

After the very mild winter followed by the hot start to this summer, many venues and clubs suffered from both increased weed and mortality. I have been called to some horrendous sites to assess and sort out various problems, and all the while I keep making a strong point for utilising my basic and thorough approach to sustainable fishery management.

If you have a reasonably high biomass, but critically of a managed nature, you will have turbid water, this prevents sunlight penetrating the base so when done correctly you avoid most emergent's, and blue green algae. When I say a managed nature, I mean a stock of fish that you feed and crop annually. Too many people still cannot grasp that if you stock thousands of fish into an unproductive environment, then do all you can to not give them any food (from both natural and supplementary means) you won't achieve sustainable results. Whilst some who have had the benefit of professional help from the start, don't know any different so they take it for granted, which is just as bad!

Those that have taken a basic fishery development plan on board in the last few years have reaped the benefits, and whilst KHV has had a bumper summer, with more than 20 cases confirmed, with increased predation and blue green algae outbreaks, I can be happy with my clients that have taken on board a development plan and stuck with it. I understand that clubs have a committee that are all experts!, but how long can they continue running waters into the ground before they hold up their hands and accept the help that they often pay to hear!?

I don't claim to be an expert, but I do get frustrated when I hear total nonsense with regard fishery management. I know I probably lose some potential work due to my forward and direct approach, but to be honest I am not interested in working with dreamers. I am passionate about my business. It is all I have ever done, and I believe I have earned the positive comments I receive. I work hard throughout the year to help clients, but I am not a "yes" man. I won't agree with someone just to get a job. I have a portfolio of work to be proud of, and I have proven my methods over hundreds of waters across 2 decades. From tiny ponds to massive reservoirs, there is always a simple answer to any problem.

This year was the 100 year anniversary of Sparsholt College, Hampshire. The countries leading place to study fishery science. I was a student there 20 years ago, and have been honoured to have been asked to be a guest speaker four times, including this most recent centenary seminar.

My work is varied and I travel more each year. Far and wide, I am still learning, but the more I see the more I am convinced that what I believe to be a solid foundation to fishery development is the way forward.

With my ideas about supplementary feeding, now coming to life through my work with BP milling, and my increasing workload with angling clubs that are starting to realise that they actually need help (or someone to hold responsible for stocks!?) I am very happy in my work. This winter is already looking to be hectic, my fish will be ready for sale, after such a good growing season, and the venues I am working on will continue to benefit from my non biased, direct approach, backed up by the fact that I have genuine relevant experience from all over the country and beyond, from the last twenty years.

Predation, weed, disease, low oxygen. There are always quick fixes, liquids, products and services from people wanting your money. But when you want facts backed by experience in the field, I can help.