

Chapter 3 Site by site survey

Six of the thirty-four meres had been surveyed once each by the NRA (or its predecessor organisation) since October 1985. One (Brown Moss) had been subject to fyke netting, though this mere has now dried up and the fishery is non-existent. The other meres were surveyed using echosounding, which does not identify fish to species or enable population estimates to be obtained. Three of the surveys were carried out in response to perceived low fish stocks by angling clubs (Croze Mere, Marton Pool SSSI and White Mere. One survey was carried out to test new echosounding equipment (Bomere), whilst for another (Ellesmere), no reason for the survey is given. According to the NRA, these fisheries cannot be assessed by conventional techniques such as netting, electric fishing and echosounding.

The fishing rights for nineteen of the thirty-one meres had been let to angling clubs. Twenty angling clubs held fishing leases for the meres, with most meres being let to a single body of anglers. Tabley Mere differed as it was fished by eight different groups of anglers. Of the twenty angling bodies, seventeen were helpful and returned questionnaires. One club thought that there was no point as it did not fish the mere any more, whilst two clubs did not want to cooperate in case any information provided led to a rent increase. Four meres (Betley, Betton, Marton Pool SSSI and Tatton) were directly controlled by the landowner on a day-ticket basis. There was no fishing in five of the meres (Bar, Mere, Little, Norbury & Rostherne). Three of the meres were fished very occasionally by the landowners (Maer, Oak, Quoisely) and one presently contains no fish (Brown Moss).

Data quality

The returned questionnaires provided qualitative data, the accuracy and bias of which cannot be known or cross-checked. Anglers recollections of caught fish are notoriously subjective and this may lead to an exaggeration of fish numbers or sizes. Moreover, as the financial value of the fishery is related to the amount of fish present, some clubs, fearing increased rent if they reveal the true number, may underestimate the fish stocks. The exact definition of small, medium and large is open to different interpretations, even if it is quantified by size or weight. The abundance scale of absent, scarce, present in moderate or large numbers is, again, open to different interpretations. As fish numbers are based on angler catches, species not sought (eg eels) may be underestimated, whilst those that are popular (and easy

to catch) may be overestimated. It is also likely that the estimated abundance of each fish species size-category will be influenced by a preconceived notion of what levels of fish should occur. Results from all sources are presented on a mere by mere basis. Data on abundance are collected together in tabular form (Table 1).

Aqualate Mere (NGR SJ 772304)

Angling Club

Pre 1993

Potteries Angling Club
Mr D. Heath (secretary)
180 Broadway
Meir
Stoke on Trent

0782 332605 (home)

Post 1993

Mr Duncan Biddle (secretary)
Rod and Gun Company
3 High St
Dawley
Telford

0952 503550 (work)

Data Available

Returned questionnaire by Potteries AC and Mr Duncan Biddle.

Fish community

Roach, bream, perch, pike and eels appear to be most abundant in this mere, with lesser numbers of other species including carp, ruffe, tench and dace. The angling clubs think that the fish density is high.

Stocking

In 1982, 800, 8-12cm, carp were stocked. Potteries AC suspect that these fish suffered heavy mortality and only a few survived.

Fishing practices

Eels can be fished-for all year, though coarse fishing is only allowed between 16 June and 14 March. . Much of the bank is inaccessible and fishing is from up to twenty boats. Prior to 1993, the fishing intensity was about 600 person-days per year, mainly between September and February. Fewer anglers fish the mere now. There was fishing for roach, bream and perch using lots of groundbait and maggots, worms or sweetcorn. There was much fishing for pike in winter using fish as bait. Many pike were caught with up to 40 in a day from a boat containing three anglers. Presently , the fishing intensity is less than 10 person-days per week throughout the year. These anglers fish for large

bream and pike. There is a commercial fishery for eels, though catch data are not available.

Bar Mere (NGR SJ 537479)

Angling Club

No fishing is allowed by Cholmondeley Estate.

Mr Robin Buxton (Estate Manager)

Estate Office

Cholmondeley Estate

Malpas

Cheshire

ST14 8EZ

0829 720203 (work)

Data Available: None

Berrington Pool (NGR SJ 525072)

Angling Club

Mr George Wallace (secretary)

Marford Mill

Rossett

Wrexham

Clwyd

0244 570881 (work)

Data Available

A completed questionnaire by Mr Wallace.

Fish community

Bream, roach, perch and pike are caught in this fishery. Other fish species present are rudd and tench. The fish density is thought by the anglers to be low.

Stocking

There is no documentation of stocking of this mere. It is suspected by the anglers that the gamekeeper introduced a few small tench in the 1970s.

Fishing practices

The water is open for fishing for the coarse season (16 June to 14 March) and there are typically four to five person-days of fishing per week, though this decreases in winter. Large bream are the quarry in summer and autumn, whilst pike are sought in winter. No competitions are held

Betley Mere (NGR SJ 749479)

Angling Club

Pre 1992

Rists Angling Club

Mr K. Johnson (secretary)

Grunenwald

68 Woodland Rd

Thurlwood

Rode Heath

Stoke on Trent

0270 878210

and also pre 1992

Alsager Anglers

Mr G.F. Gaze (secretary)

47 Coronation Av

Alsager

Stoke on Trent

ST7 2JU

Post 1992

Day Ticket only available from the farmer, Mr F. Speed.

Data Available

A survey was carried out in 1979 by Keele University. A questionnaire was returned by Rists AC, which have fished the mere for 20 years. The information below is based on angling experience upto 1992.

Fish community

There were large numbers of bream, small carp, pike and medium-sized roach. Other species present in lesser numbers include gudgeon, rudd, tench, trout and chub. Keele University, in 1979, seine netted the western shore and caught only two perch. They also used gill netting and caught 28 perch (11.2 - 28.8 cm) and 2 roach (16.2 and 18.6 cm). Effort in terms of mesh size, net size and number of fishings was not recorded. At present, it is thought that the fishery will be similar to that in 1992 and moderate in biomass.

Stocking

An undocumented number and size of carp were stocked in the early 1960s. In the early 1980s, there was a fish kill, shortly after

which 1000, 10-16 cm bream and 1500, 8-12 cm perch were stocked.

Fishing practices

The season runs from 16 June to 14 March, with fishing from about 75% of the bank or from three boats. Prior to 1992 the mere was little fished, with 5-10 person-days of fishing per week during the summer and 5-15 in the winter. Occasional competitions were held by Rists AC. In summer, the fishing was mainly for tench, roach and bream using large amounts of groundbait and maggots, bread and worms. Specimen anglers used to fish for carp with bread, worm and boiled paste baits. In winter, there is the occasional angler fishing for bream and carp, though the majority fish for pike using artificial lures or fish as bait. It is expected that fishing practices have changed little since 1992.

Betton Pool NGR SJ 511079

Angling Club

Mr V. Bromley runs a day ticket fishery
Betton Abbots Farm
Shrewsbury
SY5 6JD

0743 761248 (home)

Data Available

A questionnaire was returned by Mr Bromley, but this comprised only a species list.

Fish community

Species present are thought to be bream, carp, eel, perch, pike, roach and tench.

Fishing practices

Not known.

Bomere (NGR SJ 500080)

Angling Club

Mr Matt Stevens (secretary)
Toll Cottage
Little Stretton
Church Stretton
Shropshire
SY6 7AQ

0694 724161 (home)

0694 722475 (work)

Data Available

Returned questionnaire by Mr Matt Stevens and an echosounder survey by Severn-Trent Water Authority carried out on 29 April 1987.

Fish community

Roach, bream and pike are thought to be numerically dominant, though other species are also present such as carp, eels, perch, rudd, tench, trout and chub. The angling club think that the fish density is low, but Water Authority survey results from 1987 suggested a moderate number of large fish. These two observations may not be mutually exclusive as the use of echosounding techniques to detect fish is not, as yet, fully developed for freshwater fisheries and the results may be spurious.

Stocking

There has been no stocking by this club. Some anglers use live fish as bait to catch pike, and, at the end of the fishing session, may release unused baitfish into the water. This is illegal, as all fish introductions need NRA consent, though widespread, and is thought to be responsible for the presence of trout and chub.

Fishing practices

The season is open all year, though in the period 15 March to 15 June, only eels can be angled for. The syndicate possessing fishing rights for this mere tends to fish for carp in the summer and pike in the winter, using boiled paste baits for the former and fish for the latter. The angler pressure is low, about seven to eight person-days per week in summer dropping to about two in winter. There are no competitions held.

Brown Moss (NGR SJ 561395)

Angling Club

No angling at present, as the water level is now too low for fish to survive. When the water level was high enough to allow fishing, day tickets could be obtained from the warden, Mr Robert Daniels 0691 623323.

Data Available

The Severn-Trent Water Authority carried out exploratory fyke netting on 12 May 1987. Ratcliffe (1977) reported carp, tench and pike to be present. English Nature hold a copy of the Brown Moss management plan.

We also had a conversation with Mr Robert Daniels, the site warden employed by Shropshire County Council.

Fish community

At present, there are no fish in the pools, according to Mr Robert Daniels. The NRA found that in pool 6, crucian carp were present in large numbers, together low numbers of perch, common carp and roach. The biomass density was thought to be high.

Stocking

No known data on stocking.

Fishing practices

No fishing at the moment. Historically, this was a popular fishery with upto 230 person-days of fishing per week in summer, according to the Brown Moss Management Plan.

Chapel Mere (NGR SJ 541519)

Angling Club

The fishing is controlled by the Cholmondeley Estate.

Mr Robin Buxton (estate Manager)

Estate Office

Cholmondeley Estate

Malpas

Cheshire

ST14 8EZ

0829 720203 (work)

Data Available

The returned questionnaire was only partially completed and comprised just a list of fish that were caught.

Fish community

Tench (up to 4.5kg), bream (upto 4.5kg) and pike (upto 5.5kg) are caught in this mere. These fish species are thought to be present in moderate numbers.

Stocking

There has been no stocking to the knowledge of the anglers.

Fishing practices

The season is open from 1 March to 31 October, and fishing is from one of three boats. The intensity is not known.

Cole Mere (NGR SJ 434333)

Angling Club

Stoke on Trent Angling Club
Mr A. Perkins (secretary)
Muirshearlich
Fowlers Lane
Light Oaks
Stoke on Trent
ST2 7NB

0782 541500 (home)

Data Available

Returned questionnaire by Stoke on Trent AC and reference to Reynolds (1979) and Goldspink (1981, 1983) and Goldspink & Goodwin (1979). Also an undergraduate report from the University of Wolverhampton.

Fish community

The main species are roach and perch along with a few large bream. Other species include carp, eels, pike, tench, bullheads and stone loach. The present fish density is thought to be low by the angling club

Stocking

In 1977, 500, 10-15cm, roach were stocked along with 500, 10-15cm, tench.

Fishing practices

The mere is open to fishing all year round, with the coarse fish season running 16 June to 14 March. Only eels can be angled-for when the coarse fish season is closed. This fishery receives a low angling intensity, with typical values being eight person-days per week in the summer and autumn and about four in winter and spring. Fishing is allowed from about half of the bank, though in reality this is much reduced by the presence of vegetation. No boats are allowed. Pleasure anglers fish for roach and perch using maggots, bread and sweetcorn, whilst specimen anglers use similar methods, though with greater quantities of bait, to catch large bream in autumn. Worms or fish are used to catch eels in spring. In winter, most anglers use fish baits to catch pike. There are no matches held.

The angling club expresses some concern over "excessive numbers of Sea Gulls which appear to come from a nearby landfill site and

number 20-25 000 every night obviously bringing disease and parasites to the water". They are also worried about cormorants, which allegedly predate upon fish stocks.

Summary of scientific literature

Reynolds (1979) - ruffe used to be present.

Goldspink and Goodwin (1979) - large sized individual perch (up to 40cm)

Goldspink (1981) - a large population of bream, which were infected with Ligula intestinalis (a parasite with its alternative host in gulls).

Goldspink (1983) - subjectively estimated the density to be 50 kg ha⁻¹.

Comber Mere (NGR SJ 586445)

Angling Club

Mr David Orrell (secretary)

Mill Farm

Petlow

Shropshire

TF9 3JS

0952 541678 (home)

Data Available

A questionnaire returned by Mr Orrell.

Fish community

Pike, perch and roach are the main species in this fishery together with fewer numbers of bream, carp, eels and tench. The fish density is thought to be low by the angling club.

Stocking

The angling club have no knowledge of any stocking, by themselves or former fishing clubs.

Fishing practices

The mere is open to fishing all year round. Angling pressure is about 6 person-days in spring, 12 in summer, 15 in autumn and 6 in winter. About 70% of the lake is fishable from the bank and four boats are allowed. All the anglers are specimen hunters and fish for either large eels (spring), tench and bream (summer and autumn) or pike in the winter. Eels are angled-for with worm or fish as baits. High quantities of maggots, worms, sweetcorn and cereal/breadcrumb based groundbait are used to catch tench and bream. Pike are caught using artificial lures or fish as bait.

Cop Mere (NGR SJ 802298)

Angling Club

GEC Angling Club

Mr Gallear (secretary)

13 Elsdon Rd

Stafford

0785 59044 (home)

Data Available

A returned questionnaire by GEC AC. Information was also available from notes of discussions between EN and GEC AC.

Fish community

It would seem that there is a low density of fish in this mere, but those species that are present grow to a large size. This mere has held the British record for bream on three occasions. Species present are bream, eels, perch, pike, roach, rudd and tench.

Stocking

EN files show that there has been some introduction of small quantities of local fish. EN have said that they would only agree to stocking of fish species that are already present.

Fishing practices

The fishing is allowed 16 June to 14 March and access restricted to twenty fishing platforms, which cover about 75% of the bank. The whole of the surface of Cop mere can be fished from up to twenty-five boats. In summer, the intensity is approximately 50 person-days per week and this decreases to 20 in autumn and 5 in winter. There are few competitions held. Tench are the main angled species in summer, bream in late summer and early autumn, whilst pike are sought in winter.

Crose Mere (NGR SJ 430305)

Angling Club

Ellesmere Angling Association
Mr Paul Jones (secretary)
Avondale
Ellesmere
Shropshire
SY12 0BQ

0691 623297 (home)

Data Available

Ellesmere AA would not cooperate in this survey. The NRA carried out an echosounding survey on 15 April 1991. In the late 1980s, a netting survey was carried out and proposals to improve the fishery were made by Sport and Leisure Fisheries Ltd. In May 1982, Dr J.O. Young, of the University of Liverpool, netted this mere.

Fish community

The NRA found very few fish and stated that perch, pike, roach are present with a small number of carp. The netting carried out by Sport and Leisure Fisheries Ltd caught 2 small pike, (0.5 - 2.0 kg) and 100, perch, (10 -15 cm). Dr Young, in May 1982, caught 10 roach (21.5 - 30.5 cm) and one pike (2.7 kg). A conversation with a local angler revealed that tench were also present. It would seem that the biomass in this mere is low.

Stocking

There is no documentation of stocking.

Fishing practices

There is little fishing on this mere, and there are no matches.

Fenemere (NGR SJ 446229)

Angling Club

Fenemere and Grins Hill Angling Club
Mr R. Walker (secretary)
33 Churchill Dr
Wem
SY4 5HX

0939 233169 (home)

Data Available

Returned questionnaire by Mr Walker.

Fish community

The fish community is dominated by roach, rudd, bream, perch, pike and carp. Other species include eel, crucian carp and tench. The overall fish density would seem to be high. Estimated numbers of large carp are: 200 over 5 kg, 40 over 9 kg and 7 over 13.5 kg.

Stocking

In the 1950s, an undocumented number of bream were stocked. Following an incidence of perch disease in 1978, roach, rudd and bream were stocked in 1979, though numbers and sizes are not known. In the late 1970s, 800 0.8 to 1.6 kg common carp were stocked. In 1982, Severn Trent Water Authority introduced large quantities of elver eels.

Fishing practices

The season runs from 16 June to 14 March. In summer, there are about 70 person-days of angler pressure per week, either fishing from the bank or one of eight boats. In winter, this decreases to about 10-15 per week. In summer, depending on what species are being sought, each angler would introduce large amounts of bait such as maggots, cereal, sweetcorn, bread, hemp, beans and boiled paste baits. Competitions are held every week in summer, attracting 20-30 anglers, whilst in autumn, these are held fortnightly. In summer and autumn, bream and roach are the main quarry for pleasure anglers. Large carp are angled for throughout the season, whilst pike are only fished for in winter.

Hatchmere (NGR SJ 553722)

Angling Club

Norley Angling Club
Mr Trevor Kay (secretary)
2 Wob Cottages
Norley Lane
Norley
Frodsham
Warrington
WA6 8NL

No telephone number

Data Available

The committee of Norley AC did not want to reveal any information concerning fish stocks. Lymm AC used to control this fishery until the late 1980s and were contacted to reveal historic information. Liverpool University surveyed this mere in the late 1980s.

Fish community

The fish species in this mere are bream, carp, eel, perch, pike, roach rudd, tench and trout. Both Norley AC and Lymm AC think that fish density is low. In the early 1980s, Lymm AC used to remove pike from other waters and place them in Hatchmere. When Liverpool University netted the mere in the mid 1980s, they found very few pike or any other fish. The fish density is likely to be low

Stocking

In 1989, North West Water apparently stocked the mere with 300, 150-300g carp, and 600, 150-300g bream.

Fishing practices

Fishing is allowed between 16 June and 14 March. Few anglers fish this mere and the average is about two person-days per week in summer, with very little angling taking place at other times of year. There are no competitions held.

Little Mere (NGR SJ 733823)

Angling Club

No angling is allowed by Mere Golf and Country Club
Mr Mike Sheehan (manager)
Mere Golf and Country Club
Chester Rd
Mere
Cheshire
WA16 6LJ

0565 830155 (work)

Data Available

Survey work carried out by Dr L. Carvalho, Liverpool University in 1991, which has since been repeated by Liverpool University annually, as part of a long term study. This mere was intensively fished by the University of Liverpool and the North West NRA on the 24 and 25 March 1994.

Fish community

A joint survey was carried out on 24 March 1994 by the NRA and Liverpool University, using seine netting. Relatively few fish were caught (11 roach, 16 pike, 22 perch, 1 roach-bream hybrid, and 1 tench) with an estimate of total biomass density of 13.9 g m⁻², though most (>12 gm⁻²) of this was accounted for by the large and easily catchable pike. About 50% of the mere was netted and it is possible that the fish were very heterogeneously distributed. The caught fish were marked and a later summer survey will attempt a mark-recapture population estimate.

Stocking

There is no documentation of stocking.

Fishing practices

No fishing is allowed.

Maer Pool (NGR SJ 789385)

Angling Club

Mr Fradley (landowner)

Fradley House

Newcastle under lyme

Staffordshire

ST5 4AB

Data Available

Information held on record by English Nature at Attingham Park.

Fish community

Little is known about the numbers and species of fish present, though both Rainbow and Brown trout have been introduced.

Stocking

There is documentation for the introduction of 250 trout in 1978, 1981 and 1982.

Fishing practices

Only the family of Mr Fradley fish the mere and the angling pressure will be low.

Marton Pool (NGR SJ 295027)

Angling Club

The fishing on this mere is divided into two. One part is a day ticket fishery and the other is fished by only one person.

Day Tickets

Mr B. Evans

Marton Pool Caravan Club

0743 891566 (work)

Mr Stanley

14 Rorrington

Chirbury

Powys

0938 72277 (home)

Data Available

The NRA carried out a survey on 20 October 1988 by echosounding. Mr Stanley was contacted and filled in a questionnaire.

Fish community

The NRA survey revealed few fish, though Mr Stanley disagreed with this and said that there were moderate numbers of fish, mainly pike, perch, roach and tench. Other fish, in lesser numbers, were bream, common and crucian carp, eels and maybe some trout.

Stocking

There is no documentation of stocking.

Fishing practices

The fishing is allowed from 16 June to 14 March. Fishing intensity is low, with about 1-2 person-days per week throughout the year.

Mere Mere (NGR SJ 733719)

Angling Club

No angling is allowed by Mere Golf and Country Club
Mr Mike Sheehan (manager)
Mere Golf and Country Club
Chester Rd
Mere
Cheshire
WA16 6 LJ

0565 830155 (work)

Data Available

There has been no survey work carried out on this mere.

Fish community

There is no information concerning the fish population in Mere Mere, but as it is connected to Little mere, it may be similar in community composition.

Stocking

No documentation of stocking has been found, though it is alleged that 5000 small fish (carp, tench, bream, pike and roach) were stocked in 1991.

Fishing practices

No fishing is allowed.

Norbury Pools (NGR SJ 588494)

Angling Club

No fishing is allowed by Cholmondeley Estate.

Mr Robin Buxton (Estate Manager)

Estate Office

Cholmondeley Estate

Malpas

Cheshire

ST14 8EZ

0829 720203 (work)

Data Available

There was an application made by an angler to the Cholmondeley estate for a syndicate to fish these pools, and this contained a list of fish already thought to be present in the mere.

Fish community

It is thought by the anglers wishing to fish this mere that roach, tench, bream, and carp are present.

Stocking

No information on stocking is available.

Fishing practices

No fishing is carried out.

Oak Mere (NGR SJ 575667)

Angling Club

Captain Ferguson (landowner)

Sandy Brow

Tarporley

Cheshire

CW6 9EG

0829 760255 (home)

Data Available

Anecdotal derived from conversations with Captain Ferguson.

Fish community

There are reports of occasional shoals of small fish, probably perch. In the mid 1980s a trial netting using fyke nets for eels did not catch anything. The fish density is probably low.

Fishing practices

The angling intensity is likely to be low.

Summary of scientific literature

Ratcliffe (1976) - there was a large population of perch and a few roach.

Oss Mere (NGR SJ 566438)

Angling Club
Wyche Anglers
Mr Ron Vernon
75 Queens Drive
Nantwich

0270 628613 (home)

Data Available

Returned questionnaire by Mr Ron Vernon.

Fish community

This fishery consists of mainly roach, rudd, crucian carp and pike. Also present, but in lower numbers, are perch and tench. The anglers think that the biomass is moderate.

Stocking

There has been no stocking of this mere.

Fishing practices

The season is open from 16 June to 14 March. The angling pressure is about thirty person-days in summer, decreasing to 25 in autumn and 7 in winter. About half of the bank is accessible for fishing and there are no boats. There are no competitions held on this water.

Petty Pool (NGR SJ 619701)

Angling Club

Northwich Angling Association
PO Box 18
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 5SE

Data Available

Northwich Angling Association declined to be helpful and information is based on interviewing Winsford and District Angling Club, which used to hold some fishing rights.

Fish community

The main fish species were pike, bream and roach, with lesser numbers of perch and a few carp.

Stocking

There is no information concerning stocking.

Fishing practices

The fishing season runs from 16 June to 14 March. Access to the mere is limited to a few pegs. There are no matches held.

Quoisley Meres (NGR SJ 546456, 549456)

Angling Club

There is no angling club on these waters, as they are privately owned and only fished by the owner.

Mr Keith Wormleighton
Hollow Wood Farm
Old Hall Lane
OverTabley
Knutsford
Cheshire
WA16 0PW

0565 633290 (home)

Data Available

Mr K. Wormleighton filled in a questionnaire.

Fish community

The fish community of Quoisley Big Mere is dominated in numbers by roach. Other species present in lower numbers are eels, pike, tench and probably trout. The overall density of fish is thought to be low. There are few fish in Quoisley Little Mere.

Stocking

There is no documentation of stocking this mere.

Fishing practices

The fishing intensity is low and probably comprises about ten person-days per year.

Rostherne Mere (NGR SJ 742842)

Angling Club

No fishing is allowed at this site.

Data Available

Scientific theses and papers, see below.

Fish community

Species present include bream, roach, perch, pike, trout, common and crucian carp, tench, minnow, stone loach, three spined stickleback and bullheads.

Fishing practices

None.

Summary of scientific literature

Rizvi (1964) - parasite data.

Ellison and Chub (1968) - species present: pike, trout, perch and roach. One trout and two bullheads were found in the stomachs of pike. A stone loach was found in a perch trap. No smelt are now thought to be present.

Banks (1970) - main species: roach, perch and pike. Variation in year class strength due to poor survival of eggs and fry. This was based on the low occurrence of young roach in the guts of pike. Banks suggested that the turbidity of the mere impaired the foraging efficiency of pike.

Goldspink (1978) - using multimeshed gillnets found extreme variation in year class strength of roach. Food shortage was not to blame as the roach guts were full of molluscs, macrophytes, algae, Asellus, Gammarus and Chironomids. Ligula intestinalis, the gut parasite, was not found in any of the roach and hence, could not explain the variation in year class strength observed. Perch showed year class variation. Pike grew slowly (cf Windermere) and there was no correlation between predator length and prey length. Pike were found to have consumed many invertebrates.

Goldspink and Goodwin (1979) - perch disease in 1975 decreased abundance.

Goldspink (1981) - bream were present, but in very low numbers.

Goldspink (1983) - subjectively estimated the fish density to be 50 kg ha⁻¹.

Maitland and Lyle (1992) - pike, common carp, crucian carp, tench, bream, minnow, roach, stone loach, three-spined stickleback, perch and bullhead are present.

Shomere (NGR SJ 504079)

Angling Club

Pre 1993
Ditherington Angling Club
Mr Chris Myles (secretary)
11 Sundorne Meadows
Shrewsbury
SY1 5UQ

0743 369597 (home)
0743 277298 (work)

Post 1993
Post Office Angling Club
Mr V. Collier (secretary)
19 New Rd
Wrockwirdine Wood
Telford

0952 614215 (home)
0952 242678 (work)

Data Available

Questionnaire returned by Post Office AC, who had fished the mere for the three years prior to the end of the 92/3 season.

Fish community

Bream, roach, rudd and pike were present in moderate numbers. Other fish species including crucian carp, gudgeon, perch and tench were to be found, but in lesser numbers. The angling club think that the fish density was moderate.

Stocking

In 1991, an undocumented number of small tench and crucian carp were stocked.

Fishing practices

This information applied to the period upto 1993. The fishing season is from 16 June to 14 March. The fishing intensity was about twenty-five person days per week fish in summer, though this decreased to very few or none in winter. The occasional competition was held in summer, catering for about fifteen

anglers. Only small amounts of bait were used. There was an angling club policy to remove all pike.

Tabley Mere (NGR SJ 723767)

The fishing rights are let by Tabley Estate office
W and O Beck
Tabley Estate Office
Tabley
Knutsford
WA16 0HG

0565 722224 (work)

Angling Club

Lymm Angling Club
Mr David Cook (secretary)
PO Box 350
Warrington
WA4 5HX

0925 264893 (home)

Tabley Fishers
Mr K. Crowther (secretary)
1 The Grove
Old Field Rd
Altrincham

061 9288067 (home)

Eight clubs possess some fishing rights but only the above two were contacted for details.

Data Available

Returned questionnaires by Lymm AC and Tabley Fishers.

Fish community

Carp, bream, eels, roach and tench seem to be present in moderate numbers. Perch and pike are scarce but present. According to the angling club, the biomass of fish is low. In the mid 1980s, the mere was drained and few fish were found.

Stocking

There has been some stocking of fish (largely roach and tench), though this has been not documented.

Fishing practices

The fishery is open all year round. The angling pressure is about eighteen person- days per week in summer, ten in autumn and two in winter. Most anglers fish for tench, roach and perch in summer and autumn using bread, maggots, sweetcorn, meat and worms. In winter, pike are sought with fish as bait. There is no fishing from the bank and anglers may use up to seven boats. There are no matches held.