



## Ashfield Angling Club Environmental Policy

As a responsible angling club Ashfield Angling Committee will manage all our venues to ensure that the Environment is placed at the centre of our considerations and objectives. The club will provide and maintain a healthy environment that fully meets the requirements of Environment Agency law and codes of practice and associated legislation. We will cooperate with all Environmental agencies and will act on their recommendations and advice in consideration of:

- Safeguarding of the natural environment
- Sympathetic management of venues ensuring a natural and visually appealing appearance
- The Disposal of Waste in accordance with local authority regulations and requirements
- Management of venue ecology

When maintenance work is required the club will take all reasonable measure to protect the natural environment and wildlife this will include the protection of water quality – fish stocks - aquatic life - nesting birds - bankside vegetation and bankside mammals. Anglers are not to make any alterations to a venue - such as tree trimming or removal of plants without permission of a venue lead or bailiff, members failing to cooperate with this venue management approach will be reported to the committee for an appropriate penalty.

The control of invasive species and pests shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance; any sightings of non-native species e.g. signal crayfish shall be reported. The Club will also be proactive in providing data and information to relevant agencies to help manage pressure on fish stocks and venue ecology.

Pollution: any sightings or evidence of pollution entering any venue or water course shall be reported immediately to the Environmental Agency (Telephone: 0800 80 70 60 & <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>) by any member of the club any such reports shall be reported to the committee as soon as possible for recording and to enable follow up action

Litter on club venues will be discouraged by both anglers and members of the public entering venues, club members proven to have left litter will be subject to penalties from the Committee including removal from the club without refund, Anglers are requested to ensure they make adequate provision for long periods on the bank including litter bags and the hygienic removal of human waste failure to do so will result in removal from the club without refund. Club members finding litter on arrival are requested to dispose of found litter and report to venue lead of bailiff

Fish Disease Management: the committee will defer to best advice from the Environmental Agency this includes the use of angling equipment that would be considered to risk the spread of fish diseases such as KHV( Koi Herpes). All necessary steps to protect venues and the fish within will be taken at the discretion of the committee such as the closing of access or the banning of specific items of equipment; such decisions would not be considered for wider membership debate.

### Fish Stocking

Every effort shall be made to encourage natural recruitment of fish stocks. This will include the releasing of all fish to the water from which they were caught, maintaining and encouragement of natural spawning areas. Where re-stocking is appropriate to supplement wild stocks and enhance sport this shall be carried out in accordance with EA guidelines. All stocked fish will be subject to EA approval and relevant health checks.

### Fish care

The Club rules will reflect good practice concerning fish conservation and health care, this will include the need for suitable landing equipment and mats to protect fish. Fish retention will be kept to a minimum and will be by the use of quality equipment to avoid stress and damage to fish. During warm weather due consideration will be given to the effects on fish health and mortality from heat and low oxygen levels, the club committee will take best advice and where possible take its own readings of water quality and if necessary close venues or restrict fishing to protect fish stocks.

Dated; 19th July 2019

Review Date: 20th July 2020