

The evolution of the Broads Angling Strategy Group

- A body dedicated to sustaining and improving angling in the Broads.

BASG - from then to now

- An overview of BASG past
- BASG - what, when and why?
- Insights on the past journey
- Why change became necessary

Given the local, regional and National importance of the Broads for angling and the complexity of the issues that can affect the area, anglers have always had a strong interest in the way the Broads is managed.

1997 - the Environment Agency and Broads Authority funded a study entitled 'Towards an Angling Strategy for the Broads', to evaluate the Broads fishery resource and set out some of the main factors influencing it.

This initiative paved the way for the formation of the original Broads Angling Strategy Advisory Group, following the Governments review of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act in 2000 .

A key recommendations was to improve the consultation and accountability on fisheries issues.

- The Broads Angling Strategy Group (BASG) was formed in May 2000,
- A group of local anglers with a wide range of experience,
- Who all share a special passion for fishing in the Broads.
- Recognised a need in view of issues facing the Broads

A FISHERIES ACTION PLAN FOR THE Norfolk Broads

With strong angling representation, the Group helped the Environment Agency and Broads Authority develop the original Fisheries Action Plan for the Broads (FAP) in 2003

A similar FAP was developed for the River Wensum

The Broads FAP saw the formation of a partnership between the Environment Agency, Broads Authority and the Broads Angling Strategy Group (BASG).

BASG was formed as an advisory body with no specific power, but influential



The FAP set out 12 key issues affecting angling in the Broads and a prioritised programme for the delivery of actions. It also identified the level of difficulty for each issue



Enjoying the tranquility the Broads has to offer.

Known as the Broads Angling Strategy Group (BASG), it consists of members representing angling, conservation, navigation and commercial interests all of whom share a common interest in the Broads.

The group meets four times a year and works alongside the Agency and the Broads Authority in development of the FAP. Several Associations, clubs and a consultative are represented comprising 2000+ members and in excess of 25 fishing club and groups.

Aside from FAP development, BASG also advises the Agency and the Broads Authority on day to day management issues as they arise. The Broads Authority has recognised the contribution that anglers make to rural economies, combined with this new initiative on the Broads means that local and visiting anglers alike can look forward to a greater say and greater fishing.

The FAP concentrates on four main areas:

- Fisheries Management and Ecology
- Access
- Information and Education
- Urban Fishery Development

The emphasis of the FAP is on action and not just activity. In the short time since it has started to be developed there have been several early successes. Production of this magazine and the

'Catching Fish in the Broads' Leaflet are actions stemming from the Information and Education section which aims to provide quality fisheries information to anglers and visitors alike. With the Broads Angling Strategy Group's help, the Broads Authority will be able to enable anglers fishing the area to enjoy catching fish in a sustainable, safe and responsible manner.

Angling in the Broads has been a popular pastime for many years and beyond. Funding can never be guaranteed, one thing we can be certain about, is that for the first time, the fisheries of the Broads have in place a strategy they so rightly deserve.

If you would like a copy of the FAP, or have any questions or views on the fisheries issues, please contact:

Simon Johnson
Environment Agency
79 Thorpe Road
Norwich
NR1 1EW

Tel: 01603 662800

Or:

Cath Wilson
Broads Authority
18 Colegate
Norwich
NR3 1BQ

Tel: 01603 610734

Simon Johnson - Environment Agency

The subsequent years have seen significant progress being made on a number of objectives, thanks to the contributions of all involved, many of whom have put in considerable amounts of time and effort for angling, on a purely voluntary basis.

Broads Angling Strategy



In 2012, BASG became a fully constituted body affiliated to the Angling Trust.

Working in partnership to maintain, improve and develop angling and fisheries in the Broads area



The Broads Angling Strategy

Access



- 1 Maintain and improve boat & bank angling opportunities
- 2 Address and resolve conflicts of interest
- 3 Maintain access & anglers legal rights
- 4 Maintain and improve slipway facilities for small boats
- 5 Maintain and improve the urban fishery

Communication & Education



- 1 Improve angling Information & Education
- 2 Consultation
- 3 Effective involvement & liaison
- 4 Encourage newcomers to the sport and support young anglers
- 5 Improve out of season visitor numbers to the Broads

Environment



- 1 Understanding fish stocks in the Broads
- 2 Fisheries Enforcement & Regulation
- 3 Tidal surges
- 4 Toxic algae Prymnesium
- 5 Predation (ie. Otters/Cormorants)
- 6 Invasive species
- 7 Managing & adapting to climate change



Some of the more recent achievements 2012-2017



2 3
Constituted Sep 2012
Affiliated to AT Sep 2013



2 3 1 2
Kelvin appointed
BA Member Apr 2013
Wider BA Committee
Representation



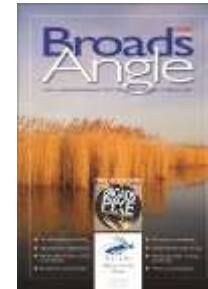
3 5
Partnership with
Broads Tourism 2013



1 2
Broads Angling
Strategy Published
June 2013



5 2 5
Tourism Business Case
Created 2013



1
Grant of £15,000
Broads Angle
Published 2013



1
Grant of £10,000
BASG Web Site 2014



2 1
Angling Recognised
within BA Strategy
2014

some more



1 3

Broads Pike Tagging
Project



1 3 4 5 1

Conference on
Broadland pike and
issues facing them



1 2 3

Broads Bank Side
Ownership Survey
Our rights of Way



1 3

New Access
Partnerships with
RSPB – ie. new
swims on Yare



4 3

Hickling Staithe Open
New Slipways agreed
Awaiting Funds -
stop press



5 3

Agreement with
Norwich City Council

And more.....



1 2 3

New BASG Website
Avg 100 hits per day
basgonline.org



5 3

Support for Train
Wood - Norwich



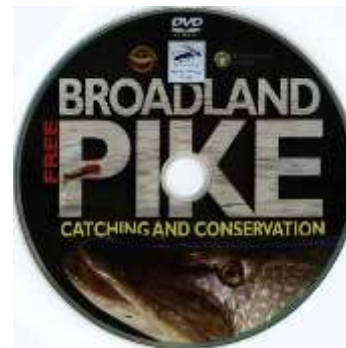
1 3

Fishing Platforms -
Over £500,000 invested



3 1 1

Reducing the impact of
tidal surges/saline
monitoring – skimmer
wall v curtains



1 4 2

Broads Pike DVD
Still going strong



2 1

Pike care and welfare
- code of
practice/Summer
piking



1 3 5 1 3

Broads Hydro acoustic
Surveys – fish density



1 4 2 7

Understanding of
Saline Incursion



2 3 2 1

Bio manipulation
Impacts



4 3

Prymnesium
Causes, Impact &
Management,
communication



6 1

Invasive species
Raise awareness

And more....



1 4

Encourage newcomers
Family Fishing Events



1 3 4

Support young anglers
encourage newcomers



1 3 5

Social Economics £100m+
value of angling (2013)



1 5 1

Future funding
Sustaining the Broads
Sustaining our future

More Recent Achievements



1 3 3

Access to 18,800 Rod Licence Data

Anglers Survey

3 2 2

Broads Local Plan
Protection of access to water

3 2 2 1

Reinstated EA Budget Shortfalls



1 2 3

33% reduction in toll charges for small boats



1 5 7 2 3

Understanding of fish Stocks in the Broads
£100k investment



2 3

Volunteer engagement
Grown from 10 to 55

Why change?

- Reduction in public funding means Environment Agency and other partners have limited project funds/grants
- A Community Interest Company has far more ability to raise funds than an Advisory body
- Recognition of the Angling Pound potentially increases Angling's regional visibility and potential voice for action
- A need for an active voice , rather than advisory, to capitalise on opportunities to promote, protect and enhance Broadland's fisheries, both tidal and non tidal.
- One area we have perhaps failed is in communicating adequately with Anglers on our vision and achievements.

The change - BASG comes of age



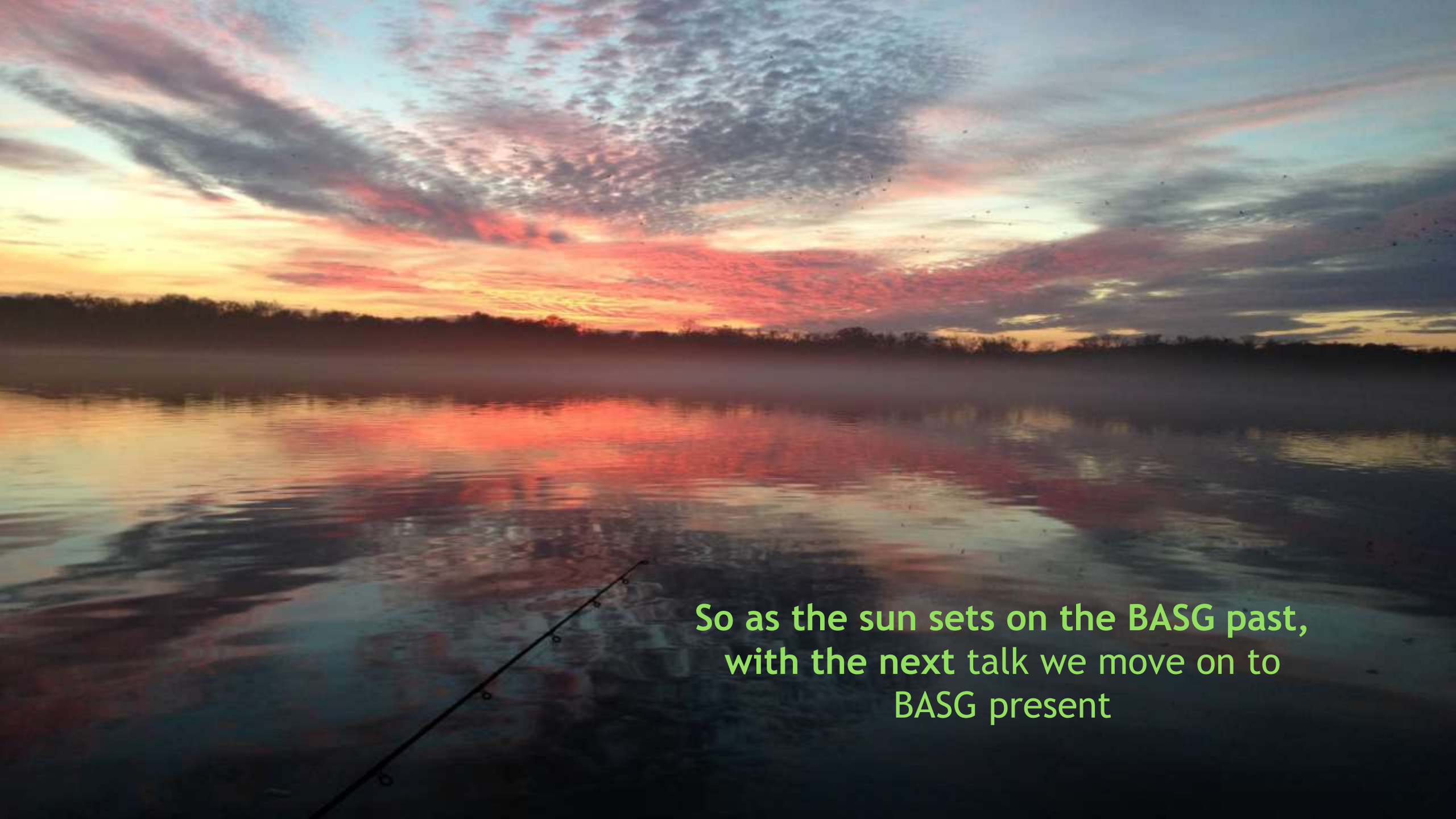
Following its AGM Jan 2017 and EGM in June 2017

The group was dissolved



The members founded the new Incorporated “Broads Angling Services Group CIC” in Dec 2017

A new era for Broadland Angling



So as the sun sets on the BASG past,
with the next talk we move on to
BASG present