

BRADFORD CITY ANGLING ASSOCIATION
DRAFT STOCKING POLICY, UPDATED MAR 2020

PRINCIPLES

1. BCAA will:
 - a) monitor, maintain and improve the health of the fish and that of their habitat quality in BCAA fisheries, and thereby the quality of fishing for BCAA members. This will include stocking of fish if required;
 - b) only stock fish where this has been agreed in the Stocking Plan (see below);
 - c) generally seek to stock smaller fish, to grow on, rather than large fish, bearing in mind anything (e.g. predation) which might affect their survival.^[UG1];
 - d) prioritise fish welfare when fish are being moved to and from its fisheries;
 - e) make sure that no BCAA fisheries are overstocked to the extent that fish welfare is compromised; and
 - f) seek to maintain mixed fisheries in the foreseeable future, since these must cater for the broader fishing interests of all BCAA members. At present, we do not have enough waters to dedicate any of them as a single-species fishery.

STOCKING PLAN

2. The BCAA General Committee will agree an annual Stocking Plan for the Association's fisheries.
3. The Stocking Plan will cover a period of three years. The first Stocking Plan will be agreed at the meeting of the General Committee in October (e.g. 2020) for the following three year period (e.g. 2021-2023), and be revised at least annually thereafter.
4. The Stocking Plan will contain details of:
 - a) species, size and numbers of fish agreed for stocking into each BCAA fishery over the next three years;
 - b) when and where stocking has been agreed to take place; and
 - c) the estimated cost of agreed stocking, to inform BCAA financial planning.
5. Recommendations of fish to be included in the Stocking Plan will be made by four Stocking Representatives, who will be named on the Association's website. These will be:
 - a) one representative for Staveley Lakes (James Lynch or his nominated successor);
 - b) one representative for Shipton Lake (Terry Duncalf or his nominated successor);
 - c) one representative for Oakworth Lakes (Alan Robinson or his nominated successor); and
 - d) one representative for rivers and fly fishing waters (the Fly Secretary or his nominated successor).
6. BCAA members' views will be considered as to the species and size of fish they would like to see stocked, to inform recommendations made by the Stocking Representatives, per point 5 above.
7. When agreeing the fish to be included in the Stocking Plan, the General Committee will consider:
 - a) species, numbers and sizes of fish already present in BCAA fisheries;
 - b) the fish-holding capacity of each fishery; and hence
 - c) whether new fish are actually needed, or whether fish stocks could be improved in other ways (if the latter, then appropriate action plans will need to be agreed and implemented before stocking takes place);
 - d) whether to stock smaller fish, to grow on, rather than large fish, bearing in mind any issues (e.g. predation) which might affect their survival.^[UG2]
 - e) advice from the Environment Agency and/or other independent fishery management experts about the species, sizes and numbers of fish which should be stocked.

SOURCING AND SUPPLY OF FISH FOR STOCKING

8. BCAA will seek to use ONE local supplier only for all fish coarse fish to be stocked, and ONE local supplier for trout (see caveat at 9, below), to minimise travel time and risks to the health of the fish being stocked, and to obtain the best mix of price and quality for those fish.
9. Currently, the nominated supplier for coarse fish is **CarpVale Fisheries**. In accordance with the National Trout & Grayling Strategy, BCAA has a policy to not stock trout or grayling into rivers where the genetic integrity of wild populations would be affected. The BCAA General Committee reserves the right to change suppliers from time to time, if necessary.
10. When it buys fish, BCAA will seek a guarantee from suppliers to replace any fish which might die during stocking or as a result of the stocking process.

STOCKING OF FISH INTO BCAA FISHERIES

11. Before putting fish into any of its fisheries, BCAA will:
 - a) ensure that the supplying fishery has been health-checked and has the necessary Environment Agency clearance that it has no diseases, parasites or other infections which may harm the fish already in BCAA fisheries;
 - b) have formal agreement from the Environment Agency to move fish from the supplier to the receiving BCAA fishery.
 - c) try to ensure that an Environment Agency representative or other independent expert is present, to verify that the fish being stocked are healthy and in good condition before they are put into the water; and
 - d) ensure that this only happens when there is minimal risk to fish welfare, both new and existing stock;
 - e) refuse to accept or pay for any fish which are not healthy or in good condition, and will not stock them into any BCAA fishery.

CHANGES TO THIS STOCKING POLICY

12. Any changes to this Stocking Policy or how it is applied will only be made with the prior agreement of three-quarters of the members present at a General Committee meeting.