

# Hot weather is damaging fisheries and killing fish! So what can we do about it?

## The issue

Thousands of fish have died this summer because of a large amount of incidents across Kent, South London and East Sussex. This prolonged period of hot and dry weather has devastated river wildlife by drying out rivers, ponds and lakes, and reducing oxygen levels in the water.

We trust this advice will be a useful reminder for those managing rivers, ponds and lakes.



## What can the Environment Agency do?

We will endeavour to respond rapidly to all reports of dead, dying or distressed fish. Our response can be advice over the phone or a possible visit, depending on resources.

During a visit we may use our aeration equipment to improve oxygen levels or we may consider an emergency fish rescue, if we can find somewhere safe to move them.



## What can you do to help?

- Get an abstraction licence, if you are abstracting more than 20 cubic metres per day
- Ensure you have a site permit to reduce the spread of fish diseases and invasive non-native fish species. You may need an authorisation from us to remove fish from your water if you are not using a line or rod
- Review how you manage your bankside and aquatic habitat. Remember you will need our agreement to use herbicides in or near water
- Report any suspected disease outbreaks to us immediately. Fish may be more vulnerable to fish diseases during warm weather and when they are stressed

**Remember! If you see any fish in distress or suspect a fish disease outbreak please contact our 24 hour hotline on 0800 80 70 60**

## For further information

You can contact your local fisheries team on 03708 506 506 (Mon-Fri 8am - 6pm)

Check the current water situation

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england)

Find the latest river and groundwater levels for various sites across the area

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-current-status-and-flood-risk](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-current-status-and-flood-risk)

Find out more about abstraction, permits and herbicide agreements at

[www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/water](http://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/water)

Thank you for your support

