

Scot bags a bike during Almond clean-up



Fisherman Scot Muir pulls a bike from the River Almond during a clean up

Scot Muir pulls a bike from the River Almond during a clean-up on Sunday organised by West Lothian Angling Association (WLAA). Bags of rubbish, including plastic juice bottles and drink cans, were collected along with other assorted debris.

It's all part of a long-term project by the WLAA to improve the amenity and the environment.

John Steel, WLAA's chairman, said his members had been complaining about the litter dumped in and around the river for some time.

Individual members take plastic bags and do their bit to clean up sections when on fishing trips, he added.

And others have organised day trips to remove heavier objects like shopping trollies and bikes from the river because they are determined to improve the environment.

He said: "The litter is unsightly and surely we all want to see the river, which is a wonderful amenity, clean and tidy."

He added: "Shopping trollies, machinery and bikes in the river make it difficult for our members to fish certain stretches.

"We try to do our best to remove them and, unfortunately, some of them find their way back into the river."

Members were led on the walk by international fisherman Paul Buchanan who explained where to fish and with what.

Other walks and clean-ups are planned before the start of the new season in March and permits will be available for an eight-mile stretch from January.