

# Statistical Data

## or how to catch carp at Trow Pool!

There are two main factors for successful fishing at Trow Pool: skill and luck. And a days fishing will often be a balance between these two items. The professional has more skill than most anglers and so will, on average, out fish them. While the novice has little skill, there's always the chance of a lucky strike!

So how can you maximise your chances of catching carp at Trow Pool? Well first you need good fishing tackle, the correct rig and these are taken as read. If you're a beginner and not sure about hooks, baits and rigs then you may want to go to the beginners section of the web site and get some 1:1 free tuition.

There are two ways to fish at Trow, the static method (you sit in one spot and don't move around) and the dynamic method (you stalk the carp around the water). And you might alternative between these two methods or just stick to one method, the choice is yours. If you fish the static method then you can usually have two rods whereas stalking involves just one rod. Either method can be successful.

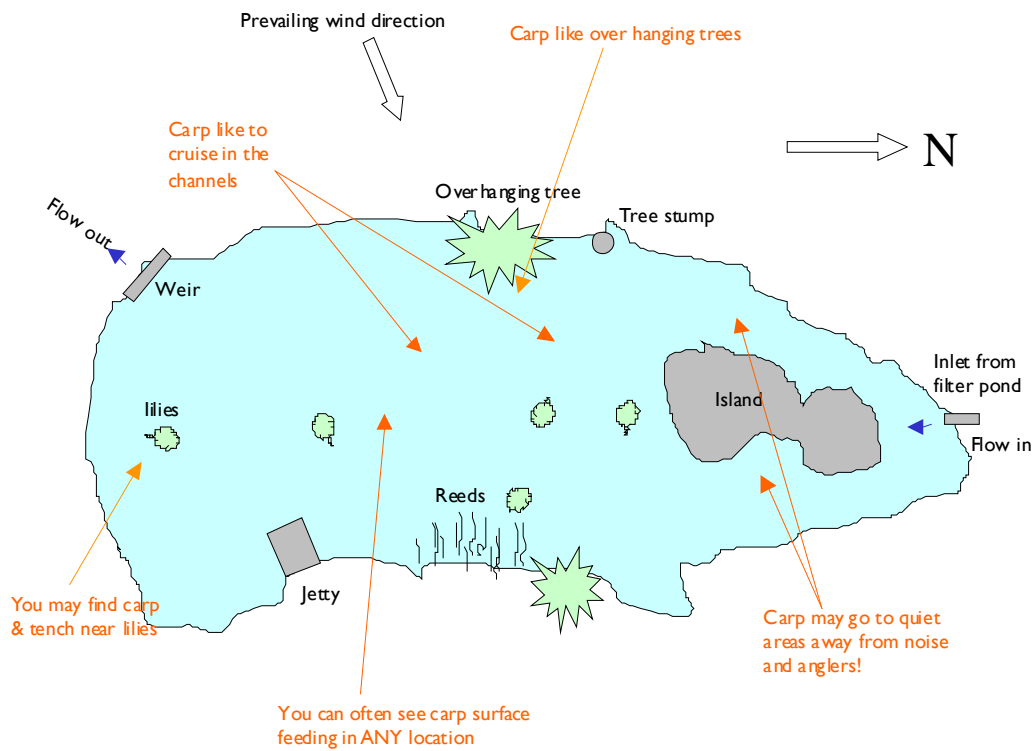
Staking has the advantage that you find where the fish are and then present your bait directly to them. And clearly this will greatly increase your chance of hooking a fish. While just sitting in one location (static method) can give poor results if there are no fish in your swim. However, by using two rods you have a greater chance of hooking a fish than with just one rod. And by using different tactics of say one bait on the bottom (called legering) and the other float fishing or on the surface, you can increase your chances.

There is a saying when buying a house that says you should consider three factors namely: location, location and location! This is also true of successful fishing and some guidelines now follow.

- The prevailing wind in this country blows from the west and so food is often blown or forced to the east side of the bank. If the carp are feeding then you may find them in this location.
- Insects and food often fall from the overhanging trees at Trow and these locations may be a good spot to fish.
- If you see bubbles rising in the water (may even move along the surface) then this may be a good location as it indicates that fish are feeding on the bottom.

- You may see carp cruising along the channels between the weed (yes there's lots of it) and may want to consider these locations.
- You may find carp in the margins and this may be a good location or in the reeds or weeds!
- In the summer, and to a lesser degree in the winter, you can see carp slurping food from the surface and this is a definite location to head for!

Figure 1 is a sketch of Trow Pool and shows some of these locations:



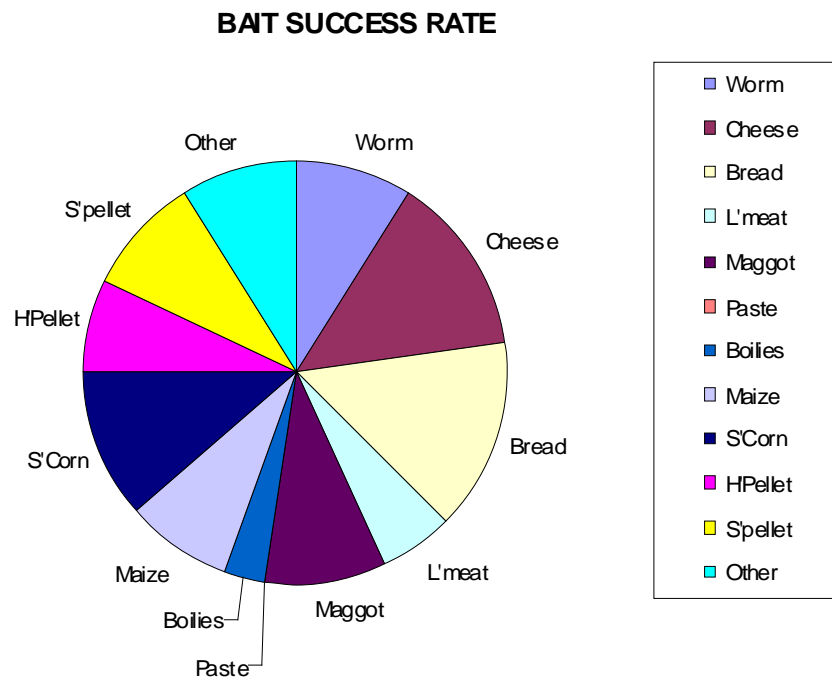
**Fig 1 - Sketch of Trow Pool**

Remember that if you can see the carp then they can also see you. And noise to carp is a bit like showing a red flag to a bull, except that the carp will charge off into the opposite direction to where you're fishing!

Even if you find the perfect location at Trow Pool you'll then need to entice the carp onto your hook or as we would say take the bait. So I'm now going to run through some very basic bait tactics.

There is no such thing as a universal bait that will always guarantee to catch carp. If there was such a "philosophers stone" then fishing shops wouldn't sell the many hundreds of different baits!

The result of my catches at Trow using different baits is show below in the pie chart in fig 2. But remember this is based on my choice of baits and fishing tactics - yours will be difference.



**Fig 2 - Pie Chart of bait success rate at Trow**

To go with these figures I also have the results of my tactics (was the bait presented on the bottom, suspended or on the surface) and these results are too long to include. But I can summarise them in table 1.

The yellow columns show my bait success. As an example bread has a success rate of 60% (the 0.60 figure in the bread column) per session. While I have been unsuccessful with paste as a bait, this doesn't mean that it's a bad bait at Trow but merely that I don't use a lot of it . So the number above the various bait descriptions is the percentage catch rate per session.

0.36	0.57	0.60	0.23	0.37	0.00	0.14	0.33	0.46	0.29	0.37	0.36	0.48	0.26	0.35
Worm	Cheese	Bread	L'meat	Maggot	Paste	Boil lies	Maize	S'Corn	H'Pellet	S'pellet	Other	Surface	Suspen'd	Bottom

**Table I - summary of results for Trow Pool**

The columns in blue show the tactics used against the bait and remember you are only seeing a summary of all my results. The three types of fishing tactics are: on the surface, suspended (that is float fishing) and on the bottom (legered). And again the figure above each blue column gives the success rate, so for example I have a 48% (0.48) catch rate on the surface.

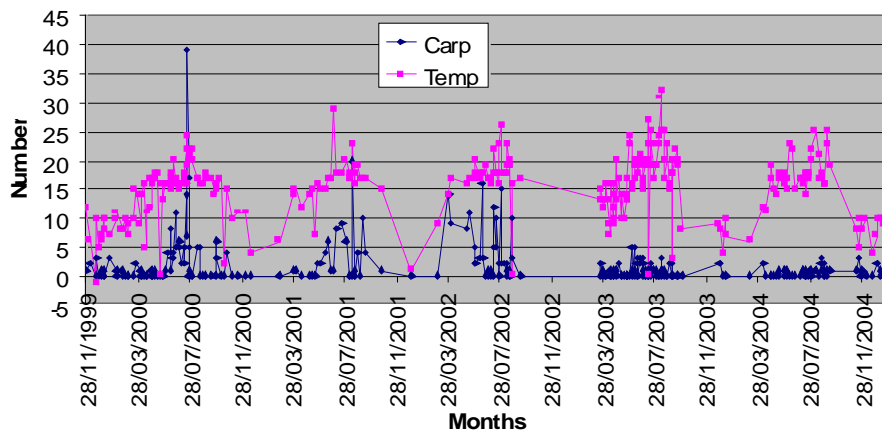
If you are keen on fishing then I suggest that you keep a diary or journal of your fishing trips. Buy yourself a blank book and each time you go fishing record your results along with other important information. As a minimum you should record:

- Date
- Time (also day or night)
- Location (can include sketch of swim)
- Weather conditions (dry or raining, high or low pressure, sunny or cloudy)
- Air temperature (get it from the daily paper or news)
- Wind direction (north, south, east or west)
- Bait
- Catches (include your photo too!) and,
- Fishing strategy (stalking or not, rig type, number of rods)

The information gained will be enormous and I promise you that your fishing will improve. However, you must log every fishing session not just the successful ones, but also when you blank. If you would like help in doing this and perhaps putting the information into a spreadsheet, then contact me.

The time of year will have an influence on how successful you are and generally speaking the warmer periods are more successful than fishing in the bleak of winter.

Chart 1 shows my carp catches over a period of four years and the peaks of summer and dips of winter are clear. However don't be despondent because if you can brave the weather you can still catch carp in the winter even on the



**Chart 1- Air temperate against carp catch rate (all sites)**

I hope that you'll find some parts of this document interesting and if you need help on any aspects of fishing then please contact me or any of the committee members.

Remember that fishing should be fun and although you'll never catch a 40lb carp at Trow (there aren't any) you will enjoy yourself and could land a 20lb carp.

Finally, tight lines and may the fish be with you!

James Bryant

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