

Differing from this time last year, we seem to be full swing into a real summer?! Many venues and clubs are combating excessive weed and mortality. I get many calls in the heat, but when problems like this occur, there is little you can do at this late stage. Any practical fishery management such as weed control or stock management should be set out and initialised in the colder months. An example is weed growth, some waters at this time complain of "unfishable" lakes covered in aquatic weed. Chemical treatments are a big no-no as far as I am concerned. In my youth we used Clarasan and Casaron G for various things, but I wouldn't like to continually use chemicals in my own waters.

The use of dye is popular because it's cheap. The problem is that people are applying it in summer when weed is already bad. It doesn't kill weed, just blocks sunlight. so when the weather cools, it may affect how the weed breaks down, and this could lead to problems the following year.

I have successfully used fish to combat weed. stocking small carp in high numbers so they forage around and feed, can keep water turbid enough so the weed doesn't grow. On a carp lake, the anglers may moan about catching them, but then they will moan about something else the week after and I have learnt over the last twenty two years of getting in lakes that I would rather have a few moans from anglers than dead fish! Plus if you feed the fish, crop them each winter, you are growing on the future stock, whilst helping combat weed. Of course this won't happen overnight, the bigger the lake the longer it takes using sensible amounts of fish. In some cases there will already be fry present, these just need a helping hand to survive their first winter then with enough food available the same thing happens. This is just one example how an idea can develop that actually works, and if done correctly is a safe way to achieve a result over time. Rash decisions or listening to anglers and spending thousands on weed removal, only for it to come back again within weeks, doesn't seem too practical does it?

I have a habit of generalising and of course most anglers are great, there are always just a few that seem to moan about anything, and it frustrates me when these people have no grasp of actual facts when it comes to their waters. The only reason I get annoyed is because I have witnessed situations where fishery owners have listened to these few moaners, and it has ended up costing them dearly. All I suggest to any person directly responsible for any water, to find facts, seek help and visit other waters to compare issues at this time of year. No one likes to ask for help when it comes to fishing, and even less people want to pay for it! until it's too late, however those that do generally find themselves with a positive outcome and more of an idea on how to get where they want to be.

There is always a sensible way to overcome any problem with your waters, the thing is that many clubs or venues demand results on an unreasonable time frame, and in some cases, demand weed removal on venues where the costs would be astronomical. The fact is that some lakes are weedy in the summer. This may mean you, as an angler have to adapt your attitude toward fishing, learn new methods. Fishing up in the water or on the surface are so underused, and take effort to master, but on many days you will blank unless you adopt a different method, and it's not the fisheries fault!

I have seen fishery owners listen to anglers unreasonable demands and it has ended up costing them their reputation. Practical fishery management is not guesswork. It is not "pub talk" and hearsay. As a person responsible for any water body, you have to learn to develop the water and the fishing over a period of time, to get the best results, certainly the most sustainable.

These are the methods I have used on waters I am directly responsible for. And I am confi-

dent that this is why I have had no issues regarding fish welfare or weed. Of course on occasion I want weed, in fry ponds for example, but I can use common sense, science, and twenty two years hands on experience to get each water where I want it. This time of year I do get frustrated with a few people who waste money and time on things that simply don't work. My passion, and my work is to help people develop waters for angling. This is by far a case of simply stocking loads of fish, however that's what many people do. Then they see firsthand the problems associated the year after.

The hot weather makes fishing more challenging. You only have to get in the water to feel the different temperatures through the water layers. Anglers who adapt and change will always catch more fish. The best thing the hot weather brings is ideal growing conditions for fry. We have had a great year for production and survival of fry. Tench, Pure Crucian, Carp and Bream. They are growing fast so long may the warmth continue! I am taking orders for winter stockings, and will no doubt sell out again, so get orders in asap!

I am working at a new venue in France, as well as visiting Georgia again this summer, and trying to get some angling in as well as tutorials, and a holiday, because come October I will be flat out all winter, just how we like it!

A good friend, Kevin Green passed away recently. Sad times indeed. Kev really championed my direct approach to fishery management and did some great feature writing on some of the venues I am involved in. We spent time fishing together, and he was a true professional dedicated to his work and love for angling. I found out he was unwell after Easter, we had one fishing trip after that, to an unfished lake close to his home, which I am helping to develop as a premier carp lake opening later this year. I will also be organising a fundraising event in honour of Kev, at Lemington lakes, very soon. He is a great loss to the angling world and will be greatly missed. Rest in peace mate.

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