

News story: Crackdown on illegal angling in North East over Bank Holiday

During the Bank Holiday weekend, from 4 to 6 May, Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officers checked 363 anglers at separate locations in Durham, Teesside, Tyneside and Northumberland using local knowledge and intelligence to target offending.

Over the three days 17 people were reported for various fisheries offences, most of which were for fishing without a licence.

As well as the rod licence offences the officers discovered two illegal crayfish traps, which were seized.

David Shears, Senior Fisheries Enforcement Officer at the Environment Agency, said:

Despite the unseasonal low temperatures there were still anglers and offenders active though low river conditions reduced salmon angling activity. Officers dealt with the illegal crayfish traps and are working with the fishery to prevent further offences.

We use intelligence gathered previously to indicate the locations where anglers are likely to be fishing illegally, and we concentrated our efforts towards those areas. We shall continue to target those waters where evasion and illegal activity is high and those caught may be prosecuted.

Money from rod licences goes back into the freshwater and migratory fisheries. People who fish without a rod licence are having a direct effect on the work we can deliver.

He added that the current coarse fishing close season on rivers, some canals and some stillwaters started on 15 March and finishes on 15 June. There is no close season on most canals and most stillwaters.

Mr Shears said:

The close season in our rivers is important to allow the fish time to breed and spawn and so maintain a healthy stock of fish. Without it, our fisheries would be put at risk.

People caught fishing without a licence can be fined up to £2,500. Children under 13 do not need a licence. Licences for children aged between 13 and 16

are free, but a junior licence is required.

Anyone who suspects illegal fishing to be taking place should report the matter to the Environment Agency's incident hotline, on 0800 807060.

For more information and to buy a rod licence go to www.gov.uk/buy-a-uk-fishing-rod-licence. To check your flood risk and to sign up to receive flood warnings on your phone, go to www.gov.uk/flood.

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Anglers in the North East are being reminded to ensure they abide by national and local byelaws as enforcement officers cast their net on illegal fishing.

Press release: Talented research groups across the UK to pioneer tomorrow's breakthrough innovations

Science Minister calls on researchers and businesses to submit applications to receive funding through the Strength in Places Fund.

Press release: Talented research groups across the UK to pioneer tomorrow's breakthrough innovations

- Science Minister Chris Skidmore is encouraging researchers and businesses across the UK to join together and apply for government backing to develop pioneering ideas
- funding could support the next medical breakthrough or break new ground

in tackling climate change

- applicants from across the UK can apply to UK Research and Innovation's Strength in Places Fund, part of the modern Industrial Strategy ambition to help areas build on their research and innovation strengths

Ambitious groups of research leaders, businesses and local partners can now apply for government funding to support ground-breaking innovations.

Applications open today for projects to bid for up to £50,000 early-stage funding to develop their ideas and will then go on to develop full stage bids that could see between £10 million and £50 million awarded to the strongest candidates.

Funding comes from the [Strength in Places Fund](#), announced in the government's modern Industrial Strategy, to help local areas build on their research and innovation strengths and grow local expert networks.

Science and Innovation Minister Chris Skidmore said:

From the booming satellite industry, to becoming global leaders in clean energy development, inspirational science and research is happening in every part of the UK.

With only 0.9% of the world's population and the UK boasting 6% of global research publications, we are committed to building on our world-leading reputation. The Strength in Places Fund is part of our modern Industrial Strategy, ensuring places across the UK have the opportunity to develop their science, research and innovation capabilities and create the high-skilled jobs of the future.

The £236 million Strength in Places Fund, a flagship fund delivered by UK Research and Innovation, brings together research organisations, businesses, and local authorities on projects that will boost the highly-skilled, highly-paid jobs of the future and grow the local economy.

UK Research and Innovation Chief Executive, Professor Sir Mark Walport said:

Our vision is to ensure people right across the country benefit from the UK's world-leading research and innovation. The Strength in Places Fund will bring together research organisations, business and local leadership to create ambitious projects that will deliver local economic growth and create high value jobs.

The opening of this new round of funding follows the [recent announcement](#) that 23 projects around the UK were awarded up to £50,000 to develop their full-stage bids in Wave One of the fund.

The call for expressions of interest for Wave Two of the fund is now open and the deadline for submissions is 9 October 2019.

Notes to Editors:

- The UK Research and Innovation Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) Wave Two is now open for [expressions of interest](#). The deadline for applications is 9 October 2019
 - successful bids to this initial stage will be announced during summer 2020
 - winning consortia will receive up to £50,000 to develop full stage proposals over a period of 6 months
 - in the second stage, those awarded early-stage funding will be eligible to bid for up to £50 million of funding to carry out projects designed to drive significant local economic growth
 - for further call information visit [The UKRI Strength in Places Fund](#)
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News story: UKAEA secures second Athena SWAN Bronze Award

UKAEA's work to increase diversity and inclusion amongst its workforce has been recognised by a second Bronze Award from the Athena SWAN charter – the nationwide accreditation scheme for gender equality in higher education and research.

[Athena SWAN](#) was set up by the Equality Challenge Unit (now Advance HE) to encourage and recognise employers' commitment to advancing the careers of women in research and higher education. The charter was updated in May 2015 to recognise work undertaken to address gender equality more broadly, and not just barriers to progression that affect women. There are currently 160 Athena SWAN member organisations.

UKAEA first achieved the standard in 2015 as a catalyst in its efforts to address a long-standing lack of diversity among its employees – a problem that is unfortunately common to many UK scientific and engineering organisations.

UKAEA CEO, Professor Ian Chapman was delighted with the news :

I am delighted with UKAEA's latest Bronze award – this confirms the major steps forward in the last three years: Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) now has a higher profile in the organisation. Inclusion and a sense of belonging is the mainstay of our approach to engendering culture change at UKAEA and all of the Athena SWAN action points have this as the ultimate aim. I am fully committed to delivering our action plan so that we can achieve the ambition of being regarded as a truly inclusive employer.

Since 2015, UKAEA has used the Athena SWAN scheme as the springboard for a wider programme of changes to create a more inclusive workplace culture and practices. Uptake of flexible working practices has increased significantly, we have a large team of Inclusion Ambassadors, and support networks for new parents and LGBT+ staff.

Winning another Bronze Award is a sign of this progress. Less than 60% of applications are successful – but UKAEA is committing itself to further improvements. It is targeting a Silver Award within the next four years as it continues efforts to make the organisation a welcoming place for people from all backgrounds.