

# CARP-TRADE NEWS

## Move To Save Our Fisheries

After a meeting between the Angling Trust, the Environment Agency and Natural England, it would appear that anglers' concerns over otter predation of fisheries could finally be taken seriously, which is good news to the trade because if the concerns about otter predation are true, it could wipe out a huge part of our trade.

It was agreed that scientific data from a number of rivers would be analysed to gauge the predators' impact. Angling Trust chairman, Mike Heylin, said he went into the meeting expecting to face the same opposition he had encountered in previous gatherings, only to be pleasantly surprised.

"I thought it would be another table-thumping exercise, with them continuing to deny there was a problem, but I emerged with a sense of co-operation for the first time. Helped by the input of our members, we earmarked a cross section of rivers which we thought were indicative of the problems associated with otters," said Mike.

He continued, "The EA agreed to see what data is available on these rivers, which cover four or five areas, regarding fish stocks, before and after otters were reintroduced. In three months we'll meet again to see what data is available, data which will stand up to scrutiny. I know a lot of anglers will be frustrated by the time this is taking, but we won't change the legal position on otters or be able to manage their

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The EA said the meeting represented a step in the right direction. Their spokesperson said: "The Otters and Fisheries Group discussed the work that needs to be done to understand the potential impact of the reintroduction of otters on fisheries. This will be achieved by examining data sets from rivers suggested by the Angling Trust and its members, together with rivers where otters have recently returned, or have always been present without causing problems."