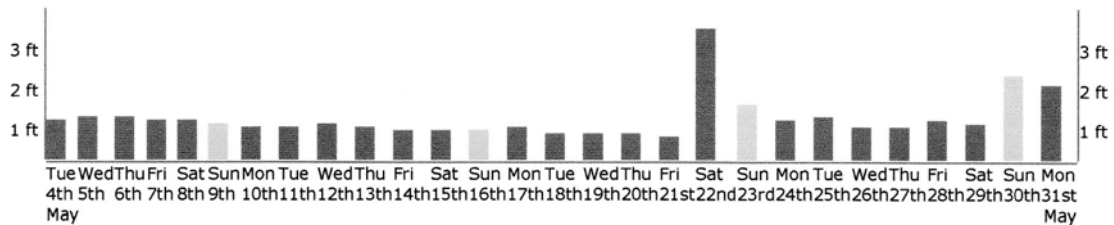


THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
MAY MONTHLY REPORT 2010

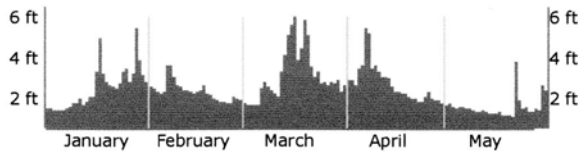
River Conditions

River conditions during May were more settled than they had been in the previous month of April. There were only two occasions where there was a significant rise in river levels. On the 22nd of the month the river level increased by 3ft but quickly fell back to 1ft above normal flows by the 29th of the month. Again, just as the river was settling nicely the river level went up again by 2ft with heavy thunder storms. By the end of the month the river level was sitting at 2ft above normal base flows for the river, which is good height for this time of year. The graph below shows the river levels throughout the month.

Last 28 days



Year so far



Fish in River

It has been another great month for salmon and trout fishing on the river. The ADAA fishing's up until the end of May were touching 100 salmon caught and released and the Grandhome fishing's, the Muggiemoss mills fishing's and Stoneywood mill fishing's all on the lower end of the system, did exceptionally well over the spring time with catches well above previous years. Most beats up and down the system have had a good spring with catches well up on previous years; while other parts of the system that have had less fishing effort due to lower number of guests have still landed decent numbers of spring salmon.

Anglers fishing for early Sea trout have not been disappointed with good sized trout, not in great numbers as yet but I think June could be the month when larger numbers will start to move into the river system.

On the brown trout front, May has also has been a good month for trout anglers with some cracking brown trout caught from ADAA waters up to the Alford stretches, I expect that once the water temperature increases from Alford upstream and the last of the snow disappears of the Grampian Mountains, catches will increase especially on the Kildrummy and Towie stretches of river. But overall it has been an excellent season to date.

I think that all anglers and proprietors who have adhered to catch and release should give themselves a pat on the back as it's all good for future stocks and the more young ones that the river can produce the better. I know that as this is relatively new for the river and it's hard to put your first spring fish back, but its well worth it in the end.

Coastal fishing

All nets slapped, very unsettled weather on the coast with large inshore swells which have damaged netting equipment. Catches have been low for the month.

Hatchery

Some of the young salmon are now ready to be stocked out into the river but unfortunately they will have to wait until the river level subsides after the deluge of rain on the 30th of the month. I am in the middle of putting screens into the tanks in the poly tunnel and will put the young fish on feed until the river conditions are more appropriate for stocking. All stock is progressing well at this time.

Salmon in the Classroom

The Don trust, myself and staff are continuing with the Salmon in the classroom project. At this time all the fish in the schools are progressing well and will be released back into a nearby stream next month

Brown Trout in the Classroom

Strathburn Primary school released their fish on the 10th of the month; in attendance were Peter Dow chair of the Inverurie angling association who sponsor this project and Doctor Sam Martin, Don Trust Director and member of the Association, lots of parents also attended and two photographers from local papers. The release site was below the Inverurie main road bridge and it was a lovely sunny morning. This is always a great local event and everything went well, all the young children enjoyed themselves and after the release the children were presented with a certificate of achievement award

River Don Open Day

The river Don open day was on the 30th of May, it was a very wet morning with the rain continuing until just after midday. It was very wet under foot to say the least, but this did not put off members of the general public. There were a few angling stalls and expert advice was to be had from professional angling instructors, who were giving their time to teach anglers new skills in the art of casting. The Don trust had their display boards as did the Board, which received a lot of attention from the public. I think Richard Fyfe of Fetternear Estate should be recognised for all his hard work arranging the open day.

Jim Kerr

River Superintendent