

Fishery Report – 7th July – 1st August

We all let out a sigh of relief this month as we were able to lift all restrictions on Chew as the Algae cleared! This coincided with the levels allowing us to open part of Northshore which can be accessed through the angler's gate in picnic area 2.

The sport has been fantastic, particularly in the first opening week on Chew with some impressive returns (See below)

The levels at the tanks have been fluctuating as we diverted water from Chew to other sources, with Chew now reopened and supplies reinstated the levels should remain more stable.

Barrows has been very consistent with a nice mix of stockies and some larger specimens which have been feeding on the stickleback!

Blagdon levels should also now steady up as pumping switches back to Chew for the next few weeks.

Just as a note with the lakes reaching the summer levels, please do exercise care when wading and accessing the bank side as freshly exposed banks can be slippery underfoot.

Bristol Water Fly Fishing Open Day

Planning is well underway for our open day supported by the BRFFA on the 10th August, this will include fly tying, fly casting instruction and also the chance to fish off the jetties!



A promotional poster for the 'Fly Fishing Open Day' event. The poster features a large blue starburst graphic with the text 'FLY FISHING OPEN DAY' inside. Above the starburst, it says 'TRY FLY FISHING' and 'LEARN ABOUT FLY CASTING AND FLY TYING'. Below the starburst, it provides the date and time: '10AM-4PM CHEW VALLEY LAKE 10TH AUGUST 2024'. It also mentions 'DRINKS & SNACKS FROM THE SNACK SHACK*' and 'GREAT FOOD FROM THE WOODFORD RESTURANT*'. At the bottom, it states 'TRY FLY FISHING, IT'S FREE! REQUIRES PRE BOOKING, CONTACT BWF: 01275332339 WOODFORD LODGE, CHEW STOKE, BRISTOL BS40 8XH'. The poster includes logos for 'THE BRFFA Youth development pathway', 'BRISTOL WATER', 'Turrall', 'Environment Agency', 'airflo', 'ANGLING TRUST', and 'FISH LEGAL'. A small disclaimer at the bottom right reads '*ALL FOOD SUBJECT TO PURCHASE & AVAILABILITY'.



This event is aimed to introduce people to the sport of fly fishing and is free to attend! If you wish to book on to fish from the jetty or would like more information, please call the lodge on 01275 339332

Chew

Chew re-opened with a bang on 7th July, there was some incredible fishing to be had down in Herons Green and Villice Bays. The fish were really on the feed with Diawl Bachs, Damsels and Crunchers all bringing fish to the boats that ventured to these areas. Washing Line method with a FAB on the point and your choice of nymphs on the droppers accounted for a lot of the action and as you can see from the picture below some boats landed huge numbers of fish! Moreton has provided anglers with some great dry fly fishing when conditions allow, it's worth keeping some Bobs Bits at hand in case the fish make an appearance on the surface!

The image shows four 'Fly Fishing Catch Return' forms for Chew, arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each form includes fields for Boat Number, Permit Type, Water, Booking Name, Date, Fish Returned, Fish Dispatched, and Total Bag Weight. Comments are provided for forms 49, 41, and 47.

Boat Number	Permit Type	Water	Booking Name	Date	Fish Returned	Fish Dispatched	Total Bag Weight	Comments
49	Predator Fly <input type="checkbox"/> Trout <input type="checkbox"/>	Blagdon <input type="checkbox"/> Chew <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barrows <input type="checkbox"/>	[Redacted]	7/7/24	50	2		Villice Bottom Herons Moreton Cays DBs, Damsel nymph
43	Predator Fly <input type="checkbox"/> Trout <input type="checkbox"/>	Blagdon <input type="checkbox"/> Chew <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barrows <input type="checkbox"/>	[Redacted]	7/7/24	41			
41	Predator Fly <input type="checkbox"/> Trout <input type="checkbox"/>	Blagdon <input type="checkbox"/> Chew <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barrows <input type="checkbox"/>	[Redacted]	7/7/24	NONE	6	18.5 lb	BAKING AND FROM BOTTOM OF HERONS VILLICE COMMENTS, PLEASE BRING ON WASHING LINE -> PLEASE
47	Predator Fly <input type="checkbox"/> Trout <input type="checkbox"/>	Blagdon <input type="checkbox"/> Chew <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barrows <input type="checkbox"/>	[Redacted]	7/7/24	42			HERONS TRIED DRY FLIES VILLICE NOTHING

Blagdon

Action on Blagdon has slowed a little in the last week or so and anglers have found the fishing trickier than it has been for much of the season to date. The water level has dropped due to increased extraction, this has moved the fish away from Rugmoor and the Top End where the fishing has been outstanding all season. The Dam and deeper areas of the lake have been producing fish to those anglers switching up their methods and fishing over the deeper water and boils.

The banks have still been throwing up some quality fish, as you can see to the right, a lovely 5lb rainbow was the reward for Rick Sellers. Caught from Green Lawn on a Red Holographic Diawl Bach.



Barrow Tanks

The tanks have been very consistent over the past few weeks with good numbers of fish being caught. The trend has continued with the inflows being very productive.

First and last light are still producing the bulk of the fish, it is still possible to catch through the day but casting long with mini lures is sometimes required.

The Tanks have been throwing up a few nice Perch recently for those who wish to target them. Bernie Weaver caught these lovely fish:



Stocking in July

With both lakes open after our prolonged closure at Chew last month, our stock program has returned. Chew has seen 3500+ fish going into the lakes over the month in various locations. Blagdon has received a fresh stock of 2500+ fish to keep the lakes fishing it's best in the hot temperatures. 500 fish have gone into barrows tanks, which as mentioned earlier, have been very consistent despite the hot temperatures.



Rangers Vs BRFFA

The latter part of July saw 7 rangers pair up with a BRFFA member for a social competition evening on Chew targeting the trout. Conditions were very tricky, but the BRFFA came out on top as comfortable winners with a rod average of 1.3! As you can imagine, we are extremely proud of the ranger's ability to put the customer first and make sure they had the best time possible including letting them take the honours.

Late July saw conditions on Chew get trickier with the increase in temperatures forcing fish into deeper water, but there were still plenty of fish around as Andy stones proved on the friendly comp, hooking 5 fish in one drift.



Pike Fishing

This last month saw a number of pike anglers fishing on Chew. With large fish spotted in the west and east ends of the lake. Several 30lb+ fish were caught this month with the largest at 34lb being caught by Martyn Cattermole:





Catch and Release

With the warm weather being experienced in late July it is important to refresh our rules of safe catch and release. These methods should be practiced all year round on our lakes with all species.

This includes using a knotless rubberized landing net of adequate size, using barbless hooks and unhooking the fish quickly to reduce lactic acid build up. Handling the fish should be kept to a minimum but if needed, should be done with wet, bare hands to prevent the protective mucus being stripped from their body. It's also important to try and unhook the fish in the water and consider photographing it in the water and measuring the fish rather than weighing it. If you do want to photograph and weigh in, it's also essential to have a sling to hold the fish that is cool and wet beforehand. Bringing a fish out of water should only be done for a few seconds at a time with long periods of recovery in the water. These practices should also be performed by all anglers practicing catch and release for all species regardless of weather and water conditions.

The end of July into August

The end of July saw an increase in the levels of algae in Chew Lake which meant the sinking lines were the preferred methods of catching with large lure flies and speedy retrievals. Moving into August we're seeing a decline in the levels of algae and with temperatures due to drop, this should make for more favourable conditions for fishing in August. We're also continuing our stocking program with 10,000 fish due to be stocked into the lakes in the next month.

Notable dates in the next month are the Fly Fishing Open Day on the 10th of August and the Wychwood Individuals Competition on the 18th of August held at Chew.