

# Where your money goes

## Our work to improve fisheries in England and Wales

### Introduction

We are frequently asked how we spend your money to improve fisheries. This report shows how, in 2009/10, we use our funds to improve and protect the environment for fish and those who enjoy fishing. It explains how our fisheries work is funded and shows how we invest your money.

### Our aims

The outcomes we want to see are simple:

- ➔ **More fish;**
- ➔ **More people fishing;**
- ➔ **Satisfied customers.**

We provide more detail on these in our Angling, navigation and recreation, and Biodiversity supporting strategies - see <http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GEHO1109BQXG-e-e.pdf>.

### Fisheries income

Most of our income comes from rod and net licence sales, with government grant in aid (GiA) making up the shortfall in expenditure. In 2009/10, our planned licence income was £24.0 million and we received £9.4 million GiA (with £0.8 million of miscellaneous income) - see Figure 1.

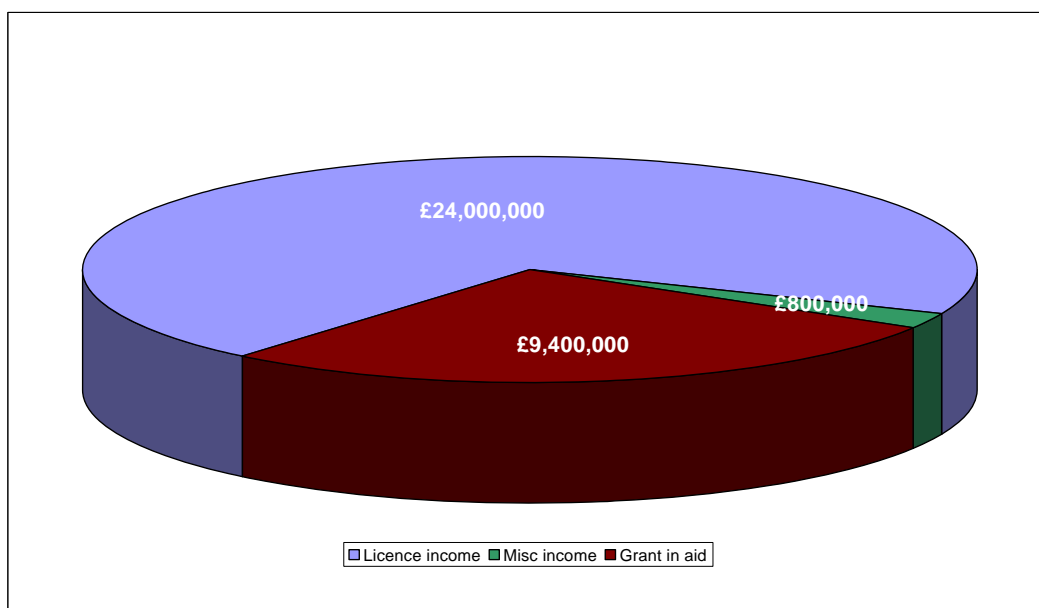


Figure 1. Fisheries income

## Fisheries expenditure

We use all your rod licence income to fund work to protect, improve and develop fisheries.

You can see how much we spend on local operational work to protect and improve fisheries in Figure 2. We also spend money nationally, on activities such as fisheries research, marketing and working with partners and government. Please visit our [website](#) to find out more about the nature of our work.

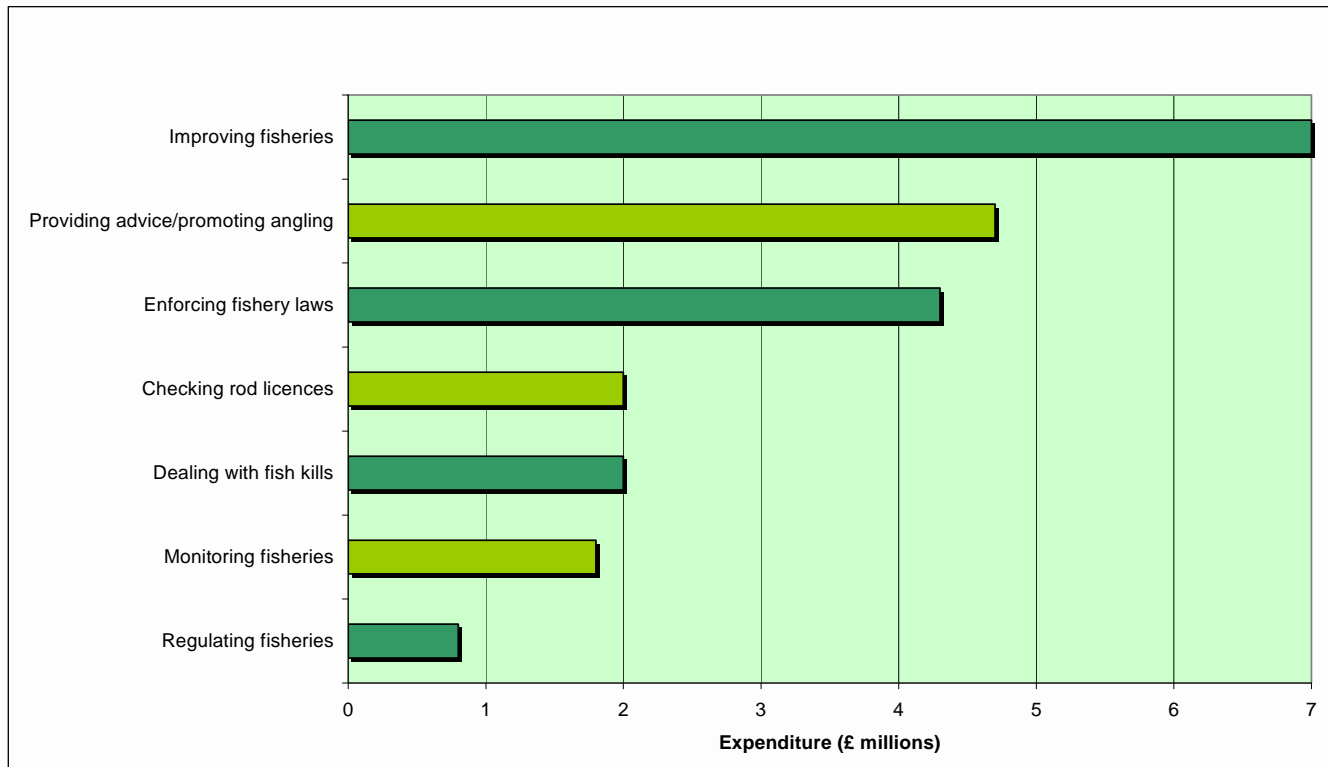


Figure 2. Planned expenditure on local fisheries work

Wherever possible we work with partners to increase the total spend on fisheries outcomes. For example, the £4.1 million we spent on fisheries development projects in 2009/10 generated a further £7.2 million in partner contributions.

It is not just Fisheries money that benefits fish stocks and the environment that supports them: much is delivered through the work of other parts of the Environment Agency. We have worked with water companies to direct £4.4 billion of their expenditure over the next five years to improve river quality. We have also completed significant habitat improvements on the back of our flood risk management work. In 2009/10, other parts of the Environment Agency funded £3.6 million of fisheries projects.

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## Delivering our outcomes - "More fish"

We show how many projects we have delivered and where in Figure 3. Table 1 provides a breakdown of total (Environment Agency and partnership) expenditure on projects that help boost fish stocks.

Region	Coarse & trout	Eels	Salmon & sea trout	Multiple species <sup>1</sup>	Total
Anglian	£916.6k	£85.6k	£13.1k	£325.5k	<b>£1340.8k</b>
Midlands	£338.0k	£38.0k	£420.0k	£114.7k	<b>£910.7k</b>
North East	£1822.0k	£20.0k	£154.0k	£726.0k	<b>£2722.0k</b>
North West	£131.5k	£64.5k	£164.3k	£1339.0k	<b>£1709.3k</b>
South West	£112.1k	£54.6k	£817.8k	£632.4k	<b>£1616.9k</b>
Southern	£950.9k	£203.5k	£222.5k	£340.0k	<b>£1716.9k</b>
Thames	£2169.5k	£149.8k	£5.0k	-	<b>£2324.3k</b>
Wales	£31.3k	£3.34k	£337.6k	£377.4k	<b>£749.6k</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6471.9k</b>	<b>£619.3k</b>	<b>£2134.3k</b>	<b>£3855.0k</b>	<b>£13090.5k</b>

Table 1. Where we spend money to boost fish stocks.

You can download a list of projects, including the nature, location and cost of each, from our [website](#).

### Coarse fish and brown trout

We build fish passes and restore river and stillwater habitats to improve coarse fish and trout stocks. In 2009/10, we spent £6.5 million on this work. By investing £1 million of rod licence income and £1.5 million GiA, we attracted £2.6 million from external partners and £1.4 million from other Environment Agency funds. We completed 144 separate projects, many more than we planned because more people went fishing and bought licences. The projects comprised 25 fish passes; 87 river habitat improvements and 32 stillwater projects.

### Salmon, sea trout and eel

We categorise salmon rivers according to their likelihood of meeting their management objective:

- **Not at risk** - have a high probability (> 95%) of meeting the management objective;

<sup>1</sup> Some projects benefit more than one group of species.

- **Probably not at risk** - have a probability of 50% to 95% of meeting the management objective;
- **Probably at risk** - have a probability of 5% to 50% of meeting the management objective; and -
- **At risk** - have a very low probability (<5%) of meeting the management objective.

The estimated number of adult salmon returning to our rivers in 2009 was amongst the lowest on record and the grilse component appears to be particularly hard hit.

The good news is that the proportion of rivers in category 4, 'at risk', has been declining and is predicted to decline further. Our target was for fewer than 40% of rivers to be 'at risk' in 2009 and we achieved this. The proportion of rivers in the intermediate categories, 'probably at risk' and 'probably not at risk' has increased accordingly.

The bad news is that 61% of rivers remain either 'at risk' or 'probably at risk'. Also, only 11% are classed as 'not at risk' and that proportion is not predicted to improve. So there is no room for complacency.

This is a similar position to the status of salmon stocks across southern Europe. Despite huge reductions in exploitation at sea, in estuaries and, in some cases in rivers, salmon stocks remain depressed. We think this is due mainly due to continuing poor survival in the marine environment attributed to climatic effects. This means we have to do all that we can to protect and improve the freshwater environment over which we have more control.

Sea trout catches in 2009 were also poor. We are developing a way of classifying sea trout rivers, similar to how we classify salmon rivers, and will report on this from 2011.

Our salmon and sea trout plans set out the extent to which individual stocks can be exploited, as well as work to improve water quality, river flows and habitats, and anti-poaching work. We completed 519 of the 523 actions we planned in 2009/10, including 31 fish passes and 56 habitat improvements.

We have also produced eel management plans. Recent surveys show that a loss of habitat, pollution, parasites and obstacles to migration mean that stocks of glass eels are at just 30% of the numbers seen in the 1980s. We completed 108 eel improvement actions in 2009/10, including building 29 eel passes (see Figure 3). As an example of our work, we have begun to build eel passes to overcome some of the 400 obstructions identified in the Thames and its tributaries.

## Delivering our outcomes - "More people fishing"

### Angling participation

We work with angling clubs, fishery owners and others to encourage people to go fishing for the first time or start fishing again after a break. In 2009/10, we saw over 31,000 people receive coaching through 41 angling participation schemes. These are anglers of the future. We also completed 19 education and information projects, and 118 projects to improve access to fisheries.

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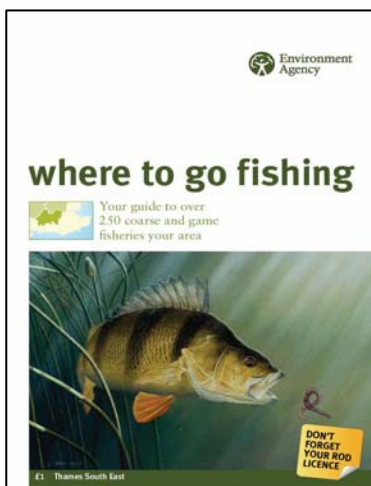
## Projects

Table 2 provides a breakdown of Environment Agency and partnership expenditure on projects to get "more people fishing".

Region	Access	Coaching	Information/ Education	Total
Anglian	£266.3k	£35.0k	£55.0k	<b>£356.3k</b>
Midlands	£191.0k	£416.6k	£20.3k	<b>£627.9k</b>
National	N/A	£232.0k	£0k <sup>2</sup>	<b>£402.0k</b>
North East	£1572.6k	£69.5k	£101.0k	<b>£1743.1k</b>
North West	£310.2k	£80.3k	£2.1k	<b>£392.6k</b>
South West	£323.9k	£27.0k	£9.0k	<b>£359.9k</b>
Southern	£491.4k	£70.5k	£0k	<b>£561.9k</b>
Thames	£595.9k	£0k	£0k	<b>£595.9k</b>
Wales	£777.4k	£113.4k	£141.4k	<b>£1032.3k</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4528.7k</b>	<b>£1044.3k</b>	<b>£328.8k</b>	<b>£6071.9k</b>

Table 2. How much we spent on projects aimed to get "more people fishing".

### Angling guides



In 2009/10, we produced and distributed local angling guides, paper or electronic, to all licence holder households in England and Wales. Building on a successful previous experiment, the mailing prompted people to go fishing and remind them to buy a licence. It also addressed one of the major barriers to participation, namely the lack of information on local angling opportunities.

We feel the guides made a significant contribution towards record licence sales in this year. From market research in summer 2009:

- 370,000 anglers were encouraged to find new places to fish;

<sup>2</sup> This excludes our rod licence marketing campaign, which included producing the area angling guides and other initiatives to encourage more anglers.

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- 170,000 were reminded to buy a licence;
- 230,000 reported the guides encouraged them or others to go fishing.

### Rod licence sales and enforcement

Over the past decade, sales of rod licences have increased by 35 percent, from 1.1 million in 2000/1 to a record high of 1.5 million in 2009/10 and generating £25.4 million in income. We believe a significant reason for the increase was targeted marketing, including the new look licence, TV adverts and the widespread distribution of angling guides.



We checked for over 143,000 licences and detected a low evasion rate at an average of 3.85% (range between regions of 1.5% to 6.0%). We prosecuted 3,496 anglers for fishing without a licence or for fishing byelaw offences. The courts discharged only 15 anglers.

### Delivering our outcomes - "Satisfied customers"

#### Customer survey

Our work to deliver the first two outcomes - more fish and more people fishing - contributes to delivering our third outcome of more satisfied customers. Market research recorded the highest ever proportion of anglers who were very happy with the service we provide. Surveys since 2001 have recorded an increasing percentage of customers who think the service provided by us with money raised from rod licences is "fairly good" or "very good". The proportion who considered it 'fairly' or 'very good' has increased from 70% in 2001 to 76% in 2009, with the percentage who think it is "very good" increased from 19% in 2001 to 42% in 2009.

#### More information

A more detailed report on where we spend your fisheries money to improve fish stocks and boost angling can be found on our website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/fish). We also publish information about current fisheries improvement projects and other activities in our local and national fisheries newsletters. To get yours, please call your local Fisheries team on 08708 506 506\* (Mon-Fri, 8am - 6pm).

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\* Calls to 0870 numbers - Weekday Daytime calls to 0870 numbers cost 8p, plus up to 6p per minute from BT Weekend Unlimited. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary.

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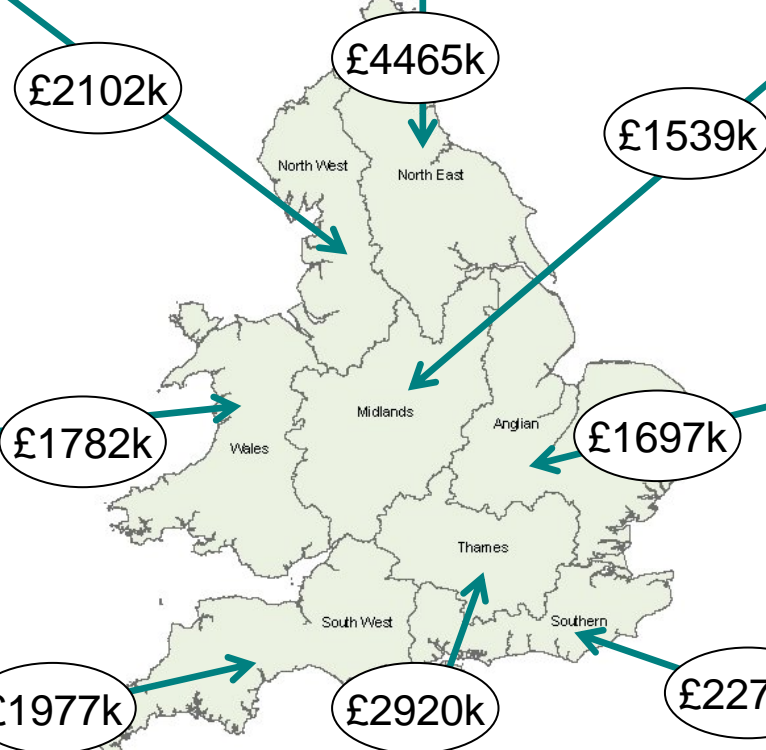
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North West	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	8	13	0	1
Coaching	0	11	0	0
Fish Passes	8	0	2	1
Info/Education	1	0	0	0
River habitat	38	13	4	10
Stillwater habitat	2	6	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>

Yorkshire & North East	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	0	11	0	0
Coaching	0	3	0	0
Fish Passes	3	5	2	3
Info/Education	1	0	0	1
River habitat	2	8	0	0
Stillwater habitat	0	4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Midlands	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	0	16	0	0
Coaching	0	7	0	0
Fish Passes	2	2	5	5
Info/Education	0	1	0	1
River habitat	6	10	0	5
Stillwater habitat	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>

**Figure 3.** The number of projects boosting fish stocks across England and Wales



Environment Agency Wales	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	6	15	0	4
Coaching	4	5	0	0
Fish Passes	4	1	2	3
Info/Education	11	0	0	0
River habitat	16	2	0	13
Stillwater habitat	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>

Anglian	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	0	10	0	0
Coaching	0	2	0	0
Fish Passes	1	2	4	0
Info/Education	0	2	0	0
River habitat	5	17	0	1
Stillwater habitat	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

South West	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	8	8	0	1
Coaching	2	3	0	0
Fish Passes	3	1	4	13
Info/Education	1	0	0	0
River habitat	11	6	1	20
Stillwater habitat	0	5	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>

Thames	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	0	12	0	0
Coaching	0	0	0	0
Fish Passes	0	6	3	1
Info/Education	0	0	0	0
River habitat	0	19	1	0
Stillwater habitat	0	13	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

Southern	Multiple species	Coarse/trout	Eels	Salmon/sea trout
Access	1	4	0	0
Coaching	0	4	0	0
Fish Passes	1	8	7	5
Info/Education	0	0	0	0
River habitat	9	12	2	7
Stillwater habitat	0	3	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>