

Newsletter: Weedcutting in Watercourses

May 2019

Overview

The Environment Agency will be commencing our weedcutting programme in your local Parish from the 16th June 2019 on the River Torne. We start from this date to ensure that we do not impact spawning fish during the "close season" (15th March to 15th June). The timing of the work on particular stretches of the river depends on personnel and machinery availability, weather and flow conditions.



This newsletter has been produced to provide information on our weedcutting operations, and contact details if you would like to find out any further information.

Why do we cut the weed?

Aquatic weed control is important for maintaining the River Torne. If weed is left to grow unchecked, it can restrict the river channel and cause increased siltation, which impedes the river capacity and flow.

Detached weed can also collect around bridge structures and flood defence assets, and this has the potential to block pumps and sluices causing a flood risk.

How do we cut the weed?

We use weedcutting boats on the River Torne to control the weed. Because our weedcutting operations have the potential to disturb habitats and mobilise silts, we follow a weedcutting matrix which helps us to plan and monitor any potential impacts. We also work in partnership with our internal fisheries and biodiversity teams to ensure that we assess and control our risks.

Once the weed has been cut, it is allowed to float downstream to controlled collection points where it is removed from the river.

Upon removal, the cut weed is inspected to check for fish and eels, with any found being placed back in the river. The weed is then periodically removed from the collection point.

Contact details

For further information on our weedcutting operations programme, please contact EMDenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Customer contact 03708 506 506

Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60