

# [Press release: Operation CLAMPDOWN and licence blitz target illegal fishing](#)

The close season campaign was supported by nearly 500 volunteers from the Voluntary Bailiff Service (VBS), whose 'eyes and ears' coverage on the riverbank is invaluable in supporting Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officers.

The volunteer bailiffs undertook 6555 man hours of patrols as part of Operation CLAMPDOWN 6, reporting 111 incidents to the Environment Agency and 34 to the police. A total of 77 intelligence logs were submitted to the Environment Agency and police.

The latest national fishing licence blitz, covering the first two weekends of the new season, checked 1461 licences and reported 88 fishing illegally without a licence. Those found guilty of unlicensed fishing by the courts face a criminal conviction and a fine of up to £2500.

Graeme Storey, Fisheries Manager, Environment Agency said:

Environment Agency fisheries enforcement patrols continue all year round. Anyone tempted to fish illegally should know that they are likely to be challenged at any time of the day or night. With the support of our partners and the VBS there is an increased likelihood of being caught out – don't risk it.

Dilip Sarkar MBE, National Enforcement Manager with the Angling Trust said:

This is our most successful Operation CLAMPDOWN yet, with a record number of volunteers trained and available and over 70 joint patrols with the Environment Agency or police. The VBS is now making a tangible contribution to tackling illegal fishing, which is welcomed by the Angling Trust and our partners.

For more information on the Voluntary Bailiff Service and the six free Fisheries Enforcement Workshops that will be held around England this autumn, please go to the [Angling Trust's website](#).

- Enjoy fishing and make sure you fish legally
- Annual fishing licences from only £30
- It's easy to buy online. [Get a Fishing Licence](#)
- All fishing licence income is used to fund work to protect, improve and develop fisheries, fish habitat and angling.
- Go fishing – Find out about angling events, fisheries and venues so you can [go fishing](#)

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## **News story: New competition – metasurfaces for defence and security**

This themed competition is seeking proposals for innovative solutions that will pull ideas from recent breakthroughs in metasurface science into products.

The competition is aimed at the private sector and academia who can harness electromagnetic hardware. DASA are particularly interested in novel metasurfaces and manufacturing technologies to integrate them in to platforms.

Up to £500,000 is available for phase 1 of this competition. Additional funding of up to £500,000 may be available for phase 2. DASA will be encouraging collaboration between academia and industry.

Please [click here](#) for the competition summary document.

The competition will close at midday on 28 September 2018.

For any queries, please do not hesitate email us at [accelerator@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:accelerator@dstl.gov.uk).

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## **Press release: Flood wardens needed in Northumberland town**

Teams of volunteer Flood Wardens across the North East are playing a vital role in helping protect their communities.

The eyes and ears on the ground, they act as a link between the Environment Agency and communities at risk – getting vital information out to local residents.

And now the Environment Agency is calling on people to play their part in Ponteland.

At the River Pont in Ponteland there are 520 properties in the flood warning service area, with 69% of people signed up to receive free flood warnings.

And at the River Pont at Darras Hall, Kirkley Mill and Prestwick Carr there are 57 properties in the flood warning service area, with 33% of people signed up.

## **Flood Wardens play 'vital role'**

Colin Hall, who is the Environment Agency's Flood Community Engagement Officer for Northumberland, is working with Ponteland Town Council. He said:

Being flooded is absolutely devastating and Flood Wardens play a vital role in supporting their community before, during and after a flood event.

It includes things such as checking water levels, reporting blockages in the river and monitoring weather forecasts to be a step ahead of a flood.

We also work with them to develop a Community Flood Plan, with key contacts and responsibilities to carry out in the event flooding takes place.

The local knowledge that wardens can provide on the ground is invaluable and helps communities be more flood resilient.

## **Raise awareness of flooding issues**

Flood Wardens help ensure the Environment Agency's flood warning messages reach the local community and are acted upon, and have a direct line through to the Environment Agency's Area Incident Room in Newcastle.

Outside of a flood event, they can help raise awareness of flooding issues in the local community, encourage people to register to receive free flood warnings and provide information to partners about vulnerable people or properties in the flood plain.

Anyone interested in becoming a Flood Warden or for help creating a Community Flood Plan contact [Colin.Hall@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Colin.Hall@environment-agency.gov.uk) or call 020 7714 0547.

Residents can also sign up to receive flood warnings and find out what action they can take to protect themselves and their property by visiting the [Environment Agency website](#)

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## **Calculate your employee's statutory redundancy pay**

Employer calculator – calculate your employee's statutory redundancy payment