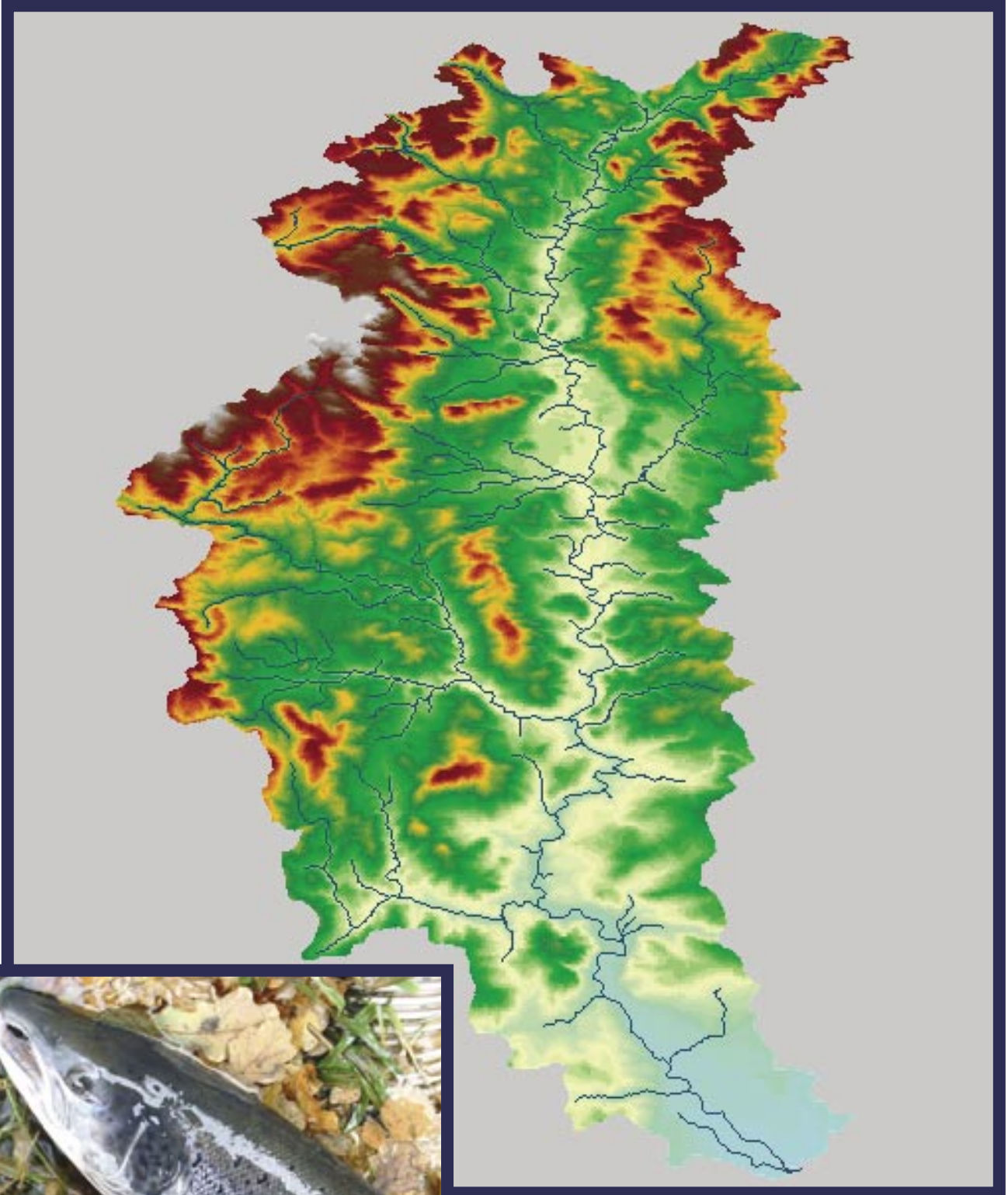


ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2004

Spey
Fishery
Board





www.speyfisheryboard.com

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2004

Compiled by
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March 2005

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Spey Fishery Board

- Chairman:** *Colin Whittle*, Mandatory for Knockando Trustees
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The Lord Seafield, Mandatory for Atlantic Salmon Conservation Trust (Scotland)
- Upper Proprietors:** *Major General Gordon Lennox*, Mandatory for Brae Water Trust
James Litchfield, Tulchan Estate
Edward Mountain, Delfur Fishings
Oliver Russell, Mandatory for Ballindalloch Trustees
Dr. Catherine Wills, Knockando, Phones and Lower Pitchroy
Anthony Tinsley, Wester Elchies Fishings
Alan Williams, Carron Fishings
- Co-optees:** *Stewart Mitchell*, Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Steve North, Scottish Natural Heritage
William Henderson, Speymouth Angling Association
Grant Mortimer, Strathspey Angling Improvement Association
Grenville Johnston, River Spey Anglers' Association
- Clerk:** *William Cowie*, R. & R. Urquhart

Research Committee (Spey Research Trust)

- Chairman:** *Anthony Tinsley*, Wester Elchies Fishings
- Members:** *Alan Williams*, Carron Fishings
Dr. Catherine Wills, Knockando, Phones and Lower Pitchroy
Peter Graham, Bidwells
Dr. Malcolm Beveridge, Director, FRS Freshwater Laboratory
Lionel Main, Chairman, Spey Ghillies' Association
Simon Crozier, Spey Ghillies' Association
Prof. David Mackay, Chairman, Scottish Angler's National Association
Dr. Colin Bean, Scottish Natural Heritage
Dr. Alastair Stephen, Scottish & Southern Energy
Ross Gardiner, FRS Freshwater Laboratory

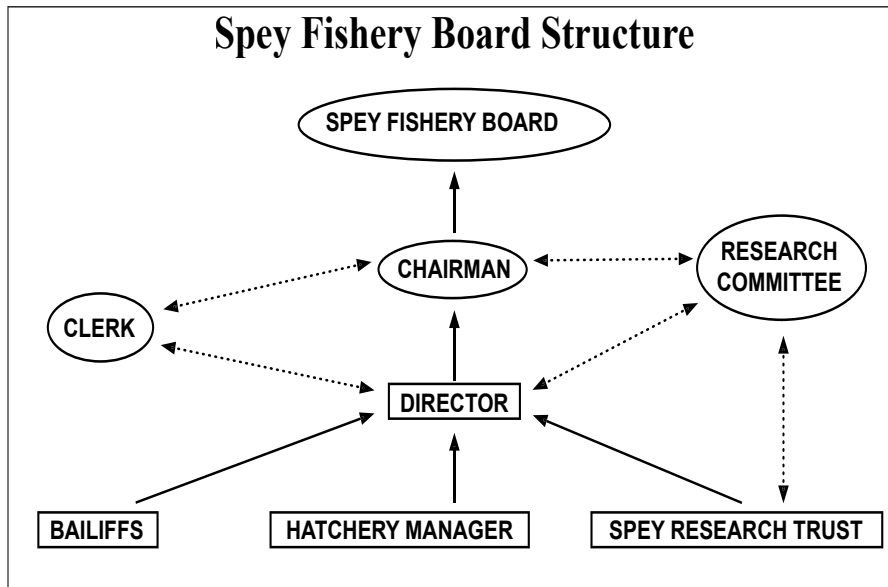
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Hatchery Manager: Jimmy Woods

Bailiffs: Duncan Ferguson
Richard Whyte
Lindsay Grant
Shaun Grant (seasonal)
Colin Riches (seasonal)
Stewart Dickie (seasonal)

Spey Research Trust: Robert Laughton (Biologist)
Steve Burns (Assistant Biologist)
Kevin Redgewell (GIS Project Officer)
Jim Reid (seasonal)



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Ian Borthwick (Carron)
Ian Galland (Laggan)
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Lionel Main, Simon Crozier, Roddy Hastings, Hugh Adcock (Castle Grant)
Alastair Grant (Strathspey Angling Improvement Association)
Andrew Allen (Abernethy Angling Improvement Association)
Gordon Macleod (Abernethy Angling Improvement Association)
Owen Macgregor (Abernethy Angling Improvement Association)
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Steve Fraser (Abernethy Angling Improvement Association)
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David Fleetwood (River Spey Anglers' Association)
Jim Silvestre (River Spey Anglers' Association)
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The Late Andy Jackson (Scottish Canoe Association)

Chairman's Foreword

The 2004 season contrasted starkly with the drought year of 2003. Both water and salmon were plentiful, and the total catch of 9,820 was the **best since 1995**. The general improvement in salmon runs throughout eastern Scotland suggests that the cause was improved marine survival, rather than the result of any specific actions by the Spey Fishery Board (SFB). Nonetheless, the SFB is taking a precautionary view and will continue with policies to protect and increase stocks.

In this regard 2004 was the second year of the **Salmon Conservation Policy**. With the welcome efforts of most anglers, ghillies and proprietors 68% of rod-caught salmon and grilse were released by the end of the season, compared to 70% in 2003. Due to the larger catch, this return rate resulted in 6,678 salmon and grilse being released to spawn, the largest number ever recorded on the Spey. The SFB has decided to maintain the policy for 2005, with a target of releasing at least 50% of fish, and spring multi-sea winter salmon in particular.

By contrast sea trout stocks did not appear to benefit from the improved marine conditions experienced by salmon in 2004. The total catch of 2,810 remains below the 10 year average, and was only a marginal increase on the 2003 catch. Over 50% of sea trout caught on the Spey are taken by the 12 angling associations, and they therefore represent an important but undervalued resource. Consequently the SFB has introduced a **Sea Trout Conservation Policy** in 2005 which aims to protect finnock and the important multi-spawning sea trout.

On 17th March 2005 the European Commission announced that the **River Spey Special Area of Conservation** (SAC) has been fully designated under the EU Habitats Directive. Simultaneously the SFB has secured funding for the **Conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Scotland LIFE Project**. In collaboration with eight other SAC salmon rivers, the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and Scottish Natural Heritage, the SFB has initiated a project worth £573,274 to ease 13 man-made obstacles to fish passage in 2005-2008, which will increase the accessible area by 10%.

Central to the future principles of EU legislation in the management of the Spey was the decision of the SFB to petition for **Judicial Review against the Scottish Ministers** in September 2004. This action related to the discharge of the consent for the Paul's Hill Wind Farm development, and was heard at the Court of Session on 26th – 28th January 2005. On 24th March Lord Kingarth ruled that despite the frustrations of the SFB regarding the erroneous terms of the consent, the actions of the Scottish Ministers were not unlawful. The decision is being considered by the SFB.

Funding for the **Spey Catchment Management Plan** concluded in 2004. Although the SFB will remain a core member of the group of statutory authorities which coordinate their duties, including Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and the Moray and Highland Councils, significant improvements in liaison are required over developments which potentially affect the Spey SAC. In October 2004 the group of authorities held a seminar on 'The Future of Angling and Canoeing on the River Spey' in order to broker consensus between these important sectors of the local economy. With the implementation of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, a collaborative approach to public access on the Spey is essential.

The implementation of the **EU Water Framework Directive** also presents challenges for the future management of rivers, coasts and fisheries. As a relevant authority the SFB represents a source of expertise which is already contributing to the national consultation process. As a member of the **Moray Firth Partnership** and the **Fisheries Forum** the SFB is also contributing to the Scottish Executive's review of fisheries and aquaculture legislation, to be concluded in the 2006-2007 Fisheries Bill.

Tri-ennial elections were held on 3rd February 2004, and the Board was re-elected with the addition of Alan Williams (Carron Fishings) as an Upper Proprietor. Toby Metcalfe replaced Clive Meikle as Mandatory for the Crown Estate Commissioners. The newly formed River Spey Anglers' Association was co-opted onto the Board in August 2004, and is represented by Grenville Johnston. The Spey Research Committee was also re-elected, with the welcome addition of Dr. Alastair Stephen from Scottish & Southern Energy. The Spey Research Trust has joined the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, the national association representing a growing body of charitable fisheries organisations. The Research Committee is reviewing the Trust's status to comply with its membership. I feel sure that with the continued dedication of all parties involved, fisheries management in the Spey and Moray Firth will improve greatly. I would like to express particular thanks to the Director and his teams of Bailiffs and Research Trust staff for their hard work and professionalism.

Colin Whittle, Chairman.

Part 1

Statutory Remit of the Spey Fishery Board

1.1 Constitution

The Spey District Salmon Fishery Board (SFB) was established under the 1860s Salmon Fisheries legislation as subsequently amended and presently stated in the Salmon Act 1986 and the Salmon Conservation (Scotland) Act 2001. It is empowered under the legislation to take such acts as considered expedient for the protection, enhancement and conservation of Atlantic salmon and sea trout stocks and fisheries (Table 1). The SFB is responsible for the Spey Fishery District, which includes 52 rod fisheries within the mainstem of the Spey and its tributaries. To cover net fisheries the District also includes 32 km of coastline in the Moray Firth, from Lossiemouth to the west of the Spey estuary to Cowhythe Head in the east. The District extends 3 nautical miles out to sea (Fig. 1).

The Salmon Conservation (Scotland) Act inserted new provisions into the Salmon Act 1986 enabling boards to apply to the Scottish Ministers for bye-laws covering a range of conservation and management measures. Possible bye-laws include regulations on catch and release, bag limits, fishing effort and types of tackle. Previously boards were limited to introducing bye-laws covering baits and lures and seasonal close-times. The Salmon Conservation Act also allows Ministers to introduce local or national regulations.

1.2 Fisheries Bill 2006-2007

The Scottish Executive is currently undertaking a review of aquaculture, freshwater and inshore fisheries legislation, with the aim of producing a Fisheries Bill in 2006-2007. The first stage of this process has been the preparation of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act in 2003, which integrates a range of overlapping legislation, including the Inshore Fishing (Scotland) Act 1984, Diseases of Fish Act 1983, Import of Live Fish (Scotland) Act 1978, and the Sea Fish (Conservation) Act 1967.

To consult on possible amendments for inclusion in the Bill, the Executive established a Fisheries Forum in 2004. Subjects being discussed include the restructuring of fisheries organisations to include all species and control of fish movements. The SFB is engaged with the Fisheries Forum via the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards.

1.3 EU Water Framework Directive

The European Union (EU) Water Framework Directive came into force in December 2000, and has been transposed into Scottish law through the Water Environment & Services Act 2003. Under the aegis of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) the Act aims to establish a process of River Basin Planning, through which environmental objectives will be set to achieve good ecological status. The Directive will have implications for the management of the Spey, and the SFB has been involved in the planning and implementation of the legislation as a relevant authority.

Table 1. Statutory responsibilities of the Spey Fishery Board

1. Provide fisheries protection;
 2. Set salmon rod fishery season (11th February – 30th September);
 3. Set weekly rod fishery close times (midnight Saturday – midnight Sunday);
 4. Police the purchase and sale of illegally-caught or unseasonable fish;
 5. Ensure fish passage over obstructions to migration;
 6. Protect juvenile fish and spawning redds;
 7. Regulate the movement and introduction of adults, juveniles and ova.
-

1.4 EU Habitats & Birds Directives

In 1992 the Member States of the EU committed themselves to the protection of biodiversity by agreeing and implementing the Habitats & Birds Directives. Through the Natura 2000 legislation strict protection was to be ensured for endangered species and habitats via the introduction of Special Areas of Conservation. In 1999 the mainstem of the River Spey was identified as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) for salmon, otters and sea lampreys, due to the importance of the river for these species in a European context. This was followed by the inclusion of freshwater pearl mussels in 2000. In 2003 the cSAC was extended into all tributaries accessible to salmon.

Under Regulation 3(4) of the Directive any statutory bodies with responsibilities that may influence the conservation interest of an SAC are termed ‘relevant authorities’. Under the Habitats Regulations relevant authorities which initiate developments or activities which have a negative impact on an SAC may be liable to EU legal action. Owing to its statutory responsibility for salmon fisheries the SFB is a relevant authority for the River Spey cSAC. The primary public bodies responsible for the Spey cSAC are Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), SEPA, the Highland Council, the Moray Council, Scottish Water, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Forestry Commission, and all must consult SNH as part of their assessment of proposed developments.

1.5 Moray Firth cSACs

In 1999 five other cSACs were identified for salmon in the Moray Firth: the Rivers Berriedale, Langwell, Cassley,

Oykel and Moriston (a tributary of the River Ness). Also of relevance to salmon management was the designation of the Moray Firth as a cSAC for bottlenose dolphins in 1996, and the designation of the Dornoch Firth as a cSAC for common seals in 2000 (Fig. 2). The Inner Moray Firth and the Cromarty Firth have also been designated Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for wintering goosanders, red-breasted mergansers, cormorants and other waterfowl (Fig. 3).

As relevant authorities both the SFB and other fishery boards within the Moray Firth have a responsibility to safeguard the conservation interests of salmon, common seals, dolphins, and sawbill ducks both within and outwith their respective SACs. These responsibilities have important ramifications for the way in which salmon fisheries are managed in the Moray Firth.



The Dornoch Firth has been designated a cSAC for common seals (*Pete Moore*)

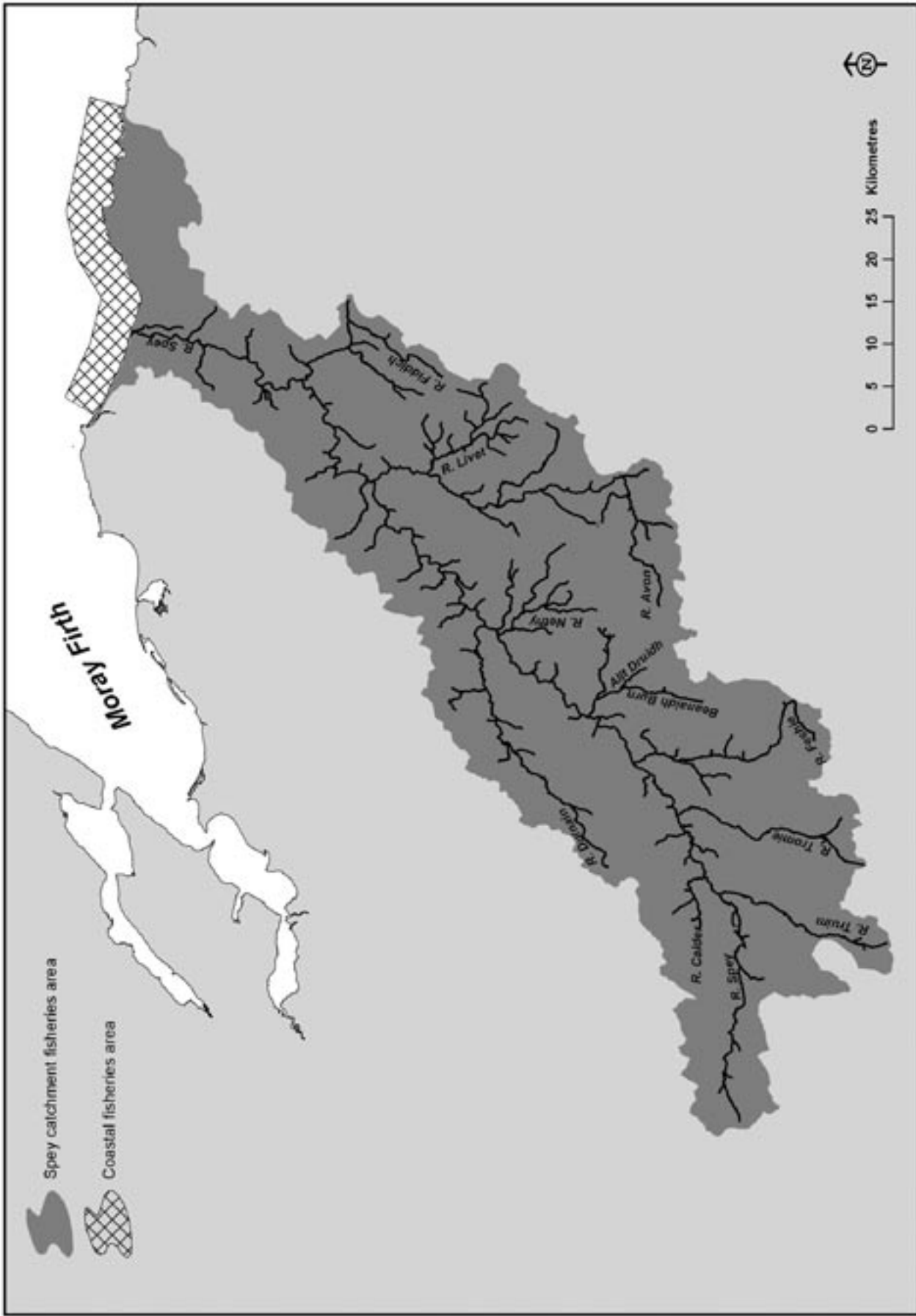


Figure 1. The River Spey catchment and Spey Fishery District

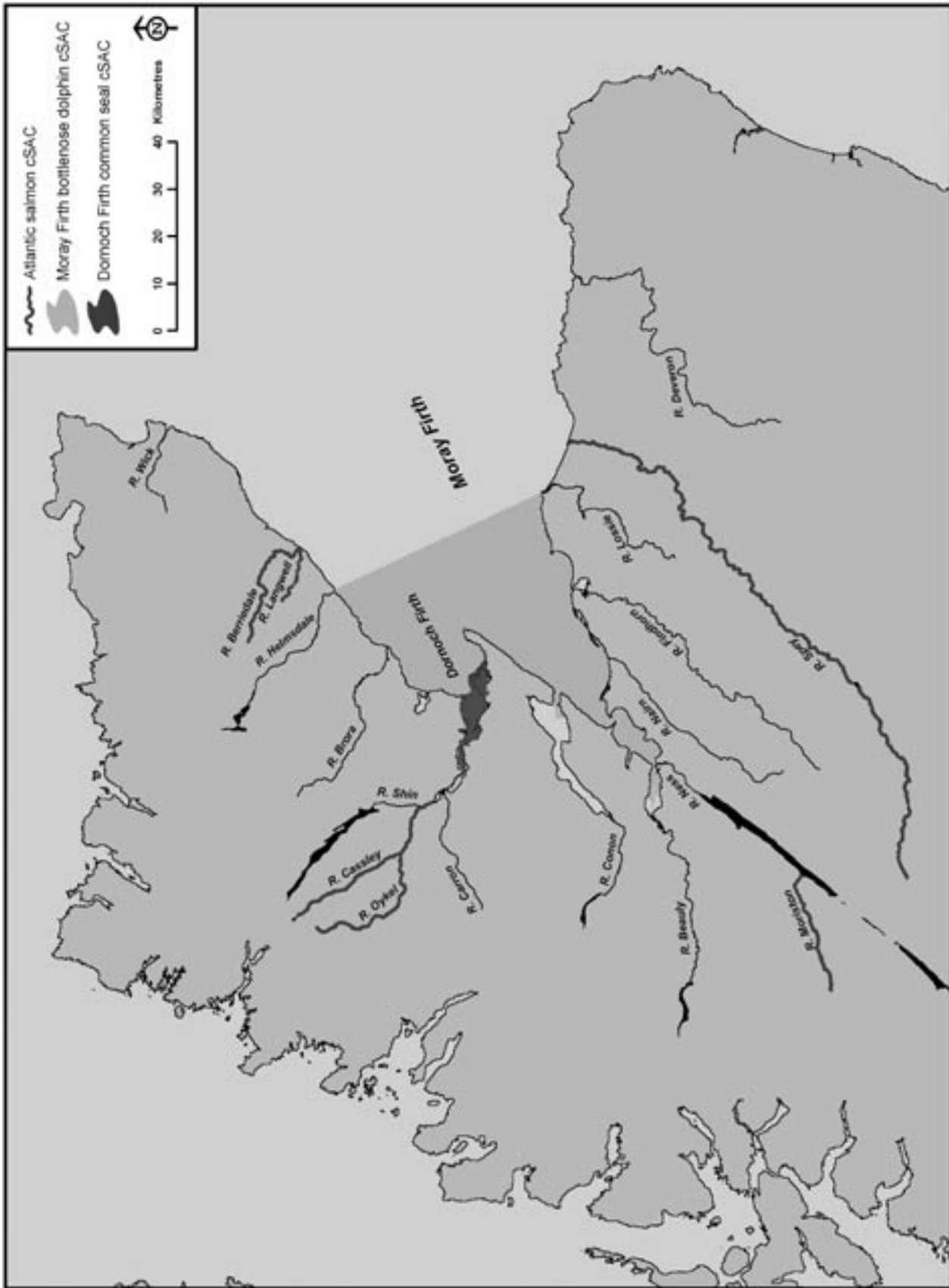


Figure 2. The Moray Firth, showing the cSACs for salmon, common seals and bottlenose dolphins

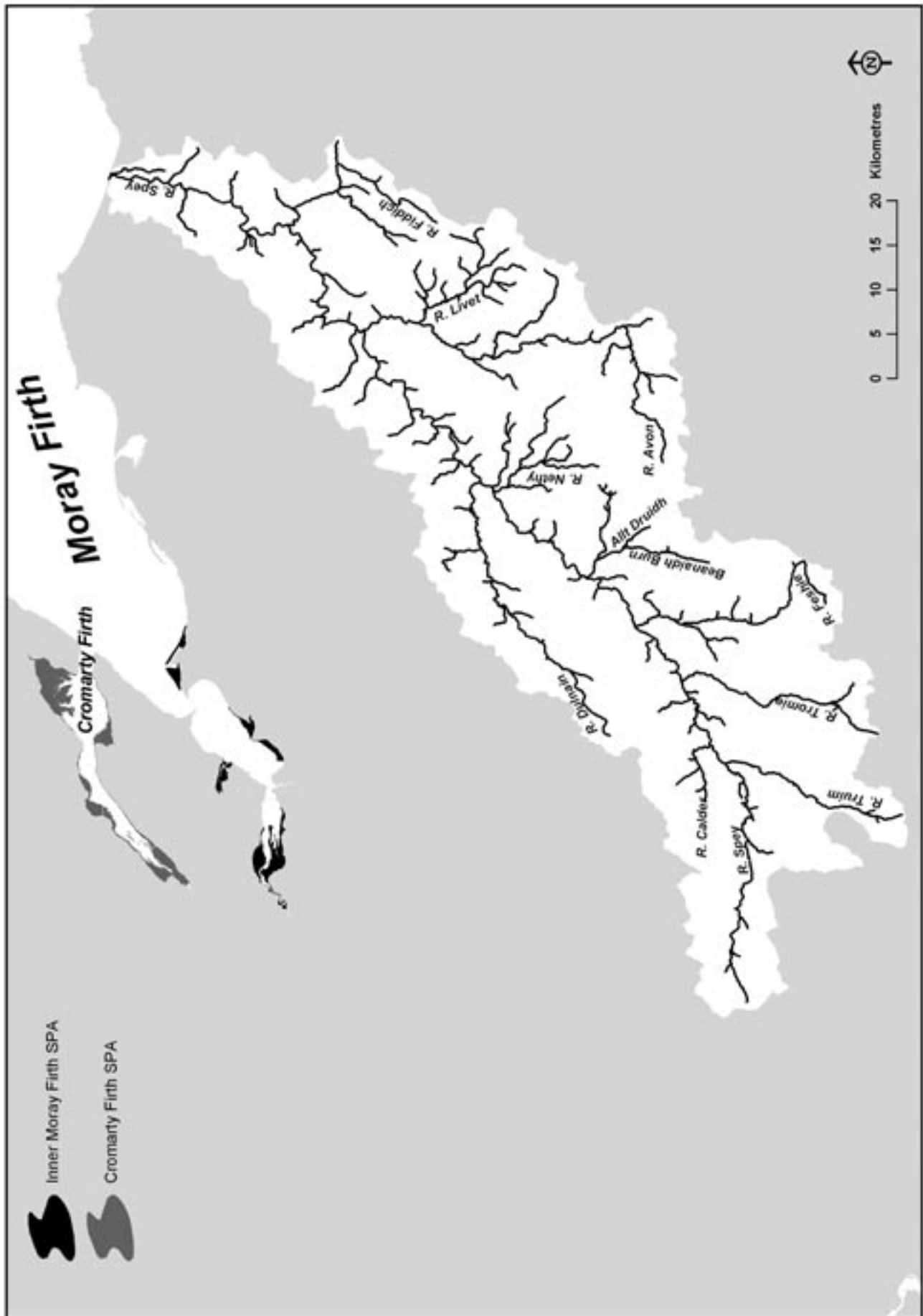


Figure 3. The Inner Moray Firth, showing the SPAs for goosanders, red-breasted mergansers and cormorants relative to the Spey catchment

Part 2

Fisheries and Conservation

2.1 River flows 2004

Following the 2003 summer drought, river heights in 2004 were much improved due to plentiful rainfall (Fig. 4). According to SEPA records, flows in the River Spey at Boat o'Brig fell to 13.8 m³/s on 18th August 2003, representing the fourth lowest flow since 1950, when records began. By comparison the lowest flow recorded in 2004 was 26.1 m³/s on 3rd August.

2.2 Salmon and grilse catches

As a result of higher flows rod fishing conditions were favourable throughout the season. The abundance of salmon and grilse also appeared to have much improved, with a total of 9,820 fish caught, in comparison to 7,066 in 2003. This total represents the best catch since 1995 when 11,100 were caught, and exceeds the 10 year average (1992-2001) of 9,100 (Fig. 5).

Spring catches also showed further improvement. Between 11th February and 30th April 1,100 were caught, the largest number for this period since 1988, and almost double the 10 year average (1992-2001) of 600 (Fig. 6). Until 30th June, 3,800 fish had been caught, compared to 2,580 for the same period in 2003, and 2,200 in 2002.

The cooperation of all proprietors, angling associations and hotels again enabled the timely collation of catches. From the detailed information submitted it was possible to assess the monthly rod catch. The largest catch occurred in July (2,221), followed by August (1,929) and September (1,898). Over the season, 62% of fish were caught in these three months (Fig. 7).



The 2004 salmon and grilse catch was the highest since 1995 (*Malcolm Newbould*)

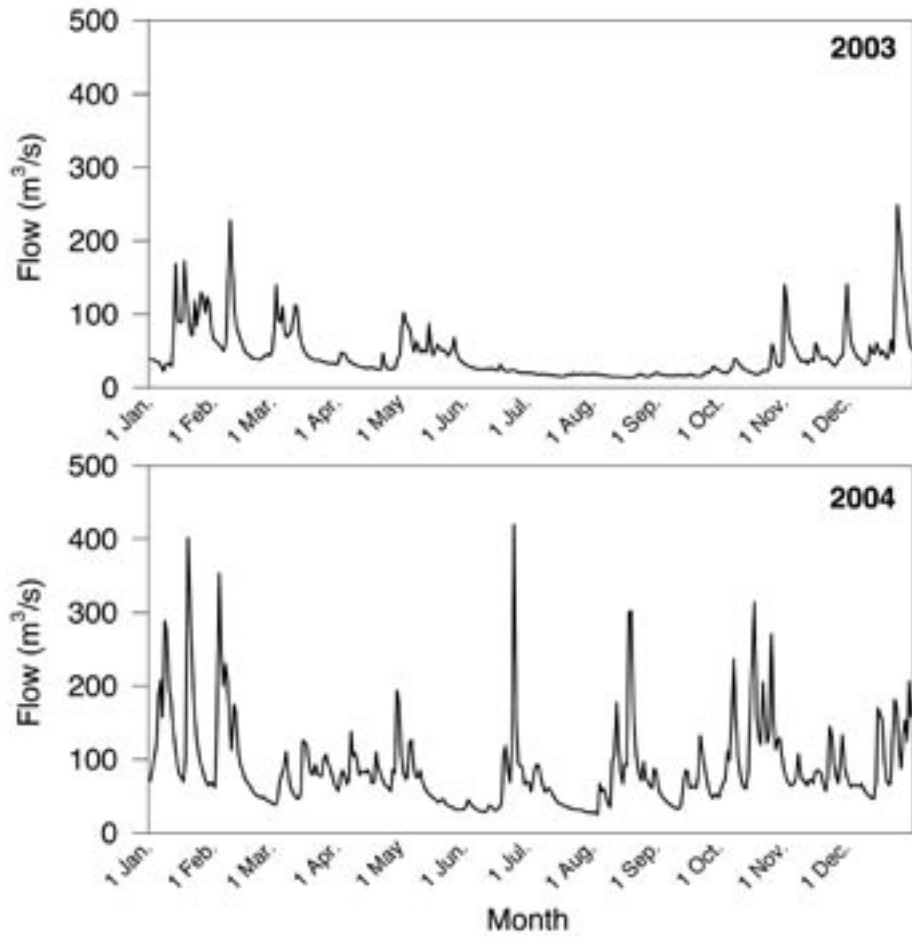


Figure 4. Daily river flows recorded at Boat o'Brig in 2003 and 2004 (data kindly provided by SEPA)

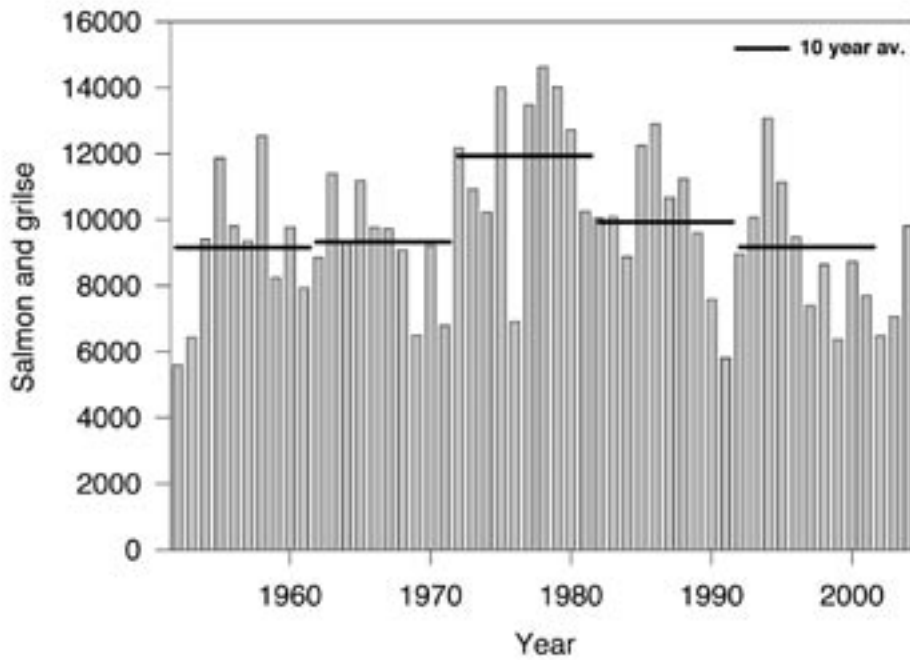


Figure 5. Annual declared rod catch of wild salmon and grilse from the River Spey, 1952-2001 (Scottish Executive data). The 2002-2004 catches are from returns made to the SFB

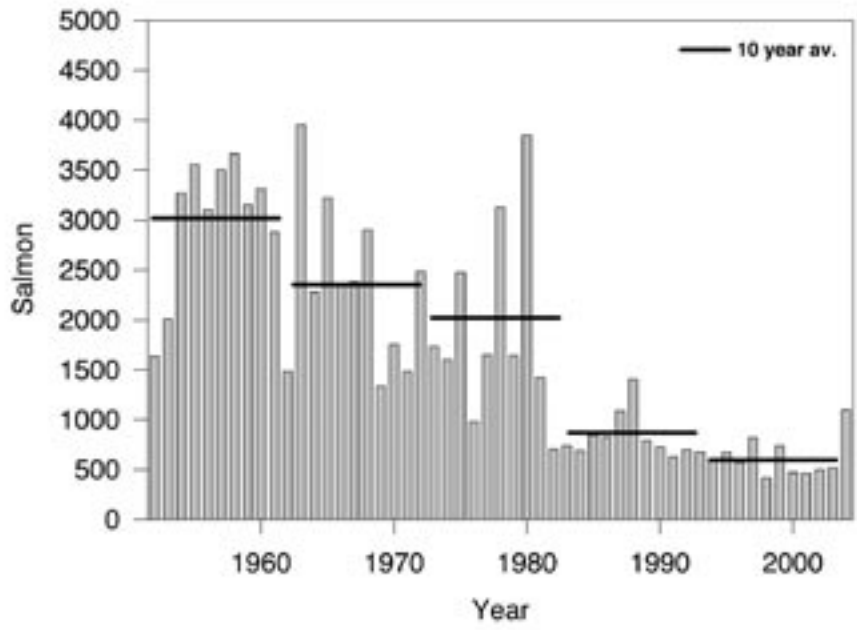


Figure 6. Annual declared rod catch of wild spring salmon (February-April) from the River Spey, 1952-2001 (Scottish Executive data). The 2002-2004 catches are from returns made to the SFB.

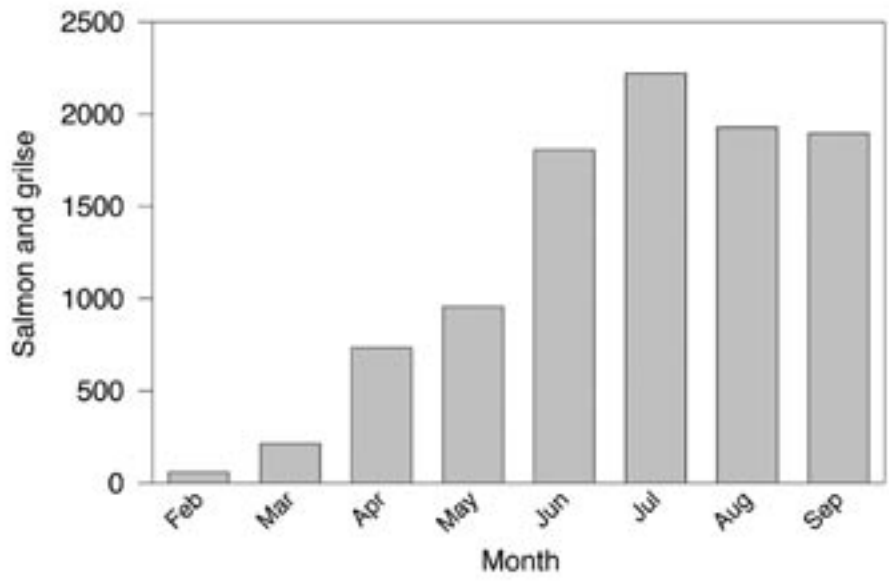


Figure 7. Declared monthly rod catch of wild salmon and grilse from the River Spey in 2004, calculated from returns made to the SFB.

2.3 Sea trout catches

The 2004 rod catch for sea trout was 2,810, a slight increase from the 2003 catch of 2,700, and 40% below the 10 year average (1992-2001) of 4,590 (Fig. 8). While the moderate catch in 2003 was probably a reflection of the drought conditions, the 2004 catch appeared to reflect

a genuine limited abundance of fish. The trend of only moderate catches since 1997 is of concern when compared to the good catches of the 1980s and early 1990s.

Monthly catches show that most sea trout (44%) are caught in June (1,231). July was the second most prolific month, with 692 caught. Overall, 69% of sea trout were recorded in these months (Fig. 9).

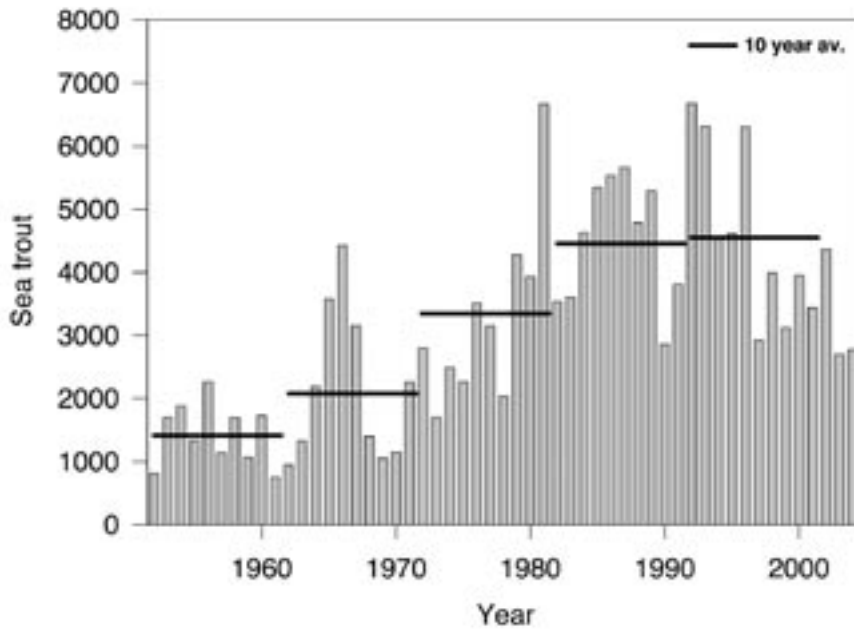


Figure 8. Annual declared rod catch of sea trout from the River Spey, 1952-2001 (Scottish Executive data). The 2002-2004 catches are from returns made to the SFB.

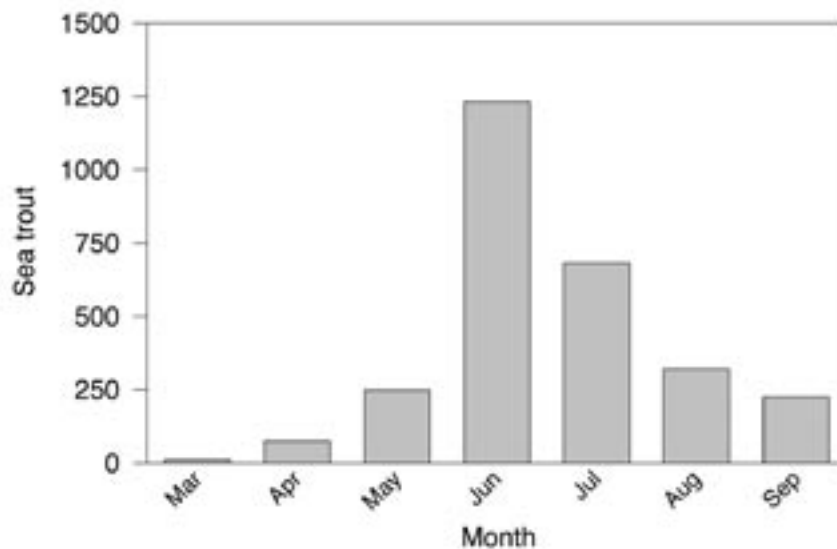


Figure 9. Declared monthly rod catch of sea trout from the River Spey in 2004, calculated from returns made to the SFB.

2.4 Salmon Conservation Policy progress

As part of its long term commitment to the protection of salmon stocks, the SFB launched a Salmon Conservation Policy in the 2003 season (Table 2). The policy aimed to achieve the release of at least 50% of salmon and grilse, and to protect depleted stocks of multi-sea winter salmon in February-June. At least 70% of these fish are female, and therefore contribute an important part of the river's spawning stock. Also, studies by the Spey Research Trust have shown that these fish are particularly vulnerable to capture and re-capture having been released.

Until 30th June 2004, 68% of fish caught had been released. For the same period in 2003 63% were released. By the end of the 2004 season, 68% had been released, compared to 70% in 2003 (Fig. 10). In total, 6,678 salmon and grilse were released to spawn in 2004, the highest number ever recorded on the Spey.

Despite the encouraging catches of 2004 the SFB has decided to maintain a precautionary approach, and following discussions with proprietors and the Spey Ghillies' Association the current policy will be maintained for 2005. The SFB will continue to monitor catches to ensure their accuracy.

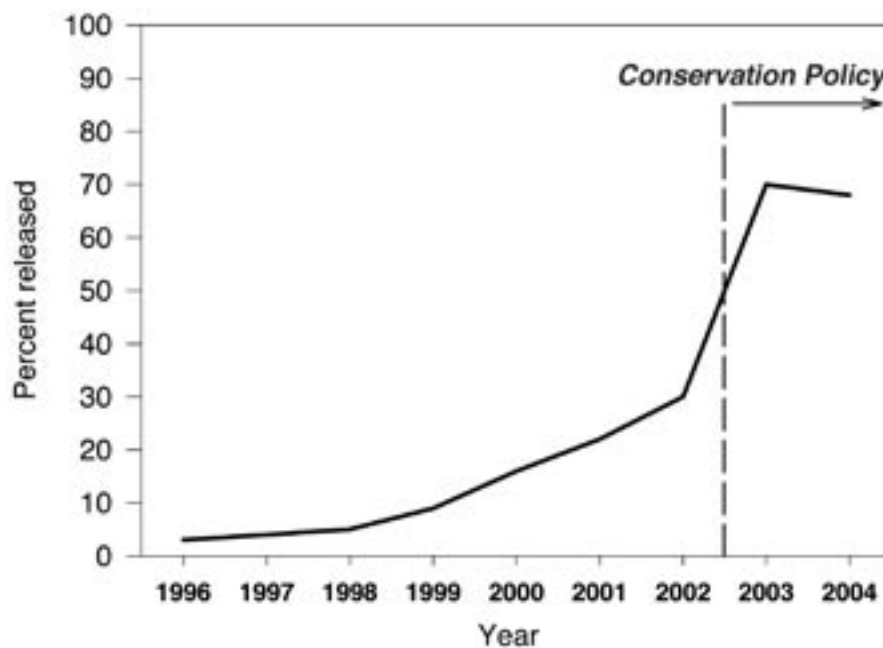


Figure 10. The proportion of rod-caught wild salmon and grilse released on the River Spey, 1996-2004, relative to the introduction of the Salmon Conservation Policy in 2003



Anglers released 68% of salmon and grilse caught in 2004 (*Malcolm Newbould*)

Table 2. Details of the SFB Salmon Conservation Policy 2005

1. Catch and release

- Until 30th June each angler must return the 1st, 3rd, 5th etc. salmon and grilse caught;
- After 30th June all hen salmon and hen grilse must be released;
- Throughout the season all stale or gravid fish must be released;
- Escaped farmed salmon must be retained.

2. Method

- Where possible anglers should be encouraged to fish with a fly;
- All hooks should be 'pinched' or barbless;
- Where spinning is allowed only one set of barbless hooks may be used on a lure.

3. Fishing effort

- Where possible the numbers of hours and rods fished should be limited.
-

2.5 Sea Trout Conservation Policy 2005

Under the Salmon Act 1986 sea trout have the same legal status as salmon, and fishery boards are also responsible for their protection and improvement. Sea trout in the River Spey are poorly understood and often overlooked. However, catch statistics show that the Spey sea trout rod fishery is one of the largest in the UK, with a 10 year average annual catch of 4,590 (Fig. 8). By comparison only the Rivers Tywi and Teifi in Wales catch more fish.

In July 2004 an International Sea Trout Symposium was held in Cardiff to focus current understanding of sea trout, sponsored by the Environment Agency and the Atlantic Salmon Trust. The following key points were made:

- *Sea trout are the sea-running form of brown trout;*
- *Sea trout and brown trout interbreed;*
- *The majority of sea trout are female;*
- *Unlike salmon, sea trout can return to spawn up to 10 times;*
- *Because of their large size, female sea trout provide most of the trout eggs laid in a river;*

- *Genetic studies show that larger, longer-lived sea trout produce young that are also likely to grow large;*
- *Finnock are sea trout in their first year after leaving the river as smolts;*
- *Some finnock enter rivers in the summer and autumn, and some of these breed;*
- *Interbreeding with stocked 'domestic' trout may interfere with sea trout genetics;*
- *Sea trout and brown trout should be managed jointly;*
- *Since sea trout are largely coastal, they are barometers of the health of the local marine environment.*

Because sea trout catches have not been as prolific as in the early 1990s (Fig. 8), the SFB is taking a precautionary approach and assuming that this trend is indicative of

reduced sea trout abundance. While the causes of this trend are not known, the SFB proposed in 2004 to introduce a Sea Trout Conservation Policy for the Spey rod fishery. In consultation with proprietors, angling associations and the Spey Ghillies' Association, a policy was designed to encourage catch and release of finnock and larger adult sea trout (Table 3). The rate of catch and release on the Spey is low with only 21% of fish released in 2004 (Fig. 11).

The decision to release fish of 3 lb. weight and over was based on the analysis of adult Spey sea trout scales by the Spey Research Trust. From a sample of 88 fish stripped at the SFB's Sandbank Hatchery in 2003 spawning marks showed that 90% of repeat-spawners were 50 cm (3 lbs.) in length or larger (Fig. 12). Therefore, in order to protect the longer-lived fish this size was set as the maximum limit of fish to be retained.

Table 3. Details of the SFB Sea Trout Conservation Policy 2005

1. Finnock:	Release all fish of 10 oz. / 25 cm / 10" or less
2. Sea Trout:	Release all fish of 3 lb. / 50 cm / 20" or more
3. Bag Limit:	2 sea trout or finnock of takeable size per calendar day
4. Unseasonable Fish:	Release all unseasonable fish (smolts, stale fish, kelts, over-wintered finnock)

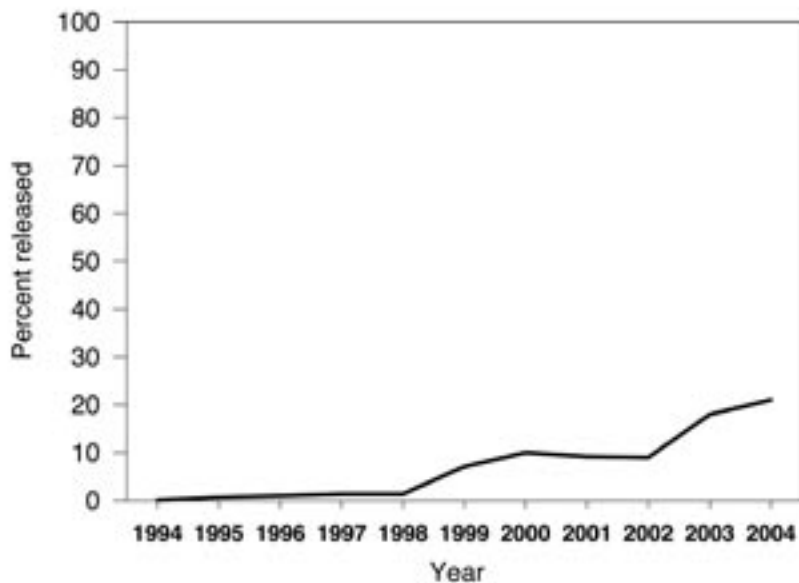


Figure 11. The proportion of rod-caught sea trout released on the River Spey, 1994-2004



Brown trout (below) and sea trout (above) are the same species and interbreed (*James Butler*)

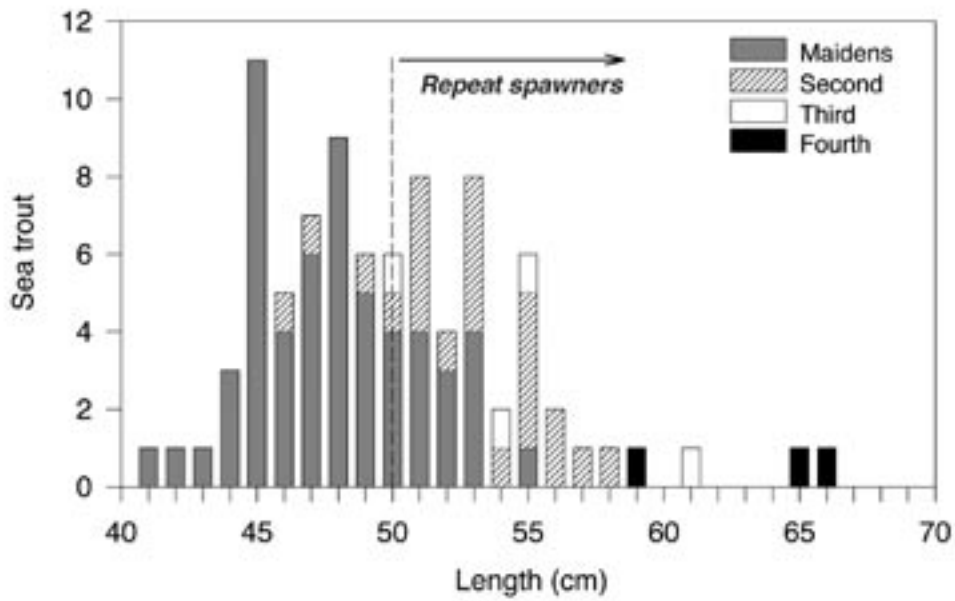


Figure 12. The spawning ages of 88 adult Spey sea trout derived from scale samples in 2003, relative to the maximum takeable size of 50 cm defined by the Sea Trout Conservation Policy

Part 3

Spey Catchment Management Plan

3.1 Spey Catchment Management Plan

In 1999 an informal steering group of public agencies and local authorities was assembled to consider how to develop a more integrated approach to the sustainable management and conservation of the River Spey. This was precipitated by the designation of the Spey as a cSAC, and the responsibilities placed on the relevant authorities involved. It was also intended that the project would contribute to the process of River Basin Planning within the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

As a relevant authority the SFB is included in the Spey Catchment Steering Group (SCSG). The other members are SNH, SEPA, Cairngorms National Park Authority, the Moray Council and the Highland Council. In 2001 the SCSG secured £75,000 from the Highlands & Islands Special Transitional Programme, through the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund. The funding was matched by contributions from members of the SCSG including the SFB, Moray, Badenoch & Strathspey Enterprise, the Cairngorms Partnership and sportscotland. The funding has been used to finance a project manager, whose role was to produce a Spey Catchment Management Plan. Following wide consultation the plan was launched on 24th June 2003.

On 23rd June 2004 the SCSG held an Open Day at the Abernethy Outdoor Centre to report progress back to the parties who had originally contributed to the plan. Project funding for the plan was exhausted in October 2004, but the SCSG will meet annually to audit and review progress against objectives.

3.2 National survey of angling

In 2003 the Scottish Executive commissioned a survey by the Glasgow Caledonian University Division of Economics & Enterprise entitled 'The Economic Impact of Game and Coarse Angling in Scotland'. The study was published in April 2004 and concluded that anglers spend £113 million annually in the Scottish tourism industry. The study also found that:

- ***angling supports 2,800 jobs in Scotland;***
- ***£67 million would be lost annually if angling ceased;***
- ***salmon and sea trout anglers contribute 65% of all expenditure;***
- ***66% of expenditure on salmon and sea trout fishing is contributed by anglers originating outside Scotland.***

In 2003 the SCSG commissioned the study 'An Assessment of the Economic Importance of Water-Related Recreation and Tourism in the Spey Catchment in 2003', also by Glasgow Caledonian University. The consultants used the same methodology, and this allowed direct comparisons to be made with the national survey. These indicate that the River Spey contributes:

- ***11% of national angler expenditure on all species;***
- ***15% of national expenditure on salmon and sea trout;***
- ***13% of national employment created by angling.***



Angling in the Spey catchment generates 13% of national employment in the rod fishing sector (*Ian Neale*)

3.3 Angling, canoeing and access

A major issue highlighted by the economic survey of the Spey catchment was the potential conflict between angling and canoeing. This situation is complicated by the introduction of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, and the planned launch of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code in 2005. The Code encourages responsible access to rivers and river banks, and is being promoted within the Spey catchment by the Moray Council, Highland Council, SNH and the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

To aid the management of this issue, the SCSG organised a seminar on 26th October 2004 entitled 'The Future of Angling and Canoeing on the River Spey' held at the Craigellachie Hotel. Representatives from the SFB, Scottish Canoe Association, Cairngorms National Park Authority and SNH clarified the legal situation, and discussion followed exploring possible compromises. Acting on behalf of proprietors the Spey Fishing Trust agreed to investigate the introduction of mutually acceptable access points for canoes, and the establishment of car parking. In collaboration with local councils and SNH the provision of information boards at access points would be implemented to aid canoeists.



Canoeists are required to use access responsibly on the Spey (*Dave Craig*)

During 2004 the SFB also contributed to the safety of canoeists on the Spey by removing fallen trees in the Alvie, Inshriach, Kinrara and Rothiemurcus area of the river which are hazardous and have caused fatalities in the recent past. Representatives of the Scottish Canoe Association assisted Bailiffs and estate staff.



Members of the Scottish Canoe Association and SFB Bailiffs removing trees at Kinrara Estate (*Dave Craig*)

3.4 Northern Periphery Programme



In 2004 the SFB secured funding from the Northern Periphery Programme (NPP) in partnership with the Highland Council, SNH and Moray, Badenoch & Strathspey Enterprise. The NPP provides funding for transnational projects which promote learning between Scotland's Highland region, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

With its Scottish partners the SFB designed a project entitled 'Integrated Approach to Northern Watercourses and their Community Development', which aims to exchange knowledge on catchment management issues of international relevance. Demonstration projects have been formed within the following Themes:

1. *Sustainable land use to protect water quality;*
2. *Watercourse naturalisation to restore and enhance natural habitats;*
3. *Raising the awareness of watercourse resources.*

Partners in Finland, Norway, Sweden and Scotland have initiated projects to illustrate the local approach on each issue, and these will run in 2004-2006. The total value of the projects is £820,000, of which 60% is provided by NPP.

The SFB is contributing to Theme 2 and Theme 3 with in-kind support. In collaboration with the Crown Estate's Glenlivet Estate and the Moray Council the SFB is coordinating a habitat restoration project on the Conglass Water, an important tributary of the River Avon. Forestry

and road culverts will be removed or modified, easing salmon and sea trout access to 2 km of burns. Areas overgrazed by livestock will be fenced, and bank-side forestry cleared.

To raise awareness of the River Spey the SFB is expanding its Salmon Go To School programme with Craigellachie and Aviemore Primary Schools. As well as rearing salmon eggs in classroom aquaria, pupils will visit the SFB Sandbank Hatchery in the autumn to view adult salmon. Training courses will also be arranged for rangers, canoe guides and river managers.



The NPP Project has established demonstration projects for addressing livestock overgrazing (left), removing forestry culverts (top) and expanding education programmes (right) (Andy Wells, SNH)

3.5 Moray Firth Partnership

With the designation of the Moray Firth as a cSAC for bottlenose dolphins in 1996, a stakeholder forum was established to integrate the management of the area's conservation and economic development. The Moray Firth Partnership presents fisheries, wildlife tourism, petrochemical industry, shipping, military and aquaculture interests with an opportunity to contribute to integrated coastal zone management and planning, taking into consideration the requirements of the Habitats & Birds Directives and the Water Framework Directive. It is part-funded by SNH, the White Fish Producers' Association, Crown Estate and the Marine Coastguard Agency. Since 2001 the SFB has been a member of the Partnership, and in October 2003 organised a seminar entitled 'Integrating Salmon with the Future Management of the Moray Firth' with the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards.

In 2004 Partnership members identified the need for progress on three priority areas:

1. *Improved local management of marine fisheries within the ongoing review of fisheries and aquaculture legislation and the EC Common Fisheries Policy;*
2. *Restoration of the marine environment, and the assessment of fish, shellfish and squid stocks;*
3. *Improved management of seals.*

In October 2004 a Fisheries Action Group was established to tackle these issues, and the SFB is represented on the group. Of particular concern is the sustainable management of commercial fish stocks which may have important ramifications for marine mammals, sea birds, salmon and sea trout stocks. Consultation is also underway with Talisman Ltd., who propose to establish experimental off-shore wind turbines on the Beatrice oil field. Through the Fisheries Action Group options are being considered for the establishment of trial artificial reefs under the turbines to boost fisheries production and compensate for lost fishing grounds.



The SFB is contributing to the Moray Firth Partnership on issues including protection of juvenile stocks (left), inshore fisheries (top) and oil field development (right) (James Butler/MFP/SNH)

Part 4

Management Report

4.1 Stock enhancement 2004

On the basis of advice from the Research Committee, which includes representatives of Fisheries Research Services (FRS) and SNH (see Part 5), the SFB introduced a Stock Enhancement Policy in 2003 (Table 4). The Policy aims to boost natural smolt output from the Spey by targeting under-populated areas above man-made obstacles and natural obstacles, and also accessible areas proven to be under-stocked.

As part of the Geographical Information System (GIS) Project (see Part 5), the Spey Research Trust has identified all man-made and natural obstacles within the catchment. The area of water above man-made obstructions is estimated to be 878,000 m², and the area above natural obstructions is 200,000 m², giving a total of 1,078,000 m². Juvenile surveys carried out by the Trust suggest that most naturally accessible areas of the catchment are utilised by

salmon (see Part 5), and therefore enhancement of these areas is of little benefit. Planting juvenile salmon at a density of approximately 2 fry/m², a target of 2 million fry is required to fully stock the target areas. Allowing for some mortality in the hatchery, an annual target of 2.1 million eggs has been established.

The SFB's Sandbank Hatchery has a capacity of 1.2 million eggs. The shortfall has been made up by the hire of space at the Alvie Hatchery, Kincaig, where 300,000 eggs can be held from the upper catchment. The remaining capacity of 600,000 is being supplied by Tulchan Estate. With the agreement of the SFB the estate has built a hatchery on the Glenmore Burn, which will be run at Tulchan's expense, but under the supervision of the SFB. Eggs held at the Glenmore Hatchery will only be stocked into areas from Tulchan upstream.

Table 4. SFB salmon and sea trout Stock Enhancement Policy, 2004-2005

1. Stock areas accessible to salmon and sea trout proven to be under-populated;
 2. Stock inaccessible areas above man-made obstructions;
 3. Stock inaccessible areas above natural obstructions;
 4. Use only wild broodstock from the Spey catchment;
 5. Take broodstock from close to target areas, to maintain local adaptations and ensure optimal survival of stocked juveniles;
 6. Stock eggs, fry or autumn (0+) parr subject to ease of access;
 7. Monitor stocked areas with juvenile surveys;
 8. Prioritise salmon ahead of sea trout.
-

In September 2003 the SFB collected 386 hen and 414 cock salmon and grilse, providing 2.2 million eggs and filling the capacity of the Sandbank, Alvie and Glenmore Hatcheries. A further 164 sea trout were collected, providing 152,000 eggs. In line with best practice outlined in FRS's 'Salmon and Sea Trout: To Stock or Not?' guidelines, juveniles were planted into the same areas of the catchment that their parents had originated from, to ensure optimal survival (Table 5, Figs. 13, 14). Eyed eggs, fed fry or autumn (0+) parr were planted out from February to August.

4.2 Broodstock capture 2004

In October 2003 Peter Gray, Hatchery Manager for the Environment Agency's Kielder Hatchery, visited the Spey

with his staff to demonstrate their electro-net. Based on the success of the equipment the SFB has purchased a similar set in 2004, with 50% funding from SNH, which has enabled more efficient capture of broodstock from areas of the catchment targeted for stock enhancement. Having completed the Environment Agency's training course, SFB Bailiffs successfully used the electro-net to capture 286 hen and 234 cock salmon in October 2004, despite high flows. No sea trout were captured. The target of 2 million salmon eggs has again been achieved. Invaluable assistance was provided by ghillies from Gordon Castle, Delfur, Rothes & Aikenway, Delagyle, Tulchan and Castle Grant estates, plus members of the Tomintoul, Strathspey and Abernethy Angling Associations.



The SFB Stock Enhancement Policy has been targeting inaccessible areas for fry planting (top), and in 2004 purchased an electro-net (bottom) (Bob Laughton/Robin Vasey)

Table 5. Salmon and sea trout stock enhancement in the Spey catchment, 2004

Broodstock source	Stocking site	Accessible/inaccessible	Quantity	Month
(a) SALMON				
Abernethy, mainstem	River Nethy	Inaccessible	50,000 eggs	February
Aviemore, mainstem	Allt Coire Chondraich, Druidh	Inaccessible	4,500 eggs	February
Abernethy, mainstem	Sluggan Burn	Inaccessible	30,000 eggs	February
River Truim	Allt Coire Fahr, Truim	Inaccessible	7,000 eggs	February
River Feshie	River Eichart, Feshie	Inaccessible	36,000 fed fry	May
Abernethy, mainstem	River Spey, Spey Dam	Partially inaccessible	40,000 fed fry	May
Abernethy, mainstem	Allt Garbh Gaig, Tromie Dam	Partially inaccessible	10,000 fed fry	May
Abernethy, mainstem	Dunachton Burn, Loch Insh	Partially inaccessible	10,000 fed fry	May
Abernethy, mainstem	Milton Burn	Inaccessible	10,000 fed fry	May
Gordon Castle, mainstem	Fochabers Burn	Inaccessible	35,000 fed fry	May
Delfur, mainstem	Mulben Burn	Inaccessible	110,000 fed fry	May/July
Gordon Castle, mainstem	Burn of Rothes	Inaccessible	85,000 fed fry	May/June
Tulchan, mainstem	Burn of Coire Seileach	Inaccessible	25,000 fed fry	June
Tulchan, mainstem	Glenmore Burn	Inaccessible	25,000 fed fry	June
Tulchan, mainstem	Allt na Moireach, Dulnain	Inaccessible	60,000 fed fry	June
Tulchan, mainstem	River Spey, Spey Dam	Partially inaccessible	200,000 fed fry	June/July
River Avon	River Avon, Findouran Lodge	Accessible	230,000 fed fry	June
River Avon	Ailnack Water, Avon	Inaccessible	85,000 fed fry	June/July
Delagyle, mainstem	Cally Burn	Inaccessible	50,000 fed fry	June
Tulchan, mainstem	Gynack Burn	Inaccessible	65,000 fed fry	July
Delagyle, mainstem	Knockando Burn	Inaccessible	125,000 fed fry	July
River Avon	Burn of Brown, Avon	Inaccessible	80,000 fed fry	July
Delfur, mainstem	Dullan Water, Fiddich	Inaccessible	250,000 fed fry	July
River Avon	Mickle Fergie Burn, Avon	Inaccessible	40,000 fed fry	July
Tulchan, mainstem	Upper River Dulnain	Accessible	85,000 fed fry	July
Gordon Castle, mainstem	Burn of Aberlour	Inaccessible	70,000 fed fry	July
Delagyle, mainstem	Ballintomb Burn	Inaccessible	35,000 fed fry	July
Tulchan, mainstem	Strath an Eilich Burn	Inaccessible	35,000 fed fry	July
Tulchan, mainstem	Allt Breachy	Inaccessible	35,000 fed fry	July
Delfur, mainstem	Maggielknockater Burn	Inaccessible	45,000 0+ parr	August
Delagyle, mainstem	Macallan Burn	Inaccessible	45,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Batten Burn, Dulnain	Inaccessible	30,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Allt Ghiuthais, Dulnain	Inaccessible	30,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Caochan na Gaibhre, Dulnain	Inaccessible	30,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Allt an Tudair, Dulnain	Inaccessible	30,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Allt a Chaorainn, Calder	Inaccessible	30,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Allt Fionndrigh, Calder	Inaccessible	30,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Allt Madagain, Calder	Accessible	60,000 0+ parr	August
Tulchan, mainstem	Milton Burn, Phones	Accessible	60,000 0+ parr	August
Total salmon:			2,227,500	
(b) SEA TROUT				
Aviemore, mainstem	Allt Coire Chondraich, Druidh	Inaccessible	10,000 eggs	February
Castle Grant, mainstem	Glen Beag Burn	Partially inaccessible	22,000 eggs	February
Avon	Allt a Choileachain, Livet	Inaccessible	15,000 fed fry	May
Avon	Tommor Burn, Avon	Inaccessible	10,000 fed fry	May
Avon	Glenmullie Burn, Conglass	Inaccessible	5,000 fed fry	May
Avon	Allt na Cabar, Conglass	Partially inaccessible	11,000 fed fry	May
Avon	Allt Loin Beag, Avon	Inaccessible	14,000 fed fry	May
Castle Grant, mainstem	Batten Burn, Dulnain	Inaccessible	23,000 fed fry	May
Castle Grant, mainstem	Allt Bog na Gabhar, Dulnain	Inaccessible	11,000 fed fry	May
Delfur, mainstem	Burn of Mackalea, Fiddich	Inaccessible	6,000 fed fry	May
Delfur, mainstem	Corrie Burn, Fiddich	Inaccessible	25,000 fed fry	May
Total sea trout:			152,000	

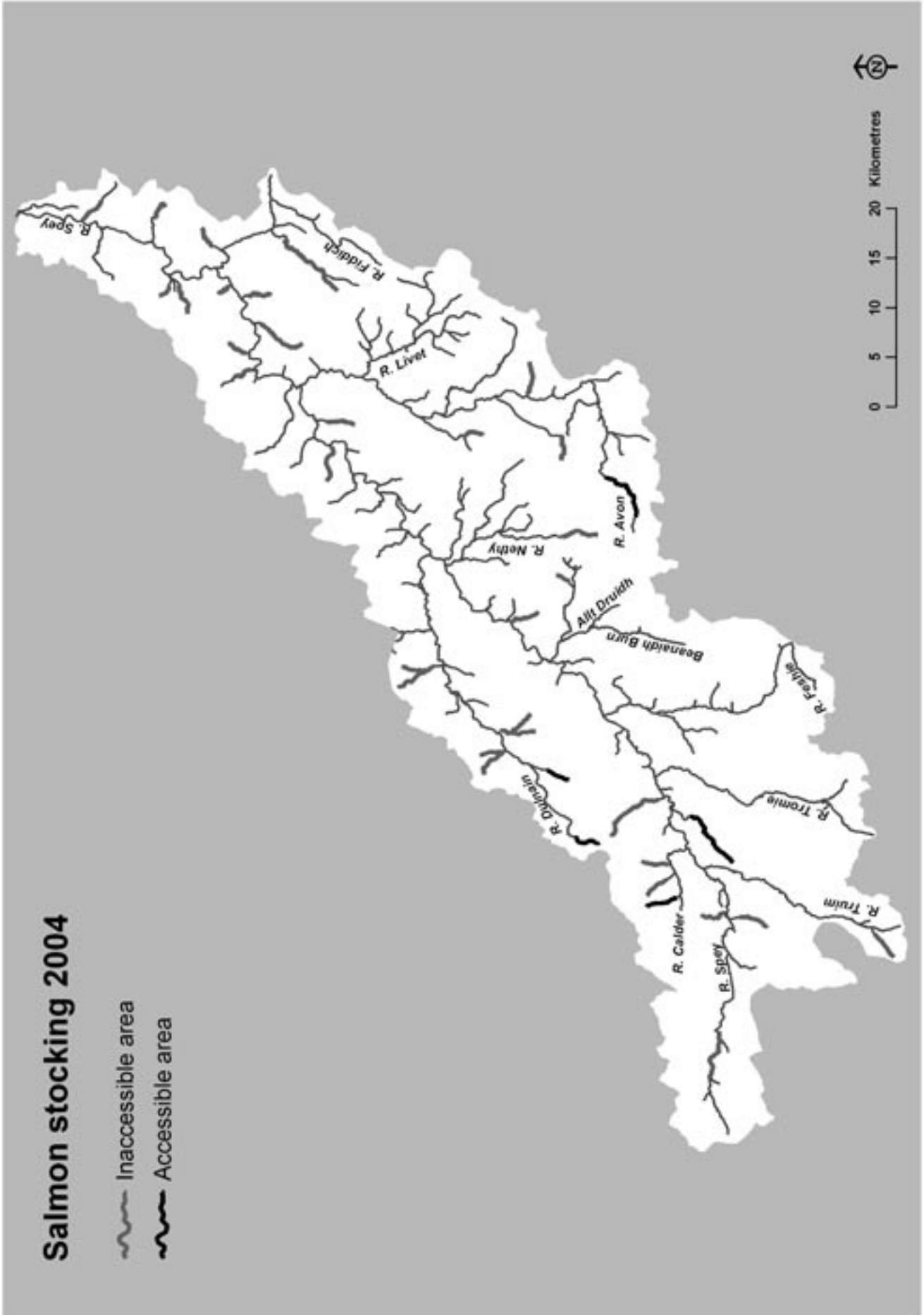


Figure13. Locations of juvenile salmon stocking in the Spey catchment, 2004

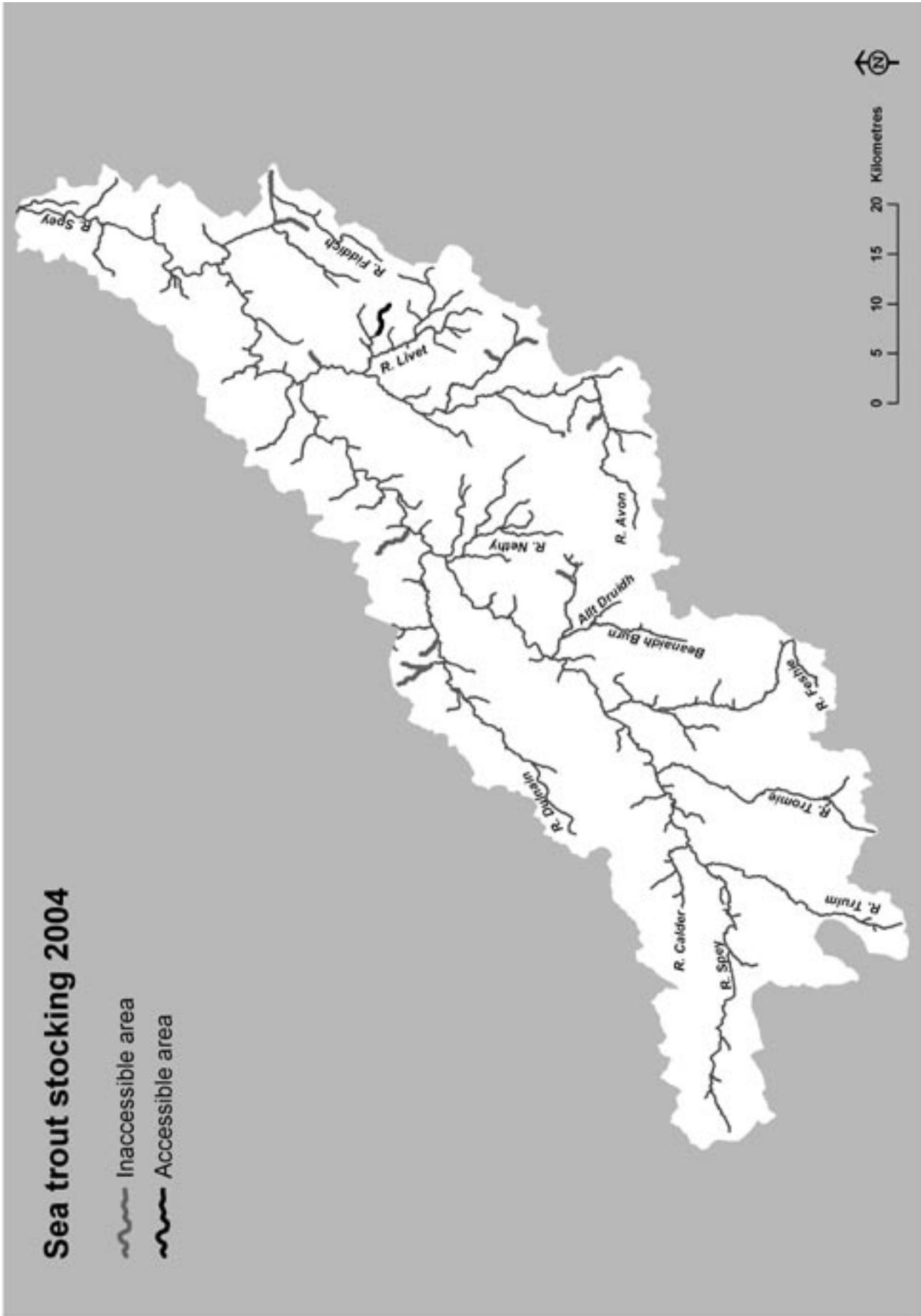


Figure 14. Locations of juvenile sea trout stocking in the Spey catchment, 2004

4.3 Benefits of stock enhancement

The aim of the Stock Enhancement Policy is to boost the natural smolt output from the Spey catchment, and hence adult returns. In turn, extra fish may be caught in the rod fishery, and additional spawners may be present within the accessible area each autumn. However, it is important to quantify the numbers of smolts and returning adults resulting from the Policy.

Based on previous and ongoing work using traps in the Spey catchment at Spey Dam, the Cally Burn and River Fiddich (Fig. 15) it has been estimated that maximum smolt output ranges between 2/100m² and 5/100m² of riverine habitat, with lower output at higher altitudes. Similar figures have been found by FRS on the Girnock Burn, Diver Dee, and by the Conon fishery board on the River Brahan. Juvenile surveys carried out by the Spey Research Trust suggest that most suitable habitat within the naturally accessible area is saturated by juvenile salmon, and therefore maximum smolt output is probably being maintained. The GIS Project has estimated that the accessible area is 11.06 million m². Assuming an optimal output of 5 smolts/100 m² the Spey may be producing 553,100 fish annually (Table 6). At marine survival rates of 12%, and an average rod catch rate of 13%, this produces 8,628 salmon and grilse.

By comparison, the inaccessible area of 1.08 million m² may produce 54,000 extra smolts. When translated into returning adults and rod catch, this may yield 842 extra fish (Table 6), increasing the total catch by approximately 10%.

However, this is likely to be an overestimate, for several reasons:

- *The survival of stocked salmon is known to be less than for wild fish, both between the fry-smolt and smolt-adult life stages;*
- *Most areas targeted for stocking are in high altitude regions of the catchment, where smolt output is likely to be less than 5/100 m²;*
- *Smolt migration from areas above man-made obstructions may be restricted, further limiting output.*

Similar calculations are not yet possible for sea trout, because little is known about their biology in the Spey or at sea. This is being addressed by the Spey Research Trust in 2005 (see Part 5).

4.4 Monitoring stock enhancement

Juvenile surveys are being undertaken by the Spey Research Trust in stocked areas to assess fry survival. Traditionally adult returns from stocking exercises have been estimated by tagging parr and smolts. However, this process is labour-intensive, and handling and tagging fish reduces their survival.

In 2004 the Spey Research Trust has collaborated with FRS to use novel genetic technology to assess the contribution of stocked fish to the rod fishery. Tissue samples were taken from all broodstock stripped, and DNA fingerprints of the families of progeny have been established. Starting in 2007, when the first young from the 2004 broodstock are likely to return as adults, tissue samples will be taken from rod-caught fish and their DNA will be compared with those of the stocked fish.

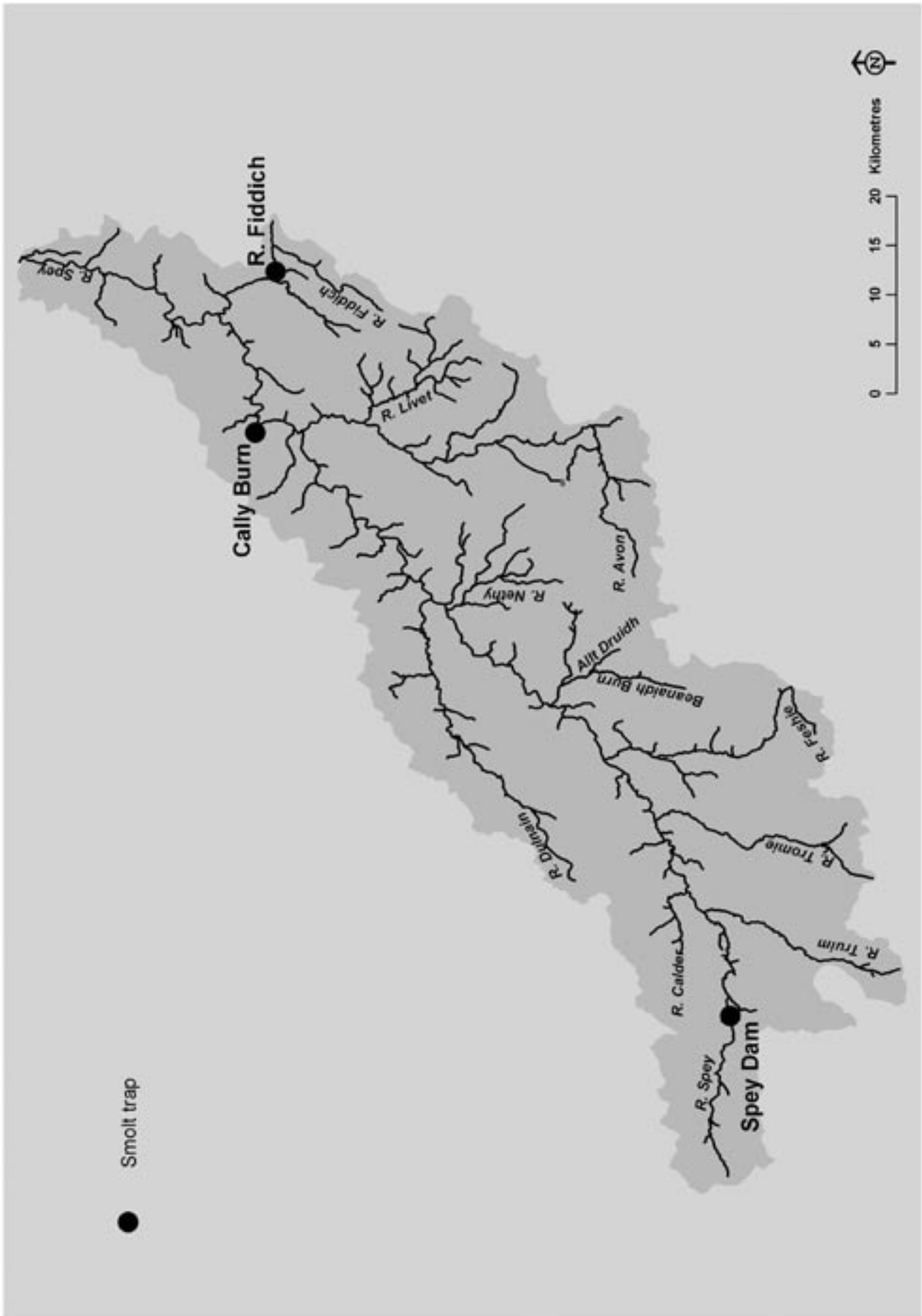


Figure 15. Location of traps in the Spey catchment where smolt output has been estimated

Table 6. Estimates of (a) maximum current natural salmon smolt output, returning adults and rod catch, and (b) maximum potential output from the Stock Enhancement Policy

	Riverine area (m ²)	Smolt output @ 5/100 m ²	Adult returns @ 12%	Catch @ 13%*
(a) Natural:	11.06 million	553,100	66,372	8,628
(b) Stocked:	1.08 million	54,000	6,480	842

* Average annual exploitation rate estimated for the Spey, 2002-2004 (see Part 5)



The contribution of hatchery fish (left) to the rod catch is being assessed with genetic screening of broodstock (right) (*Graeme Robb*)

4.5 Obstacles

The process of identifying man-made obstructions within the catchment has continued. As part of the GIS Project each obstacle has been mapped, and its details collated. In total 109 obstacles have now been identified, ranging from road culverts to hydro-electric dams. If removed, the riverine area accessible to salmon and sea trout would be increased by 10%.

4.6 CASS LIFE Project



The process of removing or mitigating these obstacles has begun with the inception of the EU LIFE Project, 'Conservation of Atlantic Salmon in Scotland' (CASS). Because the Spey is a cSAC the SFB is eligible for funding through the EU LIFE Nature scheme. LIFE funding is targeted at improving the physical status of an SAC, while also supporting research and public awareness projects. In 2003 the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and SNH coordinated a £3.5 million bid by the Spey and other

salmon cSACs including the Oykel, Moriston, Dee, South Esk, Tay, Teith, Tweed, Bladnoch and Endrick. The bid was approved by the European Commission in August 2004.

The SFB's component of the CASS LIFE Project focuses on removing or mitigating 13 major man-made obstacles to fish passage (Fig. 16). To improve monitoring of salmon stocks, three fish counters will be installed in fish passes on the Truim, Dullan and at Spey Dam. The Spey work includes a public awareness component, which focuses on the extension of the Spey Research Trust's Salmon Go To School programme, and demonstration site visits.

The total value of the work on the Spey is £573,274, of which 64% will be sourced from LIFE and SNH. The SFB is providing in-kind support for project management, the running of fish counters, juvenile surveys, and stocking above the obstacles. Project management is assisted by officers employed by SNH, and the civil engineers A.F. Cruden Associates of Inverness.

Table 4. Timescales of the CASS LIFE Project works in the Spey catchment

Works	2005	2006	2007	2008
(a) Obstacles and fish counters				
Spey Dam fish pass, screens and counter	X	X		
Spey Dam smolt trap refurbishment	X			
Rothiemurcus Trout Farm screens	X			
Truim smolt screens and counter		X		
Truim guaging weir removal	X			
Milton Burn A9 culvert fish pass		X		
Batten Burn A9 culvert fish pass		X		
Batten Burn railway culvert fish pass			X	
Ballintomb Burn bridge replacement	X			
Dullan Water Mortlach Distillery Weir fish pass	X	X		
Dullan Water Mortlach Distillery Weir fish counter	X	X		
Dullan Water Dufftown Distillery Weir fish pass	X	X		
Fochabers Burn weirs fish pass	X			
Fochabers Burn road culvert fish pass	X			
(b) Education and publicity				
Salmon Go To School	X	X	X	
Demonstration site visits			X	X
(c) Management and monitoring				
Fish counter running	X	X	X	X
Juvenile surveys	X	X	X	X
Juvenile stocking	X	X	X	X
Project management	X	X	X	X



The CASS LIFE Project will ease obstructions to fish passage (left) and install three fish counters (right)
(Mike Beach/Ron Campbell)

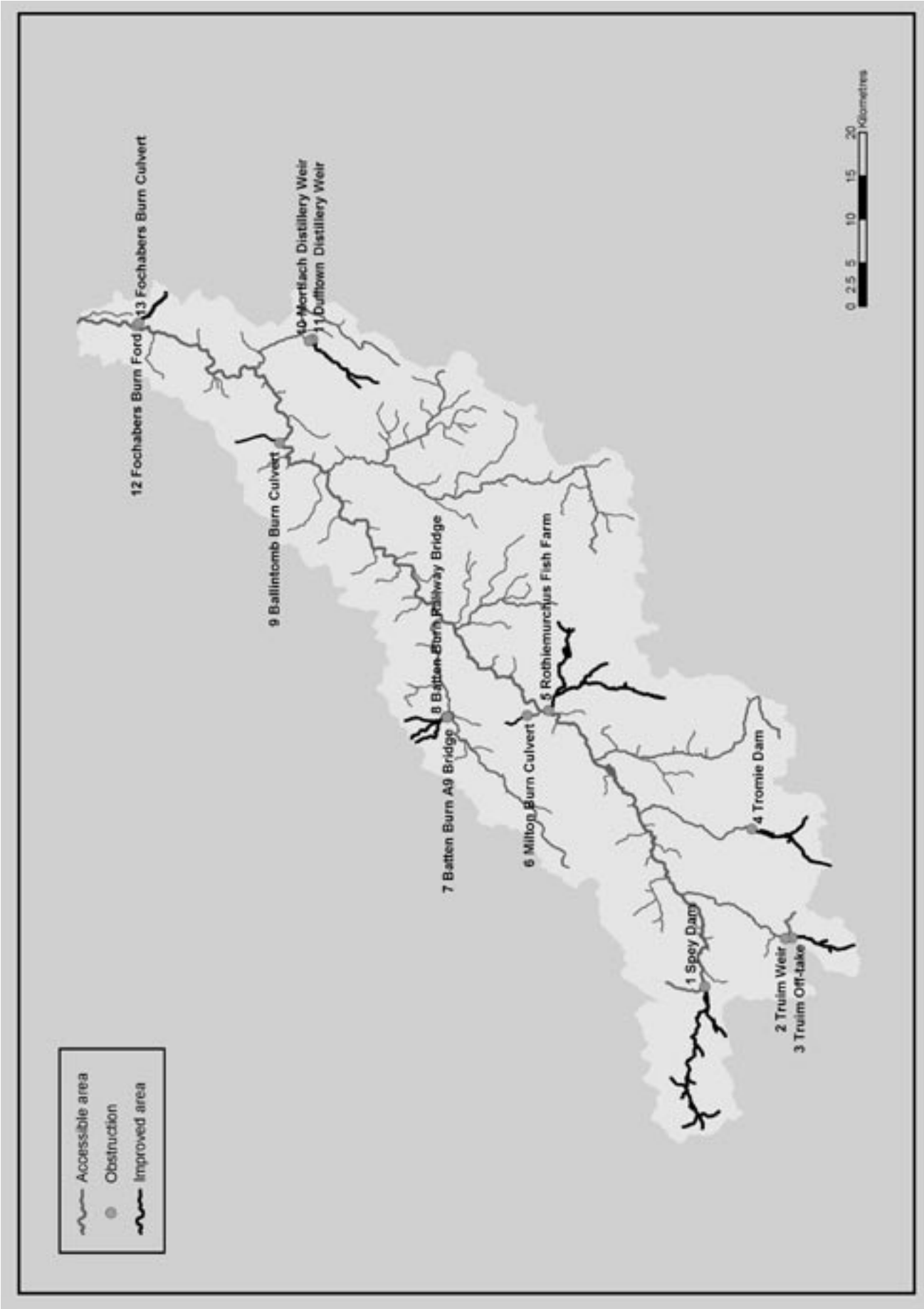


Figure 16. Man-made obstacles targeted for remedial works by the Spey CASS LIFE Project.

4.7 Riparian habitat improvement

The process of identifying and prioritising areas of the catchment requiring riparian habitat improvement has continued. In August 2004 the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust generously agreed to fund a continuation of the GIS Project for one year, and to extend this work into using mapping technology, aerial photographs and field surveys to pinpoint problem areas in the catchment. This work will be completed in late 2005, and will produce a list of locations where habitat restoration works should be undertaken.

Meanwhile SFB Bailiffs continued to clear a 2 km section of the heavily afforested Milton Burn at Castle Grant. Using chainsaws, and with assistance from Castle Grant, Delfur and Gordon Castle ghillies, this important spawning tributary has almost been restored. Similar works will be carried out when the GIS Habitat Survey has identified other problem areas.



SFB Bailiffs are clearing forestry by the Milton Burn
(Bob Laughton)

4.8 Pollution incidents

There was one significant reported pollution incident in 2004. On 15th May Bailiffs were alerted to a problem at the Kynlra Burn, in Grantown-on-Spey. Flow in the burn had almost ceased, and the water was heavily silted and foul-smelling. Dead trout, juvenile salmon, eels and lampreys were evident throughout the burn's course. Two non-native roach were also found dead. SEPA was informed immediately, and Bailiffs took water samples and photographs.

The cause of the incident was excavation works in a pond owned by The Late Mr. Peter Braun in the upper reaches of the burn. The outlet of the pond had been blocked, reducing the water flow and simultaneously polluting it with sediment. Having identified the source of the problem Bailiffs alerted the contractor and restored the flow into the burn. Charges were not pursued by the SFB or SEPA.



Roach, trout and brook lampreys killed in the
Kynlra Burn (Bob Laughton)

4.9 Sawbill ducks and cormorants

Following an application to the Scottish Executive the SFB was awarded a licence in March-April 2004 to shoot 30 goosanders, but no cormorants or red-breasted mergansers. This represented an increased quota from 2003, when 19 goosanders, six cormorants and two mergansers were licensed.

The SFB has continued counting these species using canoes. With a 50% grant from SNH four 15 ft Canadian canoes were purchased in 2004, plus associated safety gear. Counts are carried out from Loch Insh to Spey Bay once every two months, and already demonstrate that large numbers of birds are present in the lower 30 km of the river during the smolt run (April-June), where the funnelling effect of the catchment is likely to provide the highest concentrations of fish.

Cormorants are also most prevalent in the lower river during the winter, perhaps attracted by the availability of salmon and sea trout kelts and carcasses (Fig. 17). In October-November 2004 Sarah Whitehead, an Honours student from the University of Aberdeen, undertook a study of the behaviour of cormorants at Spey Bay, under the part supervision of the SFB. The results of the study indicated that the birds spend the majority of their time resting and drying their wings before flying out to sea. During 6 full days of observation only one bird was observed diving in Spey Bay, and did not catch anything. Further studies are planned to investigate the behaviour of birds further upstream during the winter.

The SFB is continuing to work with SNH and the Scottish Executive to establish a Moray Firth-wide management scheme for sawbill ducks and cormorants. Due to the designation of the Inner Moray Firth and Cromarty Firth as SPAs for these species under the Habitats & Birds Directives, future schemes must consider the conservation obligations of fishery boards and other relevant authorities for both piscivorous birds and the fish stocks on which they prey.

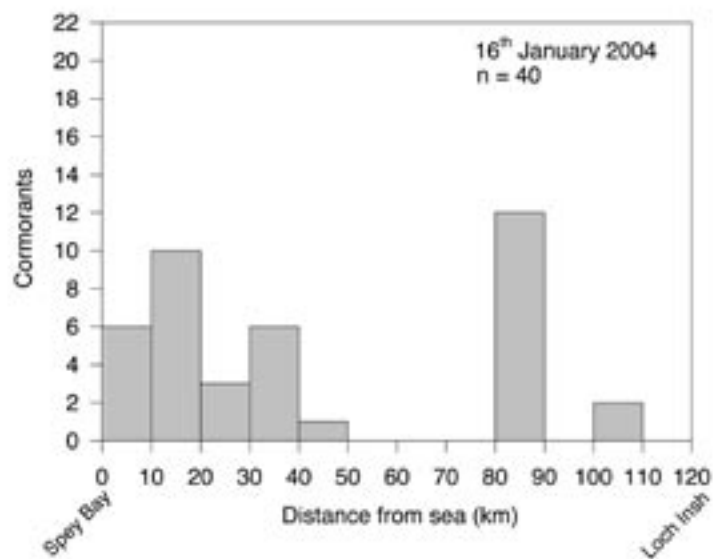


Figure 17. Distribution of cormorants on the River Spey during January 2004



Cormorants at Spey Bay spend little time feeding

4.10 Moray Firth Seal Management Plan

With the designation of the Dornoch Firth cSAC for common seals, the Moray Firth cSAC for bottlenose dolphins, and the Spey, Moriston, Oykel, Cassley, Berriedale and Langwell cSACs for salmon, the Moray Firth region presents a challenge for the management and conservation of marine mammals and fisheries. This is further complicated by declines in spring salmon stocks in Moray Firth rivers, and a parallel decline of common seals during the 1990s (Fig. 18), potentially threatening the conservation status of both species.

On 4th September 2002 the Scottish Executive introduced a Conservation Order under the Conservation of Seals Act 1970 to prevent the shooting of common seals, and also grey seals in the Moray Firth, in anticipation of a Phocine Distemper Virus (PDV) epidemic. The PDV outbreak ended in 2003 with less impact on seal populations than expected. However, due to the threatened status of the

common seal population a new Conservation Order was introduced for the Moray Firth on 4th September 2004, but in other Scottish waters the situation has reverted to the legal shooting of seals for the protection of fisheries under the Conservation of Seals Act.

Against this background Moray Firth fishery boards (Caithness–Deveron Fishery Districts) have collaborated to design a Moray Firth Seal Management Plan. This aims to allow fishery boards to protect fisheries while satisfying their obligations as relevant authorities for cSACs under the Habitats & Birds Directives. This has been prepared by the SFB in 2004, with generous funding from the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust, and combined input from the Scottish Executive, Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), FRS, SNH and the Moray Firth Partnership. The Plan has been submitted to the Scottish Ministers for approval in early 2005, and will be used as a pilot project for the future management of seal and fishery interactions throughout Scotland.

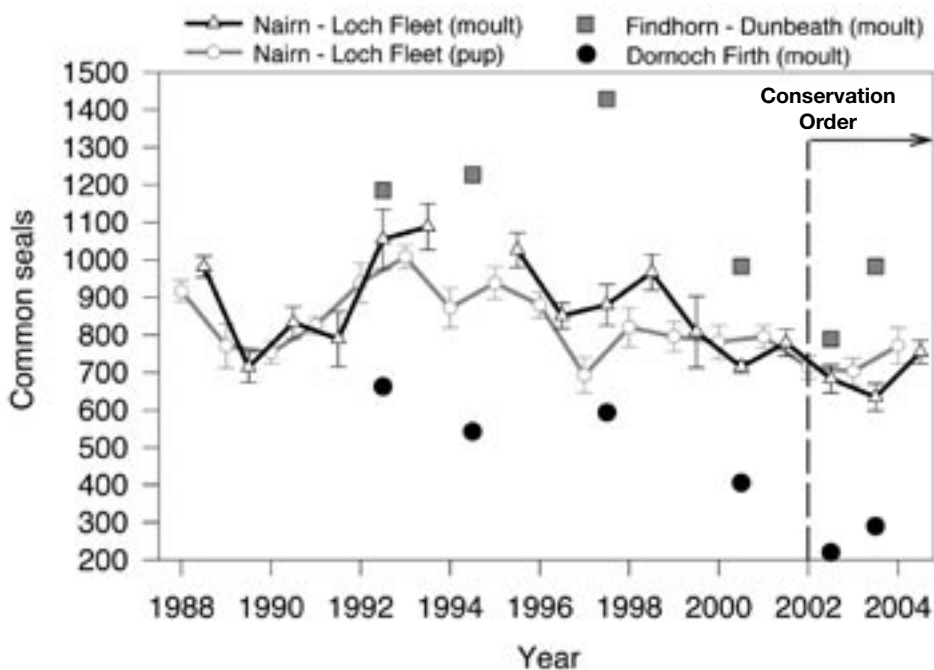


Figure 18. Counts of common seals in the Inner Moray Firth by the University of Aberdeen (lines) and SMRU (symbols), 1988-2003, relative to the 2002 Conservation Order

The Plan aims to:

1. *Manage seal and salmon fishery interactions on a Moray Firth scale without impacting on wildlife tourism;*
2. *Identify Management Areas in rivers and estuaries where predation on salmon is most likely, but which exclude seal haul out sites;*
3. *Allow the removal of seals from Management Areas, particularly during the spring salmon and smolt runs, and also at salmon netting stations;*
4. *Issue an annual licence for the shooting of seals under the Conservation Order, based on monitoring of seal numbers in rivers and throughout the Moray Firth;*
5. *Improve the identification and reporting of seals shot;*
6. *Establish nominated marksmen and provide training for them;*
7. *Develop non-lethal methods of seal exclusion from Management areas, including acoustic scarers which do not impact upon bottlenose dolphins in the Moray Firth cSAC;*
8. *Review the Plan annually.*

With funding from the Scottish Executive, Atlantic Salmon Trust and other charitable sources a Seal and Salmon Research Programme has begun. Managed collaboratively by the SMRU, Scottish Executive, SNH, FRS and the SFB, research is underway to:

- *Develop and test acoustic seal scarers for rivers;*
- *Study the behaviour of seals in rivers using satellite tracking and photo-identification;*
- *Analyse the diet of shot seals by recovering carcasses;*
- *Monitor damage to salmon relative to seal numbers in rivers;*
- *Develop a training course for marksmen and fishery managers.*

In 2004 the SFB monitored numbers of common and grey seals in the lower Spey, and with the assistance of ghillies from Delfur, Carron, Laggan, Tulchan and Castle Grant photographed damage on rod caught fish. Preliminary results show that monthly seal numbers are highest in early spring, and then decline through the summer (Fig. 19). The proportion of damaged salmon followed a similar pattern but with a one month lag. This suggests that the majority of damage may have been caused by seals, and spring salmon are at greatest risk of seal predation.



Seals are being tracked with satellite tags (left), and damage to salmon is being monitored in the Moray Firth (right)
(SMRU/Ronnie Low)

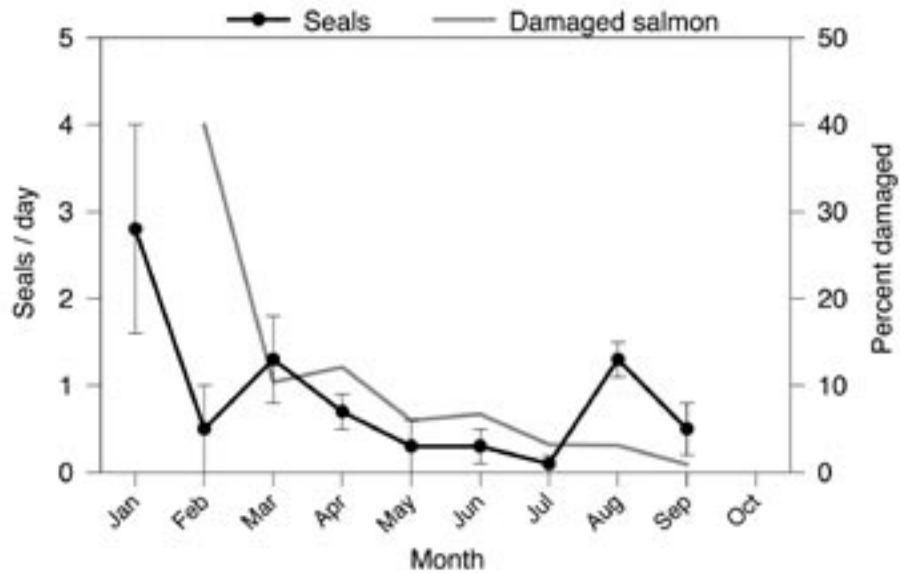


Figure 19. Average monthly counts of common and grey seals in the lower River Spey relative to the proportion of rod-caught salmon and grilse with damage, 2004

4.11 Fishery protection

Coastal patrols between Nairn and Fraserburgh were continued in April-September 2004 in collaboration with the Nairn, Findhorn, Lossie and Deveron fishery boards. A total of 28 patrols were completed with the SFB's 17ft Rigid Inflatable boat. Three illegal gill nets were intercepted, and a further 9 seized from boats.

In 2004 the SFB continued to collaborate with the Grampian and Northern Constabularies' Operation Fish Net, which aims to increase public awareness of illegal salmon netting and the dangers gill nets pose to dolphins. Following a publicity launch on 21st June 2004, two nets were reported to the SFB through the Operation Fish Net telephone line. As in 2003 funding for the training of boat crews and running costs was provided by SNH for the SFB, Ness, Conon and Kyle of Sutherland fishery boards.

On 24th September 2003 Mr. David Grant was apprehended by SFB Bailiffs, Richard Whyte and Lindsay Grant, whilst 'ripping' and charged by Grampian Police under Section 1 of the Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Protection) (Scotland) Act 1951. After three deferrals the case was heard by Elgin Sheriff Court on 27th October 2004. Mr. Grant was found guilty and fined £250.

4.12 Staff training

In 2004 SFB staff completed the following training:

- *Institute of Fisheries Management Certificate in Scottish Bailiffing and Keeping Duties and Law;*
- *LANTRA Award Basic Training*
- *National Powerboat Certificate Level 2*
- *Environment Agency Electric Fishing Certificate of Competence*



In 2004 SFB Bailiffs intercepted 12 illegal gill nets (Stewart Dickie)

Part 5

Spey Research Trust Report

5.1 GIS Project

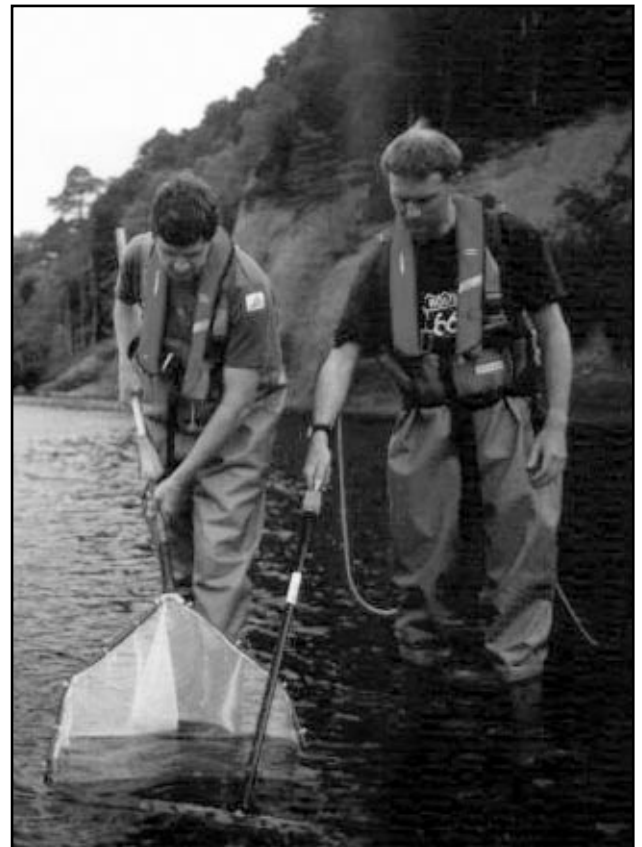
In March 2003 the Spey Research Trust employed Kevin Redgewell as GIS Project Officer, generously funded by the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust. In August 2004 the Trust kindly agreed to extend the funding of this post until December 2005 to enable the project to be extended into the identification of riparian habitat restoration schemes (see Part 4).

5.2 Juvenile survey 2004

With the inception of the SFB's Conservation Policy and programmes for stock enhancement and the removal of man-made obstacles, it is essential that juvenile populations are surveyed extensively and regularly to monitor the status of stocks. In summer 2004 the Trust undertook an electro-fishing survey of the Spey catchment, although coverage was limited by high flows. Some of this work also monitored the status of juveniles stocked above man-made obstructions within the CASS LIFE Project. The SFB and Trust are members of the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre (SFCC), and all data is gathered according to standard SFCC protocols.

Detailed results of the 2004 survey are not yet available, but an initial assessment using GIS mapping shows that salmon fry were found at 86% of 144 sites surveyed, compared to 88% in 2003 (Fig. 20). Of these sites, 12 (8%) had been influenced by stocking of fry in 2004. There was evidence that salmon had not spawned in some areas of high altitude tributaries in autumn 2003, perhaps having been restricted by the low flow conditions during the summer drought (see Part 2). Despite this, the results show that salmon remain widely distributed in the catchment, and most suitable areas are being utilised by juvenile fish.

By comparison juvenile brown trout distribution was less, with fry found at 81% of sites surveyed (Fig. 21). Only one site (1%) was influenced by the stocking of sea trout fry. The distribution of trout appears to be skewed towards smaller tributaries, reflecting their preference for this habitat. The relationship between brown trout and sea trout is the subject of future research by the Trust (see 5.8).



Juvenile surveys were carried out at 144 sites in 2004 (Bob Laughton)

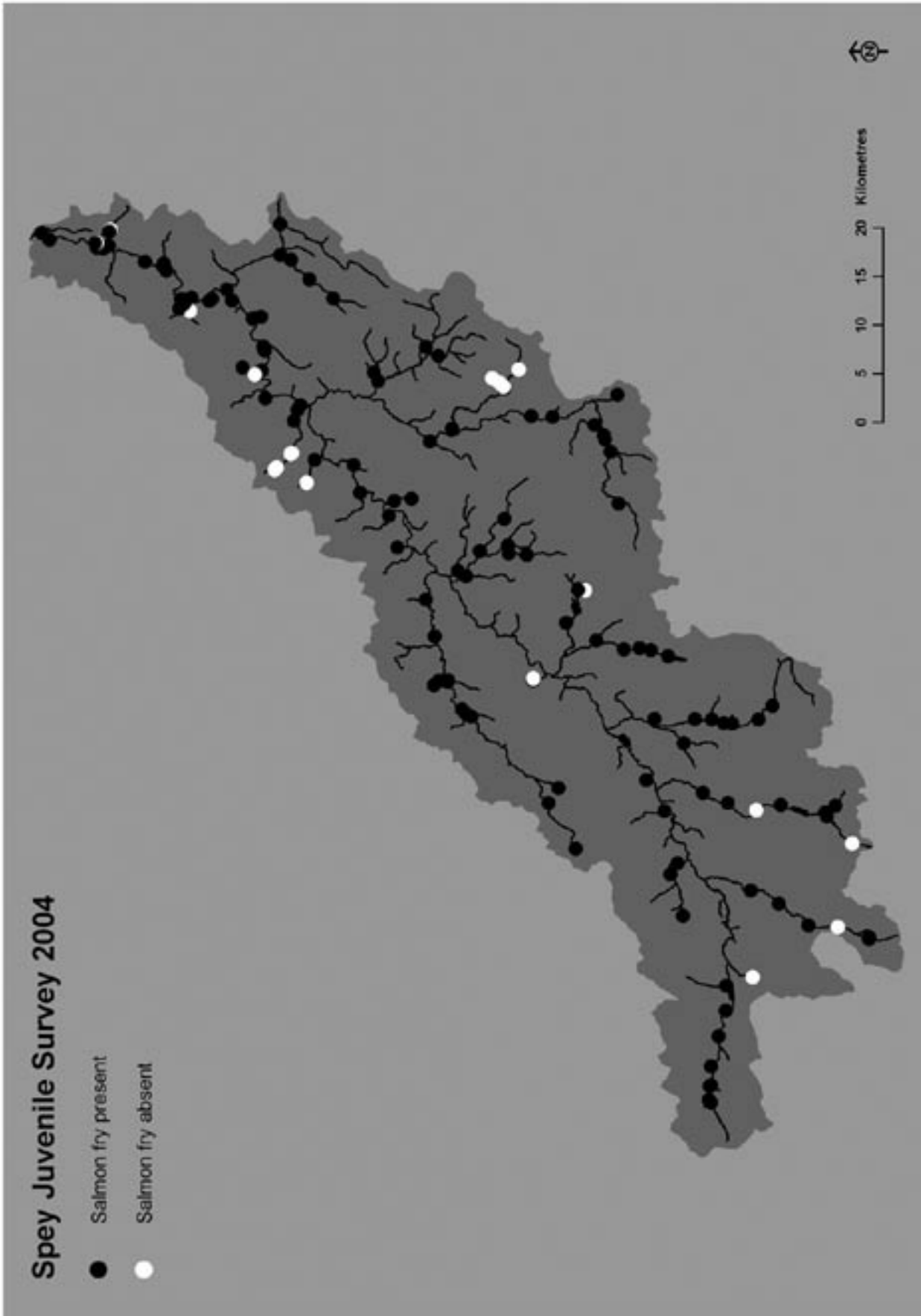


Figure 20. Distribution of salmon fry at 144 survey sites within the Spey catchment in 2004

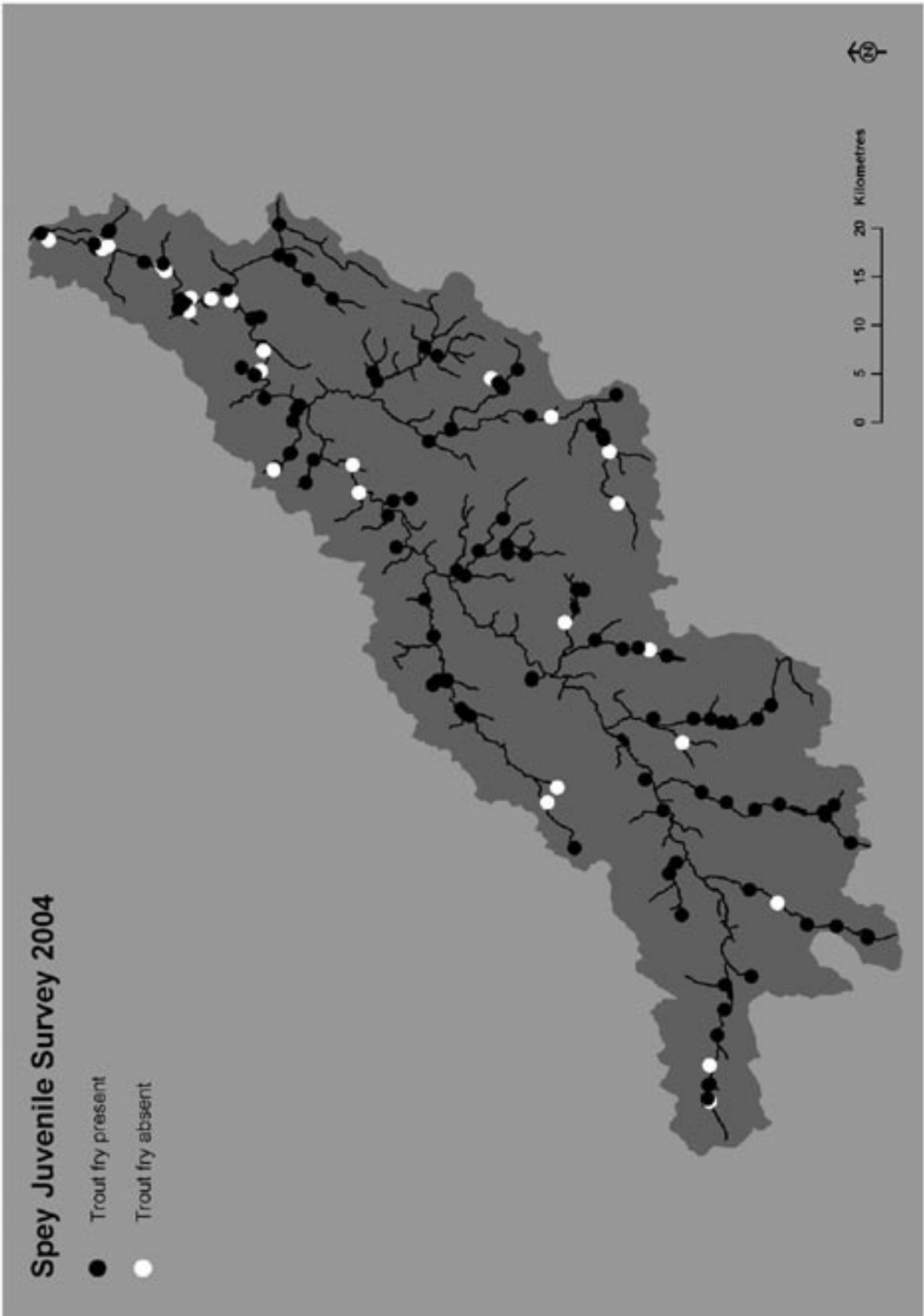


Figure 21. Distribution of trout fry at 144 survey sites within the Spey catchment in 2004

5.3 Acoustic counter

In 1998-2000 the Trust operated a split-beam hydroacoustic fish counter at Boat o'Brig, 12 km upstream from the river mouth. The purpose of the project was to apply a novel method to estimate the total run of returning adult salmon. Due to the size of the mainstem the deployment of any other form of fish counter was impossible. With funding from the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust the counter was used for periods of several weeks each month. In 1998 video cameras were used to validate the count, and from this information the acoustic count could be corrected to include missed fish. The counter was set to only count fish of greater than 45 cm length, and therefore will have registered all salmon and grilse and some larger trout.

In 2000-2004 the Trust collated and analysed this unique information. The results show the total estimated run for each month counted (Table 5). When these counts were compared with rod catches for the corresponding months at a beat approximately 5 km upstream, a statistically significant association was found (Fig. 22). Using this relationship it is now possible to estimate the monthly run of fish from Boat o'Brig upstream during the February-September fishing season for other years. Any inaccuracy caused by varying fishing effort is avoided because the number of days and rods fished per month on the beat concerned has remained constant for over a decade.

Table 5. Estimates of upstream-migrating fish recorded by the hydroacoustic counter, Boat o' Brig, 1998-2000

Year	Month	Acoustic count/day	Total counts/month	% counted*	Total adjusted count
1998	March	2.6	79	58.3	136
	April	15.8	474	58.3	813
	May	114.1	3535	37.5	9427
	June	141.9	4256	62.3	6831
	July	350.3	10859	55.7	19496
	September	68.8	2064	35.3	5847
	Total:				
1999	March	13.2	358	58.3	614
	April	23.5	706	58.3	1211
	May	129.4	4010	58.3	6878
	June	128.3	3859	58.3	6619
	July	145.3	4504	58.3	7726
	September	50.6	1517	58.3	2602
	Total:				
2000	May	36.7	1138	58.3	1952
	June	162.5	4873	58.3	8358
	July	331.2	10268	58.3	17612
	September	103.0	3089	58.3	5298
	Total:				

* Video validation for May, June, July and September 1998. Overall efficiency of 58.3% applied to months without video

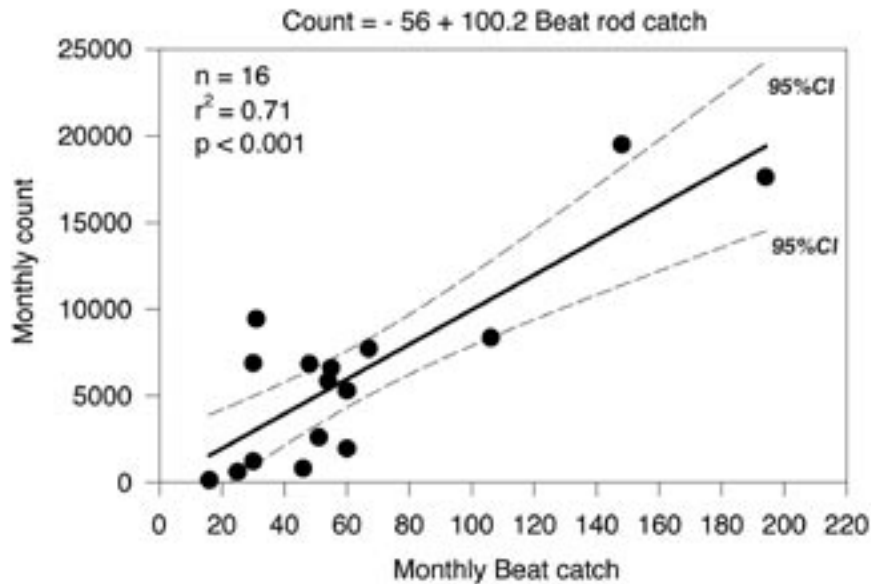


Figure 22. The statistical relationship between monthly catches at a beat upstream from Boat o’Brig, and monthly counts in 1998-2000 from the hydroacoustic counter.

This relationship was then applied to the years 2002-2004, deriving estimated runs of between 37,000 and 53,000 fish past Boat o’Brig (Table 6). With the provision of detailed records by fisheries it has been possible to calculate the combined salmon and grilse catch upstream from Boat o’Brig based on this run of fish. Over February-September exploitation (catch) rates ranged between 11 and 15%, with an average of 13%. Knowing the total salmon and grilse catch for the whole river, and assuming that the exploitation rate was similar throughout, it is then possible to extrapolate the total run for each year. These estimates

suggest that the total run in February-September ranged between 49,000 and 67,000 salmon and grilse.

However, this calculation is likely to be an underestimate because salmon and grilse may also enter the river during the close season between 1st October and 10th February (see 5.4). Without rod catches for this period it is impossible to estimate how many fish are running in the autumn and winter.

Table 6. Estimates of salmon and grilse runs from Boat o’Brig upstream during February-September 2002-2004, and resulting calculations of exploitation rates and the total run

Year	Estimated total count Boat o’Brig u/s	Salmon & grilse catch Boat o’Brig u/s	Exploitation rate (%) Boat o’Brig u/s	Total Spey salmon & grilse catch	Total Spey run derived from exploitation rate
2002	37,820	4,992	13.2	6,499	49,235
2003	38,521	4,381	11.4	7,066	61,982
2004	52,649	7,723	14.7	9,820	66,797

5.4 Autumn Salmon Project

Analysis of historical catch records for the Rake sweep nets operating in the lower Spey from 11th February to 26th August annually for the period 1851-1991 shows distinct cycles in the prevalence of salmon (multi-sea winter fish) and grilse (1 sea-winter fish) (Fig. 23). During the period 1851-1910 grilse predominated, but in 1910-1960 salmon were most common. From 1960 grilse have

again predominated. Since grilse enter the river from June onwards, the periods of their predominance suggests that the bulk of fish run during the summer and autumn. Salmon may enter the river from January onwards, suggesting that during periods of their dominance spring runs were more common.

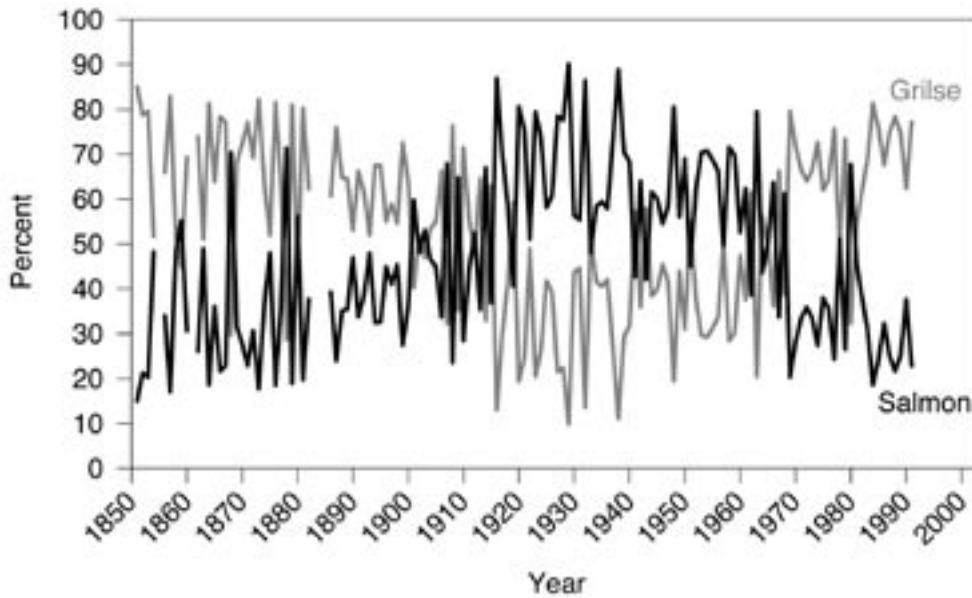


Figure 23. The proportion of salmon and grilse recorded in the Spey Rake nets, 1851-1991 (data kindly provided by Dr. David Summers, Tay District Salmon Fishery Board)

Although the Rake nets ceased operating in 1991, the trend suggests that the Spey is still in a period dominated by grilse. Patterns recorded by the acoustic counter in 1998-2000 and rod catches corroborate this, with peak runs occurring in the summer (Table 5, Fig. 7). However, in 1999 the counter was operated after the end of the fishing season, and indicated that significant numbers of fish were running in October-November (Fig. 24).

In 2004 the Spey Research Trust began an Autumn Salmon Project to address the following questions:

1. Are salmon running the Spey after the end of the fishing season?
2. What are their characteristics and how abundant are they?
3. Where and when do they spawn?



The Spey Rake sweep nets operated from 1851 to 1991 (David Summers)

A licence was granted by the Scottish Executive to fish experimentally with rod and line in October-December. The Gordon Castle and Carron beats kindly allowed fishing to take place using fly only. Ghillies and members of the River Spey Anglers' Association volunteered to fish, and were trained to floy tag, scale sample, photograph and release all salmon and sea trout caught. The condition and sexual status of each fish was assessed later from the photographs.

SFB records show that in 1865-1946 the Spey rod season closed on 15th October. In 1947 the SFB brought the closing date forward to the 30th September because the Spey had become a 'spring river', and fish were spawning by mid-October. When the season was originally set in 1865 the river was an 'autumn river'. These descriptions clearly correspond with the trends in grilse and salmon shown in Fig. 23. Hence the Autumn Salmon Project will clarify the current status of the Spey, and inform a debate about the merits of extending the season.

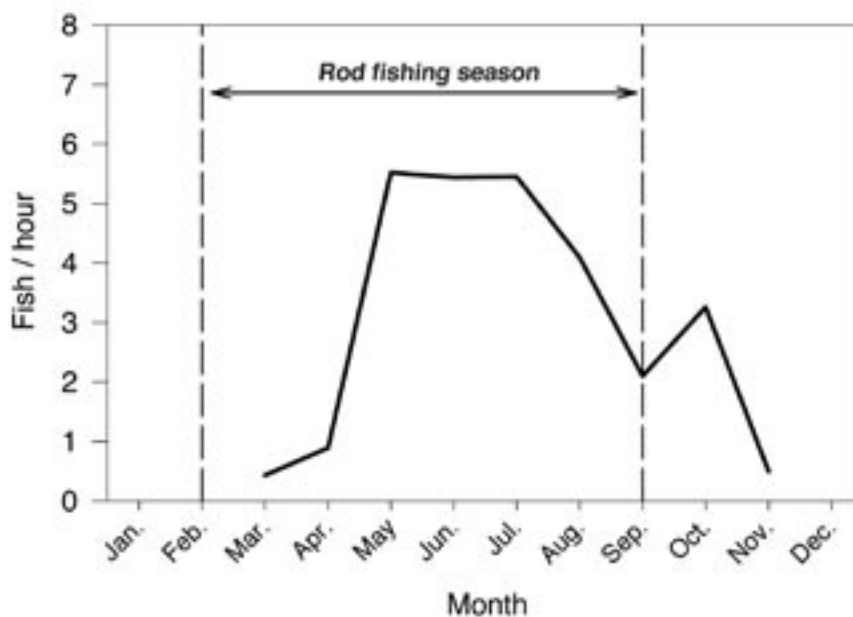


Figure 24. The average monthly rate of upstream fish passage recorded by the hydroacoustic counter in March-November 1999, relative to the rod fishing season (unadjusted data)



Autumn salmon are being floy tagged and released (*Malcolm Newbould*)

5.5 Non-native Fish Survey

In 2004 the Trust undertook a survey of non-native fish in the Spey catchment, in partnership with the Cairngorms National Park and funded by Leader+. Surveys were also undertaken in the Dee catchment by the Dee fishery board. Non-native fish can cause significant ecological damage by competing for food and space with native species, and by introducing disease and parasites. Historically, colder climatic conditions in northern Scotland may have restricted the ability of some non-native species to breed, but global warming may now allow them to establish.

In the Spey the most likely route for their introduction is via live-bait fishing for pike or trout, since bait fish are brought by visiting anglers and released when not used. Thus the 2004 survey focussed on areas where pike are known to be resident, such as Loch Insh, Loch Alvie, Loch Beag and Loch Morlich (Fig. 25). Specialist netting surveys were carried out by contractors, and some electro-fishing and rod-fishing was used. Reports of established non-native species in ornamental ponds in Grantown-on-Spey, Aberlour and Fochabers were received and these were also surveyed.

Results showed that only two non-native species were present in the lochs: roach and rudd. Both were found in Loch Beag, but roach were also found in the Kylintra Burn following the fish kill in May 2004 (see 4.8). There were also two reports of roach caught on rod and line during 2004 in the Nethy Bridge area of the mainstem. Golden orfe, goldfish and golden tench were found in the Aberlour pond, and the orfe had established a breeding population. Further surveys will be undertaken in 2005 to assess the implications of these results.

Also of concern was the establishment of North American signal crayfish in the River Nairn. This is the most northerly known location that crayfish have colonised. Crayfish are likely to predate on salmon and trout eggs, compete with parr for winter shelter and food, and burrow into banks causing erosion and siltation. At its nearest point the Nairn catchment is only 20 km from the Spey, but is separated by the River Findhorn. However, crayfish can travel overland, and therefore there is a significant risk that the Spey will be colonised.



Breeding golden orfe (left) have been found in the Spey catchment and North American signal crayfish (right) are established in the Nairn (*Bob Laughton/Peter Collens*)

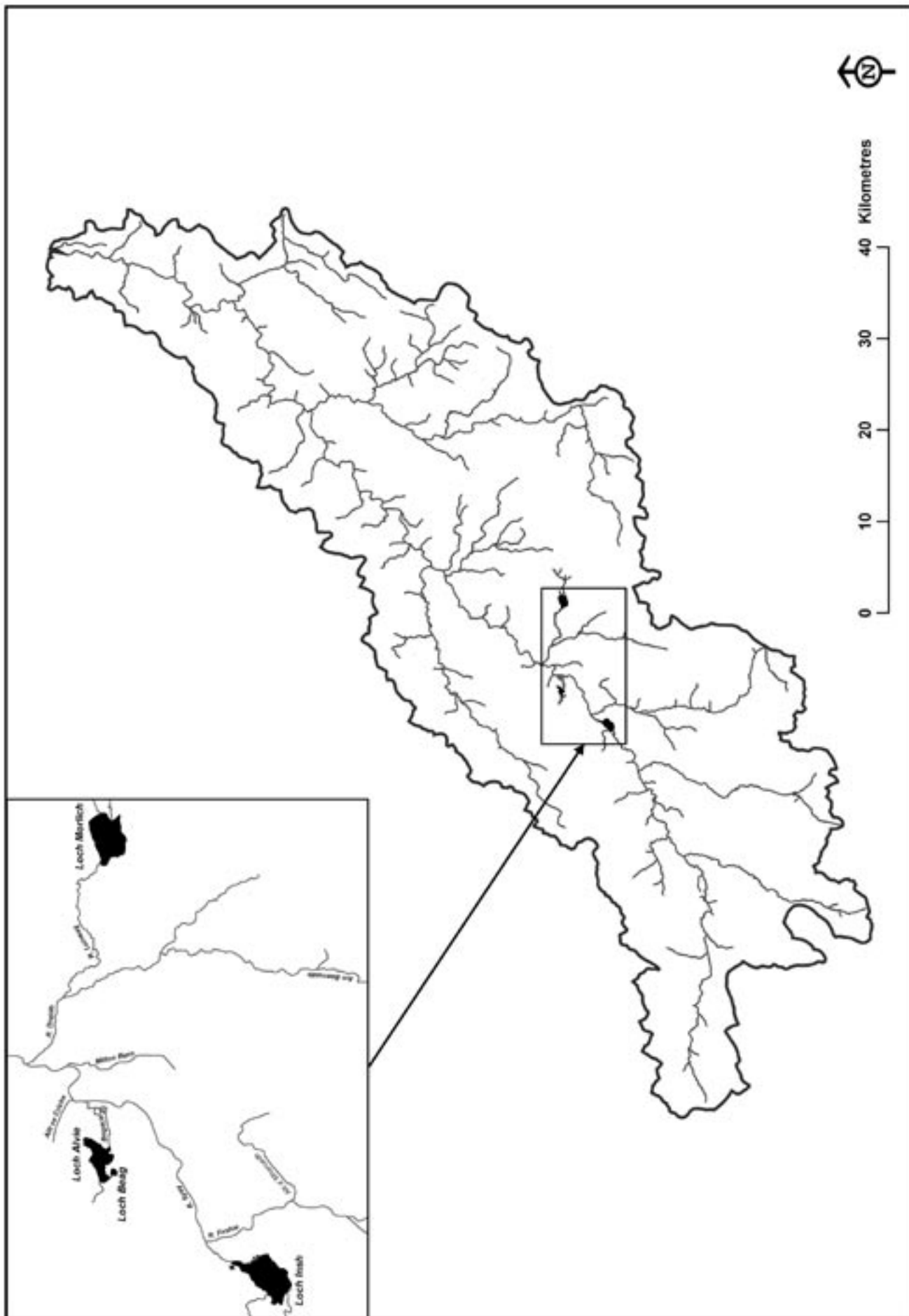


Figure 25. The lochs surveyed by the Non-native Fish Project in 2004

5.6 Thermal Discharge Project

EU Directive 78/659/EEC allows cooling waters from whisky distilleries to elevate water temperatures by a maximum of 1.50°C. In 2004 the Trust was contracted by SEPA, FRS and the whisky industry to investigate the thermal discharges of selected distilleries, and their impacts on juvenile salmon growth. The Thermal Discharge Project builds on earlier work carried out by the Trust on the River Fiddich in 1998-1999, which suggested that growth rates and smolt ages of juvenile salmon are accelerated downstream from distillery outlets, but this has little effect on their age at maturity. As a member of the Thermal Discharge Expert Group, the Trust will assess which distilleries are failing to comply with the Directive, and develop measures to reduce their ecological impact.

5.7 Salmon Go To School

Through the NPP and the CASS LIFE projects, the Trust is continuing to promote awareness of the Spey with its highly successful Salmon Go To School educational programme. In February primary schools are given aquaria to hatch small numbers of salmon eggs from the SFB Sandbank Hatchery, and then plant the alevins into their local burns in March. In 2004 the project was further developed

with Aviemore and Craigellachie Primary Schools by trialling larger aquaria, and guiding the classes around the Sandbank Hatchery at spawning time.

5.8 Future research programme

In 2004 the Research Committee reviewed past and current Trust work programmes, and prioritised future research designed to inform the management of the River Spey and all fish species and habitats. In addition to routine juvenile surveys and water quality monitoring programmes undertaken as part of the CASS LIFE and NPP projects, and the Paul's Hill Wind Farm development, the following projects were identified as priorities:

1. Salmon and Sea Trout Smolt Output: *As described in Part 4, estimations of salmon smolt production from the Spey catchment are extrapolations from detailed work in small tributaries. There is no equivalent information for sea trout smolt production. This project aims to measure total smolt output using a Rotary Screw Trap, which can be moored in larger tributaries and the mainstem to count smolts.*

2. GIS Habitat Surveys: *This project is an extension of the GIS project and aims to use GIS technology, aerial photographs and field surveys to identify areas of the catchment where riparian habitat restoration schemes have been established, and where future schemes are necessary.*



Primary schools have been visiting the SFB's Sandbank Hatchery as part of Salmon Go To School (Bob Laughton)

3. Sea Trout Tagging: *There is no information on the size or characteristics of the sea trout population, or its relationship with brown trout. To investigate sea trout migrations, exploitation rates and potential stock sizes, anglers will floy tag rod caught sea trout and monitor recaptures, beginning in 2005.*

4. Genetic Monitoring of Stock Enhancement: *As described in Part 4, DNA samples will be taken annually from broodstock utilised by the SFB's Stock Enhancement Policy. From 2007 tissue samples taken from rod-caught fish will be matched against broodstock samples, allowing an assessment of the contribution of hatchery fish to the fishery.*

5. Autumn Salmon Project: *This work began in autumn 2004 and will be continued in 2005.*



The trust has purchased a Rotary Screw Trap to quantify smolt output (*Ian Davidson*)

5.9 Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland

In 2004 the Association of West Coast Fisheries Trusts was expanded to include similar east coast organisations, and was renamed the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS). The objective of RAFTS is to further the conservation and enhancement of all species of freshwater fish and their environment in Scotland. In addition RAFTS will:

- *Assist with the raising of funds to support members;*
- *Assist and promote the development of fisheries trusts;*
- *Co-ordinate the flow of information between members;*
- *Influence land, freshwater, coastal zone and environmental policy;*
- *Educate the general public, anglers and fisheries management;*
- *Ensure that members comply with the conditions of charitable status.*

In 2004 the Spey Research Trust joined RAFTS, but will require an organisational review to comply with the conditions of membership. In August members of the Research Committee visited the Tweed Foundation and Tweed Commissioners to investigate their administrative and legal structures.

Part 6

Consultations

6.1 Paul's Hill Wind Farm

In 2001 Natural Power Consultants Ltd., acting on behalf of Fred Olsen Renewables, put forward a proposal to build a wind farm at Paul's Hill, within Ballindalloch Estate. The site is situated in the headwaters of the Pitchroy Burn (Allt a' Gheallaidh), an important spawning tributary (Fig. 26). Because little information exists about the ecological impacts such large installations may have on watercourses in upland areas the SFB initially objected to the scheme.

A survey by an independent hydrologist, Professor Chris Soulsby of Aberdeen University, confirmed several of the SFB's concerns. Negotiations with the developer culminated in the withdrawal of the SFB's objection on the basis that a Monitoring and Mitigation Agreement would be put in place before works began. This condition was incorporated into the Scottish Executive's consent granted to the developer in April 2003. The Agreement stipulated a monitoring programme for water quality and fish populations, carried out in collaboration by the Spey Research Trust and FRS. Any evidence of declines in juvenile salmon or trout stocks would trigger the restocking of the Pitchroy Burn. All costs were to be met by the developer.

However, it subsequently came to the SFB's attention that a wind farm at Derrybrien in County Galway, Ireland, caused a land slide in October 2003 resulting in the death of 100,000 fish in the Owendalulleagh River. The SFB met again with the developer to ensure that the problems at Derrybrien would not occur at Paul's Hill. It was agreed with the Scottish Executive that the developer would investigate the likely causes of the Derrybrien incident and amend the Construction Method Statement for Paul's Hill accordingly. Also, the developer would employ Professor Soulsby on behalf of the SFB to oversee the construction of the farm.

In April 2004 the Scottish Executive discharged the consent to the developers without having fulfilled these undertakings. Consequently the SFB served a petition for judicial review on the Scottish Ministers on 10th September 2004. The petition was heard on 26th – 28th January 2005. On 24th March 2005 Lord Kingarth ruled that although the petitioners had understandable frustrations in the light of the erroneous terms of the Scottish Executive's consent, the decision of the Scottish Ministers was not unlawful. The SFB will be considering this decision. The Spey Research Trust and FRS continue to monitor fish populations and water quality in the Pitchroy Burn while works commence.



Access roads to Paul's Hill Wind Farm are under construction (*Bob Laughton*)

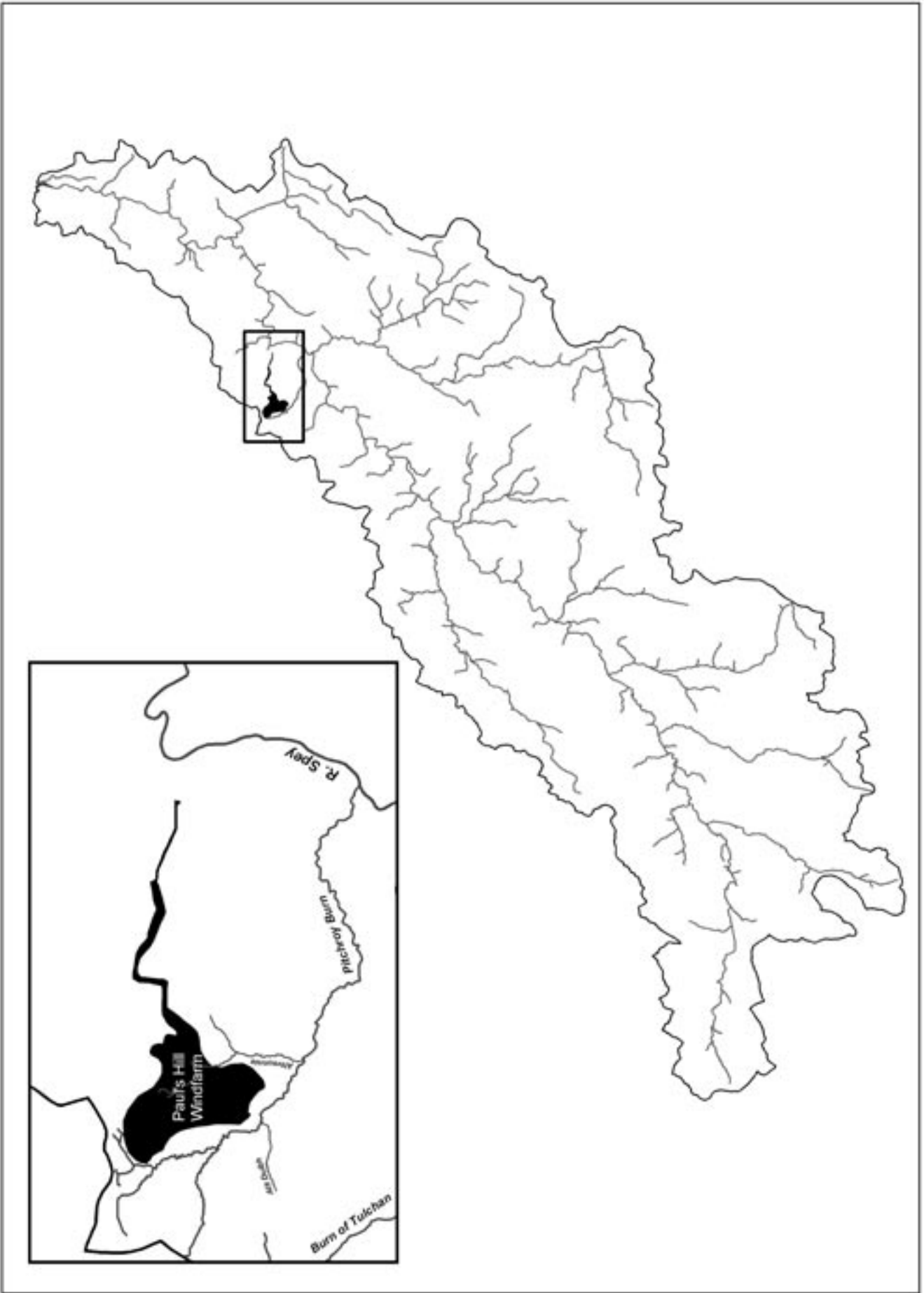


Figure 26. Location of the Paul's Hill Wind Farm within the Spey catchment

6.2 Water Framework Directive

During 2004 the SFB contributed to three Scottish Executive and SEPA consultations relating to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive through the Water Environment & Services (Scotland) Act 2003:

- **River Basin Management Planning Strategy:** Under the Directive Scotland has been classed as one river basin, but consultation was carried out to determine the extent of River Basin Districts.
- **Pressures and Impacts on Scotland's Water Environment:** This consultation sought to locate all known sources of point source and diffuse pollution, abstraction and flow regulation, morphological alterations and invasive species. The SFB checked and corrected the provisional list of these sites for the Spey catchment.
- **Controlled Activity Regulations:** In 2004 the Executive proposed a series of regulations designed to control pollution, abstraction, impoundment and river engineering work, whereby the greater the ecological impact the tighter the regulation. Activities of least

impact would have to be registered, those of medium impact would be subject to General Binding Rules, and those of high impact would require licensing. The SFB responded with particular emphasis on the inflexibility and impracticality of General Binding Rules for river engineering works.

6.3 Spey Bay gravel extraction

In November 2003 Scotsand Ltd. applied to the Moray Council for preliminary planning permission for the extraction of sands and gravels from the river bed upstream from Spey Bay. Scotsand proposed to remove up to 200,000 tonnes per annum. Extraction would take place during the winter months to avoid disruption to the fishing interests in the area. One suggested advantage of the scheme would be to reduce the potential for flooding of the neighbouring Garmouth and Kingston villages. The SFB has objected to the application on the basis that any winter dredging of the river bed would destroy salmon and sea trout redds, and also disturb runs of late autumn and early spring fish. The impact of the scheme on the amenity value of the fishing in the area could also be significant. In 2004 Scotsand withdrew the planning application.



The Water Framework Directive will place new regulations on river works (SNH)

Part 7

Publicity

7.1 FishSpey website

Following the successful establishment of internet-based promotion of salmon fishing on the River Tweed, the SFB has facilitated discussions between proprietors, angling associations and hotels to investigate the possibility of a similar initiative for the Spey. The Spey Catchment Steering Group's recent economic survey of water-based recreation highlighted the importance of angling to the local economy, and recommended improved marketing and coordination of tourism on the river.

In 2004 the SFB's Publicity Committee (Table 7) examined the potential requirement for such an initiative. A questionnaire was sent to all proprietors and angling associations and sufficient interest was shown to justify progressing with the project. Funding was secured from the SFB, Moray Council, Highland Council, Cairngorms National Park Authority and Leader+ to establish a 'FishSpey' website for a trial period in 2005 and 2006. An interim committee was formed to steer the franchise including the members of the Publicity Committee, plus a manager (Malcolm Newbould), treasurer (Grenville Johnston) and angling association representative (Andrew Allen, Abernethy Angling Improvement Association). The site was launched in December 2004 (www.fishspey.co.uk), and is linked to similar services on the Rivers Dee, Tay, Tweed, North and South Esks.

Table 7. SFB Publicity Committee membership

Edward Mountain, Chairman (Delfur Fishings)
Frank Clark (Gordon Castle Estate)
James Thomas (River Spey Anglers' Association)
Dr. James Butler (SFB)
Bob Laughton (Spey Research Trust)

7.2 Briefings and website

The SFB continues to produce Briefings which are circulated to over 600 individuals and organisations including proprietors, angling associations, ghillies, hotels and tackle shops. These are also available on the SFB website (www.speyfisheryboard.com), along with other pertinent information.



The SFB (top) and FishSpey (bottom) websites seek to improve the profile of the river.

7.3 Talks and presentations

In 2004 SFB and Spey Research Trust staff gave the following talks and presentations:

- **11th February:** Grampian TV News;
- **17th February:** Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, Kielder Hatchery Review, Perth;
- **23rd March:** Institute of Fisheries Management Annual General Meeting, Dunkeld;
- **13th April:** Association of Salmon Fishery Boards Annual General Meeting, Pitlochry;
- **25th April:** Spey Anglers' Association Annual General Meeting, Elgin;
- **4th May:** University of Edinburgh Sustainable Resource Use MSc Class, Glenlivet Estate;
- **5th May:** Scottish Executive Scottish Seals Working Group, Edinburgh;
- **10th May:** Ullapool Fish Week Conference, Ullapool;
- **20st May:** Fisheries Research Services, Catch and Release Seminars, Pitlochry;
- **6th June:** Moray Firth Environment Festival, Spey Bay;
- **12th June:** Moray Firth Environment Festival, Spey Bay;
- **21st June:** BBC TV News, Operation Fish Net launch, Rosemarkie;
- **5th July:** International Sea Trout Symposium, Cardiff;
- **21st July:** Fochabers Burn Community Purchase Public Meeting, Fochabers;
- **4th August:** BBC Discovery Channel TV documentary;

- **8th August:** RSPB Fun Day, Abernethy Reserve, Nethy Bridge;
- **29th August:** Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board AGM, Forres;
- **1st November:** Moray Firth Partnership Fisheries Action Group, Banff;
- **16th November:** Scottish Executive Seals Working Group, Edinburgh;
- **1st December:** SFCC Biologists Meeting, Pitlochry
- **6th December:** Speymouth Angling Association, Spey Bay.

7.4 Committees

In 2004 SFB and the Spey Research Staff were members of the following committees:

- SFCC Management Committee
- RAFTS Management Group
- Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan Management Committee
- Findhorn District Salmon Fishery Board
- Thermal Discharge Project Expert Group
- Scottish Executive Fisheries Forum
- Moray Firth Partnership Fisheries Action Group
- Spey Catchment Steering Group
- Scottish Executive Seals Forum
- Scottish Executive Seals Working Group
- Seal and Salmon Research Programme Advisory Board
- Institute of Fisheries Management Scottish Branch Committee

Part 8

Income & Expenditure Account Extract

Year ended 30th September 2004

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Statutory assessment		337,746		321,462
Other income		<u>14,765</u>		<u>27,501</u>
		352,511		348,963
EXPENSES				
Personnel costs	145,800		115,694	
Rent, rates & insurance	13,354		18,158	
Vehicles & patrol boat	26,159		26,431	
Hatchery	15,508		6,781	
Health & safety	8,560		6,002	
Telephone & communications	1,439		908	
Office expenditure	16,235		10,956	
Administration	20,997		20,530	
Miscellaneous	6,533		9,201	
GIS Project	-		13,848	
Paul's Hill Wind Farm	9,111		3,004	
Spey Catchment Steering Group	3,421		3,750	
Other professional fees	235		7,379	
Depreciation	49,416		28,725	
Financial costs	<u>5,468</u>		<u>9,131</u>	
		<u>322,236</u>		<u>280,498</u>
		30,275		68,465

EXTRACT FROM THE 2004 ACCOUNTS

The financial information set out within this page is extracted from the Spey Fishery Board's full audited accounts, on which the auditors, Ritsons Chartered Accountants, reported without qualification.

