

PIKE ANGLERS' CLUB



14

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EDITORIAL

At the regional Organisers' Working Dinner on May 2nd it was formally announced that the Norwich branch would take over the running of P.A.C. in November, and we reported the officers-to-be in a recent circular. In this editorial we thought, therefore, it would be appropriate if, we, in effect introduced to you all the new President of P.A.C. Vic Bellars, a man whom David Phillips would no doubt classify with B.R., B.C. & H.R. as a veteran! Now, as it happens Vic gave the Opening Address at an N.A.S.G. gathering, the 7th British Angling Conference, and it made such an impact that we thought a rough transcript would be appreciated by P.A.C. members. Although aimed essentially at specimen hunters at the time it will soon be obvious to the reader that the comments and recommendations have much wider application in angling. So, over to Vic ...

"We anglers often wander around in a state of euphoria, complacent, blind to what is happening to our waters, the decline of which seems inexorable, and we hope our problems will go away and solve themselves.

Consider some of the major problems besetting us :

- (a) Water abstraction and river flow reduction
- (b) Borings and exploitation of aquifers
- (c) Excessive drainage, dredging and canalisation
- (d) Pesticides and nitrogenous fertilisers that lead to eutrophication
- (e) Proliferation of phosphates from overloaded sewage works
- (f) Industrial pollution and toxic waste disposal
- (g) The steady spread of power boating with its pollution (oils, sewage), disturbance and resultant turbidity
- (h) Minority sports such as water skiing which disturb large areas of water for anglers and wildlife, yet have few participants
- (i) Proliferation of inland marinas
- (j) Dangers inherent in seemingly (and basically) innocent sports like canoeing where an organised active campaign exists to acquire navigation rights where none exist.
- (k) And finally dangers from our own actions - despoliation of the environment, danger to farm animals and wildlife from discarded litter and line.

And then ask yourself what effect your branch, club, group, or even our parent bodies (N.A.S.G., P.A.C. etc) have on conservation, on environmental pollution, or angling problems or on angling politics? A lack of positive leadership in the past has lead, for example, to groups leaving the N.A.S.G., to the decline of the Pike society (see mag. 13). The new body of officials in N.A.S.G. and P.A.C. have, in recent years, taken notice of these inadequacies and tried to act upon them either separately or in conjunction with others of like mind.

Continuing with thoughts of N.A.S.G. members : they are drawn from all walks of life, as in the P.A.C.; are of different political persuasions, but linked by a desire to fish for specimen fish.

We need waters throughout the land where we can pursue our kind of angling (a) in the way we like (b) with the bait we like (c) at the time of day or night we like and (d) unhindered by the fads or whims of other angling organisations with different aims and viewpoints.

How can we achieve this? The big fish man must become a force in the whole angling scene. We must also be known to non-anglers as well, as a caring, conservation-minded, environmental-minded organisation. We should have the ability to support other like-minded bodies.

Pie in the sky? It's up to us. We must be

- (a) a POLITICAL organisation
- (b) a FUNDED organisation

POLITICS and MONEY - that's the name of the game.

A year or two back we asked - should N.A.S.G. set up regional organisations (and it did)? Would yet more diversification lead to stultification as it did in the past? What about Regional Advisory groups (Eds. Discussed at the P.A.C. Working Dinner 1980 incidentally)? Should N.A.S.G. and P.A.C. try to acquire its own waters along the lines of carp anglers organisations? What about a national fundraising campaign involving all branches/groups and members?

Should the N.A.S.G. hierarchy consist of an elected committee as at present or benign dictatorship as in the P.A.C.? or do the two committee work well together for the above aims? Who is willing to give up fishing time to become one official, for that is what it entails?

Our official body should consist of members who can offer one of the following: administrative experience, financial experience, political experience, legal, publicity and fund-raising ability, biological/zoological knowledge and fishery management experience. And if some of these are unavailable we must know how to contact or retain such people.

As we are, in relation to some other angling organisations, relatively small in numbers, we have to cooperate with them. We may think the N.F.A could spend less time on match organisation and more time on some of the problems I have mentioned. The N.A.C. is our voice to the Minister, whether good or bad, and we must use their facility, work with them, influence their politics. And so on.

Outside angling there are other organisation to which we should be known ;

- (a) The hunting and shooting fraternity (emotive perhaps, but these people have influence where it counts and could show us a thing or two on how to plan, protect and lobby)
- (b) The National Trust
- (c) Water Authorities and their consultative
- (d) The Country Landowners Assoc. (has the ear of politicians)
- (e) The British Trust for Conservation
- (f) The Game Keepers Association
- (g) The National Farmers Union (many farmers are concerned, are conservationists, and do own river banks as riparian owners)
- (h) Friends of the Earth
- (i) W.A.G.B.I. (wildfowl need clean, unpolluted water too)
- (j) The Nat. Soc. For the protection of birds (you only need one canoe to disturb a water bird's nest - tip off the R.S.P.B. and you won't see another canoe for months).

How have birdwatchers such power and influence? I should imagine there are less of them than there are anglers. The angling bodies should have direct contacts or be known to most if not all such organisations. We should liaise with and help them. Then perhaps we can call on massive support when we need it.

WE NEED ALLIES

What can individual members do?

You may think your local angling clubs are a batch of match oriented, litter-strewing, noddies. Join them, Don't take the attitude that you are a better angler than they -

Because some will be better at it than you! Your club could be N.F.A. affiliated - scope for quiet involvement there. Try to become a member of the W.A. Consultative (in some areas attendance at meetings is quiet uninhibited) Find out who your local M.P. is (!) and get your branch to ascertain his views on matters piscatorial. Use your local press. Has your local radio an angling spot? Do you carry out fund raising activities? Do you get in touch with other branches? Repeatedly ask your officials (whether N.A.S.G. or P.A.C.) what their long term plans are. Ask them about finance - how can you help? POLITICS and MONEY, the name of the game.

If boat owners' organisations are prepared to pay £X for the canal or river rights, anglers will only be listened to if they offer £X + £1 (On the Great Ouse, in 1980, it can cost £20 per month just to moor a boat at a marina). In comparison with yacht and golf clubs we are not in the same financial league. If we want to carry on fishing in the way we like, not only must we fight for it, but we must pay for it. With the right leadership, it has been proved that we are not such a pathetic apathetic bunch as some might think. The P.A.C.'s impact is considerable and it's impact is spreading to, and affecting, angling club policies concerning the pike in their waters.

The time for decision making is now. Failure to progress broadly along the lines I have indicated and the bodies as we love and know them now will disintegrate.

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CROSSWORD CLUES

ACROSS.

1. LURE WITH A ROTATING BLADE. (7)
 4. WEIGHT OF PIKE FOR LENGTH SCALE (5)
 6. TYPE OF SPOON (3)
 8. RESERVOIR WHERE IN 1876 A 60LB PIKE WAS FOUND DEAD (10)
 17. YOU SHOULD BE IN IT IF YOU'RE DOING THIS XWORD (4,7,2,5,7)
 21. FRED'S DESCRIPTION OF 35LB PIKE AND OVER (7)
 22. SEAFISH DEADBAIT (7)
 24. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (6)
 25. SCOTTISH PIKE WATER (6)
 28. BADGERS HOME (4)
 29. SPOON KNOWN BY ITS ORIGINATORS NAME (3,7)
 32. TYPE OF PLUG (7)
 33. EAST ANGLIAN WATER (8)
 38. SCOTTISH LAKE (4)
 39. STRUCTURE OF CROSSED STRIPS (7)
 42. P.A.C. SECRETARY (6,8)
 45. SURRENDER (4)
 46. ABU PLUG (4)
 47. THIS PLATE IS A SILVER BREEM (3)
 49. DEADBAITS CAN BE FISHED THIS WAY (9)
 51 & 89A. WHERE PETER HANCOCK CAUGHT HIS BRITISH RECORD (4,4)
 52. ESSENTIAL PIECE OF PIKE TACKLE (7,3)
 55. TERMINATE (3)
 57. YOUNG FISH (3)
 58. PLACE OF CAPTURE OF LARGEST ROD-CROUGHT PIKE (5,4)
 61. DOMESDAY BOOK AUTHOR (6)
 62. NODS PLACE TO FISH IN A MATCH (3)
 64. SILVER, VARIED SPINNER USUALLY WITH RED WOOL ATTACHED TO THE HOOK (8)
 65. A SHORT EDWARD (2)
 66. TIBETAN OX (3)
 67. MINNOW OR MICRO (4)
 68. THIS JOHN CAN BE FOUND IN SALTWATER (4)
 70. THEIR MAGAZINE IS CALLED "FREELINE" (4)
 72. DECAY (3)
 75. SOUNDS LIKE A LONG WALK TO THIS FENLAND BANK (3,4)
 77. WRECK INHABITING SEA FISH (4)
 79. COMMANDING OFFICER INITIALLY (2)
 80. LILDEBEST (3)
 82 & 10D. AUTHOR OF BEGINNERS GUIDE TO PIKE FISHING (4,3)
 83. METHOD OF RETAINING PIKE (9)
 85. P.A.C. PRESIDENT'S FISHERY (8)
 88. Calf meat (4)
 89. SEE 51A.
 90. INSERTABLE MATERIAL TO MAKE BAITS FLOAT (11)
 92. PREVENTS 'BITE-OFFS' (4,5)
 94. POLYVINYLACETATE FOR SHORT (3)
 95. MONEY PAID (3)
 97. EVERY FISH HAVE THESE (6)
 98. RESPOND (5)
 99. REELS ARM (4)
 100. TYPE OF FLOAT (6)
 102. PIKE ARE KNOWN TO ATTACK THESE (7)
 103. £5 OR £1 (3)
 105. NOT (2)
 106. SOON (4)
 108. SMALL FLOAT ONCE MOUNTED ABOVE THE MAIN PIKE FLOAT (5)
 109 & 116A. THIS IS THOUGHT TO HAVE AN EFFECT ON PAKES FEEDING HABITS (10,8)
 111. OLD ROD MAKING MATERIAL (10)
 115. TYPE OF ONE ACROSS (5)
 116. SEE 109A.
 119. SPIN OUT (3)
 121. STOP! (5)
 122. INDIVIDUALITY (3)
 125. LEICESTERSHIRE PIKE RESERVOIR (8,6)
 129. REV. E.C. ALSTONS BRITISH RECORD FISH (4)
 130. UNHOOKING AID (9)
 131. WELSH RIVER (3)
 132. LARGE (3)
 133. NOT THE TAIL-HALF (4)
 134. FLATFISH (5)
 136. BARBOS BARBOS IS ITS LATIN NAME (6)
 138. PIGS HOME (3)
 139. THIS BOMB ISN'T MADE TO EXPLODE (7)
 141. 47LB 11oz SCOTTISH PIKE RECORD HOLDER (5,6)
 142. WHAT 129A & 10D ARE TO PIKE (4)
 143. SHALLOW BANK ON A SCOTTISH LOCH (7)
 144. WHAT WE ALL HOPE FOR WHEN PIKING (3)
 145. CAN BE A FLOATER OR SINKER (4).

DOWN.

2. ORGANISED BY ANGLING TIMES MOST PROBABLY (4,5)
 3. MARGIN (4)
 5. IRISH PIKE LOUGH (5)
 7. SNAP TACKLE ORIGINATOR (6,7)
 9. MEDDLED (7)
 10. YOUNG BREEM (7)
 11. GIRLS NAME (6)
 12. TYPE OF SWIVEL (4)
 13. SMALL SEAFISH DEADBAITS (6)
 14. HOLLOWELL FOR INSTANCE (9)
 15. 'DREAM TRIP' INSTIGATORS (3)
 16. NOT A NATURAL BAIT (10)
 18. KINK VANB (4)
 19. SMALL GREEN FINCH (5)
 20. USEFUL FOR KEEPING BAITS ALIVE (7)
 23. FIRE-ARM (3)
 26. OLD NAME FOR A PIKE FLOAT (4)
 27. FENLAND DRAIN (7,4)
 30. DEPTH LOCATER (4,7)
 31. TYPE OF GURNARD (3)
 33. BLANK MADE FOR CASTING SMALL BAITS AND HEAVY LEADS LONG DISTANCES (4,5)
 34. SINGLE STRAND WIRE (9)
 35. COMES BETWEEN LOCHS (4)
 36. RELATED (4)
 37. SMOOTH OUT (4)
 40. TOTAL (3)
 41. LATIN NAME FOR PIKE (4,6)
 43. BILL ———, P.A.C. PRESIDENT (13)
 44. SUBARCTIC PLANTS (5)
 45. SALAD VEGETABLE (6)
 48. CAPTORER OF 90½LB PIKE FROM SBA. (8)
 50. PIKE HOLD-UPS ON GRAVEL PITS PERHAPS (5)
 53. SNOOT OF A FISH (3)
 54. AIR INJECTOR (7)
 55. USEFUL PLACE TO FISH IN FLOOD CONDITIONS (4)
 56. TYPE OF FLY (3)
 57. ROSEMARY FOR INSTANCE (4)
 60. SEE 82A.
 63. PIKE FAMILY (8)
 67. SMALL AMERICAN PIKE (8)
 71. THESE ENABLE EFFICIENT UN-HOOKING (4,8,7)
 73. CANADIAN PIKE (11)
 74. STRAIGHT OR CURVED NOSED (7)
 76. EAST ANGLIAN CHANNEL (6)
 78. SHALLOWER AREA IN A STILLWATER (6,3)
 80. USED TO KEEP OPEN A PIKES MOUTH (3)
 81. C² AUTHOR OF 'FISHING FOR BIG PIKE' (3,4)
 84. THORNBACK OR UNDOULATE (3)
 86. CAN BE USED TO FIND THE AGE OF A PIKE (9,4)
 87. BEGIN (5)
 90. ——— LIVEBAIT IS ONE THAT IS FISHED IN A FIXED POSITION (13)
 93. PIKE MOST PROBABLY LOCATE SEAFISH BAITS BY THEIR ——— (5)
 96. 72LB KENMURE PIKE LOCH (3)
 101. ISAAC WALTONS "MIGHTY" — OR PIKE (4)
 103. HALT (4)
 104. TYPE OF DOG (5)
 107. THIS VENDOR IS A SWICE (6)
 110. HORRIFY (5)
 112. SOUTH AMERICAN OSTRICH (4)
 113. RUSSIAN EMPEROR (4)
 114. MR PENDLETON (3)
 117. TYPE OF TREBLE HOOK (5)
 118. METHOD OF FISHING A LURE FROM A MOVING BOAT (8)
 120. CLIVE LOVELANDS 39LB PIKES HOME (7)
 123. WHISKERED LIVEBAIT (7)
 124. WHAT THE READING OF 97A WILL GIVE (3)
 126. ABU LURE (4)
 127. AMERICAN WIRE MANUFACTURER (6)
 128. ACORN TREE (3)
 131. FENLAND RIVER (5)
 133. SEED BAIT (4)
 134. INDICATOR (4)
 135. THIS TUNA COULD BE A MACKERELS RELATION (4)
 137. MILLERS THUMB WITHOUT A HEAD (4)
 139. WELL KNOWN FORMER WORLD BOXING CHAMPION (3)
 140. THIS WATER IS AT THE END OF POPHAMS (3)

From Alan Beat
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Dear Barrie,

Alec Johnson sent me the two enclosed articles to read and then forward to yourself - do here they are. Alec's problem with gassed-up pike have occurred on the same deep pit as mine, and like me he has only had occasional fish give serious trouble. John Sharrat's article in May's (1980) "Coarse Angler" gave food for thought. I shall try his method of expelling gas as the next opportunity.

Alan.

'Ballooning' of Pike

by Alec Johnson

At a recent meeting Alan Beat and I discussed the unpleasant business of pike which fill their swim bladder with air during capture and refuse to deflate their swim bladder and which are difficult to recover, or worse still actually expire in spite of the fact that great effort has been made to ensure their safe return.

This phenomenon has usually occurred when the pike has been caught from relatively deep water (20 feet or more) and have been deep hooked, but not always, as will be seen later.

The strange fact is that NOT ALL pike caught from deep water that have been deep-hooked have suffered from this inability to deflate their swim bladder upon being returned. Therefore, the only reason I can see for this occurring is shock (caused usually by being deep-hooked) which for some unknown reason is made worse when the fish has been caught from deep water, and quite clearly it effects some pike worse than others.

If this is a distressing and puzzling when some fish have been worse hooked and apparently recovered well and swam off strongly after capture, whilst others which have not been deep-hooked have expired.

Over the years and to the best of my knowledge, I have only had two doubles (17¼ lb and 15¼ lb) die and another pike of about 3 lb. In the instances of the doubles, neither would remain upright and sink beneath the surface

when returned. Both were deep-hooked on warm days in moderately deep water. In one instance the fish fought extremely well, in the other instance very poorly. Besides these fish, others from the same water have recovered after capture, but not without considerable effort although not necessarily being deep-hooked. Fish have been caught again to confirm recovery from capture, but in other instances one cannot be so sure.

During this discussion with Alan he suggested that it would appear necessary in some way to expel the air from the pike's swim bladder before being returned. I will leave Alan to add his remarks should he wish to about doing this. The idea has a strong sense of truth about it.

I believe the method by which a few friends and I weigh our fish without any deliberate intention helps to expel unwanted air from the pike's swim bladder, and that is by using a piece of fine nylon curtain mesh with a plastic ring in each corner. In spite of the fact that these 'weighing slings' are quite large it is still necessary to bend the pike in order to bring the rings together to place them onto the hook of the scale. By so doing I am quite sure that in NEARLY EVERY CASE the swim bladder is expelled of excess air. I recently took to adding string loops to the weighing sling to alleviate this bending of the fish during weighing under the assumption that weighing pike in this manner might be liable in some instances to rupture internal organs. Now I am not so sure such a practice is a good thing in spite of the good intention.

A method that I have been using for several years now to recover pike quickly that show signs of distress upon being returned, is to take hold of the tail root in one hand and vigorously swat the fish from side to side and to push it backwards and forwards which opens and closes the gill covers, aerating the gill filaments in the process. With the other hand the fish is held on an even keel until the tail root can no longer be held because of the pike's insistence to be released.

A pike caught last October of 19½ lb lost some blood as a result of being hooked around the gill raker on one treble and took quite a while to recover before swimming off strongly, in spite of adopting the procedure of recovery described. What did eventually cause it to recover was to push down its back with one hand whilst holding the tail root with the other. At first it felt very buoyant and would roll on its side when released, but after a few moments it suddenly became less buoyant and difficult to hold under the surface and struggled to be released swimming off strongly.

Also in January Kingsthorpe member 16 year old Darren Cordingley caught what was his best pike until that time at 14lb caught on a float fished sprat from a water that he has concentrated on since our first visit to the water together in December 1978. He was obviously destined to have success since that first visit when he caught a 9¼ lb pike on a herring tail whilst I blanked!

In February Darren caught an even bigger pike of 14lb 7oz on dead roach. In the same session he caught another pike of 10½ lb on livebait.

Earlier in February Andrew Howkins caught a 10½ lb pike on a float paternostered livebait from a different water to the one that produced his previous 'double'. Andrew finished his first season of pike fishing in grand style by catching a third double (from yet another water), of 11lb 5oz on float paternostered deadbait in March.

Before the season ended Darren Cordingley ended his best pike season to date by catching a 14lb 9oz pike on float fished livebait.

An amusing incident happened to Darren a few weeks ago that proves that good luck exists in fishing (as if we need reminding of the fact!) he was accompanied by two friends on a trip to his favourite water, one of whom had only fished on three occasions. On this occasion he hadn't intended fishing but just went along to watch. Darren had cause to leave his rods in the care of his friend. When Darren arrived back to his swim he found his friend playing a 13¼ lb pike which at the time was bigger than Darren's best pike. That is only half the story. Apparently it was not only the lads first pike but also his FIRST EVER FISH! That is what you call instant success. It even beats my introduction to pike. My very first double figure pike weighed 21lb exactly. Mind you it took me 7 years to catch another twenty! That first one was caught at night whilst carp fishing. What could be more 'jammy'?

Reports from senior members have been sparse but virtually everyone had a better season than last season except for me. In spite of catching a personal best pike of 24lb 14oz I struggled to catch little more than three-quarters the number of pike that I caught the previous season!

Next season I hope to run a 'competition' in this Regional Association and award a replica of a pike to the Associate Member who catches the largest pike of the season. It will have to be witnessed and returned alive, but then that is taken for granted. It should promote a little more interest and help to unite the Regional Association better.

I had a good day's bait catching and as these could not be moved to the cage due to my colleague and I working shifts, I kept them overnight in my back yard in barrels with an oxygen pump running.

I got up the next morning to find the pump had packed in and now I had an enormous supply of deadbaits. We took the remaining livebaits out to the cage only to find the cage had been discovered, emptied and wrecked.

Another attempt to catch livebait failed and four days before the magic 12th my mates MOT was due and the car was not in very good order. So, four days to go and no transport and no livebait, yet I was still determined to go.

I called on two other mates of mine, Ivan Stennett and Dave Sheppard and between us hired a 10 cwt van, I got my livebait on the Friday by catching, cadging and trapping and between us we had plenty.

On arriving at the boatyard on the Loch, I was shocked to find that my name was absolutely taboo, no-no and naughty. This was due to my brother visiting the loch last year and upsetting the boat keeper. I found out that the police were awaiting my arrival, the boatkeeper wouldn't leave his house unarmed and that I had an image of a hairy National Front, IRA terrorist naughty boy.

All the conflict was avoided by simply using an alias and being as nice and agreeable as possible. Dave and Ivan loaded up all my tackle into a boat and took me out in the rather rough conditions to a small island in the middle of the loch. We circled the island and watched the depths with an echo sounder. This proved my only map to be over 100 years out of date and completely useless. I dried out all the gear and fished without results through the afternoon.

In the evening I heard a boat engine approaching, this turned out to be an old friend, Gord Burton. We talked and then he ferried me back to the shore to a place where I have caught fish in previous years.

I set up camp and put out two deadbaits on buzzer alarms just as darkness fell. These were retrieved before dawn due to eel troubles. As dawn broke I put out two livebaits and two deadbaits. These were fished in a deep channel through shallow water. This had not been possible in previous years without a boat but a sand bank had built up, enabling me to wade out about 15 yards and then cast another 25 to 30 yards.

I thought as I sat in my camp with breakfast cooking about all the trouble I had been through to fish here, and hoped things would turn out worthwhile. I looked round to see line peeling off my reel. I switched of my stove, ran to my rod, wound down and struck firmly and was into my first Lomond pike of 1980.

I compiled a table throughout the week of fish caught, conditions and bait used. This enabled me to feed when the pike didn't and when to replace precious livebaits.

<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Conditions</u>
5-4	Sun	7.45	¾ mackerel on bottom	Strong easterly wind. Sun through cloud.
4-12	Sun	9.00	float fished gudgeon	Wind has eased off slightly.
Lost	Sun	9.20	Float live roach	"
6-0	Sun	9.45	Float live gudgeon	Sunny and breezy
Missed	Sun	10.20	"	"

No signs of fish after 10.20 until dusk.
All fish caught could be native fish of the area.

Monday began with signs of moving fish in the bay

Missed	Mon	8.15	Float live gudgeon	Slight breeze and sunny.
6-0	Mon	12.30	"	Dull sky and North wind.
7-11	Mon	13.00	Float roach livebait	"
7-0	Mon	14.15	"	"
8-8	Mon	14.30	¾ mackerel	"
8-0	Mon	14.45	Float live roach	"
10-12	Mon	15.15	"	"
Lost	Mon	15.30	Small dead trout	"
2-0	Mon	15.45	Float live gudgeon	"
Lost	Mon	17.30	Large dead chub	Same with drizzle
7-8	Mon	18.50	Dead chub	"
7-12	Mon	19.15	Float live trout	Dull and slight breeze

A very busy afternoon although not as many big fish turned up as hoped. All runs moving into the bay. Hope big fish will follow soon.

Two members of the Edinburgh pikers came over to my bivvy with a pike. They explained that the fish was not deep hooked but could not keep upright in the water. I was only too pleased to help and laid the fish in shallow running water between 6 rod rests. After an hour of coaxing the fish swam off quite healthily. I awoke next morning to see the same fish washed up on the bank, dead and stiff.

The conditions seemed O.K. so out went the rods and the first run occurred just after breakfast.

<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Conditions</u>
6-8	Tues	8.10	Small dead trout	Dull and slight cool S. easterly
5-12	Tues	8.35	Dead Chub	"
10-0	Tues	9.15	¾ mackerel	Little warmer but still dull.
Calm and sunny all afternoon - not the right conditions				
10-14	Tues	18.30	Float live roach	
7-12	Tues	19.15	"	
Spent the evening making up traces and retied knots.				
6-12	Wed	7.15	Small dead trout	Flat, calm and sunny
7-00	Wed	8.10	Dead roach	Sunny and slight N. West.
4-12	Wed	10.00	Float live roach	"
5-0	Wed	11.20	¾ mackerel	Wind a little stronger.
6-12	Wed	16.30	Float live roach	Dull and wind stronger
4-0	Wed	17.00	Float live roach	"

Fish seemed to have spawned in the bay and now leaving - big fish must follow tomorrow if conditions are right.

Continued overleaf/.....

The pressures mankind has subjected them to are looked at. Gill nets, otter boards, longlines, pitchforking and spearing the fish while they are on the spawning beds, shooting and the "kill all" attitude of the continental "anglers" are but a few means by which quality fish are gradually being depleted.

Until recently the pike in Ireland has been regarded as a vermin, a ferocious predator forever gobbling up vast quantities of trout and salmon. Now it has been realised by the government, commercial netters and poachers, that here is a species that if exploited to the full could prove very lucrative.

Ireland has two governing bodies with direct interests in fishing, the Inland Fisheries Trust and Bord Failte (the Irish Tourist Board). In 1978 a report was submitted to Bord Failte by a committee formed specially to look into pike fishing generally. Although the true concern was quite evident their ideas seemed to be based on commercial values rather than conservation. Major problems, which included implemented new laws on the very large waters, do not seem to have improved any since the report was submitted some two years ago. Hugh Gough, a very helpful man from the Inland Fisheries trust, who incidentally is only too willing to help anyone thinking of planning a holiday in Ireland (and is a P.A.C. foreign correspondent), pointed out in the report that within a five day period he had found on various waters continental fishermen using catastrophic numbers of rods. Two Frenchmen were in fact using FORTY THREE rods all baited with live bait, itself an illegal method of fishing in Ireland. On the bank were TWENTY EIGHT dead pike, the largest of which weighed TWENTY FOUR pounds. This I may hasten to add is not an isolated case chosen to suit the situation, but a typical example of what has, and still does go on with alarming regularity. Hugh carries on to say that when challenged the "anglers" pleaded ignorance of the law saying that their travel agents had not told them of the new laws. This and the language barrier I believe are excuses used all too often for this kind of butchery. I had these points rammed home to me in no uncertain manner whilst recently fishing on Lough Allen in County Leitrim. A number of German "anglers" were encountered, who had nothing short of a boatful of dead fish no doubt destined for one of the many deep freezes local people are now providing for this purpose. As you will gather fishing in Ireland is geared to meet the requirements of the continental angler, a good enough reason for legislation protecting the pike being "conveniently ignored". If more proof is needed, in 1977 some 12,830 pike anglers visited Ireland from the Continent spending in the region of £1.59 million compared to only 1000 pike anglers from great Britain spending a

comparatively insignificant £0.6 million. As you can see too much money is at stake, the majority of it being spent by the people who are doing the environment most harm. I have the feeling that if protection was given to the pike these figures would be reversed. How many continental anglers would still bother to visit Ireland if they were not allowed to kill there catch? (Eds: And how many U.K. anglers stay away because of the presence of the continental anglers?)

The very high price of pike on the continent has now opened the door to the professional netters. The efficiency of netting can be ascertained when it is realised that in 1977, 18.93 tons of pike were netted by the inland fisheries trust from there trout only waters. These of course were legal culls, how many were taken illegally no one can say. One thing that does come to light however, is the fact that despite the desperate efforts to eliminate pike from these only waters things are only being made increasingly worse, as these figures, ironically supplied by the Inland Fisheries prove. In 1963, 169 pike were netted from Lough Sheelin with an average weight of 4.6lbs. after four consecutive years of netting in 1966, 4,545 pike were caught with an average weight of 2lb. By killing the larger pike a population explosion of smaller fish had taken place due to the lack of larger predators to maintain the balance. Surely these larger numbers of pike, albeit considerably smaller, pose a significantly greater threat to the trout population, but still the netting and killing of pike goes on, specimens taken by the Inland Fisheries Trust exceeding 40 lb, with at least one topping the 50 lb mark.

Snatching the odd pike for the pot has, and always will, be carried out by the local residents, this is generally done by stalking the fish while they are in the shallows with a spear or pitchfork. Quantities are usually limited to the number required for the table. However, while fishing one of the big Loughs not so long ago gun shots were heard in the distance. On investigation my worst thoughts were confirmed as two farmers were caught red-handed killing pike. No spears or pitchforks for these guys, they were letting them have it with shotguns. Such is the price of progress. The bay was completely strewn with no. 4 shotgun cartridges and compared with other occasions almost totally devoid of fish.

Up to now as you can see old Esox leads a none too happy life, but there is still more to come. Quite recently cases have been highlighted where on being returned to the water (surprisingly some people don't fell it necessary to saw their heads off and stick them to the wall) the fish has turned belly up with what appears to be

an abnormally large amount of air in their swim bladders. Unfortunately I have experienced this myself on a number of occasions and quite honestly cannot say why they do this. It was first thought that these "gas ups" as they have been referred to, were caused by catching the fish in deep water. Invariably when in say 18ft to 20ft of water on feeling the hooks they shoot to the surface, most times actually leaving the water and tailwalking. In the same way a skin-diver suffers from the bends if he surfaces too quickly, maybe the pike is effected because of the same reason. logically this makes good sense until recently a number of big pike were caught in only 18" to 2ft of water and acted exactly the same. Having recently talked to George Higgins, who has probably caught more big pike in Ireland than anyone, he pointed out that he has only experienced these problems on very rare occasions. All the pike he catches are returned to the water in double quick time even though it means only taking a couple of very quick photographs. The total time taken for unhooking, weighing and photographing does not usually exceed a couple of minutes, compared to myself, who being a bit fussy about the snaps takes between 3-4 minutes. Under normal circumstances this would not be too long but considering the exceptional fighting qualities of Irish pike and their complete exhaustion when finally landed this extra period of time out of the water could be the cause of the trouble. Another unfortunate observation made it that the fish most likely to "gas up" are the big ones (those exceeding twenty pounds).

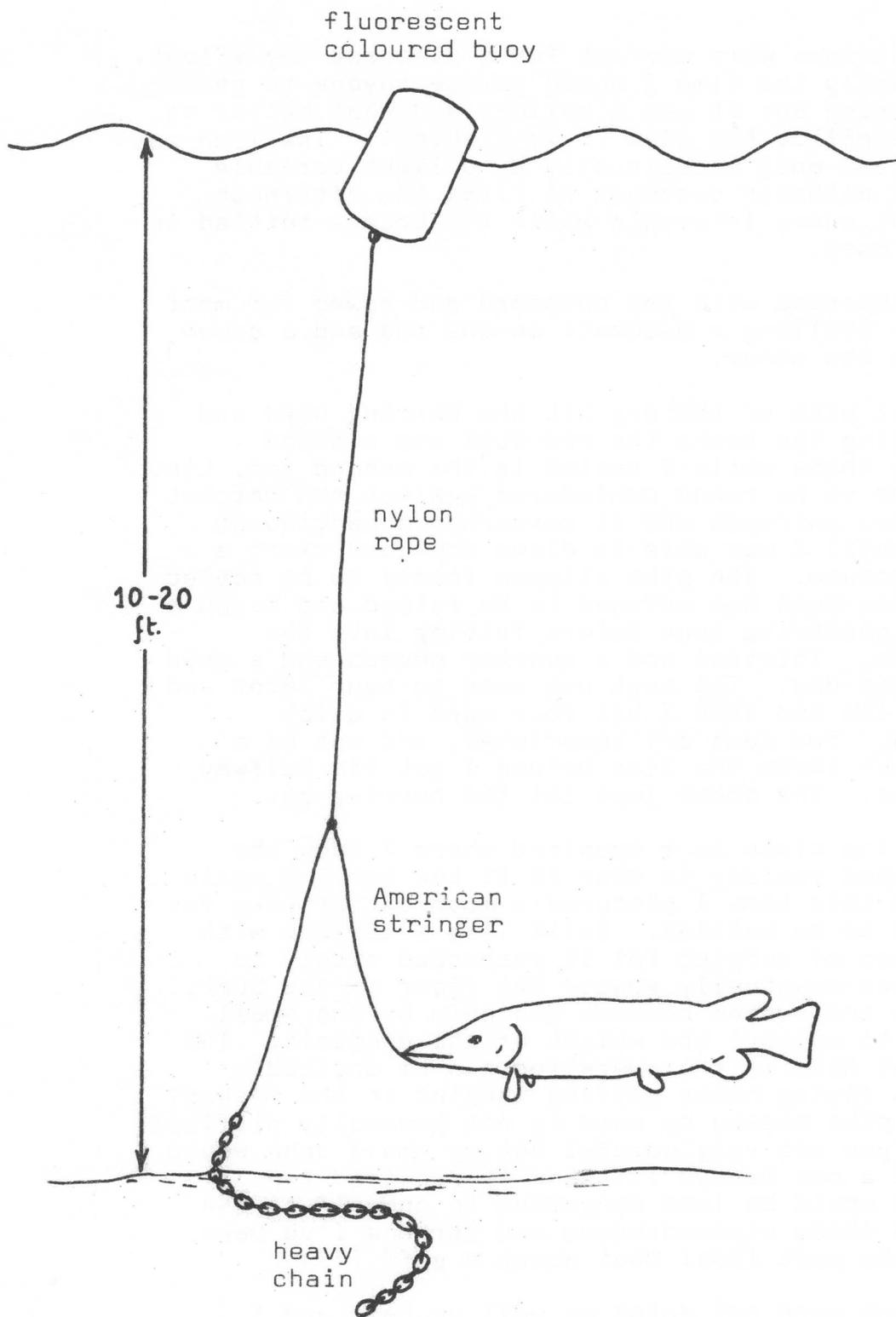
Whatever the reason for these problems there is a method by which fish can be revived. Normal procedures such as resting the fish upright in shallow water does not seem to have the desired effect. What does work as Terry Eustace found out, and I have a very high success rate using this method myself, is to buoy the fish up in deep water, ten to fifteen feet seems to be the right depth but it has worked in as little as six feet. Getting back to the "bends" theory that it tantamount to decompressing the fish much in the same was as the skin-diver would have to spend so long in a decompression chamber to recover. The rig is assembled and used as in Fig. 1. you will notice that a heavy chain is used to hold the fish down, this spreads the weight over a larger area and lessens the chances of the pike being pulled into the muddy bottom. A large buoy painted in fluorescent paint can mean quick location especially if the buoy has been dropped in heavy water any distance from land. The usual recovery time seems to be in the region of 1 1/2 - 2 hours after which time it is not unusual; even on this heavy gear, to have another scrap on your hands as you try to get the fish back to the surface and unclip it. I realise that a great many anglers do not agree with the use of stringers, and no doubt some

people will find the equipment rather crude, but it does work and without it a large number of big fish would not have survived believe me sitting in complete darkness on an island in the middle of an Irish Lough with a force eight gale raging, trying to get your first big Irish pike back into the water without bellying up is no joke. The rig is simple enough to make and takes up little room, the only disadvantage being that in order to get the pike back into deep water a boat may have to be used.

Changing the subject now you are no doubt aware that there is no close season in Ireland, again the problem of ethics rears it's ugly head, should the pike be fished for while they are in the shallows spawning. In my opinion, although I have been guilty of catching fish containing spawn, a close season should be imposed. The livelihood of the fish must come first. The same comments apply to the anglers in this country who, once the season has come to an end, start to fish the Scottish waters at times when the fish are congregating on the shallows to spawn.

Due to man's greed the pike fishing in Ireland is only a shadow of it's former glory. Gone are the days when veritable monsters were caught in comparative gay abandon. I am sure that fish that would satisfy the needs of the most demanding specimen hunter are still to be caught in isolated areas, but for how long if strict and properly implemented laws are not made soon is hard to say.

(Eds: We've done a fair bit of Irish Close Season angling, and a little in Scotland in times past. It doesn't seem to us to be anything like as serious a matter as fishing in the Close Season in England. In fact we can't recall catching a bad fish, but most of our fishing was done in April and May presumably they were well spawned by then.)



TIME OFF FROM HOLIDAY

by George Higgins

Conditions were perfect for a pleasant day afloat. July is hardly the time I would advise anyone to go serious piking but it was a holiday and what better to do than sacrifice two days to go fishing! The loch was calm, rippled only occasionally by a light variable breeze and although overcast at first the afternoon brought hot sunny intervals while the breeze settled in the south east.

I dispensed with the outboard and rowed for most of the day trolling a deadbait on one rod and a spoon or plug on the other.

First pike of the day hit the herring hard and after setting the hooks the rod butt was clasped between my knees while I reeled in the second rod. Line was allowed to be taken unhindered against the ratchet of the Silex catrepin and it screeched a continuous stacatto until I was able to clamp down and exert a little pressure. The pike allowed itself to be reeled right to the boat but refused to be raised and began a series of screaming runs before folding into the waiting net. Thirteen and a quarter pounds and a good start to the day. The next one came an hour later and weighed 9 Lbs and then I hit four more in quick succession. Two came off immediately and one on a copper spoon threw the line before I got him halfway to the boat. The other just let the herring go.

Cutting close to a headland where I knew the depth dropped rapidly to over 20 ft the herring again scored and this time I pictured a much better pike for it refused to be bullied. Built like a torpedo with not an ounce of surplus fat it responded slowly to pressure and eventually graced the floor of the boat, 14.1/4 Lbs and hooked beneath the chin by one small hook used to support the weight of the deadbait. The net was not used as the operation can be decidedly messy with flying hooks getting tangled in the meshes. Lifting a pike aboard by hand is not generally difficult providing you are very careful but my small span would not permit a one handed lift and it required two. Perhaps it would be less dangerous to oneself to use the net in these circumstances and perhaps I've been lucky in the past (Eds: What about a gaff ???)

Spoons were not doing as well as bait and I changed to a small plug on the other rod and almost immediately was rewarded with a 5¾ pounder but by mid afternoon things went quiet as it got brighter and better.

Tiring rapidly at the oars the outboard was started up, the plug rod put in the rest and the herring brought aboard. I'd have a go for a trout on the way back to base. The outboard was at half throttle, the rod in a slightly excessive bend and the little plug only a few inches from the surface. I settled down for a ten minute run between headlands keeping well out from the shore, perhaps half a mile. One minute I was looking at the rod in the rest and the next I watched dumbfounded as it disappeared beneath the surface in the wake of the boat, all in a split second. During the next ten minutes or so I was making mental notes and calculating how much insurance I could expect and whether or not the new policy would cover me in the circumstances. I was in over 40 ft of water, the anchor hung like a pendulum and the breeze kept pushing me off my idea of where the rod would be lying. A caravan on the shore was my marker but with only 30 yds of line out at the very most I could not reasonably expect to locate it but I did with the help of a 'priest', bless him. It was the only thing I had in my bag heavy enough to use as a drag. Up came the line draped across the trebles and a few yards away the plug surfaced with a trout in its mouth! A pound and a half of plump trout unceremoniously hit the bottom of the boat and hand over hand the lost rod was hoisted aboard. The weight of it made me break the suction ferrule and water spouted from the two hollow sections.

Back at the guest house I told the events of the day to two teenage lads from Holywood, Co. Down, Alan and Grahame. They were on a week's holiday and in two days had not had a bite. Alan is a new NIPS member with pike to 19 ½ Lbs to his credit. Grahame's best pike was 9 ½ Lbs.

The next morning we found the wind changed round to the north and fresh at times putting a fair wave with the odd white top on the lough. Rowing would be difficult. All the gear was loaded into my boat and with words of encouragement and a good supply of various deadbaits we set out fishing one rod each.

I missed the first strike and the rudd was stripped from the three hook rig as though it were gift wrapped. Herring on my rod accounted for the first pike aboard 2 ½ lb. The lads were glad to see it. Understandably with little experience of the lough they had no clue where I was taking them, over what terrain we were fishing or what indeed they could expect. Stories of 30 pounders were recounted. This particular spot had been good to me and there was no reason, I said, why 30 pounders should not be in the area. Perhaps slightly tongue in cheek I told them to expect a strike at any time and with the adrenalin racing and nerves at fever pitch my rod lurched over. I hid my surprise and reached for the rod only to see it

straighten up again. It could have been bottom I said and immediately as if to endorse my comment the two lads' rods went over simultaneously, took on a permanent set and we all agreed, don't panic, don't either got the bottom. I swung the boat round and as we approached the lines as they entered the water I could see they converged. You have both hooked the same thing, I said, when the 'thing' took off in a strong surge ahead of the approaching boat. It's a fish, hold on now; it looks good, steady with the pressure, of you pull harder than the other, you've pike and its a big one, same pike and its a big one, steady while I take the boat up wind, take it easy, I'll put the anchor down. This uncharacteristic flood of sound but concerned advice flooded forth and I doubt now whether the lads heard a word. They had the good sense to remain seated, didn't panic and had a lovely time being dictated to by an obviously heavy pike which ignored the two-rod pressure and was determined to stay out of sight. The pressure told and it was with great personal satisfaction that I slipped the net beneath one of the biggest pike I have seen. Alan's line was spiralled round Grahame's for a distance of two feet. His line terminated at the pike's jaw and his Toby lure was missing. Grahame's trace disappeared inside the cave from which we extracted with great ease a rather mangled perch. No damage to the pike which weighed it at a very respectable 29 Lbs. A few quick pictures and over the side she slid. I held on to the wrist until I felt the power surge back and away she tore into the black water.

Grahame's pike was his only bite of the day, in fact it turned out to be his only bite of the whole week. Later in the day I had one of 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb and Alan got one of 13 lb 14 oz and we each had two smaller pike. The master who while demonstrating how he could put newcomers over good pike disgraced himself by hooking into a veritable submarine of a pike that went its own way, managed to get its teeth across the 15 lb line which snapped like cotton under finger pressure on the reel drum and left me numb and very very sad.

Alan finished his week with five pike with two over 13 lb. I retired after two days to write my memoirs and hang up my rods until after my holiday in the broiling sun far away from the dark lough waters of Ireland and pike.

* * * * *

FEN-TASTIC WEEKEND

by Les Dagger

It was 2.30 a.m. on a February Saturday and only a few late night revellers were about when the five of us sped south on the 230 mile journey to the fens. 8.30 a.m. saw us on the banks of our chosen drain and the only angler in sight was into what was obviously a good pike.

The morning was misty after an overnight frost and the drain was running strongly. We spread out on the drain and a surface striking pike made my mind up about where to set up pitch. Before I'd tackled up I heard Dave shout Alan's got one, he had too and at 10 lb 7 oz a good start to the day.

After an hour the drain stopped running and Jim freelined half a mackerel against the far shelf. Before long the silver paper. Shot off and the line tore through the rings at tremendous speed. The hooks were set and after a number of runs in which the pike moved faster than any fish I've ever seen, we were gazing down at a large headed beauty of 22 Lb 14 oz.

The mist had now gone and the sun was really beating down with an air temperature of 52 F. A few more pike were taken mostly to paternostered livebaits when Dave decided to go back to the Dormobile for his camera asking Alan to look after his rods. He was only away ten minutes, but of course the inevitable happened. Alan noticed line peeling from Dave's mackerel rod so ran across the struck into a good pike. When Dave got back it was all over and we were looking at a fat pike of 23 Lb 9 oz. Two twenties on the same day, we were all elated, except Dave who must have felt like hurling his camera into the murky depths. Well what would you have felt like ?

Sunday morning saw us on the drain at dawn feeling a bit groggy after celebrating in the local. The weather was very mild but overcast in contrast to Saturday. Pike were rolling on the surface in numbers, like a shoal of bream. One swam upstream porpoise style surfacing every 10 yards or so. An incredible sight indeed but despite the obvious presence of pike, action was a little slow. Alan decided to change tactics and twitched a dead dace which was snapped up by a pike of 11 Lb 10 oz. I followed suit but mine dropped off on the way in.

At that time further downstream Dave who missed his first twenty the day previous noticed his float disappear on his paternostered livebait, and like something out of a fairytale he caught the same 23½ fish he missed out on. He

was in a different swim using different tactics and bait but caught the same fish, ironic justice.

Around 12.30 Alan moved 40 yards to cast to a big swirl, after ten minutes his livebait produced a run which he successfully struck. The line was felt to thump, thump at the other end and as he drew it close to the surface he saw the shape of a big zander not the expected pike. Now at this stage I would like to point out that Alan had never before seen a zander in the flesh let alone catch one. Alan couldn't believe it, 11 Lb 8 oz, he was heard to mutter, "I think I've got some catching up to do with zander".

He then caught two pike from that spot, the largest 10 Lb 1½ oz to a dead dace, but no more zander, it must have been a loner.

Things went quiet again in the afternoon, then Geoff thought he would try a dead trout. It wasn't in long when it was taken by a pike of 9 Lb 12 oz. Trout then produced five more runs resulting in four pike up to 11 Lb 8 oz when nothing else was working.

Just as the light was quickly failing Geoff's livebait float sailed away and he hooked a fish which had him all over the drain. It made several strong runs but he eventually subdued it and it turned out to be Geoff's best pike of the weekend at 17 Lb 0 oz.

Then as the last rays of light disappeared Alan had another zander, but only 2 Lb 10 oz this time but the 8" livebait was well down its throat.

Altogether 220 Lb 14 oz of fish made up of 20 pike and 2 zander. Three twenties, five doubles pike and one double zander shared between 4 anglers. Yours truly managed to blank unbelievably while this was going on. Two missed runs and two dropping off being my results, ah well it was great just to be there.

To go off at a tangent, when deadbaits were twitched along the bottom they would come back with up to half a dozen parasitic, small, leech-like creatures attached. Never before have I seen such a profusion of fish parasites. This must be a large contributory factor to the depleted fish stocks of the fens.

(Eds: The creatures Les refers to have almost no effect on fish, although pike often have plenty of them on their bodies and in their mouths.)

* * * * *

121 Carr Bottom Rd,
Greengates
Bradford
BD10 OBD

Dear Bruno,

Barrie Rickards has suggested that I contact you regarding the creation of a pike fishery in the Yorkshire Area.

The position at the moment is that, as a member of the Yorkshire Fisheries Consultative, I am proposing that the consultative opens discussions with the water authority with regard to a water being provided for use as a pike fishery.

The consultative already operate a trout fishery on a day ticket basis on a Water Authority controlled reservoir and I am suggesting that a pike fishery should be provided on the same basis.

I have been asked to provide as much information to support my proposal as possible for the next meeting in December.

Could you please let me have as much information as you can on the subject, as it could be difficult proving to the trout anglers on the consultative that such a venture is a feasible venture.

It is possible that there are many sterile reservoirs that could be used (as was the case with the trout fishery) if pike could stand the conditions. Any information on just what conditions pike can stand sufficiently for a pike fishery to be a success would be appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,
Graham L. Stead

Dear Graham,

Thanks for your letter concerning the proposed Y.F.C. pike fishing. Unfortunately, there are no hard and fast rules as yet to help you set "the thing up, but I have drawn up a simple management plan that should prove useful. I have experience in assisting with the Kingsbury Water Park purpose-built pike pool, but it is as yet too early to give you a full report on what has happened there.

To help you with one or two of the points raised, I have included

- a) A copy of the 'Bush and Tyre Reefs' booklet I obtained from America.
- b) 3 photocopies of simple papers on fertilization.

The marking methods I mention are well-known, and Steve Axford (YWA) should be able to assist you with further information on them.

If you want any further details, I'll gladly try to help. I sincerely hope you manage to get your proposals accepted, and I'd be very interested to learn what happens anyway if you'd care to drop me a line sometime.

With best wishes,

Dr Bruno Broughton
B. Broughton
20th November 1980

SUGGESTED MANAGEMENT OF AN ENCLOSED PIKE FISHERY

A. PLANS

- 1) Establish the size, depth and biological/chemical conditions of the fishery.

i.e. Overall surface area Mean depth
Proportion of depth < 3-4m pH and other water quality parameters Water plant types and abundance
Invertebrate life (estimate by Biotic Index or other means)
- 2) Assess existing fish stocks by
 - a) Consultation of records/anglers
 - b) sample netting
 - c) draining down etc.
- 3) Formulate plan of fish stocks required, fishery alteration needed.
- 4) Undertake fishery improvement as necessary :
 - a) Modification of bottom contours if possible
 - b) Fertilization if practical
 - c) Stocking of food fish to required level
 - d) Transfer of pike.

- 5) Set fishery rules on :
- a) Times
 - b) no. of rods
 - c) pike care
 - d) ticket availability/prices.
 - 6) Run the thing!
 - 7) Undertake regular stock analyses from :
 - a) Angler catches and/or
 - b) Periodic sampling.
 - 8) Restock/remove fish as required.

B STOCK LEVELS

1) Most stillwaters can support total fish standing crops of between 200 and 700 Lbs/acre. (The more fertile the water, the higher the figure]. If most depths are less than 10-15 feet, the pH is around 8 and there are ample nutrients, 450 Lbs/acre is quite feasible. Thus, a 20 acre lake can support 9000 Lbs of fish.

2) The ratio of prey to predators is difficult to establish, but in weight terms, most balanced, natural populations work out at between 7 : 1 --- 15: 1
An average of 10 : 1 is not unreasonable. Thus, in the 20 acre lake, the 9000 Lbs can be made up of about 820 Lbs pike and 8180 Lbs food fish.

3) If the fishery is set up and maintained well, it should produce good fishing for the prey species too eventually. (This is a good "selling point").
Decide on at least 2 prey species say : roach and bream, or bream and perch.
Try to stock up with decent-sized fish, not just any old rubbish that happens to be available!

4) Pike sizes depend very much on availability. A 20 acre fishery with 410 x 2 Lb pike isn't going to be too popular!
If the majority of pike are 9 Lb +, it is likely these will be females. A few fish of less than 9 Lb will ensure some breeding in the future.

Thus in the 20 acre lake, a good stock might be :

5 pike averaging 20 Lbs	=	100 Lbs
50 " " 12.5 Lbs	=	625 Lbs
20 " " 5 Lbs	=	100 Lbs
		825 Lbs

That only gives you a total of 72 pike though (i.e. less than 4/acre).

5) Pike do not survive transportation particularly well, so some extra stock can be added to compensate for mortalities.

6) Obviously, pike care is of paramount importance. Rules are nasty but must be applied

i.e. no gaffs

no keepnets

all fish to be returned alive immediately

(after weighing/photos etc.)

barbless/semi barbless hooks only

minimum line strength 10 Lbs

wire traces must be used, etc.

Work abroad suggests that even if these are applied, 10% of the pike die after their first capture, i.e. you can, on average, catch a pike only 10x before it dies!

C FUTURE MANAGEMENT

1) In order that the fishery doesn't alter too much and, in particular, the pike become smaller (i.e. big fish killed, many young, small, "home-bred" pike)', it is necessary to keep good records of :

- a) Any dead fish
- b) Number of 'jacks' caught
- c) Growth of individual fish.

2) It is a good idea to mark a number (or all) of the pike to help this stock estimation. Of the marking techniques available, only 2 are really suitable :

- a) Alcian blue (dye) spots
- b) tags (preferably floy type)

3) Similarly, the level of prey stocks needs constant monitoring. Hopefully, they will run themselves -the number of 'home-bred' prey will replace the number eaten by pike - but yearly stock - assessment nettings should be carried out to make sure.

- 4) The provision of "structure" is useful, will assist pike (and prey) location and should improve your stock-holding potential.
 "Structure" can include :-
- a) Established "weed" beds
 - b) Natural or man-built features e.g. valve towers, drop offs etc.
 - c) Specialised features e.g. tyre reefs etc.
- 5) Refertilization may be necessary to keep nutrient levels up.

Eds: (Bruno is being very careful, cautious even, in some of his recommendations. But it all helps the pike as well as the general aspect of the fishery. Perhaps we can enlarge on one or two points in the near future.)

* * * * *

RUNNING A REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

by

Alec Johnson (R.A. 17)

1) Circulating the magazine

There may be better and more efficient ways of circulating the magazines but what I do is to type' out a distribution list of members in an order that they can if they wish pass on the magazine by hand. As an example of this procedure I have four A. Ms living in Kingsthorpe whilst in Kettering I have three members living on an estate. With current postage costs and delays this idea is of great benefit to everyone and works very well indeed.

On my copy of the distribution list I have a date beside the member's name and address when I expect them to receive the magazine. Where the magazine is to be posted I allow 6 days between members. Where the magazine is distributed by hand I allow 2-3 days between members.

The last magazine arrived 'home' only two days late from the time estimated. The only delay with the distribution of previous magazines has been a hold-up with the last person on the list keeping it for some time.

Fortunately I haven't as yet had the magazine go missing. It may be a little difficult to trace at times, but if it does go missing I'm afraid the Regional Organiser

must take the blame for not keeping a check on it's whereabouts.

In an 'Open Letter' (more about this later), in the magazine, ask that the magazine is not kept for more than four days by any one member. You could if you wished put headings for date received and sent. It would be obvious then who had held the magazine up when received by the R.O. It may also be necessary to ask that the magazine remains clean and tidy. In the early days of my region the magazine came back a little worse for wear. Have patience though, its a little difficult for several people to read a magazine without some minor damage occurring to it.

2) Pub meetings

It took a long while to get off the ground with regards to fairly regular meetings but I think we have found a good venue in town and will hold meetings in future every 2 or 3 months.

On Wednesday 16th April we had 22 Associate Members and Senior Members plus a friend or two for an extremely enjoyable talkative meeting.

How regular meetings are held can only be decided upon by the R.O. and his members. If in any doubt about the regularity of meetings required I suggest that members are asked for their opinions.

In this region a number of the younger members between 15£ - 17 years of age attend the same schools and were friends before joining P.A.C. Therefore too regular meetings would result in .a lack of conversation probably leading to the telling of rude jokes or something!

In my opinion meetings every 3 months should result in plenty of interesting conversation; any more regular than this would be a non starter in this region. Expect some irregularity in attendance particularly in bad weather and perhaps during the summer holiday period.

The best time for a special meeting, should one be considered necessary, would probably be about mid April when one has all the events of the past season to talk about!

3) Filing of paperwork and book keeping

A list of all paid-up Associate Members' names and addresses should be kept and upon receipt of an anglers' application, including subscription, their name and address should immediately be put on the list.

It is also worth making a note of their telephone number to contact them in case of an emergency i.e. cancellation of an event. •

If a badge is requested in later correspondence I make a note of the fact that one is sent and paid for.

I think the best thing is to keep everything neat and tidy in a drawer, perhaps, and easy to hand. If small

things can be done virtually straight away it makes the likelihood of forgetting much less.

With a request for information about P.A.C. I enclose a circular no. 15 which describes the aims of P.A.C. when replying to a new member, or when sending him his receipt of membership. I also enclose a copy of circular no. 16 which described the basic way in which the Regional Associations are run. Both of these circulars are available from the "Committee".

4) Organising 'Fish-Ins' and notification of forthcoming events.

I avoid, where possible posting letters or cards advertising events, unless it is unavoidable. Instead I insert an 'Open Letter' to the Associate Members in the current magazine advertising the event, amongst other things of interest to members. Naturally the magazine must be in distribution shortly before the event to make this exercise worthwhile. Also bear in mind it MUST reach the last member named on the list BEFORE the event! There is nothing more frustrating than receiving notification of a forthcoming event after it has occurred, or after other arrangements have been made for that date!

An 'Open Letter' also gives the R.O. the opportunity to have a moan to all the A.Ms about something that is bothering him in the R.A.

To alleviate the cost of postage notification of events could be done at meetings by giving out post cards to each member explaining the event. In this way they have something in black and white to keep and will have no excuse for not knowing about it. Except for losing the card! -When the notice of an event has been made in an 'Open Letter' I feel quite sure some Associate Members have forgotten to make a note of the details and have therefore forgot to attend the event" It is worth asking them to make a note of the details before posting.

'Fish-Ins' so far organised have been quite well attended by the A.Ms but unfortunately no non-members have shown any interest, in the events; which is a great pity as they are run for instructional purposes as well as social purposes.

5) Stamped addressed envelopes.

It is worth making a few requests from time to time in 'Open Letters' about members enclosing S.A.E.'s with correspondence to R.Os. Also the more S.A.E.'s that are sent to Regional Organisers the longer it is before he needs to ask for more stamps and envelopes from the Treasurer.

6) Payment of Associate Member subscriptions

A good way of collecting subscriptions is to insert in the penultimate or last magazine an 'Open Letter' requesting that subscriptions be sent to the R.O. (including an S.A.E.), by not later than 'the end of November. Members should be told that those members not having sent their subs, by then, will have considered to have terminated their membership and no future magazines will be sent until their subscriptions are received by the R.O. Rather than sending subscriptions to Hugh Reynolds in 'dribs and drabs' it is probably a better idea to wait until a few subs have been received before collecting a cheque from the bank for the amount and posting it to Hugh with a list of the members' names and addresses.

7) Recruitment of members

This I think is one of the biggest of the Regional Organiser's problems, recruiting new members.

The single most common way in which members have been recruited locally has been by recommendation by existing members.

A number of special attempts have been made to gain new members but none have been particularly successful.

A local angler, Brian Battison, writes a spot on fishing in a local paper and has kindly mentioned P.A.C. events and the fact that I am the R.O. for the area on a number of occasions. But in spite of this only a few have joined as a result of reading this column.

A circular No. 15 (mentioned earlier), was placed on the wall of a few local tackle shops earlier last year, but again the result was very poor. At the bottom of the circular was my name and address to contact for Associate Membership.

In December I placed a folder in these shops containing a number of these circulars. But in spite of the fact that the circulars were taken very regularly by anglers and replaced by me, equally as regularly, very few anglers applied for membership to P.A.C.

I was at one time rather disappointed by the apathy of local anglers towards joining P.A.C. but it seems that membership grows slowly by what ever methods are used to gain new members (Eds. And it may be better that way I 3

Interest has also been shown in P.A.C. whilst actually fishing and it appears that this is the best way to gain new members, either by prospective members talking to the Regional Organiser or better still, in my opinion, talking to Associate Members who know what they have gained from being a member of P.A.C. and will then tell the prospective Associate member.

FISH - N - TEMP

By

Maurice Titcombe

Enclosed details, as instructed, of my fish-n-temp plus address of purchase. Perhaps you would kindly include this information in the mag.

With my Lowrance fish-n-temp, which is an electronic deep water fishing thermometer, the pike angler can make a series of readings at depths to 75 feet, quickly and without constantly raising and lowering the apparatus. I simply lower the sensory element (thermistor) on a cord, and instantly read the temperature on the dial, held in my hand. As the element moves vertically through the water, changes in water temperature are indicated on the meter. Unlike a mercury thermometer there is no waiting to get a reading. I use the fish-n-temp to find the preferred temperature relative to the depth and make the most of my fishing time on the water - the same reason a guide and an Echo Sounder can best be used together to further improve one's fishing chances. Let's say you're after pike which prefer a temperature of about 65°r. With the fish-n-temp you" locate the proper temperature layer and then you use the Echo sounder to spot sharp drop-offs, boulders or other likely habitat at that depth. That's where I start fishing. If you see large fish indicated on the Sonar dial, it's a good bet they're pike,, In other words, you make your fishing time count by fishing only productive water.

The Lowrance Deepwater Electronic There-meter LTP-100 FISH-N-TEMP is a perfect carry-along temperature/depth indicator that gives accurate readings from 3D - 90 degrees F, measures depths to 75 ft. Depth cable is marked in 1 ft increments. Powered by self-contained penlight battery included. Pries (unit Price) £49,00 (VAT 15% rate) (total VAT = £7.35) Total = £56,35, Orders can be placed by writing to :

Swiftech Ltd
P.O. Box 7
Basingstoke
Hants RG21-2RH

Telephone: Basingstoke
(0256)54248

They also market a surface FISH-N-TEMP for console mounting. This attractive 3" flush-mount meter gives accurate surface temperatures. Reading is to within | degree from 35 - 90 degrees F or 0 - 32 degrees C at speeds up to 65 mph. Sealed shock and vibration resistant.

easier to talk than to listen - and perhaps the following comments will be helpful.

CAREFUL PREPARATION IS A 'MUST'

In most cases the fortunate recipients of your endeavours to pass on your angling knowledge will apparently WANT TO BE TAUGHT. This is a great advantage for any instructor as a willing volunteer is always better than a "pressed man": however, one must always guard against complacency and constantly seek to maintain and improve interest.

WHERE THERE IS NO INTEREST LEARNING IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE

The pupil should be INTERESTED in the subject, should find the subject matter ABSORBING and what is more, LIKE the instructor. Learning requires a rapport between the Pupil and the Instructor so that they BOTH work towards a common goal, which is the imparting of knowledge by the one and the assimilation by the other of that knowledge.

HOW CAN ONE ACHIEVE THIS?

These notes are simply to give an idea on what instruction entails, and more comprehensive instructions will be dealt with fully during the Instructors Course. However, as a guide you must decide on :-

1. WHAT is going to be taught.
2. WHY it is necessary,
3. HOW it is going to be taught.

Assuming that you have decided on the first two items there is only one way in which you can deal with Item 3. You will have to prepare notes or a form of script. It should consist of a beginning, a middle section, and an end. The beginning will include Items 1 and 2 above, and in some cases relate back to a previous lesson.

The middle section will include most of the subject matter which should be broken down into subheadings so that the lesson progresses in stages, each connected in logical sequence. Some notes against the subheadings will assist to remind you of particular points, and by these notes will go a list of the equipment necessary to carry out this particular part of the lesson (more about this on the Course) but, I would repeat, CAREFUL PREPARATION IS A 'MUST'.

We now have the end section, during which we shall reiterate the main points of the middle section and, using

questions directed at the pupils, ascertain just how much they have ASSIMILATED and REMEMBERED and we shall then conclude, possibly with a reference to the next lesson.

Bearing in mind the dangers of continuous instructional talk, consider where in the lesson there might be a break -for refreshment, etc., - and also what use, if any, one can make of VISUAL AIDS during the instructional period.

VISUAL AIDS ARE JUST AIDS

WHY? WHAT? WHEN? These questions must be considered when contemplating the possible use of visual aids.

WHY? The object of instruction is to impart knowledge and to achieve this, INTEREST must be maintained. A good visual aid can do this and it can also assist the instructor to explain simply, something that might otherwise be extremely difficult if left perhaps to his verbal prowess.

WHAT? This may be dictated in some measure by the conditions in which one finds oneself instructing as not all places of learning are endowed with provisions that would enable the use of all of the different types of visual aids available: indeed some places do not possess power points or a blackboard. It follows, therefore, that the actual venue at which instruction is to take place should be visited to ascertain which of the visual aids that you have in mind can be used. Having satisfied yourself on this matter, all that needs to be said is that 'variety is the spice of life' but please don't overdo things!

WHEN? A visual aid should only be used as part of a prepared lesson to help to emphasise a particular point or to assist with a particular explanation, and then having served its purpose it should be removed from the gaze of the suitably impressed pupils to avoid distraction.

TIME AVAILABLE

Having decided upon the SUBJECT, the SUBJECT MATTER, the breakdown into SUBHEADINGS, the use of VISUAL AIDS and how many BREAKS you are going to have, how do you ensure that you are going to incorporate all of these in the time available or - perhaps more 'worrying' - how do you ensure

that you don't run out of material ten minutes into the lesson!

There is only one way to achieve something approaching competence when dealing with the TIME AVAILABLE and that is, to have several practise runs with the proposed lesson. You could, of course, try out your lesson before your friends and relations, with no doubt varying reactions! It is far better to go into some convenient, unoccupied room and give your lesson aloud to an imaginary audience in what should be your normal speaking voice, timing the lesson as you do so. If your lesson is too long for the time allowed you should prune it until it fits into the allotted period with the precision of a TV commercial: conversely if your lesson is too short for the time allowed you should look again at your subheadings to see what USEFUL MATERIAL you can add. You may find that a TAPE RECORDER is an invaluable help.

ALWAYS BE YOURSELF !

We all have some preconceived notion on the way in which we think an instructor should deliver a lesson. However, it will be better if you just speak as though you were conversing with friends and - if you have done the job well - you will be. Talk in your normal voice using phraseology that you are conversant with, and don't speak too SOFTLY or too QUICKLY.

APPEARANCE

Your appearance will register with the pupils, please make it a favourable one. A CLEAN, and TIDY and COMFORTABLE appearance will register with all pupils and set a standard and an atmosphere which will be congenial. If you have reason to suppose that you have any UNUSUAL or PRONOUNCED mannerisms, ask your friends and relations to point them out: you will find, much to your surprise, that if you do accept the fact and are aware of them, you can CONTROL them. There will be others who have mannerisms too, but watch the methods of the Instructors on the Course, and generally you will find that you will gain in confidence with every tutorial.

Charles LANDELLS
National Education and Development
Officer
NATIONAL ANGLERS' COUNCIL
Greater London & South East Region.

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EDITORS' NOTE

Magazine No. 15 will contain a bumper "From the Regions" and "Mailbag".