

EA may be planning money-saving 3 rod rod licence – but what price...

Dumping obsolete river close season?

GREAT breaking news for the specci brigade – the Environment Agency is apparently considering launching a rod licence covering three rods!

That could save three rodders (the limit on most waters) from having to shell out for a brace of two-rod standard permits.

But, if the EA can countenance that break with tradition...what about the obsolete rivers close season?

Following my 'anti' rant last week, Nene secretary Neil Stafford says he's long been calling for licence buyers to be asked whether they want to keep the break, but that the EA just sits on its hands.

Why? If as the Agency claims, 'many' anglers want the 90 day ban, surely a survey would prove the point?

Is refusing to even ask the question total inertia, hypocrisy, or what?

● Lowdowns' Mark Stibbs is on a blistering Meadowlands' 16 teams of three run – winning two of the first three legs and second in the other.

Sunday saw him net 130lb of carp...but his squad still couldn't make the top four!

Glyn Morsen (Elephant & Castle) had 50-2 and Mick Wheeler (Guru) 49lb.

Hooters where top on the day. Guru lead overall with 52, ahead of Scone Zone 59 and Team Snowy 60.

● WHITE Hart, Spring Pool: Glen Tilson 65lb, Drew Adams 43lb, Tom Newbury 41-8.

● MAKIN's individual A league 4th round: Ron Savage 36-10, Keith Winn 27-8, Jason Labrowski 24-4.

● CASTLE Ashby: Wednesday, Grendon, Bob Reed 14-12, Mick Hewlett, Ian Hutton and Alf Gillard all on 9-8; Saturday, Brickyard, Frank Pizmenti 40-4, Paul Hardman 29-10, Hewlett 19-2; Sunday, Grendon, Dick Rogers 17-12, Geoff Jones and Keith Garratt both 15-13.

● NENE, Weedon cut: Dave Gibbins 12-12 (perch

and bream, caster and maggot), John 'smiler' Balhatchett 12-2, Paul Minney 8-6.

● TOWCESTER vets', Astwell: Graham Martin 8-9, Mick Reed 6-11, Grenville Read 5-4.

● CASTLE, Canons: John Lewis and Fred Prior both 7-9. Alf Gillard 4lb.

● TOWCESTER, Broadwater Tove: Mick Goodridge 5-14 (inc a 3lb perch), Tosh Saunders and John Broughton 5-3 each.

● FINEDON, Fenland drain: Sam Corteze 2-14, Dave Ross 2-11, Steve Amos 2lb.

● FLORE & Brockhall, local cut winter league 3rd round: Steve Smith 1-3-12, Rob 'didn't I do well' Rawlins 0-15-12, Reece Clulow

0-12-2. The Regulars lead with 27 points.

● TROUT opening days: March 1, Ravensthorpe and Ringstead; March 8, Pitsford; March 15, Grafham; March 29, Rutland.

● Poor post-flood water clarity hampered Elinor's Saturday opening, but 105 rods still managed 142 trout, 63 of which were returned.

● FIXTURES: Saturday, Olney charity open, 01234 240061; March 29, 'Bucko' open, Wold Farm, Poddington, 01327 351780 ■

■ TOWN specialist group's Jamie Cartwright with his new PB 4-9 monster perch from an upper Ouse 'club stretch' – his only bite of the day



■ FLY BOY: England youth troutster Sam Edmunds was first to bag up with rainbows to 5lb when Elinor opened, Saturday



Matches, catches, even rough patches? If there's a tale to tell call Trevor Johnson on 01908 270000 (office) or 07801 183381 or angling@intermediauk.com (click link to email)