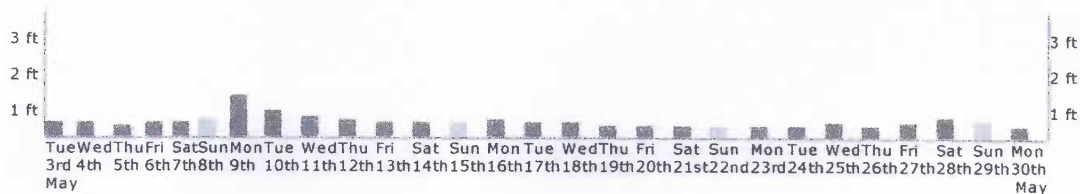


THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD SUPERINTENDENTS MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2011

State of River

Very low flows have prevailed since the end of the previous month, there was only one very small increase of levels on the 9th of the month but unfortunately the river level fell back very quickly. I can't remember such a dry April or May, such as we have experienced this year. Let's hope the weather pattern changes shortly to get some decent river flows.

Last 28 days



Year so far



Fish in River

It has been another quiet month on the salmon beats, simply due to the lack of water in the river. A small number of salmon were landed in the lower Kemnay and Inverurie beats during the third week of May, one or two of these salmon were fresh run sea liced fish. Most beats on the Lower to middle river have been very quiet, the ADAA have been picking away as they say, but there has not been many salmon landed. The Don needs plenty of water to pull the fish off the coast to run the river. The severe gale force winds on the 23rd of the month moved the mouth of the river northwards towards Murchar golf course, which is not great for attracting fish into the system. Last year the river was kept on course with the good river flows that continued for most of the year.

Sea trout have been landed on some beats mostly from Inverurie down to the lower Don but only in low numbers.

On the brown trout scene, catches have been sporadic simply due to lack of fly hatches, so I am being told by the trout anglers and colder temperatures during evening, as this seems to be the favourite time.

I have had several good reports from all over the system this month, on the excellent Smolt run this year, whether its because normally during April-May high river flows push them down the river more efficiently, than what we are seeing this year with low flows, to a point where the Smolts were actually hampering the trout anglers fishing the dry fly.

Brown Trout in the Classroom

The Brown trout in the classroom project run by the Inverurie angling association in conjunction with the DDSFB has now come to an end for another year. This year it was placed into Inverurie Market Place primary School, where primary two children were given an aquarium sponsored by Inverurie angling association. Brown trout eggs were donated by the DDSFB hatchery at Strathdon and placed in the tank, the young children reared up the young trout very successfully until their release on Monday morning the 23rd of May. In attendance for the release were myself Jim Kerr DDSFB, Mr Jon Davidson Chairman of the DDSFB, for the Inverurie angling association was Mr Peter Dow Chairman, Dr Sam Martin IAA and Don Trust and Mr Gordon Ingram of the IAA. Regardless of the bad weather that battered the northeast with gale force winds, the children all enjoyed their morning releasing their trout back into the River Don, at Inverurie main road bridge. Before we all set off to the release site I presented the class with a certificate of achievement award for the classroom and one for each child to take home to their parents. Mr Peter Dow Chairman of the IAA also had two presentations to make, he gave a kind donation to the school for a forthcoming project and he also gave the DDSFB a kind donation towards the hatchery fund, so on behalf of all board members of the DDSFB thank you Mr Peter Dow. There was a local press officer taking photos of the event from the Inverurie Herald & Advertiser where a press release will be available soon. Below is a photo of the young children along with representatives of the day. From left to right are Jim Kerr and Jon Davidson DDSFB, Mr Gordon Ingram and Mr Peter Dow of the IAA.



Salmon in the Classroom

The project being run this year in the 5 schools chosen, are all progressing well with a good survival rate in all the aquariums in the schools, these fish will be released during the first two weeks of June?

Obstacle removal

My date of completion of the Goval burn will now be 2nd week of June, due to other tasks over the river catchment. There are only 4 obstacles left to do, all wind blown trees. Two were found through survey work and the other 2 fell during severe gale force winds in May. Over all we have removed 24 obstructions, mostly mature hard wood trees which have been rotten at the bases. I have included in the next page, one of the trees we removed yesterday the 2nd June.

Pic 1 before, a mature Ash tree down blocking all access



Pic 2, below Stream now clear



Jim Kerr
River superintendent