

Hi Mark

Please see attached responses to the question you have raised regarding angling on the river Itchen and Southampton Sea Angling club.

### **Southampton Sea Angling Club**

Southampton Sea Angling Club was started in 1935 and is still going strong. We currently have around 50 adult members and around 10 Junior anglers and cater for anglers of all abilities. We are a very friendly club and all help each other. We regularly fish on the river Itchen in the form of roving competitions along with boat competitions, so not only do we fish on the river Itchen Banks but also on the water itself.

We currently have a boat compound which is situated at Cross House Car Park on Cross House Road, this currently houses around 25 anglers fishing boats which are regularly used. This is a perfect location as we have access of two slipways, one which is shared with the other Sea Angling club (Shirley Sea Angling Club), the Sea Scouts and two rowing clubs. The other slipway is the public slipway which is the public slipway which is by far the best slipway in Southampton being one that can be used in most tidal states. This is also used by some of our members who travel down to Southampton with their boats on trailers. You also need to remember, that whilst we have around 60 members, this only makes a tiny majority of anglers who fish and use the river Itchen, with many, many more who do not belong to fishing clubs also benefitting from living in and around Southampton and having access to the water.

### **Issues Facing Anglers**

Some of the issues and challenges we face are all the housing developments being built by the water. These were areas that we have fished over the years, but since the new developments have been built, fishing is actively discouraged by the security guards, Ocean village being a prime example. While technically we are still legally allowed to fish there as it is a public right of way, the security guards are adamant that we are not! I see fishing has been actively discouraged down on the new development Centenary Quay, despite it being a perfect place for Angling. I note that planning permission has also been granted for a hotel and new flats to be built on Town Quay. This is currently a very popular spot for angling due to the ease of access to the water and easy parking. No doubt when the developments have been built it will go the same way as other developments where anglers will be forced to leave and not fish there.

Fishing is the most participated sport in the country. This was acknowledged and identified by central government as after all the Covid restrictions, Angling in all of its various forms was one of the first things that we could go back to due to the benefits on mental health and wellbeing.

Flood defences – How can these be built without impeding access to the water, especially around the slipways and beaches? Building the proposed sea defences will obviously

impede access the existing slipways and anglers spots. Anglers with disabilities will now have even fewer spots to fish.

Introducing more Bivalves into the river, how can these be managed so they do not become widespread and in fact become a nuisance. Certain beaches are now already difficult to fish as for example rock oysters have very sharp edges, which is danger when bait collecting and also when fishing as it will cut the anglers fishing line?

My question to you councillors, is what are you doing and can you do to protect our rights to fish our local shores and actively encouraging anglers to go fishing? It appears so far in all consultations and information provided, angling both on the river and along the banks of the river Itchen appear to have been overlooked and is something that I would like to see addressed.

Thanks

Bill Baynes  
Chairman Southampton Sea Angling Club