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# THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 27, winter 2014

## Welcome to the 27th 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'.



## Open season

**WILLIAM LAWSON'S**

The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is delighted to announce the opening of the river Deveron salmon season 2014 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, Catriona Shearer, best known for waking up the nation – as the face of BBC Scotland's Breakfast TV bulletins and anchor of the flagship news programme Reporting Scotland. Ms Shearer has also been given the honour of blessing the river with a dram of William Lawson's, where thereafter the first cast of the season will be taken by Mr Stuart Cockersoll, and winner of the 2013 Morison Trophy.

## Morison trophy winner 2013 - 25lb salmon

We are pleased to announce, local angler, Mr Stuart Cockersoll has won the Morison Trophy for 2013. 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 shall also be 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.

### Walking the wildside

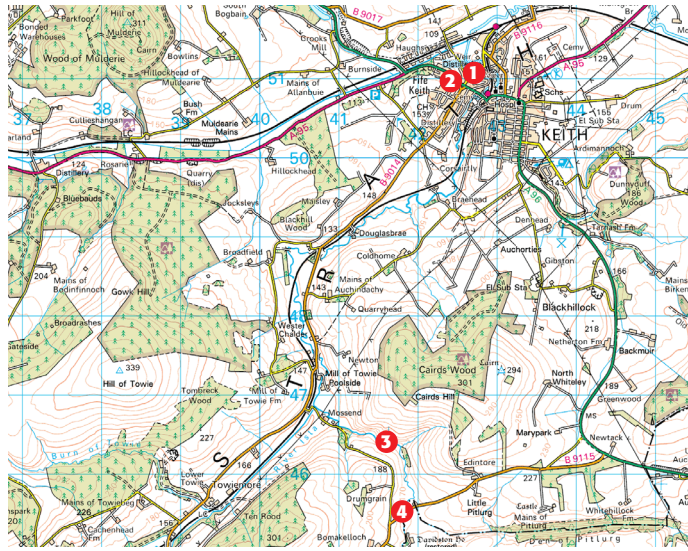
Visual Artist, Designer and Ceramicist Anne Murray will be at the Opening Ceremony. She walked the length of the Deveron from the Sea to the Source commissioned by Deveron Arts mapping her progress and experiences. Supported by The Cultural Fund, she will be gathering stories from the people of Deveronside and Strathbogie and through visual workshops, she will design a new tweed for the area.

# Improving Isla fish access

The Trust has been improving fish access at chosen locations throughout the Isla catchment. The projects are on-going and plans for further improvements in 2014 are in place.

## 1 Linn Pot

In 2013, specialist contractors lowered one side of a problematic concrete sill at the base of the Linn Pot water fall (pictured). A recent study showed that many fish were unable to detect the optimum area to ascend, hitting a concrete sill and withdrawing to spawn downstream. This winter we were delighted to record much improved fish numbers passing this historic obstacle, on our fish counter upstream of the works (70 against only 27 in 2012). In what was an unusually low-flow year, the work has proved to be a resounding success. Our thanks to the SEPA Water Environment Fund and RAFTS for their assistance.



Specialist contractors removing obstacle and Salmon leaping at the Linn pot during winter 2013. And below, the Glen Keith Weir will be modified in 2014

## 2 Glen Keith Weir

Trust staff and volunteers were successfully able to rescue 17 salmon and seven sea trout that ascended the Linn pot fall but became stranded 100 metres upstream at the Glen Keith distillery weir, due to a sharp drop in river level. Plans are now in place to modify the Glen Keith weir (pictured below) this summer, to allow migratory fish to pass freely during all flow conditions. We are grateful to Pernod Ricard for their assistance with this project.



## 3 Scottish Water Weir - Fish Pass

Scottish Water and their main contractors, Morrison Construction, completed a fantastic job of installing a new pool and traverse fish pass on the

# Review of wild fisheries management in Scotland announced



Above, Scottish Water Weir 2003; below, new fish pass 2013



Davidston burn weir during September 2013. The fish pass is made up of 3 lines of boulders which have created substantial pools. The newly installed fish pass allows fish to swim upstream without hindrance whereas previously they were only able to ascend in times of very high water. Only once, in 2005, have we detected salmon spawning upstream of the weir. We now fully expect that salmon, trout and eels will utilise the newly accessible 5 kms of high quality habitat and contribute annually to Isla fish stocks.



## 4 Davidston Burn - Hanging Culvert

A 'hanging-culvert' (above) upstream of the weir. The newly modified fish pass, will also be modified. Thanks to Marcus Walters of the Moray Firth Trout Initiative for securing funding from the Patagonia Clothing Company, World Trout Initiative.

The Scottish Government has asked outgoing Scottish Natural Heritage Chairman Andrew Thin to chair an independent review of wild fisheries management in Scotland.

The aims of the review are 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.
- To manage, conserve and develop our wild fisheries to maximise the sustainable benefit of Scotland's wild fish resources to the country as a whole and particularly to rural areas.

Scotland's management of salmon and freshwater fisheries must be 'robust, sustainable and fit for purpose in the 21st century', First Minister Alex Salmond has said.



The First Minister made the announcement at the official opening of the 2014 salmon fishing season on the River Tay, where he spoke of the importance of wild fisheries to Scotland.



## 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 2014. Any angler safely returning a salmon caught between 11th Feb 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 2014

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board remains extremely concerned over fragile levels of fish stocks in the river and in particular spring salmon and sea trout.



- All salmon are to be returned up to the end of May. *In conjunction with Chivas Brothers, The DBI 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 one male fish under 10lbs be retained.*
- Release all stale and unseasonable fish (Gravid fish, Kelts, Smolts, Over wintered finnock).
- 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 or local anglers returning from outside Britain must read, act upon and sign a Gyrodactylus salaris declaration form immediately prior to going fishing.*

*Please contact the DBIT or your beat Gillie/Manager/Agent.*

**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**