



RACG PRESS RELEASE 26th JULY 2018

UPDATE

Conservation of fish stocks during extended hot weather.

RACG issued cautionary advice regarding the current heatwave and the increased risk of fish mortality in posts on 7th of July and an update on 15th of July. We now feel it is necessary to release a further update.

After following the situation closely over the last couple of weeks and initiating contact with the EA and Angling Trust on 2nd of July the RACG have seen a significant increase in the impact on nationwide fish stocks, not just on our rivers, but also stillwaters and canals. This is an extremely concerning situation and there have been numerous fish kills even without the added pressures of angling during conditions such as we those we are currently experiencing.

We have therefore come to the conclusion that it is now imperative that all fishing rights owners, angling clubs, syndicates etc take a responsible position. We are asking that you please either impose restrictions on all angling for species that are dissolved oxygen sensitive after capture including but not limited to, pike, salmonid's and barbel where your waters are recording water temperatures is in excess of 20c and areas, or times of day, of poor oxygenation saturation. If you feel you may not be able to enforce these restrictions through baliffing, then you must give serious consideration to closing affected stretches with immediate effect until the water temperature / dissolved oxygen situation improves on your waters. The met office are currently advising the heatwave may last until September based on their long-range forecasts.

We don't like to see our rivers shut to angling but we must take a responsible position for the long-term future of our river fish stocks in areas of significantly increased risk and to promote a positive, responsible attitude within angling to wider general public. To those clubs etc that have affected water and have already made the difficult decision to impose restrictions or close stretches temporarily, we applaud your forward thinking and position.

Regards
RACG COMMITTEE

