

Most fish escaped fuel-oil pollution, but Northampton Arm could...

Fish like a ditch for some time!

GOOD news is that last week's kerosene pollution of the Northampton Arm does not appear to have killed many fish.

But the bad news is that 'the Arm' is now likely to fish like an empty ditch for some time to come, as the fuel has decimated the canal's bug-life – the food source which normally keeps them in any area.

That could also seriously affect wildfowl trying to rear young on the half-mile or so involved.

An Environment Agency report states that there has been: "Serious short-term impact on the ecology...with a lot of dead invertebrates being found."

It is hoped the food-chain will eventually recover...but the scientist's report added: "It is too early yet to talk about longer term effects."

A pipeline over the canal ruptured when someone, presumably would-be fuel thieves mistakenly believing it carried diesel, tried drilling into it. Thousands of litres are thought to have spilled out, and police are still investigating. The length was closed for several days during the clean-up.

The real risk is, that with the canal and many rivers criss-crossed by similar pipelines, other crim-types will try the same stupid stunt elsewhere...

● BROTHERS Steve and Phil Ringer framed both days in what passed for a European feeder match on a Dutch ship canal, while their team made fifth. They had to sit high above the water...because passing ships' bow

waves were washing six-feet up the bank!

● DRAYTON has been alive with fish taking off the top. Alan Firth had 10 to 27lb and Dan Esoxes 34 to 19. At Stanwick Ben Wrightson had a 29lb PB.

● MEADOWLANDS, midweek: Phil Croxford 123-6, Carl Barnfield 88-12, Alan Walton 81-4.

● DAVENTRY, Tofts: Carl Hulley 103-2, Graham Cheney 96-8, Richard Wills 94lb.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Spring Pools: Trevor Griffiths, Glyn Tylson 61-8, Mick Howkins 46lb.

● MOBBS Miller, Canons: Tony Glanfield 49lb (inc a 24-10 carp), Stan Atter 41-10, Ken Taylor 38lb.

● FINEDON, Grundys: Mark Clemmet 42-3, Dave Roberts 31-8, Dave Ross 18-5.

● MILL Lane, Barby Banks: Stephen Stokes 40-9, Kevin Lowe 40lb, James McClorey 36-9.

● FLORE & Brockhall, Manor Farm: Kelvin McIlhinney 31lb, Jim Tanser 20lb, Bob Prowse 13lb.

● GLEBE, Canons: Dave Haddon 27lb, Glenn Kirton 14-4, Dave Jones 9lb.

● CASTLE Ashby: midweek, Mick Wheeler 26-4, Mick Hewlett 17-12, Pat Neal 10-4; Sunday, Chris Camplin 26-4, Jeff Jones 19-14, Hewlett 17-12,

● TOWCESTER, Bairstows: Les Ramsden 20-8, John Balhatchett 14-6, Brian Beard 10-8.

● ABINGTON, park Lake: Norman Westbrook 11-9

(on the golden peg), Mike Johnson 4-14, Rus Coleman 4-11.

● CASTLE, Crescent Lake: Paul Lafflin 11lb, Bob Moore 7-4, Geoff Lewis 6-9.

● FIXTURE, June 28: angling come and try/tuition sessions at Barnwell Country Park ■



■ **FLOAT MAN:** one glance at the quality floats in Robin Kempton's box would turn most anglers into instant collectors! He makes them with pains-taking care and they catch fish like the pound-plus canal roach he had at Stoke last week. Maybe some enterprising tackle dealer should talk to him about making special editions?

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