



Virtual Fisheries Forum 18/04/2023 (Funding in Action: How Angling Clubs Are Tackling Invasive Species).

Q&A session

Q. Is it possible to get funding for Landing Nets and Unhooking Mats. We would like to stop anglers bringing their own onto the lakes?

A. (Andy) No, Angling Improvement Fund money cannot be used to buy nets matts and slings. Only wash down equipment/facilities.

Q. Can we get funding for a fishery manager or other volunteers to undertake herbicide/pesticide training and brush cutter training where there is no immediate evidence of INNS e.g., for spraying lily pads and controlling normal bankside undergrowth?

A. (Andy) My understanding is that evidence is required of INNS being present on site before funding can be provided.

A. (Emily) Yes at isolated sites the funding is not available for training without there being a known problem to tackle but if for example the site was downstream of an area with a known problem then the view of taking a catchment-based approach could justify the training to be ready for when INNS do reach your point within the system. Reach out to our Environment Officers and get a site visit would be my recommendation.

Statement. I would be applying for training for myself and others to get their PA1 & PA6 certificates

A. (Andrew) It is worth mentioning your PA1 covers predominantly health & safety of the activity and your PA6 covers how to actually use the spraying equipment/chemicals. It is also needed to do a PA6AW certificate as this is the one specific to spraying in/around water. These 3 qualifications are a good baseline. Also, just to add if you are intending to use herbicides in/around water you do need

Environment Agency consent which is achieved through filling out a form [AVAILABLE HERE](#).

- A. (Ian) It would also be worth supporting the above qualifications with one for stem injection as a means of treating Japanese knotweed.
- A. (Emily) All the certificates mentioned above can be covered by the Angling Improvement Fund. Clubs and fisheries need not be members of the Angling Trust to apply either.

Q. We have an issue with floating Pennywort on the river Blackwater in Essex?

A. (Andrew) This is within my area so get in touch. We hold regular pennywort removal days at affected places, and I can sort out all the equipment and plan the event.

Q. We have a lot of giant hogweeds on a few stretches of the River Ribble in Preston, some of which borders public footpaths, who is ultimately responsible for the control of it due to the public health risk it poses? Is it landowners or council? It's probably not something that would be done by an adjoining club, even though we need a whole river approach to combat it.

A. (Ian) It would be landowners' responsibility overall, but it would also be remiss of anyone running fishing along there to be negligent of it. First off make sure the council is aware of its presence and risk to public.

Q. We have a few invasive plants around our lake. If it requires spraying to be carried out once we have undergone the appropriate training, will this activity be safe to the fish if the chemicals get into the lake, or the other wildlife should they feed on the plants?

A. (Andrew) There are lots of different types of glyphosate herbicides out there which you will learn about on the relevant training courses. The obvious thing is to read the container and make sure it states the substance is designed for safe aquatic use. Even then it is not a case of applying neat glyphosate around/into a lake. Glyphosate requires appropriate dilution.

A. (Ian) When you fill in the form to the Environment Agency seeking permission for spraying near water you will have to state the type of glyphosate you intend to use. Any chemicals which are not accepted as safe will be declined.

Key contacts from this forum meeting:

- Alex Clegg (Angling Trust National Angler Engagement Manager)
alex.clegg@anglingtrust.net
- Sam Hubbard (Angling Trust National Angler Engagement Officer)
sam.hubbard@anglingtrust.net
- Ian Doyle (Angling Trust Environment Officer for the North of England)
ian.doyle@anglingtrust.net
- Andrew Chadwick (Angling Trust Environment Officer for the South of England)
Andrew.chadwick@anglingtrust.net
- Emily Smith (Angling Trust Environment Manager)
Emily.smith@anglingtrust.net
- Andy Petch (Angling Trust Angling Improvement Fund Manager)
Andy.petch@anglingtrust.net

