

1. Local anglers feared the worst midweek when news of a pollution scare was reported from Killingworth Lake, but the Environment Agency investigated it quickly. They have told us that it was a paint spill, but there are no reports of dead fish. The EA operations department are now investigating ways of clearing it up. It looks bad but hopefully the fish will avoid it as it is confined to one area.

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2. It seems we are getting somewhere with Throckley Reigh. Les has spoken to Gordon Proctor the builder, informing him of funds being available to continue the work at the Reigh, he is looking to start on May 27<sup>th</sup>. If it goes well we are hopeful that the E.A. will pay for more pegs, if their budget allows.

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3. The latest Angling Trust / E.A. North East Fisheries Forum was held last Wednesday and was well attended. The future of Cormorant Control being taken more seriously, thanks to three new Angling Trust appointees was perhaps the best news, but a lot was covered and a verbal report follows.

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4. As you know Hexham AA reviewed their Health and Safety and Fishery Risk Assessment this week. Sadly in this age of blame and claim it is now not only necessary but soon essential to have this as water owners such as councils etc will ask us to furnish ours when leases are granted. Too many bad experiences have seen people trying to help angling fined unjustly (we know how close we were regarding Carl Redpaths fictitious claim and Killingworth Lake). We all need to look into this, not just as the TAA, but all member clubs should do so too. The Hexham subcommittee, are fine with any TAA clubs using their info, as long as it is understood there is no legal come back or obligation. The biggest change is in unaccompanied juniors fishing Wydon Burn, but sadly the world has changed and we must protect ourselves / clubs.

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5. After being without a National head of fisheries since March the E.A. have appointed Sarah Chare, as deputy Director of Fisheries. Their first woman boss of fisheries. Sarah has a lot of experience, and has held a number of fishery roles including head of National Enforcement Service Team and the E.A. fish labs in Brampton, plus being Kents Fisheries Manager. She takes over at a difficult time with staff losses, internal problems and budget cuts all to be resolved, but if she is successful Sarah stands a good chance of getting the currently unfilled Main Fisheries Directors post.

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6. The Tyne Rivers Trust is celebrating its tenth birthday. It is planning more fund raising with Sarah Mackirdy riding the length of the Tyne by bike, and Hugh Clear Hill also raised money on a sponsored walk of the Rede. Still more of an ecological group than an anglers body, the TRT will be responsible for the building of the new fish pass on the Tyne at Hexham and are already advanced on this now that the Tyne Hydro Scheme has been defeated.

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