

September 2016

www.speyfisheryboard.com

Spey's best Spring Catch since 2008!

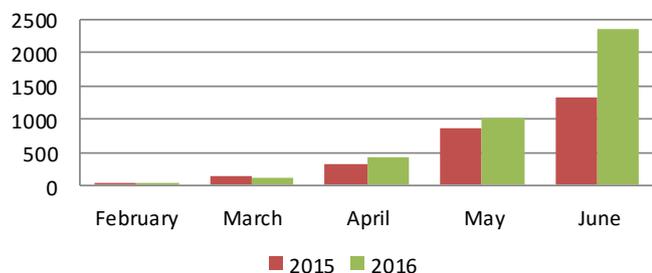
The Salmon & Grilse catches from 11th February to the end of June have amounted to 3,940 fish. This has been the best catch for the early part of the season since 2008, when 4,776 fish were caught and is a 38% improvement on the 2,860 caught for the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the Conservation Policy has continued to attract strong support, with 94% of the fish caught being released back into the River, which is a continuation of the release rate achieved last year. SFB Director, Roger Knight said, "It really speaks volumes about how conservation-minded the angling community has become. The ghillies deserve special praise for their work on the river in highlighting the voluntary conservation policy and persuading anglers to return so many of their fish."

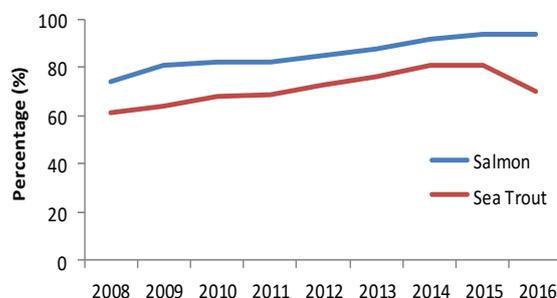


Above: John Grant at Delfur courtesy of Mark Melville

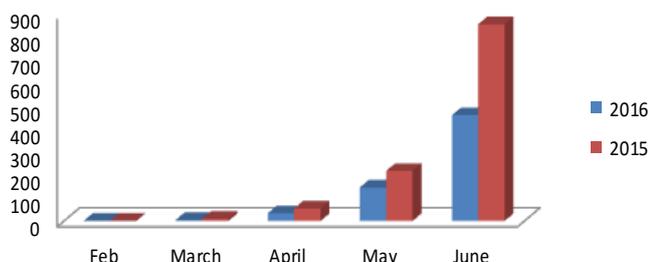
Salmon & Grilse Catch 2015 & 2016



Catch and Release Rates 2008 - 2016



Monthly Sea Trout Catches 2015 & 2016



In contrast the, the Sea Trout catch from February to June has been disappointing; 646 Sea Trout were caught, down from the 1,139 caught for the same period last year. The release rate has fallen too, from 79% this time last year to 70% this year. Whilst this catch result is disappointing, it was also noted that the Sea Trout caught between February and June 2008 was also reduced with a total of 805 recorded.

BRIEFING - September 2016

2016 Fin-clipping and Stocking

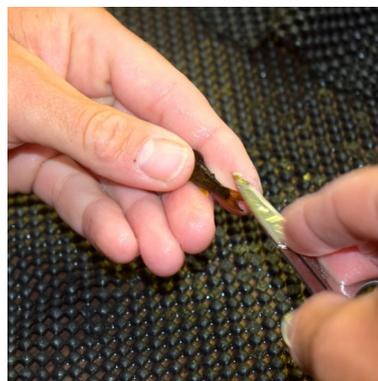
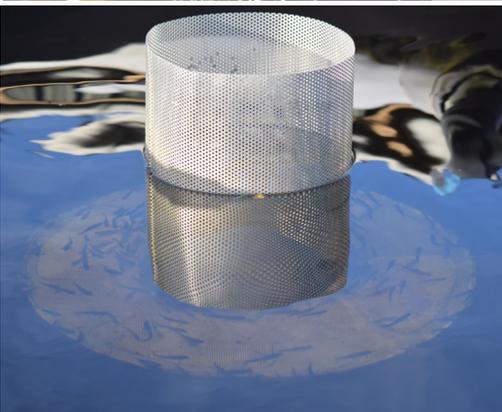
The Spey Fishery Board's Stocking Sub-Committee agreed that as many as possible of the 230,000 fed fry currently in the hatchery would have their adipose fin removed prior to the Autumn stocking, to facilitate identification, either during monitoring, or if caught in the future.

So far this season we have received a few reports of salmon caught with their adipose fins removed, possibly from previous hatchery stockings, which included a grilse caught on the Brae Water weighing 4.5 lbs and two multi-sea winter fish weighing 8 lbs and 11 lbs.

The Spey Fishery Board are particularly grateful to Steve Brand and the Spey Ghillies for their tremendous effort in giving up their evenings to assist with this project, and also to Hatchery Manager, Jimmy Woods for producing fry in excellent condition.

The fish will subsequently be released into the Rothes, Batten, Knockando and Tommore Burns as well as the Dullan Water, the River Avon and lower mainstem of the River Spey. We are also very grateful to the Speyburn Distillery for their continued support and partnership with the Spey Foundation and their provision of a dram to the participants in the project.

The photos below show the adipose fin removal process before the fry are returned to their tanks.



SPEYBURN
HIGHLAND
SINGLE MALT
SCOTCH WHISKY

Bailiffs seize nets

The Spey Fishery Board Water Bailiffs have conducted numerous patrols along our 20 miles of coastline this year, which has resulted in three illegal monofilament gill nets being recovered. Other coastal patrols have been carried out on behalf of the Dee and Deveron Fishery Boards, which included positioning smolt tracking monitors around Aberdeen Harbour.



Photos: *Top Right:* SFB Patrol Boat at Lossiemouth harbour. *Above left:* SFB Bailiff, Jason Hysert, holding one of the illegal nets. *Above right:* SFB Head Bailiff Richard Whyte locates and then hauls a large illegal fishing net into the boat. *Below:* Other illegal nets seized during coastal patrols along the Moray Firth.



Master's Students get involved

The Spey Catchment Initiative is supporting two Master's students from Edinburgh University who are currently working on their dissertation projects based on Spey catchment issues. One of the students is a geologist and is revisiting restoration options for improving the River Mashie, with a particular focus on sediment reintroduction to improve the in-stream habitat and functioning of the lower section. Another student is investigating how Natural Flood Management can be introduced into the upper catchment areas, with considerations for land use and ecosystem services.



The photo above left show the River Mashie above Spey Dam with rocks and boulders. Above right, down river below the dam, the river has completely different characteristics, with sediment which has accumulated during spates.

Spey Catchment Initiative's Future

The new 2016 River Spey Catchment Management Plan will be launched in the autumn. The Plan will combine the various partner organisations' priorities and aspirations for the Spey catchment and distil them into a series of objectives and actions to be achieved over the next 5 years.

The current funding package for the Spey Catchment Initiative is coming to the end and new sponsorship for a further 5 year delivery programme is now being sought. Although the Initiative benefits from ongoing support from various Government Organisations, as well as the Spey Board, additional commercial sponsorship is required to ensure the continued employment of a project officer to deliver projects throughout the catchment. For further details please contact the Spey Fishery Board (see contact details below).



Dates for the Diary

Spey Fishery Board Public Meeting

The Spey Fishery Board will be holding its Annual Public Meeting at Fleming Hall, Queen's Road, Aberlour AB38 9PR which is likely to take place in November. The date of the meeting and further details will be confirmed nearer the time and will be available via the Spey fishery board website at www.speyfisheryboard.com.

Spey Fishery Board Meeting

To be held at 10:00am at the Craigellachie Hotel, Victoria Street, Craigellachie, AB38 9SR on Tuesday 15th November 2016.

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