

28th Feb – 22nd March 2024 Bristol Water Fisheries Report



A tricky start to the season at Chew and Blagdon for many anglers. Taking feedback from last season, our stocking policies have focused on stocking as many areas of the lakes as we could access. With the hugely variable weather conditions we've seen fish scattered with no real hotspots to speak of. In recent days some consistent weather and large hatches of buzzers have made for some great fishing. In contrast the Barrow Tanks have been superb with many overwintered fish coming out in recent weeks.

We have seen a couple of early season competitions on Chew and the Barrow Tanks with the Ospreys bank competition taking place at the Barrows and the B.R.F.F.A. open taking place on Chew.

Ospreys bank competition at Barrow Tanks 2nd March

34 Anglers

The results are

1st - Matthew Griffiths 7 fish 15Lb 1 1/2oz

2nd - Marco Orsi 7 fish 14Lb 9oz

3rd - Neal Anthony 7 fish 12Lb 1oz

4th - Darren Williams 7 fish 11Lb 6oz

5th - Tudor Owen 5 fish 9Lb 15oz

6th - Trevor Davies 3 fish 8Lb 12 1/4oz

B.R.F.F.A. Open 2024

59 Anglers

The results are:

1st - Kieron Jenkins 14 fish 33lb 6oz

2nd - Mark Miles 12 fish 25lb 6oz

3rd - John Piper 8 fish 18lb 4oz

4th - John Harris 8 fish 18lb 1oz

5th - Andrew Lewis 7 fish 16lb 13oz



Chew

The start of the season on Chew saw some tricky fishing conditions, with reports of fish scattered all over the lake coinciding with some extremely changeable winds really put the fish off. Returns from anglers tended to suggest that fish were sheltered behind the island and up towards hollow brook, the fish were also high in the water and were targeting black and green lures. The silver lining to this was that when people were catching fish, they were doing so all over the lake. Bank anglers had success across North Shore, Wick Green, Oak Tree, Bobs House, Walley Bank and Woodford. The BRFFA kicked off Chew's competitions on another biting cold and windy day. There was a lot of chat about bags being filled by lunchtime and it seemed half the pack headed down to Herons Bay after a previous couple of good days down there, however fishing can be fickle. Kieron Jenkins won the day as the only angler to bag 14 fish, most of which were caught between Denny and False Island. The end of March saw some welcome settled weather with consistent wind directions, this coupled with some

sunshine we saw some brilliant hatches of buzzers across the lake. Its safe to say the fishing really picked up with rod averages up to 8.17 and lots of boats in the double figures. Seb Pecchia was the winner of the BRFFA's first mid-month bash of the year with 15 to the boat and to top it all off an amazing 10lb 5oz rainbow. Fish of a lifetime!



Blagdon

Blagdon had a similarly tough start to the season. Opening week saw boats motoring up to top end expecting to find fish but to no avail. Changing winds scattered the fish with no real hot spots appearing. However, when the weather improved, anglers started to find fish, again high in the water this time through the middle of the lake up into the mouth of Butcombe. The end of March has seen some good sport off Blagdon's North shore especially Pegs Point and Owl Box with buzzers, muskies and diawl bachs all being consistently successful flies.

Barrow Tanks

In stark contrast to our large reservoirs, the Barrows carried on their form from last year with some truly exceptional fishing. With stocking taking place across all three tanks anglers were spoilt for choice and we saw 68 fishermen across the three on the opening weekend. Like the lakes fish have been high in the water and reports have tended to suggest green and black lures have been the fly of choice to target our barrow bullets. The Ospreys Barrow bank competition took place on the 2nd of March with 21 anglers taking part. Tough conditions with wind and rain but perseverance saw Matthew Griffiths take first place with 7 fish. As March carried on we have seen water levels drop on the tanks so please do take care on the banks. Some stunning fish have been coming out, having gorged themselves on sticklebacks, with a cracking brownie to Simon Bristow on tank 2 and a 5.5lb rainbow to Bernie Weaver on tank 3, as seen in the first photo.