

*It is where most people start fishing – so please support the...*

# Canal roach restoration appeal!

**DIG deep for the future of angling as we know it – and cough-up a few quid for the Roach Restoration Project...before it is too late!**

The Canal & River Trust's fisheries team – together with Northampton Nene, Milton Keynes (pledging £1,000) and Tring – have launched an appeal to give canal silver-fishing a future.

They aim to raise at least £5,000 from individual anglers and clubs to part-fund action plans to regenerate silverfish species (especially roach) from Braunston, south down to MK.

A highly efficient alien predator species, zander have decimated silver-fishing north of Braunston but had been prevented from spreading south by a compressed-air 'curtain' of bubbles.

Then that 'bubble curtain' was inadvertently interrupted – allowing some Zs through – and they've been breeding and establishing a rapidly growing population ever since...

Big zander have been caught around Blisworth and a 4-pounder at Cosgrove earlier this year.

Small ones featured regularly in Nene-section match catches for two years, and then largely stopped falling for maggot and worm – as they presumably grew bigger and switched to fish for food. Co-incidentally there's been a noticeable decline in roach catches north of Grafton...

Plans to reverse that include: moving Zs – from New Bradwell through to Braunston (including the Northampton Arm) by electro-fishing – to areas where they ARE wanted; re-establishing the 'bubble curtain' to stop them coming back; and improving roach spawning areas.

C&RT has already added thousands of pounds-worth of silvers to local sections during the past couple of years.

But today's 'Operation Roach

Restoration' could cost more than £20,000. A big chunk will come from C&RT's fisheries budget, and the EA may be asked for help on the basis that proliferating canal Zs could move into the Upper Ouse...threatening recovery of its silver fish stocks.

**C&RT national fisheries office John Ellis said: "We have to do this properly or not at all. C&RT is ready to do its bit, but can't carry the whole cost."**

**"If we are to have any chance of help from other organisations, individual anglers and clubs have to be seen to be doing their bit – even if only giving the equivalent of a pint of maggots or two – hence the £5,000 appeal. So please give generously."**

To donate go to

<http://support.canalrivertrust.org.uk/get-involved/appeal/grand-union-roach-restoration-appeal/home>

**Or call 0303 040 4040. If you need a postal address call 01908 270000.**

● TOWN's Steve Ringer isn't just a carp-puddle and feeder man: he won MK's Furzton Festival float-only match with 45-10 of roach and skimmers, Saturday – Flore & Brockall's Bert Isle topped the vets' match with 26-14.

● OSPREY, Lakeside: Mark Wilson 258-14, Ed Blaine 132lb, Rob Napper 131lb.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Flecknoe: Mark Tottingham 171lb, Keith Bishop 103-8, Trevor Griffiths 87lb.

● **FIXTURES:** Olney Ouse, Sept 20, 60 pegs, £500 first prize guaranteed by club, entry by pre-paid ticket, 01234 240061; Sept 27, County Cup (120+ pegs), Yardley to Cosgrove cut, 07711 086436 ■



■ C&RT stocking

■ ELECTRO-fishing – central to 'Operation Roach Restoration'

■ 4lb Z caught at Cosgrove in the spring

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