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THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 29, winter 2015

Welcome to the 29th newsletter of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust.

The Trust's objectives are to 'conserve, protect and rehabilitate salmon, sea trout and trout and other indigenous species of animal, bird, insect and plant life and more generally to promote the ecological cycle for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Deveron'.

A touch of Brown seasoning

WILLIAM
LAWSON'S

The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is delighted to announce the opening of the river Deveron salmon season 2015 and the presentation of the Morison Trophy on 11th February. The trophy will be presented at the river opening ceremony at 10am, Turriff AA lodge, Turriff - the river opening ceremony in association with William Lawson's (Macduff) will follow. The Morison Trophy will be officially presented by special guest, Mr Craig Brown CBE, the longest serving manager of the Scottish national football team (1993-2001), leading the team to both the European championship in 1996 and World cup 1998 and currently a Non-Executive Director of Aberdeen FC. Mr Brown has also been given the honour of blessing the river with a dram of Glen Deveron (25 y/o), where thereafter the first cast of the season will be taken by Mr Adam Woodward, winner of the Morison Trophy for 2014.



Charity collaboration

The opening ceremony will also



mark the start of collaboration between the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (DBIT) and the Aberdeen FC Community Trust (AFFCT), where the DBIT will work with the AFFCT on providing assistance with non-football programmes, such as positive activity and learning initiatives within the community.

Morison trophy winner 2014 – 22lb salmon

We are pleased to announce, Mr Adam Woodward from Bromsgrove has been awarded the Morison Trophy for 2014. The award was given for his fly-caught 22lbs Salmon from Marnoch Lodge in the middle Deveron. In winning the trophy, Mr Woodward shall also be presented with a Vision salmon fly-rod, sponsored by Turriff Tackle and Trophies (www.fishingthedeveon.co.uk), for releasing the fish, a limited edition fly box and bottle of William Lawson's Scotch Whisky courtesy of John Dewar & Sons Ltd.



Vision rods available at Turriff Tackle and Trophies, 6 Castle Street, Turriff. Tel: 01888 562428

Wild Fisheries Review published

The report, written by Andrew Thin and his panel aims to develop and promote a modern, evidence-based management system for wild fisheries fit for purpose in the 21st century and capable of responding to our changing environment. The report contains 53 wide-ranging recommendations for change including:

- Creation of a multi-species fishery management system which is founded on evidence-based decision making and recognises the public value of Scotland's wild fishery resources
- Locally empowered delivery through a network of Fishery Management Organisations in line with agreed plans
- Creation of a National Wild Fisheries Unit within Scottish Government with a responsibility to provide strategic leadership and co-ordination through development of a national wild fisheries strategy and a research and data strategy
- A ban on killing wild salmon except under licence
- A review of the salmon levy to widen it in line with all-species management and introduce greater flexibility in deployment
- Enhancing and further professionalising the skills and experience of those currently working in the sector
- Better promotion of angling as a sport, tourism and social activity, focussing on access for young people.



Andrew Thin, who chaired the independent review said:

"It has been a real privilege to have led this important work, meeting many talented and committed individuals along our journey.

"The process of coming to our conclusions has involved huge efforts by a great many people on an entirely voluntary basis and on behalf of the panel, I would once again like to reiterate our immense gratitude to all who have helped us with the review.

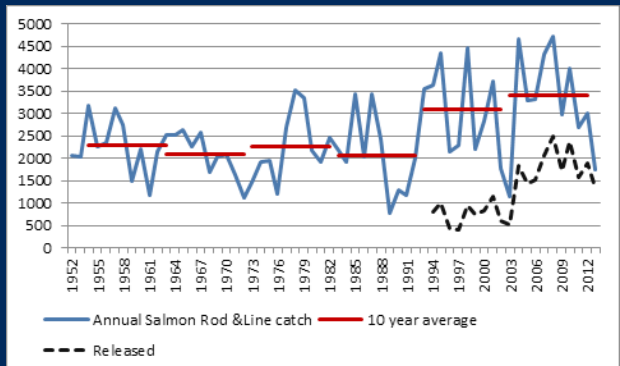
"The review's recommendations have been made in response to the challenges and opportunities that our wild fisheries are likely to face over the coming decades. These recommendations signal significant change, but also describe an evolutionary process that will enable the sector to build on its inherent strengths, experience and skills of all those involved in it."

The report is available at:

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreview/WFRFinal

2014 Season

Angling on Deveron last year was challenging to say the least. Preliminary catch figures show an overall rod-catch of 1010 salmon and grilse and 421 sea trout, some 60% and 70% respectively below the long-term averages. Although both the 2013 and 2014 seasons on Deveron were poor, it is important to note that the most recent ten year average catch (2003-2012) shows 3418 salmon and grilse and 648 sea trout, with 4 of the 10 seasons within this period, producing over 4000 salmon and grilse to the rods, making Deveron the fifth most productive angling river in Scotland.



Kill licence consultation 2015

The killing of wild salmon could require a licence following a public consultation that will be launched early this year. The consultation will seek views on a conservation measure to ban killing wild salmon except under licence, along with an accompanying carcass tagging scheme to help enforcement. The measure would apply to both anglers and netters and it is thought that the new system would be in place for the 2016 season. Catch and release in the rod fishery already stands at 80% across the season.

The introduction of a kill licence was a key recommendation of the independent review of wild fisheries published last month. The review called for this issue to be given immediate consideration given the conservation status of wild salmon.

The Environment Minister Aileen McLeod said:

"This forthcoming consultation shows we are committed to meeting our obligations on salmon conservation by ensuring that killing by any method is sustainable. The Wild Fisheries Review report was published



in October and recommended immediate action on this issue and I am pleased to be able to act quickly on one of their key recommendations. Salmon is a protected species under the Habitats Directive and we need to ensure that any killing is sustainable. Greater protection and enhancement of our stocks will enable us to maximise the socio-economic benefits that flow from them."

"The detail of our proposal will be set out in the consultation paper but we intend that carcass tagging for any salmon killed will form part of the package of measures. This will also deliver on the commitment made during the passage of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013, and I believe it has a key role to play as an enforcement tool.

The Conservation of Salmon (Annual Close Times and Catch and Release) (Scotland) Regulations 2014

Early-running spring salmon are being further protected through mandatory catch and release measures from Government.

The measures came into force on 9th January to ensure that no salmon is taken in Scotland before 1st April each year. Fishing by rod and line is still permitted between 11th Feb and 31st March as before but it will be an offence to retain a salmon during this period and all salmon must be released unharmed to the river. Fixed engine (coastal nets) operation is prohibited within these dates.

Fundraiser 2015

Preparations are underway for a forthcoming Deveron fundraiser on 6th June, 2015. The event will be held at Mayen Estate by kind permission of proprietors Mr and Mrs Cheyne. More details to follow soon.

Mr George D Manson

Everyone at the RDevDSFB and DBIT would like to pass on our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr George Manson, who sadly passed away during 2014. He was elected as a RDevDSFB board member in 1981 and continued to serve on the board thereafter. He will be remembered fondly for his love of angling and the Deveron, having looked after 10 local fishing beats since 1969 and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Spring salmon reward scheme

Help conserve Deveron spring salmon by returning your catch to the river and claim* a bottle of Chivas Regal 12 year old Scotch whisky (70cl). To claim call the trust on 01466 711388 or visit Turriff Tackle and Trophies.



Chivas Brothers Ltd have again very generously sponsored our spring salmon reward scheme for 2015. Any angler safely returning a salmon caught between 1st April and the 31st May, can follow the set claim procedure below and receive a bottle of Chivas Regal 12-year-old Scotch whisky (70cl). Strictly over 18s only – limited to one bottle per angler.

To claim call **01466 711388**

Claim Procedure

1. Take a scale sample (6-10 scales from behind and below dorsal fin) from salmon, place in scale packet/dry envelope and record details of fish to allow fish to be verified.
2. Take photo of fish (If possible)
3. Return salmon to river unharmed.

River Deveron Conservation Code for salmon and trout 2015

Your Board remains extremely concerned over fragile levels of fish stocks in the river and in particular spring salmon and sea trout. Anglers are asked, therefore, to observe the following guidelines during the forthcoming season:



Salmon & Grilse

- All salmon are to be returned up to the 31st May. Under the Conservation of Salmon (Annual Close Time and Catch and Release) (Scotland) Regulations 2014 no person may retain any salmon caught by rod and line between 11th February and 31st March (inclusive).
In conjunction with Chivas Brothers, The Deveron Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust will donate one bottle of Chivas Regal 12 Year Old Scotch Whisky (70cl) per angler, for safely returning a spring salmon between the 1st April and 31st May (Follow set claim procedure and Call 01466 711 388 to claim) (Strictly over 18s only)
- From 1st June to 31st October, anglers may retain one salmon or grilse per rod per day with a maximum of two fish per rod per week. *Anglers are asked to observe the Board's aspiration that all hen fish, and any cock salmon over 10lbs be returned. Therefore, the Board requests that only male fish under 10lbs be retained.*
- Release all stale and unseasonable fish (Gravid fish, Kelts, Smolts, Over wintered finnock).

Sea Trout

- All sea trout to be returned throughout the season.
The guidance on sea trout will be in place for a minimum of three years or until stocks recover to acceptable levels.

Brown Trout

- Brown Trout from 15th March to 30th September – all Brown Trout under 10 inches in length to be returned. No more than 2 brown trout per rod per week to be retained.
- *It is illegal to fish with prawns, shrimps or salmon roe throughout the district and throughout the year*
- *Fishing for salmon and/or sea trout on a Sunday is prohibited*
- *Spinning lures should have only one single set of hooks with a maximum sized 4 crimped or barbless*
- *Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to sell rod caught salmon or sea trout*
- *Injured or damaged fish out with the above limits should be handed to the proprietor*
- *All farmed fish must be retained and notified to the DBIT (01466 711 388)*
- *All visiting anglers must read, act upon and sign a Gyrodactylus salaris declaration form immediately prior to going fishing. Please contact the DBIT or your beat Ghillie.*

For further information please contact The Senior Biologist at The Offices, Avochie, Rothiemay, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YY Telephone/fax: 01466 711388; email: richiemiller@deveron.org or visit the Trust's website www.deveron.org The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is a registered charity. No. SC 032131