

Cefas Investigations and Enforcement Strategy

The primary role of the Cefas Fish Health Inspectorate is to enforce fish health regulations in England and Wales in order to prevent and control the spread of serious fish diseases

The Cefas investigations and enforcement strategy includes

- Prioritising threat levels / risk analysis
- Targeted operations and investigations against suspected offenders
- Inter-agency co-operation
- Sampling of imports
- Disease tracing and investigations
- Close co-operation with angling and fish farming organisations in the UK and EU
- Open press policy / informing the public / seeking public help
- Presentations to outside bodies

All aimed at preventing serious fish diseases and protecting UK fish stocks



Illegal imports and illegal movements of live fish

Angling is a multi-million pound industry in the UK. Fishery owners are willing to pay large sums of money for large carp, wels catfish and other species to attract anglers to their waters. As a consequence the market for large fish is causing a significant increase in the number of movements of these animals across Europe, some of which are being illegally imported into the UK.



» Fish smuggler hit for £11,690

A SMUGGLER arrested bringing three-quarters of a tonne of illegal French carp into Dover was made to pay the price when the courts relieved him of £11,690.

...overseas in Kent, was handed a maximum fine of £5,000 and ordered to pay £6,690 in costs after being found guilty of illegally



"Angling Times 10/04/07"

importing the fish last November by Folkestone magistrates on March 30. The 63-year-old admitted transporting 64 carp weighing between 25lb and 43lb in the back of a van. He told Cefas investigators that he had been paid £800 by a man in a pub in Farningham, Kent, to collect the fish from an Englishman in Vitrey, France.



An illegal consignment of 1.8 tonnes of carp, purchased cheaply in Belgium, was found to be infected with Spring Viraemia of Carp virus (SVC).



Contact us

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Please help stop this illegal trade!

Cefas is pleased to receive any information relating to imports of live fish into the UK

24 Hr Answerphone: 01305 206681

All information will be treated in strict confidence