

news release

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Two men were ordered to pay more than £1,400 for fishing without rod licences

The Environment Agency is reminding anglers of the importance of having a rod licence after two local anglers were ordered to pay more than £1,400 for fishing without valid Environment Agency rod licences.

Following the verdicts, an Environment Agency spokesman said:

“Money raised from rod licence sales is used to protect and improve fish stocks and fisheries, benefiting all anglers. We hope that these cases will provide a deterrent for any angler thinking of fishing illegally.”

James Boswell of Fettiplace Road, Abingdon was fined £440, ordered to pay £127 costs and a £44 victim surcharge after pleading guilty to fishing without a licence on 26 September 2015. Environment Agency officers found Mr Boswell breaking the rules at Culham, River Thames in Abingdon.

Tableus Thraskevic of Morris Crescent, Oxford was fined £660, ordered to pay £127 costs and a £66 victim surcharge after a charge of unlicensed fishing was proved in his absence. On 25 September 2015, Environment Agency officers found Mr Thraskevic breaking the rules at Donnington Bridge in Oxford.

The cases, heard at Oxford Magistrates' Court on 25th April, were brought by the Environment Agency.

As well as cheating other anglers, fishing illegally can carry a hefty penalty. Getting caught without an appropriate licence could land you with a fine of up to £2,500.

Anyone with information about illegal fishing activities can contact the Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Notes to Editor

Try fishing! There are lots of events for spring and summer 2016 listed at www.fishinginfo.co.uk.

You need a valid Environment Agency Rod Licence if you are aged 12 or over and fish for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel in England (except the River Tweed), Wales, and the Border Esk and its tributaries in Scotland.

We've kept the rod licence price the same for another year running - £27 to fish for coarse & trout, £72 for salmon & sea trout. Concessions and short term licences are available. Visit www.postoffice.co.uk to buy one online.

Environment Agency Enforcement Officers checked 70,000 rod licences during 2014/15.

Anyone witnessing illegal fishing incidents in progress can report it directly to the Environment Agency hotline, 0800 80 70 60. Information on illegal fishing and environmental crime can also be reported anonymously to Crime stoppers on 0800 555 111.



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