



Virtual Fisheries Forum – Thames Region Environment Agency Updates (Herts & North London Area)

Q&A Session with EA Fisheries Staff

Q. Hi David - Its Richard here from the Blenheim Angling Society. Please could you send me details about the solar and wind powered aeration at Thurrock? Thanks.

A. It's a fairly new company that did the installation and they don't have a website yet, but they are on Facebook. The company is called Air By Solar, the fishery was Warwick lane I don't know the technical background but from what I understand it involves some large lithium batteries set up in the shed on the island, and then big solar panels and a wind turbine which powers 4 high capacity bubblers on the bed of the lake. This cost was only around 12k which was kept quite low by the club doing a lot of the manual work. I believe the club are happy for people to go and look at it so I'm sure something could be arranged. [If you find the air by solar Facebook page, they have videos of it on there.](#)

Q. What can be done about overflow raw sewage entering our Rivers?

A. We have a dedicated team who deal with pollution incidents which would be better at answering this question, as our role in relation to pollution incidents is more related to fish rescue and follow up work such as restocking.

I think the only thing we can do into the longer term is to keep on lobbying where appropriate and reporting what we see as a community. Know the incident hotline number [0800 807060] and keep your eyes peeled. The EA have recently recruited a new water quality director which will hopefully bring about positive changes.

Q. Do you attend/link up with any outside organisations or consultations?

A. Yes, we do, I recently attended the Colne valley fisheries consultative, but it is noticeable that there are fewer local consultatives nationally.

Q. Where are these Dissolved Oxygen tutorials? Are they online?

A. [There are number of videos on YouTube](#)

Q. Is there anything on the horizon for aeration in terms of an instructional video or workshop for clubs with the IFM or EA?

A. Yes, any clubs in my catchment can expect to receive some training of that nature. That goes for all water quality parameters relevant to fisheries as we would rather have clubs knowing how to use their equipment and be able to detect/prevent incidents from happening before an emergency rescue response from us is required.

Q. What is the ratio of aerator size to stillwater acre size?

A. For normal water conditions you would use 1 half horsepower or 1 horsepower per acre of surface area but in all honesty, I wouldn't expect an aerator to be needed for normal water conditions at all. You need to have a good reason for using an aerator **such as moving algae about to kill it (remove this at it will cause confusion)**. Use your DO meter extensively before considering aerating. There are also 3 different styles of aerator which have different target uses so it's not a blanket rule for all aerators.

Q. How do the fish populations compare now since the drought recovery of the River Mimram?

A. Not many fish died thankfully, and we did get most transported downstream however we have an issue with trying to recolonise now as there are a few significant barriers preventing fish getting back upstream as the river completely dried out. We will look to physically transport fish from downstream back upstream to restore healthy populations. **Drought monitoring is continuing and as covid restrictions relax routine monitoring will resume helping us better understand the impacts**

Q. Project remora - what is it?

A. It's based on site permits for fisheries and changes relating to attaining them such as requirements to keep stocking records however the project is currently on hold. The project will be reviewed, and current site permits will be re-inspected to check whether sufficient monitoring of stocking, especially presence of invasive species etc is going on to minimise risk to the wider environment.

Q. Is there anything more clubs can be doing to become more compliant with the requirements?

A. If you have non-native species which shouldn't be present in your water, just tell us and we will work with you rather than against you to get the matter resolved. Illegal stocking of Sturgeon, Catfish, Goldfish etc are the prime culprits with disease spreading implications.

Q. Are there any known breeding Catfish populations in waterways round the area?

A. Yes, we do see increased numbers of juvenile catfish reported and turning up indicative of breeding.

Q. There has been a push to re-introduce grayling, are these fish from Calverton?

A. They are often Calverton and I believe these will be as I'm not familiar with anyone else who farms Grayling. Calverton do however ensure that the correct genetic strain of Grayling are reared/stocked into the correct geographic places. The project and monitoring will be ongoing for the next 3-5 years.

Key contact:



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