

BUILDING BRIDGES PROJECT

Different approach towards migrant anglers!



ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY



ANGLING
TRUST
BUILDING BRIDGES

FISHING REGULATIONS IN POLAND

- ▶ Before fishing it is essential to obtain a rod licence and a separate permit of a water authority for the certain area
- ▶ Game fishing waters require separate contribution.
- ▶ Close season for individual species to protect spawning of fish.
- ▶ Allowed to remove fish which is bigger than protected size (pike 50cm, perch 18 cm, barbell 40 cm)
- ▶ Maximum number of fish which you can remove (pike x 2, perch 5kg, barbell x3)
- ▶ Licence controlled by Fishing Authority, Police and Volunteer Bailiffs



Background

News WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Eastern Europeans back new efforts to integrate

BEN WICKER REPORTS

EFFORTS to integrate Eastern Europeans into UK angling practices are getting applauded by those close to the thorny issue that continues to be the talk of our sport.

There has been a boom in the number of foreign nationals taking up the British way of coastal fishing for sport.

And, as we reported two weeks ago, the Environment Agency teamed up with coaches in Thorford, Norfolk to help anglers from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Russia.

Adrian Rudzinski came to the UK from Bosnia and is now the owner of AnyTackle shop and website in Redfish, Stockport, Cheshire. He believes cooperation is the best way to resolve conflicts due to differing angling practices.

Adrian said: "Over the last few months I have been saddened to see the amount of abuse thrown towards Eastern European anglers regarding the fish they take."

"If one person from my region takes a fish for the pot or their pond should we brand them as fish

stealing? Northern? even though the majority of our customers are responsible anglers?"

Tackle dealer Adrian Rudzinski

I am sure you have come across many other nationalities in this country who either fish without a licence, take fish for the pot, take fish for their ponds, or anglers that find it funny to hook a duck or a swan and take their time playing it like a fish.

"Would it not be better to try and educate anglers rather than create a separation?"

"It's tackle shops and angling press that can do this together - instead of creating divides and hate between people," added Adrian.

Chippenshaw, Wiltshire-based Radek Papiewski, who originates from Poland, said: "I have to say the open-days arranged by EA for migrant fishermen are

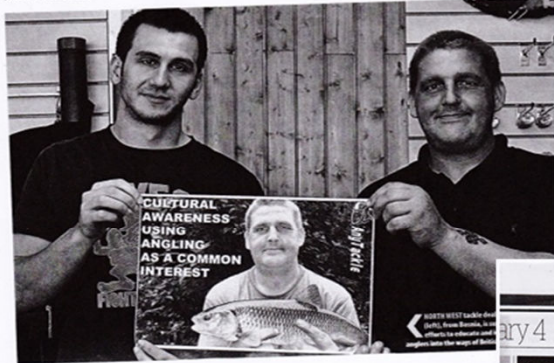
a very good idea. Well done EA. Fishermen I know over to England five years ago and I still remember how difficult it was for me to get relevant information about fishing in UK."

For someone who was allowed to take home every fish it was very difficult to adapt to the idea about catch-and-release. I had to stop fishing for couple of years because of that but now I am ready to take this challenge again.

"I paid my licence and am joining Ashton Keyth team a few times per week of my private time to become a baiter. I also hope I will encourage them to organise similar events for the EA Day in Thetford."

All to improve my skills on their waters. I also off to organise similar events for the EA Day in Thetford."

"I believe there are many anglers like me waiting for someone to show them the right direction."



- ▶ Project started 3 years ago as a Pilot in Swindon area founded by Environment Agency
- ▶ After reaching several positive outcomes project has been extended to East Anglia and Kent region
- ▶ After increased demand in other regions project has been extended again to new areas in the country
- ▶ Recent survey shows about 65% of angling clubs are facing problems of some kinds (survey in 2010 – 97%)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Develop better relationship between local and migrant anglers
- ▶ Education promoting responsible fishing practices
- ▶ Establish means of communication for migrant anglers
- ▶ Provide translation services for local angling clubs
- ▶ Develop links between enforcement organisations and migrant communities
- ▶ Develop structure of migrant angling coaches

THE PIKE ANGLERS' CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

PACNEWS

EASTERN EUROPEAN ANGLERS MAY HOLD THE KEY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST POACHING

Compiled by Alan Dudhill



CA removing illegally net sets

It's perfectly frank here, the extent and consequences of poaching, netting and other forms of indiscriminate fish theft is a serious problem. It is probably more serious than any previous threat we've had to deal with. Pike in particular are very vulnerable to capture, whether tangled or net, as they will feed on other fish which have been caught on set-lines, grip these down and end up captured themselves. This is why pike anglers take a particular interest in fish theft of this kind. The removal of big pike results in an unattended explosion of jackie, which suits no one. Worse still, this is long-term damage and it will take many years for waters to recover from poaching on the scale we are addressing.

Of course this fish theft is generally associated with eastern Europeans (EEs). I have first hand experience of this on almost all the waters I fish, and those I'm involved in running. However, we tried to keep things in perspective and replace misconceptions, rumour and speculation with fact. We have a massive population of immigrant teachers in the UK and this is not set to reduce any time soon, but we need to remind ourselves that the vast majority of these do not fish, and of those who do, most share our passion for the sport, value all the fish they catch and are equally angered by those who remove fish for the table and get all EE's a bad name. One fish thief could net 50 lines in a single night. These individuals are the problem, not all eastern Europeans, something we should be mindful of, particularly when posting on forums. The problems are so immense that we can only address the issue properly by first assessing the fact that it is a minority of EE's who are causing the problem and realise that we can only tackle this matter by working with others to implement change through negotiation and education. This can only be achieved by joining forces with like-minded groups to raise awareness of the issue, and these in perspective and promote practical solutions.

The PAC will be working closely with the Angling Trust's Building Bridges projects manager, Radovan Popovicki (Rado for short), and the Picket Anglers Association to overcome the language barrier and get the message across. If we continue to persecute all EE's because of the actions of a mindless minority, we will not find a solution but merely widen the divide. It is my opinion that EE anglers hold the key to helping us resolve this one. No one appreciates the scale of the problem more than me, personally, but we need to remain realistic, accept the facts and look for viable solutions, rather than simply ranting on about the problem. We all have a part to play in resolving this issue. We can do this but only if we're prepared to work together and do our bit. This is a matter which affects all angling disciplines so there has never been a better time for us to put our differences aside and work together to protect our sport in its entirety.

Of course there is no easy answer to the problem. Education needs to be backed by proper enforcement and a deterrent for those who simply disregard our laws. High profile cases and high fines to match would be a good deterrent, particularly if published in the part of the media read by EE's. EA figures do not support the level of damage we are all witnessing, and neither will they while most cases are going unreported and their efforts are concentrating on commercialism during the dog days. This may prevent commercialism during the daytime with nets and set-lines in their hands.

It may also appear that we get very little back from the price of a rod license. It's common knowledge that I don't personally agree with licensing a sport, but in the scope of things and given the

www.pikeandpredators.co.uk

WARNING!



DEVELOP BETTER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL AND MIGRANT ANGLERS

- ▶ Integration events between local and migrant anglers
- ▶ Connections between local migrant communities and angling clubs
- ▶ Encouraging angling clubs to get migrant anglers involved in club activities
- ▶ Explaining the cultural differences to local anglers so they have better understanding

News WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Building Bridges with Poles

TOM LEGGE reports

DESPITE rapid snowmelt wrecking fishing prospects, a warm and positive vibe resonated throughout the latest European Anglers Integration predator fishing contest.

In the week that the Office for National Statistics declared Polish to be the second most spoken language in the UK, 43 anglers hailing mainly from Poland lined Cambridgeshire's 20 Foot drain reeling pike, zander and perch to catch... and release!

With backing from the Angling Trust, the EA and Fox Flags, the event owes its origins to the efforts of two Polish anglers on a mission to educate their competitors to Britain's 'not for the pot' ethics – plus alter attitudes of native Brits to their fellow anglers from Eastern Europe.

Evidence of the past decade suggests both aims are a big ask, but the Trust definitely have the right man for the job in appointing Radoslaw Papiewski and Pawel Nycz as project managers for a scheme known as Building Bridges.

Initiatives already launched include a free rules translation service to angling clubs wishing to update info on their tickets and notice boards, a move which won plaudits from many influential figures in the sport, including former MP Martin Salter.

Predator contests are another way of reaching out and spreading the word but sadly this third and last attended yet event will be better remembered for the tasty Polish sausage BBQ and the banner at the presentation, which turned into a draw for prizes.

With the drain chocolate coloured and pumping through like a Warsaw express train nobody in either deckchair and lane categories reported a take, let alone a fish on the bank!

Host club Whittlesey AA generously returned £2 of each £5 day ticket

upon seeing the conditions at the start, a £20 kickback which organizer Rado Papiewski announced would be donated to the Trust.

Tommas Berni's long journey from Banbury proved worthwhile when his pig number was first out the prize drawing, netting him the lion's share of pools money plus a top-of-the-range Fox Flags reel – perfectly suited to his favourite light braid lure fishing style on his local Oxford Canal.

All winners from the draw are also invited to a day's fishing at pike legend Mick Brown's Lancashire lake.

"Of course it is disappointing that nothing was caught, but the one thing we cannot change is the weather and water conditions," said Rado.

Today has still been a successful event and we will be stepping up frequency to have three or four of these per year, including moving into other areas. First of those will be the South-West, and Rado, who lived and fished in the Bristol area for six years before moving to Kent.

Local Pike Anglers Club official Chris Bishop – who also picked up a prize in the draw – perhaps summed up the day's upbeat mood best when he said: "As the guys have told me, in Polish there is no word for blanking!"

EDUCATION NOT RECREATION
- anglers hailing mainly from Poland tackled Cambridgeshire's 20 Foot drain to catch... and release!

Contests in the low-lying waterways were the 20-foot drain depth to reach a westerly bank.

As the guys have told me, in Polish there is no word for blanking!

Why integration matters

PAWEŁ NYCZ, Angling Trust Building Bridges official based in Wilno, Centre.

"For predator fishing definitely became harder in my six years in the UK and I do believe the main reason is European anglers hailing the fish they catch here and back home. Catch and release is easier here and can only continue to grow.

"This stems from very hard times in Poland during the 70s and 80s, but it is changing both here and back home. Catch and release is easier here and can only continue to grow.

SARAH COLLINS, chief executive at Get Hooked on Fishing charity.

"I wanted to support today's event because we need to acknowledge the positive impact of European migrant anglers on our tackle trade amid difficult times, and find ways to work together for the benefit of all anglers. Yes, it's a long way to come to blank. I live in Harrogate but work mainly in London at our Baiting Project. There's a large Polish community in that area, they absolutely love fishing and we must be inclusive for good of the industry."

RADO PAPIEWSKI, event organizer and AT Building Bridges project manager.

"Clubs need to be flexible. I'm delighted to hear there is now a Polish baitist on the Bristol Avon, and the www.polskifishersassociation.co.uk website set up and run by Polish anglers in the UK has members of many nationalities. English translation will be available on these very soon.

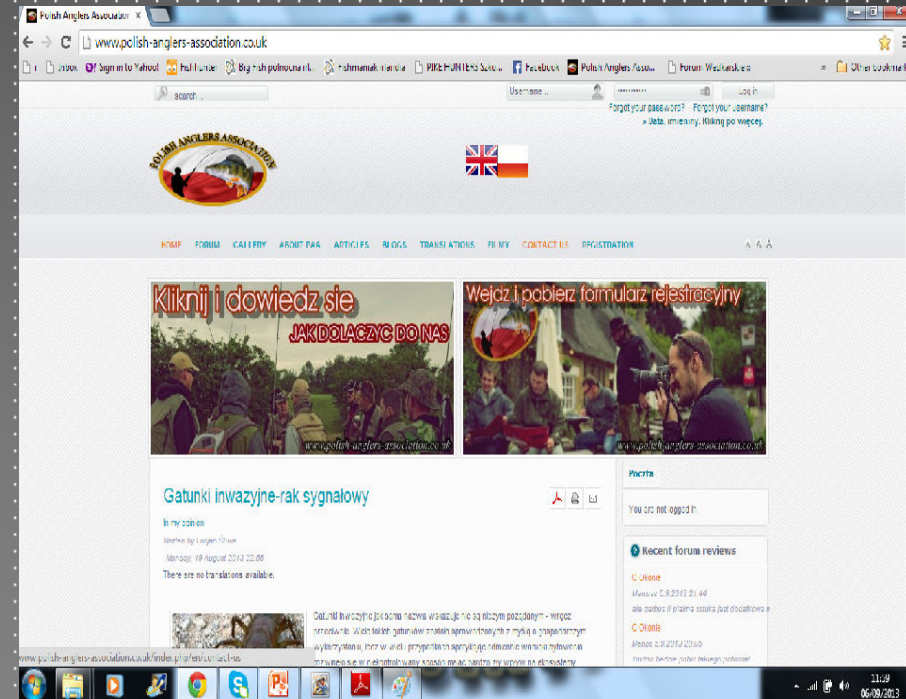
"We've started putting our flyers into Polish food shops to spread the word further, and of course we welcome dialogue and other ideas from UK clubs and fisheries."

6 anglersmail.com ON SALE TUESDAY

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ESTABLISH MEANS OF COMMUNICATION FOR AND WITH MIGRANT ANGLERS

- ▶ Migrant anglers will look on their own community pages to search for info about fishing in the UK
- ▶ Developed Polish Anglers Association web site and working to do the same with Lithuanian community
- ▶ PAA angling club to promote web site within local communities




PROVIDE TRANSLATION SERVICES FOR LOCAL ANGLING CLUBS

- ▶ Polish Anglers Association offered free club rules translation for any angling club in the UK
- ▶ Rules are displayed on PAA and club website
- ▶ Translation of specific signs and information on club request
- ▶ Translation of major EA or AT publications

Polish Anglers' Association Offer Free Rules Translation Service

By [EublingMedia](#) 25/01/2013 10:07:00

Like Send Be the first of your friends to like this.



The Polish Anglers' Association UK have offered to translate hundreds of angling clubs into Polish as a contribution towards better integration between Polish and British anglers.

The idea came from the Angling Trust's 'Building Bridges' officer Radziew Papiowski and his colleague Pavel Nysa.

Commenting on this service Matt said:

"Through the Building Bridges project we have made great strides in educating Polish anglers in the rules, regulations and customs that govern fishing over here. However, there will always be some anglers who need help understanding not only the EA by laws about catch and release but also the specific club rules that are in place. Hopefully by getting club rules translated into Polish, future problems will be more easily solved and our communities can jointly enjoy the great sport of angling without unnecessary friction."

The Polish Anglers' Association was established a few months ago by seven anglers from Poland, including Richard Dassel. They have a [website](#) and Facebook page which provides an excellent source of information for Polish anglers.

There is a forum on the website where anglers of all nationalities can ask questions and get useful

www.eublingmedia.com/news_posts/news/1528-polish-anglers-association-offer-free-rules-translation-service.html

Kara finansowa dla obywateli Litwy

In my opinion

Written by PAA

Sunday, 14 July 2013 21:10

There are no translations available.



- Obywatele Litwy zostali aresztowani i postawieni przed sądem za kradzież ryb za pomocą sieci rybackich – donosi Ian Wood z Environment Agency. 20-go stycznia 2013 roku lokalni wędkarze odkryli sieć rybacką zastawioną na rzece Mersey w okolicy Warrington. Fakt ten został zgłoszony do Environment Agency i specjalne jednostki udały się na miejsce zdarzenia. Podczas przeszukiwań okolicy odkryto dwie kolejne sieci rozstawione w niedalekiej odległości. Oficerowie zdecydowali się pozostawić sieci w wodzie i przeprowadzić akcję mającą na celu obserwację oraz złapanie osób odpowiedzialnych za to zdarzenie. Przez dwa następujące dni i noce oficerowie obserwowali miejsce z ukrycia walcząc ze śniegiem i ujemnymi temperaturami. Niedaleko znajdowała się gotowa do użycia łódź patrolowa gotowa do akcji. Zaraz po zmierzchu podczas drugiej nocy, Arturas Bulota zauważony został na pontonie ściągając zastawione sieci. Oficerowie zdecydowali się poczekać i zaobserwowali, że Bulota wrócił na brzeg i spotkał się tam z Gintaraszem Valukonis i obydwójce zaczęli pakować swoje zdobycze i sprzęt. W tym momencie ekipa oficerów otoczyła podejrzanych i zaskoczyła ich na gorącym uczynku używając lamp patrolowych. Arturas Bulota rozpoczął ucieczkę w trakcie, której próbował pozbyć się dowodów. Po kilku chwilach został złapany i obydwu sprawców zostało zakutych w kajdanki i przewiezionych do aresztu gdzie zostali przesłuchani przy obecności tłumacza. Obydwójmu mężczyznom postawiono zarzuty nielegalnego odłowu ryb za pomocą sieci rybackich. Bulota dostał również dodatkowy zarzut za usuwanie ryb z łowiska.

Obydwójce mężczyźni zostali uznani winnymi zarzucanych im czynów i ukarani przez sąd. Arturas Bulota został ukarany karą w wysokości £440 i kosztami sądowymi w wysokości £120. Gintaras Valukonis dostał karę £250 i £120 kosztów. Obydwójce sprawców będzie miało również odnotowane to w Criminal Record.

Sprawa ta pokazuje, że Environment Agency bardzo poważnie traktuje nielegalne metody odławiania ryb w UK. Poświęcenie oficerów doprowadziło do aresztowania i skazania przestępców. Warto tutaj wspomnieć, że oficerowie są szkoleni do wykonywania różnych tego typu akcji jak również posiadają takie same uprawnienia jak Policja. Oficerowie mogą aresztować, zarekwirować sprzęt oraz prowadzić obserwację, jeżeli myślą, że coś jest podejrzane. Mają również prawo do przeszukiwania samochodów i domów w celu uzyskania dowodów.

DEVELOP LINKS BETWEEN ENFORCEMENT ORGANISATIONS AND MIGRANT COMMUNITIES

- ▶ Migrant anglers are very valuable source of information for angling clubs and EA
- ▶ Several EA regions developed good relationship with migrant anglers
- ▶ Several angling clubs got migrant anglers involved in bailiffing process
- ▶ Joint patrols organised between migrant anglers and EA enforcement team
- ▶ Encouraging migrant anglers to take part in VBS scheme which is popular in their countries



VOLUNTEERS | EX-POLICE AND EA STAFF APPLYING

RUSH TO JOIN THE BAILIFFING FORCE

Eastern Europeans offer services too

BEN MILES
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The ground-breaking drive to recruit everyday anglers to police the nation's fisheries is proving a runaway success.

In a statement of solidarity from within the sport, hundreds of applicants have come forward to be part of a highly-trained national team of voluntary bailiffs to fight fish theft and illegal angling.

Ex-policemen, Environment Agency staff and Eastern European anglers are among

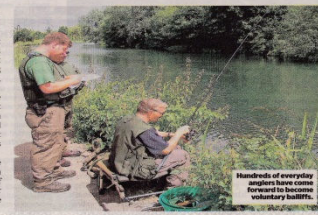
those to have offered their services to the initiative, which was announced in November and is being co-ordinated by the Angling Trust and the EA. Chiefs at the Trust have admitted to being "blown away" by the response, and will now begin interviews to select 48 recruits in the South East who will begin formal training. The three-year pilot scheme will give teams of volunteers the power to carry out rod licence checks, apprehend fish thieves and be part of intelligence operations to help safeguard fisheries.

"The response and the quality of the applicants to this scheme

has been amazing, which just goes to show how willing and passionate anglers are to get stuck in and help with policing the banks," said Mike Heytin, chairman of the Angling Trust.

"We have such a mix of people that are interested, and the fact that many are former policemen and EA staff means that we will have the strongest and most experienced team possible. It's the perfect start," he said.

"Judging by this response we won't have any trouble at all in forming a national team of voluntary bailiffs, who together will help to drastically reduce fish theft and licence evasion."



HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

- ▶ Understand that not every migrant angler is here to fish for food
- ▶ Get some migrant anglers on board and you will see some results
- ▶ Implement signage around the fishery
- ▶ Integration match fishing
- ▶ Report every incidents to EA if education fails

EASTERN EUROPEANS SAVED MY BUSINESS

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Tackle shop boss praises foreign anglers

revealed that the sheer demand for budget rods, reels and bait from those targeting the vast shoals of mackerel that gather around the country's seaside piers can account for up to 90 per cent of his summer takings. Roy firmly believes that his fellow tackle shop owners should also embrace this 'vital trade'.

"I see more Eastern Europeans than UK anglers coming through my door at this time of the year," said Roy. "You'd be a fool if you didn't welcome them with open arms. I even know how to say 'hello' and 'thank you' in several languages because I want everyone to enjoy the fishing around our coast."

Well-respected sea angler Alan Yates is well aware of the financial boost Eastern European anglers provide to the sea tackle trade, but believes there are a number of damaging downsides, not least because of the vast amounts of litter left behind.

"I've seen the state of some of the piers after the hordes of foreign anglers have finished for the day and gone home. The best way I can describe the scene is a 'ghetto'," said Alan.

"This not only gives the sport as a whole a bad name to outsiders, it is also very frustrating for local fishermen. Many of them have visited these venues for decades but now can barely find a spot to fish from at some marks," he said.



Number of prosecutions	Successful Prosecutions	Success Rate	Fines Total
2139	2028	95%	£256,989

THE EARL OF HARRINGTON'S ANGLING CLUB

- ▶ “There have been no negatives, only positives after the club approached Kamil and Piotr after seeing what passionate anglers they were. We have had numerous work parties this season and both were committed to help their Club. After seeing their commitment, both were asked to become bailiffs for the club. This has proven a huge step forward as they are able to interact with other migrant anglers, many of which do not understand they have to buy our Club Ticket. We have more migrant anglers with tickets than ever before. They are both dedicated and would advocate all Clubs to appoint migrant anglers in all Club Activities”

IDEAS WORTH TO THINK ABOUT

- ▶ Commercial fisheries allowing fish to be removed
 - charge for weight of removed fish
 - set maximum number of fish to be removed
- ▶ Commercial fisheries producing fish for supermarkets
- ▶ Specialist predator lure fishing venues
- ▶ Lure fishing matches