



NATIONAL  
ANGLING  
SURVEY  
1994



NRA

*National Rivers Authority*

**Guardians of  
the Water Environment**

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## FOREWORD



David Jordan

This is the first full survey of Great Britain's anglers for 15 years. As you will see from this report, much has changed over the years, but angling continues to thrive as a sport for millions of people throughout the country.

We commissioned this survey because the NRA has major responsibilities for freshwater angling in England and Wales. Every angler over the age of 12 must have a rod licence in order to practice the sport. The revenue from licence sales is used by the NRA to maintain, improve and develop fisheries, improving angling today and for the future.

The report has highlighted the fact that a number of anglers, particularly casual ones, still avoid buying a licence. This not only makes the licence more expensive for everyone else, but deprives the sport of funds which are vital for continued improvement. Everyone has a role to play in changing this situation, and the action and support of clubs, anglers associations, governing bodies, the media and the NRA can safeguard the future of angling in England and Wales.

The report shows how different aspects of angling have altered. The combined expenditure of coarse and game anglers in England and Wales is now estimated to be in excess of £3 billion per year, making the sport a vital contributor to the economy and the country as a whole.

The survey results make interesting reading for everyone involved in the sport and the report is crammed with facts and figures; How many people go angling? Who are they? Do they belong to clubs? How far do they travel? What are their favourite fish? The answers to all these questions and more are here. But at the end of the day, as I am sure

Mr Jordan would be the first to point out, there's an awful lot more sport than facts and figures.

angling,

David Jordan  
Head of Fisheries, Recreation,  
Conservation and Navigation

THE CRABTREES WORK DOWN THE RIVER TRYING THE LIKELY PLACES TILL—



Extracts from "Mr. Crabtree Goes Fishing" reproduced with kind permission of Mirror Group Newspapers plc



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## SUMMARY *of* MAIN FINDINGS

- There are 3.3 million anglers aged 12 and over in Great Britain. This represents a reduction of at least 400,000 on figures obtained from a survey in 1980.
- There are 2.9 million anglers aged 12 and over in England and Wales, the NRA's area.
- There are 2.3 million coarse anglers in England and Wales.
- There are 0.8 million game anglers in England and Wales.
- There are 1.1 million sea anglers in England and Wales. This represents a fall of at least 0.7 million (38%) on figures obtained from a survey in 1980.
- Annual spending by coarse anglers from England and Wales is estimated to be £2.4 billion.
- Annual spending by game anglers from England and Wales is estimated to be £0.92 billion.
- 51% of all anglers in England and Wales are currently members of angling clubs.
- Carp is the most popular species among coarse anglers; in 1970 roach was the most popular species.
- There are 2.2 million potential NRA rod licence holders – people aged 12 and over who have been freshwater fishing in England and Wales during the year preceding the survey.
- The proportion of freshwater anglers who fished without an NRA rod licence in England and Wales in 1993 was at least 13% and perhaps as high as 60%.
- 65% of freshwater anglers thought that the compulsory display of rod licences by anglers when fishing would reduce licence evasion.



## INTRODUCTION

The National Rivers Authority (NRA) has a responsibility for safeguarding and improving the water environment. It has statutory duties to maintain, improve and develop fisheries and to promote water based recreation of which angling is one of the most popular activities. Anglers are major users of rivers and stillwaters and are also the main source of funding for the NRA's Fisheries service through rod licences.



To improve its ability to plan for the future, the NRA needs up to date information on the number and types of anglers in England and Wales, its area of jurisdiction. The proportion of anglers who currently hold valid rod licences is of particular importance. To provide this information, the NRA commissioned NOP Social and Political to conduct research among anglers and produce a technical report (Ref.1) on the current status of angling in England and Wales, on which this publication is based.

NOP had previously conducted the 1970 and 1980 National Angling Surveys (Ref.2 and 3).

The principal objectives of the 1994 survey were:

- to establish the numbers and demographic characteristics of different types of angler;
- to make comparisons with earlier surveys;
- to examine angling habits, i.e. how often anglers fish, where they fish and what they prefer to catch;
- to identify how much anglers spend;
- and to examine attitudes towards a requirement to display rod licences when fishing.





## The Survey

Two separate techniques were employed. The first stage, from 5 to 31 January 1994, involved interviews of 7436 randomly selected households in Great Britain. The purpose of this stage was to identify the proportion of anglers amongst different sectors of the population. The second stage comprised detailed interviews with 1543 anglers selected on the basis of their age, sex and social class and the area of the country they lived in, using information from the first stage. These interviews were conducted from 16 February to 5 March 1994.

## Interpretation

The 1994 survey was designed to meet the very specific needs of the NRA and inevitably these differed slightly from those of the organisations that commissioned the earlier surveys. There was also concern that the methodology used in the 1980 survey introduced a bias which may have led to an overestimation of angler numbers. The 1994 methodology and questions were modified to reduce the possible bias and therefore differ in some respects to the earlier surveys; in particular the 1994 survey definition of an angler. In the earlier surveys, a person had to have been fishing in the previous year to be defined as an angler but in the 1994 survey the definition was changed to include all those who had been fishing in the previous two years. Consequently, although the survey results meet the needs of the NRA in establishing current numbers and habits of anglers, there are difficulties in making direct comparisons with some figures given in previous surveys. Interpretation of the apparent changes that have taken place since 1970 or 1980 must therefore be treated with caution.

It is inevitable that direct comparisons will be made with the earlier surveys regardless of their validity. Therefore it is preferable that they are made within the context of this report so that possible errors can be clearly stated.



# HOW MANY ANGLERS ARE THERE?

## Definition of an angler –

*A person who has fished during the previous two years*  
(except where otherwise stated).

- There are 3.3 million freshwater and sea anglers aged 12 and over in Great Britain.
- There are 2.9 million freshwater and sea anglers aged 12 and over in England and Wales.
- This represents 7.2% of the population aged 12 and over for both Great Britain and England and Wales.

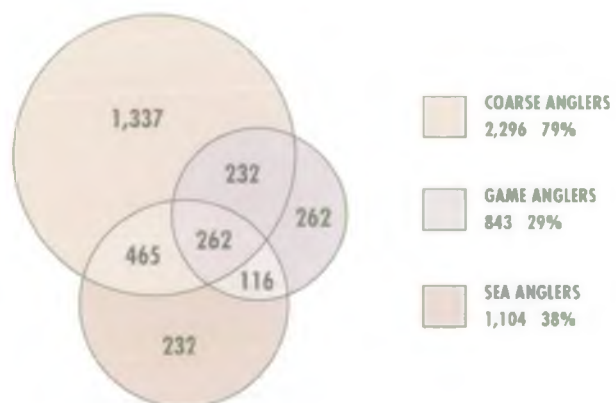
## Different types of anglers

- Many anglers in England and Wales (37%) take part in more than one type of angling.
  - 79% went coarse fishing
  - 38% went sea fishing
  - 29% went game fishing



Although the estimates for total numbers of anglers are accurate, the methodology adopted led to some difficulty in establishing the proportions and numbers of different types of anglers. The figures are approximate and should therefore be used with caution.

**Number of Anglers**  
(thousands) practising  
each type of angling  
– England and  
Wales

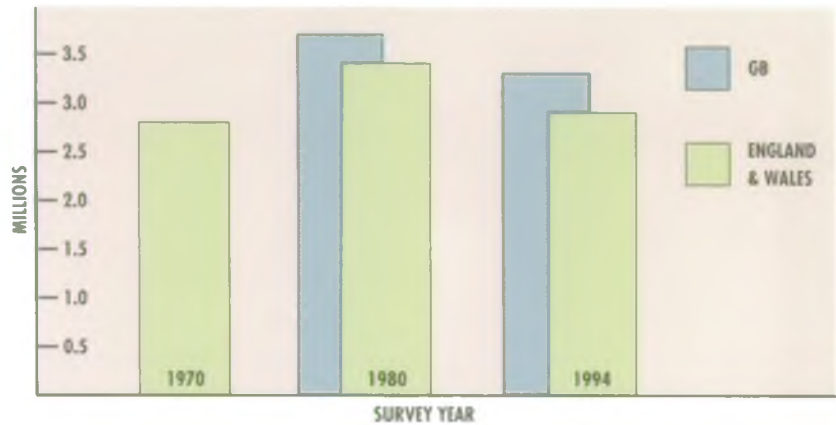


*Note: This is based on the total estimate of 2.9 million freshwater and sea anglers aged 12 and over who fished in England and Wales during the 2 years preceding the survey.*

## COMPARISONS *with* PREVIOUS SURVEYS

### All Anglers

#### Anglers in GB and England & Wales



#### Estimated number (millions) of anglers in Great Britain and England & Wales\*.

SURVEY YEAR	GREAT BRITAIN	ENGLAND & WALES	% OF POPULATION AGED 12+
1970	-	2.8	7.1
1980	3.7	3.4	8.2
1994	3.3	2.9	7.2

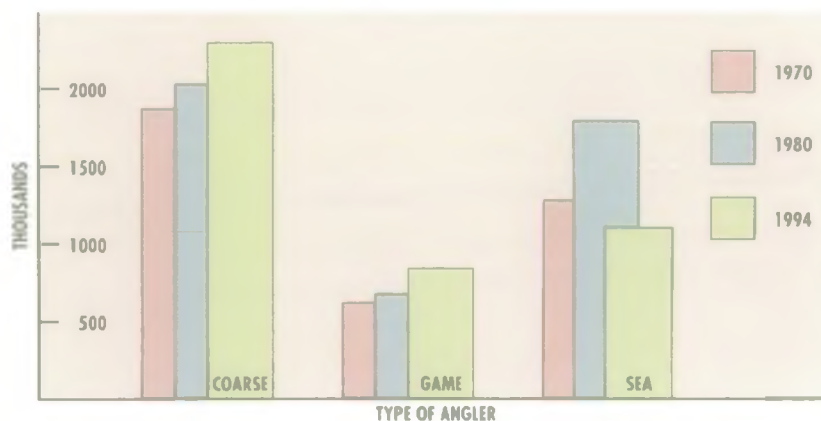
\* Note: Because of concern that possible bias in the earlier methodology may have overestimated numbers of anglers, the 1994 estimates were made in a different way. This must be borne in mind when comparing these with the earlier estimates that are based on anglers who had fished in the previous year.



Since 1980 there has been an apparent decline in the number of anglers aged 12 and over in England and Wales by 470,000 (14%) and in the whole of Great Britain by a similar number. Between 1981 and 1991 there has actually been a small increase in the total population aged 12 and over. As a consequence, the percentage of anglers in the total population has shown a more pronounced fall. The total number of anglers in England and Wales is now similar to the estimate in 1970, although there are particular concerns about the accuracy of the 1970 survey which was partly based on postal returns.

## Different types of anglers

Anglers in England & Wales – COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS



Anglers in England and Wales – thousands



SURVEY YEAR	COARSE	GAME	SEA
1970	1,870	620	1,280
1980	2,028	676	1,791
1994	2,296	843	1,104

The 1994 estimates of each angler type shown on page 9, are not directly comparable to the 1970 and 1980 estimates. The 1994 estimates are all based on the number of anglers who had fished in the previous two years; the 1970 and 1980 estimates relate to those who fished during the previous year.

- Nevertheless a large decline has apparently occurred in the number of sea anglers in England and Wales. The 1980 survey highlighted a 40% increase in the popularity of sea angling since 1970 and it seems that this change has now been reversed.
- Given the different basis of the estimates in 1994 compared to 1970 and 1980, no conclusions can be drawn about changes in the numbers of coarse and game anglers.

## WHERE *do* ANGLERS LIVE?

Among the NRA regions, Anglian and Southern had the largest proportion of households containing one or more anglers. The proportion in Thames was the smallest, though because of the large population in this region, it contained the highest number of anglers.

### Distribution of anglers by NRA region



NRA REGION	PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS CONTAINING ONE OR MORE ANGLERS (%)
NORTHUMBRIAN & YORKSHIRE	11
ANGLIAN	16
THAMES	9
SOUTHERN	15
SOUTH WESTERN	10
SEVERN TRENT	10
WELSH	12
NORTH WEST	11

### Distribution of anglers by NRA region



# WHO ARE *the* ANGLERS?

## Social class

The social class groups used in the survey were:

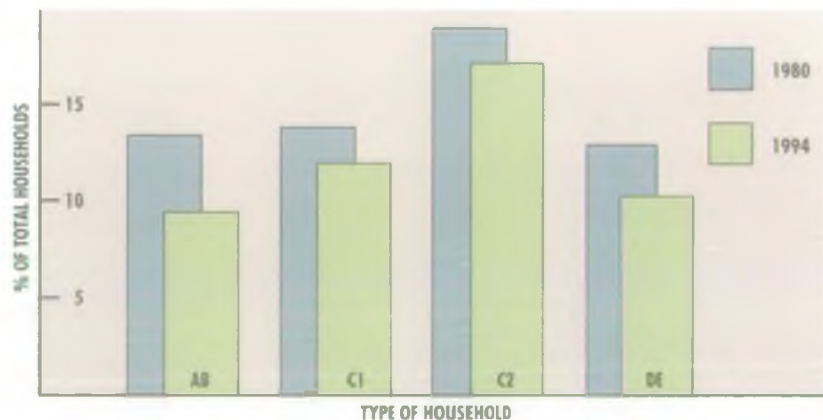
- AB professional, management and executive;
- C1 clerical and administrative;
- C2 skilled manual workers;
- DE unskilled manual workers.



Angling appeals to people from all social classes but was considerably more common among skilled working class households (Class C2). There is little variation between the three other class groups.

Comparison with the 1980 survey indicates a decline in the number of anglers among all social classes. It is most marked among AB households where there has been a decline in the proportion of households with at least one angler, from 13% to 9%.

### Households with at least one angler



## Sex

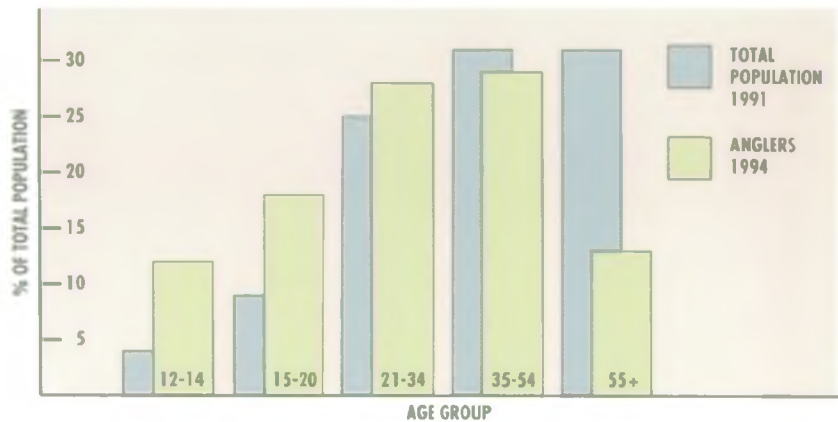
- 88% of anglers are male and 12% female. This has not changed since the 1980 survey.



## Age

- The age profile of anglers is younger than the population as a whole and it is noticeable that there are proportionately far fewer anglers over 55 than in the total population.

Age profile of anglers – ENGLAND AND WALES 1994

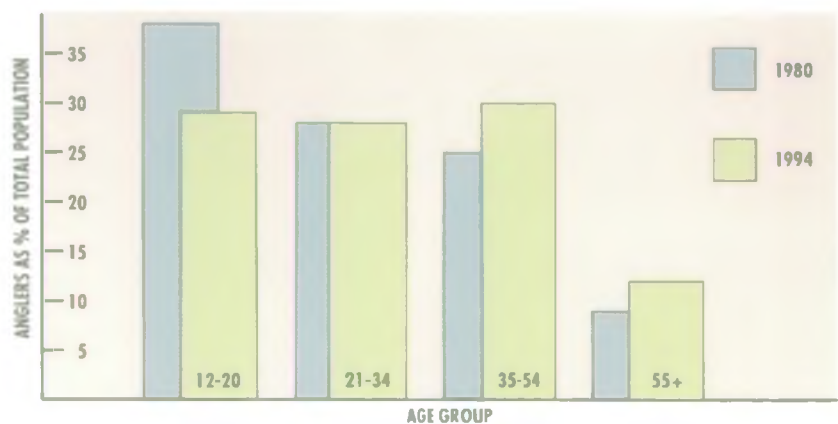


## Comparison with 1980 Survey



It is important to note that the population has aged during the 1980s. In 1991 only 13% of those aged 12 or over were in the 12 - 20 age group, whereas in 1981 18% had been. With fewer young people there are fewer potential young anglers and this will inevitably influence the total number of anglers.

Change in age profile of anglers – GREAT BRITAIN



The proportion of the population currently aged under 12 is the same as in 1981 which indicates that the potential number of young anglers will stabilise over the next few years.

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP



- 51% of all anglers in England and Wales are currently members of angling clubs.

Given the number of anglers in England and Wales of 2.9 million this suggests that there are currently 1.5 million individuals who are club members. Total club membership may be higher as some anglers are members of two or more clubs.

- Club membership is highest among anglers aged over 50 (62%) and lowest in 12-16 year olds (41%).

### Membership of angling clubs

	ANGLER AGE GROUP					
	ALL %	12-16 %	17-29 %	30-39 %	40-49 %	50+ %
YES	51	41	46	59	61	62
NO	49	59	54	41	39	38

- Club membership is most likely among salmon anglers (62%) and lowest among sea anglers (48%).

	ANGLER TYPE			
	SALMON %	TROUT %	COARSE %	SEA %
YES	62	55	56	48
NO	38	45	44	52

*(Note: the type of angling club does not necessarily relate to the type of angler, since many anglers participate in more than one branch of the sport).*

- Those fishing most frequently are most likely to be angling club members.
- Only 30% of anglers have never been a club member.

# COARSE ANGLERS

Coarse anglers are by far the most numerous type of angler. They devote much time to their fishing with half of them having been coarse fishing more than 50 times in the last 2 years.

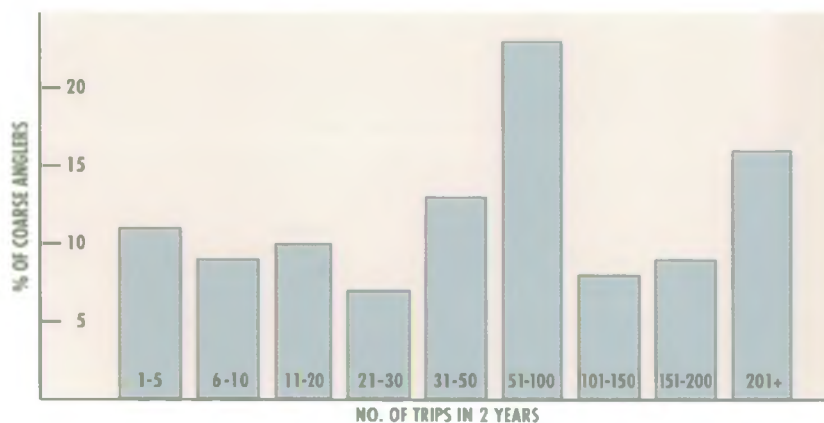
- 79% of anglers in England and Wales take part in coarse angling and 46% take part only in coarse fishing.
- 20% are aged 12-16 and 42% are under 30.

NOW, PETER, FOR CARP — THE KING OF THE SUMMER. THE FISH THAT MAKES YOU WAIT LONGEST BUT GIVES YOU THE MADDEST THRILL !

## How often do they fish?

- The mean number of coarse fishing trips in the last 2 years was 87.
- The median number was 50.

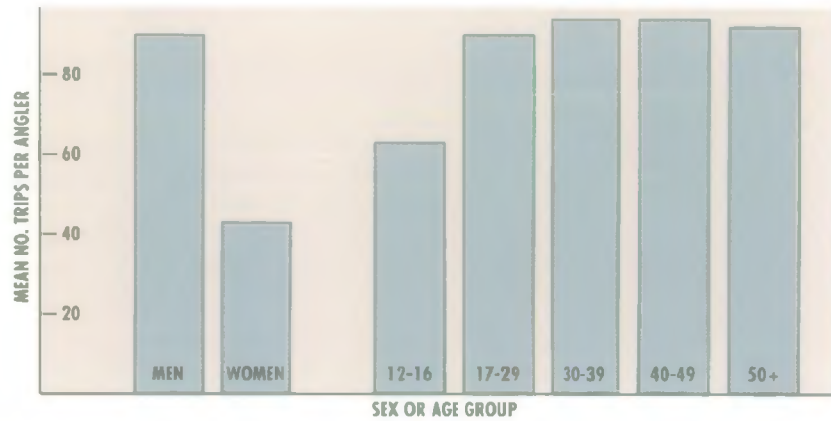
### Frequency of coarse fishing



- 36% of coarse anglers made 31 - 100 trips in 2 years. This approximates to weekly or fortnightly fishing during the season.
- 20% made 10 or fewer trips in two years.
- At the other extreme 16% fished more than 200 times, which is 2 or more times per week during the season.

- On average men fished twice as often as women

**Coarse fishing frequency**



- The 12-16 age group had been on least trips (mean of 63) but there was otherwise little difference between age groups.
- There was some variation between regions with the highest mean number of trips by anglers living in Severn Trent (99) and lowest by those living in Southern (68). Although a much lower mean was found for Welsh Region the sample size was too small for any reliable conclusion to be drawn.

**Average number of coarse fishing trips in the last two years.**



## Are coarse anglers fishing as often as two years ago?

- Overall there was little net change, but individually many coarse anglers have changed the frequency with which they fish.

### Frequency of coarse fishing compared with two years ago.

	AGE GROUP					
	ALL %	12-16 %	17-29 %	30-39 %	40-49 %	50+ %
MUCH MORE OFTEN	20	28	20	17	18	16
LITTLE MORE OFTEN	12	16	14	13	9	8
ABOUT THE SAME	36	27	30	35	42	50
LITTLE LESS OFTEN	15	16	17	17	13	14
LOT LESS OFTEN	15	10	17	18	17	11



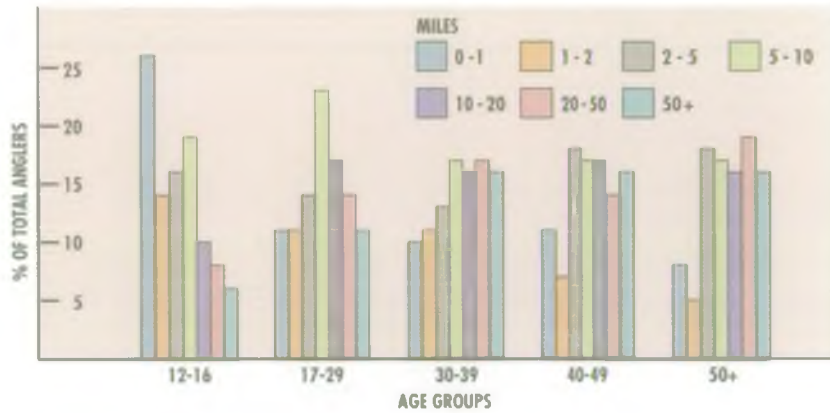
- Fishing frequency was usually altered due to changing constraints on time or money.
- Increased enjoyment of coarse angling was most important among young anglers (12-16 years) as a reason for increased fishing frequency.
- The suggested overall pattern is that young coarse anglers, having started, fish with increasing frequency until a proportion of them cut down in their 20s and 30s. After this dropout, fishing frequency remains more stable.

## How far do they travel?

- Mean distance travelled was about 20 miles and the median just under 10 miles.
- Actual distances travelled varied widely. On their last trip 24% travelled less than 2 miles and 27% more than 20 miles.
- 55% of coarse anglers said they were travelling about the same distance as they were 2 years ago, but 33% said they were travelling further.
- The increase in travelling distance is most marked among 17-29 year olds, 44% of whom said they were travelling further.



Distance travelled – coarse anglers

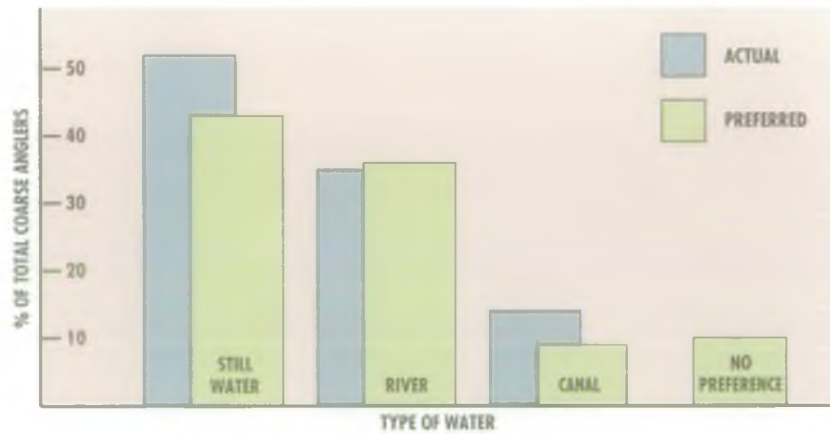


- There was a clear tendency for younger anglers to fish close to home (26% of 12-16 year olds fished within a mile of home) while older anglers travelled further (51% of those aged 50+ travelled 10 miles or more).

What types of water do they fish?

- The most common venue was stillwater where 91% of coarse anglers had fished at some time. 81% and 57% had fished rivers and canals respectively.

Types of water fished most often – coarse anglers



- 52% fished stillwaters most often, 35% rivers and 14% canals. This matches very closely the preferred type of venue.

## Which species of fish?

- One in four coarse anglers did not mind which species they catch.
- Those who had a preference tended to favour just one or two species. 36% preferred carp, 28% roach, 21% bream and 20% tench. Other popular species were chub, pike, barbel and perch.

The species most often caught did not match the preferences.

- 45% caught roach most often and 25% caught carp most often.
- Anglers would have preferred a greater proportion of carp, bream, tench, chub, barbel and pike in their catch.
- Anglers would have preferred a smaller proportion of roach and perch in their catch.

### Changes in preferences

Data on species caught are not available for 1980 but the previous survey in 1970 shows that roach was the preferred species (39%) followed by pike (29%) with perch, bream and tench at 20%. Since 1970 carp have increased in popularity at the expense of pike and perch. The increased popularity of carp has been caused mainly by young anglers taking up this branch of the sport rather than a change of preference by older anglers. In 1994 almost half of the anglers aged under 30 nominated carp as their favourite species; older anglers still tend to prefer roach. Species most often caught in 1970 were roach followed by perch, bream and pike; there has been little change other than the replacement of pike by carp. This may reflect the wider availability of carp fishing in 1994.



## What do they spend?

### Expenditure on most recent coarse fishing trip

	TRAVEL	FOOD & DRINK	BAIT & GROUND BAIT	FLOATS & HOOKS	MATCH FEE	DAY PERMIT	OTHER	TOTAL
% SPENDING NOTHING	41	57	17	66	83	69	91	
MEAN EXPENDITURE FOR ALL	£4.67	£3.16	£5.57	£2.90	£1.63	£1.75	£1.77	£21.21
MEAN EXPENDITURE FOR ALL SPENDING ANYTHING	£7.91	£7.52	£6.73	£8.87	£10.73	£5.96	£37.10	



- The mean total expenditure on the last coarse fishing trip was £21.21 with the highest expenditure on bait (£5.57).
- Given that the mean number of trips over the previous two years is 87, this implies that coarse anglers on average spend around £796 (excluding floats and hooks) a year on fishing trips.
- The mean expenditure on all tackle in 1993 was £225, although about 10% of coarse anglers had spent in excess of £750 on tackle during the year.
- 80% of coarse anglers had also spent money on permits (other than day tickets) during 1993. The mean expenditure on permits was £45 with 50% of anglers spending less than £50.
- Adding the cost of tackle and permits to the spending on trips (excluding floats and hooks to avoid double counting), the average annual expenditure on coarse angling is around £1,070.
- With an estimated 2,296,000 coarse anglers in England and Wales, the total national expenditure on coarse angling is around £2.4 billion per year.

# GAME ANGLERS

Salmon and trout fishing is the least practised branch of the sport. Fishing frequency is much lower than that for coarse angling.

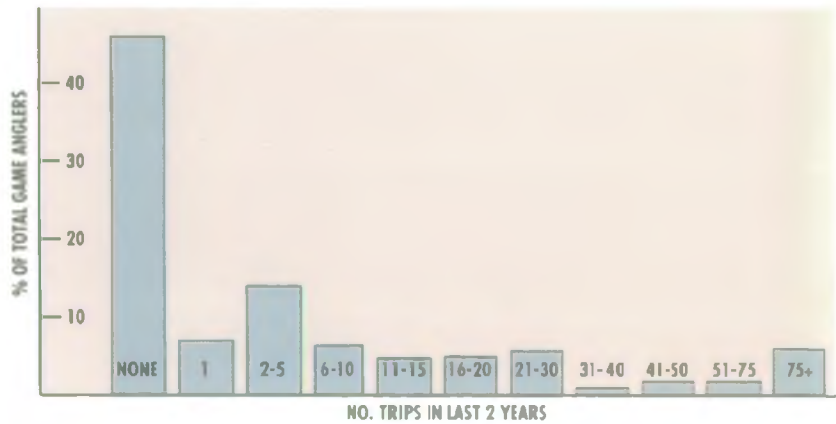
- 29% of anglers in England and Wales take part in game angling and 9% fish exclusively for game fish.

## How often do they fish?

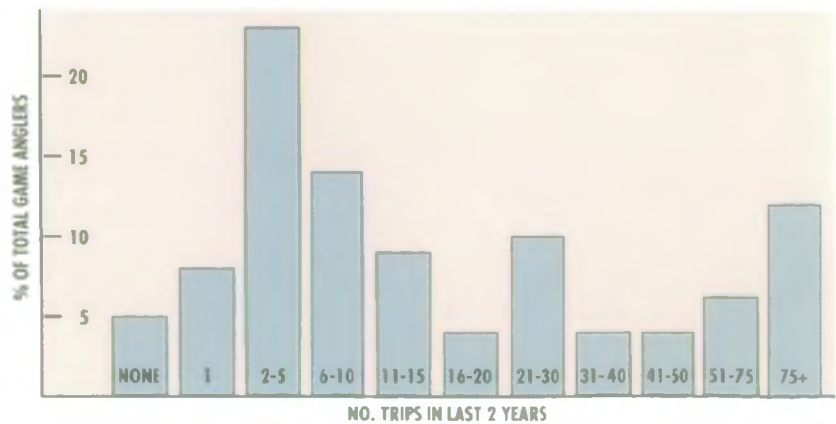
- The mean number of trips for salmon/sea trout was 15 during the last two years. The median number was 1.
- The mean number of trips for non-migratory trout was 31 in the last two years. The median number was 10.



Frequency of salmon/sea trout fishing



Frequency of trout fishing



Salmon and sea trout angling is an activity in which many anglers only participate very infrequently.

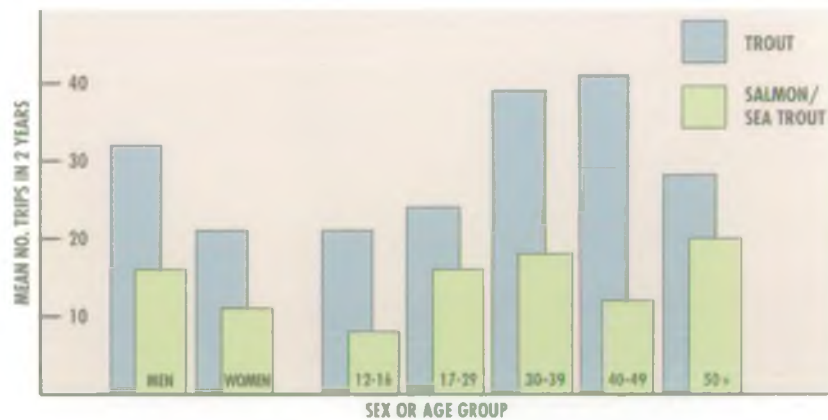
- 46% of game anglers had not fished for salmon or sea trout in the last 2 years.
- Even among those who had fished in the previous two years, the number who fished regularly during the season was very low – only 6% fished on average once a week.



This probably reflects the more limited availability of fishing sites relative to where anglers live. For many game anglers salmon and sea trout fishing is probably an annual trip.

Game anglers fish more frequently for non-migratory trout than for salmon or sea trout, although this is still very much lower than the frequency with which coarse anglers fish. Trout fishing is also an occasional activity for many anglers.

- 50% of game anglers fished for trout only 10 or fewer times in two years.
- Over 50% of game anglers also took part in coarse fishing and it is possible that their trout fishing is limited to a few trips during the coarse fishing close season.



- On average men fished one and a half times as often as women. The difference in fishing frequency between men and women is much less marked than it is for coarse anglers.
- Salmon and sea trout fishing frequency was lowest in the 12-16 age group and highest among those aged 50 or over.
- Trout fishing frequency was highest among the 30-49 age group.

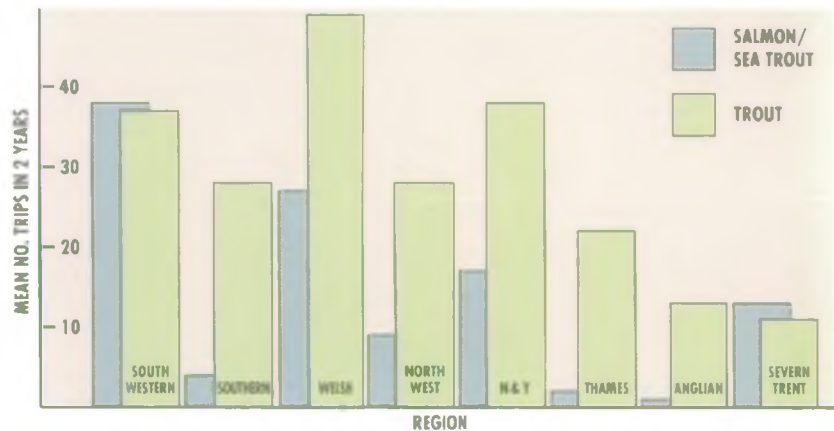




Not surprisingly the frequency of salmon and sea trout fishing by game anglers in the different NRA Regions reflects the availability of fishing. Mean number of salmon or sea trout fishing trips in 2 years was highest for game anglers living in South Western (38) and Welsh (27), and lowest in Thames (2) and Anglian (1).

The frequency of trout fishing by game anglers is more uniform across the NRA regions although again it appears to reflect the availability of fishing. Mean number of trout fishing trips in the last 2 years was highest for game anglers living in Welsh (49), Northumbria and Yorkshire (38) and South Western (37), and lowest in Anglian (13) and Severn Trent (11).

**Frequency of game fishing**



**Are game anglers fishing as often as two years ago?**

- On balance there has been a decrease in the frequency with which people go fishing for salmon or trout. 38% said they fished less often and only 23% said they fished more often than 2 years ago.

**Which species of fish?**

**Salmon & sea trout anglers**

There is a fairly even division between those who prefer to catch salmon (38%), prefer to catch sea trout (28%) and those that don't mind (34%). However the reality is rather different with 68% catching sea trout most often and only 19% catching salmon most often.

**Trout anglers**

There is a similar mismatch between preference and reality although this is less marked. Again there is a fairly even division between those preferring rainbow trout (28%), brown trout (37%) and those with no preference (32%). In reality 59% catch rainbow trout most often while 29% catch brown trout most often.

**What do they spend?**

**Expenditure on most recent salmon/trout fishing trip**

	TRAVEL	FOOD & DRINK	BAIT	FLIES OR HOOKS	MATCH FEE	DAY PERMIT	OTHER	TOTAL
% SPENDING NOTHING	38	60	74	60	96	53	88	-
MEAN EXPENDITURE FOR ALL	£12.76	£7.93	£1.32	£5.96	£0.38	£8.62	£7.14	£44.11
MEAN EXPENDITURE FOR ALL SPENDING ANYTHING	£20.91	£20.12	£5.36	£15.10	£11.49	£18.42	£75.32	-



- The mean total spend on the last salmon/trout fishing trip was £44 with the highest expenditure on travel (£12.76).

In estimating what the average game angler spends in a year on fishing trips the mean number of salmon and trout trips in the last 2 years have been added to give a mean of 46 trips in 2 years.

- Given that the mean number of trips over two years is 46, this implies that the average game angler spends around £877 (excluding flies or hooks) a year on fishing trips.
- The mean expenditure on all tackle in 1993 was £117, although a small minority of 5% spent more than £500.
- 75% of game anglers had also spent money on permits (other than day tickets) during 1993. The mean expenditure on permits was £99. 25% spent less than £25, but again a small minority of 2% spend in excess of £500.
- Adding the cost of tackle and permits to the spending on trips (excluding flies or hooks) the average annual expenditure on game angling is £1093.
- With an estimated 843,000 game anglers in England and Wales, the total national expenditure on game angling is around £0.92 billion.

# NRA ROD LICENCES

## How many anglers should buy an NRA rod licence?

- The number of potential rod licence holders (people aged 12 and over who have been freshwater fishing in England and Wales during the year preceding the survey) was estimated to be 2.2 million.

## Who doesn't buy an NRA rod licence?

Freshwater anglers were asked whether they had a valid NRA rod licence when they last fished. It is recognised that some unlicensed anglers would have been unwilling to admit to having had no licence. Nevertheless the results indicate the absolute minimum of actual licence evasion and it is safe to assume that the real figure is higher. The question is also useful in what it reveals about those anglers who admit to having no licence.

### Claimed possession of NRA rod licence

	ALL %	12-16 %	17-29 %	30-39 %	40-49 %	50+ %	MALE %	FEMALE %
YES	87	76	85	87	93	94	89	68
NO	11	20	12	11	5	5	9	26
CAN'T REMEMBER	2	4	3	2	1	<0.5	2	6

- 11% said that they did not have a licence and a further 2% said that they could not remember if they had one.
- It is fairly safe to assume that at least 13% of freshwater anglers did not have a licence.

- There was no significant variation in claimed licence possession between the different NRA Regions.

- Only 5% of anglers aged over 50 admitted to not having a licence.

There is a correlation between claimed licence possession and frequency of fishing. Not surprisingly, those who made the fewest fishing trips in the last 2 years were most likely to say they did not have a licence.

- Among those who made 20 or fewer fishing trips in the last 2 years only 75% said that they had a licence compared with over 90% in groups fishing more frequently.

- 32% of female anglers and 24% of 12-16 year olds admitted to not having a valid licence or could not remember.

This may be a reflection of the lower fishing frequency of these two groups rather than being directly a characteristic of these groups.

No doubt the 12-16 age group contains a high proportion of beginners.

- Licence sales of approximately 0.9 million for 1993 against the estimated potential 2.2 million points to a licence evasion rate of around 60%, and on the basis of this, unlicensed anglers could be as many as 1.3 million.



- This does not mean that 60% of the anglers fishing on any particular day do not have a valid licence. It does infer that 60% of those who fish for freshwater fish at some time in a year, do not have a valid licence.

Licence evasion is higher among anglers who fish infrequently and statistically the chances of a bailiff encountering them is correspondingly lower. This may explain why licence evasion among anglers as a whole differs widely from that recorded by NRA bailiffs in the field, which is generally around 5% - 10%.

This can be illustrated in the following way. Imagine a group of one hundred anglers. Half of them fish once a year and do not have a licence and the other half, who do have licences, fish once a week. On an average day, licence checking would detect one of the unlicensed anglers for every fifty licensed anglers – an apparent evasion rate of only 2%, although half of the group did not have a valid licence.

The example is very simplistic but it illustrates how, as a sampling technique, licence checking is heavily and unavoidably biased towards the frequent angler. It is not a good measure of licence evasion among all anglers.

Reasons given for non-possession of licence (none of which are legally acceptable).

- 1 in 3 said they did not fish often enough.
- 1 in 6 said they fished on private land.
- 1 in 6 said they did not know they needed one.

## Attitudes towards compulsory licence display

Compulsory display of licences by anglers when fishing is required in parts of the USA. The NRA has recently examined the concept of a similar requirement in England and Wales. Coarse and game anglers were asked about their views on the compulsory display of licences by anglers when fishing.

- 73% thought that it was a good or very good idea.
- 14% thought that it was a bad or very bad idea.
- Support for the idea was highest (77%) among juveniles (12-16) and those over 50 years.
- 65% thought that compulsory licence display would make anglers more likely to buy a licence.
- 40% of anglers currently without a licence said that they would be more likely to buy a licence if compulsory display was required.



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## GLOSSARY

*Mean:* The arithmetic mean or average. This is not always a good indication of the typical angler, as a small proportion of keen anglers may distort the picture, by fishing very frequently or travelling long distances.

*Median:* The mid point of the range of answers given by anglers in the survey. An indication of the typical angler; half the anglers gave answers greater than the median, half less.

*Game Angler:* A person who had fished for salmon or trout in the previous two years.

*Coarse Angler:* A person who had fished for freshwater fish other than salmon or trout in the previous two years.



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