

Kelvin Allen
kelvinallen@btinternet.com

Our ref: AMC/2020/10742

Date: 21 July 2020

Dear Kelvin,

Fisheries resources in East Anglia Area – Wensum report

Thank you for your email of 10 July 2020 in which you raise several fisheries related matters, which I will respond to in turn.

Following very careful consideration of the flood risk activity permit application and consultation responses for the Hoveton Great Broad restoration project, I can confirm that we will be announcing our decision in the near future. We will of course let you know when this happens.

Turning to the issues you raise regarding the provision of Fisheries Survey Reports in the East of our Area. You will be aware through your discussions with Marcus, Helen and others that we operate and provide our Fisheries service within limited budget and resource. I understand that several factors, such as staff resources and prioritising fisheries work in Norfolk, have all contributed to our shortcoming in providing the Fisheries Survey Reports.

Through the close working of our teams across the Area we have taken action to improve this situation, and I can advise that work is underway to produce and provide the survey reports for 2019. As you correctly advise, unfortunately, the team have discovered that they are unable to interpret the hydroacoustic data collected during 2017 and 2018, this is due to interference from some additional equipment, and we are therefore unable to provide the reports for these two years.

On a more positive note we now have a member of staff in post who has produced a revised template for summary reports, incorporating the aspects you and others like to see, including trends over time. We are working on a report for the Wensum, as well as other rivers recently surveyed, based on this new template. We will share this with you shortly and we would welcome your feedback.

We can also report that another member of the fisheries staff is working on a new way of communicating the results of fish surveys to the angling public. This involves a video format showing images of survey sites and fish caught as well as graphs of results compared to recent years together with a voice-over explanation. We will share and discuss this with you in due course through either the consultative meetings or directly.

I trust this has answered the matters raised to your satisfaction. If I can be of further help in this, please contact me.

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If you are unhappy with this response and wish to escalate your concern, you can do this by contacting our complaints co-ordinator on:

AreaManagerCorrespondence.EastAnglia@environment-agency.gov.uk, by calling 0203 02 55472. Please ensure you include an explanation for your reason for escalation and which aspects you would like further clarification on.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. J. Hawkins".

Simon Hawkins
Area Director
East Anglia Area

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