

# Don District Salmon Fishery Board

AGM

Chairman's Remarks 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011

# CONTENT

- Board Constitution
- The Vision
- Goals & Objectives
- The major challenge
- Historical statistics
- 2011 Activities
- 2012 Goals



# The Board

- Jon Davison (Castle Forbes)
- Bob Dey (ADAA)
- David Smart (Various)
- Rick Fyffe (Fetternear)
- John Riley (Semeil)
- Frances Russell (Moonhaugh & Bandle, Waterside)
- John Sutherland (Various)
- Jim Stevenson (Aberdeenshire Council)

Upper Proprietor

- Dave Gordon (ADAA)

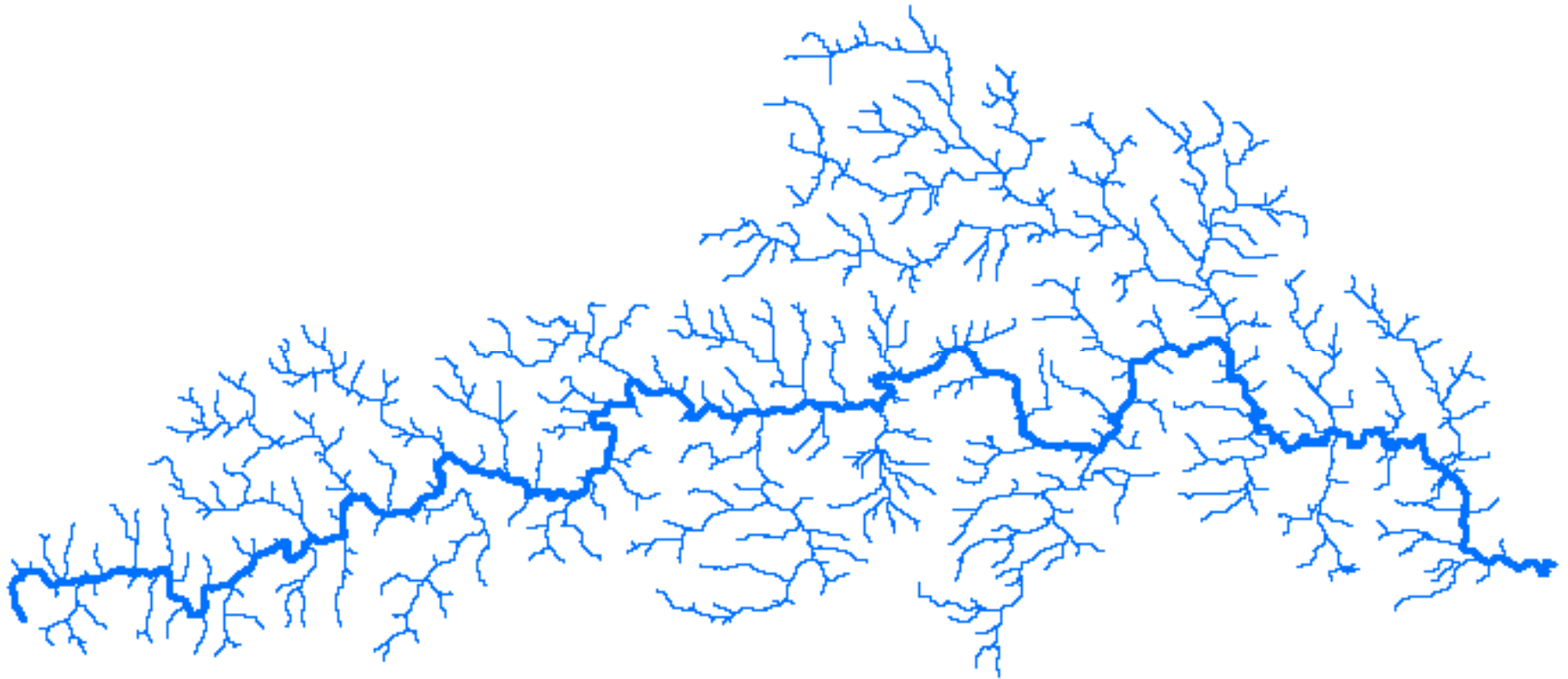
Lower Proprietor

- Alex Paterson
  - Anglers co-opted representative
- David Ogilvie
  - SEPA representative

Representatives

 **Protection and improvement of salmon and fisheries**

# The Vision



 **Healthy, open and accessible river**

# STRATEGIC GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- A HEALTHY RIVER

-  **Creating the right habitat for spawning and parr survival**

- Removing debris and blockages
- Eradication of non-native invasive species
- Controlling predation (Mink, Goosander, Cormorant)
- Keeping Gyrodactylus Salaris, killer shrimp and American crayfish out

- AN OPEN RIVER (Hassle free migration)

-  **Working with Councils and SEPA on existing and future barriers to migration.**

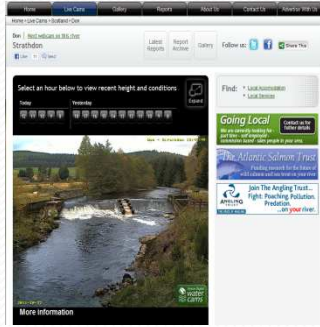
- Removal of dams, weirs and fords and/or installation of fish passes
- Challenging and influencing but not obstructing installation of hydro power.
- Involvement in applications for onshore and offshore wind farms

- AN ACCESSIBLE RIVER

-  **Fishing readily available at affordable prices**

- Development of fishDon to include in excess of 50 beats.
- PR campaigns in local and national publications
- Developing river initiatives – eg Webcams, river map and website
- Getting local hotels, pubs and restaurants linked in to our story.

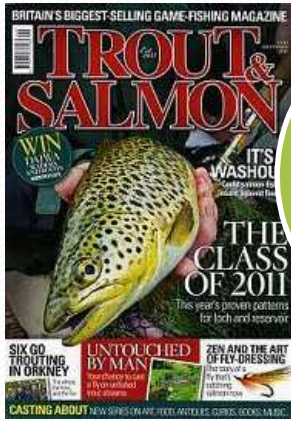
# Win-Win spiral!



Good river with available fishing (HOA)

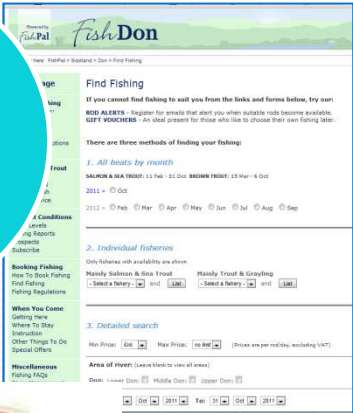


Good PR



5500

Anglers respond and buy fishing



More fish caught



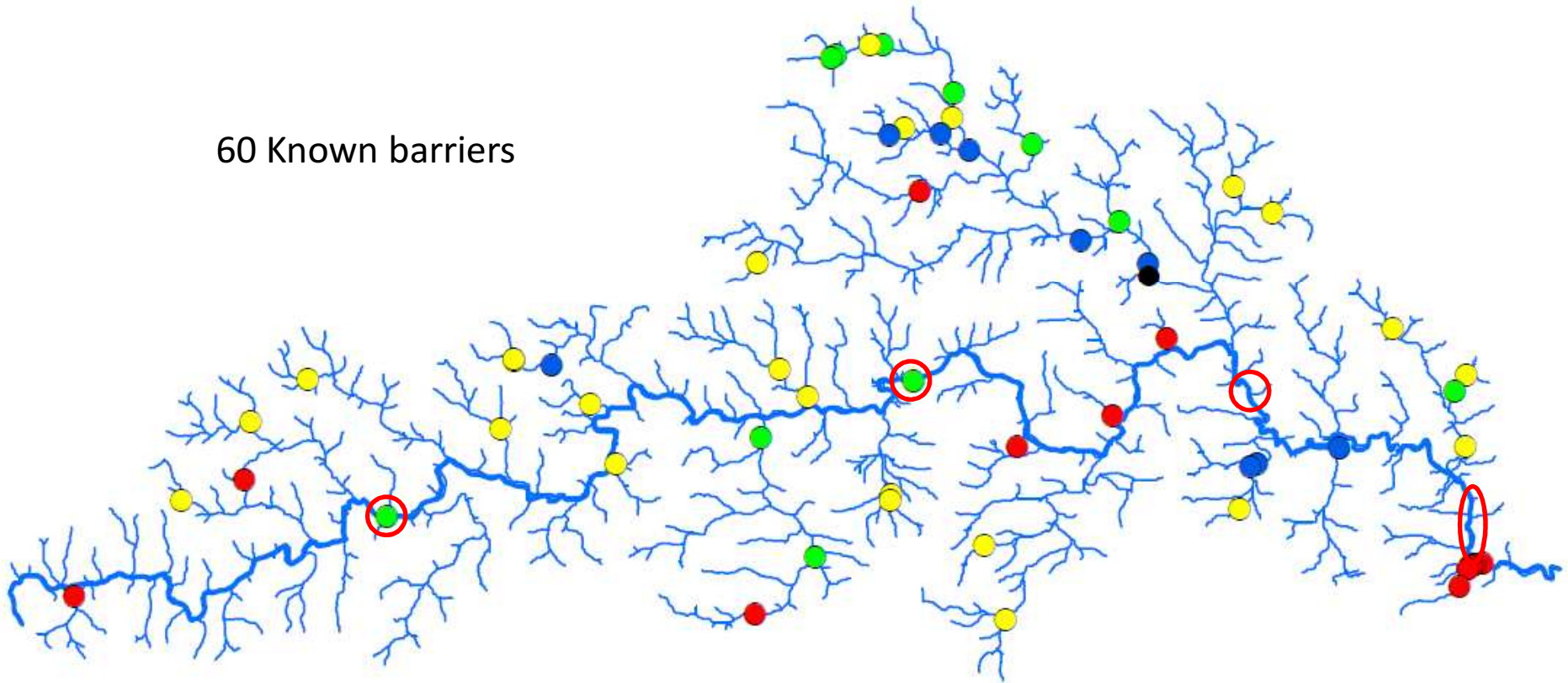
Profit for Owners, clubs and local amenities



# The major challenge

## OBSTACLES TO MIGRATION

60 Known barriers

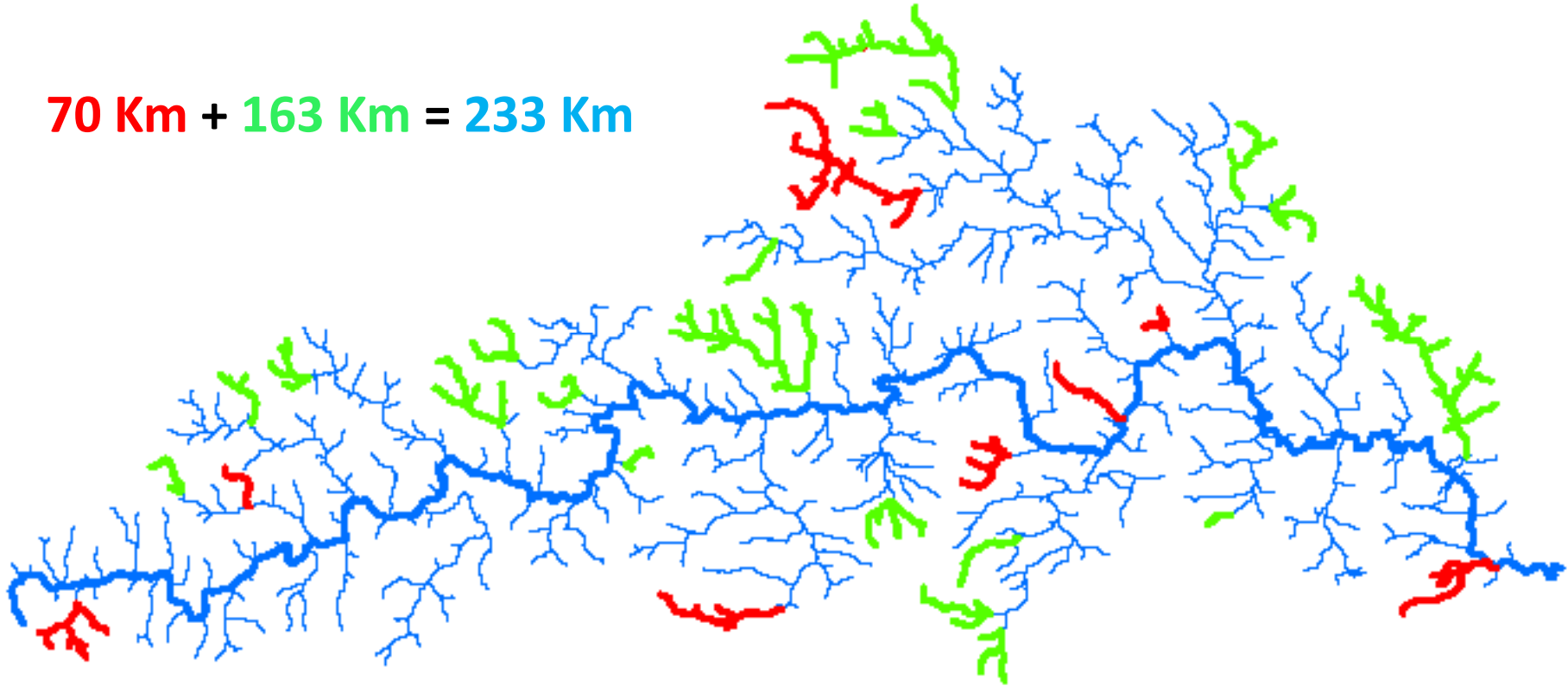


● Impassable    ● Poor    ● Moderate    ● Moderate/OK

# THE PRIZE

Removal of obstacles classified as Impassable or Poor (30)

70 Km + 163 Km = 233 Km



21% gain  
in habitat

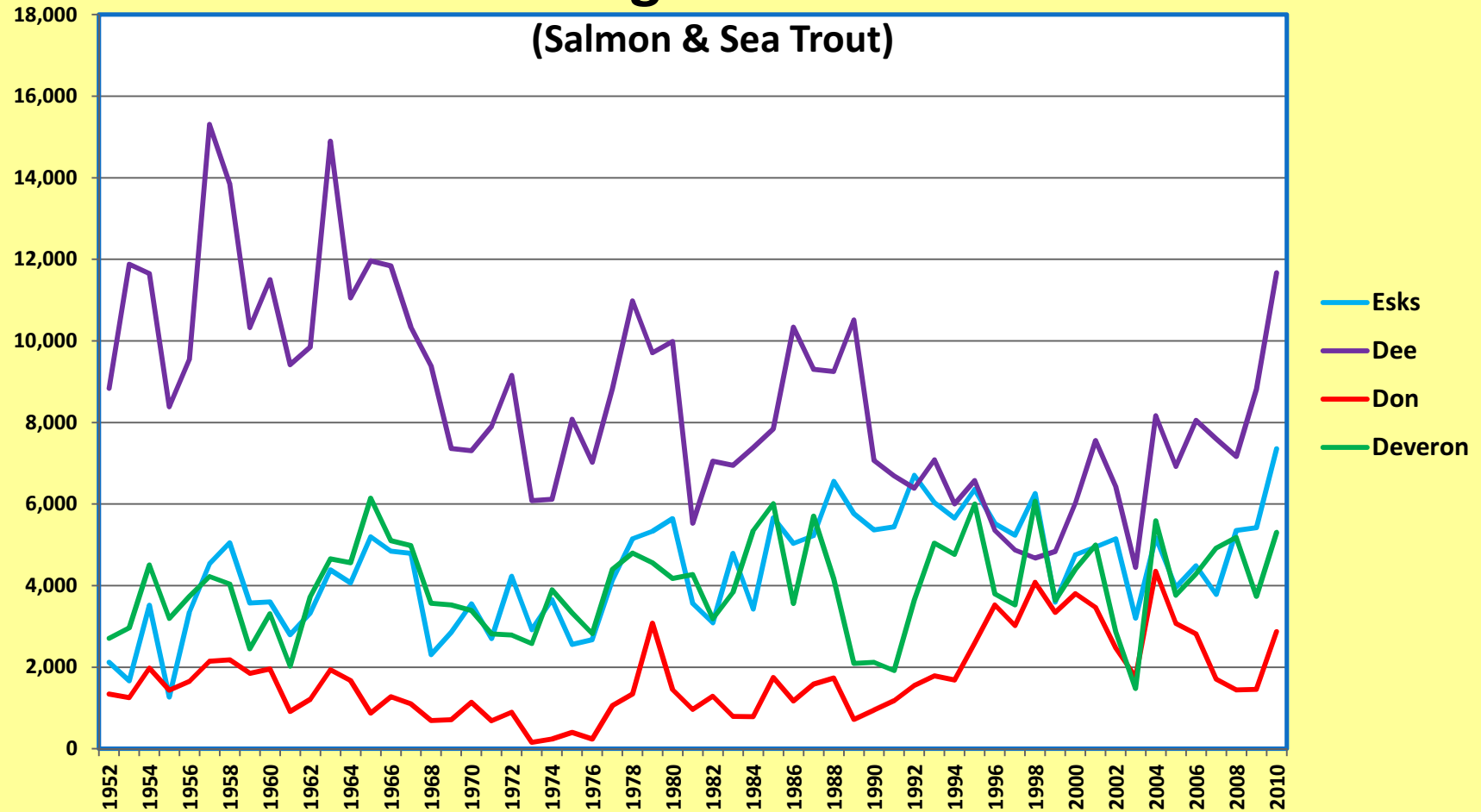


More redds  
Parr survival up  
More returning salmon

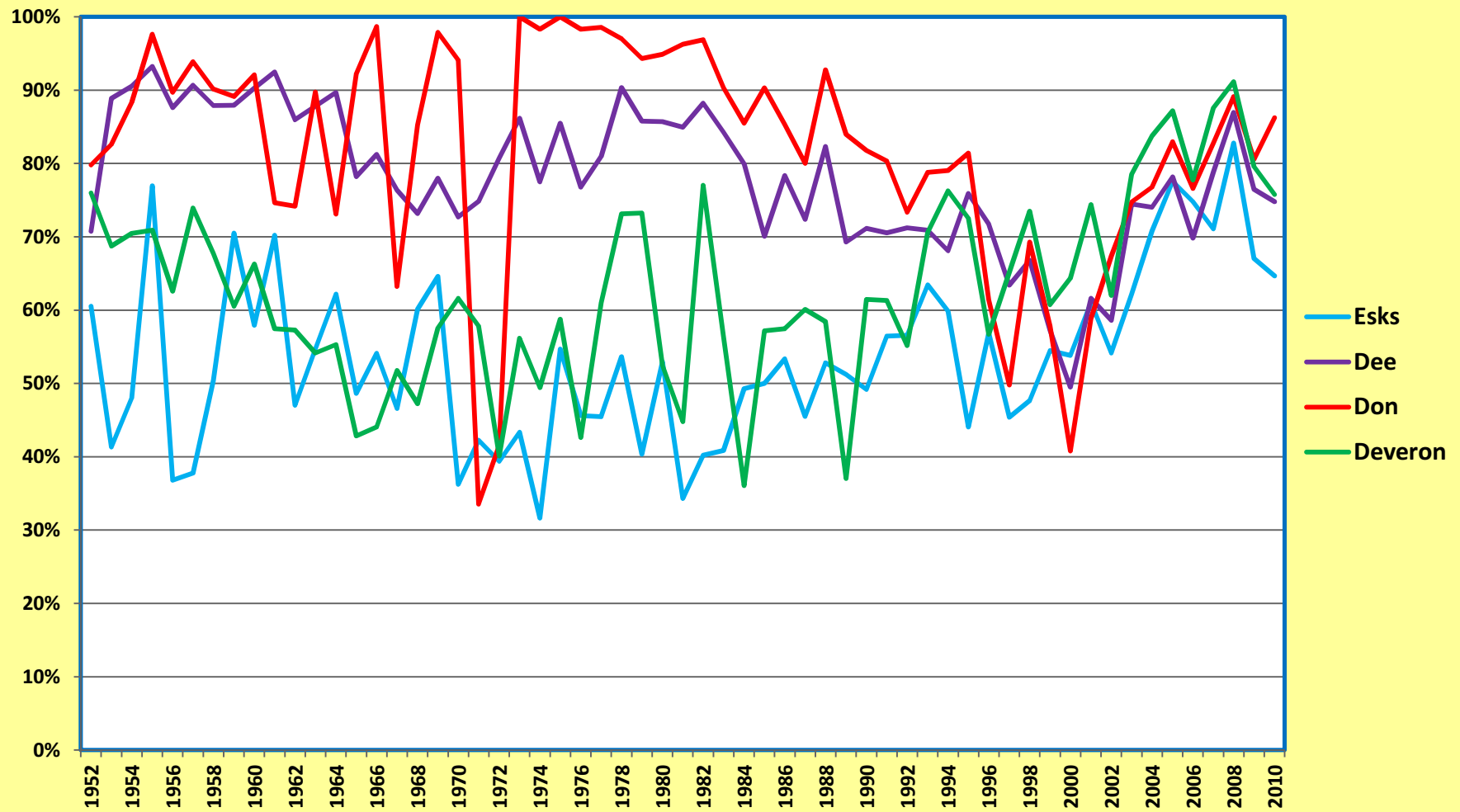


Hatchery closed

## Total Rod caught fish 1952 - 2010



## % Salmon v. Sea Trout 1952 - 2010



# 2011 Board Activities

- 4 Hydro Applications
- 4 Onshore Wind applications
- 1 Offshore wind applications
- SGN River crossings
- Meetings with SEPA, AC & ACC
- Attendance at ASFB & RAFTS meetings
- Proprietor engagement
- New bailiff and Bailiffs working with RDT

# 2012 Goals

- 2-3 small fords removed
- 1 fish pass installed
- Contain expenditure to current level (below inflation increase)
- 10 additional fisheries on FishDon
- Support RDT fund raising event – ideas?
- More engagement with proprietors.
- Develop Metrics to measure success

# Cause for optimism?

- **Got the infrastructure**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Largest catchment area in Scotland – so big enough river to support many many more salmon & Sea Trout

- **Got the data**

- Not even started on physical restoration programme – so can only get better

- **Got the Brown Trout**

- Already best brown trout river in UK so basis for huge Sea Trout runs

- **Got the potential**

- Hugely under fished - 35% of SERAD catch returns show NIL fish caught

- **Got the weapons**

- Attacking predators

- **Got the PR campaign rolling**

- Trout & Salmon, FF & FT, FishDon, WebCams, P&J



# Contact

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