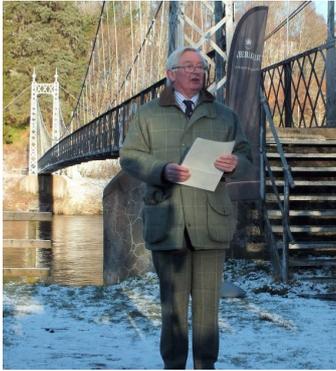


March 2018

www.speyfisheryboard.com

New Salmon Season begins on the Spey



The Spey Fishery Board were delighted that the Lord Lieutenant for Moray, Lt.- Col. Grenville Johnston OBE OSTJ TD (pictured above left) officially opened the Salmon Fishing Season for the River Spey on Monday 12th February at Alice Littler Bridge in Aberlour. Lt.- Col. Grenville Johnston is a former member of the Spey Fishery Board and is also a co-founder of the River Spey Anglers Association.

As keen anglers and visitors gathered at the footbridge in Alice Littler Park in Aberlour for the Opening Ceremony, a prayer and blessing were given by Rev. Bob Anderson. A bottle of 16-year-old Aberlour Single Malt Scotch Whisky was then poured into the River Spey by last year's winner, Evie Glass - a toast to bring luck to all those in pursuit of the elusive Spring Salmon, accompanied by Piper Alan Sinclair.

The 'Anniversary Quaich' was awarded to Kevin James who caught the first salmon of the season. The heaviest Salmon was caught by Graham Ritchie and weighed in at 16lbs. Prizes which included a bottle of Aberlour 18- Year- Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky and a Walkers hamper were presented to both winning anglers. The ghillies in attendance, Mike Ewen and Davie MacIntosh each received a bottle of Aberlour A'Bunadh and a Walkers hamper.



(Left) SFB Chairman presents the Anniversary Quaich to Kevin James. (Right) Graham Ritchie with the heaviest salmon caught.



The Spey Fishery Board are very grateful to Walkers Shortbread and to the Aberlour Distillery for their continued generous support and also to Aberlour Bespoke Catering for the welcome provision of hot drinks at the ceremony.



ABERLOUR



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 - March 2018

2017 Season Report

The River Spey's 2017 declared catch of salmon and grilse has amounted to 5,292 fish. Despite encouraging early spring catches, the 2017 season as a whole had been particularly challenging and the salmon and grilse catch is 2,341 fish lower than the 7,632 caught in 2016.

The River Spey's declared sea trout catch for the 2017 season was 2,293, 975 fish up on last year's catch of 1,318. So, for sea trout at least, it has been a better, albeit unremarkable year.

The success of the Spey Fishery Board's Conservation Policy continues to grow and has seen the release of 96% of all salmon and grilse and 82% of all sea trout caught throughout the season. These figures are up 2% and 5% respectively on the release rates for last year. This is a significant success for a large river such as the Spey and we are most grateful to all of our proprietors, ghillies and anglers for their continuing strong support for the Policy.



Spey Conservation Policy 2018

SPEY FISHERY BOARD RESEARCH OFFICE
TEL: 01340 810841 E-MAIL: research@speyfisheryboard.com WEB: www.speyfisheryboard.com



Scottish Legislation requires that all salmon caught before the 1st April must be released. In order to protect the integrity of the Spey stock and to maximise their spawning potential, the Spey Fishery Board's policy is that all fish caught up to and including the 31st May should be released alive. From the 1st June the policy set out below will apply.

SEA TROUT



Release all finnock of 16oz / 35cm / 14" or less



Release all Sea Trout of 3lb / 50cm / 20" or above



Retain only 1 Sea Trout of takeable size per calendar day. Anglers are also encouraged to release their first fish and keep the second that is of takeable size



Release all stale or coloured fish



Release all unseasonable fish (smolts, kelts, over-wintered finnock)

SALMON



Each angler must return the 1st, 3rd, 5th etc... cock fish caught



All hen salmon and hen grilse must be released



Throughout the season all stale or unseasonable fish must be released e.g. gravid, kelts



Escaped farmed salmon must be retained

Dates for the Diary

Spey Fishery Board Meetings

To be held at 9:30 am at the Craigellachie Hotel, Victoria Street, Craigellachie, AB38 9SR on the following dates:

Friday 18th May, Friday 17th August (to be held at the Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown on Spey) and Friday 23rd November 2018.

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

Pupils Hooked on Salmon in the Classroom

The Salmon in the Classroom Project, led by the Spey Fishery Board, provides pupils with an insight into the ecology of salmon and other fish species. The pupils also learn about the importance of fishing to the local community through a range of hands-on practical projects such as operating a classroom hatchery, invertebrate sampling and river visits.

Each year three schools are given the opportunity to take part and this year they were Glenlivet, Tomintoul and Knockando Primary Schools. Pupils at each school received an illustrated talk by John Trodden, a retired head teacher and member of the River Spey Anglers Association.

In the middle of February each of the schools were provided with a refrigerated tank into which 250 salmon eggs were placed. The pupils monitor the eggs in the classroom hatchery and study their development until they are ready to be released into their local burns as fry.

The project offers a great opportunity to teach the youngsters about the habitat in their local river.

Day two of the project occurs once the eggs have hatched when the pupils will carry them down to a nearby burn or river where they will be released to fend for themselves. Day three involves another outdoor trip, back down to the river, where the pupils will get a chance to see a demonstration of electrofishing and hopefully catch some of their fry to see how well they have grown. This project offers a great opportunity for outdoor learning and is something that the pupils will remember for a long time.

We are grateful to Walkers for sponsoring this educational programme.



Above Left: Knockando Primary School (P 4/5)



Above Right: John Trodden with Head Teacher Nancy Fraser at Tomintoul Primary School (P4-7)



Below Left: Glenlivet Primary School (P1-7)



Below Right: Glenlivet Primary School (P1-7)

BRIEFING March 2018

Spey Catchment Initiative Project Officer

The Spey Fishery Board welcomed Penny Lawson who took up her new role as Spey Catchment Initiative Project Officer on the 8th January 2018, in succession to Liz Henderson who left in September 2017.

Penny is no stranger to the Spey Fishery Board and has a good knowledge of land management and conservation issues in north-east Scotland. She spent over six years as Land Management Officer at the Cairngorms National Park Authority, working on forestry and woodland expansion and enhancement, running a training programme for land managers and contributing to catchment management partnerships working in the Cairngorms. Penny has extensive experience of project management from previous roles in community waste reduction and health promotion projects. She also has training and work experience in aquatic biology and water resource management.



Penny will be working with Spey Catchment Initiative partners towards implementing the Spey Catchment Management Plan, focussing especially on practical projects to conserve, restore and enhance the outstanding qualities of the river, its species and associated habitats. She has lived close to the Spey in Nethybridge for over 20 years.



Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) Project Officer



James Symonds joined the staff of the Spey Fishery Board on the 1st March 2018. James is the new Project Officer for the SISI project, covering the Spey, Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie catchments, so he is going to be busy!

James brings a wealth of experience to this role and we look forward to implementing the variety of invasive species

control measures set out within the programme. The project will involve the control and management of mink and invasive plants such as Giant Hogweed and Himalayan balsam by contractors and volunteers. In addition, approaches to riparian restoration will be tested along the banks of the Fiddich where White Butterbur has become totally dominant. If you'd like to get involved in the control of these invasive species then please contact James at the Spey DSFB office.

James will be working work as part of a team for the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI), a four-year partnership project in northern Scotland led by Scottish Natural Heritage and involving many fishery boards and trusts and the University of Aberdeen. SISI is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage.