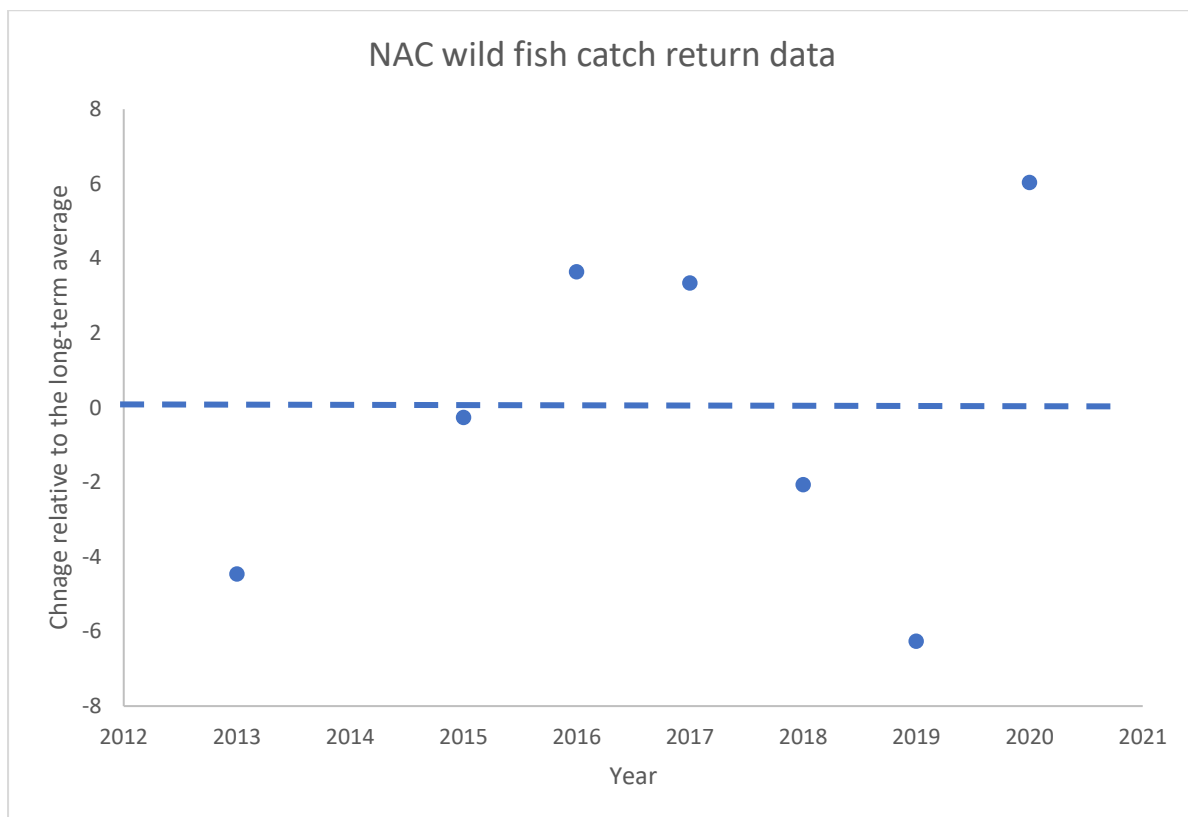


## Stopping stocking case study – River Nidd, Yorkshire

During the last 10 years, [Nidderdale Angling Club](#) began to question the value of stocking their waters around Pateley Bridge and gradually ramped down from 1800 to 600 fish per annum in 2019. In 2020, the club ceased stocking and instead ploughed the money saved into better access for anglers, tackling invasive Himalayan balsam, and with help from WTT, improving spawning habitat at Dauber Gill with Fishery Improvement Programme funding (rod licence money put to good use).

Taking account of 'angler effort', the number of wild fish caught has generally increased as the number of stocked fish was reduced. In 2020, the first year of zero stock fish, the number of wild fish per angler was the highest recorded, and actually equivalent to the combined number of stocked and wild fish recorded per angler when 1200 fish were being added to the river back in 2013. The figure below details the relative change in number of wild fish per angler compared to the long-term average recorded between 2013-2020.



*“Nidderdale Angling Club is extremely fortunate to have WTT guiding us on a more professional and scientific management of our fishery. It is a great pity that case studies like this one were not done before. They tell us so much of what anglers need to know and what information to gather. In this respect accurate and reliable catch returns can be a useful indicator of how the fishery is doing and our club will watch our returns with interest as time passes from the date on which we ceased to stock.”* Dr J. Shillcock, President.

Useful links:

[Blog post](#) about the Dauber Gill habitat improvement project including electrofishing results.

[Advisory Visit report](#) for the Nidderdale Angling Club.