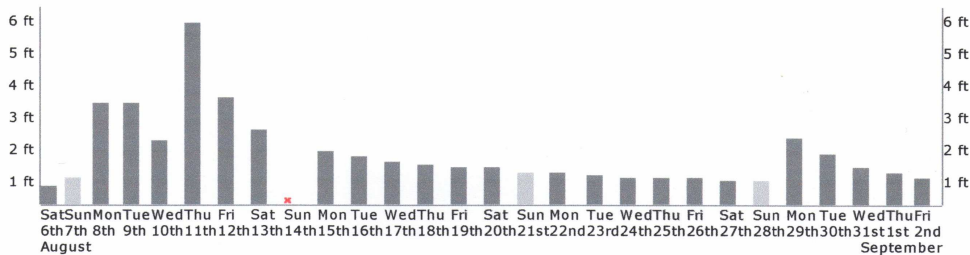


**THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
SUPERINTENDENTS MONTHLY REPORT
FOR AUGUST 2011**

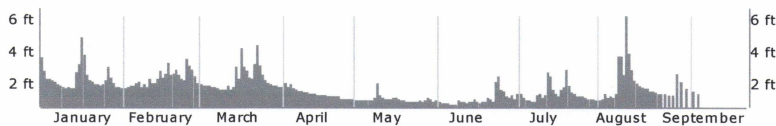
State of River

River levels during the first two weeks of the month were very unstable; the constant heavy down pours of torrential rain was having a dramatic affect on the river. On 11th of the month the river reached the second largest flood of the year, reaching an over all height of 6½ ft. This river level slowly subsided and in turn kept the river at a good angling height. There was another increase of river flows on the 29th of the month which gave good opportunity for fresh fish to enter the system.

Last 28 days



Year so far



Fish in River

The first week of the month saw small pockets of salmon/grilse entering the river system; these fish were not travelling any great distances through the river system, simply due to the low water flows at that time. On the 11th of the month, the river took a dramatic change when the river went into flood conditions, this very large increase in water levels meant that 5 to 6 angling days were lost. Once the river level settled to a more suitable height for the angler, salmon/Grilse were being landed over the river system in good numbers, it was also quite evident that there seemed to be more salmon being landed than Grilse, but as we have seen in previous years, they could be having to travel greater distances to return to their home river and hopefully there will be a big push of Grilse in September. The majority of salmon caught occurred during the last two weeks of the month, with the ADA A landing the majority of 114 Salmon/Grilse for the month,

Grandhome estate also had a good month with 48, while Stoneywood mill fishing's had 33.

There have been a few reports this month of badly marked Grilse caused by Otter predation; these Grilse have not been sea liced fresh fish but grilse that have been lying in pools on the lower river system for a period of time. I have also had great reports from anglers on the last week of the month commenting on the good runs of fish moving through the pools on the lower Don. It is difficult to acquire catch figures on beats above Fintry Bridge but indications are they are catching salmon on a daily basis. The sea trout catches have tailed off now, as these fish should now be well spread out through the river system and should be going through the change to spawning dress for the coming months ahead. Angling effort has been very slow above Alford Bridge with very few Guests

Coastal Fishing

The coastal netting season has now come to a close.

River Don Trust

The Trust and Board have continued their electro fishing surveys through out the month; they were hindered by the increase of river flows earlier in the month which gave the opportunity to carry out other tasks on the river system. At this time the Boards electro fishing back pack is away for repair due to a faulty power unit, the life of the power unit is 5-10 years we have had it for 15 years. Hope fully we should get it back early September.

Earlier in the month Mr Iain Morrison chair of the Don Trust, joined the electro fishing team for the day. Weather and river conditions were good, and many Brown trout and young salmon were sampled, the picture below shows Mr Morrison at one of the electro fishing locations.



Hatchery

I have finished the staging for the egg troughs on the ground floor; I am now in the process of carrying out modifications on six of the egg troughs.

Brown Trout in the Classroom

MR Peter Dow chair of the (IAA) Inverurie Angling Association has made up framed pictures using cuttings from photographs taken at the primary school. These framed pictures have been sent out to sponsors as a thank you from the IAA for taking part in the project along with a letter. I have scanned the picture and also added the letter to my report. Please see below.



To all our Sponsors Past and Present (With Thanks)

Our Project: "Trout in the Classroom" - Brings the countryside into the Classroom.

It was started several years ago with the commission of "**The Big Trout Book**" There are now free copies of this publication in every Primary Scotland in both English and Gaelic.

Our project is designed to raise awareness and the appreciation of the outdoors, how precious and fragile it is, and the impact we can have on it both for good and for ill.

It is aimed at Primary school children, geared to educate and inform. and still be fun.

We purchased a Fish tank and filters for **£1000** which we set up in the school for the children. They get a presentation on the importance of a healthy natural environment.

We explain the water system and various food cycles required for a healthy working system from the mountains to the sea, with Predators, Prey and pollution and where they all fit in.

We try to let the children know what they and their parents should and should not do to keep the environment healthy. Learning how important the whole system is, from the Hills and Forests through the rivers to the Sea.

The children are responsible initially for a number of Trout Eggs in the tank. These they raise to small fish which we release back into the river at the end of their project.

We have now set this up in several schools in th area:
Market Place; Kemnay ; Inverurie Academy & Strathburn Primary

Last year we went to at Inverurie Market Place Primary, we agreed that instead of a visit to the Hatchery we donated **£200** towards an environmental garden for their new school. We also donated **£100** to the Don and District Fisheries board for their work on the head waters of our local rivers.

This year we have agreement to work with **St. Andrews Special needs school.**

Feedback has been great from the Teachers and pupils. The whole school gets involved with all things related to the River and we get the press along at the beginning and end of each project.

Any monies awarded are used towards the project.

All our time and energy is given free of charge, and as we are a none profit making organisation

All sponsors both past and present are greatly appreciated by ourselves and the kids.

Many Thanks!

Peter G Dow
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Jim Kerr
River Superintendent