

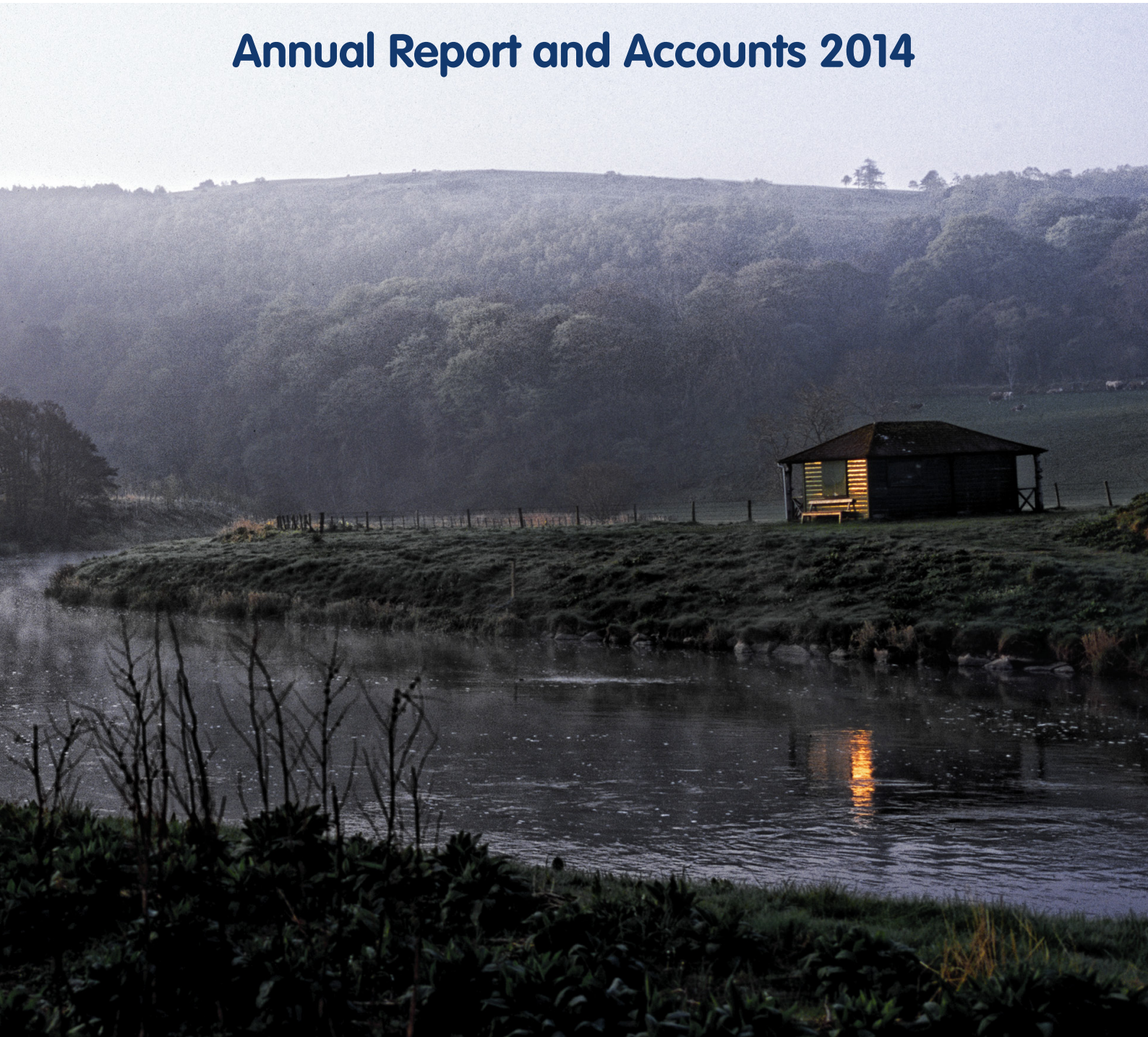


The River Deveron District  
Salmon Fishery Board

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla  
Rivers Charitable Trust

[www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)

# Annual Report and Accounts 2014





KINDLY DONATED BY A G MORISON



# The Morison Trophy

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View it at Turriff Tackle and Trophies

Catch it...  
Weigh it...  
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Release your salmon  
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Mrs 'Tiny' Morison's  
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DEVERON  
BOGIE  
ISLA

Report by  
R C MILLER, M C HAY and S PAXTON

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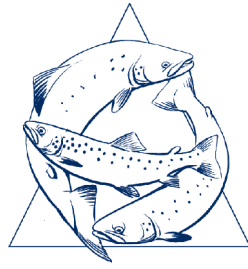
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Front and back cover:  
Corniehaugh by Paul Fosbury





## Supporters and Funding

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (RDevDSFB) and The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (DBIT) would like to take this opportunity to thank all supporters and funding organisations who have helped implement our district fisheries management programme during 2014. We particularly recognise the invaluable assistance from the Scottish Government for the development and delivery of our Fisheries Management and Biosecurity plans.

The RDevDSFB and DBIT would also like to thank The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Longcliffe Quarries, Avochie Estate, Membership of the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust, Mr Robert McConnell (Hon Membership Secretary), Rivers And Fisheries Trusts of Scotland, Deveron Fishery Proprietors and many other private donors which have supported various projects during 2014. The list of organisations and names below are just some of those who have assisted and we are very grateful to them:

**Aberdeenshire Council**  
**Moray Council**  
**John Dewar & Sons**  
**Longcliffe Quarries**  
**Chivas Regal**  
**BMF Group**  
**Marine Scotland Science**  
**Huntly Fishings**  
**Turriff Angling Association**  
**Celebrations of Turriff**  
**Banff and Macduff Angling Association**  
**Turriff Tackle and Trophies**

### Volunteers (River Champions)

We thank all volunteers who have given up their own time to help with projects such as the river opening ceremony, control of American mink, invasive plant control, piscivorous bird surveys and the hatchery programme.

### Ghillies and Estate Workers

We thank all the Deveron Gillies and Estate workers who have helped with many aspects of managing the fishery from assistance with piscivorous bird surveys, scale sampling, obstacle removal and biosecurity measures.

### The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board Members

#### Representatives of upper proprietors

M.C. Hay (Chairman), R.J.G. Shields, H. Oliphant, A. G. Morison, Mrs H.C. Hall, Mrs J. A. Player, R. Cooper

#### Representatives of lower proprietors

C.R. Marsden, G. D. Manson, D. A. Galloway

#### Representatives of Salmon anglers

F. Henderson, R. Breakell, D. Borthwick

#### Clerk

J. Christie

#### River Superintendent

J. Minty

### The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

#### Honorary Life President

Prof D. W. Mackay OBE

#### Trustees

R.J.G. Shields (Chairman), D. Borthwick, M.C. Hay, F. Henderson, R. Polson, J.S. Cruickshank OBE

#### Trust Personnel

R.C. Miller (Senior Biologist), R. Vasey (Consultant Biosecurity Officer), Jan Basan (Hatchery Assistant), Mrs S. Paxton (Administrator), R.F. McConnell (Hon Membership Secretary) and N. Stephen (Acting Gillies Rep)



# Chairman's Report

Malcolm Hay, Chairman of the RDevDSFB

I wrote in last year's report that the only thing I knew for certain was that your Board was about to be abolished. One year on, this would appear still to be the case, although it remains far from clear exactly what is to replace it. There is a notion that many elements of the Board may survive in some kind of merger with neighbouring entities under the proposed new Fisheries Management Organisation structure, but many details of this are still to be thrashed out, not least the burning issue of how and from whom the funding is to be extracted. So, we continue to try and manage the river's affairs amid this continuing uncertainty, which is hardly conducive to putting in place long term strategies to ensure salmonid survival.

2014 was another poor season for salmon throughout its natural range, which serves to highlight yet again, the urgent need for cohesive action on all fronts to help conserve the species. As I write the paucity of salmon this year (2015) is difficult to explain as some other rivers on the east coast have done reasonably well. A distinguished past Chairman of the Deveron Board draws attention to the catastrophic floods of 2010 which washed out so much gravel, and presumably eggs, fry and parr as well. A series of cold, dry springs in recent years, and resulting low flows, may well have impacted adversely on smolt migration, leading to a double whammy hitting our returning stocks in these past couple of years.

However, the honest answer is that we simply do not know. What we do know is that, thanks to the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers' Trust and the excellent work done by Richie Miller and his team, we have done all we can on a limited budget to re-open sterile spawning areas and improve juvenile fish habitat. As a result, our salmon and trout fry and parr counts are extraordinarily good across the entire catchment, perhaps among the best in the country.

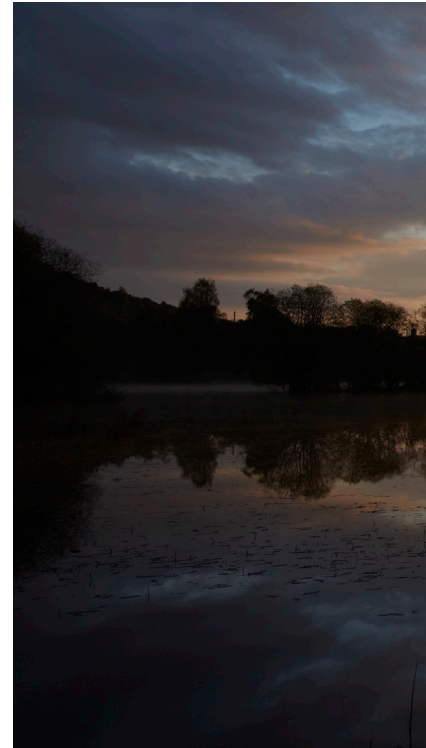
This year's ASFB/RAFTS conference heard an interesting paper on smolt migration in a northern Irish river catchment. The research showed that 50-60% of smolt mortality took place in the estuarine environment. This was put down to the physiological impact on the fish as they move from fresh into saltwater, and it was thought that, in their much weakened state, predation, both avian and piscatorial, may be much more significant than previously thought.

In any event, this rather shook the conventional view that we are doing everything right in the river and that all the problems lie many miles out to sea. If, indeed, there are significant issues arising in the estuary, this is well within your Board's purview and warrants serious attention. To this end, we are in the process, through the DBIT, of scoping a smolt migration research project of our own to try and better understand what is happening on our river.

Meanwhile, on flows, we are continuing to investigate evidence of over-abstraction uncovered by our MSc student who we engaged last year to study this area. Thanks to wind farm environmental impact mitigation funds, we are hoping to carry out some "climate change proofing" of the upper catchment by enhancing riparian woodland to supply much needed shade and increase invertebrate life.

I would be remiss in not making some comment on the continuing Freshwater Fisheries Review. While much of the review contains good and sensible suggestions on fresh water fisheries' management structures and the prohibition of mixed stock netting at sea, your Board remains resolutely opposed to two major recommendations.

The first is the proposed kill licence and tagging system for the sale of fish. While we believe such a system is needed in the commercial fishing sector, for all sorts of reasons and not simply sustainability and traceability, it is completely unnecessary in the rod angling sector. Catch and return figures already







show that the very small number of fish being retained is biologically insignificant in terms of total salmon runs, and, in any event, the sale of rod caught fish is already illegal. Introducing such a system to the rod angling sector is completely superfluous and its management, let alone its policing, will become a costly, unenforceable and bureaucratic nightmare. Worse still, it may well result in more fish being killed than under existing voluntary arrangements, thus entirely defeating its purpose.

Secondly, I remain utterly opposed to the concept of a rod licence. Smaller rivers, like ours, depend on a myriad of casual anglers who form an important component of our angling fraternity. Any additional cost or bureaucratic hurdle is likely to discourage the casual angler, at great cost to our fishery. Also, I believe that this proposal mitigates against a long held ambition of government (and ourselves) of encouraging more access to fishing, particularly by the young.

There is also a serious omission within the body of the work to date, and that is the almost complete absence of any reference to sea trout. It is our firm view that sea trout are and should be as important a conservation priority as salmon and their omission from the review's proposals and recommendations is a serious oversight.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work of your Board and Trust in continuing their good work in these difficult times, and, in particular, the enthusiasm and commitment of our Trust's Membership Secretary in championing so many of our excellent projects. I would also like to single out the dogged commitment of Jimmy Minty, our bailiff, who has experienced some extraordinary challenges with events at Gardenstown over the year.

Finally, I would like to record formally the thanks and appreciation of the Board for our recently retired Clerk, John Christie, who has put in an outstanding shift of 28 years. At the same time we welcome Shona Paxton, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of Clerk to the Board in addition to her duties on behalf of the Trust.

I look forward to welcoming you at our joint Trust/Board AGM in October '15 and would encourage you to continue to engage with us and bring any suggestions as to how we can improve on what we do.

# Management Planning

## **Deveron District Fishery Management Plan**

The 2nd Edition of the Deveron District Fishery Management Plan funded by the Scottish Government was launched in 2008 (copy available at [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)). The plan provided the River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (RDevDSFB) and the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Trust (DBIT) with a data inventory, detailed assessment of local priority work areas, potential management actions in response to these and the relative costs of undertaking these actions.

Five years on the review process for the plan began autumn 2013 and a summary of the plan works to date can be found under the resources section of [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org). A draft of the newly revised plan was due to go out to public consultation in September 2014 but was postponed to allow recommendations from Scotland's Wild Fisheries Review (released October 2014) to be incorporated where possible. The draft plan will be updated during 2015 and will be issued for public consultation thereafter.

## **Moray Firth Seal Management Plan**

The Moray Firth Seal Management Plan (MFSMP) continued in 2014. The plan commenced in 2005, with the joint aim of protecting wild Salmon and Sea Trout stocks whilst also maintaining the conservation status of the Dornoch Firth Special Protection Area (SPA) for common seals. We reported previously that the Moray Firth Seal Management Plan's coordinator and licensee, Iain McMyn, from the Kyle of Sutherland District Salmon Fishery Board had departed in 2013. The Scottish Government convened a meeting of all members of the Plan, so that a review of its implementation since 2005 could be undertaken and a plan going forward agreed upon. The meeting involved the Scottish Government's Marine Scotland, the Sea Mammal Research Unit from St Andrew's University, Scottish Natural Heritage, representatives from many of the District Salmon Fishery Boards and River's Trusts throughout the Moray Firth and representatives of the Salmon Net Fisherman's Association of Scotland.

During 2014 it was agreed that the Spey Fishery Board would coordinate the plan's licence application and continue the plan review. After the review is complete, it is likely that coordination of the Plan, on behalf of the whole of the Moray Firth, will be assumed by the Director of the Ness District Salmon Fishery Board, who has previous experience in seal licence administration.

## **Sawbill Duck & Cormorant Management**

During 2014 the DBIT continued the coordination of the annual Piscivorous (fish-eating) bird counts required for the 2014 licence application to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Two counts were carried out along the Deveron (Avochie Fishing's to Estuary) during March & April by DBIT personnel, Ghillies and Volunteers during the annual smolt run. The 2014/15 licence application was successful and a licence granted (under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) by SNH. The licence permitted the shooting of 10 goosander as an aid to scaring and for the purpose of preventing serious damage to fish stocks.

## **Fishery Protection**

Protecting local fish stocks from illegal activity such as poaching is enforced by the RDevDSFB. Fishery protection is essential in combating both damage to local stocks and the economy and is an ongoing task for the River Superintendent. During 2014 the RDevDSFB also continued to work with the Spey Fishery Board to undertake coastal patrols between Cowhythe Point and the Water of Philorth which are essential in detecting any illegal activity within the coastal district.



## Pollution

Water pollution can cause widespread harm to our fish stocks and overall river health. Since the Water Framework Directive became law in Scotland in 2003, all activities which may affect the water environment are governed by regulations which are enforced by SEPA. The Deveron is currently designated as a diffuse pollution priority catchment for SEPA. Priority catchments are river and coastal catchments that are currently failing to meet water quality standards, and which will not achieve improved water quality without a focused management approach.

**To report any suspicious incidents and any occurrences of water pollution please call SEPA on 0800 80 70 60 or RDevDSFB on 01466 711 388**



### Solar powered livestock watering

The RDevDSFB & DBIT continued to work with SEPA during 2014 in assisting this restoration process. 60 farmers and landowners attended a DBIT open day in March 2014 at Knock farm (courtesy of DBIT Trustee Roger Polson) to demonstrate alternative livestock watering than traditional access to watercourse. Unrestricted access to watercourse for livestock can degrade spawning habitat and reduce water quality. The latest solar equipment to assist farmers in providing livestock water, when stock fencing is installed on a watercourse, was on display. Scottish Water was present to promote their Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Incentive Grant Scheme (<http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/about-us/corporate-responsibility/sustainable-land-management>). Land managers can apply to the Incentive Scheme for assistance in financing measures aimed at contributing to the improvement and protection of water sources in the catchment, over and above the expected regulatory compliance.

# Deveron Salmon

The total annual salmon rod & line catch for the Deveron District was relatively stable from 1952 (when records began) until the end of the 1980s with the 10 year average consistently being just over 2000 fish per year with a record low catch in 1989. The subsequent purchase and removal of local salmon netting stations by the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Trust (Scotland) and The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (RDevDSFB) in 1991, reduction of poaching incidents and conservation projects carried out by the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (DBIT) has seen catches gradually improve. With the 10 year average increasing to just over 3000 (1993-2002) and increasing again to an average of 3418 for the last 10 years (2003-2012).

Catch and release records began in 1994 and the practice has increased from 22% to 62% in 2012. It was adopted in the river as a voluntary conservation measure to preserve fragile stocks and has been particularly encouraged for the spring component of the catch (Feb- May).

## Spring Salmon

Spring salmon return to the river in the spring and are available to the rod & line fishery from February onwards. They are typically Multiple Sea Winter Fish which have spent at least 2 years feeding at sea. Figure 2 shows that the spring salmon catch (Feb-May) has declined significantly since 1952. There was a steep decline in the late 1960s before a brief recovery in the late 1970s. It then continued to decline to record low catches in the early 1990s potentially due to poor marine survival but has since gradually shown signs of increasing over the past 10 years.

The River Deveron Summer (June-Aug) and Autumn (Sep-Oct) Rod & Line catch has been showing a very different trend with catches steadily increasing on average although there is a lot of annual variation.

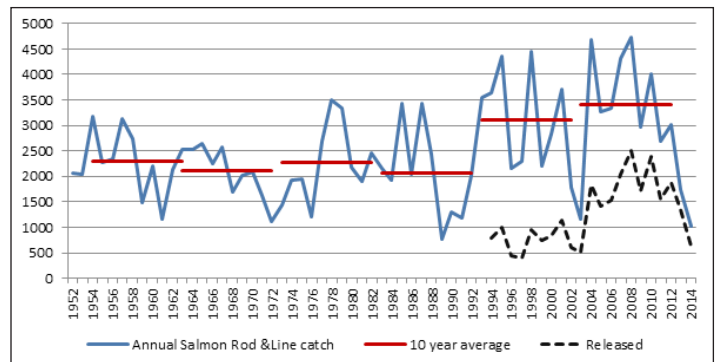


Figure 1

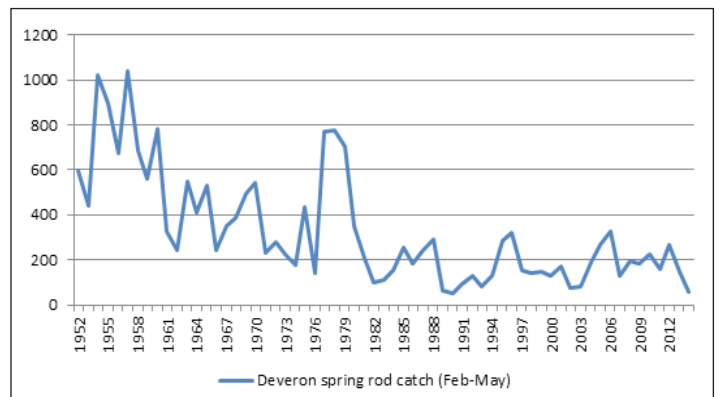


Figure 2

**Figure 1: Annual Rod & Line Catch for the River Deveron District showing 10 year averages and the numbers released since 1994.**  
**Figure 2: River Deveron spring (Feb-May) salmon catch.**  
**Figure 3: The River Deveron Summer and Autumn Rod & Line Catch (1952-2012).**

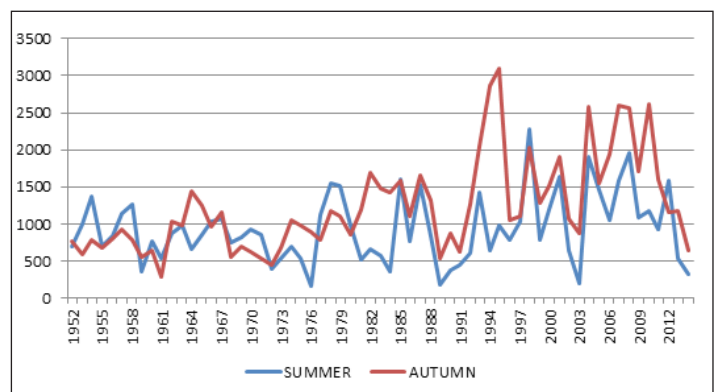


Figure 3



# Deveron Sea Trout

The annual Deveron Rod & Line Catch (Figure 4) has shown annual variations from 1952 with two significant peaks of nearly 3500 fish. The 10 year average has consistently been between 1000 and 2100 fish until 2003 when catches fell to a record low of 317 fish and have remained relatively low since with the latest 10 year average (2003-2012) falling to only 685 fish.

Catch and release records began in 1994 and the practice has gradually increased from 16% to 78% of the total catch in 2012. In response to the clear decline in stocks the RDevDSFB adopted a 100% catch and release policy for sea trout in 2013.

When the annual Deveron sea trout catch is compared to the Moray Firth Region (minus Deveron) (Rivers: Spey - Cromarty) it is clear that since the mid-1960s the Deveron has shown a similar annual variation to other Moray Firth Rivers which have also shown a similar steep decline in catches over the last 10 to 15 years.

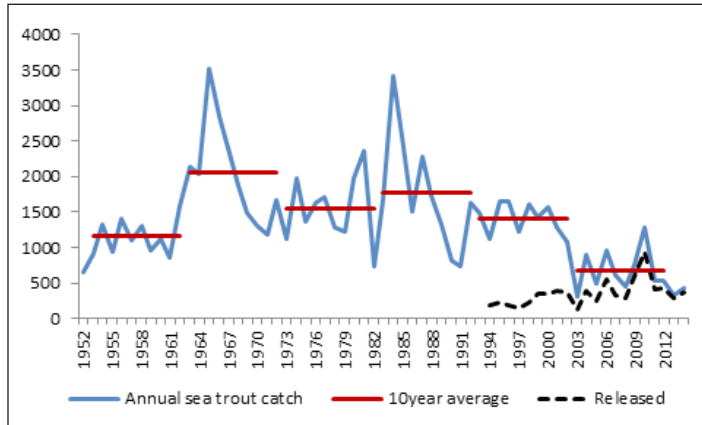


Figure 4

Figure 4: Annual sea trout Rod & Line Catch for the River Deveron District showing 10 year averages and the numbers released since 1994.

Figure 5: Moray Firth Rod & Line catch overlaid with the Deveron annual catch (Deveron on right hand axis).

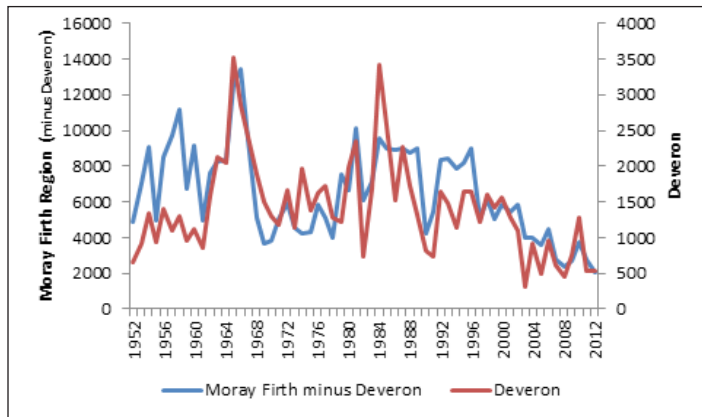


Figure 5

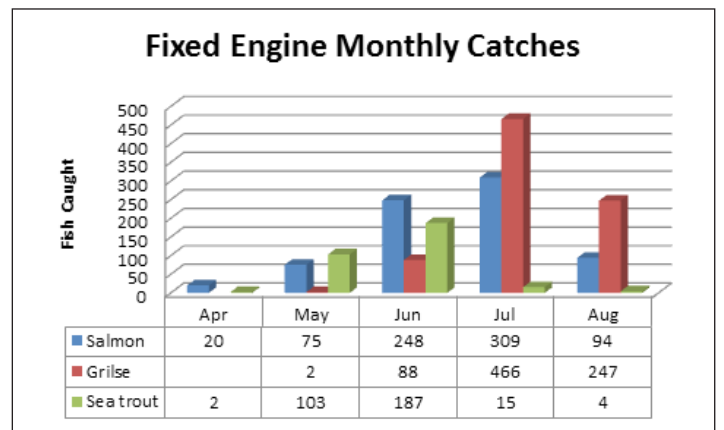
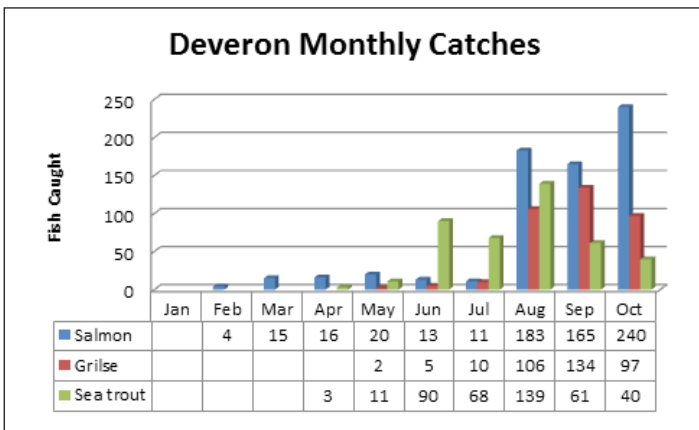
## Conservation Policy & Statutory regulations

To assist in protecting and improving fish stocks the RDevDSFB launched a conservation code in 2003 outlining local policy and statutory regulations. All anglers are asked to observe the code to help conserve local fish stocks, ensure a sustainable fishery and stop biosecurity threats such as *Gyrodactylus salaris*. The current code aims to achieve a high release rate (>70%) of salmon and grilse (particularly female fish) and to protect stocks of multi-sea winter spring salmon which have declined considerably. The Conservation of Salmon (Annual Close Times and Catch and Release) (Scotland) Regulations came into force on 9th January 2015 and made it illegal to kill wild Atlantic salmon caught before 1st April each year. The RDevDSFB conservation code recommends additional protection of this fragile stock and recommends that all salmon are released until 31st May due to local data showing spring salmon still make up a notable percentage of the May catch. The code also outlines measures for conservation of sea trout, recommending 100% catch and release until stocks are shown to recover. Low exploitation of brown trout is also encouraged to allow sustainability of this popular fishery.

# Deveron District 2014 Catches

## Rod & Line

The provisional Scottish salmon and sea Trout Statistics produced by Marine Scotland Science (MSS) show 1021 salmon and grilse were caught by rod & line, which was a decrease on the previous year's total (1747) and well below the long-term average. Low salmon catches were not only recorded in Scottish rivers during 2014 but mirrored in most of the salmon producing countries of the North Atlantic, signifying the wide scale of the issue and again pointing towards poor marine survival of smolts. Of the 1021 salmon and grilse caught, 62% were returned. Spring catches decreased to 55 salmon by end of May, with 84% returned to the river, aided by the Chivas Regal spring salmon conservation scheme. Catches of summer salmon were again poor with minimal rainfall and sub-optimum angling conditions. During September and October there was a more visible presence of salmon and catches increased during this period. A notable salmon of 22 lbs was successfully caught and returned during October which ultimately secured the Morison Trophy. Although the 2014 season was poor, it is important to note the most recent 10-year average catch (2003-2012) of 3,418 salmon and grilse, making Deveron the fifth most productive angling river in Scotland. The sea trout catch increased from 304 to a total of 412, ranging from 3 to 6 lb of which 89% were returned to spawn.



## Fixed Engine

A total of 803 grilse, 746 salmon and 311 sea trout were landed by the coastal net fishery.

**Left: Rod & Line Monthly Catches 2014.**

**Right: Fixed Engine (net) Monthly Catches 2014**





# Invasive Non-Native Species & Biosecurity Programme

The DBIT was delighted to announce in May that an extension to the Deveron Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Control Project had been grant aided by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The DBIT were awarded funding of £40,000 by SNH to allow the project to continue and develop over the next 12 months and beyond. The main objectives of the project extension were to continue the control of invasive non-native species with the ultimate goal to create a more self-sustaining control programme in the future. Phase 1 & 2 successes included the coordination of river catchment wide (1266Km) control of Giant Hogweed, including the use of techniques such as grazing control, the removal of 255+ American Mink and the control of 28 sites of Japanese Knotweed. The 12 month funding package from SNH allowed the DBIT to continue to contract a Biosecurity Officer, to coordinate the project and also purchase all required project equipment. One of the Biosecurity Officers main responsibilities was to co-opt new and manage current volunteers (River Champions) and work with local landowners in the INNS monitoring and control programme throughout the Deveron district.



Since the phase II extension was granted in May, Giant Hogweed control has again been the primary focus with control on the Bogie and Isla tributaries being priority. Several minor burns which tend to be 'out of sight - out of mind' have also had their hogweed infestations tackled by the DBIT; Huntly Fishing's and volunteers to help ensure a catchment wide approach. Overall close to 179 km's were monitored and treated as part of the collaborative programme. The hogweed grazing project which commenced in spring 2013, using black face sheep has been an outstanding success. 19 sheep were again introduced to the site at Auldtown of Netherdale in March of 2014, to coincide with juvenile hogweed plants emerging through the soil. The sheep sufficiently grazed the hogweed plants within the site that no plants were allowed to seed for the second year running. The sheep have been routinely monitored by the local vet and AHVLA for any signs of distress or damage caused by the grazing of hogweed of which no signs have been discovered. A small number of hogweed plants outside the trial area fence were controlled by DBIT using Round-up Biactive. As part of the project Aberdeen University also undertook a study to determine the ecological changes to the site



due to the grazing regime and what species are required to help suppress hogweed growth and re-establishment. The first experiment aimed at informing site management and generic understanding of the soil seed bank dynamics commenced in July.

During September all known Japanese Knotweed sites were re-visited and re-treated when necessary. Most of these were re-injected if the stems were robust enough to accept the injection needle. Some sites required spray/weed wipe when the stems were immature. 2 new sites on Aberdeenshire Council maintained roads were reported to the council for treatment. In general, stem injection has been found to be the most effective method of control with 90% success in the first control year as opposed to less than 50% by spraying.

Himalayan balsam was pulled and cut on a 2 km section of the river Isla between Drummuir and the town of Keith also during September

11 American mink were trapped in 2014 from Glass in the upper Deveron to Montcoffer at the bottom of the river in 5 different locations. Most of the captures were on the main stem with only 2 caught on a side tributary, the Craigston burn near King Edward. 6 new mink volunteers were recruited during the year ranging from estate keepers to householders who had lost poultry. In 2013, 8 mink were trapped on the Forgue burn and 5 were caught on the Cunning burn. Neither burn produced a single mink in 2014, with the same amount of trapping effort. In conjunction with the Scottish Mink Initiative the DBIT has submitted all trapping and monitoring data to the mink app initiative. The DBIT has also monitored coastal burns such as the Burn of Boyne, Tore of Troup, Water of Philorth and RSPB reserve at Loch of Strathbeg, where no mink have been seen or trapped.



# Obstruction Removal

During 2014 the DBIT worked in partnership with Pernod Ricard and the Moray Firth Trout Initiative to ease fish passage on two obstructions. These are outlined in more detail below.



## Glenkeith Weir (Isla)

During autumn 2013 the DBIT rescued a total of 24 salmon and sea trout that had become stranded below the Glenkeith weir during very low water. The weir (50m upstream of the Linn Pot Falls) was modified during summer of 2014 to improve fish access. The fish passage work involved lowering the secondary dam wall by half a metre with the addition of a wooden beam to increase pool depth. On the primary dam the parapet has also been repaired to direct running fish to the optimum area for passage. The fish counter at Strathisla Distillery, immediately upstream and CCTV cameras will assess the success of the new access. Our thanks go to Pernod Ricard for sponsoring the project.



## Davidston Burn Culvert (Isla)

Previous juvenile fish surveys in the upper Davidston burn (above the Scottish water weir and B9115 Road Culvert) have clearly demonstrated that spawning success is significantly reduced during low water levels in the autumn. During July 2014 the DBIT modified the B9115 road culvert, with baffles, which increases the depth of water through the culvert and directs the flow into one single channel. This work complemented the fish pass installation on the Scottish Water weir downstream during 2013. This final barrier removal on the burn will improve access to 5kms of quality spawning gravels and juvenile habitat. Thanks to Marcus Walters of the Moray Firth Trout Initiative and the Patagonia Clothing Company, World Trout Initiative, for funding this project.

# Angler's Map of River Deveron - Tom Ingleby Edition



Heaviest UK Fly Caught Salmon  
61 lbs salmon, caught by Mrs Clementina "Tiny" Morison from Mountblairy, River Deveron on 21st October 1924 on a Brown Wing Killer

Published by the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust © 2015  
Illustrated by Harley Miller  
Mapping by Bowits Chartered Surveyors

61 miles from s

## 2015/16 PRIORITIES & ACTIONS

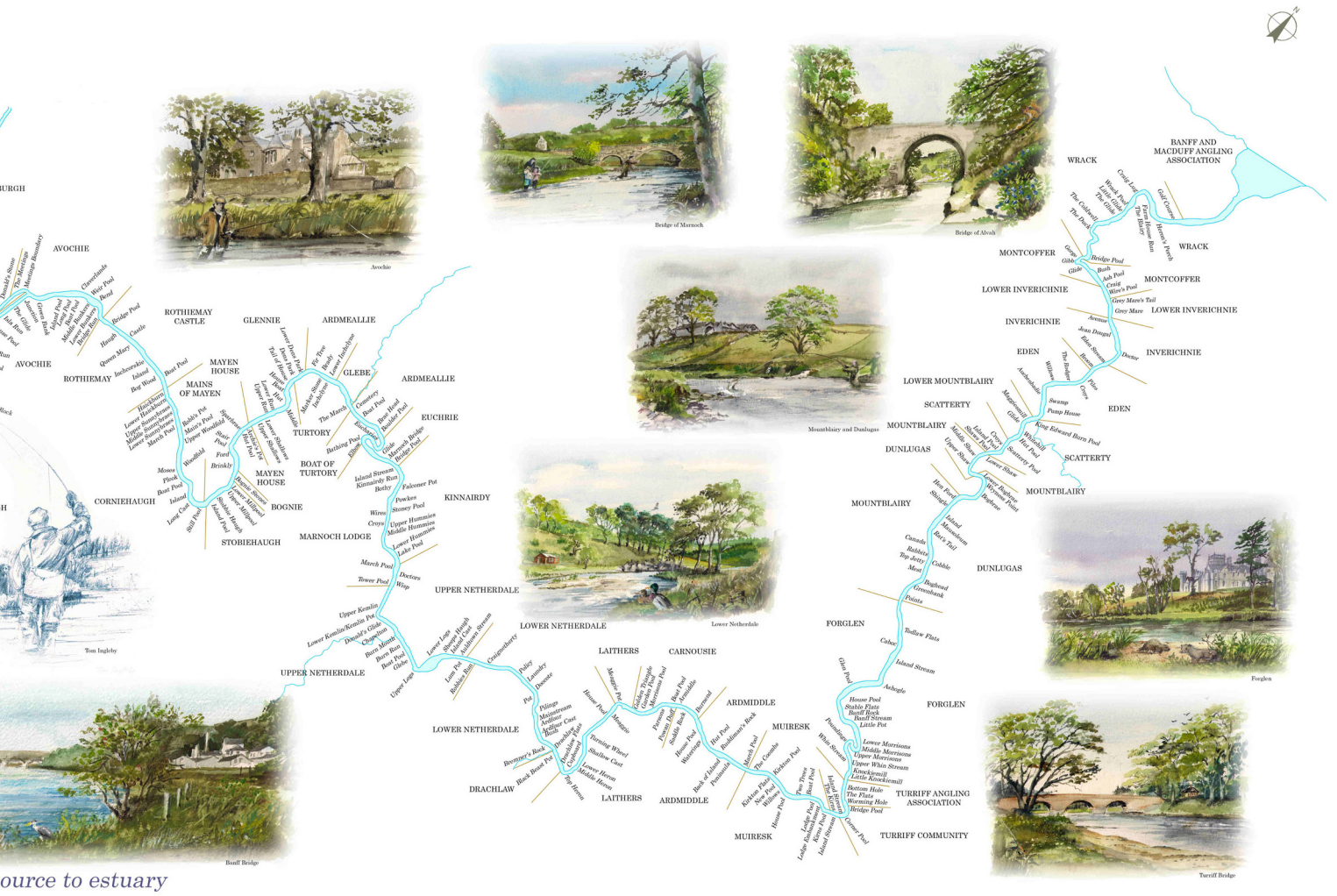
During the coming months the RDevDSFB and DBIT will continue to work closely with Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA, Fishery Proprietors, Schools, Gillies and Angling Clubs to take priority actions forward, which include:



- **Sundown on the Deveron - Fundraiser**
- **Continuation of district wide Invasive Non-Native Species Control**
- **Natural flood protection and reduction of soil erosion (Isla & Fishrie-Phase II)**
- **Fisheries Development (Young Angler Programme, Fishery Promotion)**
- **Complete feasibility study for smolt tracking project to investigate mortality rates and locations**



The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (DBIT) is delighted to release the newly completed Angler's Map of River Deveron. The new map has been made possible by a bequest by Mr Tom Ingleby of Aswanley. Copies of the map are now available to purchase on completion of an order form available at [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org). The cost of the print is £35 (plus £6 p&p). The map is printed on matt, coated 180gsm; print size is 100cm x 35cm. Please email [richiemiller@deveron.org](mailto:richiemiller@deveron.org) or call the DBIT on 01466 711 388 for further information.



source to estuary





## Research & Monitoring



### Smolt Monitoring – Dorenell Wind Farm

The Dorenell Wind farm is planned to be located above the Blackwater, part of the river Deveron and close to the river Fiddich (Spey). As part of this development a monitoring plan has commenced which includes baseline water quality, fish, habitat and invertebrate surveys of the Blackwater, Fiddich and also the Allt Deveron (selected as a suitable control site out with the wind farm area). The surveys ensure that the overall status prior to any development can be determined and documented.

As part of the monitoring plan, smolt output of the river stretches were assessed and quantified through the deployment of rotary screw traps for the first time. The total Allt Deveron (from Dalriach to source) salmon smolt run was estimated at 5950 (+/-526 95% confidence limits) from 3043 captured smolts. The majority of trout caught on the Allt Deveron did not display signs of smoltification and hence a parr production estimate was calculated instead at 6952 (+/-1498 95% CL) from 1759 captured. The total Blackwater salmon smolt run was estimated at 3834 (+/-886 95% confidence limits) from 1133 captured smolts. Similar to the Allt Deveron the majority of trout caught on the Allt Deveron did not display signs of smoltification and hence a parr production estimate was calculated instead at 7141 (+/-4065 95% CL) from 621 captured. Salmon smolts captured on both rivers ranged between two and four years old. Trout parr caught on both rivers ranged between one and four years old.

### Juvenile Monitoring & Invertebrate Surveys

During 2014 there were 51 electrofishing surveys completed throughout the Deveron catchment and coastal district. Core monitoring sites were re-visited to maintain long-term data sets. A number of sites were completed in connection with monitoring potential impacts of renewable energy projects on fish stocks and the remainder of the sites was visited to monitor habitat and fish passage restoration works. During 2014 invertebrate samples were again collected from each juvenile electrofishing site and used as an indicator of water quality and feed availability.

### Salmon Smolt – Blackwater and Rotary Screw Trap – Allt Deveron





## The Moray Firth Trout Initiative

### Deveron sea trout scales

The Moray Firth Trout Initiative has now collected 107 sets of Deveron sea trout scales, this is a good collection but we always need more to get a better understanding of the entire population. Deveron sea trout predominantly smolt at 2 or 3 years old and spend 1 year feeding at sea before returning to the river to spawn for the first time. This life history accounts for 67% of the sample and the rest are repeat spawners plus a handful of finnock.

### Size

The average length of the sea trout in the collection is 49cm and the sizes range from 37 to 70cm in length. The collection is fairly evenly distributed with a range of small and large fish but the majority are in the 45-50cm category about 2-3lb.

### Smolt age

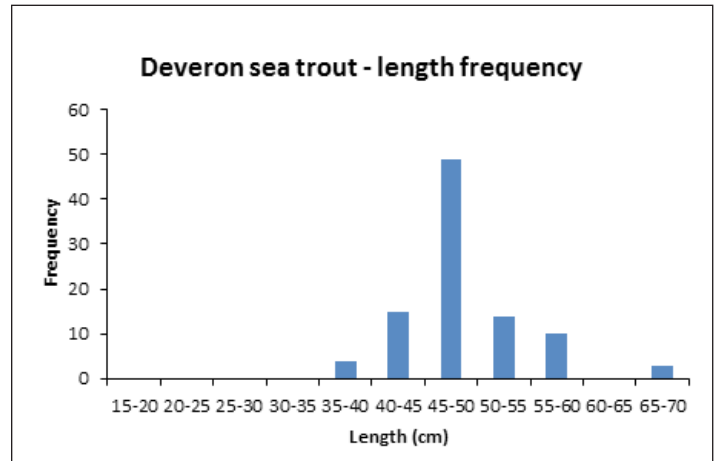
Of the River Deveron sea trout sampled 60% smolted at 2 years old, 39% at 3 years old and 1% at 4 years old. You can tell when a trout smolts and goes to sea because there is a rapid increase in growth as it begins to feed in the marine environment.

### Spawning marks

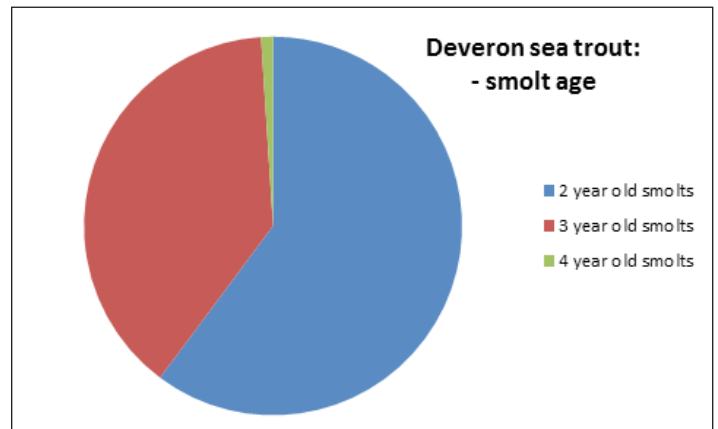
From the sample 71% of the sea trout were maiden fish and were returning to the river to spawn for the first time, 19% had spawned once before and 7% twice before. The sample also included two unusual fish that had spawned 3 times previously and one 69cm sea trout that had remarkably spawned 4 times before and was on its way to spawn for the 5th time. Multiple repeat spawners are very rare but are very valuable given the number of eggs they will lay down over their lifetime and hence the need to be protected.

### Sea Age

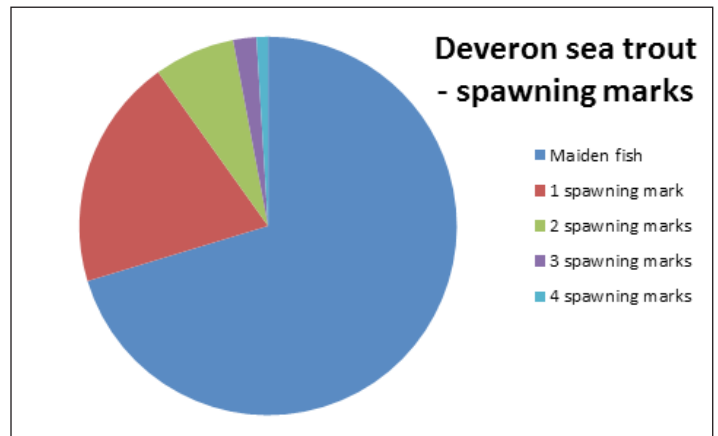
The majority of Deveron sea trout have spent one year at sea before being caught and their scales sampled. This is illustrated by one winter check on the scale after the sea trout has smolted and gone to sea. They will have smolted in the spring, spent all summer and winter feeding at sea before returning the following spring or summer to the river on their way to spawn. There are only 3 finnock in the collection, that were caught in the same year they went to sea (0 sea winters). Sea trout that have spent more than one year at sea are repeat spawners. Only four trout had spent two winters at sea before returning to spawn for the first time.



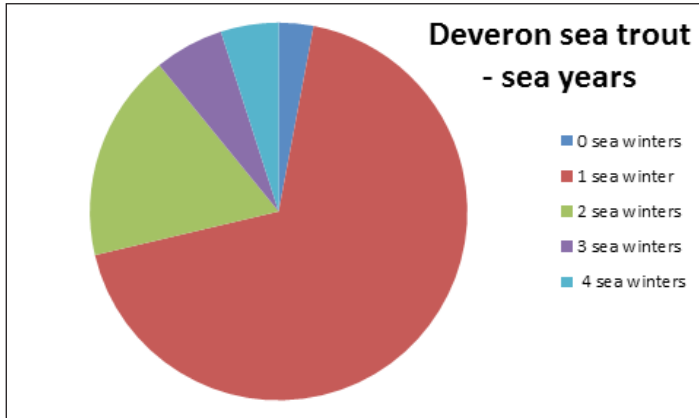
Length frequency of Deveron Sea trout scale sample



Deveron sea trout sample smolt age



Number of spawning marks on Deveron sea trout scales

**Blackwater, Cabrach**

The number of years spent at sea by Deveron sea trout. The one sea winter trout are returning to spawn for the first time (maiden fish) while the trout that had spent longer at sea are all repeat spawners having spent previous winters at sea.

**Deveron Brown Trout**

Since the beginning of the MFTI we have been collecting brown trout scales as well as from sea trout. On the Deveron systems we now have a long standing collection from our work on the Blackwater tributary as well as collections from the main stem and Loch Park. Brown trout scales can reveal how old a trout is which combined with length or weight can give an idea of growth rate. Unlike sea trout scales they don't typically show clear spawning marks and without the migration to sea there are not normally such distinct changes in growth rate.

**Main stem brown trout**

The main stem collection of scales comes from 23 brown trout collected during DBIRT work and a further 14 trout caught during a river sampling day. The small collection covers a wide range of trout sizes but is not representative of Deveron brown trout. The samples range from 2-7 years old with the majority being 3-4 years old. A more intensive sampling effort would be required to get a better understanding of the overall population structure.

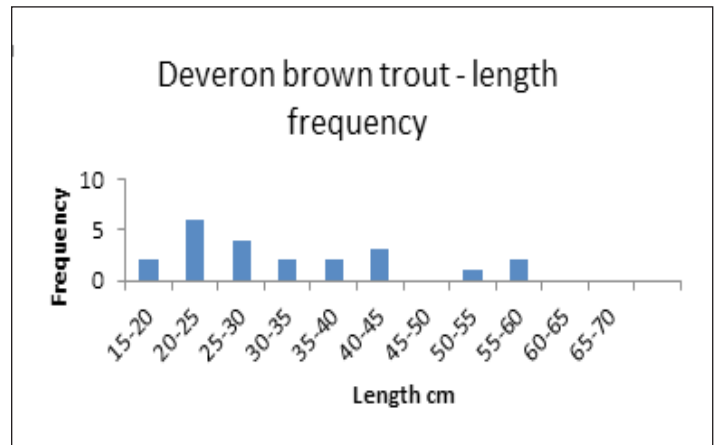
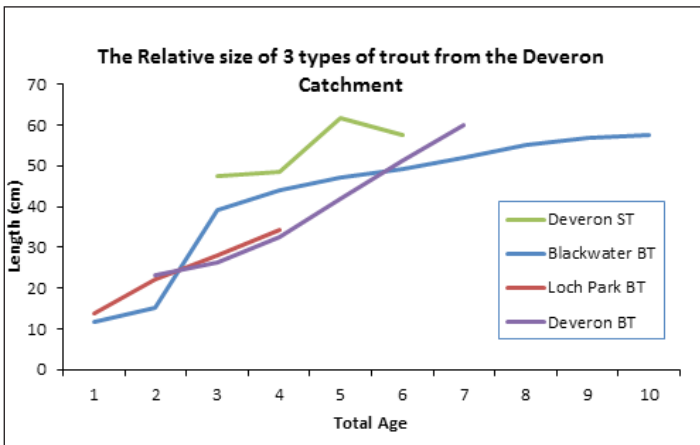
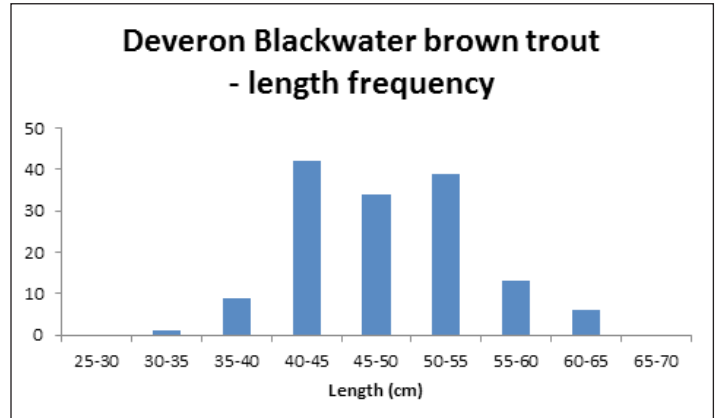
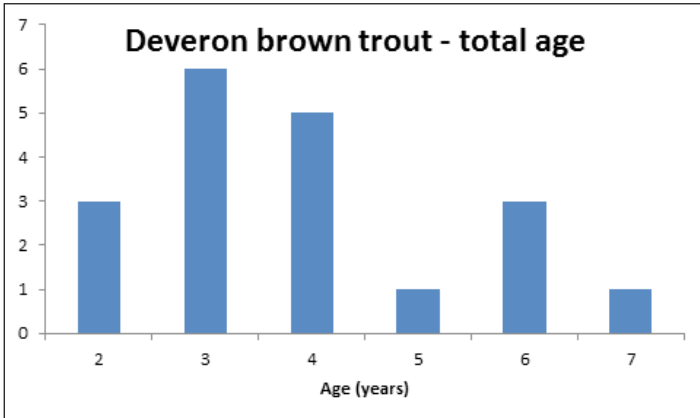
For more information [www.morayfirthtrout.org](http://www.morayfirthtrout.org)

**MFTI ACTIVITIES IN THE DEVERON AREA 2014/15**

In October 2014 the MFTI arranged for the Wild Trout Trust (WTT) Conservation Officer Tim Jacklin to do an Advisory Visit on the River Isla. This service offered by the WTT consists of a walkover survey followed by a report with recommendations for how to best manage and improve habitat. The following extract summarises Tim's findings but further detail is available in the excellent report:

**The Moray Firth Trout Initiative (MFTI) is a collaborative project formed by local Fishery Trusts & Boards from around the Moray Firth to conserve local wild trout and sea trout populations.**

*"In general, the upper Isla has good in-stream habitat despite some extensively straightened reaches alongside the railway line in the Drummuir / Towiemore area. Riparian land use has a big influence on habitat quality, especially the absence of trees (and hence reduced bank stability and accelerated erosion); this is a particular problem on the middle section down to Bridge of Maisley. Barriers to fish migration in Keith are a significant problem and it would be ideal if improvements could be made here to increase rates of natural spawning in the upper Isla, taking advantage of the increased survival rates of wild over hatchery fish."*



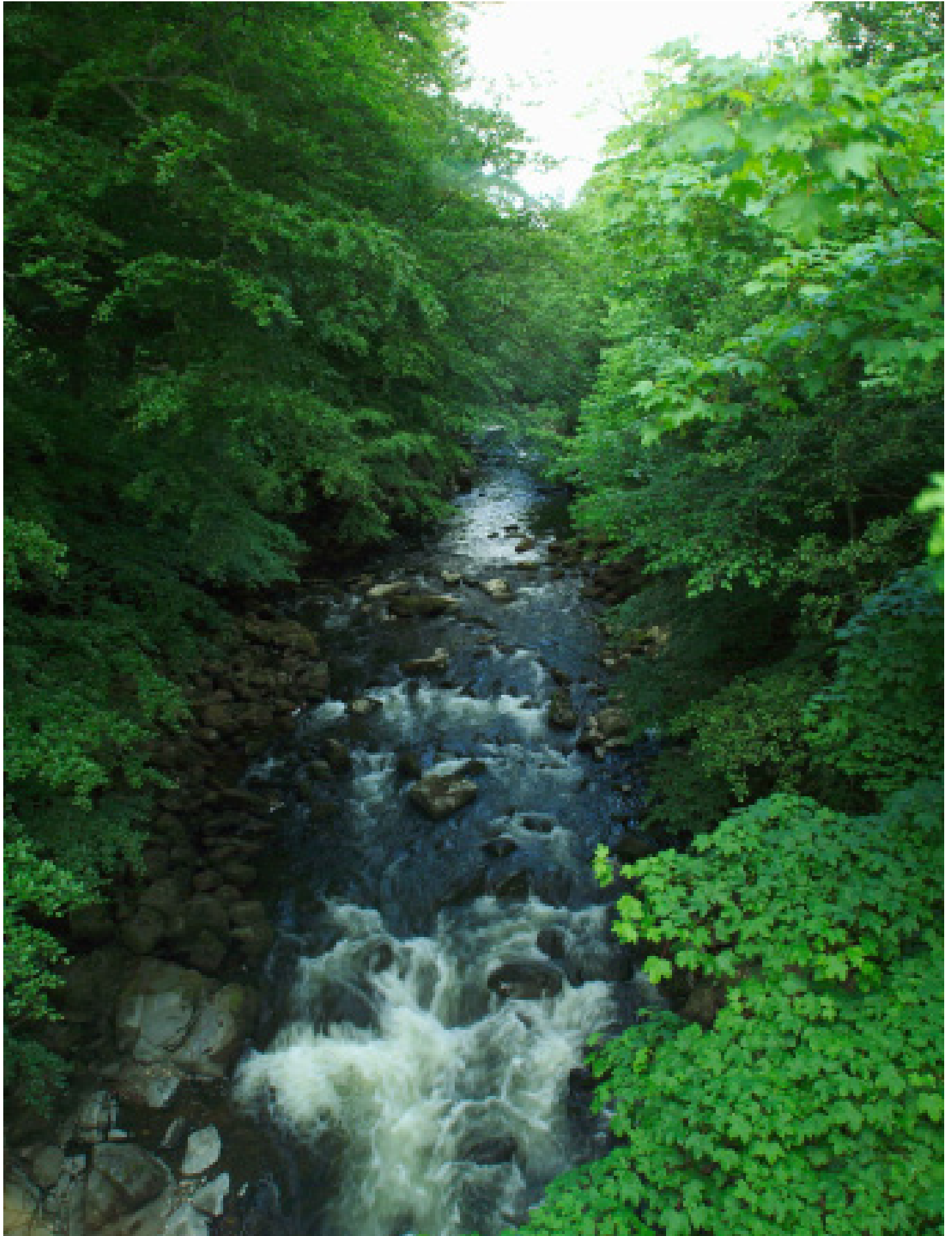
**Isla Barrier Assessment March 14**

In March 2014 the MFTI and the Findhorn Nairn Lossie Trust (FNLTr) conducted a SNIFFER Barrier assessment on a weir that used to supply the Mill of Towie lade (now Thirteen Moons Bakehouse & Shop). This highly detailed assessment has been designed by Stirling University and SEPA to determine how passable a river barrier is to different species and of fish. The report found that at elevated flows the weir could be a complete barrier to all species of fish due to the water velocity (full report available). Although electrofishing results clearly show that salmon and trout do migrate above this weir this weir could be a barrier in certain conditions.

**Loch Park in loch spawning**

Loch Park on Drummuir Estate is a productive trout fishery that now has a self sustaining population of trout producing lots of trout across a range of sizes. Following a walkover survey around the Loch the MFTI found that the only burn entering the Loch was very short and contained minimal trout spawning habitat. Further investigation in the Loch with a bathyscope revealed that the trout are spawning in the loch on the SE side under the railway line. Although in-loch spawning by trout is a possible source of recruitment in lochs without access to in-stream habitat it is not well documented and is likely underestimated. To be successful it requires the suitable sediment and adequate circulation either from upwelling springs or wind driven currents.





# Education and Community Outreach

## Schools Programme

The DBIT continued its annual educational programme visiting four schools within the district, namely Rothiemay, Grange, Botriphnie and Gordon. The visits were again part-funded by the Moray Firth Trout Initiative. The children were presented with local salmon eggs in an aquarium within a special automatic cool-box during February and were given a slide show containing facts on the life cycle of migratory fish such as sea trout, the predators they will encounter, the invertebrates they prey on in the water and the importance of water quality to maintain healthy biodiversity. The talk also included the threat of invasive non-native species and the dangers of Giant Hogweed.

The children carefully reared the emerging fish until the school holidays, at which point the fish were taken back to our hatchery facility. Upon the schools' return the young fish were released by the children to their natal burns. During the schools visit the DBIT demonstrated the electro-fishing technique of surveying juvenile fish and explained how to differentiate between salmon and trout before releasing them.

## Deveron Opening Ceremony & Morison Trophy



The Morison Family and DBIT were delighted to announce the 2013 winner of the Morison Trophy at the annual river opening ceremony held in February. The Morison Trophy, awarded for the heaviest fly-caught salmon of the season from Deveron, was won by local angler, Mr Stuart Cockersoll and presented by BBC Presenter, Ms Catriona Shearer who also officially opened the salmon season. The award was given for his fly-caught 25lbs (102cm L, 58cm G) salmon from Upper Inverichnie on the lower Deveron. In winning the trophy Mr Cockersoll was also presented with a G-Loomis Versa Spey 13' 6" rod for releasing the fish, a limited edition "Morisons" Fly box and bottle of Glen Deveron whisky courtesy of John Dewar & Sons Ltd.

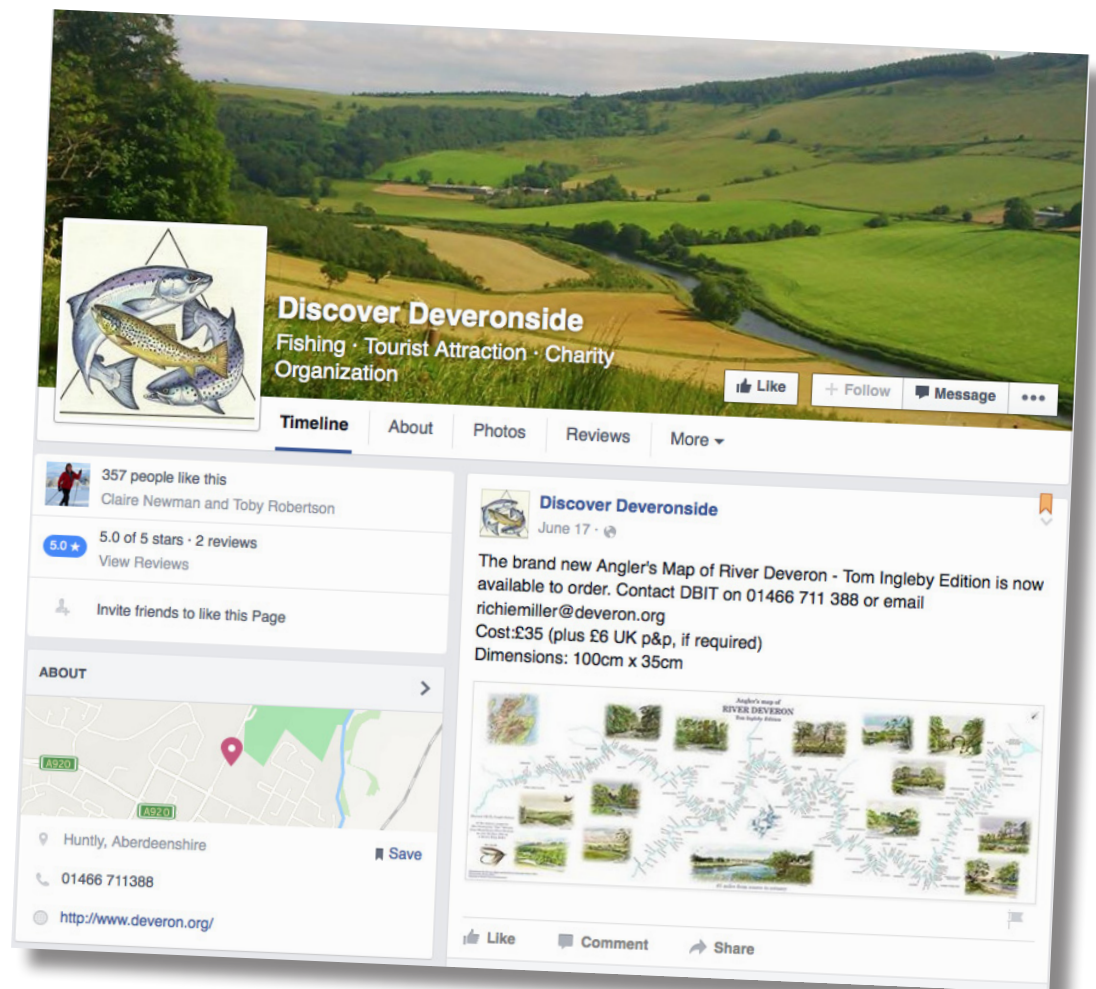


### Ghillies Evening

The RDevDSFB & DBIT held the annual ghillies evening on the 20th of November in Turriff. Many interesting themes were covered and an action plan has been drawn up by the DBIT to tackle some of the matters raised.

### PR

Two editions of the popular Deveron Flyer were produced during 2014 and distributed to keep all DBIT members and interested parties updated on the work of the RDevDSFB & DBIT and current fisheries news. The website of the RDevDSFB & DBIT ([www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)) was updated regularly with latest meeting minutes, news and announcements.



Social media such as Twitter (@DBIRCT) and Facebook (Discover Deveronside) was updated regularly by the DBIT with latest local and national news, angling opportunities, and conservation initiatives.

Local press continued to cover projects such as invasive non-native control, Chivas Spring Salmon Reward Scheme and educational work. STV, BBC Landward and BBC News Scotland produced television coverage of projects such as the river opening ceremony and giant hogweed grazing using black face sheep.



### **Salmon Stocking Programme**

The RDevDSFB granted DBIT permission for the continued operation of the hatchery programme during 2014. 212,000 salmon of Deveron origin were stocked into target areas within the catchment. Release sites were determined by the Review of Deveron DSFB Salmon & Sea trout Stocking Policy (2013), and a full list can be found within this document, under the resources section of [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org). Release sites included the Auchenbaddie, Miaggie and Monquhitter burns. Adult salmon and sea trout were collected by the electro-fishing and sweep net technique from target areas such as the river Isla, which has a series of major obstructions to migratory fish. The hatchery reared fish were taken onto the fed fry stage and released between June and September.

### **Loch Park Hatchery**

Since 2003 the DBIT have operated a hatchery programme on behalf of the RDevDSFB. The main aim of the hatchery programme was to stock habitat that was sterile of fish stocks i.e. above completely impassable man-made obstructions and also areas where obstructions had recently been removed. Due to the successful removal and easement of many obstructions to fish passage, areas of habitat without wild fish present have been reduced dramatically.

At the July meeting of the RDevDSFB the decision was taken not to grant permission to the DBIT to stock salmon/sea trout into the Deveron from 2015 onwards. Latest recommendations and research on the success and effects of restocking from RAFTS/ASFB, The Spey Fishery Board and Dr Kyle Young (Aberystwyth University) were all taken into consideration as well as data from catchment wide juvenile (electrofishing) fish surveys from throughout the Deveron catchment. It was concluded that board resources from the restocking programme should be redirected to support existing long-term fish access, habitat restoration and diffuse pollution reduction projects, to assist in protecting and enhancing a healthy wild population of fish and the stocking programme would be mothballed. The RDevDSFB & DBIT would like to take this opportunity to pass our sincere thanks to Mr Robert Shields (Avochie Fishing's), Drummuir Estate and all involved with the hatchery programme, as without your support, it would not have been possible.



# Good Governance

The Board is established by Salmon Fisheries legislation consolidated by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Consolidation (Scotland) Act 2003 which from 16th September 2013 was amended by the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013. The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 also applies. The Board is empowered under the legislation to take such action as it considers expedient for the protection, enhancement and conservation of Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout stocks and their fisheries. The Deveron Catchment area covers 1,266 km<sup>2</sup> and the length of the river system is 96 km.

The coastline along the Moray Firth extends from Cowhythe Point to the Water of Philorth and 3 nautical miles out to sea. There are 53 rod fisheries within the main stream of the Deveron and Netting Stations at ex adverso Auchmeddan Estate and in the Sea, Aberdour (per Lands Valuation Roll). Historically, The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board has always practised good governance.

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 consists of several parts, the second of which relates to salmon and freshwater fisheries. The emphasis is on the duty of Boards to be open, transparent and accountable. This includes:

- a duty to publish and copy to Scottish Ministers the Annual Report and audited accounts;
- a duty to hold a minimum of one public meeting, with all Board or other meetings held in public unless there is a good reason for them to be held in private;
- a duty to deal with complaints and to maintain and keep procedures under review;
- a duty to maintain a register and declaration of relevant financial interests of Board Members and to review these at Board Meetings.

The Board's Complaints' Procedure and Registration and Declaration of relevant financial interests are dealt with under Appendixes in this report.

## Meetings

Since the 2013 Act came into force meetings of the RDevDSFB are open to the public and the date, place and time of each meeting together with the likely agenda are published on [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org) at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting.

The statutory Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors has, in accordance with Board policy over many years, been a Public Meeting although not publicised as such in the manner which is now required by the 2013 Act. Qualified Proprietors were advised to publicise the meetings which were well attended by ghillies, employees and generally members of the public, in particular anglers.

The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 2014 will incorporate a Public Meeting although further Public Meetings may be held during the year. Meetings will be held in open session and advertised on [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org) and in the case of the Annual Meetings also in local newspapers to enable anglers and members of the public to attend and, at the Annual Meetings, to encourage participation (questions, comments, etc.). Board Members, the River Bailiffs and the Clerk make this information available to tenants, ghillies, employees, managers, Angling Associations, letting agents, a Tackle Shop and members of the public by personal contact.

It should be noted from the Guidance on Good Governance Obligations issued by the Scottish

Government, that it is not the intention that the obligations imposed by the 2003 and 2013 Acts seek to micromanage the business of Boards – the provisions provide flexibility in terms of delivery and acknowledgement of the range in size and resources. This Board complies with the latest legislation in the manner befitting its size and resources.

Statutory responsibilities of The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board are as follows:

- fisheries protection (Bailiffs in co-operation with Police);
- confirm the salmon and sea trout rod fisheries season  
- 11th February to 31st October;
- ensure fishery closed times - midnight Saturday - midnight Sunday  
- are complied with (Bailiffs and Police);
- deal with the purchase and sale of illegally caught or unseasonable fish;
- ensure the free passage of fish, e.g., over obstructions, etc. (to knowingly prevent free passage is a criminal offence);
- protect spawning redds and juvenile fish (Bailiffs and Police);
- regulate the introduction of adults, juveniles and ova.

*Note: Details of the Board's powers and duties are also published on the website ([www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org))*

### **Complaints Procedure**

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 amended the 2003 Act regarding openness and accountability. The 2013 Act, therefore, requires a Fishery Board to maintain and keep under review proper arrangements for dealing with complaints made to the Board about the way in which the Board have carried out or propose to carry out their functions under the Act or any other enactment.

The Deveron Board has never had a written complaints procedure under any statute since successive Boards have felt that it was not necessary. There have been no complaints as such in the last twenty years until the aftermentioned. Over the years the Board has received constructive comments and observations which have always been thoroughly investigated and taken on board.

These have come in the main from tenant fishers, ghillies, managers, and proprietors themselves and have always been acted upon and encouraged in the best interests of the rivers. However, since 16th September 2013 there has been a complaint by a proprietor regarding the Board's attitude towards that proprietor's operation of netting stations within the Board's district. The complaint was dealt with in terms of the Board's Complaints' Procedure which was already publicised on the Board's website and having (as required) been previously intimated to Scottish Ministers. Details of the complaint are minuted and, therefore, available to view on [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org).

### **Register of Board Members' Interests**

Board Members have completed and signed declarations of relevant financial interests. These are recorded with the Clerk and available to inspect on reasonable notice at his Office. This has been so intimated on [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org). The register is reviewed at each Board Meeting and a permanent item is on the agenda. Members are required to declare any change from the previous meeting. Conflict of interest has never been an issue in this Board.



# The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust accounts

Year ended 31st March 2015

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	31.3.15 Total funds	31.3.14 Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	49,524	32,371	<b>81,895</b>	122,836
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Charitable activities	2,196	-	<b>2,196</b>	1,668
Work done	55,572	-	<b>55,572</b>	24,978
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	107,292	32,371	<b>139,663</b>	149,482
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Charitable activities				
Donations made	1,250	-	<b>1,250</b>	1,250
Charitable activities	88,237	-	<b>88,237</b>	79,518
Expenditure on biosecurity projects	-	37,126	<b>37,126</b>	36,430
Governance costs	285	995	<b>1,280</b>	7,848
<b>Total resources expended</b>	89,772	38,121	<b>127,893</b>	125,046
<b>NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES</b>	17,520	(5,750)	<b>11,770</b>	24,436
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>				
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	106,454	1,380	<b>107,834</b>	83,398
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>118,430</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>119,604</b>	<b>107,834</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

			2015 £	2014 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	76,746	1,174	<b>77,920</b>	70,972
Investments	6,955	-	<b>6,955</b>	6,955
	83,701	1,174	<b>84,875</b>	77,927
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	11,556	17,583	<b>29,139</b>	21,765
Cash at bank	46,037	-	<b>46,037</b>	31,018
	57,593	17,583	<b>75,176</b>	52,783
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year	(12,317)	(17,583)	<b>(29,900)</b>	(22,876)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	45,276	-	<b>45,276</b>	29,907
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	128,977	1,174	<b>130,151</b>	107,834
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due after more than one year	(10,547)	-	<b>(10,547)</b>	-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>118,430</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>119,604</b>	<b>107,834</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			<b>118,430</b>	106,454
Restricted funds			<b>1,174</b>	1,380
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>119,604</b>	<b>107,834</b>

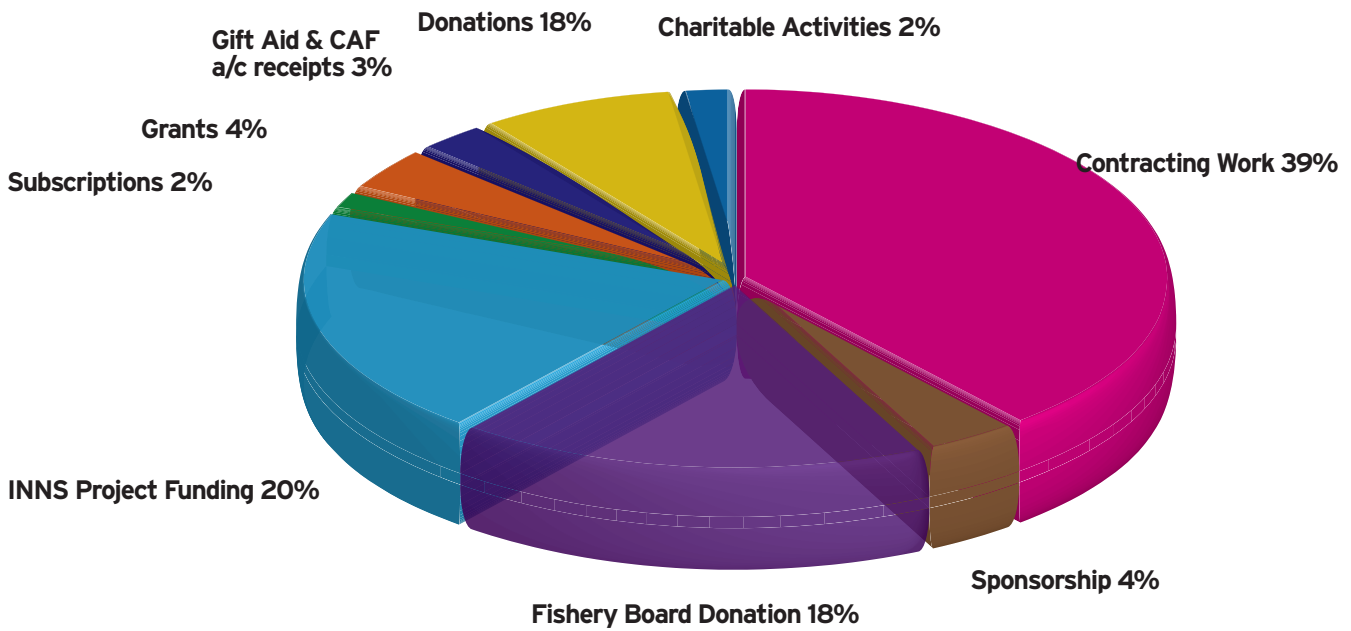
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The above figures have been approved by the Trustees and will be presented as such at the Annual General Meeting. These are extracts from the full financial statements. . A copy of the Trust's full Financial Statements, together with explanatory notes, will be published on its website ([www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)) following the Annual General Meeting.



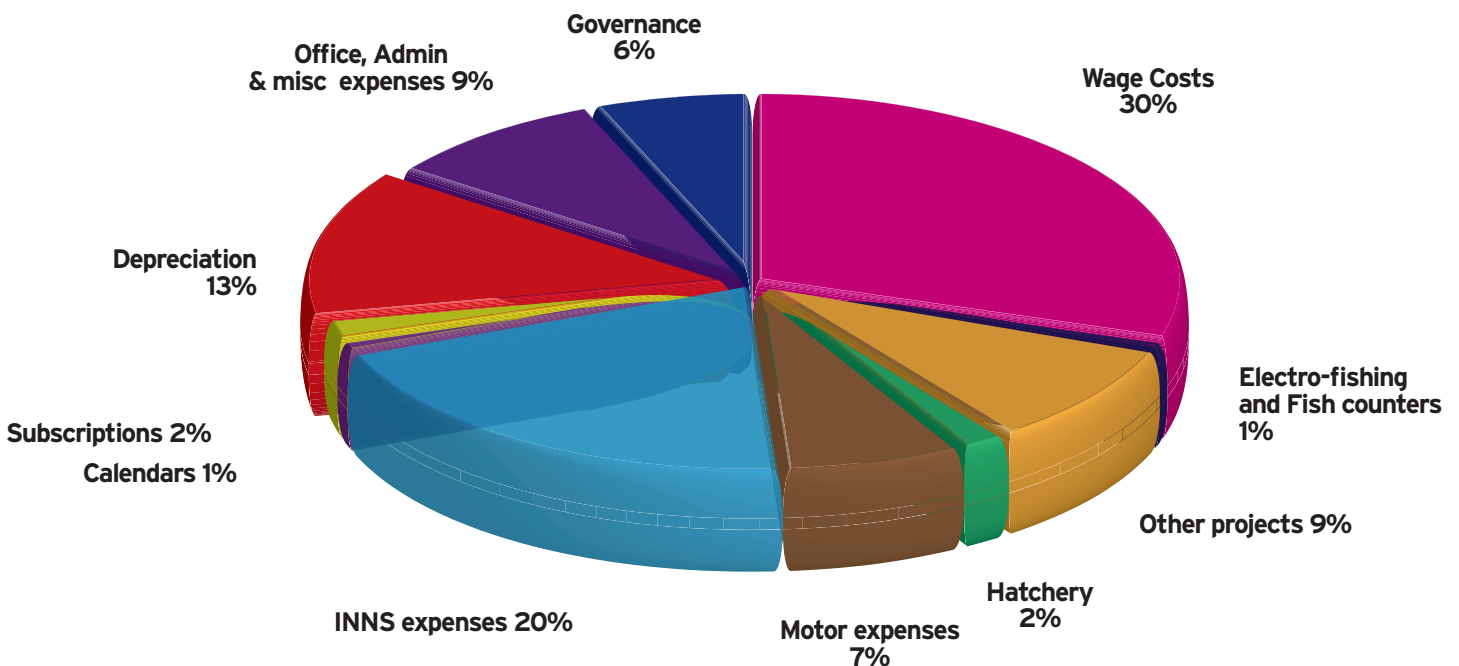
# The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust accounts

Year ended 31st March 2015

## Income April 2014 - March 2015



## Expenditure April 2014 - March 2015



# The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board accounts Year ended 31 March 2015

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2015	2014
<b>INCOME</b>		
Assessment Income (49p in £)	<b>72,388</b>	72,046
Bank Interest	<b>98</b>	106
	<b>72,486</b>	72,152
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Employee costs	<b>21,488</b>	21,890
Contribution to DBI Trust for habitat work	<b>25,000</b>	20,000
Telephone	<b>284</b>	276
Subscriptions	<b>6,483</b>	7,206
Clerk's Remuneration	<b>10,600</b>	10,200
Bailiff Expenses	-	97
Insurance	<b>772</b>	755
Bank Charges	<b>30</b>	-
Miscellaneous	<b>4,006</b>	1,714
Postage, Printing Stationery & Advertising	<b>4,677</b>	3,140
Accountancy Fees	<b>2,654</b>	3,000
Board Meeting expenses	<b>1,114</b>	761
Moray Firth Seal Management Plan	-	1,860
Depreciation	<b>78</b>	26
	<b>77,186</b>	75,925
<b>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS ON GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>(4,700)</b>	3,773



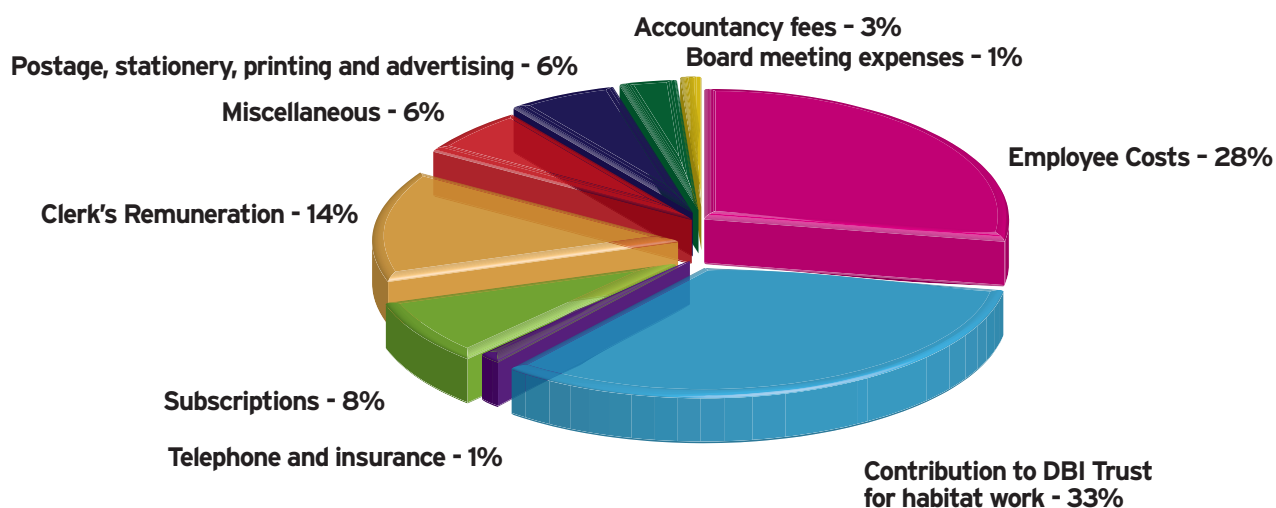
# The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board accounts

Year ended 31 March 2015

## SURPLUS ON IMPROVEMENT FUND

	2015	2014
Bank Interest	<b>3</b>	3
Dividends	<b>3,457</b>	3,453
	<b>3,460</b>	3,456
Market Value of Investments 1 April 2014	<b>116,623</b>	113,048
Cost of Investments purchased (ie Dividends reinvested by Stockbrokers)	<b>3,457</b>	3,453
	<b>120,080</b>	116,501
Market Value of Investments at 31 March 2014	<b>128,466</b>	116,623
Increase in Market Value of Investments	<b>8,386</b>	122
Surplus on Improvement Fund	<b>11,846</b>	3,578

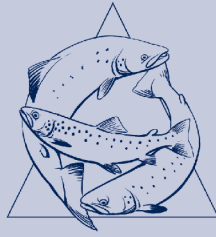
## Expenditure April 2014 - March 2015



## BALANCE SHEET

	£	2015 £	2014 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
IMPROVEMENT FUND INVESTMENTS		128,466	116,623
		<b>128,466</b>	116,701
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
HICA Account	28,553		33,653
Client Deposit Service Account	43		60
Improvement Fund Account	1,099		1,096
	<b>29,695</b>		34,809
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Sundry Creditors	2,505		3,000
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>27,190</b>	31,809
		<b>155,656</b>	148,510
Represented by:			
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>General Fund</b>			
Balance as at 1 April 2013	43,806		47,579
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(4,700)		(3,773)
		<b>39,106</b>	43,806
<b>Improvement Fund</b>			
Balance as at 1 April 2013	104,704		101,126
Surplus for the year	11,846		3,578
		<b>116,550</b>	104,704
		<b>155,656</b>	148,510

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The above figures have been approved by the Board and will be presented as such at the Annual Meeting. These are extracts from the full financial statements. A copy of the Board's full Financial Statements, together with explanatory notes, will be published on its website ([www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)) following the Annual Meeting.



# **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 to be returned up to the end of 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 up to May 31st  
(Follow set claim procedure and call 01466 711388 to claim. Strictly over 18s only.)

**From June 1st to October 31st, 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**

**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

**Anglers are encouraged to fish with a fly only except in exceptionally coloured or high water**

**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 outwith the above limits should be handed to the proprietor**

**All farmed fish must be retained and notified to the DBIT (01466 711388)**

All visiting anglers must read, act upon and sign a *Gyrodactylus salaris* declaration form immediately before fishing.  
Please contact the DBIT or your beat Ghillie/Manager/Agent.





# Home & dry

HANG THE BUG OUT TO DRY

## Fishing or doing water sports abroad?

Just come back from  
Denmark, Finland, France,  
Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal,  
Russia, Spain or Sweden?

Ensure your equipment is not carrying the highly contagious Gs parasite which has the ability to wipe out freshwater salmon stocks.

### What is the Gs Parasite?

The Gs parasite is a highly contagious bug that has devastated salmon stocks in Norway. We want to keep it out of Scotland's rivers.

### Here's what you need to do

To ensure your equipment is not contaminated, please take one of the following precautionary measures:

- Completely dry equipment (e.g. waders, fishing equipment, bags, canoes and windsurf gear) at the minimum temperature of 20° for at least 2 days **or**
- Heat for at least 1 hour at above 60°C **or**
- Deep freeze for at least 1 day **or**
- Immerse in a Gs killing solution for min 10 minutes



*Gyrodactylus salaris* parasite magnified



For more info call: 0131 244 6225 or go to: [www.infoscotland.com/gsbug](http://www.infoscotland.com/gsbug)



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