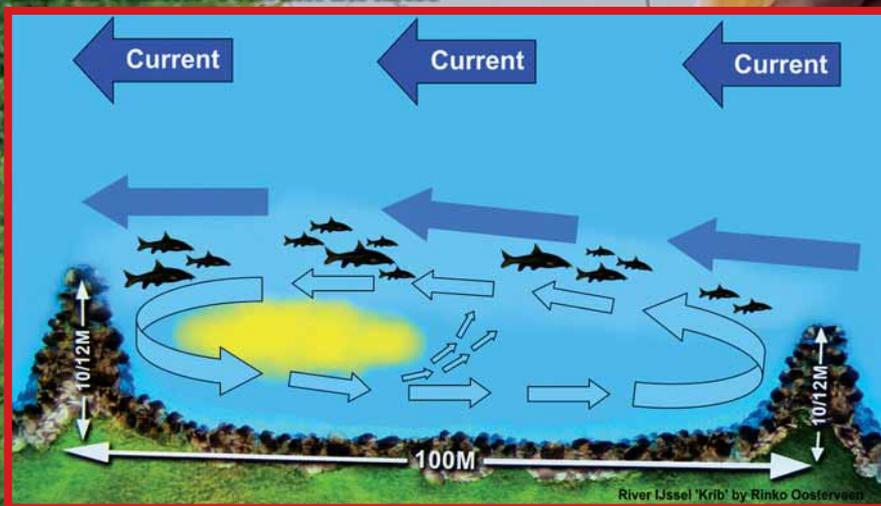


# Welcome to my 'Krib'

**Barbel fishing  
in Holland**



*Below: The rotating current this is the 'barbelzone' between the kribbs*





My name is Rinko Oosterveen and I was born and raised in Zwolle, Holland. This city is situated on the beautiful river IJssel.

**The River IJssel, sometimes called Gelderse IJssel is a branch of the Rhine and is situated in the Dutch provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel.**

It is 125km long and flows from Westervoort, east of the city of Arnhem until it discharges into the IJsselmeer (Lake IJssel).

The width of the IJssel is between 70 and 140 meters and if this river is flooded we cannot fish for barbel from our kribs . It is possible that the level of the river is 5 meters higher than normal level.

The average speed (normal water level) of the flowing water is about 3-5 km/hour.

The IJssel is one of the three major distributary branches into which the Rhine divides itself shortly after crossing the German-Dutch border, the other two being the

Nederrijn and Waal.

In the Netherlands the barbel population decreased enormously between 1945 and 1980, but since the early 1990s is on the increase again.

In recent years it has also become possible to target barbel in many of the larger Dutch rivers.

Since I caught my first barbel on this river, barbus barbus has become my passion; in 2007 I caught the then Dutch barbel record of 85cm and 6.3kg (13lb 9ozs). In the Netherlands we have the strange habit of measuring records in length, and not in weight. Don't ask me why?

Also, in 2007 I started setting up a barbel website, as there was not a great deal to be found on the internet about barbel fishing in Holland.

My website, 'The Dutch Barbel Site', [www.barbeel.com](http://www.barbeel.com), designed to give

*The Kribs*



information and to exchange the experiences of other barbel fishermen, or visiting anglers to Holland.

On the website there is an explanation of a handling code for barbel in Holland, this code is similar to the Barbel Society Handling Code.

There were many people who didn't know how to handle a barbel after a powerful and exhausted fight from this fish. Nowadays I see that following the code has been very effective, as almost every barbel angler is now using an unhooking mat, and now knows how to let the barbel recover.

We aid recovery at the head of the krib where the current is strong and full of oxygen. I use a latex coated landing net with a long strong steel handle like the Korum Powerstick. Watch out on the kribbs though, when they are wet from the rain they are very slippery!

Barbel fishing in the Netherlands is increasingly

popular, the catches are getting better and better, also bigger and heavier, very promising for the future.

In 2010 I caught a serious barbel again, also with a length of 85cm, but this one was much heavier 7.2g (15lb 9ozs).

The tackle companies are realising that the market for barbel fishing is getting bigger in Holland, and of course all the good barbel tackle comes from the UK.

We have learned a great deal from English barbel master Ade Kiddell. Ade helped out a few serious barbel fishermen in Holland, by giving advice of his years of barbel experience. Nowadays we see a lot of his techniques on almost every krib. Not only on the IJssel but also on the Waal.

Ade is the real barbel pioneer of the big rivers in Holland; I think I can speak for all Dutch barbel anglers in that respect.

Fishing for barbel in Holland on the big rivers is



*Fishing with maggots means catching other species too*

not very easy, on the IJssel there are many differences in the riverbed, some are of gravel, others with sand and clay, and some are full of mussels.

On the bed there are also many large rocks, in some places you cannot fish because you're line is snagged on almost every cast.

On an outside bend of the river is where we search for the good barbel spots

preferably with a clean bed of gravel and we fish from 'kribbs'.

There is not an English word for this but I try to explain what a 'krib' is. It is a dam (breakwater? Ed) to slow down the current of the river. On almost every bend there are a few kribbs for this purpose.

The length of the kribbs on the IJssel are between 50-100 meters long and between them there is a



*Ade and me!*

rotating current. This is where the current between the kribs hits the fast current and is where the fish are feeding and here we can expect barbel.

The sketch on the lead page shows the rotating current this is the 'barbelzone' between the kribs.

Barbel cannot be spotted like on most English rivers, the water between the kribs is around 3.5 and 7 meters deep.

On some parts of this river we can fish with three rods at the same time, if you have a special three rod licence, this makes it much easier to find the feeding barbel on a large stretch.

To play the barbel is very tricky on a krib, the big rocks of the kribs are from the top down to the bottom of the river, and barbel knows how to escape between these big rocks.

From the photographs you can see a lot of rocks on a krib, imagine that the rocks are at the same density beneath the surface. Ensuring your hook and your hooklink/line are free from damage is necessary after almost every cast to check them over, because the line will snap very easily. See my hooklink of 0.33 Monofilament after playing a barbel!

I use mesh feeders in the weights of 150-210 gram, my favorite groundbaits is a mix of the Sonubaits Hemp and halicrush and 4-6 mm elliptical pellets.

The best hook baits are pellets and good old cheese, and sometimes maggots but when we fish with maggots we catch a lot of other species like bream, roach and ide, not that bad if it is a specimen fish though!

I hope the future will bring us more and bigger barbel, so that you can come visiting Holland and catch some serious fish.

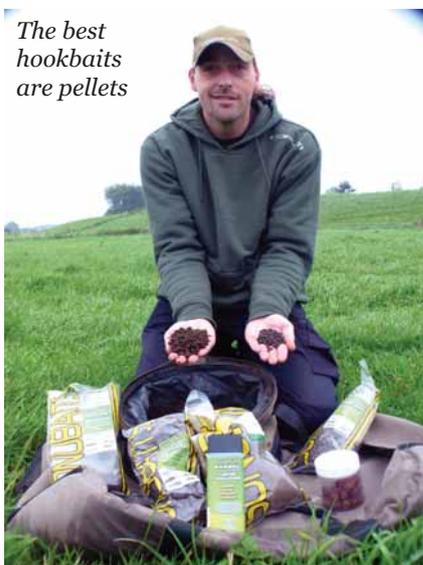
Big thanks to my friend Ade Kiddell.



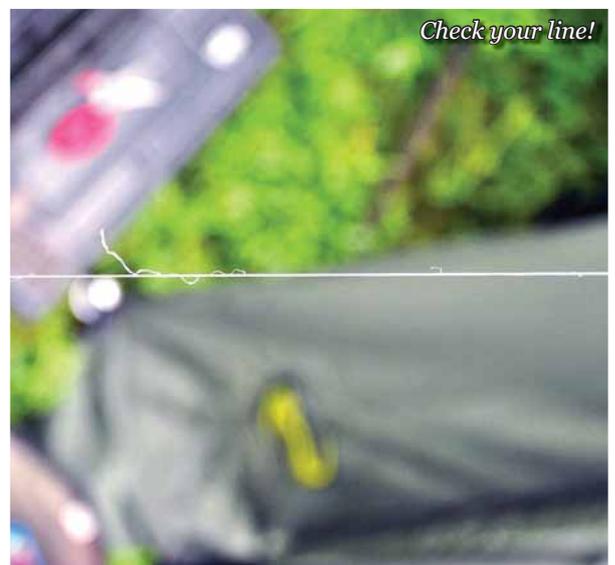
*The barbel are getting bigger and heavier!*



*A good bream*



*The best hookbaits are pellets*



*Check your line!*