

# Drought Advice

## for Guides, Leaders and Coaches

As climate change has more and more impact on our weather, many parts of the country can expect long periods of hot, dry weather. If these weather pattern continues, there may well be official announcements to urge the public to conserve water every year.

The lack of rain places a great strain on the environment and our sport. The dry spells impact on our waterways where we are seeing lower river levels than normal with some more of the smaller rivers drying up which will affect fish and wildlife. Therefore it is important to follow guidelines when you are either considering to paddle or when you are on the water.

### Advice to Guides, Coaches and Leaders

We recommend that you consider the following actions in order to minimise the risk to both yourself and the natural environment:

- Do not paddle on waterways which are too shallow and where you may come into contact with the river or lake bed. This may have the potential impact of disturbing wildlife and their habitats or attract allegations of disturbance.
- If you encounter shallower areas, read the water and seek out a deeper channel where possible as your route
- To limit the number of times a lock has to open you should share the lock with other craft or simply portage around the lock.
- Low flows means there is less water to dilute effluent/ run off from surrounding land and sewage treatment works. Be aware lower levels of water quality can present a potential health hazard.
- Be aware of toxic blue green algae which may be more common on our waterways at times of low water flow/quantity.
- Use water sparingly when washing down your equipment when following Stop The Spread/Check, Clean and Dry (biosecurity) guidance. If a hosepipe ban is introduced then it is permissible to use a hosepipe for biosecurity and health & safety measures in provisions under the Water Use (Temporary Bans) Order 2010.
- Report incidents, pollution and damage to the environment such as fish deaths to the relevant authorities:

Environment Agency for pollution and fish deaths 0800 80 70 60  
The Canal and River Trust 01923 201120 (Out of hours 0800 47 999 47)  
RSPCA for wildlife and animals in distress 0990 55 59 99 (24 hours)

For further advice, please contact [access@britishcanoeing.org.uk](mailto:access@britishcanoeing.org.uk)

