

# Week Seventeen

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Following a wedding over the weekend I returned to work on Tuesday, where I spent the whole day in the office catching up on emails and admin.

On Wednesday I was joined by Iain Morrison, Jim Kerr and Martin Webster, as we headed down to Birnam in Perthshire, to attend a conference on micro hydro schemes. The course was hosted by the Rivers and Fisheries Trust for Scotland (RAFTS) and was very well attended. It provided the opportunity to meet several experts on the subject, Bob Morgan a previous FRS Marine Scotland employee and Alan Butterworth a previous Environment Agency employee both of whom have now set up independently to name just a few. They have both offered to provide advice on the impact of any potential hydro schemes on the Don catchment. We were presented to by representatives from SEPA, RAFTS and the British Hydro Board, which gave an invaluable insight from each perspective.

On Thursday I was joined by Steven Murphy one of the Bailiffs and Iain Morrison to undertake some qualitative electro fishing surveys on the Goval Burn. The aim of these surveys was to ascertain if there was any juvenile salmon upstream of the Goval Weir. If there were any it would be safe to assume then that adult fish have passed the weir and spawned upstream of this obstruction. Given the size of the weir it is safe to say that not all fish will pass even in the most suitable water conditions and therefore it's still an obstruction to most migratory fish. The electro fished for a ten minute period at each site with three sites per Km of water way. We used the information gathered from our habitat surveys to identify the most suitable sites for salmonids and targeted these to ensure the best chance of encountering juvenile salmon. We sampled above and below the main obstruction the Goval weir. Below the weir we found relative high numbers of juvenile salmon and about half that number of trout. We also found Minnows, Gudgeon, Eels, 3 Spined Stickleback all in small numbers at each of the three survey site. We then surveyed above the weir and in the first site 100m upstream from the weir we found one juvenile salmon and a decent number of trout. In the site thereafter we found no more juvenile salmon but plenty of trout and some of very good size for such a small water. We also found some Lamprey; although not able to distinguish if they were Brook or River lamprey it was still very interesting to have found them. A more detailed report on this tributary will be completed shortly.



Minnow and Salmon parr



Lamprey and Salmon parr

On Friday I spent the morning in the office due to the inclement weather I then headed into town to Meet Stuart Fleming, the ADAA Maintenance consultant. Stuart had been contacted by a club angler who had access to a micro fiche machine and some office furniture. I met with Stuart at the ADAA Bothy and we headed off to meet, Graeme Maycock. Graeme was ready with a couple of filling

cabinets, some chairs, and the micro fiche reader, which was just what we needed, thanks once again to Graeme for his generosity in return he has now become an Friend of the Don free of charge. Stuart was very kind and also moved the items out to the office with the aid of his trailer so thanks once again for your help Stuart.

Next week I'll be attending a training course on the Invasive Species Signal Crayfish in Stirling at the University's Aquaculture department.

Cheers Jamie