



# Want to fish? That'll be **£275** an hour, please...

IF YOU THINK AN AMENDED RESERVOIRS ACT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM, YOU NEED TO THINK AGAIN...

**I** DON'T like it. It's too quiet..."

It's one of the oldest clichés in cinema. The line uttered by a pensive officer in countless war films, seconds before enemy hordes erupt from a dark forest to massacre the entire unit.

It's a line that may have also crossed a few lips at the Angling Trust of late but this time the

ending is slightly different.

This time, the fear is that the hordes stay in the dark and are themselves wiped out by a bulked-up brute called the Reservoirs Act 1975.

That might seem a tall order for a piece of legislation that has been around for 35 years without a hitch.

If proposed amendments to the statute become law, however, this won't be the

Reservoirs Act your father knew: the one that decreed dammed reservoirs must hold 25,000 cubic metres of water before those who fished them faced the risk of being billed for repairs.

The rain-lashed calamities of recent summers have made Britain much more jittery about flooding than it was in the mid-Seventies, so now the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

is looking to lower that 25,000 cubic metre bar by a whopping 60% and possibly more.

If they get their way, a dammed reservoir holding at least 10,000 cubic metres (a four-metre deep water whose surface area is just 50 metres by 50 metres, for example) will fall within the ambit of the Act.

That ambit not only widens the definition of "reservoir" to include "any place where

