



What do wild salmon mean to me?

Craig Fleming



I am 36 years old and I live on the banks of the River Don in Aberdeenshire. I am on the committee of the Aberdeen & District Angling Association and I am also the Anglers Representative on the Dee District Salmon Fishery Board. My favorite river is the Aberdeenshire Dee.

The Atlantic Salmon has been a big part of my life ever since I was a young lad. My Dad, Grandad and Uncle were all keen anglers, so it was inevitable that I would end up 'hooked' myself somewhere along the road. It didn't take long! I quickly realised there was just something magical about standing on the river bank in pursuit of salmon that captivated me from the off.

Since those younger days, salmon fishing, for me, has turned from a hobby into an obsession. I spend a large part of my spare time every year travelling the length and breadth of Scotland trying to fool one into taking my fly or lure. If you have never felt that adrenaline rush as a salmon takes; it is something that I can't recommend enough. Even now, after landing my fair share of salmon, I still get the shakes when I catch one so it's nice to release them back into the river to continue their epic journey after they've given me my "fix".

During the close season, I like nothing more than taking a wander along a tributary somewhere to see if I can spot any salmon spawning. It's great to see their journey come to end after travelling thousands of miles to feed at sea, only to return to almost the exact areas they were born several

years before. Seeing them on the redds makes you fully appreciate just what a great survivor these fish really are.

I have made many good friends on the river bank due to our shared passion for salmon and these friendships would have never come about if it wasn't for this majestic fish, so for that, I will always be grateful.



Discover more about the importance of wild Atlantic salmon at:
www.fms.scot/what-do-wild-salmon-mean-to-me/
[#wildsalmonmatter](https://twitter.com/wildsalmonmatter)

