

Tried And Tested Items Of Interest To The Pike Angler

NJF New Pike Book

There has not been a lot written about pike fishing specifically on big waters and yet this branch of the sport has become very popular in recent years. Some other authors had promised to write on the subject but nothing has materialised until now.

Nev has also got his timing spot on with the release, well in time for Christmas and all those piking widows buying presents for their husbands. The book is good quality in terms of both production as well as content. Nev has used the same format as a number of other compilers in getting co-authors to write about their specialist water type.

Several recent pike books utilising this formula have failed to hit the mark but this one is spot on. The book does not have a loose dust jacket which should help it to age well. All of the authors have gone into great detail in passing on their hard won tips as to how to get the best of their waters and in some cases methods and location are described to the extent of almost marking the spot with an X. But as Nev says "It's all about boat fishing I'm afraid" so you will need to go afloat to take advantage of much of this sound advice.

Nev could perhaps have found room for something about the waters in North America such as Lake Of The Woods but that is a small point and with the knowledge gained from reading 'Big Water Pike' the reader would be well equipped to tackle any large water containing Esox. I enjoyed reading the book and highly recommend it. It is available in hard back from the Tackle Shop and selected shops at £25 plus £5 post and packaging.

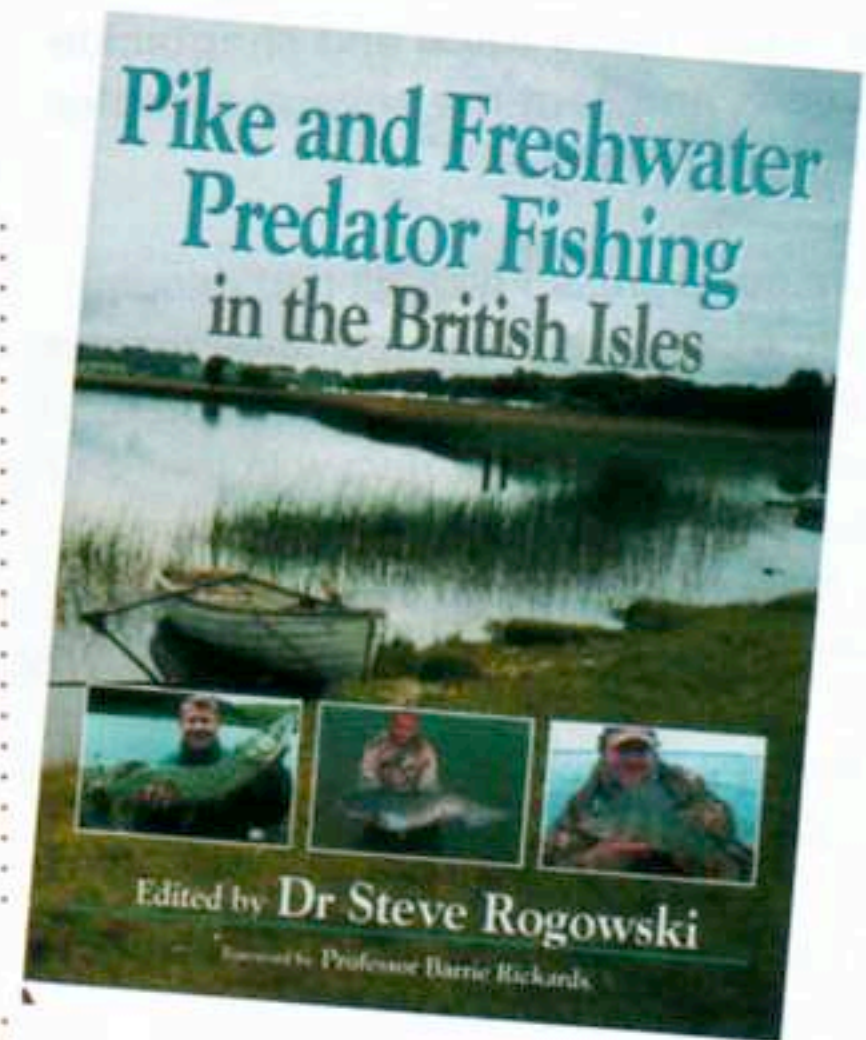
Phil Wakeford

EsoX Lucius Jerkbait Rod

I was given this rod to try out at the CLA Gamefair that I attended on behalf of the PAC and from the moment that it came out of the bag it got an awful lot of admiring glances from the other workers on the stall, so much so that I made sure it got locked away in the car pretty quick!

What can I say about the looks of this rod, other than it is stunning. OK, so beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, but there are some very nice touches to this rod like the engraved butt cap, and etched Duplon in the handle, but the real test of an rod is in the use as a fishing tool, and once again here it 'XL's'. I have had a few fish on this rod now to low doubles, and all have been handled with ease. Furthermore, it fits and stows away nicely thanks to its two-piece construction, which in no way inhibits its action. My test sample handled lures from Replicants to Mag Dawgs with no problems at all, but does actually have a bend to it when a fish is hooked. The range of products by 'Fishing Matters' is growing, as can be seen by the stand at this year's convention with some exciting products to come. RRP £80. Visit their website at: fishingmatters.biz

Mark Barrett



New Predator Book From Dr. Steve Rogowski

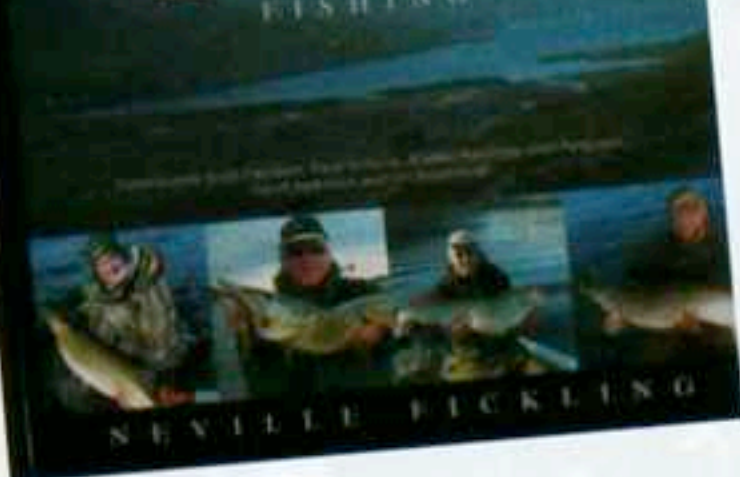
Pike and Freshwater Predator Fishing in the British Isles is a brand new release from Steve Rogowski and is a unique volume of very in-depth chapters on the UK's main predatory species.

Similar to other recent books, Steve has pooled the resources of several writers who are each single-species specialists. This ensures that the reader is thoroughly informed on the habits of pike, catfish, zander, perch, eels, even chub, salmon and trout are covered. More importantly, each author then gives in-depth information on how to locate and fish for each species.

To kick the book off there is an honest foreword by Barrie Rickards that sets the tone of the book perfectly. This is followed with a fascinating introduction by Steve himself to all the species featured in the book which then whets the appetite for more information.

We then move onto the 6 main chapters, which focus on: pike; Steve Rogowski, Catfish; Simon Clarke, Eels; Steve Ormrod, Perch; Mark Barrett and Zander; Neville Fickling. Each author covers their specialist species in their own style with detailed

BIG WATER PIKE



That said there is a chapter on English Lake District pike from the bank by Geoff Parkinson but even he is well into bait boats. Another author I'll pick out is Jimmy Woolnough writing about Spanish Reservoirs and his pioneering work to track down the big pike that live in them. You may be aware that Jimmy has since gone missing. There are 14 chapters in total and they cover all of the major waters available in the UK and Ireland as well as covering Spain and the Baltic Sea.



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