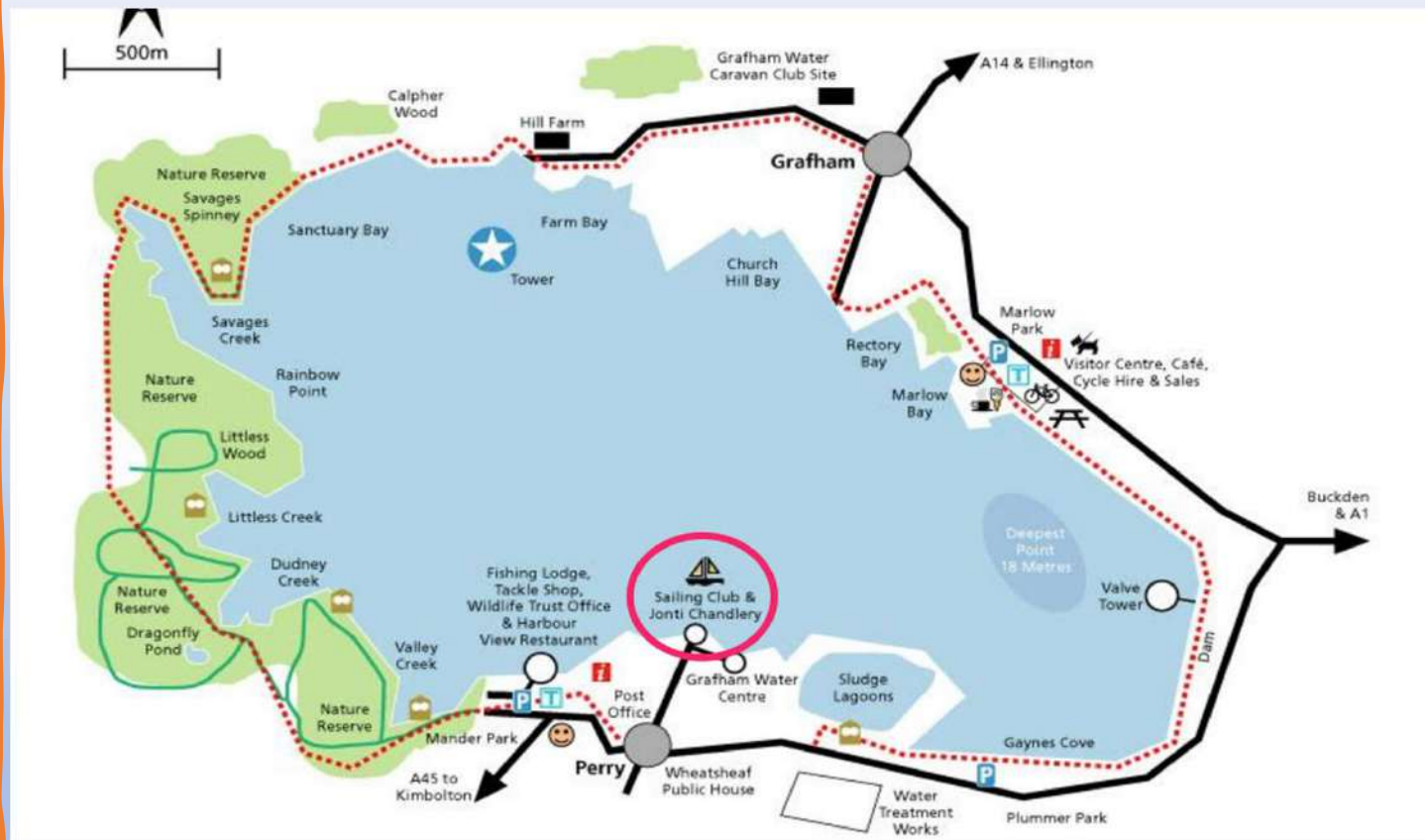


An aerial photograph of a fishing lake at Grafham. The lake is dark blue and occupies the lower half of the frame. A long wooden dock extends into the water from the left, with many small fishing boats moored along it. To the right of the dock, a large, light-colored building with a dark roof sits on a green lawn. The building has a covered entrance and a smaller structure attached to its side. The surrounding area is lush with green trees and grass. In the background, there are more trees and a paved area. The text "Fishing at Grafham" is overlaid in white on the upper left portion of the image.

Fishing at Grafham

Presentation by Chris Bobby 23 January 2024

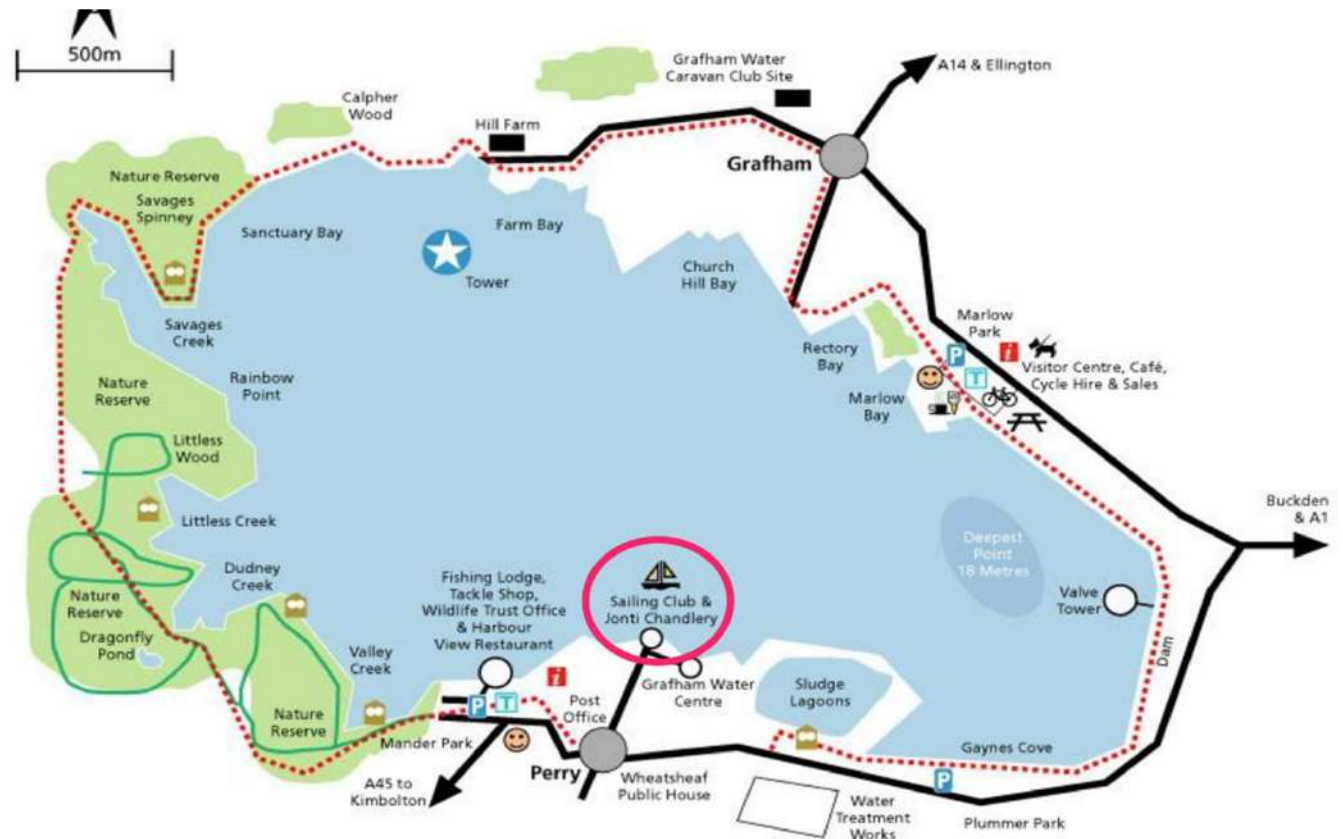
At c1500
acres
Grafham is
quite big so it
can be
daunting to
the beginner



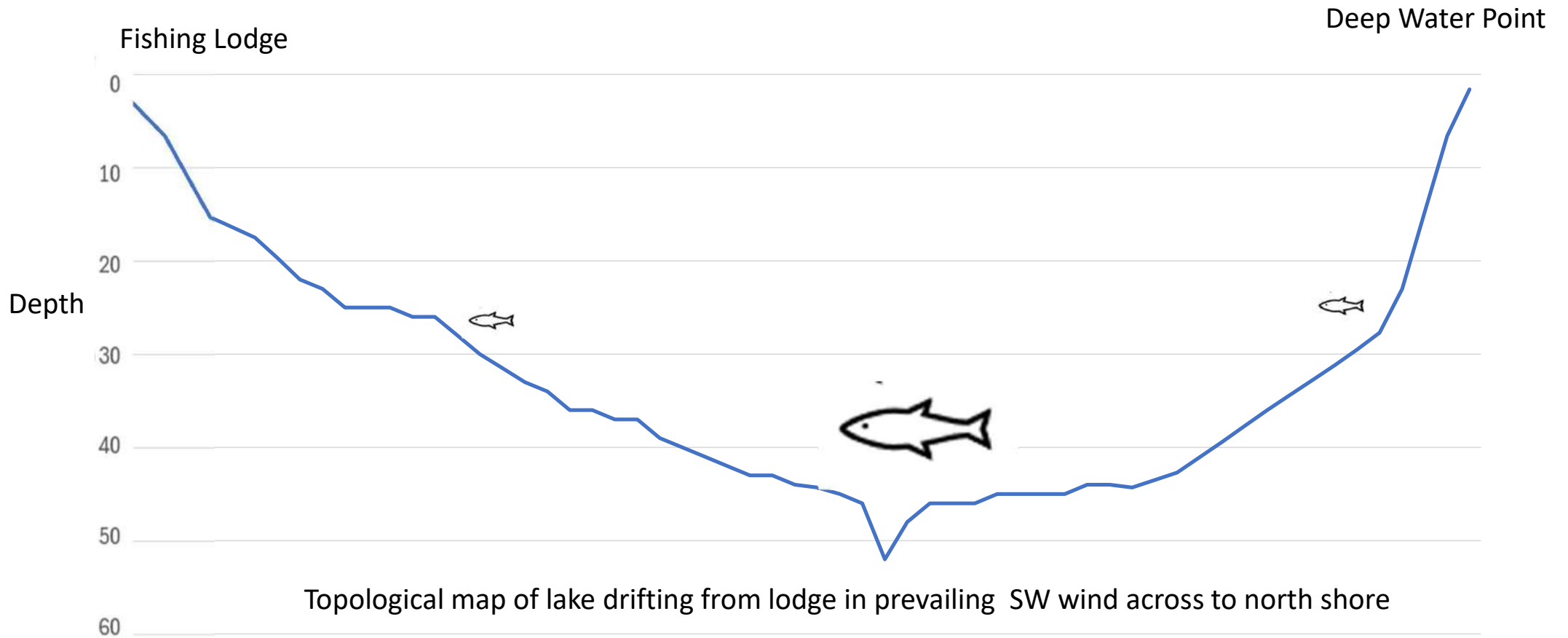
If fish were evenly distributed across the lake, then you would be in range of around 2 fish only – 1 of which is behind you. What can we do to improve the odds?

Should I fish on the bank or hire a boat

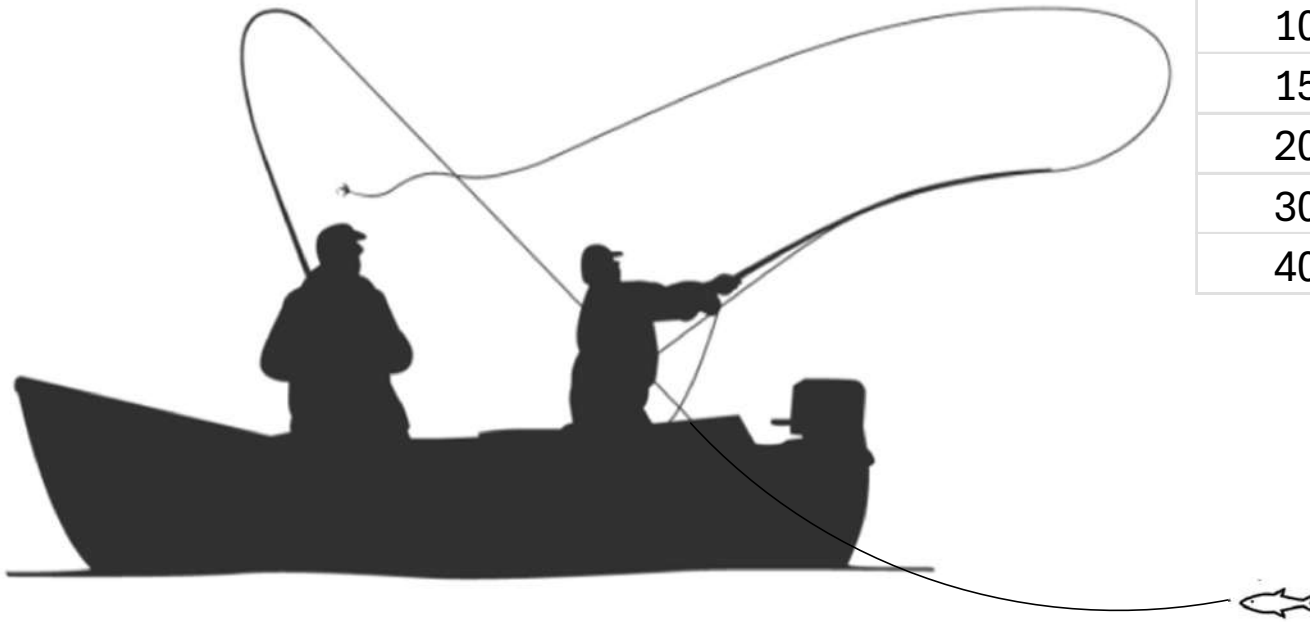
- 8 miles of bank of which half is accessible most of the time. So only 1-2% of the lake area is available to bank anglers
- A boat gives more flexibility and drifting down wind means you cover different depths of water until you find the fish



Where do I start?



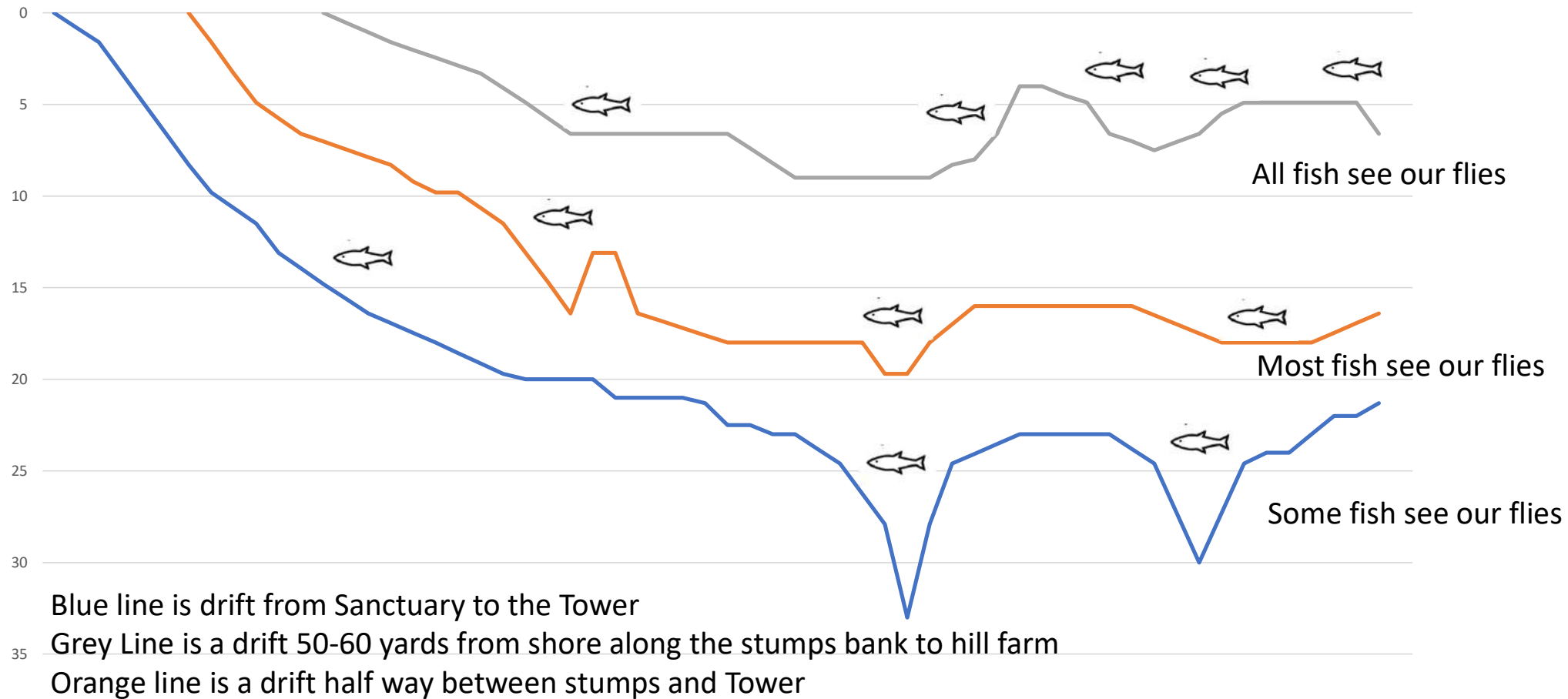
How deep are we fishing?



Seconds	Di3	Di5	Di7
5	1ft 3ins	2ft 1ins	2ft 11ins
10	2ft 6ins	4ft 2ins	5ft 10ins
15	3ft 9ins	6ft 3ins	8ft 9ins
20	5ft 0ins	8ft 4ins	11ft 8ins
30	7ft 6ins	12ft 6ins	17ft 6ins
40	10ft 0ins	16ft 8ins	23ft 4ins

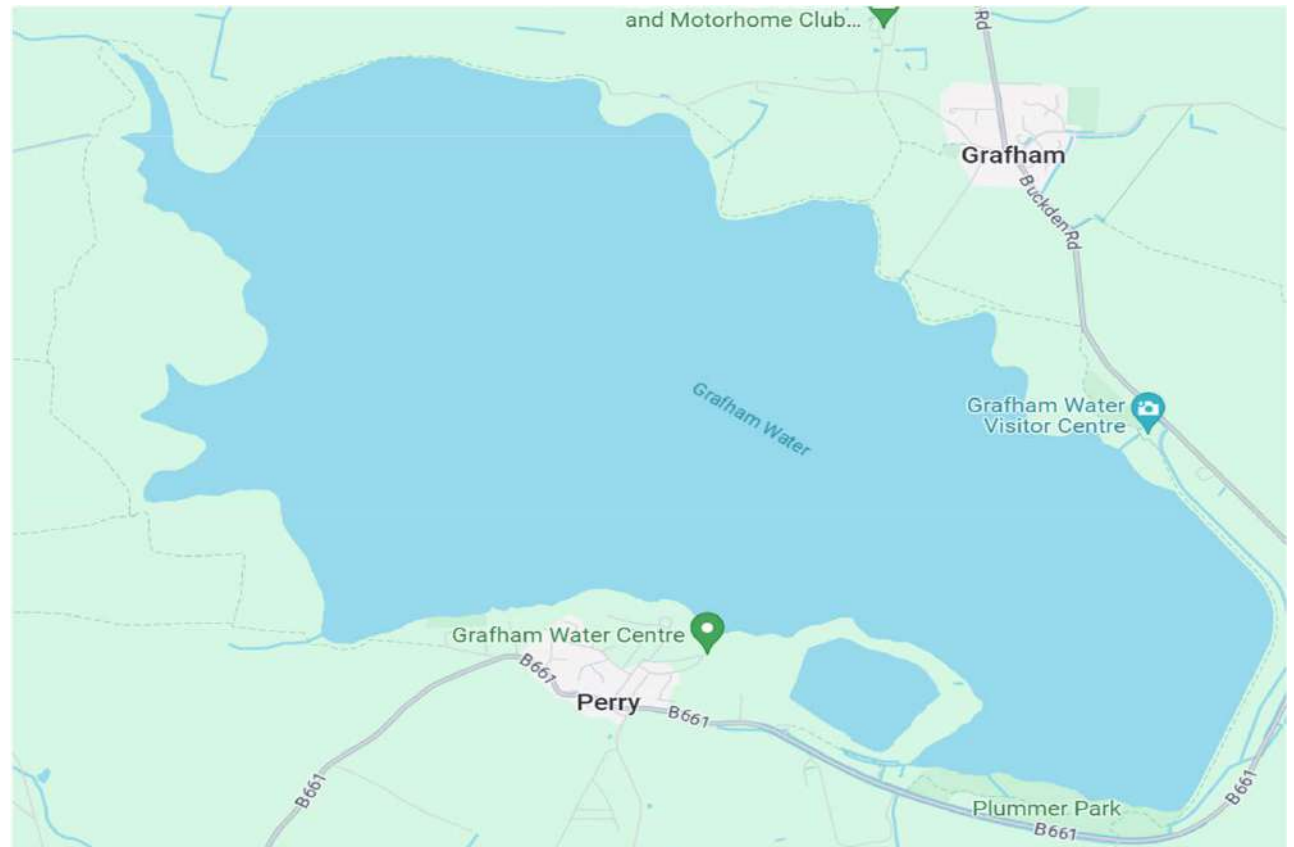
Realistically we are only going to get flies down 8-10 ft.
- Fishing in 10-12ft water means we know any fish will see our flies
- Fishing in 60ft water means fish may never see our flies at all

Sanctuary to the Tower (Westerly Wind)



Efficiency is about fishing the right way in the right place

- **Daphnia** - fish open water but need to try different depths as sensitive to light levels
- **Buzzers** – want to fish silty or muddy bottom so Gaynes Cove, Valley Creek Savages
- **Shrimp** – look for rocky bottom so Dam, North shore points. Some fish better at high water and others when the water drops
- **Fry** – look for activity around weedbeds. Very difficult to catch when they feed on pin fry as the don't swim in straight lines !
- **Snails** – easy prey for fish. Occasionally they drift with the wind – can't predict when but be ready with a black blob if you see them



It is not possible to include information on depths in this document. Depth maps can be found at <https://www.gpsnauticalcharts.com/>

Impact of Wind direction - Boat fishing

South Westerly



Northerly



Drifting the lea of the wind is more comfortable but you pass the fishing zone too quickly. Generally I look to drift onto the bank as fish are pushed towards the shore. Usually there is an undertow caused by water bouncing off the shore – this slows the drift down as you approach the bank (and is where the fish will be).

Impact of Wind direction - Bank fishing

South Westerly



Wind direction impacts casting and angler comfort, but fish are impacted by currents in the water as they will swim up the current. In a south-westerly the current brings fish in close at Hill Farm, Pylon Point and G.

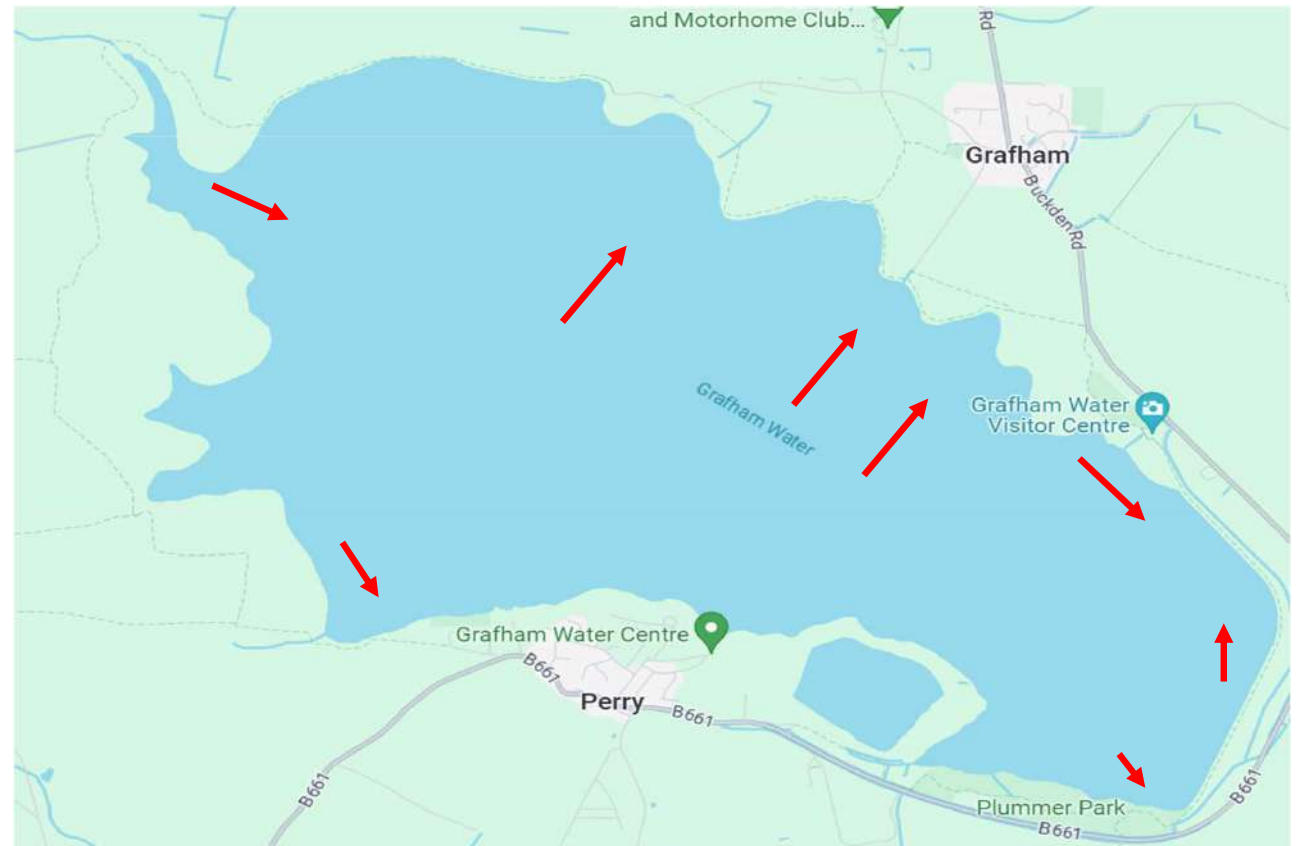
Impact of Wind direction - Bank fishing



A small change in wind can have a dramatic impact on where fish appear near a point. In a southerly wind the current switches to onshore so fish are drawn in from the bays near Hedge End and Deep Water Point.

Fishing at Grafham has changed:

A few years ago, the best drifts were across open water.
Focus on daphnia feeders



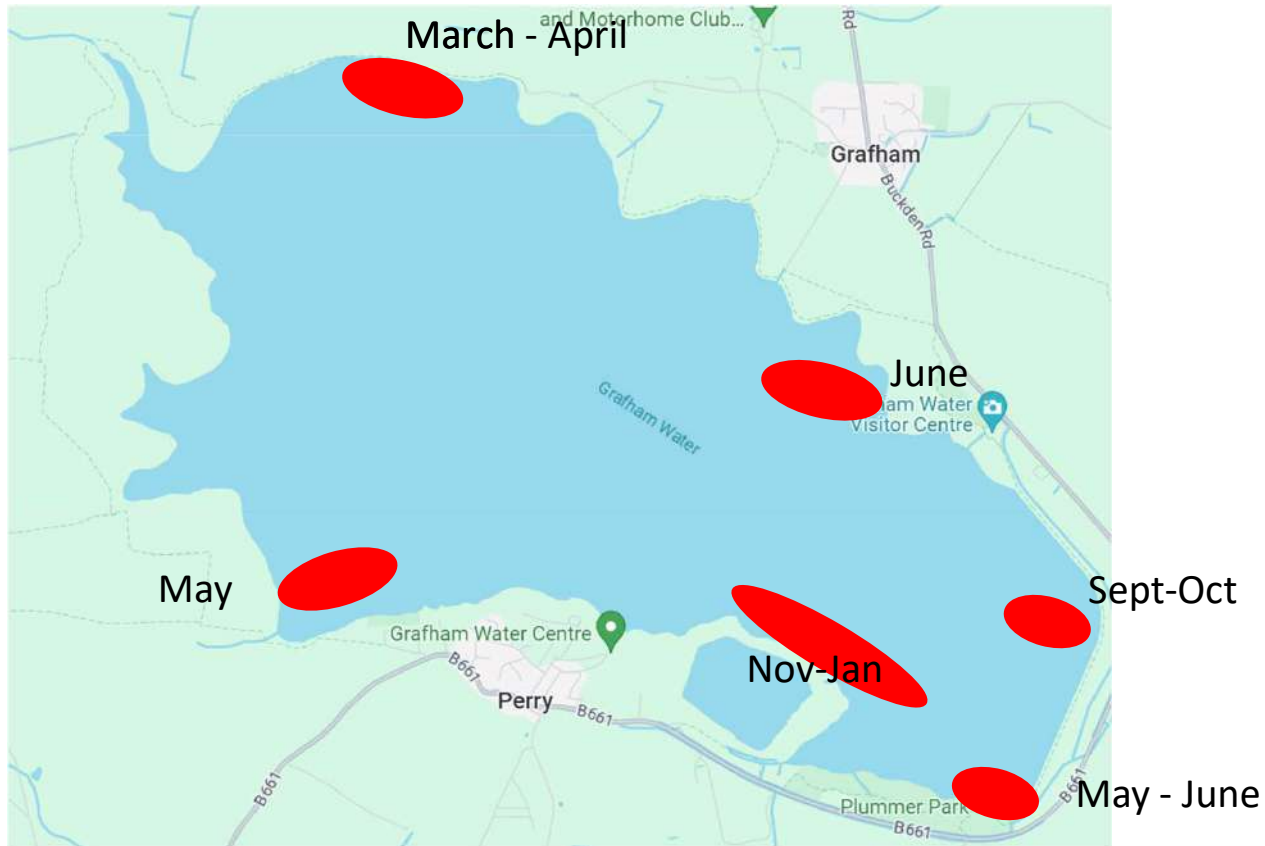
Fishing at Grafham has changed:

Killer Shrimp changed everything. Fish come much closer to the bank

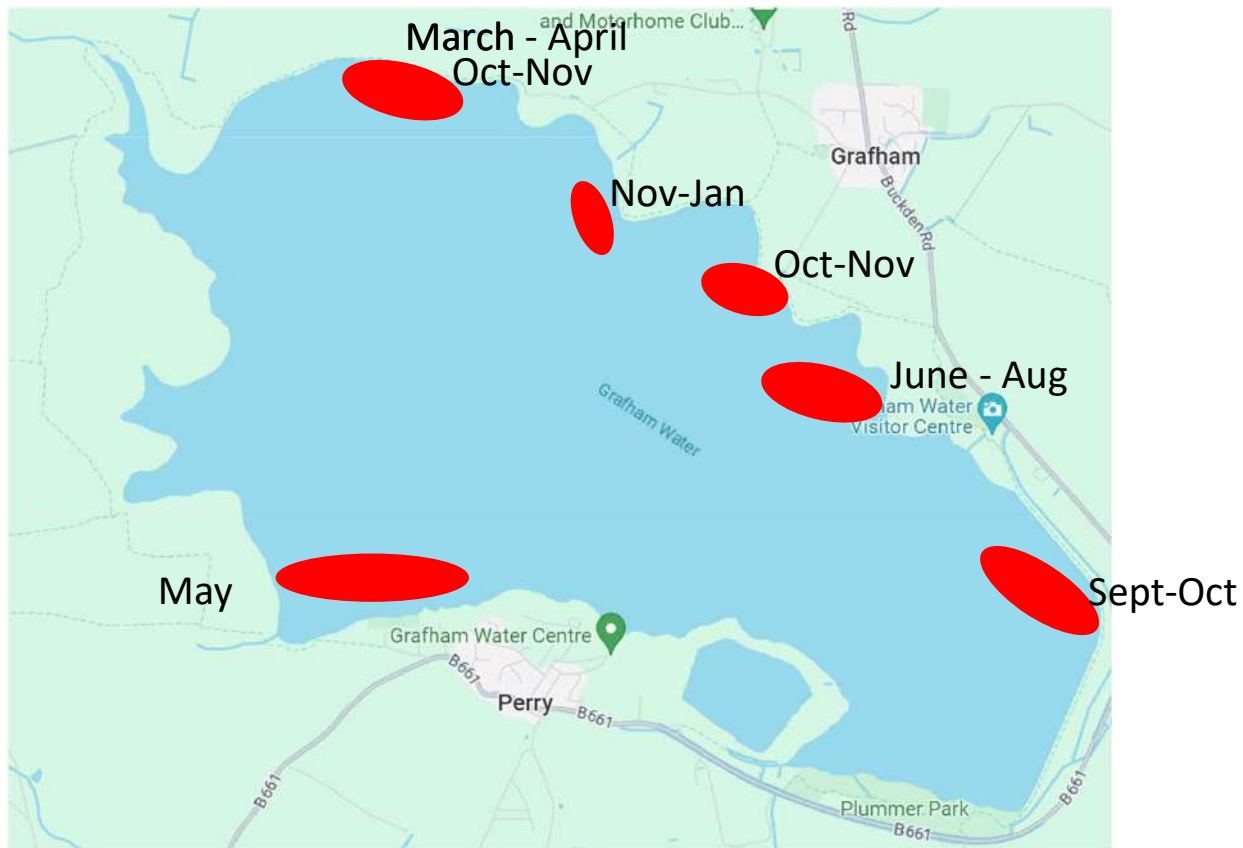


but Zebra mussels turned the water gin clear so will it change again?

Hotspots 2022

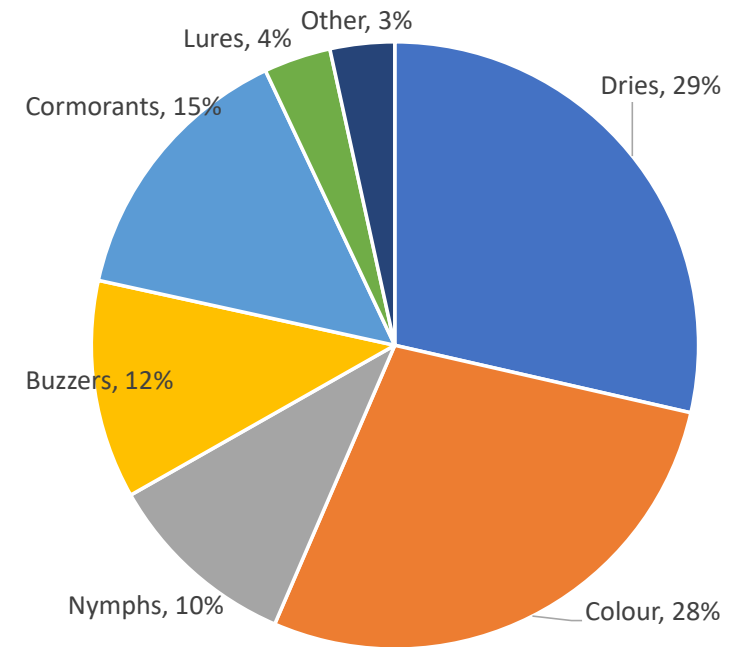
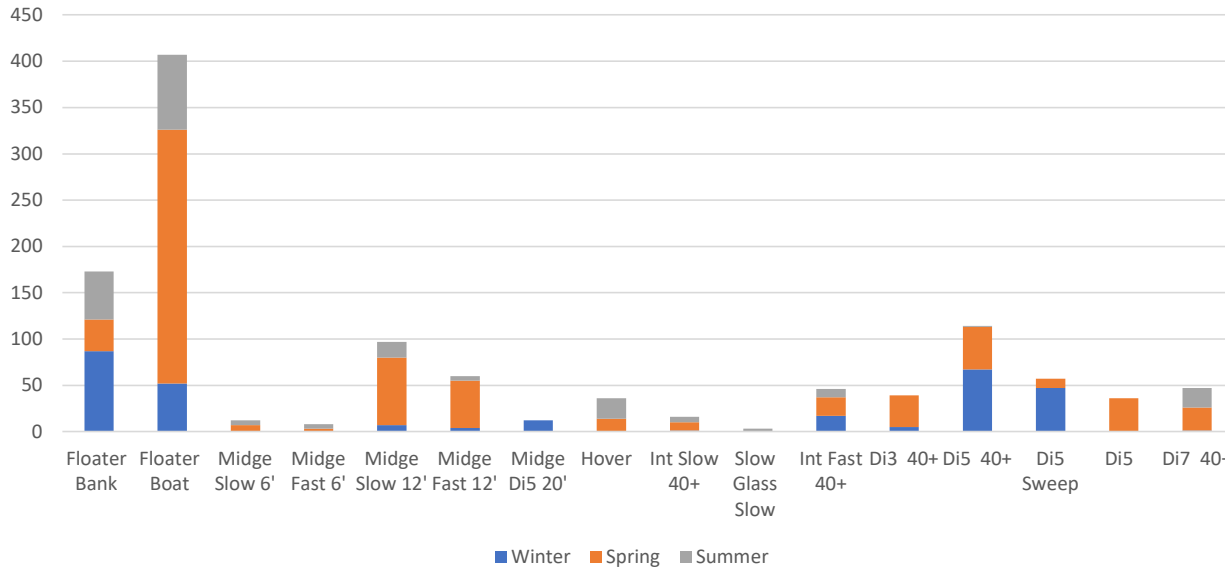


Hotspots 2023



My 2023 Season

2023 Fish caught by line type - Chris & Lianne



Total 1173 Trout of which 190 from boat and 107 from banks at Grafham.

Bank fishing: use a floater 99.9% of the time. Very occasionally use some intermediate to pull a snake, minkie

Boat fishing: as competition anglers we each carry 20 or more lines but catch nearly all our fish on a few: Floater, Slow and Fast Tip, Slow and Fast Intermediate (Airflo 40+) and some sort of Di5



What sort of rod do I need?

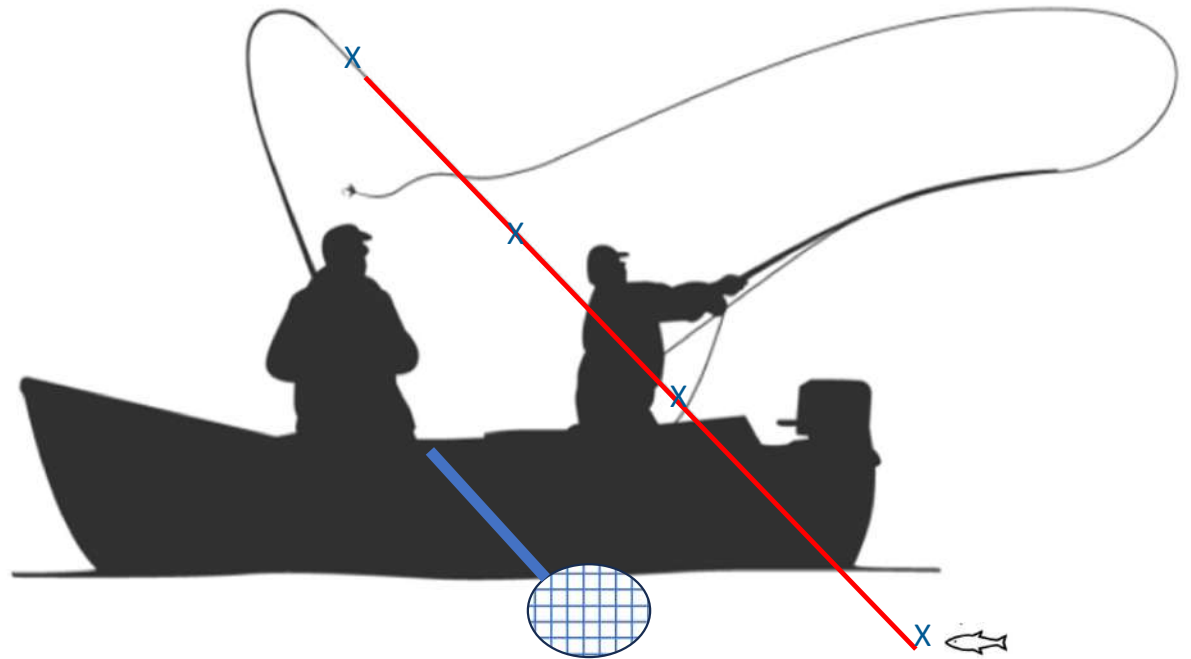
Lots of variables:

- Length 9' / 9' 6" / 10' / 11' 3"
- AFTM 5wt / 6wt / 7wt / 8wt
- Action Fast / Tip / Mid
- Price £100 - £1100

The most important thing is the line must balance the rod to load it properly.

Most reservoir anglers use a 10ft rod as this will enable you to fish a longer leader. However, a 9'6 is lighter so less effort when fishing long session

Recommend that a beginner or developing angler sticks with 1 rod and masters that rather than carry different types.



Can I fish dries at Grafham?

Yes, but it requires a lot to be right:

- Overcast
- Warm
- Insects
- Willing Fish looking up

But ... Floating Shrimps will raise fish at times:

- October North Dam to Bowl
- November North Shore



For more reliable top of the water fishing try elsewhere

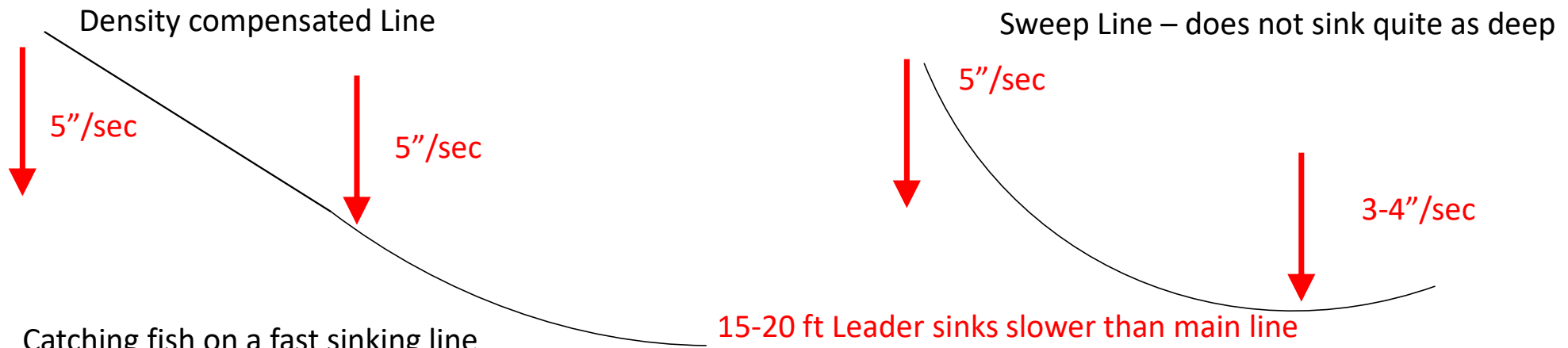
- Ravensthorpe – Late May – June if not dirty
- Eyebrook – May then August/September
- Draycote – June then August/September
- Even Rutland this year – May in the margins

How do you fish dries from a boat?



1. Flies must be static – waves cause drag which gives a tiny unnatural movement
Ways to minimise:
 - use a single fly
 - cast all flies across one wave
 - limit each cast to 5 seconds on the water
2. Line must float all the way to the tip
 - gink any braided loop
3. Remember to cast in front of a rising fish – not behind it!

How do you fish a Di5 line?



Catching fish on a fast sinking line

1. On the drop – very occasionally a fish will take the fly soon after it lands. Generally it hooks itself. Counting down each cast helps the angler remember how deep the fly gets to before retrieving. If takes slow down then vary the count – the fish may have come up in the water or gone deeper.
2. On the retrieve – aggressive takes are when fish hit fly from the side – sometimes these end up as pulls. A gentle pull or tightening of the line indicates a fish picked up your fly and is swimming towards you – get ready for it to go tight.
3. On the hang – get into a habit of stopping the fly at the end of the cast and leave static for 10 secs before next cast. Use a bright fly on the top dropper and watch for any movement. Strike immediately you see movement of the fly or leader – you will not feel a take.

Where on the leader is your heaviest fly?

Boat fishing

- unlikely to want to fish more than 1 leaded lure on any cast

For a team of international rules flies (i.e. unleaded)

- if pulling then the deepest fly is always the one nearest the fly line - for most of CB fishing there is a booby on the point which exaggerates this

- if fishing buzzers then the heaviest should be on the point to take everything down as quickly as possible

Bank fishing

- heaviest fly is nearly always on the point except when trying to fish a washing line

- however, we are only casting into 4-5ft of water at Grafham and so it pays to keep the flies high in the water by fishing light/small flies on a short leader. Don't forget fish look up not down.