

Plan of Action

With regards to the recent coverage on otter predation, I thought I'd like to add some points. I now live in Cornwall, but I used to live in Nottingham and fished on Clumber Park Lake, etc. I have recently spoken to Ken Townley regarding otters. Here is a plan of action. Do you think it has any merit?

Firstly, we get tackle manufacturers to start the ball rolling by having a levy in place on their products that will go towards paying for some legal representation, i.e. a barrister, to present the case that the Environment Agency obviously did not carry out sufficient studies to find out the impact of re-introduction. Once the barrister is in place and paid for on a continuous basis through the levy, we have a chance to back the government into a corner. We could also lobby for the Environment Agency to allow a levy to be put on our licence, i.e. £2.00. This could be overseen by an independent body on a grant basis and used for otter security fencing and restocking. Obviously, there would have to be no cap on the amount because I have personal experience in this matter. I can imagine it's colossal.

Do the readers of *Carpworld* think this plan has any merit?

Many thanks,
Tim Lee.

Hi Tim,

Thanks for taking the trouble to write in. The main problem we have with the overall predation and otter situation is that by no means everyone in angling agrees that there is a problem! The PAG is working towards compiling an unanswerable case to present to the powers-that-be, which might be The Angling Trust or, failing them, the government. Barristers are hugely expensive, as are lobbyists, and you don't attempt to take either on board until you have what you consider to be a cast-iron case and are ready to run with it.

In terms of support from the trade for angling 'politics' this is, and always has been, a tad hit-and-miss. If anyone, trade or individual, wishes to give financial support to the PAG then they can now refer to our website, which will be up and running by the time this appears, at www.thepredationactiongroup.co.uk

The profits from the 'Evening of Carp' meeting we are holding at Doncaster on 27th January (check out the ad on page 14) will go to PAG funds, which means the group's growing fighting fund should stand at around £9,000-£10,000 by the end of January.

Thanks for your suggestions. They are constructive but we are a long way from being in the position to move forward with a positive, proven predation problem case. We are working on it though and welcome reports on any instances of predation, from any cause. And I would emphasise most strongly that this is a serious ecological and angling problem, not just a carp-fishing one.

Tim P.