Crazy weather has been a real pain with regard spawning fish, that said I have had a great deal of success, with the new batch of carp coming through.
I will be harvesting lots of quality Roach and Bream this winter, as well as small carp, but as always they sell fast, so if you are looking for stock this winter, its best to book now, even if you cancel later on, I'd rather have the order on file than have to let people down later.
Tench and Pure Crucian stocks are good, but they sell fast and I work on confirmed orders first.

I have been to many fisheries this year that have lost fish. Some due to heavy spawning combined with angling pressure (quite commonplace to lose a few if you stay open) and some large scale mortality.
This is nearly always down to stocking/mixing source waters. It is rarely a disease that wipes out stocks, people don't realise how easy it is to mess things up regarding stocking. I turn down a fair few orders each year because when I ask where the fish are being stocked, I find out it's a tiny commercial, already brimming with starved fish. These types of fisheries (many don't let people put loose feed in, or feed the fish themselves) are on a knife edge, so the last thing I will do is allow my stock to go in there, only to die, then the owner tries to blame my fish!!! I don't need that grief from naive people!

I have been on some lovely site visits doing consultancy so far this year, some with real potential to develop into great venues. Doing things properly from the start is crucial, and my honest and direct approach with clients has certainly paid off as I keep getting plenty of work!
It's always nice to be praised for what you do, I love my work, and am very passionate about all things fishy, so get annoyed with people who don't care, but try to run a venue badly. I don't think they should be able to operate. I have always said that I truly believe that with all the money both commercials and clubs spend on fish; they could afford to employ someone full time to develop their own stocks. I always encourage clients to eventually get their own nets, get their own equipment and become self sufficient.
Debeda lakes in Georgia, the Middle East are one such fishery I have had the pleasure of working on from scratch, and I am due back there soon with seine nets to teach them how to manage their own stocks properly. It's so easy when the client has the right attitude and is eager to learn and improve the fishery.

I am lucky to have students from the college where I studied (Sparsholt in Hampshire) come on work experience with me. I like to think they gain a lot. I have been doing this for many years now, and it's no surprise that one or two have tried to start up their own business.
I know I should find it flattering I suppose, but it's quite frustrating when someone tells you that your literature on YOUR website is copied from someone else's!!! There have been instances where I have read, almost word for word, paragraphs from my website on other peoples. I find this to be unfair because I wrote all the words myself, from my own personal experiences. I shouldn't let it bother me but I wouldn't want a potential client thinking that I had been the one to pinch literature!!

You might see me in the angling press over the coming months as I have started proper fishing again! I used to fish every day when I was a teenager, and of course still do, but this year I am making an effort to get out and get back into it. My good friend and angling writer Iain Macmillan is talking me on a few trips, as I get offered to go all over the place, but I don't like fishing places I have netted, or helped create! It kind of ruins the moment when you recognize the fish!

Well I hope everyone has a good summer, and if you are someone who is reading this that has a problem with their fishery, or has lost fish and doesn't know why, don't be too proud, get in touch, all clients treated with strict confidence.

Have a great summer.
ANDREW ELLIS