

It's often hard in my line of work updating the website, as I spend most of my time in the water, however I do try to update my social media more regularly as it is much easier and current.

This winter I will have once again sold out of fish, and bearing in mind we have produced more again this year, I am pleased to see my stock going to good homes (mostly!).

2013 has been a busy year for my netting/fish capture services. I pride myself on results and my honesty with clients, and with more and more venues asking for my help, I still get a kick out of helping people with the development and management of their business.

Otter predation is causing many fisheries huge problems. Fencing can be unsightly and uneconomical but in some cases essential. I have always had the view that predation is simply a factor in fishery management that needs attention like any other. Owners must be aware and realistic about winged, furred and human predation at all times, and not just when it's too late.

The long summer helped us produce more carp, so winter 2014 will see us selling our batches of young carp to others. It's pointless making claims of weight gain because those that know me understand my thoughts! Put young healthy fish in the right environment and you start to see the potential. It's how I have developed my own fish farm, simple but effective. I have seen some fisheries try to dig stock ponds and buy in small fish to grow, and on occasions this has totally failed. They seem to favour pie in the sky pub talk to actual science and fact (common sense). When they waste so much money doing these daft things, I can't help wonder why they don't just ask for help from people that do it for a living?

My job is to help those that need it, with any fishery related matter. The portfolio of work I am proud of is growing each year, and I still love what I do (knees and back don't agree!!) and my passion often manifests itself as frustration with those that waste time and money on pointless things.

Lake construction, dredging and draining lakes is a specialised field. It's also something I have been doing for many years. If you are about to embark on such work, ask whoever you are considering to do the work for references, pictures, contacts. I have seen some awful work from dodgy operators this year. It simply costs more to put right when you have tried to save a few quid on the cheapest quote. Like most things it's a false economy trying to cut corners, and when dealing with any livestock, cutting corners is a recipe for failure.

Check my links to facebook and YouTube for recent updates and more information on managing your fisheries.

I wish all clients old and new a good Christmas and new year.

Andrew Ellis

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