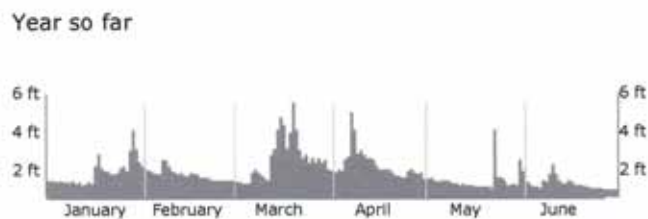
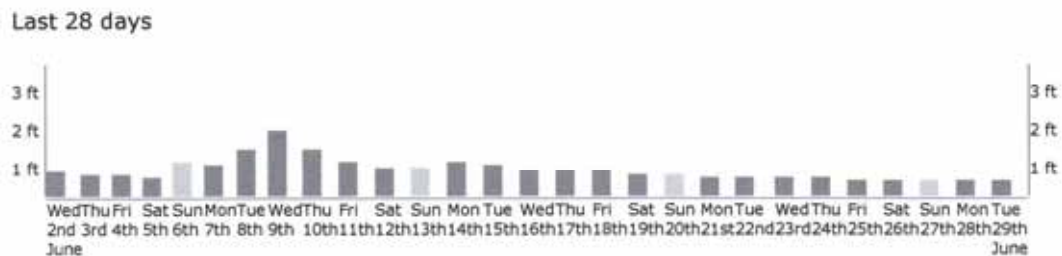


THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2010

River Conditions

The first week of the month saw heavy thunder storms over the Don catchment area, causing the river level to increase. Since the 9th of the month the river levels have been steadily declining each day, by the end of June the river was only 6 inches above low summer level.



Fish in River

The first two weeks of the month saw steady numbers of salmon being caught over the entire river system. A lot of anglers have been turning their attention to the sea trout, which has been excellent throughout the entire month, especially for the ADAA waters that have had the most fishing effort, which in turn has paid dividends on their catch figures, which are well up on the previous year. On the Grandhome estate the catches for the month has also been exceptionally good for salmon and sea trout. The catch returns from proprietors will now be filtering into the board over the coming weeks and it will be interesting to see what the final tally is for the spring months. Hopefully anglers will have given their returns to the proprietors.

Most beats are still doing well for the brown trout, but the largest trout I have heard caught for the month was on the Kildrummy fishing on the top reaches of the river system. A fish of 8lb was caught by a visiting angler from France, he had the fish on for

20 minutes got it into the side many times before it kept running again, then eventually it broke free and won the day. I think the next time he fishes the Don he won't use a 4lb nylon line, he will be using one that's a little bit stronger. A lot of beats all over the system now return their trout to the river in the hope that at the next visit they will be a bit larger.

Coastal Fishing's

This is the first time in a good few years I have heard the nets men at Blackdog informing me that this season looks very promising with the amount of salmon and sea trout they have had on the coast, I was also informed they have had quite a few remains of pieces of salmon that the seals have left behind in his nets, often the heads have been bitten off just leaving the carcass. Some of the salmon have been big summer salmon of 17lb and sea trout up to 4lb. There have also been encouraging signs of flounders back in the nets which there has not been for many years.

Training

On the 24th of the month all board staff attended a training event organised by the Spey fishery Board. Running the event was Grampian police and the 3 topics were Surveillance issues in the use of cameras and human right acts, conflict management, and proper use of note books and how they are used in court. What I found very interesting was the use of a video recorder, the courts like this as evidence as long as it is simply a case of handing over an SD card as soon as the evidence has been captured to the police. It is then stored in a secure place to prove that there has been no tampering with evidence until the case appears in court. This was the second year of this training and hopefully it will become an annual event, as it does jog your memory on certain tell tale signs when things might turn nasty

Hatchery

All the stocking of young salmon and trout fry has now been completed and a stocking report has been submitted to the board.

Salmon in the classroom

This project has now been completed by the Don trust and Don Board, all 5 schools involved enjoyed their project. PR was excellent as STV gave good coverage on television which covered the Lumsden School releasing their salmon into the Mossat burn. We will have to see which schools will be taking part next year.

Jim Kerr

River Superintendent