

Fishery Report – August 2025

Fishing Conditions

Water levels across all our reservoirs remain notably low and coupled with the warm bright weather the fishing has not been easy; however, the anglers that have braved the conditions have been picking up a few fish down at The Dam, around The Boils and along the edge of the weed beds through Walley Bank. The cooler weather has also led to a further drop in water temperatures which will hopefully lead to improved feeding activity as fish will be more comfortable feeding during the day. Early morning and late evening are still the prime times for action with fish moving during these cooler periods. We have seen some good early morning hatches this week with an abundance of bird life feeding over the water and plenty of fish moving around the cages which is a great sign for things to come over the next few weeks.

Stocking

Stocking at Chew took place during the week commencing 18th August and continued into the following week, 6700 fish were stocked mostly from the boat hard, Barrow Tanks also got a top up of 750 fish. The introduction of new fish should further improve the chances of success for anglers, especially with some cooler weather arriving.

Blagdon Lake Update

Due to the exceptionally low water levels at Blagdon, we have made the difficult decision to cancel all Blagdon trout boat fishing for the rest of the season. This decision has been taken with both angler safety and the welfare of our boat fleet in mind.

At this current time, Blagdon Pike Fly Days are not affected, though we will continue to monitor and review the situation as we move into September.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your continued understanding and support during these challenging conditions.

Pike Fly Fishing

Great news for predator anglers! We're pleased to announce that the suspension on catch-and-release for pike fly fishing has now been lifted. This measure was introduced in late June following a period of extremely hot weather, which caused a significant rise in water temperatures. Warmer water can place stress on fish during handling and recovery, so the temporary suspension was essential to protect the health and welfare of our pike population.

Since then, our team has been carefully monitoring water temperatures across the lakes, checking daily trends to ensure conditions return to a safe level. With recent cooler weather patterns and consistent temperature drops, the environment is now suitable for safe handling and release. This means anglers can once again enjoy the full pike fly experience, including responsible catch-and-release, just as we all love it.

We'd like to thank all anglers for their patience and understanding during this necessary period of restriction. Your cooperation plays a huge role in safeguarding the future of predator fishing on our waters. With conditions looking set to remain on the cooler side,

now is a fantastic time to book your next session and make the most of the improving fishing prospects as we head toward autumn.

Half Annual Bird watching permits:



Annual birdwatching permits for the 2025/26 season are now available to purchase online or from Woodford Lodge for as little as £21. These permits provide access to the bird hides around Chew Valley Lake and Blagdon Lake from 1st September through to 28th February 2026, giving birdwatchers the perfect opportunity to experience the incredible variety of species these SSSI-designated sites support throughout the autumn and winter months.

Recent notable sightings include White-tailed Eagle, Buff-Breasted Sandpiper, Osprey, Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Shag, and Glossy Ibis – making this an exciting time to explore the lakes and enjoy the seasonal migration activity. Permit options are available as a Single Half Annual Permit (£21) or a Joint Half Annual Permit (£39) for two people from the same household. Please note that all applicants must be members of an ornithological society to qualify.

In more Birding news, we are thrilled to share the exciting news of a White-tailed Eagle sighting at Chew Valley Lake – a truly remarkable event for the region! Known as Britain's largest bird of prey with an impressive wingspan of up to 8 feet, the White-tailed Eagle is a rare and spectacular visitor. Its presence highlights the exceptional quality of habitat provided by Chew and the importance of these SSSI-designated waters for supporting diverse and iconic wildlife. For many birdwatchers, this is a once-in-a-lifetime encounter, and it's a fantastic reminder of why Chew Valley remains one of the UK's premier birding destinations.

Photography by Lucy Masters -



Half Annual Birdwatching Permits are now available! Get Access to the hides around Chew and Blagdon Lakes from the 1st of September 2025 to the 28th of February 2026.

Permits available online or in store at Woodford Lodge

From £21



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Competitions

Unfortunately, the Champion of Champions competition has been postponed once again, this time due to the severe high winds experienced across the lakes on the weekend of 31st August. Safety is always our top priority, and with the conditions making it too dangerous to allow boats out on the water, we had no choice but to delay the event. Originally scheduled for 20th July, this prestigious competition will now take place on 1st November 2025 at Chew Valley Lake. We appreciate the understanding and flexibility of all competitors and look forward to finally hosting an exciting and safe event later in the season.

Pike Dead Bait and Lure

We are now just five weeks away from welcoming back our pike dead bait and lure anglers for another exciting season on Chew Valley Lake. These highly anticipated dates in October and November give anglers the unique opportunity to target the record-breaking pike that Chew is famous for, either from the bank or by boat on selected days. Demand for these sessions remains exceptionally high, with tickets for this season selling out in under 30 minutes when they went on sale back in January. Now is the time for anglers to dust off their gear, check their rigs, familiarise themselves with our strict rules and regulations and prepare for the chance to encounter some of the largest pike in the country! We can't wait to see what this season produces!