

Press release: North East man fined for illegal fishing

The Environment Agency is reminding anglers of the importance of having a rod licence after a County Durham man was fined for fishing illegally.

Dean Ferguson, 49, of Browning Hill, Coxhoe, failed to appear for his court hearing at Peterlee Magistrates' Court on Monday, 23 January.

In his absence he was fined £660, ordered to pay £127 costs and a victim surcharge of £66.

Intelligence-led patrols

Shortly before midnight on the night of Saturday 6 August 2016, Environment Agency Fisheries Enforcement Officers were carrying out intelligence-led patrols on the River Wear in Durham city.

They saw Ferguson start fishing in the river using a double-handed salmon rod, and almost immediately he had foul-hooked a sea trout, which means the fish was hooked somewhere other than in the mouth.

He was stopped by the officers who searched his vehicle, and found the foul-hooked fish. Ferguson also admitted he did not have a valid rod licence.

He was summonsed to appear at court for the offences. It's illegal to fish without a licence, and to fail to return to the water any fish that is foul-hooked.

'Vital' that anglers abide by law

Kevin Summerson, Fisheries Technical Specialist for the North East, said:

It's vital that anglers abide by the law to protect the future of the sport and the quality of our rivers and fisheries.

We won't hesitate to take action to stop illegal fishing and hopefully this will act as a deterrent for any angler thinking of cheating the system.

All the money raised from rod licence sales is used to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries, benefiting anglers.

Rod licence income funds improvements

During 2016 in the North East there were six serious fisheries offences resulting in £460 in fines and £600 costs, plus forfeiture of equipment and a crushed vehicle.

There were a further 54 offenders prosecuted for 59 rod licence offences resulting in fines of £14,327, with four offenders also given conditional discharges.

Anyone discovered committing offences could face a substantial fine at court.

All income from rod licence sales is used to fund Environment Agency work to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries, including improving habitats for fish and facilities for anglers, tackling illegal fishing and working with partners to encourage people to give fishing a go.

Buying a rod licence is quick and easy – you can buy them online at the [Post Office](#).

The Environment Agency urges anyone to report illegal fishing by calling 0800 80 70 60.

[News story: Civil news: automatic email confirmations for new applications](#)

From:

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Users working in the Client and Cost Management System (CCMS) will now receive email confirmations when submitting applications.

Email confirmations are now being sent out whenever a logged in CCMS user makes an application for new work.

You have to be using your own log-in to receive an email. It should also be noted that email confirmations will only be triggered when an initial application is submitted.

Where there is more than one stage to your application then the email confirmation will only be sent out for the first part e.g. first stage only for dual emergency applications and not the substantive amendment.

Why have we made this change?

1. Feedback from users shows that they would like to know we have received

their applications straight away.

2. We want to reduce the number of calls we receive from providers to see if we have received an application. This will mean extra time for our staff to focus on processing your work.

Further information

[CCMS training website](#) – for guidance about online working

President of India's message on the eve of National Day of Australia

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President attends National Voters' Day Celebrations

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MoU signed between POWERGRID and Abu Dhabi Water & Electricity Authority (ADWEA)

Al Suwaidi, Managing Director, Abu Dhabi Distribution Co. (UAE) and Shri Anil Mehra, Executive Director- International Business, POWERGRID in the presence of Shri I.S Jha CMD, POWERGRID and Senior officials from both sides.