

Silverfish stockings begin in Canal River Trust bid to bring...

Cut back to its glory days!

MOVES to bring local canal fishing back to its heydays entered a new phase this week – with 350lb of silvers being added.

Nene's Mick Dimmock witnessed the small roach, skimmers and perch going in at Stoke bottom lock, Friday.

And that's intended to be only the start, with thousands more set to be shipped in as available to boost stocks – especially the roach population – through Nene's holding and south to Leighton Buzzard.

The Canal River Trust's fisheries flagship 'roach restoration' project, underway for three years and continuing, has seen thousands of zander removed, with over a tonne electro-fished out in the latest sweep (some 200 Zs around Castlethorpe marina alone).

Now silvers are being added to help jump-start stocks decimated by the invasive, predatory, alien Zs.

The silvers are coming from currently UNRENTED sections, further north, to areas such as this where clubs pay to rent the fishing.

CRT national fisheries officer John Ellis said: "It is NOT just about reducing zander biomass, but about increasing the silverfish biomass, too."

■ Talks are also underway to attract one, perhaps two, 'nationals' to a revitalised cut in the not too distant future.

● NOT one, but TWO fish of a lifetime...in just FOUR DAYS! That was Phil Mapp's out-of-this-world local Upper Ouse experience.

Thursday evening saw him land an amazing 7-13 new PB near MK. Four days and a few miles away, he caught a monster-among-monsters chub just the tiniest of whiskers under EIGHT pounds!

The odds against such a stunning double must be in the order of hundreds of thousands to one.

● MEADOWLANDS league final round: Gary Watling 114-2, Alan Walton 77-6, Baz Byrd 67-12. Series winner Pete Caton.

● WHITE Hart Flore, Peatling Parva: Dave Griffiths 104-1, Dave Chapman 66-14, Gary Muddiman 60-7.

● LOCO: midweek, Peatling Parva, Dave Smith 47lb, Den Sharman 29lb, Tony Smith 18lb; Sat, Barby Marshes, Barry Lee 35lb, Steve Billing 22lb, Denis Sharman 19lb.

● CASTLE Ashby: Wed, M Hewlett 39-8, Frank Pizamenti 15-14, Alan West 14-12; Sat, Keith Garratt 23-4, Hewlett 19-8, Paul Robinson 15-12; Sun, Chris Garratt 17-4, Alan West 13-8, Pizamenti 11-6.

● CASTLE, league final, Canons: 'Stick' Tomlinson 12lb, Bob Moore 10-6, John Lewis 9-6. Jeff Rice won the series.

● TOWCESTER/Nene, Castlethorpe, canal: Pete Laughton 8-7, Les Wallace 7-12, Andy Webster 6-14-8.

● FLORE & Brockhall, silverfish Barby Banks: Terry Smith 8-5, Nick Chambers 8-3, Fred Johnson 7-9.

● TOWCESTER Vets, Blisworth, canal: Tony Hirst 6-8 (95 roach), John Balhatchett 5-8, Graham Martin 5-1.

● GLEBE Christmas match, Mill Cotton: Vince Battams 3-6, Dave Haddon 3-5, Marcus Annable 2-6 ■



■ MICK Dimmock (left) watches Stoke silverfish stocking



■ PHIL Mapp's 8lb 'fish of a lifetime' chub