



Annual Review

2021



Fisheries Management Scotland's core costs are funded by our members. We are extremely grateful for additional financial support received from Marine Scotland and Crown Estate Scotland which has supported our work in managing interactions with aquaculture, in addition to supporting work undertaken by our members.



Image - Sean Dugan

Working to conserve Scotland's wild salmon and native freshwater fish

Fisheries Management Scotland is the representative body for Scotland's District Salmon Fishery Boards, Rivers and Fisheries Trusts and the River Tweed Commission

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Cover Image © Richard Davies, Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust
Editor: Rob Fletcher

Reflecting on a difficult year



Richard Sankey
Chairman
Fisheries Management Scotland

Like so many others around the world, the past year for the fisheries management community has been defined by Covid-19. The pandemic has created much uncertainty for the future and has brought unprecedented challenges for both individuals and organisations.

Against this difficult background, we have made a concerted effort to raise awareness of the critical situation that salmon face and have pressed the case for focused action to save our wild salmon and make their conservation a national priority.

The threats to our iconic fish species are complex and multifactorial and there is no single reason for the declines. We recognise the crucial importance of working collaboratively with government, agencies and industry to address these pressures. Such engagement is crucial to delivering the changes required to protect and enhance the environments on which our fish depend.

On a positive note, Polly Burns joined Fisheries Management Scotland in July, to co-ordinate the management of interactions between farmed

and wild salmonid fish. We are very grateful to Marine Scotland and Crown Estate Scotland, who have jointly funded this post. Polly has provided an update on our work on aquaculture on pages 6-7 of this review.

In another positive development, Fisheries Management Scotland has now joined the Missing Salmon Alliance, and we are delighted to be contributing to this important initiative. Our members are already delivering essential work to protect and enhance salmon in Scotland, but through the alliance our collective capacity to address the pressures which wild salmon face will be significantly enhanced.

I would like to thank our board members and staff, who do a fantastic job on behalf of our members to highlight and help to address the issues faced by our fish and their aquatic habitat.

Finally, I hope that 2021 is much more positive than 2020 and that our members, supporters and colleagues stay safe and well.

Staff update: advocating for change



Dr Alan Wells
Chief Executive Officer
Fisheries Management Scotland

It seems like a very long time ago now, but 2020 started in a very positive way for Fisheries Management Scotland. We hosted, in partnership with Scottish Land and Estates, a very productive roundtable discussion and evening reception in the Scottish Parliament, sponsored by Michelle Ballantyne MSP, species champion for Atlantic salmon. Roseanna Cunningham MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, gave the keynote address and announced a Scottish Government funding contribution of £750,000 for the west coast tracking project - an innovative project between the Scottish Government, Atlantic Salmon Trust and Fisheries Management Scotland. The event was attended by MSPs from all parties and allowed us to highlight the wild salmon crisis and the urgent need for Scotland's Government and regulatory authorities to do everything in their power to safeguard the species in those areas where they can make a difference. Little did we know what was to follow.



Our members worked to remove 26 barriers to fish migration in 2020

The global pandemic has defined everything that we have tried to do in 2020. As the lockdowns were introduced, we worked with the Scottish Government to agree guidance, and ensure that angling was among the first activities to be expressly permitted once the lockdown eased. As you will see later in our review, our highly professional enforcement teams worked closely with Police Scotland during the lockdown to ensure that our salmon were protected from opportunist poachers.

Many projects, including the West Coast Tracking Project and the National Electrofishing Program for Scotland could not proceed safely in 2020. However, a range of important fisheries management activities were progressed, and we worked to support our members in undertaking this vital work safely. We have also continued to advocate for change across a range of pressures affecting our native fish and their environment.

In May, the Salmon Interactions Working Group completed its work and delivered a final report which made 42 recommendations to Scottish Ministers for improvements to

the regulatory system for the protection of wild fish. Whilst this was a long and challenging process we are firmly of the view that the recommendations will lead to a much better situation for wild salmonids, This is considered in more detail on pages 6-7.

We continue to engage with SEPA with a view to improving the water environment. Progress in 2020 has been frustratingly slow, but we have worked with SEPA to address issues relating to downstream passage of smolts, point-source and diffuse pollution, engineering within rivers and concerns around water scarcity.

We are working with our members to improve our understanding of potential impacts arising from marine renewables and address current evidence gaps. We have also worked through the Scottish Beaver Forum to ensure that the beaver management plan for Scotland includes appropriate mechanisms for the removal of dams, where necessary, to allow free passage of salmon and sea trout. Finally, we were pleased to be invited to participate in a Peatland Summit in December, chaired by Roseanna Cunningham

MSP. Peatland restoration is of great interest to many of our members to improve water quality and habitats for fish, in addition to wider biodiversity and climate change benefits.

2020 saw the start of a workstream to develop a Wild Salmon Strategy for Scotland. This is a process that we strongly support, and we hope it will develop a roadmap to address the range of pressures that our salmon face. Fisheries Management Scotland, and our members, have a key role to play in this process and it is gratifying that the pressures tool, developed by Marine Scotland Science, Fisheries Management Scotland and the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre, will form an important part of the outputs. The pressures tool was populated

by Fisheries Management Scotland members in early 2020 and more detail is provided on pages 8-9.

There are many lessons that we can take from 2020. It highlighted the extreme fragility of the current funding mechanisms for fisheries management in Scotland and underlined the need for greater support to deliver the crucial interventions that are required to allow our native fish to thrive. On a more positive note, it also bred creativity in finding new ways to engage with people using virtual communications. Whilst these will never completely replace face-to-face meetings, greater use of these technologies will allow us to operate in a more inclusive manner and help us to reduce our carbon footprint.



Scottish Parliament - Making Salmon Conservation a National Priority. ©Sean Dugan

Staff update - a year of challenges and opportunities



Brian Davidson
Director of Communications & Administration
Fisheries Management Scotland

Like everyone else, the pandemic has significantly altered the way we work over the past year and adapting to a rapidly changing set of circumstances certainly makes for an interesting learning curve. Fortunately, all of the Fisheries Management Scotland information and technology systems are cloud-based, and consequently the transition from office-based to home working was seamless and caused minimal disruption.

Whilst our annual conference scheduled for March 2020 fell victim to the pandemic, in terms of overall communications, our engagement with members was not compromised. We adapted well to the use of Microsoft Teams technology and hosted a range of virtual meetings throughout the year, including five regional members meetings, Board and management meetings and our AGM in November. All were well attended and provided useful lessons for the post-pandemic future – using a blend of virtual meeting technology and physical meetings in the future will mean a reduced carbon footprint, travel time and costs

for everyone.

The constantly evolving nature of the pandemic and associated restrictions on peoples' movements and activities meant that guidance on a range of operational matters relevant to our sector was important. Fisheries Management Scotland was well placed to facilitate advice from Scottish Government, and crucially to secure more detailed interpretation of published Government advice. Fisheries Management Scotland, in conjunction with FishLegal where appropriate, published nine formal guidance documents covering a wide range of matters, including employment advice, enforcement and fieldwork activity, DSFB meetings and angling.

Fisheries Management Scotland remain concerned about the level of penalties contained within the salmon and freshwater fisheries legislation. In 2020 the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment made a commitment to take forward a separate review of criminal activity on our rivers and lochs, and to examine carefully what we might do

to provide more appropriate penalties for offenders. This will be a joint process between Marine Scotland and Fisheries Management Scotland.

Work began to review the enforcement training materials in conjunction with the Institute of Fisheries Management. The objective of this work is to bring the learning materials and course online. Two online exams – held in December 2020 and February 2021 – have been very successful in making the training and assessment process more accessible. It is expected that the full bailiff training course review will be complete and the course hosted online during 2021. We

will also be exploring other formal and informal training areas for online application.

Each year seems to bring specific challenges for Atlantic salmon and in 2020 we saw the continued manifestation of red skin disease in some wild fish stocks. Fisheries Management Scotland remained in close contact with the Scottish Government Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) and co-ordinated the collection of data from affected rivers. Sampling of fish was challenging due to Covid restrictions, but nevertheless some samples were secured. Updated advice was produced by Fisheries Management Scotland, and to

help improve the quality and flow of information on this topic, we collaborated with FHI to produce a 'Frequently Asked Questions' sheet on red skin disease.

Whilst a causative factor has yet to be identified, a case review has allowed FHI to draw clear distinctions between what is confirmed as red skin disease and what might previously have been reported as this condition. Close collaboration with the National Veterinary Institute (NVI) in Norway continues and it is hoped that through information sharing and access to the NVI pathology database that this issue will be better understood.



Our members reported 163 pollution incidents to SEPA



The River Tweed at Cardrona ©Brian Davidson

Staff update - managing interactions with aquaculture



Polly Burns
Aquaculture Interactions Manager
Fisheries Management Scotland

Despite the pandemic, there has been a lot going on within salmon farming and wild salmon interactions. I joined Fisheries Management Scotland in July 2020 as the Aquaculture Interactions Manager, a role joint-funded by Marine Scotland and Crown Estate Scotland. I have hit the ground running to advocate for the protection of wild salmonids.

In May, the report from the Salmon Interactions Working Group was published. This was the culmination of 18 months' work, between October 2018 and April 2020. Members of the group included representatives from Fisheries Management Scotland, the aquaculture industry, environmental NGOs and regulators.

Agreement on the 42 recommendations was unanimous and, when implemented, will create a regulatory framework that will protect wild salmonids and proactively seek to address negative interactions. This would include a lead body responsible for regulating wild and farmed interactions, licence conditions to safeguard wild salmonids, and appropriate sanctions where regulatory

standards are not met. At the time of writing the Scottish Government has yet to publish its response, so we continue our push for meaningful action on regulatory reform.

In August, a large escape of farmed fish occurred in the Kilbrannan Sound. Following early reports of farmed salmon in the River Leven, a study was initiated to understand the distribution of escaped farmed salmon entering fresh water. 466 reports of farmed salmon entering 16 rivers were received, with 310 scale samples provided. Scale reading confirmed that at least 95 percent of these fish were of farmed origin. We now need to understand whether these farmed fish can survive to spawn with native populations, and if so, what the genetic impact is. With funding from Mowi Scotland, Fisheries Management Scotland and Marine Scotland Science designed a genetic monitoring study, which will identify levels of genetic changes, if any, across relevant rivers. This will be reported in 2022. We welcome the proactive engagement from Mowi during the management of this escape.

Disappointingly, there were other significant escapes in 2020, and we are engaging with the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation to ensure that all companies take their responsibilities seriously and to develop a consistent escape management strategy.

A major area of work in 2020 was the development of high-quality Environmental Management Plans for several salmon farms. Environmental Management Plans are a condition of planning designed to support the monitoring and mitigation of salmon farms for wild salmonid populations in the absence of a suitable

regulatory system. This provides a process through which a farm's activities will be monitored and incorporate adaptive management where changes are required to protect wild salmonids. Working with members and the industry, Fisheries Management Scotland has supported several of these processes, and these will continue to play a strong role in interactions management.

There were several planning proposals for new or expanded farm sites in 2020. Fisheries Management Scotland has been supporting members to respond to these proposals, which is challenging due to

the delays in delivering the recommendations of the Salmon Interactions Working Group. Part of my role is to improve the pre-application discussions with the industry in order that concerns relating to wild-farmed interactions can be raised and discussed at an early stage in the process.

In a very interesting development, 2020 saw the first application related to a semi-closed containment site in Scotland. While we must ensure that due diligence is done, we see this as a positive step.

Our members responded to 343 proposed developments, including 53 responses to fish farms, with a view to protecting wild fish



Fish farm in Loch Roag. ©Richard Davies

Staff update - Pressures on Wild Atlantic Salmon



Sean Dugan
Manager
Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination
Centre

The Scottish Fisheries Co-ordination Centre (SFCC) was established in 1997 as an association of Fisheries Trusts, District Salmon Fishery Boards, Scottish Government, SEPA, SNH (now NatureScot) and others interested in the evidence-based management of freshwater fish and fisheries in Scotland. In 2017 SFCC became an integral part of Fisheries Management Scotland, while maintaining a distinct membership and funding stream.

Our key roles are to help our members collect and store important fisheries management data in a consistent manner, provide a forum for discussion of fisheries science and management, and provide a suite of training in methods of data collection, management and analysis. We are also now working with Buglife to develop training in invertebrate sampling and identification.

During 2020, in the light of Covid-19, we moved to online delivery of training – including electrofishing refresher courses, delivered by Bob Laughton (Findhorn, Nairn & Lossie Fisheries Trust) and scale reading training,

delivered by Ronald Campbell (Tweed Foundation). We have also started working with our members to develop mobile field data collection tools, to assist rapid collection of information on topics such as wild fish health, the presence of pink salmon, predation, pollution, fisheries enforcement and the assessment of habitat quality.

A major workstream in 2020 was the development, in partnership with Marine Scotland, of a map-based approach to aid the identification and quantification of pressures on wild Atlantic salmon across Scotland. The outputs from this important piece of work will feed into Scotland's Wild Salmon Strategy and will, for the first time, provide a consistent, shared view of the severity and spatial extent of these pressures on our wild Atlantic salmon.

Fisheries biologists and river managers across Scotland have contributed extensively to this process and the outputs will be available for use in local fisheries management plans. They will also allow pressures to be prioritised at local, regional and national scales to help target management

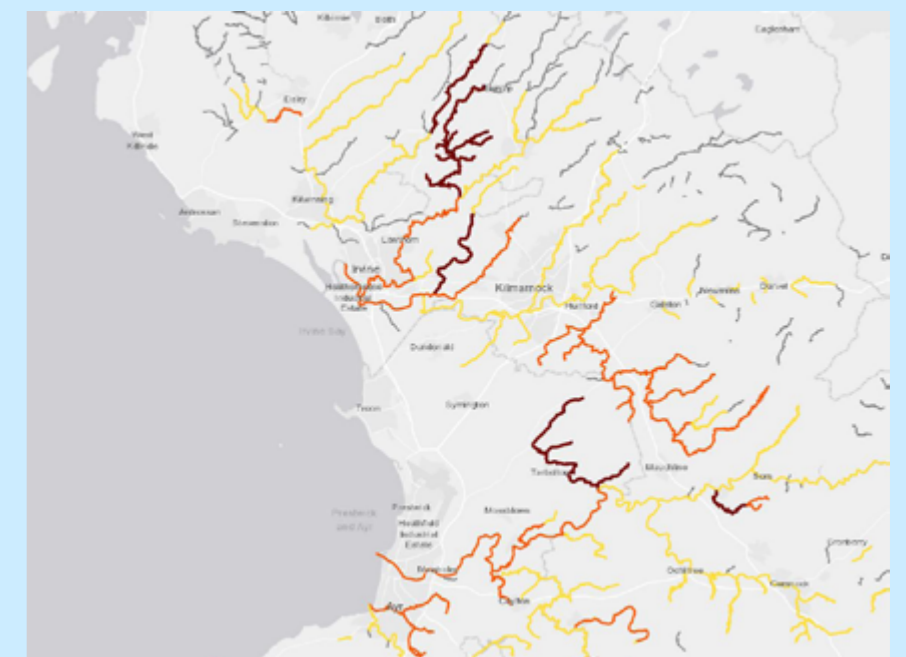
action. All information has been collated within an interactive map and our intention is to make this information available for the public to explore later in the year.

The pressures mapping process is similar to work undertaken in Norway in recent years. We were delighted to welcome Torbjørn Forseth, chair of the Norwegian Scientific Advisory Committee for Atlantic Salmon Management, to our annual biologists' meeting in February. This was an important opportunity to discuss the similarities and differences in the two approaches, and it was heartening to receive positive feedback from Norway.

We hope that the outputs of the mapping pressures tools will play a central role in helping our members and decision makers address the wild salmon crisis through evidence-based action.



Diffuse pollution photographed by drone, Ayrshire Rivers Trust



Diffuse pollution records provided as part of the mapping salmon pressures project with orange and red colours showing the most severely impacted reaches. Ayrshire Rivers Trust.



**Our members
worked with 53
schools & engaged
4,088 pupils**



Member focus

Volunteers – the backbone of the Trust

Shona Marshall
Fisheries Biologist, West Sutherland Fisheries Trust

Volunteers are the backbone of the West Sutherland Fisheries Trust. With only 1.5 employees covering 1,800 km² of mainly river, loch and bog, you could be forgiven for thinking that we must either achieve very little or need to concentrate on a very small area.

However, our “routine” work – from monitoring mink rafts, through invasive plant treatment, to electrofishing, operating smolt traps and sweep netting, and developing extensive datasets – is spread across an area covering over 50 catchments. Add to that catchment surveys, monitoring of aquaculture activities, education and general administration duties among

others, and I would be as bold as to say that we punch above our weight throughout the area.

So, can we bow and say how wonderful we are? In truth, not fully. Behind the scenes there is an army of over 50 volunteers, not to mention the numerous eyes reporting sightings. This army has helped us to eliminate four populations of invasive species and severely restrict many more. The traps and netting could not be operated without them (yes, I’m a weakling!), and their expertise in a range of other matters – not to mention their humour - have helped with the smooth running of all our work. This army is, indeed, our backbone

and without them the coverage and the projects would be significantly fewer, and the experience a lot less fun.

If you would like to help, then please get in touch with your local Fisheries Trust. Volunteering provides a great opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and have a bit of fun, while helping the rivers and lochs, and their many inhabitants.

Our members engaged 245 volunteers



Invasive plant control. ©West Sutherland Fisheries Trust



Member focus

The River Calder: a restoration project

Roger Knight
River Director, Spey Fishery Board

The River Calder is a major tributary of the upper Spey, draining Glen Banchor, above Newtonmore, and is surrounded by a mountain and moorland landscape. Spey Fishery Board data indicated that – compared to other, similar tributaries – the Calder has been under-performing in terms of its productivity for salmon and trout, with numbers of fry and parr consistently low since the early 1990s. It was believed that this is partially due to the relative uniformity of channel geomorphology, linked to the sparsity of riparian woodland and, consequently, lack of woody material in the channel.

During 2020, the Spey Catchment Initiative hired local contractors to harvest whole trees, with root plates attached, from a nearby windblown plantation and install 29 of these as medial and lateral structures in the river channel, under the guidance of consultants Cbec Eco-engineering. This will help restore and enhance habitats to bolster salmonid breeding success, with 12 new salmon redds observed there later in the year. It will also mitigate

flood risk by slowing the flow and raising the riverbed due to gravel deposition around the large wood structures. This, in turn, will encourage the river to spread out at higher flows and reduce flood risk in Newtonmore below. Sustainability of the project is ensured through delivery of a complementary initiative to create over 22 hectares of new riparian native woodland

on both banks of the Calder, together with deer fencing, which is due for completion this spring.

Overall, this project has the potential for landscape-scale improvements and real climate change adaptation in this relatively unwooded upland glen. Full details of the project are available in the Spey Fishery Board’s 2020 annual report.



Installing large woody structures on the River Calder. ©Spey Fishery Board

Our members improved 2,264km of river habitat



Member focus

Invisible enemies: chemical concerns

Richie Miller
Director, The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust & River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board

Following concerns raised about water quality, the River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (RDevDSFB) and the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (DBIRCT) have developed a routine water monitoring strategy for the Deveron catchment, working with the James Hutton Institute (JHI) in Aberdeen.

Initial samples were collected in June 2017 from three sites on the Deveron mainstem (upper, middle and lower) but the sampling programme has now been expanded to nine sites on the five major tributaries (Bogie, Isla, Fergie, Turriff and King Edward) and an upper mainstem site.

The samples are collected when run-off is high (after heavy rain) and the risk of contaminants entering the river is at its highest. The samples are analysed by the JHI for a range of water quality measures. In most cases these analyses were not of significant concern.

However, a range of pesticides, fungicides and insecticides have been detected in many of the samples over four consecutive years and appear to be routinely entering the

river during high rainfall events. These chemicals include Clorpyrifos, Epoxiconazole, Permethrin and Cypermethrin. While the data are from a limited number of samples, it is extremely concerning that these chemicals are being routinely detected, even if in very low concentrations.

A longer-term study is required to fully understand seasonal fluctuations and potential sources. Using methods developed from a longer-term study on the River Ugie, the JHI has compared the Deveron data to a system of ecotoxicological thresholds and applied categories of risk (low, medium and high). Despite being banned since 2016, Clorpyrifos

has routinely shown up in samples at medium risk levels, Epoxiconazole at low levels, Permethrin at low-to-medium levels and, of most concern, Cypermethrin (toxic to aquatic invertebrates and fish) found at low-to-high levels.

As a result, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) has begun its own investigations and the RDevDSFB and DBIRCT will continue their own monitoring, working with the JHI. We have initiated a campaign to raise awareness of the presence of these chemicals and the damage they can cause to the freshwater environment and the fishery.



River Deveron. ©Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust



Member focus

Land Management in Glen Clova

Dr Craig MacIntyre
Director, Esks Rivers & Fisheries Trust & Esk District Salmon Fishery Board

Located in the upper catchment of the River South Esk, Angus, Glen Clova is an important area for spawning Atlantic salmon. Much of the floor of Glen Clova is an old post-Ice Age lakebed, with a very low gradient and loose, sandy soils. Land use on the glen floor is primarily agriculture, with steep-sided river banks and little bankside vegetation. As a result, river habitat for salmonid fish is poor, with little shade and virtually no instream cover.

Since 2010, the Esks Rivers & Fisheries Trust have engaged with local landowners, and other stakeholders, to undertake projects that will lead to improved land management and, ultimately, better conditions for the ecology of the river.

In 2012, the Rottal Burn was re-meandered to provide, among other benefits, more stable habitat for spawning salmon and sea trout. Stream length increased from 800m to 1200m, and this has created more diverse habitat.

In 2015, ERFT and Tilhill brought landowners together for the Glen Clova Contour Planting Project. This project

aimed to retain more water on hillsides and slow the rate of flow entering the river by planting a corridor of trees on the hillsides. The first phase of planting was completed on Rottal Estate in 2019, and plans for have been submitted for a further 945 hectares of planting on the neighbouring Clova Estate.

ERFT has also started installing woody debris to the banks of the South Esk in the glen, to create cover and shade for the river. To date, six sites have been completed in the glen, and this is the start of a rolling programme for more sites. Plans are also in place for riparian tree planting and more instream work.



Top - Habitat work in Glen Clova; Bottom - Tree planting on the Rottal Burn ©Craig MacIntyre





Member focus

Fisheries protection: how the pandemic led to an upsurge in poaching

Dr Keith Williams
Director, Kyle Fisheries

Across Scotland 2020 will be remembered for an upsurge in illegal fisheries activities and associated increased workloads for enforcement staff. Despite Covid-related lockdown regulations proscribing angling activities for several months, some individuals continued to fish with rod and line. This placed a premium on communications between fishery enforcement teams and local police officers. Some issues could be dealt with under fisheries law, whereas in other cases police input was required to effectively manage matters outwith the ordinary powers of a water bailiff.

For many Fishery Boards and angling clubs, ensuring the health and safety of individuals engaged in enforcement was a key consideration, given the risks associated with dealing with the public during a pandemic. Operating procedures required constant review and adaptation in order to ensure that enforcement was conducted in accordance with evolving guidance from the Scottish Government.

In the Kyle of Sutherland catchment there were a number of incidents, both

during and after the initial lockdown period. A number of individuals saw fit to travel long distances within Scotland to fish within this district, presumably on the assumption that bailiffs would not be operating and furloughed ghillies would not be present on the riverbanks.

In cases where breaches of fishery law were evident, individuals were dealt with by bailiffs, often in conjunction

with local police. Illegal netting activity during the night also increased compared to levels seen locally in recent years. A net was retrieved with two dead salmon enmeshed from one river, and instruments associated with netting seized on another occasion. The vigilance of bailiffs and increased use of thermal imaging equipment certainly prevented more illegal activity taking place.



Top - launching a marine patrol; Bottom - Illegal gill net ©Kyle of Sutherland DSFB



Member focus

Gaining experience with Galloway Fisheries Trust

Abbie Nye
Fisheries Intern, Galloway Fisheries Trust

I am an MSc graduate in aquatic ecology with a great interest in fisheries. Prior to making my way to Scotland I had a number of opportunities to develop skills and knowledge of the aquatic world. These included the opportunity to work with members of the Wild Trout Trust during my MSc, where I began to develop my interest in fisheries management and conservation.

I then became an intern at the Zoological Society of London, working within the estuaries and wetlands team in a role with a particular focus on European eel monitoring. When I discovered there was an opportunity to work with Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) it looked like the perfect next step for me. And it was, over the last six months I have had the amazing opportunity to work as part of the team at GFT on an internship supported by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership and the Holywood Trust.

When not out in the field I have been delivering some of my own projects, including an assessment of GFT's electrofishing and water quality data on the High Cree to

evaluate changes in the health of the brown trout population. In addition, I have developed a learning resource on the lifecycle and conservation of the European eel, a species of particular interest to me. This has given me the opportunity to further my experience in scientific communication and also get creative when producing a stop motion animation video to make the story of the eel exciting and accessible for children.

My time at GFT has been a fantastic opportunity for me to expand my skill set and jump into the world of fisheries biology. As part of my internship I also had the opportunity to attend training courses and gained my First Aid

at Work qualification as well as my drone operator licence. I have no doubt that these experiences and qualifications will enhance my employability greatly and support my future career in fisheries management and conservation.



Left - Targetted salmon stocking; Right - Fish surveys. ©GFT

The Missing Salmon Alliance



Dr Alan Wells
Chief Executive Officer
Fisheries Management Scotland

The Missing Salmon Alliance is a group of conservation-focused organisations which have come together to drive action by combining expertise, coordinating activities and advocating effective management solutions.

In January 2021, Fisheries Management Scotland and the Rivers Trust joined the Atlantic Salmon Trust, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, and the Angling Trust as full members of the alliance.

The Missing Salmon Alliance will build on the work already started and increase its impact through sharing information, agreeing priorities, avoiding duplication of effort, presenting coordinated arguments and coordinating action to halt and reverse the decline of wild Atlantic salmon. The aim is to increase the scale of funding available and make efficient use of resources by being more focused and more accountable, with the goal of building an evidence-base to influence national and international decision-makers to regulate activities that adversely impact wild salmon.

Our wild salmon are reaching crisis point, and it is vital that

we work collaboratively across the UK to help wild salmon survive and thrive in our rivers and seas. As the representative body for Scotland's District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts we look forward to playing a key role, in partnership with the members of the alliance. Our members, working with a range of key stakeholders, have a long track record of delivering essential work to protect and enhance salmon in Scotland, but through the Missing Salmon Alliance our collective capacity to address the pressures which wild salmon face will be significantly enhanced.

Projects currently underway include the likely suspects framework and parallel initiatives to identify and prioritise pressures facing Atlantic salmon, tracking initiatives to understand how

**Our members
planted
108,385 native
trees beside
rivers**

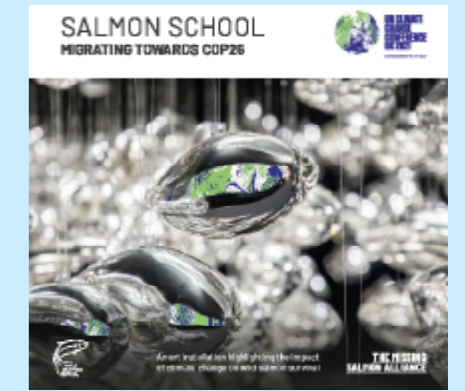
our salmon utilise the marine environment, work to address the impacts of aquaculture and develop a regulatory system that is fit-for-purpose, and projects to restore habitat and increase resilience in the face of climate change. You can learn more about these projects in a brochure entitled 'Wild salmon in hot water' available on the website. One priority is to facilitate delivery of targeted riparian woodland creation across Scotland.

The Missing Salmon Alliance is the lead partner in an

ambitious proposal to raise awareness of the wild salmon crisis at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. Our intention is to bring 'Salmon School' to Glasgow – more than 500 salmon-like forms, sculpted from mirrored molten glass, suspended in awe-inspiring formation. This giant salmon shoal will coalesce at COP26 after collecting individual stories from a wide range of communities on how climate change has devastated this once prolific species. By placing wild salmon at the forefront of the climate change debate

we can help provide a range of measures that will reduce or eliminate the impact climate change is having.

More information can be found at www.missingsalmonalliance.org.



Rotary screw trap. ©Atlantic Salmon Trust

Operation Wingspan



Police Scotland is running a year-long awareness raising campaign to tackle wildlife crime across the country.

Operation Wingspan, which started in October last year, focuses on each of the National Police Chief Council (NPCC) wildlife crime priorities in turn.

Phase four, in April and May, will highlight raptor persecution, while phase five tackles poaching. Previous phases have covered CITES, badger persecution and bat crime.

Reports of wildlife crime are on the increase. During lockdown most of this increase has been

associated with poaching. Tackling poaching is high on Police Scotland, its partners and the public agenda.

Operation Wingspan has run a series of social media campaigns focusing on each of the phases, to encourage the public to report crimes and to highlight the commitment and work of Police Scotland and partners in tackling these crimes. As well as the social media campaign, preventative activities will be carried out and all opportunities to take enforcement action will be fully explored.

Police Scotland is committed to tackling Wildlife Crime.

Poaching is hugely damaging to both the natural environment and local economies throughout Scotland. As such, during Operation Wingspan Police Scotland will be implementing proactive interventions to reduce these crimes and will conduct enforcement activity where possible.

Police Scotland look forward to working with Fisheries Management Scotland and members in addressing fish crime both at national level and through local joint working.

Working with Police Scotland

Brian Davidson
Director of Communications & Administration
Fisheries Management Scotland

Fisheries Management Scotland is engaging closely with Police Scotland and other enforcement partners through the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime (PAW). Operation Wingspan is an important initiative for 2021 which will help us tackle fish poaching through focused engagement with Police Scotland at national and local level. During 2020, we saw an alarming 282% increase in fish poaching incidents, with the pandemic being a significant contributory factor in this statistic. We applaud the joint efforts of our members' bailiff teams working effectively with Police Scotland to detect and prevent illegal activity against a difficult operational background caused by Covid-19.

Rural Crime (SPARC). In light of the experience of Covid-19 and changes to public behaviour, there will be a strong focus on 'visitor management' issues through SPARC in 2021. Many of these issues impact on fishing and involve poaching. We are conscious that there are already some positive local initiatives between our members through SPARC and we will be working with the partnership to promote further local collaboration where there are gaps and potential to do so.

Sea trout caught in an illegal gill net.
©Forth DSFB



Our members seized 93 illegal instruments, issued 244 cautions and reported 154 offences to Police Scotland, resulting in 14 successful convictions

Fish poaching as a wildlife crime can also be tackled through other national initiatives. Fisheries Management Scotland have been exploring with Police Scotland potential for partnership working through the Scottish Partnership against



©Police Scotland

Working together to restore our freshwater environment



Karen Ramoo
Policy Adviser
Scottish Land & Estates

The freshwater environment delivers a range of social, economic and environmental benefits and it is essential that careful management is undertaken to protect, enhance and restore it.

Against the backdrop of rapidly declining fish numbers, the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss make this work more important than ever and many Scottish Land & Estates members are seizing the opportunity to protect and restore the natural river environment. Restoration activities have been widespread, with catchment projects taking the lead – including ambitious tree planting schemes and large-scale restoration initiatives.

The last few years have seen some exciting progress in the development and implementation of integrated catchment management approaches – with land managers, Fishery Boards and Trusts and other key stakeholders coming together to create unique partnerships that deliver multiple benefits.

Below are some examples highlighting the joint efforts being undertaken to restore and enhance our freshwater environment – providing benefits to biodiversity, improving resilience to climate change and supporting broader social and economic objectives.

Riparian woodland schemes

The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust have been working directly with land managers along the riverbanks of the upper Dee and its tributaries to develop an extensive riparian tree planting scheme, with 250,000 native trees now planted. The project has worked closely with several estates (Mar Lodge, Mar, Invercauld, Glenmuick and Balmoral) to ensure integration of riparian woodland with other land management activities.

The planting aims to reduce the

impacts of rising temperatures on the freshwater environment. As the trees establish, they will help to reduce water temperatures during the summer months in these important salmon spawning and nursery areas, stabilise banks and reduce sediments entering the river, as well as enrich biodiversity.

Peatland restoration

Dryhope Farm on the Philiphaugh Estate in the Scottish Borders restored 77 hectares of peatland. The blanket bog retains, releases and filters water that flows down the Kirkstead Burn (one of many vital spawning burns for trout and salmon in the upper Tweed) into St Mary's Loch and from there into the Yarrow Water.

Damaged, bare peat and drainage channels were reducing the capacity of the peatland to stay wet and regulate the water flow. The estate recognised the wider benefits of restoration within the Tweed catchment. Working with Tweed Forum a programme of restoration works was developed, which included reprofiling of bare peat areas and blocking drainage ditches. Peatland

Action and Forest Carbon supported the reprofiling and SRDP funding allowed for the blocking of a network of drainage ditches.

The work will not only improve water flow regulation in the Tweed catchment but will also increase carbon storage, improve water quality, and create better habitats for upland wildlife. The work builds on other complementary habitat restoration carried out by the estate over the last 20 years, including 70 hectares of native riparian tree planting.

Re-meandering

Rottal estate in the Angus Glens worked with the Esk Fishery Board and the Esk Fishery Trust to return 800m of

the Rottal Burn to its original meandering channels and, in so doing, increasing its length to over 1200m, and slowing the flow of water. The Fishery Board has since recorded five times the number of juvenile fish in the river. The addition of large woody debris – in the form of windblown Scots pines, along with new tree planting – has provided benefits for biodiversity, carbon storage and flood resilience. Funding for this work came from the SEPA Water Environment Fund.

For more information on the great work being done by land managers, visit www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/helping-it-happen

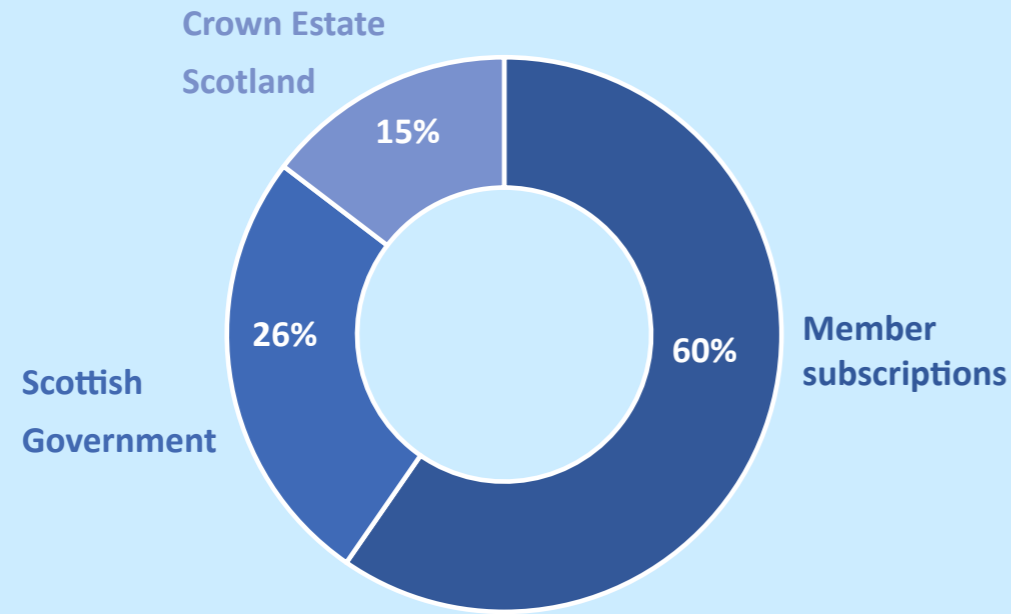


Upper Dee Riparian Woodland Scheme. ©River Dee Trust



Glenmuick ©River Dee Trust

Our funding



As a representative body, the majority of funding for our core activities comes from our members - Scotland's District Salmon Fishery Boards and Rivers and Fisheries Trusts. Grant funding for specific projects is received from Marine Scotland and Crown Estate Scotland.

The strength of Fisheries Management Scotland is thanks to our members, who work collectively to conserve Scotland's wild salmon and native freshwater fish and the environment on which they depend. In addition to the income highlighted above, approximately £80k was distributed directly to our members - this arises from Scottish Government and Crown Estate Scotland grant funding (see below).

The majority of our expenditure relates to our staff, who are dedicated to advocating for our iconic migratory and freshwater fish and the freshwater environment.



Funding received in 2020

- Aquaculture and wild fish interaction (Marine Scotland)
- Developing agreed techniques to monitor lice burdens on wild salmonids in the light of the coronavirus pandemic (Marine Scotland - distributed to members)
- Wild fish sea lice monitoring protocol project (Crown Estate Scotland - distributed to members)
- Scottish Angling National Development Structure (Marine Scotland - delivered by Countryside Learning Scotland)
- Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre (Marine Scotland)

2020 catches*

Catches in 2020 will inevitably come with an asterisk due to the spring lockdown and subsequent travel restrictions impacting on angling effort. However, as you will see below, many rivers recorded excellent catches in the circumstances, particularly those rivers in which angling effort could be maintained. 2021 catch statistics will be keenly anticipated to see if the positive signs in 2020 are maintained.

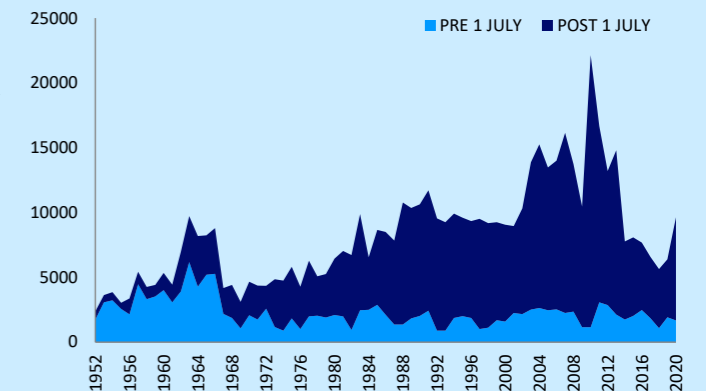


©Reuben Sweeting

TWEED

Jamie Stewart
Director, The Tweed Foundation

Without Covid-related restrictions, the salmon rod catch would probably have exceeded 10,000. Salmon catches in June and July provide the strongest indication yet that Tweed run timing has switched from the autumn to late spring/summer.



Salmon rod catch - 9,640; 10 yr average - 9,625
Sea trout rod catch - 1,884; 10 yr average - 1,849
Largest salmon: 35lb; Largest sea trout: n/a

Tweed rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: River Tweed Commission
Season: 1 Feb – 30 Nov

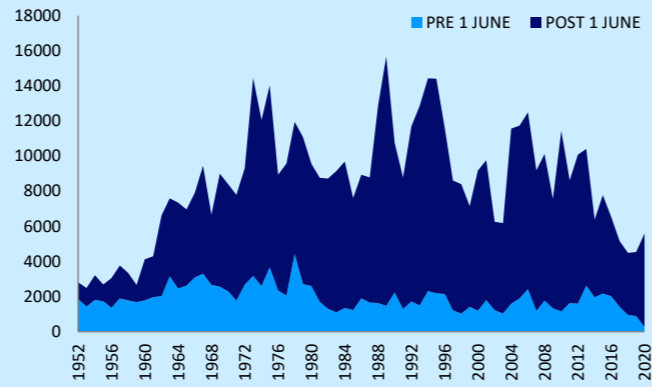
TAY

David Summers

Director, Tay DSFB and Tay Rivers Trust

The season started poorly, due to very high water, which was then compounded by the lockdown. Not all beats resumed fishing in June, but a number fished well beyond expectations. A better than expected run of fresh MSW salmon continued into July and was overlapped by grilse. Catches of fresh fish continued into August in the lower river, but thereafter colouring fish dominated everywhere. The July catch was double the previous 5-year average and August was 50 percent up. Some lower beats had their best summer in many years, but once again there were very few fresh autumn fish. Data from SSE's Pitlochry fish counter are not displayed because SSE have confirmed there is now a significant issue with the counter's accuracy which seems to stem from a counter upgrade in 2018.

Salmon rod catch - 5,594; 10 yr average - 7,628
Sea trout rod catch - 1,255; 10 yr average - 1,022
Largest salmon: 35lb; Largest sea trout: n/a



Tay rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Tay DSFB

Season: 15 Jan – 15 Oct

SOUTH ESK*

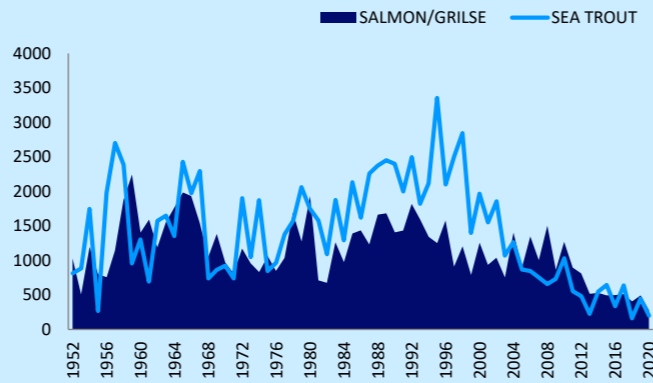
Craig Macintyre

Esk Rivers Director

It's difficult to assess the 2020 season fully, as less than half the catch returns have been provided at this stage. However, the feeling on the river was that there were more fish than in recent years, helped by good water levels in late June, which encouraged a decent run of fish. As part of a programme of environmental improvements, six locations in Glen Clova had large woody structures installed, with the aim of providing shade and cover for adult fish, as well as protecting riverbanks from increased erosion.

*Provisional figures

Salmon rod catch - 277; 10 yr average - 723
Sea trout rod catch - 198; 10 yr average - 538
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a



South Esk rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Esk DSFB

Season: 16 Feb – 31 Oct

NORTH ESK*

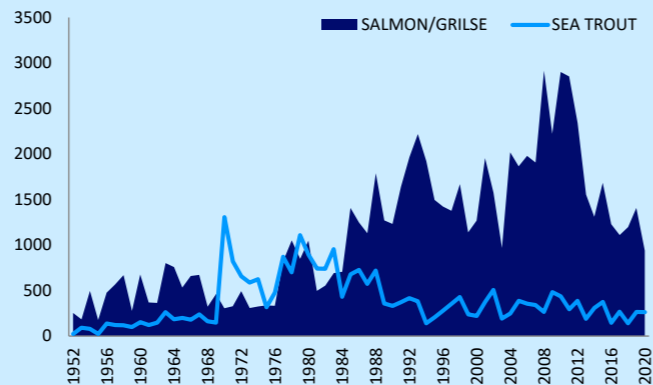
Craig Macintyre

Esk Rivers Director

It is difficult to assess the 2020 catch in relation to previous years, due to a lack of catch data (only about 50 percent of beats have reported their final catches to date) and the absence of a figure from the North Esk fish counter, which has not yet been provided by Marine Scotland Science. However, what we did see mirrored previous years, with the bulk of the run occurring during summer months, and few fresh fish appearing during the spring and autumn. There were no improvements made to the North Esk in 2020, however the river remains in a very healthy state. Although the counter at Logie is damaged, MSS - through the use of a model - estimates that over 12,500 salmon ascended the North Esk, the highest number since 2010.

*Provisional figures

Salmon rod catch - 938; 10 yr average - 1,941
Sea trout rod catch - 262; 10 yr average - 453
Largest salmon: 25lb; Largest sea trout: 8lb



North Esk rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Esk DSFB

Season: 16 Feb – 31 Oct

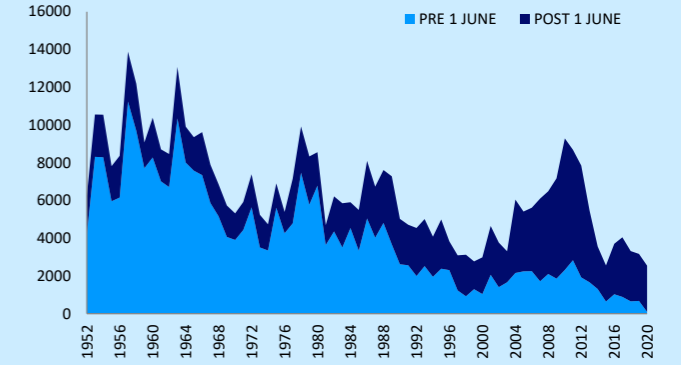
DEE

Lorraine Hawkins

River Dee Director

Spring fishing was closed for 10 weeks, and our annual salmon catch would likely have been at least as good as 2019 had the full season been fished, but the bigger picture is a 40-year decline in spring catches. Our management focus remains environmental restoration and last year we planted 60,000 riverbank trees, towards our one million tree target, installed 40 large woody structures into streams, made two tributary-floodplain reconnections and monitored nutrient addition trials. The river has been fully catch-and-release for 20 years, but despite such voluntary measures, there are still concerns that smolt output is low and reduced further by predation.

Salmon rod catch - 2,553; 10 yr average - 5,180
Sea trout rod catch - 510; 10 yr average - 1,393
Largest salmon: 30lb; Largest sea trout: n/a



Dee rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Dee DSFB

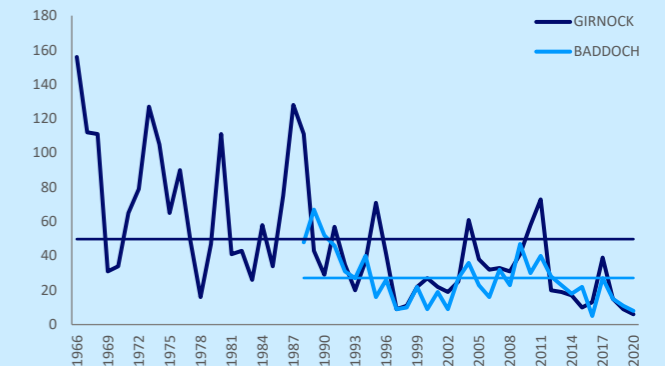
Season: 1 Feb – 15 Oct

GIRNOCK & BADDOCH FISH TRAPS (RIVER DEE)

Faye Jackson

Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory – Marine Scotland Science

MSS operate two traps on upper tributaries of the Aberdeenshire River Dee that are dominated by early-running multi-sea-winter spring salmon, the stock component that has been of most concern in recent decades. Although numbers of male and female salmon caught at the traps show similar temporal trends, female numbers are plotted here as they are considered the fundamental spawning component. In 2020 there were eight females caught in the Baddoch trap and six females caught in the Girnock trap. These were the second lowest and lowest returns on record, representing 29% and 12% of the time-series means respectively. However, it should be noted that the Baddoch mean was calculated over a shorter time period characterised by lower adult returns. The extremely low numbers of returning adult females is consistent with the combined effects of poor marine survival and low smolt production. This was especially true for the Girnock, where emigrant production (autumn parr and smolts) for the relevant years (2018 and 2019) was the lowest and second lowest on record.



Girnock & Baddoch female upstream burn trap counts 1966-2020

Source – Marine Scotland Science © Crown copyright.

Number of adult females returning to the Girnock and Baddoch traps on Deeside. Long-term mean values are shown for each site.



©Reuben Sweeting

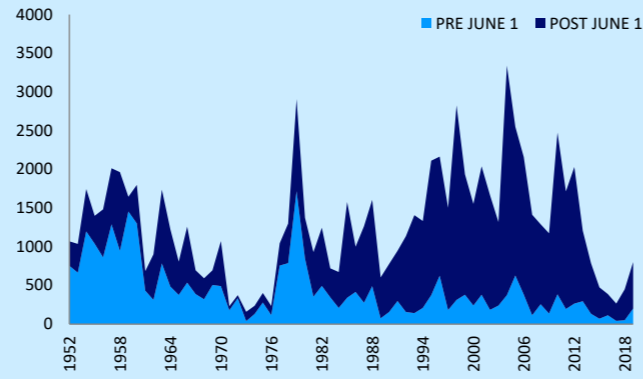
DON*

Lorraine Hawkins
River Don Director

Although the final 2020 figures are not yet available, the estimated catch is around 300 salmon – due to Covid-19 restrictions and a general lack of fish – and the redd counts were substantially lower than in 2019. A poor spring and summer – not helped by low summer flows – were only turned around in October. A tracking programme found that only 8 percent of Don smolts reached the sea, causing concern over the impact of several old weirs in the lower river. The board is progressing the easement of key obstructions, but not of the substantial structures on the lower main stem.

*Provisional figures

Salmon rod catch - 802; 10 yr average - 1,054
Sea trout rod catch - 108; 10 yr average - 208
Largest salmon: 25lb; Largest sea trout: 8lb



Don rod catch statistics 1952-2019

Source: Don DSFB

Season: 11 Feb – 31 Oct

DEVERON

Richard Miller

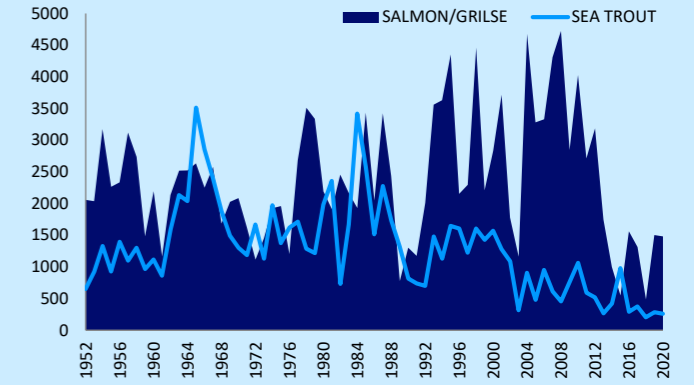
Director, Deveron DSFB & Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

The 2020 season proved to be encouraging, despite the pandemic-related restrictions, which resulted in an estimated 40% less rod effort on the river. Angling effort between February and end of May was insignificant and the season only really commenced from June. June, July, and October were the most productive months, with catches in August and September being curtailed due to prolonged low water. There was a notable increase in large salmon reported, with several fish over 20lb being landed, especially in October following a significant rise of water. Michael MacDonald became the 10th winner of the Morison Trophy, landing a 35lb salmon from Forglen.

Salmon rod catch - 1,483; 10 yr average - 1,598

Sea trout rod catch - 260; 10 yr average - 396

Largest salmon: 35lb; Largest sea trout: 8lb



Deveron rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Deveron DSFB

Season: 11 Feb-31 Oct

YTHAN

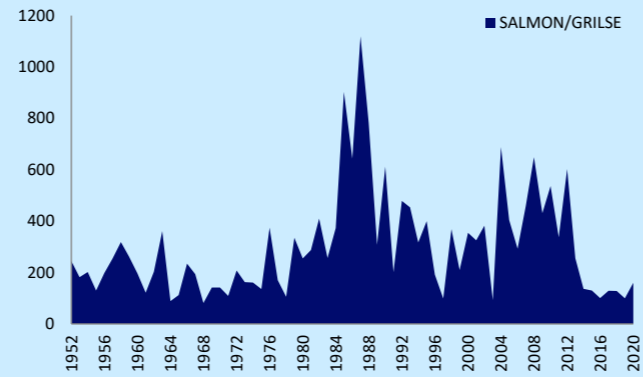
Mark Andrew
Ythan DSFB

It was a much better season, well above the five-year average for both salmon and sea trout, with sea trout fishing particularly good in the estuary. Diffuse pollution remains our largest concern. We have sprayed off all invasive plants in the catchment for the seventh year, but there's still some giant hogweed along the main stem of the River Ythan and Tarty Burn. Bailiffs cleared ranunculus from sections of the Ebrie Burn for sea trout and salmon spawning. The areas cleared are all within the 1 km section that is surveyed for redds. Four redds had been established by the end of November.

Salmon rod catch - 160; 10 yr average - 216

Sea trout rod catch - 1,670; 10 yr average - 1,567

Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a



Ythan rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Ythan DSFB

Season: 11 Feb – 31 Oct

SPEY

Roger Knight

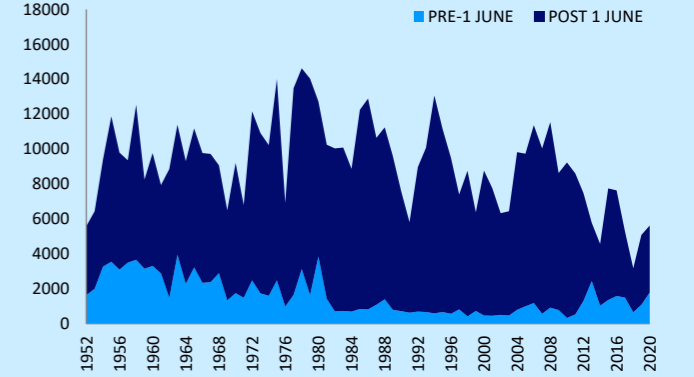
Director, Spey Fishery Board

2020 proved to be a good year for anglers – despite Covid restrictions reducing the season by almost three months, 10 percent more salmon and grilse were caught than in 2019. The board remains concerned by the significant water abstraction in the upper catchment at Spey Dam, where substantial volumes are diverted to Fort William, severely impacting the upper Spey's salmon population. The board will continue to work closely with GFG Alliance and SEPA and looks forward to improvements to the dam's fish pass being implemented during 2021.

Salmon rod catch - 5,622; 10 yr average - 6,098

Sea trout rod catch - 987; 10 yr average - 1,758

Largest salmon: 30lb; Largest sea trout: 11lb



Spey rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Spey DSFB

Season: 11 Feb-30 Sept



©Staurt Brabbs

LOSSIE

Valerie Wardlaw

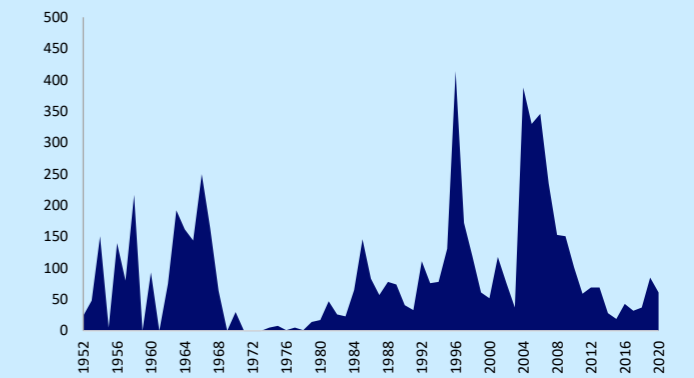
Administrator, Lossie DSFB

Salmon and sea trout catches were at the ten-year average, which is good considering the curtailed season. Water levels were low through to late summer, reducing opportunities for angling. From late September levels rose, with numerous spates allowing fish to migrate upstream. The Cloddach bridge apron is being eroded and could be causing a potential barrier to fish migration in low flows. INNS plant treatment continued, and treatment progressed downstream to new areas, nearing the outskirts of Elgin. Three mink were caught. We aim to increase the release rate of sea trout to 75 percent.

Salmon rod catch - 61; 10 yr average - 63

Sea trout rod catch - 87; 10 yr average - 81

Largest salmon: 10lb; Largest sea trout: 3lb



Lossie rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Lossie DSFB

Season: 1 Apr – 31 Oct

FINDHORN

Valerie Wardlaw

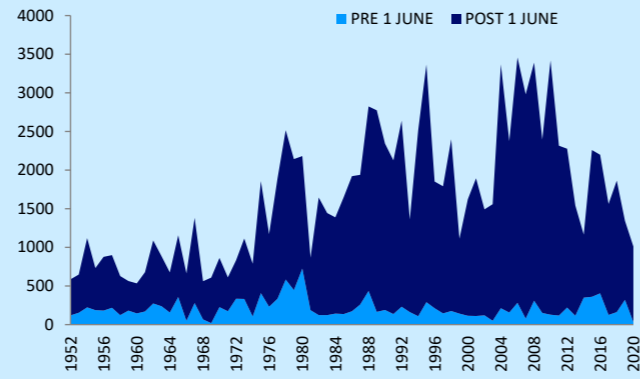
Administrator, Findhorn DSFB

A 24lb salmon was caught on the opening day, with good catches continuing until the cessation of angling on 24 March. The middle beats saw good numbers of salmon and grilse during August, but summer angling was poor on the lower beats, due to low water levels. The total catch was down by only 25 percent on the previous year, which was surprising considering the season was curtailed by ten weeks and angling on many stretches was cancelled for the season. INNS plant control continued, ten mink were captured along the Moray Coast and major bridge repairs at Tomatin were completed with little disturbance to the river habitat.

Salmon rod catch - 1,010; 10 yr average - 2,000

Sea trout rod catch - 66; 10 yr average - 116

Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a



Findhorn rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Findhorn DSFB

Season: 11 Feb – 30 Sep

NAIRN*

John Prince

Nairn DSFB

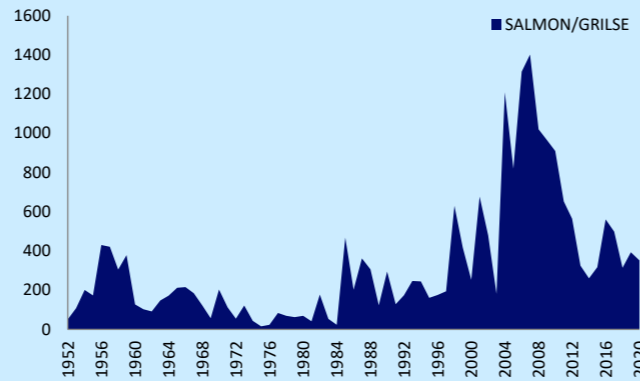
Despite the disruptions caused by Covid-related restrictions – first on angling, then on travel – the catch statistics are very encouraging. While the full statistics are not yet available, those provided by the Nairn Angling Association tend to account for about 85 percent of the river's catches. Despite the loss of the peak spring fishing, they suggest a decent, if dislocated, season.

*Provisional figures

Salmon rod catch - 352; 10 yr average - n/a

Sea trout rod catch - 20; 10 yr average - n/a

Largest salmon: n/a ; Largest sea trout: n/a



Nairn rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Nairn DSFB

Season: 11 Feb - 7 Oct

NESS

Chris Conroy

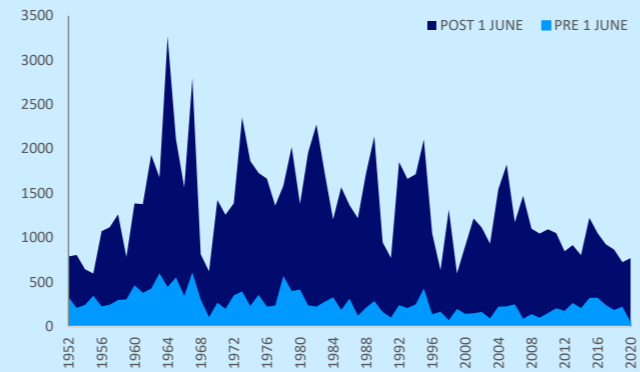
Director, Ness DSFB

With salmon numbers in decline across the North Atlantic, the additional impacts of Covid-19 made this a challenging season. The national lockdown closed the river for two full months during the peak spring period. Fishing effort was much reduced when partial lifting of the lockdown came into effect. Despite this, the total catch exceeded that of the previous year. Grilse catches were the third highest for 10 years, with an encouraging increase in summer and autumn MSW salmon for the first time in five years. If Covid hadn't struck, this would likely have been a relatively good year for the Ness system.

Salmon rod catch - 770; 10 yr average - 906

Sea trout rod catch - 55; 10 yr average - 71

Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a



Ness rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Ness DSFB

Season: 1 Feb-30 Sept

BEAULY*

Ruth Watts

Senior Biologist, Beauly DSFB

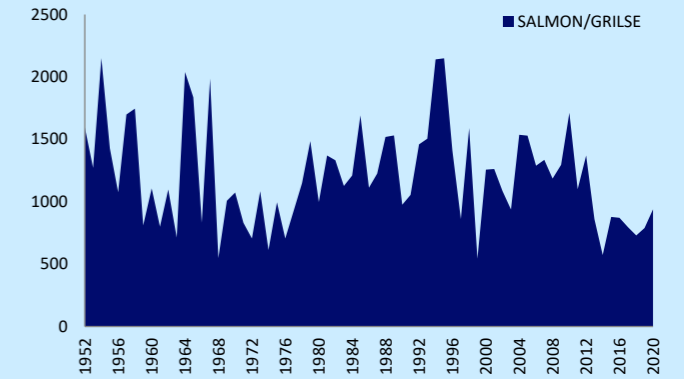
Despite Covid, the total number of salmon caught exceeded the 10-year average and was the best since 2012. July and the last week of the season saw peak catches on the Lower Beauly. Unvalidated count data suggest a minimum of 3,374 fish ascended the fish pass at Kilmorack between April-November, this is slightly below the 10-year average, but is higher than equivalent figures from 2017-2019. Peak migration was 14 August, later than 2019, where the peak was 1 July. Smolt monitoring to help inform improved flow management and smolt output in the catchment is due to start in March 2021, in partnership with SSE.

*Provisional figures

Salmon rod catch - 939; 10 yr average - 895

Sea trout rod catch - 571; 10 yr average - 548

Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a



Beauly rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Beauly DSFB

Season: 11 Feb – 15 Oct

CONON

Ross Glover

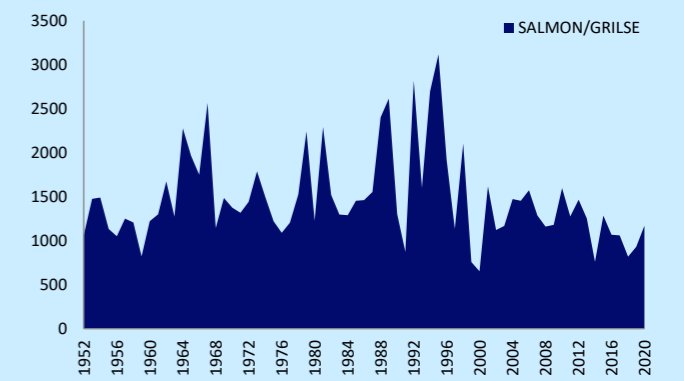
Fisheries Manager, Cromarty Firth Fishery Board

Good numbers of fish were caught on in May and June when angling resumed and the travel restrictions provided an opportunity for local anglers to fish many of the mainstem beats. The summer grilse run started strong, before gradually slowing into September. An adult fish trap on the River Blackwater supports a long-term stocking programme to mitigate the effects of hydro-power development. The upturn in the rod catch was mirrored in the trap catch, with 1,210 adults captured in 2020 – the highest count since 2012. A strong smolt run in 2020 hopefully bodes well for grilse catches in 2021.

Salmon rod catch - 1,171; 10 yr average - n/a

Sea trout rod catch - 162; 10 yr average - n/a

Largest salmon: 20lb; Largest sea trout: 6lb



Conon rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Cromarty Firth Fishery Board

Season: 11 Feb – 30 Sep

ALNESS

Ross Glover

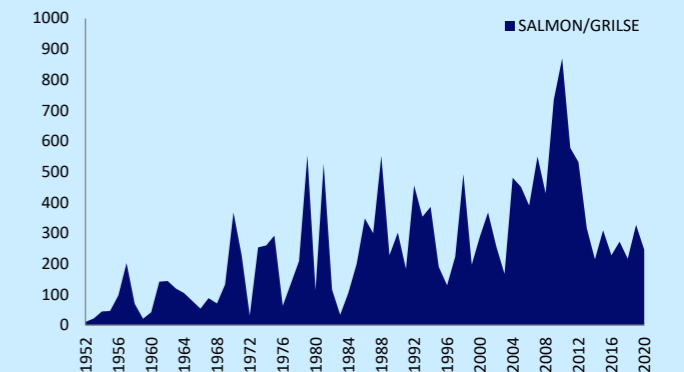
Fisheries Manager, Cromarty Firth Fishery Board

Several large fish were caught following the easing of lockdown restrictions, including a 19lb salmon. The first spate in August saw between 200 and 300 grilse ascend the Dalmore weir in a single day. Catches remained strong into October. Extensive work was carried out to the Dalmore weir to extend the fish pass and in-fill a step on the face of the weir. This will greatly improve passage for migratory salmonids over a range of flows. During the summer, reports of fish suffering from red skin disease were received. Despite extensive testing, the cause of the infection remains unknown.

Salmon rod catch - 246; 10 yr average - n/a

Sea trout rod catch - 41; 10 yr average - n/a

Largest salmon: 18lb; Largest sea trout: n/a



Alness rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Cromarty Firth Fishery Board

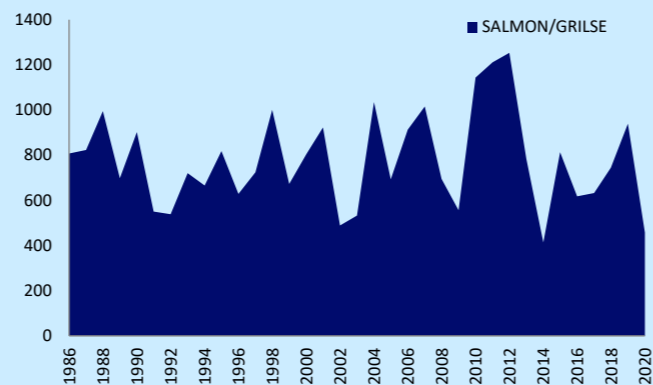
Season: 11 Feb – 30 Sep

CARRON (EAST COAST)

Keith Williams

Director, Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

Gledfield Estate keeper Callum Beattie caught the first salmon of the season from the Kyle of Sutherland rivers in January – a fine fish of 12lb. In so doing he became the inaugural winner of a quaich donated by the director of Kyle Fisheries, along with a bottle of rum. Fish had just started to arrive in numbers during March when lockdown restrictions were enacted and fishing ceased. When fishing finally resumed, water levels were initially good, but thereafter a long dry spell made fishing conditions difficult. Rainfall in September gave a late boost to catches.



Carron rod catch statistics 1986-2020

Source: Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

Season: 11 Jan – 30 Sep

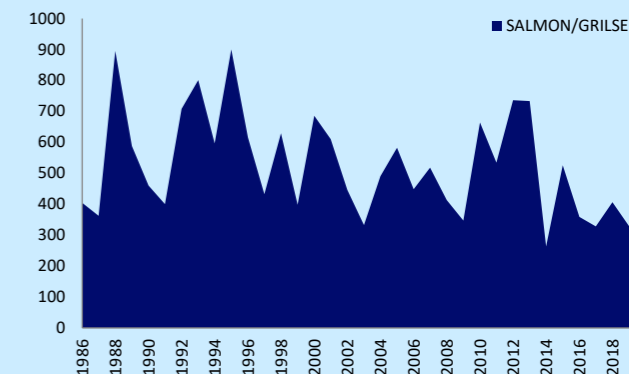
Salmon rod catch - 457; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 18; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

SHIN

Keith Williams

Director, Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

Despite the loss of spring fishing opportunities due to lockdown, more salmon were caught than in 2019, with September being the most productive month of the season. In line with the recommendations of the Shin proprietors, all salmon and grilse were returned by anglers. Preliminary data from SSE's fish counter suggests that the number of salmon and grilse returning to the upper reaches of the catchment was the highest since 2015. Over 8,000 Fiag smolts were transported and released downstream of the dams in the spring, the highest figure achieved to date.



Shin rod catch statistics 1986-2020

Source: Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

Season: 11 Jan – 30 Sep

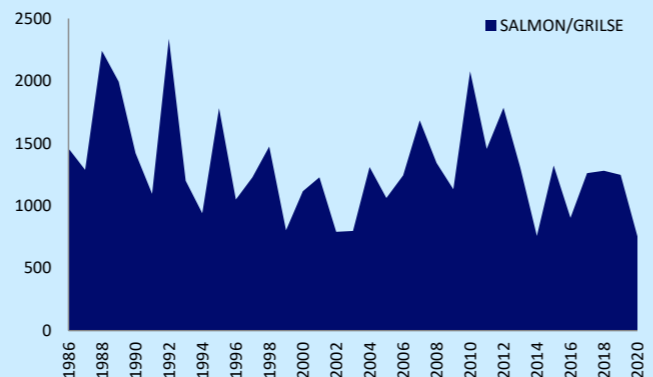
Salmon rod catch - 342; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 1; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

OYKEL

Keith Williams

Director, Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

Spring fishing was hardly underway before lockdown restrictions prevented legal angling taking place. As with all the other Kyle of Sutherland rivers, however, there was a notable increase in illegal fishing, which had to be dealt with local fishery board bailiffs. Rod effort was lower than normal, even when fishing recommenced, but catches were good at times, particularly in July. Although the summer months were dry, the westerly parts of the Oykel catchment did tend to receive more rainfall than elsewhere in the Kyle catchment, resulting in small rises in river levels.



Oykel rod catch statistics 1986-2020

Source: Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

Season: 11 Jan – 30 Sep

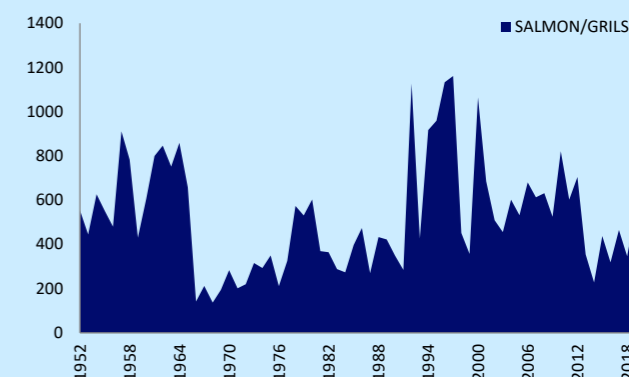
Salmon rod catch - 755; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 54; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

BRORA

Neil Wright

Clerk, Brora DSFB

The late start to the season, followed by a spell of warm weather, resulted in poor rod catches, despite large numbers of fish being seen. As the summer progressed and conditions improved more fish were caught in September and October. Grilse were seen coming through the system from the end of June, as was the case in 2019. The board is finalising its management plan and juvenile survey work continues, with more sites being added, and the river remains in a healthy condition with good juvenile numbers.



Brora rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Brora DSFB

Season: 1 Feb – 15 Oct

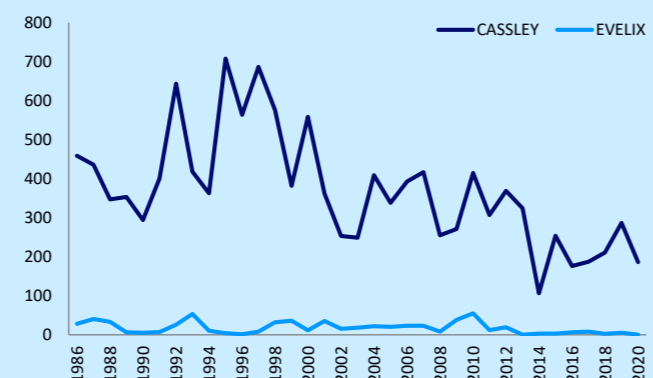
Salmon rod catch - 215; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 133; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

CASSLEY & EVELIX

Keith Williams

Director, Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

The loss of the opportunity to fish in the spring months particularly affected the usually productive Lower Cassley fishings. July, however, was a productive month for the beat. Low water levels were the norm for much of the rest of the season, but the upper beats caught fish when conditions were conducive. Catch and release rates were again very high. Preliminary data from SSE's counter at Duchally suggests around 160 salmon and grilse had accessed the headwaters by early October. There was little angling pressure on the Evelix.



River name rod catch statistics 1986-2020

Source: Kyle of Sutherland DSFB

Season: 11 Jan – 30 Sep

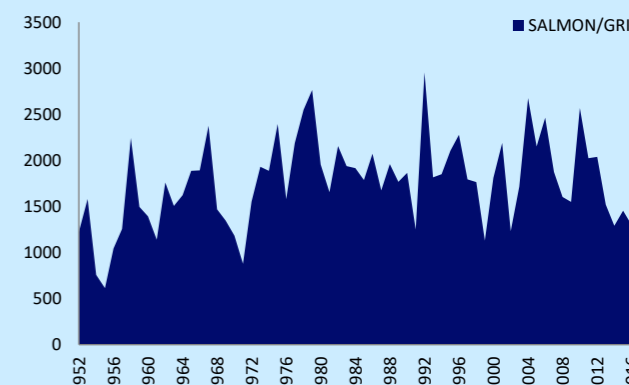
Salmon rod catch - 186; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 1; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

HELMSDALE

Michael Wigan

Manager, Helmsdale DSFB

We missed nine weeks of the season after 25 March, due to the Covid-related restrictions, and there was a reduced effort when fishing was finally permitted. June, July, August and September all suffered from low rainfall, so it was a very disrupted season, but the run timings appeared to be normal.



Helmsdale rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Helmsdale DSFB

Season: 11 Jan-30 Sept

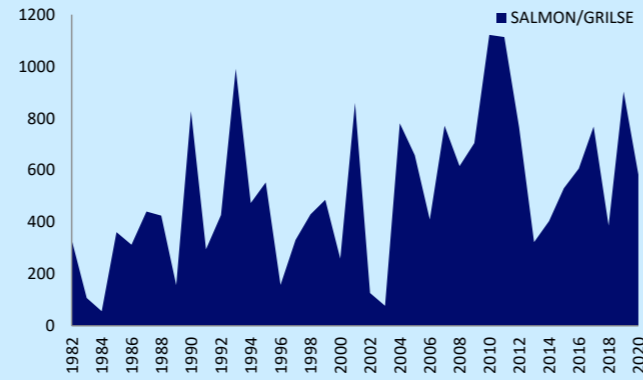
Salmon rod catch - 936; 10 yr average - 1508
Sea trout rod catch - 29; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: 24lb; Largest sea trout: 5.5lb

WICK

John Mackay

Secretary, Wick Angling Club

The first spates when the river opened after the Covid restrictions were in July and a large number of fish entered the river. We didn't have any more water until mid-September and the fishing was good until the end of the season. A healthy population of fish was observed at spawning time.



Wick rod catch statistics 1982-2020

Source: River Wick

11 Feb – 12 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 583; 10 yr average - 638

Sea trout rod catch - 4; 10 yr average - 5

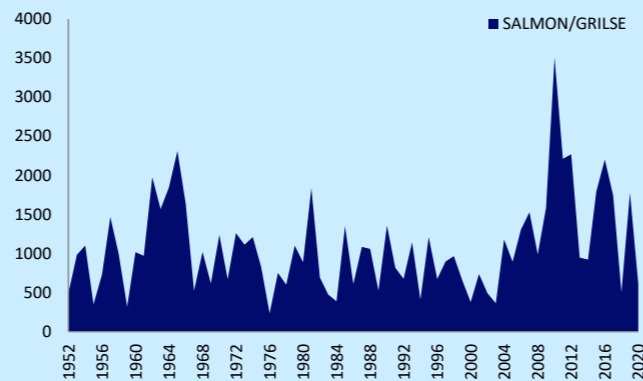
Largest salmon: 20lb; Largest sea trout: 2lb

THURSO

Tim Hawes

Thurso River Manager

Lockdown meant that there was virtually no fishing in the spring but observations suggested a strong spring run, with many fish running the fish pass. Grilse were in the river in good numbers from the middle of June and throughout most of July. The low water in August and September held many fish back, but a strong run was observed in early October and there was a very good spawning with a lot of fish on the redds. The Thurso continues to return all spring fish to the river. From June rods may take two fish of 8lbs or under for their week's fishing.



Thurso rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Thurso River Management

Season: 11 Jan – 5 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 615; 10 yr average - 1,739

Sea trout rod catch - n/a; 10 yr average - n/a

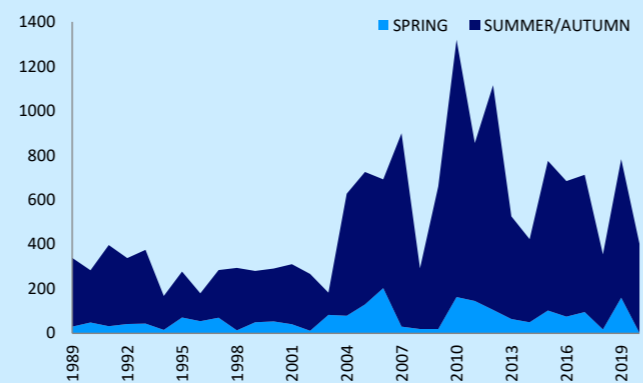
Largest salmon: 30lb; Largest sea trout: 4lb

HALLADALE

Reuben Sweeting

Halladale River Manager

Due to compliance with Covid-19 restrictions it's difficult to draw any definitive conclusions to the season. Coupled with often low water levels, the overall catch of 403 salmon and grilse would indicate an adequate run of fish. The release rate was the highest to date and indicative of our commitment to conservation. There was a recurrence of the red skin disease first reported in 2019, with cases once again being mild and disappearing from mid-August onwards. The SmartRivers initiative – monitoring aquatic invertebrates – and the national river temperature monitoring programme were rolled-out. Data from both will help to inform management strategies, particularly regarding riparian planting.



Halladale rod catch statistics 1989-2020

Source: Halladale Partnership

Season: 12 Jan-30 Sept

Salmon rod catch - 403; 10 yr average - 674

Sea trout rod catch - 44; 10 yr average - 12

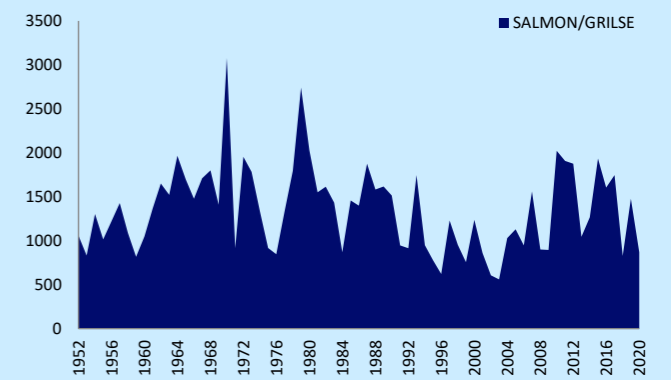
Largest salmon: 26lb; Largest sea trout: 2lb

NAVER

Andy Coyne

Head bailiff, River Naver

The very early spring run appeared poor, with low catches. Then, just as things started to improve, Covid put a stop to fishing. The runs from April until July were good to very good. When angling restarted catches were excellent until mid-July. An extended drought from mid-July to late September suppressed catches greatly and the final score did not do justice to the numbers of fish in the river. Spawning was observed in all areas of the catchment, from just below the tidal limit to the highest accessible headwaters. Catch and release rates remained high throughout season, in line with River Naver conservation policy.



Naver rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Naver Management

Season: 12 Jan – 30 Sep

Salmon rod catch - 867; 10 yr average - 1,455

Sea trout rod catch - 121; 10 yr average - 264

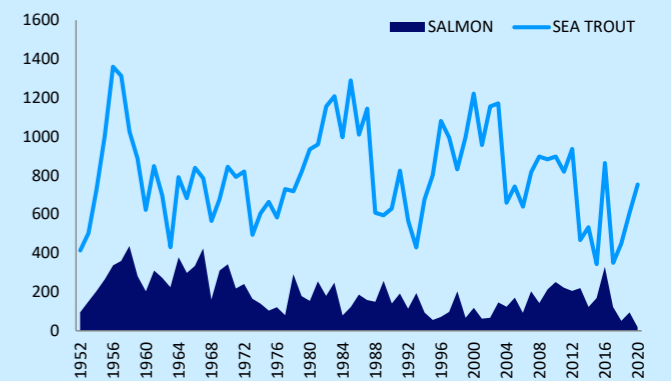
Largest salmon: 20lb; Largest sea trout: 7lb

HOPE

Lana Richardson

Wildland Ltd

Considering the reduction of rod days, due to the pandemic and the ongoing refurbishment of our lodges, these catch figures are better than expected. We were encouraged to see good runs of fish in the system, an added benefit of reduced disturbance should allow a greater chance of fish successfully reaching spawning grounds. Even with our 100 percent catch and release policy, this should hopefully provide an increase in spawning productivity, subsequently improving numbers in coming years. Wildland are considering ways in which the data collected can be more informative of the migration of fish and the productivity and health of the system.



Hope rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Wildland Ltd., Marine Scotland Science © Crown Copyright

11 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 18; 5 yr average - 111

Sea trout rod catch - 754; 5 yr average - 615

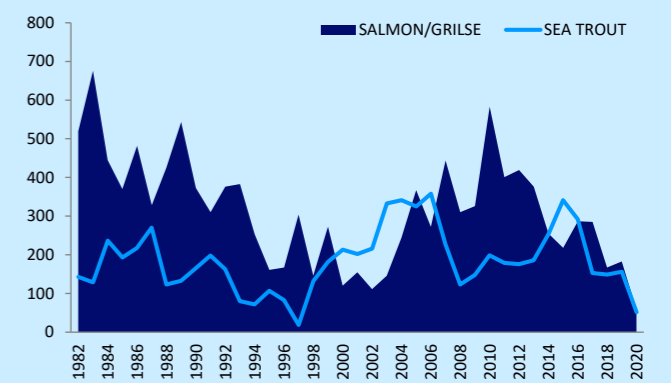
Largest salmon: 16lb; Largest sea trout: 5lb

DIONARD

Kathryn Bontoft

George Goldsmith's

The final tally was 111, comprising of 59 salmon and 52 sea trout. Weights were fairly consistently 1.5- 2lb for the sea trout, but there were also a few around the 4.5-5lb mark off the loch. Weights of salmon varied but our top weight was 14lb. Covid meant that the river was fished less, which explains the below-average catches. Seals can no longer be controlled and the impact of fish farming remains a concern.



Dionard rod catch statistics 1982-2020

Source: River Dionard

Season: 1 Feb – 15 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 59; 10 yr average - n/a

Sea trout rod catch - 52; 10 yr average - n/a

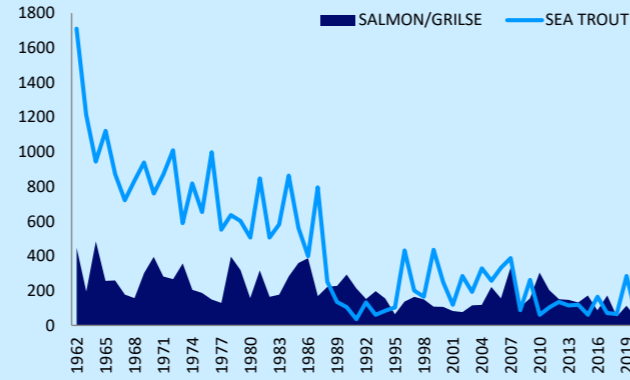
Largest salmon: 14lb; Largest sea trout: 5lb

LAXFORD

Shona Marshall

Biologist, West Sutherland Fisheries Trust

Fishing did not start on the river until the start of June. No lets were made during 2020 and angling effort was therefore significantly reduced. Despite the lack of effort, salmon catches were similar to those in 2018, while sea trout catches were the third lowest on record, equal to 1993 and 2010. The ongoing restructuring and development of woodland close to riparian waters should result in improvements to riparian zones and water quality in the long term. Bank stabilisation was undertaken in several areas of the catchment, using green engineering.



Laxford rod catch statistics 1962-2020

Source: [West Sutherland Fisheries Trust](#)

Season: 1 Mar – 30 Sep

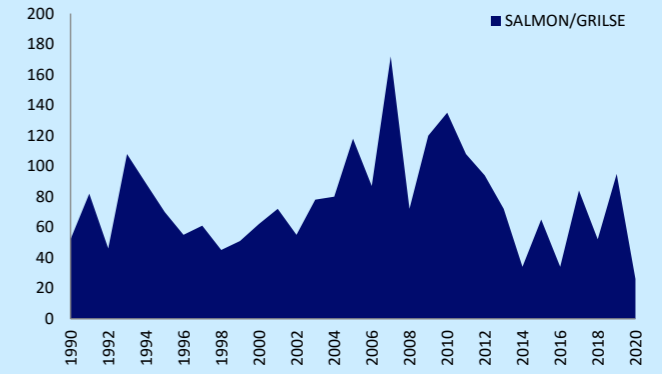
Salmon rod catch - 48; 10 yr average - 133
Sea trout rod catch - 62; 10 yr average - 119
Largest salmon: 23lb; Largest sea trout: 1.5lb

LITTLE GRUINARD

Iain Allison

Eilean Darach Estates

Covid-19 restrictions meant we had very few guests in 2020. But, on the positive side, the river had a lot of fish in and the sea lice numbers were very low, so the fish that we did catch were in very good condition. A lot of finnock were caught in the bottom mile of the river and these were in the best condition I've seen in the four years I've been on the river.



Little Gruinard rod catch statistics 1990-2020

Source: [Little Gruinard Management](#)

Season: 11 Feb – 30 Sep

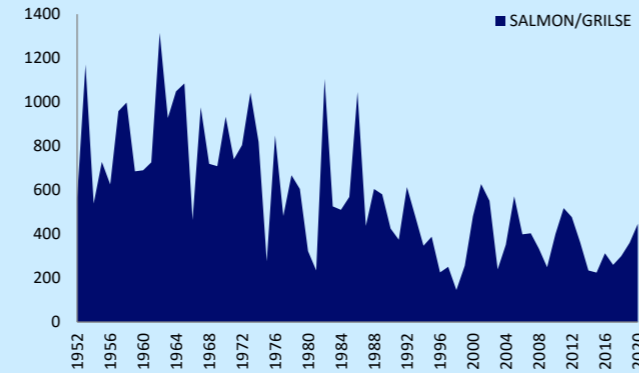
Salmon rod catch - 26; 10 yr average - 85
Sea trout rod catch - 2; 10 yr average - 10
Largest salmon: 15lb; Largest sea trout: 4lb

GRIMERSTA

Jason Laing

Grimersta Estate Manager

Fishing for local anglers resumed in late May and it was clear that the grilse run had begun quite early. We had one of the best Junes for many years, this despite fishing being mostly restricted to bank only at this point. The excellent fishing continued into July, helped by very good water levels and conditions. The fishing remained steady throughout the season, and the final tally was the best for eight years, despite significantly reduced angling effort. Sea trout numbers were very poor.



Grimersta rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: [Western Isles DSFB](#)

Season: 11 Feb – 15 Oct

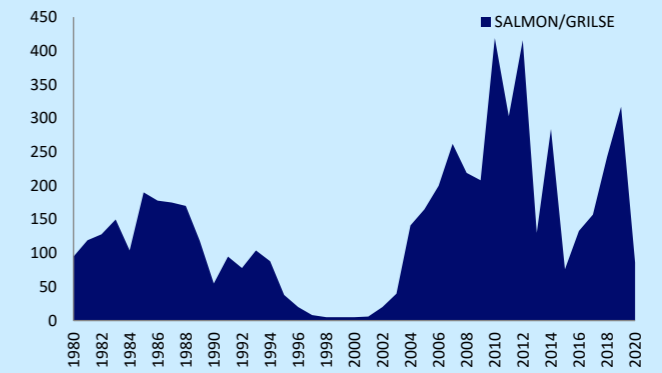
Salmon rod catch - 447; 10 yr average - 349
Sea trout rod catch - 64; 10 yr average - 218
Largest salmon: 15lb; Largest sea trout: 3lb

CARRON (WEST COAST)

Bob Kindness

Carron River Manager

The season was a difficult one to assess, due to the lack of visiting anglers. Some excellent late spring/early summer salmon ran the river but headed straight for Loch Dughail and beyond. Some came back down in October, when almost half of the season's total was caught. The grilse run was almost non-existent, possibly due to very low river levels in the summer and a very large local seal population. Sea trout were mainly small and scarce. Damaging winter spates continue to be an issue and the stocking programme continues to mitigate against the various negative impacts on the salmon and sea trout stocks.



Carron (West Coast) rod catch statistics 1980-2020

Source: [River Carron Management](#)

Season: 15 Feb – 31 Oct

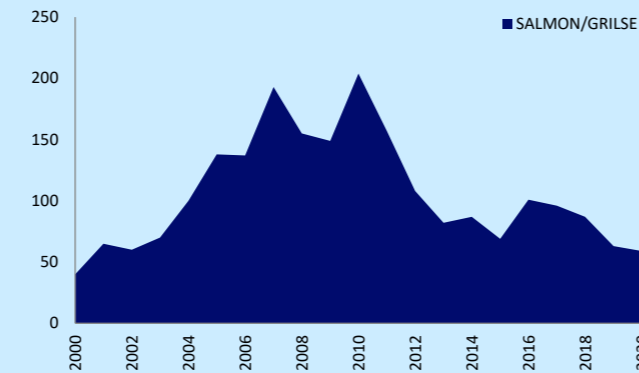
Salmon rod catch - 86; 10 yr average - 214
Sea trout rod catch - 46; 10 yr average - 86
Largest salmon: 20lb; Largest sea trout: 2.5lb

SNIZORT

Danny Doherty

Ghillie, Snizort River

After the main run of fish during June to August, there were only two fresh fish caught for the rest of the season, suggesting that the back-end run didn't materialise or was very small indeed. Around 50,000 salmon escaped from the fish farm in Portree at the end of December. As yet none of these have been caught by licensed out-of-season anglers in the nearby rivers, but it's a concern that some will run the rivers later this year, which would be a real disaster for wild fish stocks. Escaped rainbow trout appeared in numbers in 2019, but thankfully only one was caught during 2020.



Snizort rod catch statistics 2000-2020

Source: [Snizort River](#)

Season: 11 Feb – 15 Oct

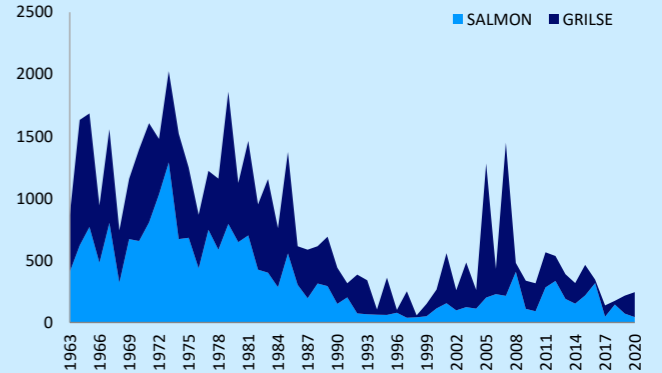
Salmon rod catch - 59; 6 yr average - 79
Sea trout rod catch - 69; 6 yr average - 44
Largest salmon: 20lb; Largest sea trout: 2.5lb

LOCHY

Jon Gibb

Lochy River Manager

Due to the ongoing health crisis, the rod catch (although the best since 2016) did not truly reflect the encouraging run of fish on the Lochy in 2020. A solid run of early summer salmon in late May and June was followed by a much better midsummer grilse run than in recent years. Autumn-run fish were once again scarce. At all times fishing effort remained very light and, from midsummer on, high water hampered catches. A wide range of fisheries improvement and research projects are ongoing and planned in the catchment, including trapping and tagging smolts for the West Coast Tracking Project.



Lochy rod catch statistics 1963-2020

Source: [Lochy Association](#)

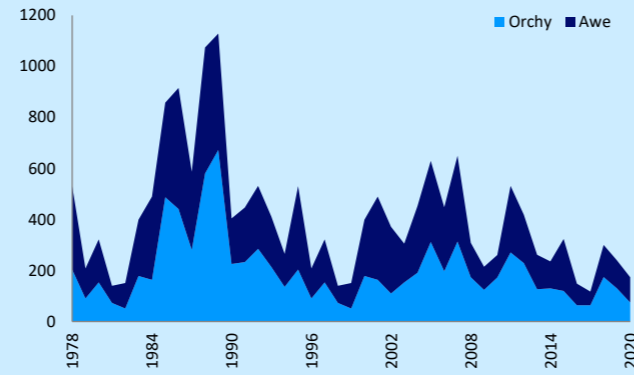
1 April – 15 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 245; 10 yr average - 316
Sea trout rod catch - 65; 10 yr average - 163
Largest salmon: 24lb; Largest sea trout: 4.5lb

AWE & ORCHY

Roger Brook
Chairman, Argyll DSFB

The Awe and the Orchy tend to yield a similar number of fish, but often at different times. The Awe has an artificial flowrate and most fish come from the summer run. The Orchy is a spate river, there can be some good catches in late spring, but the late season is more reliable. Covid affected the two rivers differently. With the Orchy being more remote it was accessible to only a few local anglers at both ends of the season. The Awe is more accessible, and the main season was outside the lockdown times. Hence the Awe had a better season.



Awe & Orchy rod catch statistics 1978-2020

Source: Argyll DSFB

Season: 11 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 174 ; 10 yr average - 277

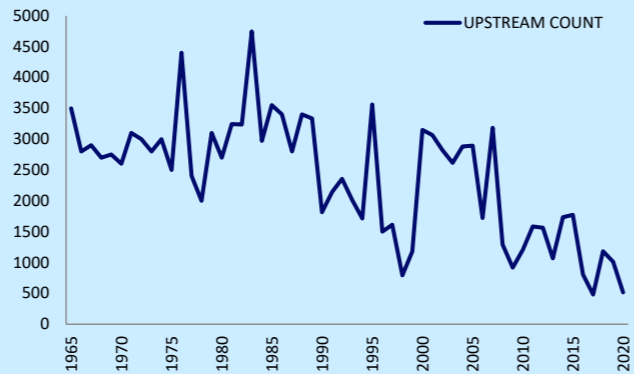
Sea trout rod catch - 7; 10 yr average - n/a

Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

AWE COUNTER

Roger Brook
Chairman, Argyll DSFB

The Awe counter only recorded 514 fish – the second lowest total ever recorded – and following discussion with SSE, concerns about the accuracy of the current version of this type of counter were registered. These concerns were backed up by our comparison of the count with the recorded catches on the river – given the limited fishing, due to Covid, the catches do not match the count. Our conclusion is that the counter significantly under-recorded the number of returning fish during 2020. We are working with SSE to address this issue.



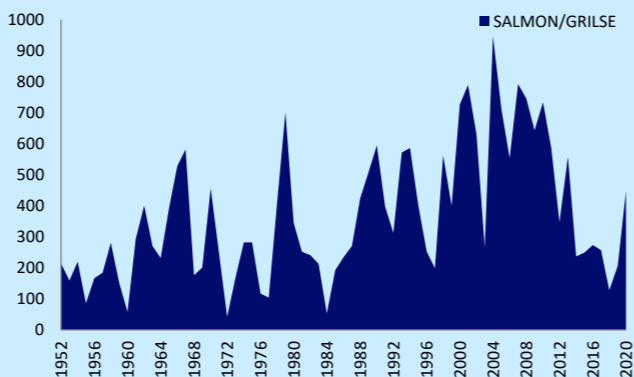
Awe Barrage Upstream Count 1964-2020

Source: Scottish & Southern Energy

AYR

Stuart Brabbs
Ayrshire Rivers Trust

While rod effort was most probably reduced, there were still anglers on the river and the catch returns were encouraging. July and August saw the peak catches, the once prolific back-end run again failed to materialise. Poaching with rod and line was an issue and the DSFB aims to recruit new bailiffs. In August, 48,000 salmon escaped from a farm off the west coast of Arran. Within a few days these fish started to appear in lower reaches of all Ayrshire rivers. Only 29 were officially reported in catch returns, yet there were probably many more caught.



Ayr rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Season: 15 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 448; 10 yr average - n/a

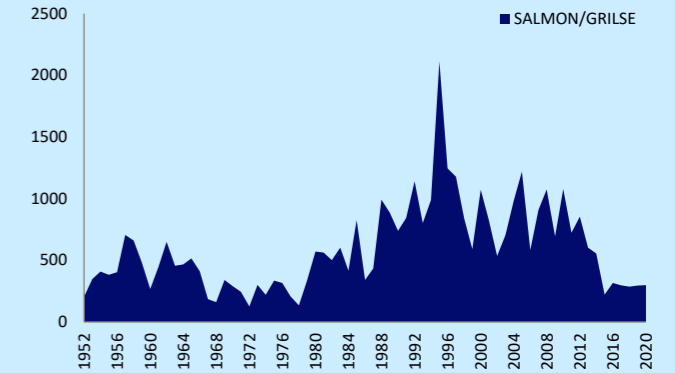
Sea trout rod catch - 5; 10 yr average - n/a

Largest salmon: 17lb; Largest sea trout: n/a

DOON

David Cosh
Doon DSFB

Unfortunately, our catch figures are of a similar pattern to the last six or seven years – a fraction of historic figures. The main run now seems to come in with the first spate in July, with only a trickle of fish after that. It used to be that the September run was the biggest, now that run has gone completely. 48,834 salmon from Carradale fish farm escaped, and over 50 escapees were recorded in the Doon. It's a worry that the aquaculture industry is pushing for new developments in the Firth of Clyde and the Government is supporting this.



Doon rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Doon DSFB

Season: 11 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 299; 10 yr average - n/a

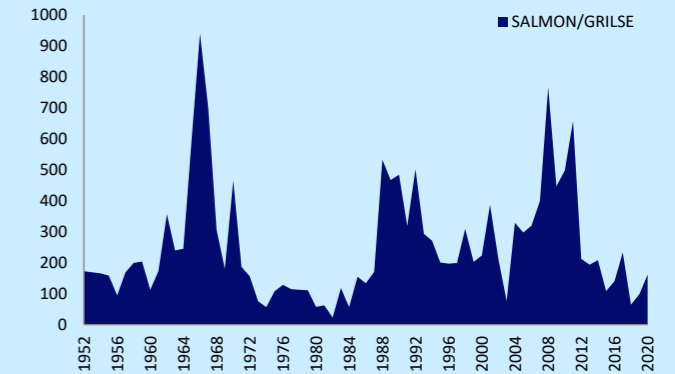
Sea trout rod catch - 11; 10 yr average - n/a

Largest salmon: 20lb; Largest sea trout: 3lb

GIRVAN*

Stuart Brabbs
Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Catch data was incomplete at the time of writing, with several beats not included, but the catch was up on the disappointing returns of the last two years. The river fished best in June, July and August. Sea trout numbers were poor, but the Girvan produces more of these fish than other Ayrshire rivers and some good ones too. All salmon and sea trout were returned, in line with mandatory conservation measures and DSFB policy. Lower beats recorded 73 farmed salmon between September and October, following the large escape from the Carradale farm in August.



Girvan rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Season: 15 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 161; 10 yr average - 223

Sea trout rod catch - 60; 10 yr average - n/a

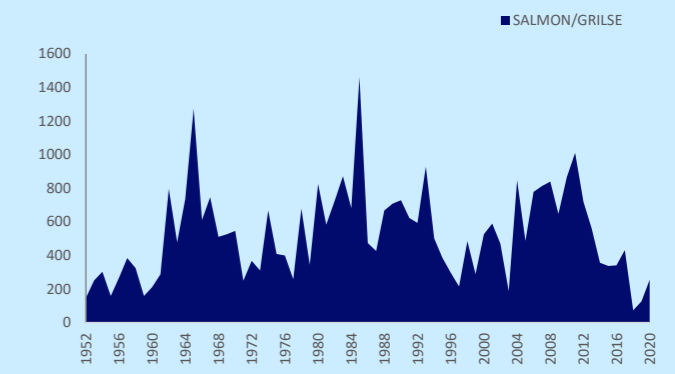
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

*Provisional data

STINCHAR*

Stuart Brabbs
Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Reduced angling effort was noticeable and, while the catch figure was incomplete at the time of writing, catches were better than in 2018 and 2019. There was arguably too much water from June onwards and October was a washout. There didn't appear to be a shortage of salmon but, with regular high water levels, they didn't build up in lower beats, instead running to the upper river and avoiding most anglers. Grilse were in short supply. The Carradale fish farm escape in late August led to 91 farmed salmon being captured by rods in the lower two beats.



Stinchar rod catch statistics 1952-2020

Source: Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Season: 15 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 255; 10 yr average - n/a

Sea trout rod catch - 92; 10 yr average - n/a

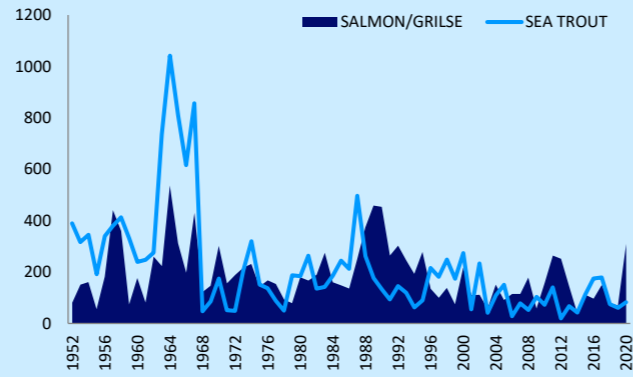
Largest salmon: 17lb; Largest sea trout: n/a

*Provisional data

LUCE

Jamie Ribbens
Galloway Fisheries Trust

Once the river reopened after Covid restrictions decent water levels helped to fish spread across the river. By July good catches were being made. There were more salmon compared to recent years, which was particularly evident at spawning time. During 2020 Galloway Fisheries Trust started a significant habitat enhancement project in the Luce's headwaters. The work is funded by NatureScot and involves native tree planting and the addition of woody debris to the channel, to help improve fish habitats and help the river become more resilient to climate change.



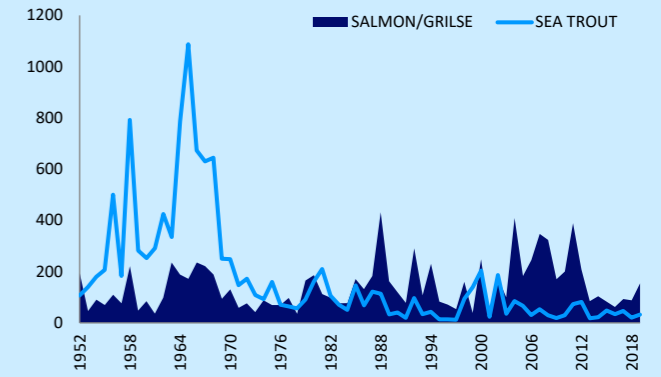
Luce rod catch statistics 1952-2020
Source: Galloway Fisheries Trust
Season: 11 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 310; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 83; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: 25lb; Largest sea trout: 4lb

URR

Will Marshall – Secretary, Dalbeattie Angling Association
Kenny Irving – Chairman, Castle Douglas Angling Association

The salmon and grilse numbers were much better, but sea trout were down slightly. There was no spring run, but decent returns in the summer and some semblance of a back-end run. Covid almost doubled the number of days fished. Days fished per fish caught dropped to 8.02, from 10.11 in 2019. Restrictions limiting anglers to take no more than two grilse a year have been widely adopted. Work at Buittle Reservoir was completed by Scottish Water and testing shows no American signal crayfish, so the reservoir has now been recommissioned. Gravel movement is still a concern, and we need farmers to be allowed to remove some, as they did traditionally.



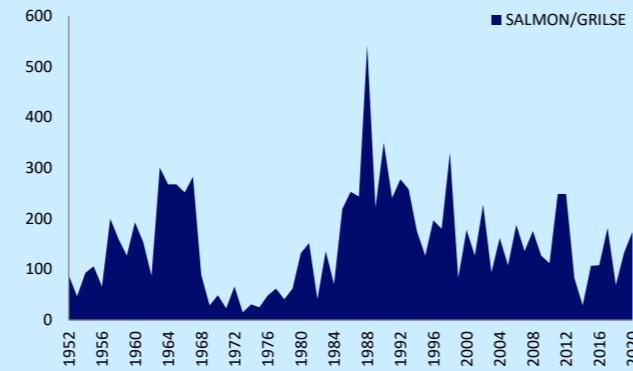
Urr rod catch statistics 1952-2019
Source: Dalbeattie & Castle Douglas AA

Salmon rod catch - 154; 10 yr average - 78
Sea trout rod catch - 32; 10 yr average - 29
Largest salmon: 26lb; Largest sea trout: 4lb

BLADNOCH

Jamie Ribbens
Galloway Fisheries Trust

A lack of water and lockdown seriously restricted fishing until July. The fish then arrived and the river was fishable for the rest of the season. There was a good grilse run, although these were generally small. Overall, it was the best catch figure for the last six or seven years. Broodstock were collected by volunteer anglers for the hatchery, and fertilised eggs will be planted back into the river. Bank maintenance was carried out by volunteers from the local angling club. Galloway Fisheries Trust has completed various instream habitat works and native tree planting to cool waters.



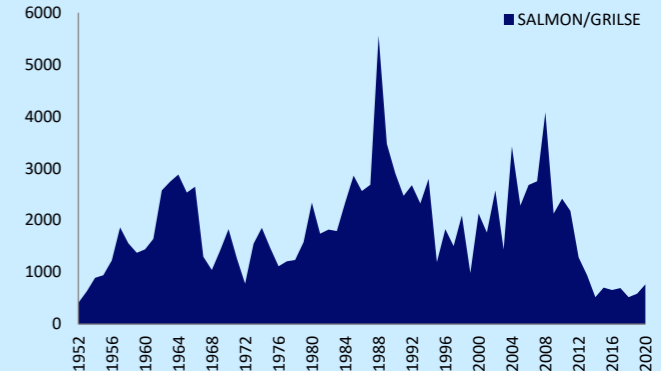
Bladnoch rod catch statistics 1952-2020
Source: Galloway Fisheries Trust
Season: 11 Feb – 31 Oct

Salmon rod catch - 174; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 0; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: 15lb; Largest sea trout: n/a

NITH

Jim Henderson
Fishery Director, Nith DSFB

Sea trout fishing was curtailed by Covid-19, but good runs of sea trout were seen and some anglers fared well when permitted to fish. The average size of salmon caught throughout the system was larger and the recorded rod catch was the highest since 2013. The board and trust are participating in the West Coast Smolt Tracking Project this spring and have expanded the Nith component by concurrently running a Nith system smolt tracking project. This means that we will be tracking salmon smolts from the headwaters of the Nith to the north of Scotland.



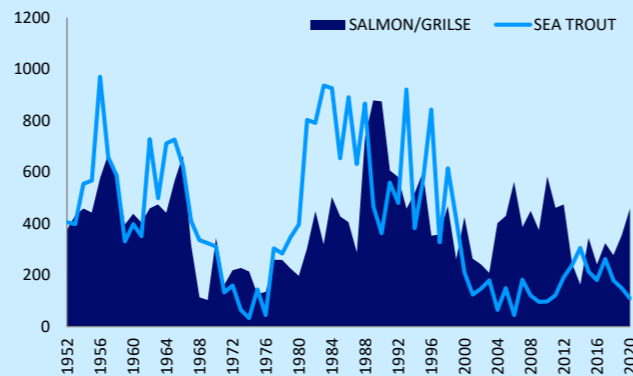
Nith rod catch statistics 1952-2020
Source: Nith DSFB
Season: 25 Feb – 30 Nov

Salmon rod catch - 764; 10 yr average - 1104
Sea trout rod catch - 557; 10 yr average - 940
Largest salmon: 24lb; Largest sea trout: 8lb

CREE*

Terence Flanagan
Chairman, Cree DSFB

Only one salmon was reported caught before the lockdown. Despite a dearth of visiting anglers, good catches were reported as soon the first rains arrived in June. High water in July meant many days were lost to angling, but it proved to be the best month of the season. Thereafter, catches tailed off, but the total salmon rod catch was the best for many years. There were fewer sea trout in the river. A programme of environmental improvements continues, including the removal of self-seeded Sitka spruce from the banks of various parts of the catchment and re-planting with native broadleaf trees.



Cree rod catch statistics 1952-2020
Source: Cree DSFB
Season: 1 Mar – 14 Oct

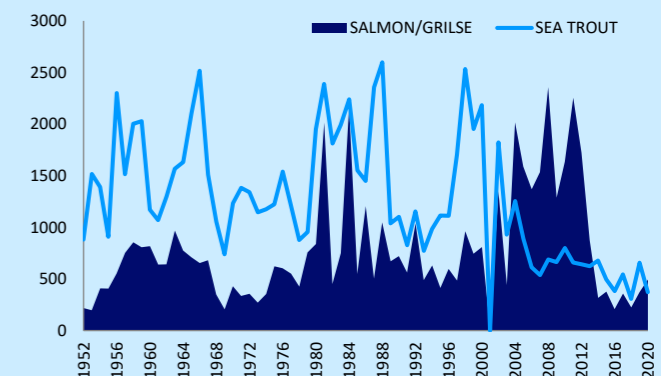
Salmon rod catch - 460*; 10 yr average - n/a
Sea trout rod catch - 110*; 10 yr average - n/a
Largest salmon: 22lb; Largest sea trout: 4lb

*Estimated figures

ANNAN

Mary Colville
Clerk, Annan DSFB

The catch statistics, particularly in the spring, are somewhat distorted due to the lockdown, but there is anecdotal evidence of fish moving through the system during this period, despite low water and unseasonably warm weather. Despite the interruption to the season and fewer anglers, overall catch numbers were better than in the last couple of years, with salmon seen running regularly throughout the system from July onwards, until poor weather hampered catch numbers in the last couple of weeks of the season.

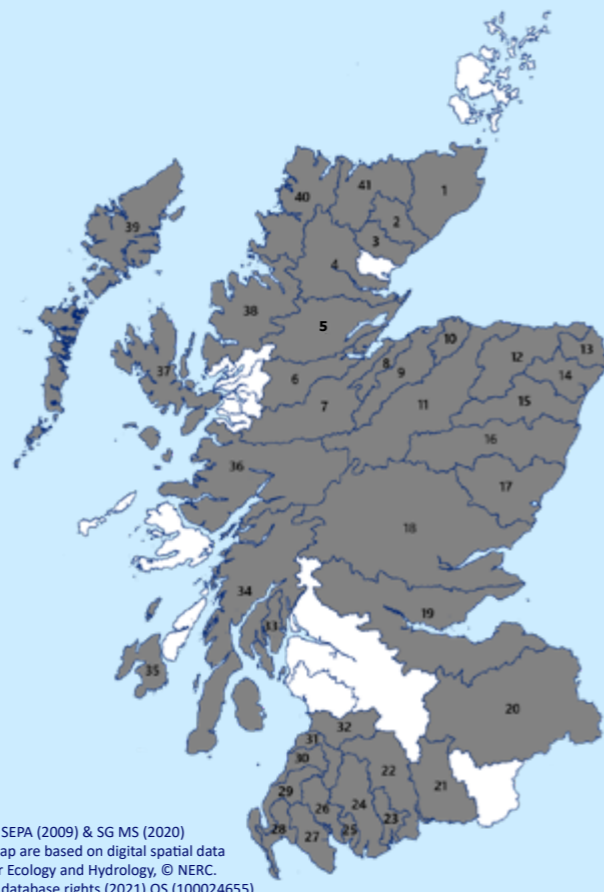


Annan rod catch statistics 1952-2020
Source: Annan DSFB
Season: 25 Feb – 15 Nov

Salmon rod catch - 496; 10 yr average - 731
Sea trout rod catch - 373; 10 yr average - 550
Largest salmon: n/a; Largest sea trout: n/a

District Salmon Fishery Boards

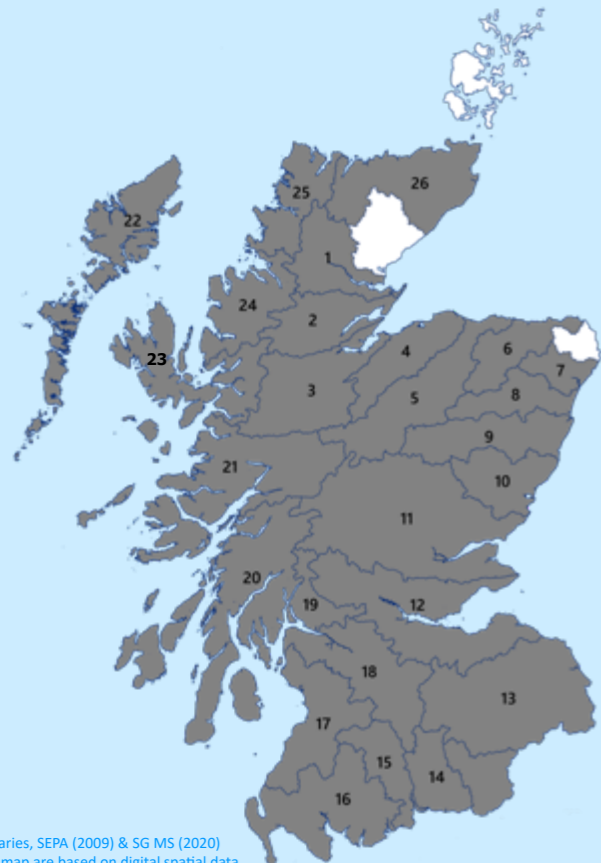
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Caithness | 22. Nith |
| 2. Helmsdale | 23. Urr |
| 3. Brora | 24. Dee (Kirkcudbright) |
| 4. Kyle of Sutherland | 25. Fleet (Kirkcudbright) |
| 5. Cromarty | 26. Cree |
| 6. Beaully | 27. Bladnoch |
| 7. Ness | 28. Luce |
| 8. Nairn | 29. Stinchar |
| 9. Findhorn | 30. Girvan |
| 10. Lossie | 31. Doon |
| 11. Spey | 32. Ayr |
| 12. Deveron | 33. Eachaig |
| 13. Ugie | 34. Argyll |
| 14. Ythan | 35. Laggan & Sorn |
| 15. Don | 36. Lochaber |
| 16. Dee (Aberdeenshire) | 37. Skye |
| 17. Esk | 38. Wester Ross |
| 18. Tay | 39. Western Isles |
| 19. Forth | 40. North & West |
| 20. Tweed | 41. Northern |
| 21. Annan | |



SFD / DSFB boundaries, SEPA (2009) & SG MS (2020)
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 Projection: British National Grid.

Rivers & Fisheries Trusts

1. Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Trust
2. Cromarty Firth Fisheries Trust
3. Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust
4. Findhorn, Nairn & Lossie Fisheries Trust
5. Spey Foundation
6. Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust
7. River Ythan Trust
8. River Don Trust
9. River Dee Trust
10. The Esk Rivers Fisheries Trust
11. Tay Rivers Trust
12. Forth Rivers Trust
13. Tweed Foundation
14. River Annan Trust
15. Nith Catchment Fisheries Trust
16. Galloway Fisheries Trust
17. Ayrshire Rivers Trust
18. Clyde River Foundation
19. Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust
20. Argyll Fisheries Trust
21. Lochaber Fisheries Trust
22. Outer Hebrides Fisheries Trust
23. Skye & Lochalsh Fisheries Trust
24. Wester Ross Fisheries Trust
25. West Sutherland Fisheries Trust
26. Flow Countries Rivers Trust



Fisheries Trust Boundaries, SEPA (2009) & SG MS (2020)
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 Projection: British National Grid.

Fisheries Management Scotland Directors

- Richard Sankey – Kyle of Sutherland (Chairman)
- Alison Baker – Forth
- Roger Brook – Argyll
- Chris Conroy – Ness
- Sandy Scott – Spey
- Lorraine Hawkins – Dee
- Alasdair Laing – Findhorn
- Peter Landale – Nith
- Mary Nicholson – Galloway
- David Summers – Tay
- Bill Whyte – Wester Ross
- Hugh Younger – Tweed

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