

Zander catch on Nene's Newton Blossomville length raises question...

Have alien Zs reached Upper Ouse?

HAVE silverfish-munching zander finally escaped from the Grand Union into the Tove and Upper Ouse?

It is too much of a leap to judge by one fish – but a small Z was caught on Northampton Nene's Newton Blossomville Ouse, and where there is one small one...

Nene secretary Neil Stafford says it was taken during a recent Perchfishers' outing, and the big question is whether it came in from the canal...or whether some clown who thinks illegal stocking is fun has 'moved' it up from way downstream of Bedford.

Either way it is bad news for those who fear that the alien species will decimate re-emerging silverfish stocks in the Upper Ouse if it becomes established that river.

Canal & River Trust fishery bosses were considering electro fishing the local cut and removing as many Zs as possible this winter. That move can't come quick enough.

● **DETERMINED** to make the most of a rare day on Chew Reservoir, town big fish ace Jamie Cartwright braved the waves to get where his intuition told him big pike would be.

And his gut-feeling was right as his floatfished joey deadbait helped him boat the cracking 25-2 snapper pictured above.

● **TOWCESTER's 'Broadwater' Tove** – all of 10 metres at its widest – rose eight inches during Sunday's match...but that didn't stop John 'smiler' Balhatchett bagging up with 17lb of perch between 1-8 and 3lb!

A tree had fallen across the river, creating a brand-new 'feature' peg, and every time he cast worm on a lead into the new eddy his tip went round and stayed round as another bristling stripey grabbed his lob.

Best of the rest was Mick Boddily, 5-8, followed by Dave Gibbins 3-6.

● **GILDERS'** Dan Todd and mate Paul Bond had half a dozen perch over a pound on lob during a quick visit to the cut at Bugbrooke.

● **STANWICK** produced at least four 20s this week, with Sean McKinny getting the biggest at 21-5.

● **CASTLE Ashby opens:** Sunday, Grendon, Mick Hewlett 80lb (18 carp and a bream), Phil Bardell 54-8, Ian Smith 50lb; Saturday, Brickyard, Dick Rogers 28-8, Hewlett 24lb, Keith Garrett 15lb.



■ **CLASS act: town's Jamie Cartwright – current Drennan Cup holder – with 25-2 Chew Reservoir pike.**
Photo by Carpin Capers' Dougie

● **DAVENTRY, Peatling Pools:** Jake King 76-14, Carl Hulley 57-2, Barry Carr 44-4.

● **WHITE Hart Flore, Spring Pools:** Dave Chapman 39-13, Dave Walker 38-15, Tom Griffiths 24-3.

● **CASTLE autumn league, Canons top:** Alan West 20-9, Alf Gillard 11-15, Pat Neil 11-12.

● **CASTLE silverfish, Canons bottom:** John Lewis 11-10, Dave Cantrell 9-8, Paul Lafflin 8-14.

● **FLORE & Brockhall silverfish, Silverlake:** Bert Isles 6-6, John Hargreave 4-15, Gareth Abraham 3-12.

● **NENE, Banbury Lane cut:** Paul Minney 5-13, Brian Beard 4-7, Baz Eaton 3-7.

● **FINEDON, Elkington cut:** Paul Brand 2-14-8, Roger Brain 1-7, Mark Clement 1-3-8 ■

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)