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News Letter 6

Covid pandemic and angling

What has been the impact of covid on fishing?

First, this pandemic has resulted in restrictive measures across Europe.

Fishing was sometimes authorized, sometimes prohibited, but the measures concerned all audiences and not just fishermen.

In some countries it was then authorized under certain conditions (hours, distance from the house, distance between fishermen, mask, authorized periods, etc.)

What are the consequences for the number of fishermen?

What consequences for the following years?

This is what happened in France and how in England the firm Daiwa is involved in the promotion of fishing ...

What experience has the disease generated in you? Don't hesitate to share your experiences.

Nice summer

Happy holidays to all

With the hope of meeting again this fall.

Bernard Breton

president

Fishing and covid in France

It has been many years since the world experienced such a pandemic. 2020 will remain marked by this epidemic that has affected the entire world, caused hundreds of thousands of deaths and disrupted the whole of humanity. The consequences are enormous for people, the economy and human relations.

Fishing during this epidemic has shown many interests, especially relaxation, returning to nature close to home. Of course, many fishermen have suffered from this disease, but not everything is as gloomy as everyday life seems to indicate.

A renewed interest in leisure

Let's look at the raw figures: the number of fishermen in France has increased by 3.6%, while the trend over the last 10 years has been downwards (from 1 to 2% depending on the year).

The same is true in other European countries. In Britain alone, growth exceeds 13%.

The sale of cards in France was more than 40% behind on¹ May 2020 compared to the previous year. At the end of the year, in some departments (especially near cities) growth reached 10 to 20% on 31 December! The possibility for people to go out in mid-May led to massive memberships. The southernmost regions have suffered as a result of the drought that has dried up the rivers.

The number of people going on holiday has decreased a lot, the French stayed at home during the summer and found simple leisure activities close to home. Fishing, which is a solitary hobby, has largely benefited from less harsh restrictions than other activities.

The reduction in transport times increases everyone's leisure time, and fishing close to home is a relaxing leisure activity. However, finding a river or pond 10 km from home is often possible. Others, who for one reason or another had abandoned fishing, have regained the pleasure of this hobby.

Fishing is a leisure of relaxation, relaxing which is especially appreciated in times of stress. It is relatively inexpensive, the waters are fishy, the fishing of some species easy (studs and ablette s are anti-empty-handed), the catches numerous. Success in a very delicate period is heartening. Young people (under 18) and women are more numerous (+ 10 to 50 %, depending on the region), which is encouraging for the future (the figures are confirmed in 2021). It seems that the over-65s have been more suspicious or cautious and have avoided going out, the number of older fishermen has decreased. Maybe tomorrow it will be the children who will lead parents and grandparents to fish and not the other way around! Cards with short validity (1 or 15 days) were a real plebiscite (+ 20%).

It should also be noted that the possibility of purchasing the fishing card on the internet network of the national federation(www.cartedepeche.fr) has helped to mitigate the fall in sales during the closure of the stores that issue the cards.

The fisheries trade

Manufacturers, distributors and retailers had a much better year than expected. In March, the shops closed, they opened two months later and made very good deals. Some stores had empty shelves. Internet sales have increased very strongly. It is still a year later complicated to find canes at the stroke for example. Asian productions were stopped at the beginning of 2020, the factories then made masks for the whole world. Deliveries of fishing gear have been postponed. Demand increased sharply (by more than 30%) but the offer could not keep up. Many difficulties in the supply of live bait have arisen everywhere (except in the countryside).

Novelties, rods, reels, lures, were rare in 2020, their number should grow in 2021 and 2022. It is also likely that prices will rise due to higher taxes.

Other consequences

The fisheries (carp or trout) closed for several months, which put some sites in difficulty. Competitions and matches have been banned and championships abolished in 2020. For the first time since its inception in 1956, the World Spot Fishing Championship was cancelled. The same goes for trade fairs, trade shows or open to the public, fishermen and traders should find them in 2021.

Have fish benefited from the ban on fishing? For trout, certainly because the fishermen were absent at the beginning of the season, at a time when they are the most vulnerable. For the other species, fishing was prohibited during breeding. Has the impact been favourable? Who can say? The absence of fishermen at the water's edge may have facilitated poaching...

Fishermen are not the only ones to use the waters for their leisure, canoeing enthusiasts and other water leisure activities are also more numerous, for the same reasons as fishermen: enjoying nature... Many other people found along the banks for the walk. Fishermen are not

alone in wanting to enjoy the edge of the waters. Local attendance has increased, it makes sense.

What about tomorrow?

The fishing associations have experienced varying fortunes: some have seen their numbers swell, others have encountered difficulties. The more urban associations have recruited from families (the number of young people and women has increased sharply) fishing is a local, family hobby. It is up to the fishing structures to retain these new fishermen. It is not the fish that is missing!

In England : How we can retain new fishermen? - Daiwa puts weight behind UK fisheries body

Anthony Hawkswell March 26, 2021

The representative body of anglers across England and Wales continues to garner support from the industry's big hitters.

Angling Trust announced that Shimano UK has joined its ranks as an associate member of the trade. Now Daiwa has followed suit. The new agreement will allow Daiwa to play an active role in supporting the Trust's work to protect waterways and the environment and to promote angling by encouraging more people to engage in fishing. the Peach.

Stephen McCaveny, Marketing Director of Daiwa Sports, said: "It is fair to say that until recent seasons for many anglers the role of the Angling Trust was unclear. There is no doubt that the actions and commitment of the Trust have had a strong effect on the credibility and visibility of our sport, not only in the eyes of the mainstream media, but especially in our government.

"Over the past year the world of angling has proven to be a 'go to' activity for more and more people. In all its forms, it has been the much sought-after outdoor escape during the restrictions Retaining as many of these fishermen as possible is an essential goal for all.

"At Daiwa, we are now happy to invest in becoming business associates with other companies, as well as the many fishermen who are joining as individual members. We believe that this combined effort of membership and the capacity of the Trust can now contribute to sustaining this growth, but more importantly, use this gain of momentum to promote a greater and permanent anchorage for the angling.

"Daiwa's worldwide message comes at an appropriate time. We have long believed in angling as a lifelong sport for all, but it is the value for mental health and well-being that has recently been highlighted. This mindset has been well expressed by the Angling Trust and fits very closely with Daiwa's message.

"In addition, the Fund's often invisible efforts to protect and welfare rivers, species and the environment see great synergy with our Be Earth Friendly ethic. We hope that our members and closer cooperation will further facilitate this achievement that the Angling Trust offers.

What happened in your federation?

How to retain new fishermen?

How to find former fishermen who gave up fishing because of illness?