

Shefford and District Angling Association Ltd

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, March 12th, 2009

For immediate release

OTTER PREDATION AT WILLINGTON LAKE

Shefford & District Angling Association Ltd (SDAA Ltd) wishes to inform members that it has, very recently, suffered significant fish fatalities as a result of otter predation at its Willington Lake water in Bedfordshire.

To date the club is aware of the loss of at least 3 specimen carp & a double figure bream to otter predation. However, the two carp killed in recent days were both iconic fish, the mirror carp "Starburst" and the common known as "The Big Common". Starburst weighed well in excess of 40 lbs when killed and the Big Common over 35 lbs.

The Directors and Management Committee of SDAA Ltd are urgently pursuing meetings with relevant public bodies and other interested parties concerning the impact of these events and the future management and protection of its fish stocks. It is anticipated that further information will be made available to members at the club's AGM, which will be held on Wednesday March 25th at Shefford Town Memorial Hall, Hitchin Road, Shefford, SG17 5JA, starting at 8.00p.m.

The Directors and Management Committee of SDAA Ltd are committed to a policy of openness about these losses. They wish to remind members that otters are a legally protected species. They understand that other fisheries in the area have suffered the loss of large carp to otter predation and there are an increasing number of incidents within local river catchment areas, relating to both carp and large barbel deaths. Members are asked to refer to the club's website, www.shefforddaa.org.uk, where updates will be posted as they become available.

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