

# The Dutch Way *by* Frans Vogel

---

## Barbel In Holland

In Holland we have three main rivers with barbel. The Waal is the biggest, this river comes from Switzerland and Germany and in Lobith it crosses the boarder into our country. It then goes to Rotterdam. Then we have the IJssel, it's a split river from the Waal and goes to north via Westervoort to Kampen. The third river is called the Grensmaas and has contained barbel the longestl. This river goes from Maastricht to Roermond. The IJssel contains little ships like on the Trent, and the Grensmaas only contains canoes. The Grensmaas is a typical 'rain river', it can be very big and very clear and low in a few days. This river contains big barbel. The Waal is a 'melt water river' and a lot of this water comes from the Swiss and German mountains. The water can be very cold some times. The IJssel comes out of the Waal, and is much narrower and not so deep as the Waal. The IJssel contains a lot of barbel just like the Waal.

In Holland I normally fish the River Waal. The River Waal is the biggest river in Europe. In Holland the river is more than 300 meters wide and the water flow is 16.000.000 liters per second. More than 600 very big ships (over 5500 ton) pass along the river every 24 hours. The Waal contains what we call kribs (breakwaters) and they are 60-100 meter long. On top of each krib is a massive flow, the one we calls neringen. That's also the area where the barbel can be found. The barbel have been found in the Waal since 2004. The water is getting clearer every day, and the natural food for fish is also growing steadily. Since 2005 there are a lot of crab, crayfish and shellfish – perfect food for barbel. Since 2006 when I first caught barbel on this river I have been infected with what we call the 'barbel virus' – an unsatiable desire to learn more about these fish. At the same time I met Willem Stolk he is the head editor of the Dutch anglers magazine Witvistotaal. He asked me to write every two months articles for his magazine, and in 2008 I started a website called [www.barbelen.nl](http://www.barbelen.nl)

Ade Kiddell read my website and sent me a note for my guestbook and so we met and became friends. In early may 2009 we first met and I showed him the Dutch way of barbel fishing and he showed me his way.



## Kribhoppen

In the beginning of this article I described the klibs. We are fishing from those klibs, about every hour I move to the next krib. I called this kribhoppen. The word is now a well known in the Dutch barbel scene. When I go kribhoppen, it is possibly to catch 8-10 barbel in a few klibs. Most of the time within the first 15 minutes it is possible to catch 1-2 barbel from each krib. For bait I use cheese. No other bait is used except for that on the hook.

Ade showed me how to catch barbel by static fishing on just one krib. Since Ade left Holland the first time I have used his way and have caught more than 200 barbel in only a few months. Before I met Ade I fished barbel with cheese and using swimfeeders of 60-100 gram. For feed I sometimes used little pieces of cheese, corn and hemp, about 300 gram each day. My hook links were 80-100 cm and I used a size 6-8 S3 hook. Now I use the open ended swimfeeders in 150 gram size when I start my fishing day. After a while I change them for the mesh feeder 150 gram. To fill the swimfeeder I use a mix of dry Sonubaits pellets in all kinds of colour and sizes. Also I use hempNhali crunch for groundbait, with a little green bream in it. To get a good mix I put some flavour in it, halibut or monster crab and also a little water. My mixed pellets I distribution in two baskets. One I keep dry the other I mix with Sonuabits tinned hemp and corn out tin and make this quite wet. So when I put my hookbait for the second time into the water, my swimfeeder contains soaked pellets. In that way I confuse the barbel. My hook link is now 1,5 meter and I use only the S3 hooks size 10-12. These little changes have caught me many more barbel, and also bigger barbel! Kribhopping is now a thing of the past!

Now the barbel come to me, with catches of 10-15 barbel in a few hours normal and by only fishing one krib. Ade taught me his way of barbel fishing. My old way of catching barbel was good, but this way is much better!!