

# The Anglers Database Newsletter

[www.AnglersDatabase.com](http://www.AnglersDatabase.com)

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## Anglers Database v1.3 Launched

We are pleased to announce the launch of version 1.3 of The Anglers Database. This version includes a number of features and a fix to version 1.2 of the system. These are:

1. The 'Link to Image' Icon has the Link Name displayed underneath it in the same way Swim Icons have Swim Names under them.

2. The User Guide, Sample database and Sample Images are included in the Anglers Database installer. New options appear on the initial screen to 'Launch User Guide' and 'Sample Database'. These facilities are also in the Help function on the Menu Bar.

4. The 'Fit to Screen' option is included in the Image Size drop-down on the Icon Bar.

5. A new function called 'Launch Link' has been added to the drop-down that appears when right-clicking on a Swim or Fishing Mark Icon. This function will launch the first entry in the Links field. This first entry might be an alternative Image of the Swim or Fishing Mark for example.

6. A new analysis report has been added which lists the Sessions that have occurred between two dates in a year over a number of years. The

intention of this report is to allow you to see any patterns that occur in your Sessions at the same time (between two days and months – dd/mm's) each year.

7. To make the Length and Weight fields clearer to understand, in decimal point terms, their descriptions have been altered. For example 'Depth of Water e.g. 18.50'. This cosmetic change will show that the data can be to two decimal places.

8. Large Image sizes have sometimes caused problems in the system. This has been fixed in version 1.3.

9. A new version of The User Guide which includes all the changes in version 1.3

See page 2 for details on how to download and install version 1.3 of The Anglers Database which is free to all existing customers.

### Important Message about Version 1.3

If you use Images on the system then please read the section on page 3 about Image Management before installing the new version.

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### Special points of interest:

- *A new version of The Anglers Database.*
- *Version 1.3 Download and Installation*
- *Windows'98 and Me No Longer Supported*

## Version 1.3 Download and Installation

To install the new version of The Anglers Database please do as follows:

- Backup your data, just in case of a fault or problem during installation. Instructions for backing up your data can be found on the website on the 'tips and advice' page or in The User Guide.
- Uninstall the current version (1.1 or 1.2) of The Anglers Database. Uninstalling the system can be done by going to the 'Control Panel' and selecting 'Add or Remove Programs'. Alternatively you can run the 'Setup.exe' on the CD you purchased or you can double-click on the AnglersDatabase1\_3.msi. or AnglersDatabase.msi. Then select the 'Remove' option.

## Windows'98 and Me No Longer Supported

We have reluctantly taken the decision to no longer support The Anglers Database on Windows'98 and Me operating systems. This is for two reasons:

- Achieving one single system which addressed complex issues in both Windows'98/Me and XP was proving technically more demanding and time consuming to the point where it has become commercially non-viable.
- Microsoft have decided not to provide public and technical support from 11/7/2006 (which we require for The Anglers Database). This includes security updates for Windows'98/Me. Microsoft claim that they are outdated and can expose customers to security risks. They recommend that customers who are still running Windows 98 or Windows Me upgrade to a newer, more secure Microsoft operating system, such as Windows XP or Vista, as soon as possible.

Those of you who remain using Windows'98 and Me can continue to use version 1.2 of The Anglers Database which is fully compatible with these Operating Systems. However, if you experience problems that are related to the operating system we will do all we can to help but we can't guarantee we will be able to resolve them.



- Install the new version (1.3) of the system. Ensure that the system is installed in the same folder as the original (usually 'Anglers Database' under 'C:\Program Files') so that it picks up your existing data and Activation Code.

If you should experience any problems then please do not hesitate to contact us by Email to 'AsktheExpert@AnglersDatabase.com'.

## Windows Vista

Windows new operating system which is a replacement for Windows XP (called Vista) has been launched. We will obtain a copy with a view to testing The Anglers Database v1.3 on it in 2007. This is to ensure that the system is compatible with MS Vista. We expect that the systems will be compatible but until we have thoroughly tested it we won't know for sure. We will of course continue to support The Anglers Database on Windows XP for the foreseeable future. For news on the Windows Vista and The Anglers Database compatibility please visit [www.AnglersDatabase.com](http://www.AnglersDatabase.com) regularly.

## New Articles

Two new articles are available on the website (Articles Page). These are:

### Using Images

A exploration of the various sources of Images available to the angler, their preparation and use.

### Sea Angling

How The Anglers Database can be utilised by the Sea Angler.

## Version 1.3 and Image Size Management

The Anglers Database allows you to use Images on which Swim and Fishing Mark Icons can be placed. As larger Images are becoming available from digital cameras and scanners, version 1.2 of the system was finding it difficult to cope with these. We had a report of problems occurring when images were too large for the system.

If you haven't experienced any problems with your Images then you can read this article for information only as these changes will not effect your current Images.

However, we have responded to this report of a problem by enhancing the system so that it can cope with large Images in a more robust and reliable fashion than was possible in the past. In fact Images of any size can be used in the system. To do this we have had to make some changes.

### Large Image Size Warnings

The system is more cautious when dealing with Images. When using an Image (Creating a Main Image, following a Link to an Image, Launching the system with a large Image on the Desktop) the system will check the Image size first. On the rare occasions the image is too big for the system to handle then a warning message will be displayed. It will say "The Image you have tried to use is too large for the system. Can we resize the Image? If you choose this option the system will back up the original Image in the same folder. The system will close and in doing so may show a fatal error. Don't worry if it does, please restart the system. No damage will be done to your data or Images whether you choose to resize the Image or not".

If you choose to accept the resizing so that the Image can be used in the system a copy of the original Image will be made and stored in the same folder. If you don't like the resizing that the system has done then you can resize the copy of the original to suite your preferences. Once the copy of the original is taken the system will close down.

If you choose not to accept the resizing option then the system will close down.

The system has to close down after finding an Image that is to large for it to handle. In the process of closing down, the system may display an operating system fatal error message. Do not be alarmed. Your data and Images are safe and you can re-launch The Anglers Database as soon as you wish.

### Resizing Images

To resize Images there are a number of software tools. Often you will receive Image editing software with your Scanner or Digital Camera such as 'PhotoImpression', 'PicturePackage', 'Zoom Browser', 'Adobe Photoshop Album' or MS Office Picture Manager (with MS Office XP). In addition MS Windows XP comes with 'MS Paint'. There is free software available on the internet for editing Images such as Picasa (<http://picasa.google.com/>) or GIMP ([www.gimp.org](http://www.gimp.org)). These software packages will often let you perform some basic photo editing and enhancing such as cropping, altering the contrast, hue, sharpness and sizing the Images. One of the main facilities you might wish to use is that of cropping the Image so that it retains an aspect ratio close to 67%. By all means experiment with these functions but we would advise that you do so on a copy of the image so that no permanent damage is done to the original.

There are limits to the Image size which the system can handle. We recommend that the Image size not exceed 2600 pixels (width) by 2000 pixels (height). This comes to approximately 4 Mbytes in size for .jpg Images.

### More Information

There is an article available on the website called 'Using Images' which provides more information on Image preparation and use.

Also, The User Guide has more details on Image size management in section in Section 6—Using Images.

If you experience any problems then you can contact us at 'asktheexpert@AnglersDatabase.com' and we will respond quickly to your questions.



# One Persons Experience Using The Anglers Database

A keen user of The Anglers Database recently told us how he had used the system to capture and keep his records. During an exchange of E-mails exploring this with him we received permission to publish his experience.

## Background

The angler had paper records going back to 1990. These records contained basic information about the water, swim, session (dates, times, weather) and capture/runs (methods, baits, water conditions). This would be captured on one side of a pre-printed A4 form. On the reverse of the form he did a sketch of the swim on which would be added depths, features and where the baits were placed (Marks).

The information captured on the forms was not as comprehensive as that of The Anglers Database but that didn't stop him using the system to record the information for analysis purposes.

## Data Entry

Data entry was done in two stages. Firstly, the forms would be collated for each Water. He then entered the Water, Swim, Fishing Mark, Session, Capture/Run and Catch data into the system using the 'Insert/Amend' toolbar approach. Secondly, to capture the features and depths of the swims, diagrams were drawn up with this information marked on them such as the depth of water and features like drop-offs. The diagrams were then scanned and used as Images on the system (for Swim and Fishing Mark Icons to be placed on). The 'Add Swim to Image' completed the process by adding Swim and Fishing Mark icons to the Images. Photographs were added as links to the Water and Swim records so he could see a clearer view of the water when necessary.

During the process of entering the information about the Sessions he was reminded of the outings and realized that there were Swims he had not fished at all and others he had not visited for a while and were perhaps due a visit using different baits and methods.

The above process that he followed occupied a number of Autumn and Winter evenings when fishing was not possible.

The preparation of the diagrams and input of all the data from over a hundred Sessions was time consuming he admits. It took three months in total though he did not apply himself to it every evening or weekend. But it was well worth it.

## Learnings

When fishing for Pike, for example, he used a different bait on each rod. Knowing this he used the Analysis Reports to explore the data and found that:

- On one Water the majority of the bigger Pike were taken 12 to 15 years ago and that the average size of the Pike caught has fallen over the last four years.
- On another Water the opposite is true though this may be due to the added focus it has received in the last few years.
- One Water showed a significant percentage (approx. 40%) of all takes leading to 'Runs (No Fish Landed)' which has prompted a rethink of his approach to this Water.
- Across all Waters in excess of 70% of the 'Runs (No Fish Landed)' occurred on Eel Section and Lamprey Sections. Changes are being made to the hooking methods for these baits to convert more runs into fish landed.
- Across all Waters Eel Section was the most popular bait with Pike followed by Mackerel, Lamprey Section and Smelt. The need to improve the hooking method on Eel and Lamprey sections is therefore important. However, Mackerel accounted for the majority of bigger Pike.
- On one Water in particular Smelt out-fished the other baits in terms of the size of the Fish landed.
- It became clear which waters and swims produce lower than average size fish. This doesn't mean that they will be avoided altogether in the future, just that they may not be fished as regularly. Particularly where a water has produced above average fish. In this case the swims that produce lower than average fish will not be fished as frequently.
- Some swims had not been visited for four or more years. In that time methods, presentation and baits had been improved or changed and hence they deserved another visit.

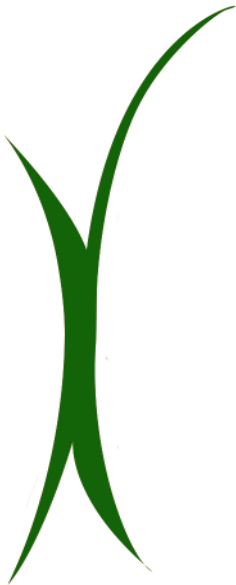
The analysis above has brought a new perspective to his angling. It has given him a new set of approaches to pursue in terms the Waters and Swims he fishes and Baits and Methods he uses. All aimed at improving catch rates and size of fish caught.



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The Anglers Database

We at Angling Systems Are committed to the development of The Anglers Database as the best anglers log for the UK Coarse Angler.

Launched in December 2004 the system will continue to be improved to meet the needs of the Coarse Angling community be they specialist, match or pleasure.

If you want to know more about us or the system then Email me at [Enquiries@AnglersDatabase.com](mailto:Enquiries@AnglersDatabase.com)

Ian Baldie, Director

## Your Feedback

Most of the changes in Version 1.3 of The Anglers Database are as a response to yours and others feedback. We are grateful for this interest and all your views on the system. If you have any comments on the system and how you feel it can be improved then please Email us at:

[Enquiries@AnglersDatabase.com](mailto:Enquiries@AnglersDatabase.com)

Also, if you have found The Anglers Database particularly useful and don't mind sharing this with us then please let us know at the same Email address.

Lastly, if you have used The Anglers Database and found it has improved your angling or added another aspect to it and you are prepared to share your experience in the next Newsletter then please Email your story to me at:

[Enquiries@AnglersDatabase.com](mailto:Enquiries@AnglersDatabase.com)

