

June 2015

www.speyfisheryboard.com

VOTE TO SAVE OUR SALMON!

TROUT & SALMON

In May the Trout & Salmon launched a campaign to raise the awareness of the plight of the wild Atlantic Salmon and raise funds to return the species to abundance. A joint initiative by The Spey Foundation and The Atlantic Salmon Trust put together a proposal to help reach their goal along with other interested parties.

The Trout & Salmon published the best eight from many proposals and readers can vote online for the pitch which they decide is the most deserving. This includes our pitch, "Spey Track", a project that will tag migrating smolts during the early stages of their migration from the Spey.

Spey Track

"Salmon are dying at sea in unprecedented numbers and up to 50% of these losses may be occurring during early smolt migration. To boost numbers, we need to find out why and what can be done to counter the crippling impacts.

The Spey Foundation and Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST) are to develop an acoustic tracking project that will investigate the early migration of salmon and sea-trout smolts on the River Spey. We plan to tag 100 smolts with acoustic tags, which will be detected as they swim past receivers in the river and estuary.

The pilot project will provide vital information about the timing and speed of their migration, where they are delayed and when, and hopefully why some are lost. The Spey is an idea river for this study; it is not only a major salmon river, but one with a long history of smolt research, and could become a valuable index tracking site.



Photo of salmon smolts courtesy of Spey Foundation Biologist, Brian Shaw

We plan to give Trout & Salmon readers the opportunity to 'sponsor a tag' and monitor the progress of 'their' smolts as they head out to sea."

VOTE NOW!

Salmon face many hurdles and obstacles including; the continued threat by predators, wind and tidal turbines, pollution, spates, global warming and the survival in the marine environment. This campaign will give everyone the opportunity to contribute to a good cause.

The Trout & Salmon will announce the pitch which attracts the most votes and will invite readers, tackle companies, riparian owners and other commercial organisations to donate to the winning cause.

So, here is your chance to do your bit by voting online at:

www.saveoursalmon.org

Voting closes on Tuesday, June 30th at midnight.

The winner will be announced in the September issue of Trout & Salmon.

SPEY FISHERY BOARD RESEARCH OFFICE

1 NETHER BORLUM COTTAGE, KNOCKANDO, MORAYSHIRE, AB38 7SD

TEL: 01340 810841 FAX: 01340 810842 E-MAIL: admin@speyfisheryboard.com

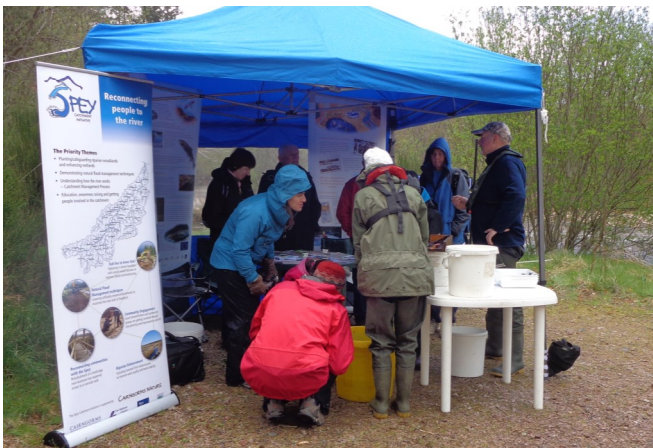
BRIEFING - June 2015

Cairngorm Nature Festival - 'SpeyFantastic'

On the 17th May the Spey Foundation and the Spey Catchment Initiative joined together to host a 'SpeyFantastic' event as part of the Cairngorms Nature Festival held throughout the Cairngorms National Park. The assortment of events were focussed on getting people outdoors and exploring nature!

Visitors were given the opportunity to learn about the life within the Spey catchment and to observe some of the species first hand!

Electrofishing demonstrations were given by SFB Biologists Polly Burns and Brian Shaw to show the survey techniques used for studying the fish populations within the river. Visitors were given the opportunity to view the fish up close and learn how to tell the difference between a salmon and trout. Invertebrate sampling was also demonstrated to examine and identify insects from the river, whilst Spey Catchment Initiative's Project Officer, Liz Henderson was also on hand to answer questions.



Left: Visitors observe the many species of invertebrate found in the river. **Right:** SFB Biologists, Brian Shaw and Polly Burns demonstrate Electrofishing. (Photos Courtesy of Liz Henderson)

Giant Hogweed Control

Funding was secured from Moray Council Landfill for giant hogweed control in the lower Spey. The Spey Foundation were also very grateful to receive additional support from The Crown Estate. The focus of the spraying was to control hogweed alongside paths and recreational access areas. Liaison with local angling clubs, landowners and community councils was undertaken to identify priority areas.

Bailiffs Jason Hysert, Richard Whyte and Alistair Grant assisted with the spraying during mid-April. Follow up monitoring confirmed that the spraying had achieved high level of killed weeds.



Above Right : Bailiffs Jason Hysert and Alistair Grant spraying Giant Hogweed on the Lower Spey.

Right: Spey Bay after spraying.

Government's Response and Consultation on Wild Fisheries Reform

Many readers will be aware that the Scottish Government has been considering changes to the management of wild salmon and freshwater fisheries. Last year a Review was commissioned, led by Andrew Thin, to consider the requirements for a modern, evidence-based management system for all of Scotland's wild fisheries. This resulted in a report, published last October, containing 53 recommendations for change.

On the 15th May Environment Minister, Dr. Aileen McLeod published a response and set out the fundamental principles which will guide the development of a new fisheries management system for Scotland. The Scottish Government had also gone out to consultation on the broad policy options for a new management system designed to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. It has also announced its commitment to developing a national wild fisheries strategy for the management of all freshwater and migratory fish species.

The wild fisheries consultation seeks views on a number of broad policy options including the balance of functions between local and national levels, funding, science and skills, regulation and compliance and promoting access and opportunity and careers in fishing.

Alongside this, the Scottish Government has established a Stakeholder Reference Group to inform detailed proposals for legislation arising from the forthcoming consultation. SFB Operations Manager, Duncan Ferguson is representing the Scottish Gamekeepers Association Fishing Group at these Stakeholder Reference Group meetings.

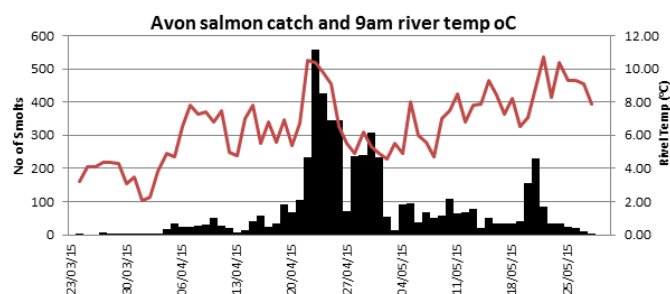
The Spey Fishery Board was keen to discuss the policy options with as many stakeholders, proprietors, ghillies, angling associations and anglers, as well as concerned members of the public, before it responds to the consultation. The Spey Fishery Board subsequently held three public meetings; in Craigellachie, Grantown On Spey and Fochabers to discuss the Scottish Government's proposals for Wild Fisheries Reform.

We would ask all those with an interest in the future of our wild fisheries in Scotland take the time to make a full response.

Full details can be found on our website at www.speyfisheryboard.com or at www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform.

**The consultation is open for responses until
7 August 2015**

Smolt Trapping Results 2015



The River Avon smolt traps were removed on the 28th May by which time the run had decreased to single figures per day. The total number of salmon captured this year was 5349 with 740 trout captured. The trout catch is comparable to last year but the number of salmon smolts was significantly lower. Trap efficiency was lower this year due to the higher water levels but it is likely that the total salmon smolt run estimates will be well below that derived last year. The most likely cause of the reduced smolt production is the impact of the big spate in August 2014. Reports from other organisations operating smolt traps are mixed with no universal pattern apparent.

The total number of smolts captured in the Tommore trap was 382 salmon, the majority of which were fin-clipped, and 147 trout.

Tomintoul and Glenlivet Landscape Partnership

Over the winter the Project Officer has coordinated a walkover audit of the whole of the Tomintoul and Glenlivet landscape partnership area. Once the results have been interpreted, follow up site visits will be carried out to the highlighted areas, such that a tender for a consultant to design restoration solutions can be prepared. The intention is to go out to tender this summer. Additionally plans for a demonstration farm of good riparian practice and alternative watering solutions is being progressed, such that an application for funding has been submitted. If successful, ground works should take place towards the end of the year.

Allt Lorgy River Restoration

The Allt Lorgy continues to generate a considerable amount of interest as a case study of simple intervention river restoration techniques. SCI Project Officer, Liz Henderson and SFB Operations Manager, Duncan Ferguson have recently hosted visits from the University of the Highlands and Islands Integrated land Use forum, and both Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities.



Allt Mharcaidh River Restoration

The success of the River restoration works on the Allt Mharcaidh, a tributary of the River Feshie, has attracted a lot of interest since its completion in September last year. Just nine months after ground works were completed, improvements in the river functioning and in-stream habitat of the Allt Mharcaidh can already be seen.

University College London will undertake a long term monitoring programme, collecting and recording data annually. The site was also recently visited by the Cairngorm National Park Authority Board members and Duncan Ferguson, SFB Operations Manager, was on hand to explain the processes.



Left: Duncan Ferguson explaining river management processes to postgraduate rural surveying /land economy students from Aberdeen University on a recent visit to the Allt Lorgy and **Above:** Also to the CNPA Board Members at the Allt Mharcaidh .



Dates for the Diary

Spey Fishery Board Meetings

To be held at the Craigellachie Hotel, Victoria Street, Craigellachie, AB38 9SR on the following dates:

Friday 28th August 2015 at 9:30 am
Friday 20th November 2015 at 9:30 am

Members of the public are invited to attend as observers, but are requested to give notice to the Board's Administrator, Sally Gross, by telephone on 01340-810841, or by email at admin@speyfisheryboard.com