

One question we are asked more than any other is, why do the committee suspend spodding /spombing from time to time instead of suspending the use of particles?

Unfortunately, some of our members continually flout the bait restrictions and bring way in excess of the 2kgs (per 24 hrs) as shown in the rule book. It is very difficult to police the amount of bait a member may have with them. As spodding/spombing is the method most opt for when using large quantities of bait, suspending the method is the only option. It is very visual method and it can be policed successfully. Even after dark the noise of spodding tends to expose anyone ignoring the suspension.

So why don't we ban particles, as very few would want to spod/spomb large quantities of boilie. This is a little bit more complicated to explain.

There is nothing wrong with particle bait when used in moderation. In fact, hemp on its own would be a reasonably balanced diet for carp. Mixed particles supply the fish with a high carbohydrate diet which when added to good quality boilies offer an excellent balanced diet. The problem comes when members start to use large quantities of particles. Any bait whether eaten or not, enriches the water which in turn offers the ideal opportunity for the algae to multiply very quickly. Algae is present in all lakes and presents no problem. This is until it becomes so dense that in darkness, when it absorbs oxygen, it causes the oxygen levels to become so low that it dies (algal collapse). When this happens the decomposing algae removes further oxygen from the water. This obviously causes a situation where the fish stocks are in danger. The warmer the water the less dissolved oxygen it can hold in the first place so a hot summer can be very dangerous for our fish stocks if the water quality is allowed to deteriorate. Our lakes are relatively shallow and very susceptible to overfeeding. The water we receive during the winter months does not get refreshed by a stream or run off from adjacent land during the season. The little summer rain we get unfortunately has very little effect either. In fact, thunderstorms can be very detrimental due to the sudden air pressure drop allowing oxygen to escape for the water. So as the season progresses the water quality becomes worse as the levels drop. Aquarium keeper are very aware of the seriousness of overfeeding a tank of fish. The only difference is they can change the water, we cannot.

I hope this explanation helps you understand the reasoning behind the suspension. This year with fishing continuing through the normal close season it is unknown what effect it may have on the water quality as the season progresses. So we are playing in safe and suspending the spods and spombs use for now.

Nobody wants to see a repeat of the very sad fish losses in Whyke again. We have already had one scare with a report of carp mouthing the surface in Long and Quarry. So we are being very strict on bait limits. Please do not bring more bait than rules allow. Any member found with excess bait bankside or ignoring the spod/spomb suspension can expect a strong response.