

Press Release 8th November 2009

Update - Fish Destocking at Henleaze Lake

Since issuing our last press release (see www.henleazeswimmingclub.org for further details) there have been a number of developments that are worth reporting.

1. An angling club, who already have the category 2 fish parasite that is present in the Lake, have approached us to say that they would like to transfer all the destocked fish to one of their Lakes. We have asked the Environment Agency for permission to do this and await their response.
2. There is a lot of misinformation about the amount of fish that will be removed from the Lake especially concerning carp. We therefore think the position concerning carp needs to be clarified. It has been estimated by AES Europe, our fisheries management consultants, that the Lake contains approximately 2,000lbs of carp. During destocking the majority of carp will be caught and held in pens. Once destocking has finished a 1,000lb of carp will be selected and returned to the Lake. This means there will be over 1,000lb of carp in the Lake. The exact number of carp will be determined by the weight of the carp caught and returned.
3. The angling bailiff will select the carp to be returned to the Lake. We would like two anglers to act as observers to this process. The bailiffs are consulting with anglers who would be interest in doing this. Please note, as the Lake will be designated as a work place for health and safety reasons during destocking we are required to restrict access to the Lake during destocking.
4. All carp will be weighed, photographed and recorded before being returned to the Lake. We will make this information available to anglers via the website.
5. We will call a meeting of all Lake anglers in the New Year. Further details will be made available when the angling renewal letters are sent out in December. We will invite representative from the Environment Agency and our fisheries management consultants AES Europe to this meeting. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the future management of angling at the Lake and to answer any questions regarding the fish stock at the Lake.

Mark Thompson
Management Committee
Henleaze Swimming Club

Note to Editors:

Henleaze Lake is a 9-acre site in North-West Bristol. It is owned and managed by Henleaze Swimming Club (HSC), established in 1919. HSC has around 1500 swimming members, and its principal activity is open-water swimming. The Club also manages a stock of general coarse fish at the Lake, and facilities are provided so that anglers may enjoy recreational fishing. The Club actively encourages other appropriate use of the lake: for instance, Bristol & District Triathlon Club has an arrangement for regular training at the Lake; a Bristol-based project for a group of teenagers to swim the English Channel has recently been training at the lake.

All committee members and angling bailiffs are unpaid volunteers and receive no benefits of any kind for serving the Club.