

Fishery Report 2nd August – 23rd August

BW Lakeside

Cooler weather finally appeared, giving the lakes a welcome break from the heat, not many anglers had been out during the recent warm spell.

!! Fly Fishing Open Day Postponed !!

A couple of weeks ago, we had to postpone the Fly Fishing Open Day due to unforeseen circumstances. We know how much many of you were looking forward to the event, and we sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Our team has reached out to everyone who was booked for the "Fishing from the Jetty" activity to notify them of the change. We're working on setting a new date and will keep you updated as soon as it's confirmed.

We deeply apologise to everyone who was set to attend and those who were involved in organising and running the event. We understand the disappointment and appreciate your understanding. We look forward to welcoming you at the rescheduled event.

When our Fly Fishing Open Day had to be cancelled, we made sure 15-year-old Jack still had a memorable birthday on Blagdon Lake, thanks to Andy Stones. Andy took Jack out on the boat for a special one-on-one fishing experience in perfect weather conditions, Jack showed great skill, catching two fish under Andy's guidance. It turned out to be a fantastic day on the water, making Jack's birthday one to remember despite the change in plans.



Blagdon Lake:

We're thrilled to announce the long-anticipated return of the weed cutting boat to Blagdon Lake! Ranger Shaun Monaghan and the boat have been hard at work, cutting back the significant weed growth to make fishing more accessible for both bank and boat anglers. This effort is already making a noticeable difference, opening more spots for everyone to enjoy a great day of fishing.

- **Weather Conditions:** The first half of August saw a mix of warm days with cooler evenings, which helped maintain water temperatures at an optimal range for fishing. Some light rain towards the end of the period provided fresh oxygenation to the water.
- **Water Conditions:** Weed growth has been substantial, particularly around the banks, making certain areas tricky for bank anglers. However, the marginal weed has also provided good cover for fish, especially in the mornings and evenings when they come in closer to feed.
- **Fishing Activity:**
 - **Best Spots:** Pegs Point has remained the most productive area, with anglers reporting consistent catches. The Dam and Boils have also yielded good results, especially for those using deeper lines. Cheddar water is also proving a good spot providing fish to those that ventured there, access to the deeper water here has worked for many.
 - **Techniques:** Anglers using Di5 and Di7 sinking lines have found success targeting trout at depth. Lures and small fry patterns have been effective, particularly in the early mornings and late evenings.
 - **Catch Report:** Anglers have reported steady catches of rainbow trout, with several fish in the 2-4 lb range. There have also been reports of larger specimens up to 6 lbs being caught near the deeper waters. Fish were noted to have been changing depth in the water column, so experimentation was key to get the best out of a day's fishing.
 - **Stocking:** An additional stocking of 1700 fish was completed during this period, with another planned towards the end of the month to maintain healthy fish levels for the latter part of the season.

Chew Valley Lake:

- **Weather Conditions:** Chew Valley experienced a range of weather conditions, with cooler evenings providing excellent fishing opportunities. Some overcast days helped to keep water temperatures lower, which improved fish activity.
- **Water Conditions:** The water clarity improved significantly, especially after a brief period of rainfall. This has encouraged more surface activity, with fish visibly rising during dusk and dawn. Our results from the sampling showed that the algae count has dropped near to zero which is great news.
- **Fishing Activity:**
 - **Best Spots:** Herons and the North Shore have been particularly fruitful, with many anglers reporting success in these areas. Fish have been seen actively feeding near the surface, making these spots prime locations.
 - **Techniques:** Dry flies and nymphs have been the top choices, with patterns like Diawl Bach and Hoppers proving effective. For those fishing deeper, intermediate lines with small buzzers have also worked well.
 - **Catch Report:** Anglers have been catching good numbers of trout, with an average size of 3 lbs. Several catches of over 5 lbs were reported, particularly in the early mornings. Local Angler James Roberts spent a couple of hours in the evening at Herons, landing three good-sized trout on a size 16 Diawl Bach. He noted plenty of moving fish, which was a promising sign for the next few weeks
 - **Stocking:** Chew Valley saw a significant stocking during this period, with 1,300 trout added to the lake with more stocking planned through August. Including 4,500 from one of the net cages.



Barrows:

Fishing activity:

The Tanks have been the best lakes for bank fishing over the last week or two, with both Tank 2 and Tank 3 producing well. It was crucial to stay late to get the most out of the sport as early mornings and late evenings accounted for most fish. Effective tactics included dries, nymphs, and lures fished on floating and intermediate lines. As usual for this time of year, heading to the inlets was the best approach. To add to the great fishing we've seen at the tanks our stocking program will be picking back up again as we head into the back end of the season.



General Observations:

- The cooler weather has greatly improved fishing conditions at both lakes, with plenty of fish being caught at various depths and on different techniques.
- Anglers are advised to focus on early morning and late evening sessions when fish activity is highest.
- Both lakes have seen substantial stockings delivered and also a further 15,000 planned before the end of September. This will ensure a healthy and vibrant fish population for the remainder of the season.

Overall, the period from August 2nd to August 23rd has been productive for anglers at Blagdon, with excellent fishing conditions and impressive catches reported across the board.

The recent hot weather and lack of wind caused the oxygen levels in Chew Valley Lake to drop lower than normal, affecting some of the fish.

We always thoroughly investigate any issues like this and will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The oxygen levels have now returned to normal, but to allow the lake more time to stabilise, the Wychwood Individual Fly Fishing Championship that took place on 18th August was moved to Blagdon Lake. 4,500 fish are planned to be stocked into Chew

Valley lake this week which should make for some brilliant sport and get the lake producing well for our anglers after this period of rest.

Wychwood Individual Fly Fishing Championship



Blagdon was host to the Wychwood Individual Championship on Sunday 18th August. Despite the bright conditions the lake fished rather well, it was great to see a bigger comp like this at Blagdon and the atmosphere was great. We had 29 boats with 58 anglers take to the water and the competition was won by Paul Morris with a very respectable bag of 11 fish weighing in at 23lb 6oz (9 fish C&R counting for 2lb each). It was great to see one of our regular anglers walk away with the top prize! It was also good to see one of our Rangers competing, with Richard Walker missing out on a spot in the top 10 by less than 2lb. A big well done and thank you to all of those that took part from all of us here at Bristol Water Fisheries.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks for what promises to be an extremely productive part of the season.