

## OTTER COMMENTS

There are a number of letters in Gazette making reference to the otter problem. Readers will be aware that we are highlighting the escalating problem of otters and carp fisheries, and we would make the point that we first drew attention to this potential problem area as long ago as the late-'90s, Cornwall being the worst hit area at that time. The letter from Brian Cox of Stenhill Fishery gives the impression that in Carpworld 253, Adam Roots suggested that otters had 'cleared out' Brian's fishery. That's not accurate. Stenhill appeared in a list of fisheries which, according to Adam, had been 'affected by otter predation'; to what extent, or when, he did not make clear. If this was incorrect then we apologise on Adam's behalf. We are happy to publish Brian's letter in full, setting out the facts with regard to Stenhill. As Adam says in his revealing piece in October's Carp Leader: *There is no future whatsoever for Cornish/Devon coarse angling unless the fishery is prepared to fence the venue, hence my saying, 'No fence no fish.'* Brian Cox's letter reveals that Stenhill has been fenced for the last eight years, is not at risk from otters or mink, and is a thriving carp fishery. Tim P.