

The Future of Angling in the Broads  
The Adverse Results of Prymnesium

Presented by the



BASG - 30th July 2015

A Brief Induction -

The BASG was formed in 2000, it was founded by a group of local anglers who volunteered their services to consider ways of retaining and promoting angling in the Broads area. There were many points taken into consideration, but most important ones are listed, these formed the basis of the BASG objectives.

They were:

- 1) Maintain and improve all aspects related to angling  
(Bank access and Urban fishing)
- 2) Improve Information and Education
- 3) Resolve and conflict of interest

In 2012 the BASG became a fully constituted body and in 2013 it affiliated to the Angling Trust. Since then the list of the BASG's area's of importance have been greatly increased to include points that are very relevant to today's environment, working with all bodies concerned as listed below.

- 1 Maintain and improve boat & bank angling opportunities
- 2 Address and resolve conflicts of interest
- 3 Maintain access & anglers legal rights
- 4 Maintain and improve slipway facilities for small boats
- 5 Maintain and improve the urban fishery

- 1 Improve angling Information & Education
- 2 Consultation
- 3 Effective involvement & liaison
- 4 Encourage newcomers to the sport and support young anglers
- 5 Improve out of season visitor numbers to the Broads

- 1 Understanding fish stocks in the Broads
- 2 Fisheries Enforcement & Regulation
- 3 Tidal surges
- 4 Toxic algae Prymnesium
- 5 Predation
- 6 Invasive species
- 7 Managing & adapting to climate change

The BASG has achieved numerous successes relating to the above - These were reviewed at it's April meeting and include:



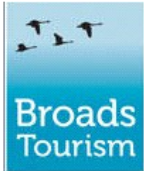
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Kelvin appointed  
BA Member Apr 2013  
Wider BA Committee  
Representation



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Broads Angling  
Strategy Published  
June 2013



3 5

Partnership with  
Broads Tourism 2013



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Tourism Business Case  
Created 2013



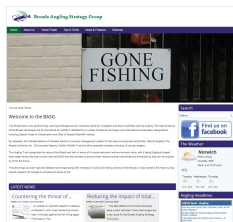
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Grant of £15,000  
Broads Angle  
Published 2013



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Grant of £10,000  
BASG Web Site 2014



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New BASG Website  
Avg 100 hits per day  
basgonline.org



2 1

Angling Recognised  
within BA Strategy  
2014



1 2 3

Broads Bank Side  
Ownership Survey  
Our rights of Way



1 3

New Access  
Partnerships with  
RSPB



5 3

Agreement with  
Norwich City Council



5 3

Support for Train  
Wood - Norwich



1 3

Broads Pike Tagging  
Project



4 3

Hickling Staithe Open  
New Slipways agreed  
Awaiting Funds



3 3

Salinity Monitoring  
Partnership



3 1 1

Reducing the impact of  
tidal surges



1 3 5 1 3

Broads Hydro acoustic  
Surveys



4 1 2 3

Prymnesium -  
Getting the message  
across

Angling is and always will be a recreation enjoyed by many millions of people of all age groups. We are fortunate in Broadland as we have the "Best Free Fishing" in the country set in a glorious landscape attracting many visitors. Obviously not all come to fish, but those that do, when bringing their families; which most do, add a considerable contribution to the local economy. Currently estimated around £100m  
*(Based on 2014 STEAM data and the BA visitor survey)*

Therefore we need good publicity.

Regarding angling and its attraction to bring visitors to the Broads, the recent adverse publicity given by the press and media relating to the "Fish Mortalities" in March and April in the Upper Thurne resulting from Prymnesium, led to many people including potential visitors questioning whether this would have an adverse affect on fishing and habitat in and around the area. Pressure from BASG lead to the Environment Agency undertaking sonar surveys of the affected area, prior to the start of the fishing season and issuing a press release on the potential positive findings.

However you can't beat actual people catching fish as evidence and since 16th June these early indications show lower than expected catches upstream of Martham Ferry and considerably less fish in the river from Martham to Potter Heigham. Lower down the Thurne from Womack to Thurne Mouth and into the Bure the river(s) are very well populated and catches are high.

This is a sure indication that the affect of Prymnesium in area's where it was most prolific has had detrimental result and will no doubt take a considerable time to replenish fish stocks.

BASG continues to take an active role in understanding the complex Prymnesium research and what measures can be put in place to protect the valued fish stocks in the Upper Thurne. Working groups have been established to implement a number of actions and work strings with the respective agencies.





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Tidal surges  
Acle Dyke Dec 2014



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Anglers loss of fishing  
Rights and Access



2 1

Fisheries Enforcement  
National VBS



2 3 2 1

Bio manipulation

The Angling Trust with BASG support are holding one of their regional forum(s) in Norwich on the 22nd July focussed on some of these challenges, with experts from the Environment Agency, Natural England and BA presenting what this means to anglers in terms of short, medium and long term challenges to the Broads.

## Conclusion

The Broads angling continues to hold it's own in terms of the economic value, but the challenges on how this can continue without the lack of sustainable investment is concerning. Perhaps this is time to consider a new economic model for angling.

The complex environmental conditions which enables the growth and blooms of Prymnesium leading to toxin release are also a key concern, there remains many unanswered questions.

Much of these look like becoming the norm with the challenges from climate change and continued poor engagement with anglers on the ground.

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