



What to do if your fishery is polluted

Pollution is a crime just like burglary or assault. Therefore the polluter needs to be caught in the same way as a criminal.

The Environment Agency does not have the same resources as the Police and we all know how difficult it is to catch a thief!

So the Agency needs your help. You have to do your best to try and find the polluter as well as the Agency.

First of all ring the Agency's pollution hotline on **0800 80 70 60**.

There is a lot you can do to help:

- Ø If your fishery is polluted take some bottles to the fishery and fill them with the polluted water. Any bottle will do as long as it is clean – for example, why not buy some small plastic drinking water bottles? When the bottles are full mark on them the date, time and place they were filled and put them in your fridge keeping them away from sunlight at all times. Then give them to the Agency so they can be analysed. The reason for this is that knowing what pollutant has been released can identify the polluter.
- Ø Also on rivers try and follow the pollution upstream to find out where it is coming from. When the polluter has stopped discharging the pollutant will flow downstream so making it more difficult to pinpoint him.
- Ø Throughout all of this keep a written record of what you see and take photos (keeping note of where the photos were taken). It may be you that is called to give evidence to support your club's claim for compensation.
- Ø Also, keep a sample of the dead fish and put it in your freezer or better keep a fish that is in distress and give it to the Agency to analyse. Finally keep a note of the number of fish that you see dead and try to collect them. Usually you work on multiplying the dead fish by 3 to get a true figure of how many were killed and you will want to claim the cost of replacing the fish.

NAFAC through Simon Jackson Solicitors is offering a scheme whereby you may be able claim compensation for the damage caused to your fishery by pollution without having to pay legal fees. If your fishery is polluted contact Simon to discuss how he can represent you and make sure you recover compensation. Simon's details are:

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