

## A PB Barbel

As a specimen angler my aim every season is to try and raise a new personal best, little did I know it was going to be a barbel that did it for me this year.

I've been fishing a weed choked southern river once a week, for a couple of hours after work, getting there at 330pm and finishing at 6pm.

Rather than roam around I've been concentrating in one area, keeping a swim fed twice a week with a tin of Sonubaits Hemp n spicy sausage and half a kilo of 6mm Spicy sausage halibut pellets.

On the day I fish I introduce a further half a tin of the hemp, make my cast to a gravel run between the weed and then continually feed 6 to 8 of the Halibut pellets during the course of my stay.

The barbel here are paranoid, one cast is all you get, another and they'll clear off. So I aim put the bait in the right spot and draw the fish to the hookbait with the continual feed. Rig for the day is 12mm Sonubaits Krill Pellet O attached to a very short hair and a size 10 xpert specimen hook with 9 inches of 10lb xpert mono, the rig is fished free running using the excellent Korum running rig kit.

Today felt different to other days, a ripple on the water from the strong downstream wind, overcast with the occasional sunny spell and a slight drop in air pressure. I'd yet to have a barbel this season, despite fishing once a week since June 16<sup>th</sup>. Today after 15 minutes of feeding I saw a fish flank deep under the weed. Then one would drift out into the main flow over the gravel before backing off. An hour of feeding later and the tip of the xpert wrapped over and a manic 5 minutes ensued. This particular swim means fishing in chest waders as once hooked the fish has to be taken downstream where I can get into the water and reach the barbel with the net over the

marginal weed. After a few heart stopping moments she went over the net cord, my first barbel of the season. I knew she was a double and was absolutely over the moon to achieve a new pb of 12lb 15oz.

