratory

**106**

health checks,  
surveys & lab  
investigations

**146**

fish mortality  
investigations

**1,500**

queries supporting  
national incidents

**43**

fisheries  
investigated for fish  
kills, with full fish  
disease diagnostic  
investigations  
completed

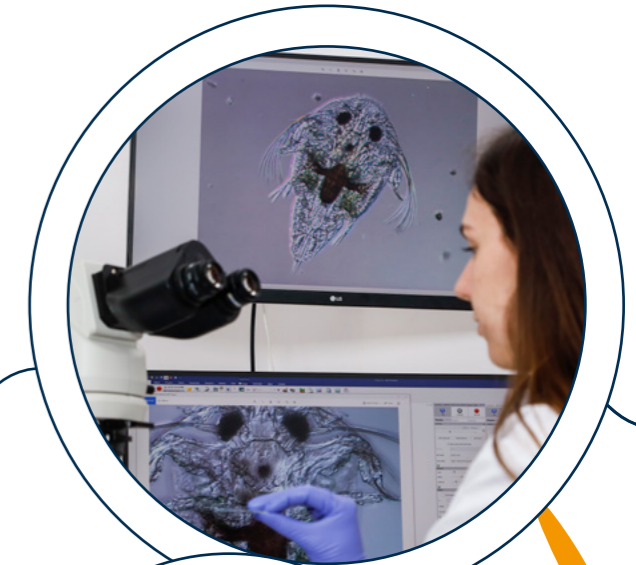
“

Fishing licence income helps fund the National Fisheries Laboratory in Cambridgeshire.”

Through close monitoring of fish health, fish ageing and non-native fish, we are able to ensure that fish and fisheries are healthier and better protected, both today and in the future.

LEARN MORE

**i** [Learn more about the National Fisheries Laboratory](#)



ENFORCEMENT

# Pursuing unlicensed fishing and angling offences is possible thanks to your licence fee

Unlicensed anglers face a fine of up to **£2,500**

Play your part!  
Report offences to **0800 80 70 60**

Always hold a valid fishing licence



✓ **41,446**  
fishing licence checks

✓ **£114,371**  
penalties issued

✓ **118**  
joint patrols with the  
Voluntary Bailiff Service

“

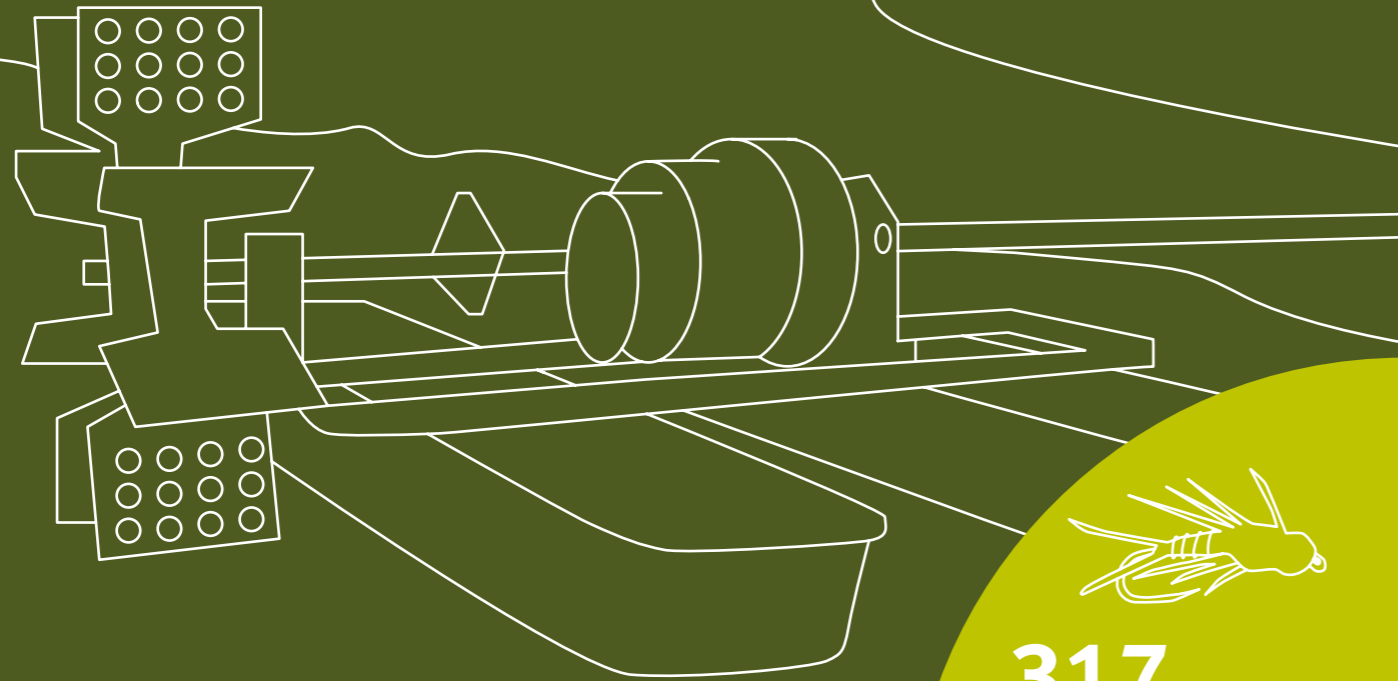
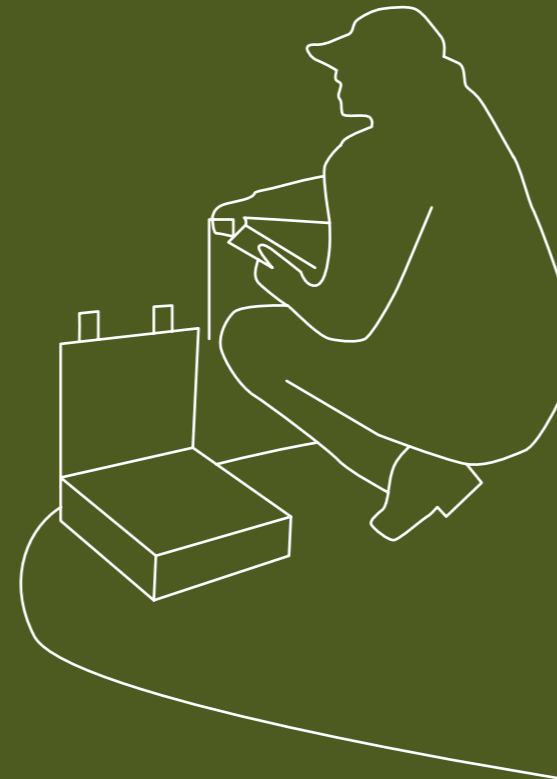
Protecting fisheries and preventing illegal fishing is a task that we take on by working alongside the Angling Trust, police forces and other enforcement agencies.”

LEARN MORE

[See more on enforcement](#)



# When an incident occurs, your fishing licence means we can be there



# 317

✓ incidents attended

# “

Providing an effective incident response is key to protecting our fisheries.”

During 2021-2022 nearly 40% of the incidents we attended were due to the unprecedented warm or dry weather and related algae blooms. Whether the cause is pollution, disease or an environmental incident, thanks to your licence fee, between 2021 and 2022 we were able to respond to over 300 incidences like this.



Witnessed fish in distress, dead or dying? We can help.

Call our hotline on 0800 80 70 60.



MONITORING

Knowledge is power – that’s why we use some of our fishing licence income to fund monitoring



926

✔ fish stock surveys

“

Greater understanding about where fish populations are migrating, breeding, thriving or struggling means we can make better informed decisions about how to manage fisheries and target improvements.”



We carry out extensive, regular fish stock surveys and water quality monitoring on the rivers and stillwaters of greatest fishing interest or most at risk. This information helps inform our management decisions and report on the state of the water environment.

LEARN MORE

[i See more on monitoring](#)



## You're more than just a licence holder - you are integral to angling

We hope it's now clear just how much your support means to us. When you bought your fishing licence for 2021-2022, you helped us deliver a vast range of great work. So thank you! It doesn't matter whether you're new to the sport or a life-long angler, we couldn't have achieved so much this year without you.

## Paperless licence

Don't forget, we have now introduced a digital licence option so anglers can receive their licence almost instantly by email or text. So far, this has saved 12 tonnes of carbon emissions. Minimising our licence printing means more money can be reinvested back into fish and fisheries. It is also helping us to meet our goal of being net carbon zero by 2030.

“

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who bought a fishing licence this year and helped us reinvest into the sport. This income helped us to maintain, develop and improve fisheries and angling opportunities all over England! So please, keep on fishing, renew your licence, and help us carry on all the great work we accomplished in 2021-22.

”

HEIDI STONE  
PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER  
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND THE NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT TEAM, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

**Witnessed fish in distress,  
dead or dying? We can help.**

**Call our hotline on  
0800 80 70 60.**