



Statement on UK Water Supply from River Anglers Conservation Group:

Summer 2018 is already breaking records as one of the hottest and driest summers on record. With the heatwave predicted to continue for some weeks to come and water reserves in many areas critically low we are seeing increased pressures from abstraction on groundwater reserves and our rivers.

With many fish kills reported around the UK from increased water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen the problem is being significantly compounded by low flows on many rivers, in fact the EA are reporting up to 50% increases in calls to incident rooms. We must therefore act now to reduce consumption by the immediate introduction of water restrictions to protect the environment.

While we believe this action is imperative to minimise the immediate threat to our rivers, we must continue to push forward on UK drought resilience given the threat from global warming, so that we are less reliant on groundwater and river supplies and the environmental impact their sustained utilisation can have during extended dry spells. We fully support the Angling Trust in their call for drought triggers to be reassessed and would add that 'hands off' levels for many rivers should also be re-evaluated as we have seen significant impact this summer with many rivers running dangerously low and several running dry, which is nothing short of an environmental disaster for these habitats.

We find it totally unacceptable that projects like Abingdon Reservoir are not scheduled for completion for another 25 years and outdated and inefficient infrastructure means some water companies are losing up to a ¼ of supplies through leaks.

We recognise and commend United Utilities for its impending introduction of restrictions, however this has been too late in being introduced and was inevitable considering the companies record on water losses. We note they are also applying for drought orders to take more water from the Lake District and this surely wouldn't have been necessary if we were better prepared as a society for climate events such as this.