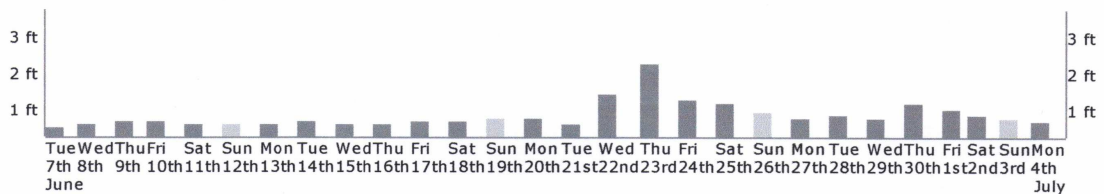


**THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD  
SUPERINTENDENTS MONTHLY  
REPORT FOR JUNE 2011**

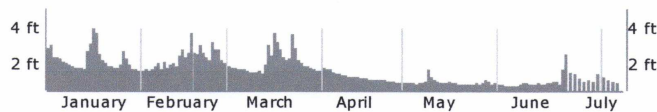
**State of River**

The continuous low flows prevailed from the previous month through to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, when at long last there was a break in the weather, and heavy rain fall increased the river level by 2½ feet. This level of water quickly declined as each day passed, but with out breaks of heavy showers towards the end of the month, river levels were holding stable at 1ft above summer flows.

Last 28 days



Year so far



**Fish in River**

Evening fishing for sea trout on the ADAA waters on the lower river were paying dividends for their anglers, with 70 sea trout caught for the month. With the low river flows for the first 3 weeks of the month, fresh running fish have not been moving far up the river system. Beats from Inverurie down to the lower reaches of the system have been favouring best for catches of sea trout. On the salmon side only small numbers of salmon have been creeping into the river system and the numbers of salmon caught on the beats have been minimal. There has not been good high river flows to entice them into the river throughout the month. Brown trout fishing has been another success this month, on the ADAA waters 90 Brown trout were landed and on the Aberdeenshire council Town waters, anglers have done exceptionally well for Brown trout this month, mostly evening fishing.

## **Trust Projects**

David McKay has continued to work 3 days a week to assist Jamie in Habitat surveys and electro fishing tasks, this has worked extremely well to the point where they have now completed the habitat survey for the Urie system. The other Board staff will commence surveying the Main River in July starting from the very top reaches working down stream. Near the end of July electro fishing in two teams will commence, covering the catchment doing stock surveys.

## **Habitat Improvement**

The Goval burn obstacle removal was completed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month where 29 obstructions were removed, mostly fallen mature hard wood trees. A full report has been circulated to all board members and website.

## **Salmon in the Classroom Project**

This year 5 schools have been involved in the project and have now released all their young salmon back into streams near to the schools involved. During the month I have been collating some of the press release pictures from the local papers in the area, which I have added below in this report and also some of my own pictures. In July Jamie and staff will take some of the schools out to do some invertebrate kick sampling and electro fishing to give the young children some idea of the insect life the fish will be feeding on and what types of fish are living in a stream.

Tough primary school below, Jamie and David in the stream giving the children a talk before releasing the young salmon.



The young salmon being released by the children



A group photo of Inch Primary school and Jamie holding up the bridge.



Another group picture, this time North Rayne primary school with Martin in the back ground.



Here are a small number of press releases; I have managed to collect during the month.

The picture below showing Mr Peter Dow and Dr Sam Martin of the Inverurie Angling Association, presenting Mr Jon Davidson chairman and of the DDSFB and myself with a cheque for the hatchery fund during the Brown trout in the classroom at Strathmore primary school.



Inch Primary School preparing to head to the burn to release their young salmon.

# Insch pupils help the environment

PUPILS from P6/7 at Inch Primary School donned wellie boots and outdoor clothing on Tuesday and headed off for Drumrossie Woods to release baby salmon back into the River Don as part of the River Don Trust's "Salmon in the Classroom" project.

The project began in 1991 and teaches children about salmon, focusing on their lifecycle, needs and threats. The school is supplied with a tank and around 100 salmon eggs which are raised in the classroom, through stages as "alevins" then "fry" until big enough to be released.

Early in the class project the P6/7 pupils expressed concerns regarding the amount of rubbish and fly-tipping they had noticed while playing around the burns in Inch and they were concerned about releasing the baby salmon into them.

The pupils suggested organising a community clean up prior to releasing the fish, and, in conjunction with Keep Scotland Tidy "National Spring Clean" campaign, a community litter-pick was planned for Saturday, May 7. Posters were designed, letters written to local businesses and Aberdeenshire Council enlisting support.

The Litter Pick, which was a great success, and the baby salmon were able to be released into a much cleaner and healthier environment, where its hoped they will thrive and make their way into the River Don.

P6/7 teacher Rhona Mowat told the Herald:



P/7 pupils from Inch Primary School set off to release baby salmon back into the wild. (Picture by Neil Thomson)

"We have all been impressed by the pupils' dedication, hard work and enterprise skills that have transformed a small science project into a fantastic cross-curricular learning experience."

Here is another press release of Inch Primary School preparing to do a clean up of the Gadie burn before releasing the young salmon, which was also part of their eco program.



Clean up kids: Inch school pupils (from left) Kerri Florence, Lucy and Emma Gillespie were part of the primary seven team who organised a clean up at the Gadie Burn. Photograph by Jim Hatter

## Pupil power cleans up the burn

**AROUND 30 volunteers, including 18 primary seven pupils, turned up to clean the local Gadie Burn in Inch.**

Organised entirely by the primary seven pupils, the clean up session was done to prepare for the release of salmon eggs into the water later this Summer as part of an eco-project.

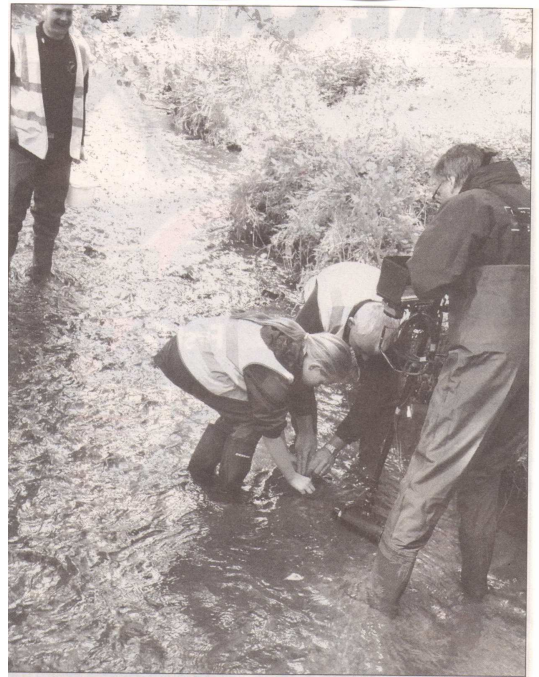
Teacher Rhona Mowat praised the work of her pupils, and also thanked the adults and other volunteers who turned out to help.

She said: "The pupils did everything from making the posters, writing to Aberdeenshire Council, getting donations of refuse bags and even getting raffle prizes together to promote the clean up – they worked extremely hard and I am very proud of them all. Hopefully this will go some way towards our eco-school project and it has also raised £100 towards school funds."

The clean up revealed that the burn is a favoured place for some people to dump their junk – finding 18 bags of rubbish and plastic, tyres, wheels, an oil drum, a TV stand and a bath.

The picture on the right is a young pupil from Inch school releasing the salmon fry into the Gadie burn, a tributary of the Urie.

*Jim Kerr*  
River Superintendent.



**New beginnings: Inch pupil Mhairi Griffin is filmed by volunteers from the River Don Trust as she releases salmon back into the wild.**