

Anglian Water Stocking Policy 2023

We are committed to providing leading trout fisheries at our four centrally located reservoirs, Rutland, Grafham, Pitsford and Ravensthorpe Water's.

We manage our stocking policy by assessing previous season stocking quantities, rod averages, angling pressures and the size of the waterbody. Within the season we regularly reflect on current weather conditions, angling demand, to date rod averages, upcoming events, water levels/temperatures and can adjust stockings accordingly between the four reservoirs.

Last season despite challenges due to exceptionally high weather temperatures our associated fish farms delivered excellent quality rainbow and brown trout.

Our 2022 seasonal rod averages were:

Rutland Water 5.04

Grafham Water 4.1

Pitsford Water 5.7

Ravensthorpe Water 4.7

For 2023 we are delighted to have negotiated new 10 year purchasing agreement with four UK trout farms. These four farms will be supplying the following quantities of rainbow and brown trout at our waters at regular intervals from February 2023.

Rutland Water 71,000

Grafham Water 40,000

Pitsford Water 25,000

Ravensthorpe Water 7,300

Rainbow trout will predominately be stocked at a weight of 750grams and 900grams. A small quantity of 1.5kg rainbow trout will also be stocked. Ravensthorpe Water will be continued to be stocked with some larger rainbow trout some into double figures.

Brown trout will to be stocked at 750grams into Rutland, Grafham and Pitsford Water. A new 'no kill' on brown trout rule will be in place from 2023 across all waters to sustain the brown trout for future seasons.

Every year we see fantastic overwintered & grown on trout ranging from 4lb - 10lb+. Grown on brown trout are a particular spectacle especially in October & November at Rutland and Pitsford where these large trout can be caught from the bank & boats.

Stocking will commence in February 2023, a few weeks before the start of the new season. Regular stockings will then take place throughout the spring and into early summer. We reduce the number of stockings during July and August when typically the weather is at its warmest and as are the reservoir water temperatures. We then increase the stocking frequencies again from September to October to support strong Autumn and Winter fishing. Our fisheries close on 31st January for 4-6 weeks. During this time the boats are taken off the water for maintenance and servicing and the next season pre stocking will commence.

Despite the price of trout increasing at record levels we are purchasing and stocking the same quantity of trout into our waters. To mitigate some of the increasing costs we are stocking more 750gram trout and less 900gram trout than in previous years. This will ensure our rod averages remain at an enjoyable, sporting level.

We operate rigorous checks on the trout supplied ensuring the fish are of the correct weight or higher, of good health and condition and free from pests and diseases. Our farmers also follow enforced biosecurity measures to ensure non native invasive species are not spread between waterbodies.

We are continually investing in our angling facilities by purchasing new fishing boats, refurbishing our fishing lodges, catering facilities, pontoons and biosecurity wash down points. We offer beginner fly fishing courses to adults and children and work closely with our local fly fishing clubs to promote the sport we love.

We always recommend you keep an eye on our weekly fishing reports throughout the season or telephone one of our four fishing lodges for the latest information.

We wish you all the best for the 2023 fishing season! Tight lines!

Anglian Water Fisheries