



## **Virtual Fisheries Forum 28/04/21 – Fishmark & the Get Fishing Awards**

### **Q&A Session with Darren Birch & Dean Asplin**

Q. Where can we download the Fishmark handbook? If a club wants to start, where can I find the resources to start the process?

A. Darren Birch: We are currently in the process of getting all the resources and evidence pack on the website. If you'd like the evidence pack in the meantime, please get in contact with me and I'll send it over. First you register interest - if you think you can meet the criteria, let me know and I'll register you on the scheme. Then it's just a case of working through all the evidence before we can issue you with a certificate. Fishmark accreditation lasts for 3 years like the coach licensing scheme, but can be renewed annually.

Q. How is the CAST scheme positioned against the Get Fishing Awards?

A. Dean Asplin: The CAST award is different to the Get Fishing Awards and you must be a level 2 coach to deliver this. While the Get Fishing Awards are entry level, CAST is aimed at helping those who wish to progress to a higher level.

Q. Do you need to be a level 2 coach to deliver Get Fishing Awards?

A. Dean Asplin: No – the way we've designed the awards is that it's an introductory level delivery over 3 sessions. The technical content is very simple and so you don't need to be an angling coach to carry it out.

Q. What are the basics a club must have to run Get Fishing Awards?

A. Dean Asplin: As long as you have water, fish and some keen volunteers, you have everything needed to deliver the Get Fishing Awards. We will supply everything else including the stickers, certificates, and also a resource guide which tells how to plan the event.

Q. Is Fishmark open to river and game angling clubs?

A. Darren Birch: Yes – the great thing about the Angling Trust taking control of this accreditation is that we can open it up to angling clubs and fisheries of all

disciplines. As long as you've got a constitution or set of rules, and you're a legitimate organisation, then you're very welcome to apply.

Q. Tackle manufacturers are experiencing difficulties obtaining tackle. Will the funding be available whilst waiting for back orders?

A. Dean Asplin: Yes, certainly. We're seeing this all over the place at present. Basically you have a whole year to spend this money. What we don't want to see is money sitting in accounts for long periods of time, and pre-pandemic we would probably be chasing you up after a month or so. But in light of the current situation, we recognise the issues that clubs and fisheries are facing. Whatever you've agreed to deliver will now need to be done by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2022.

Q. Can you be a part of Fishmark as a Membership club on a yearly basis, rather than a Day ticket fishery? Also, can you run the get fishing campaign on a membership water too?

A. Darren Birch: Yes, you can be part of Fishmark provided there is a clause in the constitution that ensures membership is open to all regardless of any protected characteristics such as age or gender etc.

A. Dean Asplin: Yes, definitely. It's an ambition of mine to have the awards also delivered through Take a Friend Fishing, so carrying it out on a one to one basis. We will support you whether it's one person or 100 people!

Q. With the covid restrictions are you advising not to undertake family fishing days?

A. Dean Asplin: They are allowed under the current restrictions. We have a [Covid Support Hub on the Angling Trust website](#) which includes lots of detail on how to run events like this safely. What I would say is that if you are expecting a large turnout, it's very important to ensure there are enough volunteers – i.e 1 volunteer per bubble of 6 attendees. We will help you do whatever is best for your fishery or volunteers.

A. Darren Birch: It's worth noting the importance of keeping an eye on the hub, as the information is updated regularly.

Q. If a club is already Clubmarked do they automatically qualify for Fishmark?

A. Darren Birch: There shouldn't be any clubmark accreditations still valid because they would have run out by now. If you'd like to get in touch however, I'm sure we can work something out and get your club Fishmarked.

Q. Is there any scope in the Get Fishing campaign for pike and predator angling?

A. Dean Asplin: 100%. The Get Fishing Awards have been designed to be vague so you can deliver it however you like. They can be delivered under any style or discipline of angling.

Q. I might have missed it, but is the 'Get Fishing' literature available for download from AT?

A. Dean Asplin: Not currently but it will be. If you'd like a copy in the meantime just get in touch with myself or a colleague and we can talk you through it.

Q. Any support or links for deaf anglers? We have a level 2 coach who can't hear ,but can help deliver sign language and we want to help people into fishing who are hard of hearing.

A. Dean Asplin: Yes but you may be aware more than we are. We'd certainly like to look at this case and support you wherever we can. If we could work with you on potentially running some sessions for deaf people with your coach that would be superb.

### Key Contacts

**Darren Birch | 07791 164 921 | [darren.birch@anglingtrust.net](mailto:darren.birch@anglingtrust.net)**

**Dean Asplin | 07854 239 731 | [dean.asplin@anglingtrust.net](mailto:dean.asplin@anglingtrust.net)**

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