

# **Manifesto for Angling Angling Trust April 2010**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Angling Trust is the representative body for all game, coarse and sea anglers in England and the national governing body for angling. The Trust is seeking manifesto commitments from all the major political parties in advance of the forthcoming General Election to support angling in the next Parliament and to acknowledge the economic, environmental and social benefits that the country's most popular pursuit offers to the British people.

More than 3 million anglers contribute at least £3.5 billion to the economy each year. Tens of thousands of people are employed in angling and its related industries. Game and sea angling represent significant opportunities for anglers to catch their own dinner in a sustainable manner. Angling provides huge benefits for health, education and well being to people of all ages, and it is often the only outdoor activity easily available to urban communities suffering deprivation. Anglers invest millions of hours of volunteer time into the maintenance and improvement of water environments by clearing litter, restoring habitats and monitoring pollution.

The realisation of all these important societal benefits requires Government and its agencies to assist in protecting the rights of anglers, the health of our fisheries and support for increasing participation.

## **THE MANIFESTO**

Over the next Parliament, Britain's three million plus anglers expect Government action to:

### **Promote Angling**

- Promote the benefits of angling for the environment and individuals;
- Promote angling in order to bring new people to the sport;
- Provide support for national and international angling competitions;
- Assist in the development of further programmes to increase participation, particularly amongst groups who have yet to discover the joys of angling;
- Continue government funding to develop the sport from grass roots participation through to elite performance;
- Encourage Local Authorities to open waters under their control to angling

### **Recognise the Rights of Anglers**

- Ensure that government and its agencies recognise and support angling interests;
- Ensure that angling is fully represented in all relevant executive and advisory bodies;
- Provide clear information to anglers about how their rod licence monies are being used;

- Protect the rights of all anglers to fish without fear of harassment and disruption;
- Recognise that voluntary access agreements are the only way to manage an increase in water based recreation on inland waters;
- Recognise that anglers have a direct interest in the health and management of sea fish stocks.

### **Create Healthy Angling Environments**

- Improve the freshwater and marine environment for fish and anglers by implementing the Water Framework Directive and Marine Framework Strategy Directive;
- Remove and ease barriers to fish migration in rivers and stop others being built;
- Tackle diffuse agricultural and urban pollution, reduce the demands on water resources and naturalise rivers to allow adaptation to climate change;
- Develop action plans and research programmes to tackle invasive non-native species such as signal crayfish, floating pennywort, giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and mink.
- Reverse the decline in marine fish stocks and develop a recovery plan for a sustainable marine fishery at historic stock levels;
- Allow fishery managers to control populations of cormorants and goosanders at sustainable levels;
- Support measures to develop whole ecosystem sustainable balances between predators and prey.

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

[INSERT PARTY NAME] recognise the economic, environmental and recreational contribution made by angling to the community and we promise not just to protect but also to take positive steps to enhance and promote Britain's most popular pastime.

Under a  [INSERT PARTY NAME] party government, the Angling Trust will continue to enjoy good access to ministers and will remain valued stake holders as we seek to improve the aquatic environment and encourage more people to go fishing for fun and relaxation.

Signed

Name

Date