

**THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
SUPERINTENDENTS MONTHLY REPORT
NOVEMBER 2011**

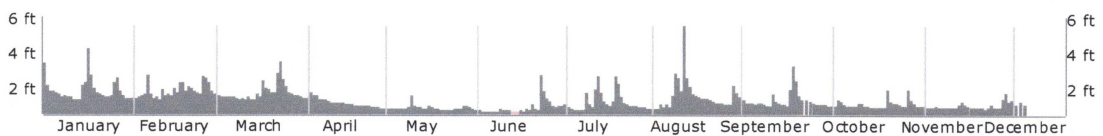
State of River

It has been another month of low flows over the catchment, which is very unusual for this time of year. On the 28th of the month river levels increased by 1½ft, which gave late running salmon the opportunity to migrate up to the higher tributaries of the river system to spawn. The graphs below shows the river levels for the month of November and year so far.

Last 28 days



Year so far



Fish in River

Spot checks on spawning beds throughout the system have shown good spawning activity over the month, the first sign of early kelts was during the first week of November. We caught 3 Kelts at the Newe fish trap. Fish activity on the middle to lower beats was plentiful, to the frustration of Bernard Martin of Ocean filming, who at the time was filming for the Don Trust, when his camera was not set up salmon were jumping everywhere, when the camera was ready to shoot nothing moved.

Bernard throughout 2010-11 has been filming the life cycle of the Atlantic salmon on the Dee and Don, this last bit of filming was to capture the salmon cutting the gravel and depositing her eggs.

Hatchery

On the 15th of the month the last of the salmon eggs were laid down in the incubation trays for another year. The hatchery is now holding a total of 160,000 salmon eggs. A break down on this figure is as follows, 46,000 spring salmon and 114,000 2 sea winter summer salmon. We have processed approximately 150 salmon, out of this figure only 16 hen salmon were retained to acquire our total egg count for the hatchery this year, all 150 salmon were scale sampled, measured, weighed, and floy tagged.

We are now doing a combined Habitat survey along with our annual redd count which will take us well into January, depending on weather conditions.

By the time my report reaches you it will be well into December as I have been catching up on annual leave before the end of this year.

Myself and Staff would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and happy and health new year.

Jim Kerr

River Superintendent