



Environment
Agency

be prepared for a dry summer: protect fish and other wildlife

Extended periods of hot, dry weather can lead to ponds, lakes and rivers drying up.



A number of dead bream



A pond drying up



Green water typifying an algal bloom



Protecting fish using water aerators

Following these simple guidelines will help to avoid emergency situations.

Good practice

- During hot weather avoid stocking fish, cutting weed or using aquatic herbicides.
- Manage numbers of anglers fishing and consider restricting the use of keepnets and groundbait.
- Know about your local water aeration and fish rescue contractors; have access to aeration equipment to help save fish in an emergency.
- For legal reasons ensure that valid fish removal and introduction consents are in place prior to any fish rescue, as well as a fish health certificate if required.
- Review the long-term management of lakes and ponds to help reduce the effects of hot and dry weather in the future.
- Contact your local Environment Agency office for further advice if needed.

What to look for

- Long periods of hot, dry weather.
- Low water levels in rivers, lakes and ponds.
- Green coloured water (algal bloom).

What is an emergency?

- Groups of fish clearly in distress 'gassing' at the water surface.
- Numbers of dead or dying fish.

What you should do in an emergency

- Rivers, lakes and ponds – contact the Environment Agency in an emergency using the incident hotline number given below, and if possible alert the owner.
- Ornamental and garden ponds that are not fished – it is the owner's responsibility to resolve an emergency.

Responsibility

- The Environment Agency has a duty to maintain, improve and develop fisheries. We provide advice to fishery owners, managers, angling clubs and the public.
- Fishery owners and managers are advised to plan ahead to protect their fisheries.

For advice call

08708 506 506

In an emergency call (24 hrs incident hotline)

0800 80 70 60