

🚩 pike season opening 🚩

## Conserving Canal Pike by Roy Webster.

“The only good pike is a dead one!”

In the not too distant past that was the populist verdict of many dedicated course fish anglers whose unqualified opinion was keenly supported by bigoted angling correspondents in national magazines and indeed in our own local press calling for a massive pike cull, not to mention the secret band of unlawful long liners wreaking havoc among local fisheries. But now the North Walsham, Dilham Canal Trust members are setting a welcome example of pike preservation on the waters under their control.

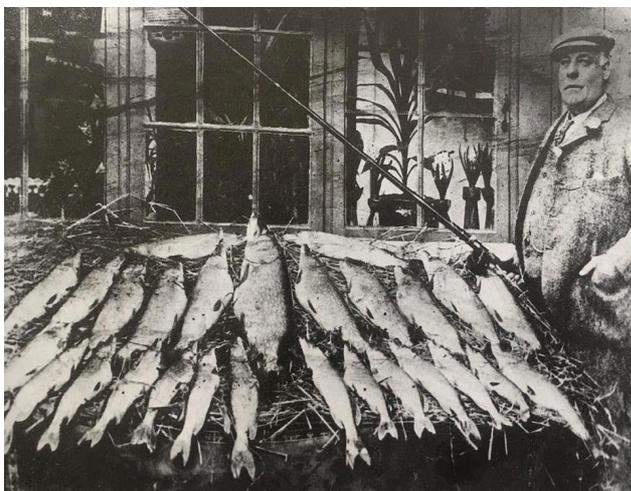
Between the wars and since, literally thousands of East Norfolk's prime piscatorial predator have passed through the nation's fish markets to satisfy a ready demand for the species in the domestic wet fish trade and specialist restaurants.

Weak bylaws that permitted rod and line fishermen to take away any two sizeable pike per day also attracted former beach casters and long liners whose cod quarry stock off the North Norfolk coast had become virtually exhausted. These pike poachers could gross a tidy week's income from a dozen or so hefty fish transported to Billingsgate's specialist fish merchants or supplied to local fishmongers and restaurants.

The most recent extensive popular revamp of the freshwater fishery bylaws since the turn of the century now allows an angler just one pike not exceeding 65 centimetres (approximately 5 lbs) to be lawfully retained per day. But it does not require a maths genius to calculate a fishery could be losing its pinnacle predator at an unacceptable rate of seven fish per angler per week.

The Owners and Trustees of the North Walsham and Dilham Canal are unanimously opposed to all forms of course fish retention and maltreatment in and out of the water. And as the new pike season opens 1st October anglers are reminded that the NWD Canal Trust insists the special pike fishing rules listed below must be followed implicitly to the letter.

The Trusts Fisheries' Officer Tom is confident they will be and wishes all pike enthusiasts “TIGHT LINES” during their new season. He is pleased that the majority of our anglers respect the rules.



Picture caption -

“Are you lot ready for market?”

“Don't tell him pike”