

CRT fishery boss brings in specialists to find out...

How far south have zander spread?

HI-TEC moves were made this week to find out just how far south zander have colonised the local Grand Union.

With the silverfish-munching invasive alien species now turning up in significant numbers and sizes below Stoke bottom lock, they are rumoured to have been caught as far down as Bletchley.

To sort fact from fiction Canal & River Trust national angling and fisheries manager John Ellis used contractors MEM to survey the seven miles south of Cosgrove.

Looking akin to a floating cropsprayer the vessel (pictured) spent most of Tuesday moving at around one mile per hour with its crew watching for Zs attracted to its array of probes.

The first five miles was clear...but two miles from New Bradwell to Cosgrove produced 18 zander up to 10 or 12 inches, enough – if left – to form a local breeding stock.

Now the CRT has to decide what, if any, control measures, can be taken from Cosgrove north towards Blisworth.

Currently John Ellis is advising canal clubs that under the Import of Live Fish Act, "It is an offence to return zander to the water if caught, therefore they must be killed. That is the current legal position."

● CARP dominated the bank holiday weekend's match scene but, even at Meadowlands – where Adam Hill bagged 126-4 – they mostly waited until the frost had gone before coming on feed. Paul Garner weighed 114lb and Lee Wallis 107lb.

● WHITE Hart Flore's Alan Barnes topped the club's Barby Banks do with 109lb from peg 23. Dale Gibson had 49-8 and Terry Adams 41lb.

● VENUE boss Mick Hewlett got a really slow start in Castle Ashby's Sunday Grendon sweep, but ended up with 88-10...getting 30lb – two fish – of that in the last 10 minutes. Bob Reed had 68-12 and Richard Dunkley 46-14.



■ APPLIANCE of science: electro-fishing 'Z' boat tracking down canal zander

● DAVENTRY's Toft's match the previous week had gone to Jake King with 125-11 on pellet ahead of Colin Youds 120-10 and Ivan Mills 95-2.

● BUCKO's charity match, Tofts: Wayne Panting 44-7, Gary Makin 33-2, Keith Haynes 29-6.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Dog Lane: Jim Tanser 41lb, Kelly Humphries 33-11, Rob Rawlins 28-2,

● TOWCESTER vets, Wood Farm: Grenville Read 31-15, George Mynard 30-8, Bob Eales 28-12

● TOWCESTER, Silver Lake: Chris Howard 28-12, Kevin Elliott 21lb, John Balhatchett 16lb.

● CASTLE silverfish do, Canons bottom: Nick Antonacci 30-6, Fred Prior 22-8, Paul Lafflin 20-12.

● COUNTY vets, Canons bottom: Paul Lafflin 32-4, Jeff Rice 29lb, Dave Keech 20-8.

● NEWPORT Abbey Pits open: Michael Buchwalder 15-11, Mark Haynes 15-7, Nigel Bass 13-1 ■



■ LITTLE fly BIG fish: Mid Northants Flyfishers' Les Pickett bagged this 10-8 Pitsford rainbow on tiny black buzzer

Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000 (office) or 07801 183381 or angling@intermediauk.com (click link to email)