

6,000 more barbel stocked into river...

As EA plays Santa for Ouse anglers

ENVIRONMENT Agency fisheries staff, not Santa, this week delivered a Christmas bonus for Ouse anglers – some 6,000 more junior barbel.

Part of a long term restoration and improvement plan for the upper river, they arrived Tuesday and were spread along the river between Adams Mill and Radwell.

The latest injection brings the total added to around 30,000 fish – together with thousands of roach, dace and chub – all reared at the EA's rod licence-funded Calverton national fish farm – as part of a scheme also involving the Ouzel and Ivel tributaries.

Several years of hard physical habitat restoration work has, so far, included making spawning gravel beds fit for purpose, stabilising at risk bank areas to stop burrowing crayfish collapsing them into the river, and measures to make various areas 'self cleaning'.

EA bio-diversity officer Kye Jerrom said "It is all about helping the river help itself to produce self-sustaining fish populations – not just stocking fish." Thanks lads.

● WHILE frost after frost left many waters fishing like ditches, Bishops Bowl was in good form over the weekend.

● Piker Carl Cook had a 26-pounder on deadbait AND set a new fishery record for the venue and had two upper doubles on the same day.

An earlier restock had livened up sport on the venue's 'marshes', and Andy Grimes won Sunday's sweep with 67-6 of carp and skimmers with John Wapples on 45-12 and Steve Alison 27-15.

● A RINGSTEAD trout water pike day saw Andy Cook

boating an 18 while 12-year-old George Foster had a 16!

● CARPIN Capers reports that more and more zander have been falling to those working their way along the cut between Whilton and Heyford.



■ BUCKETFUL of new life for the Ouse as EA man Rab Johns adds hundreds of junior barbel at Adams Mill

● CASTLE Ashby opens: midweek Brickyard, Frank Pizamenti 15-4, Mick Hewlett 14-12, Pete Gibson 13-6, Saturday Brickyard, Hewlett 27-6, Gibson 16-12, Pizamenti 15-4; Sunday Grendon, Hewlett again, 13-4, Keith Garrett 13-2, Dick Rogers 12-8.

● OLNEY, Ouse: Paul Caton 12-5, Pete Hawley 6-7, Alan Lambert 6-6. Jim Martin had a 5-7 tench.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Spring Pools 'ice breaker': Kevin Davis 9-9, Robin Wycombe 6lb, Tom Griffiths 4-2.

● CASTLE fur & feather, Canons: Jeff Rice 8-12, Dave Cantrell 6-12. Paul Lafflin had a 20lb+ carp, but it didn't count in the silverfish match, and weighed in 4-13.

● NENE fur & Feather, Banbury Lane cut: Brian Beard 3-12, Baz Eaton 3-9, Dave Gibbins 3-8.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Brockhall bridge cut: Ken Cadd 2-6, Paul Humphries 1-10, Rob Rawlins 1-4.

● TOWCESTER, 'Broadwater' Tove: Tony Hirst 1-12, Mick Goodridge 1-8, Darren Pannell 1lb...

● FIXTURES: Jan 1 hangover open Stony Ouse, 07703 556788; January, Bishops Bowl pairs matches 07970 196044 ■



■ NEW PB for Carl Cook and, at 26lb, a new pike record for Bishops Bowl

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)