

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust



ANGLING POLICY

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Introduction

Angling is enjoyed by a sizeable proportion of the UK population. Angling has potential detrimental effects on nature conservation, due, for example, to direct disturbance, discarded tackle and acting as a vector for disease and non-native species. On the other hand, responsible angling clubs may assist conservation by volunteering, monitoring and bailiffing activities. It is difficult to assess the net benefit / disbenefit of responsible angling.

The ethos of conservation has changed over the last 30 years with the recognition of the importance of working with communities in landscape scale activity. NWT has a policy of encouraging public access to its reserves (Access Policy 2013). While NWT works with angling clubs on waters it does not own, it has hitherto not allowed angling on any sites it owns. Despite this, illegal angling regularly takes place on some NWT owned reserves with a resultant drain on NWT resources to combat this activity.

The policy was the product of a review of the available literature and other WT's experience, and a detailed assessment of all NWT owned sites in relation to possible angling.

Policy statement

In those locations where the Wildlife Trust has legal control over fishing rights there will be a presumption against angling, but exceptions may be made where it can be shown that any impacts on wildlife and any costs involved would be acceptable or beneficial to nature conservation. Where the Wildlife Trust does permit angling in such circumstances, the conditions set out below will be mandatory.

On those sites managed by the Wildlife Trust where angling is permitted by the landowner the Wildlife Trust will strive to ensure that the conditions set out below are also applied.

The conditions are:

1. Any angling will be subject to a formal angling licence with an explicit regular review of fees and terms and conditions (normally every 5-7 years).
2. Angling licences will accommodate current legislation and the principles of best practice promoted by the Institute of Fisheries Management, as endorsed by the Environment Agency.
3. A close season will apply in all cases for at least the period 15th March to 15th June inclusive and this may be extended in the case of particular sites to reflect local circumstances.
4. No angling will be allowed between dusk and dawn.
5. A site-specific fishery management plan will be prepared and kept under review, which will integrate management of the fishery with conservation of the site's wildlife interest.
6. The interests of wildlife conservation will take precedence over angling interests when these cannot be reconciled.
7. On any SSSI, arrangements with angling clubs will be subject to the prior agreement of Natural England.
8. Angling clubs will be required to assist with wardening and bailiffing for any site where they are permitted to operate.
9. NWT reserves the right to suspend any angling activities should wildlife conservation issues require this action.

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