

Fishery Plan for IBM Lakeside 2013-2018



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by
Steve Mottershead, FMO

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Description of water

IBM Lakeside is an offline lake of about 19 acres. The whole complex consists of the main lake, a canal system which runs round the car parks and offices, and an ornamental pond (fed by an Archimedes screw from the main lake). The canal system drains back into the main lake at the Western end. The lake empties out towards Hilsea at the Eastern end.

The lake currently contains Carp, Bream, Crucian carp, Roach, Rudd and a few Perch. There are some reports of other species such as Pike.

The water has had some significant problems in the past. The most recent issue occurred in the spring of 2008 when a very large number of carp died in the canal system. Since that time, the club and EA have worked together to determine what fishery management can take place on the water. This included a transitional period where the water quality was monitored whilst fish stocking was restricted. A short term plan was produced for the transitional period which has now concluded.

The lake has just under 60 pegs, the majority of which are on the southern bank. There are 4 disabled only pegs on the north bank. There are car parks for members on the south bank. The access has improved over the last few years but availability is limited in terms of hours and spaces making access to some pegs difficult for members.

Stocking Levels

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The club has worked with the EA for the past 3 years and carried out a controlled stocking program and water assessment. The catches pre2011 indicated a fairly small head of fish, mostly carp with some shoals of roach and the odd rudd. The programme introduced fish species which would be best suited by the water quality. The aim was to check the fish survived and grew. The plan was always that further stocking would be based on the success of these introductions.

The fish stocked have been:

2011

Bream - 250 7-9"; 14 upto 5lb

Crucian Carp - 250 6-8"

Carp - 560 various sizes, mostly under 4lb - a few larger

2012

Bream - 650 6-8";

Crucian Carp - 500 4-6"

Carp - 200 various sizes, upto 2lb

Rudd - 200 3-8"

2013 (upto july)

Roach - 420 mostly 2-6oz, a few bigger ones

Rudd - 230 3-8"

The carp have always been resident in the water and there have settled in well (the weather has not been kind to carp in 2013 and catches are down). The bream have been regularly caught since introduction and have put on weight very well. Even the crucians have been growing on well but are more elusive to catch. The roach and rudd are showing more each year and have also put on weight. There have been some confirmed reports of hybrids which will be as a result on interbreeding IN the lake, a good sign for the future.

There is currently little predation on the lake, the perch have been introduced this year to see if they are suited by the conditions. It could take 2 years to see if they do establish themselves. Even the cormorants only make an occasional visit - which is probably due to the problems they have fishing in the large expanse of water.

Current Status

Lakeside is important water to the club. It is classified as a mixed fishery enabling anglers of all abilities to catch fish and enjoy fishing. It is currently the 2nd closest water we have to the Portsmouth city centre and is within reach of most city anglers by public transport or bike. It has the capacity to support a large number of pleasure anglers and also matches.

Most swims are defined by markers, vegetation and swim fronts. There is a fair bit of erosion behind the swim fronts and some swims are restricted by the reeds. Many swims have been cut and raked several times in 2013. It is difficult to get reeds out of the deeper swims but the motorised weed cutter has proved invaluable in those swims.

Following the last fish deaths in 2008, the canal system was fenced off to prevent any fish entering it (with the express purpose of preventing any further deaths). The 'canal' analysis showed some fairly large fluctuations in DO and other factors, in fact there were extended periods of time when the water was not capable of supporting healthy (or perhaps any) fish.

The EA analysis of the 'main lake' area showed a much more stable water quality with reasonable parameters except for salinity which was quite high. The stability is a good sign. Some fluctuations in the analysis may have been caused by the screw being turned on and off. The EA also carried out a growth

assessment on the roach. This showed steady, but not spectacular, growth.

In recent years, the weed growth in the lake has continued. The reeds are extending all round the lake in the shallower water and all through the canal system. Submerged weed has increased within the main lake (two types - to be identified)

There is a regular (and natural) process which occurs each spring where a significant amount of bottom sediment (to be identified) floats up to the surface causing a sort of scum. This soon dissipates and doesn't cause any problems.

Fish stocks have slowly been increased. There is a reasonable head of carp in the water, ranging from very small to small doubles. The bream have also done well with the small ones putting on weight and the larger ones being caught regularly. The crucians are often elusive but those caught look healthy and have put on weight. The roach and rudd are not spread throughout but can be caught in small numbers from certain pegs. The perch, which were recently stocked, need to be in water longer before they can be assessed.

Identified Problems

- 1) The water quality analysis shows that the lake is capable of supporting additional fish stocks but care must be taken with species selection (due to salinity) and stock balance (due to potential for creating an environment where super-eutrophication leads to algae blooms).
- 2) Fish must be kept out of the canal system which is a potential death trap in certain conditions. (Some carp still remain in the canals)
- 3) Reed growth continues to encroach into the lake and across some of the swims.

- 4) Swim erosion is prevalent in a number of swim stations; this is caused by wind/wave action and has left gaps behind the front boards.
- 5) Many fish tend to stay on the building side of the lake. Fish are often seen behind the islands or near the café. These areas are mostly inaccessible to anglers. There are few features on the motorway bank to draw fish over.
- 6) Parking is restricted and some members take liberties with the times. This has the potential to cause problems with the owners.
- 7) Weed growth has been increasing and this makes some swims awkward to fish.
- 8) Tree growth is limiting the casting room in a few swims. Any significant pruning needs to be agreed with Lakeside management.
- 9) The wardens and bailiffs have no secure onsite storage available. There is an area to store wood. Hilsea store is relatively close but getting access for all the team has proved difficult. There is tentative agreement to put a container on site.

Long Term Plan

- Lakeside has the potential to recruit fish and this will be monitored. However, the current stocking per acre is estimated to be on the low side (about 300lb/acre) with a bias towards bottom feeders. This figure can safely be increased upto 500lb/acre if done in stages and the stocking balance can be addressed. The following additional stockings are planned:
 - Carp - continue to stock smaller fish (under 5lb). It would seem appropriate to continue to annually introduce fish from Baffins as they are removed as part of that waters management plan. The Baffins carp have thrived in Lakeside and the small numbers

will not impact the stocking density. (total current weight estimate 5000lb)

- Bream - very successful introductions so far means there are now 3 year groups. A few older fish (10 year plus), over 200 4-5 year old fish and over 600 3-4 year old fish. Assuming the growth continues, it would be worth introducing another 500 3-4 year old fish in spring 2015. (total current weight estimate 900lb)
- Roach - the original fish have been supplemented by a few hundred small fish. Further stocking of upto 500 small fish will take place through autumn 2013. Assuming these are successful, regular stockings of roach can take place on an annual basis. There is large capacity for silvers in the lake. (total current weight estimate 350lb)
- Rudd - the few large original rudd have been supplemented by 200 small fish last year, and another 900 planned for this year (some stocked in spring already). Like roach, assuming these continual to be successful, regular stockings of rudd can take place on an annual basis providing mixed age groups and sustaining the fishing. (total current weight estimate 200lb)
- Perch - the recently stocked fish need to be assessed for growth and health for at least 1 year and probably 2. If successful, a similar stock can be introduced in 2015. (total weight estimate 15lb)
- Crucian carp - the stocked fish have grown on but are not caught in great numbers. No further stockings are proposed. (total current weight estimate 300lb)

This will be supported by a monitoring programme using angler's catches to improve the knowledge of fish population/growth in the water. In 2 years time, this can be supported by some growth analysis on current stock using

scale samples. (The EA will do this if we can get some samples)

- All fish need to be kept out of the canal and the current fence will be retained. If opportunity arises, the fish inside the fence can be moved back to the main lake.
- Start a regular swim maintenance, tree/shrub clearance and swim front repair programme initially aimed at the most popular areas but with a view to providing good angling stations at points all along the bank. Doing a few at a time will make the job more manageable. Close off any swims which are impractical (e.g. peg 42 - no casting room leading to a lot of tackle in trees)
- Fence off the areas behind the islands (subject to Lakeside approval) clearing the fish out. This should encourage the fish to move all round the lake.
- Introduce additional manageable plant growth into the lake to improve the fish cover on the motorway side and provide additional habitat for invertebrates. Small groups of lilies will be planted initially in shallower areas.
- Continue the regular summer raking and cutting exercises to manage the fishing areas around the swim stations.
- Continue to enforce the parking rules, encourage neater parking and increase signage and book members if problems persist.
- Look for an opportunity to purchase and site a secure storage container on site for tools and a boat.

Requirements for successful instigation of plan

The local team will need materials and support to put the fencing around the islands. There is wood on site for the swim fronts but further fill and wood may need to be brought on site.

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The local team can arrange working parties for regular weed clearance and maintenance, but it would be good for these to be advertised. The ones carried out this summer have been very well attended indicating the popularity of the water.

Lilies will need to be provided to enable them to be established. Some advice on approaches to planting will be beneficial

Most stocking will be done from club waters however bream may need to be purchased

In the short term, the local team need to be given easy access to tools to manage the weed and reeds. This should include rakes and a boat. In the longer term, the fishery team need to find a suitable container and get it installed on site (subject to permission and funds)

Conclusion

Overall, IBM Lakeside is important water to the club - providing fishing close to the city of Portsmouth. It is a large water with the capacity for a large number of anglers but which needs continual maintenance, especially in the summer.

This plan contains a series of actions which should see the fishing continue to improve without running any additional risk of major fish deaths.