

TAY SALMON NEWS

June 2021

Spring Fishing: Good for Some!

Spring salmon catches for April appear a little down on the recent average - 308 were reported on FishTay website – but May proved less good with 252, despite the general relaxation of Covid restrictions.

However, low water prevailed through most of April meaning some beats did well but others found it harder going. Islamouth, had its best April since 2017 with 68, while Meikleour's 33 was its best for even longer. On the Tummel, Pitlochry Angling Club's 38 was its best since 2016.

In complete contrast, May was unusually wet and cool. Fish ran into tributaries like the lower Ericht and lower Tay beats found it harder going. But the lower temperatures meant fish were slow to run through Pitlochry Dam. As a result, Pitlochry Angling Club had its best May since 2013 with 56, giving them over 100 fish for the season so far.



Steven Watt with a perfect 17 pounder, one of over 20 spring salmon he has caught on the Pitlochry Angling Club Water this season.

Board's "River Plan" for 2021

The new Board, elected in December, has reviewed the Board's previous activities and has agreed a new plan of activities for 2021. This initial plan is, of course, very mindful of the financial and other constraints caused by Covid-19. In due course the Board will also be thinking more strategically for the next few years.

The Board is very keen to get feedback on its proposals and is about to consult with proprietors and all interested stakeholders. From mid June it will be posted prominently on the Board's website www.tdsfb.org.

Hatchery News

This spring the Board has stocked out approximately 800,000 salmon eggs and unfed fry. Approximately 30,000 fry are being fed on to the parr stage, when they will be stocked out in the autumn in the River Lochay.

Marine Scotland Initiatives

The Board was asked by Marine Scotland to populate a GIS "Pressures Tool" and participate in workshops. This is intended to inform Marine Scotland on the presence of pressures on salmon throughout Scotland. This will then inform a Wild Salmon Strategy which Marine Scotland is developing.

Marine Scotland are also to pay the Board to participate again in the National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland over the summer. This important initiative was started to provide an alternative method for annual river categorisation. Further details can be found [here](#).

SEPA Consultation

SEPA are currently consulting on a River Basin Management Plan which will determine their priorities for the next 6 years. This is an important initiative the Board is to respond to and suggests others do likewise. Further details are found [here](#).

Scottish Invasives Species Initiative

Mark Purrrman-Charles, our Tay/Esk SISI Project Officer reports:

My priority continues to be to build invasive control capacity among landowners, organisations and members of the public with the goal of coordinated and organised INNS control on the Tay. This year we will realistically bring Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Knotweed and American Skunk Cabbage under control between Loch Rannoch and Loch Tay to Kinclaven. Then we will begin control on the Ericht and further downstream from the Tay/Isla confluence.

All the credit goes to the wide range of people who have got involved and taken responsibility for their respective areas as well as helping their neighbours. It gives us a model that I hope we can apply to the Earn, Almond and Eden.

Regarding giant hogweed, the upstream source just above Aberfeldy is now contained and under active management by people based in the area. We will also continue to manage the downstream outbreak areas that spread from the Aberfeldy source.

Japanese Knotweed is the biggest problem species we have on the Tay. We will carry on our work along the whole area from Loch Rannoch/Loch Tay to Kinclaven. We are seeing some really drastic improvement of real problem areas like Kinnaird and Dunkeld. The extra focus this year will be the area between Caputh and Kinclaven.

There are two outbreaks of Himalayan Knotweed we have identified, one at Loch Rannoch and one by Dunkeld. We have contained the source in both cases, with the Loch Rannoch problem now virtually completely removed, and the larger problem areas from Dunkeld down to Kinclaven now actively under or set for control this year. This problem was created almost entirely due to people strimming it.

If anyone is unclear what Himalayan Knotweed is and thinks they might have seen it/have it on their land, just get in touch with me as if treated correctly it can be pretty much eradicated in two seasons (same goes for Japanese Knotweed).

If you have a query about invasives plants and their control, or mink, Mark Purrrman-Charles would be delighted to hear from you either by email at markeskrivers@gmail.com or by phone on 07741 639556.



Spraying giant hogweed source area near Aberfeldy at the end of May.



Days later, the hogweed is already wilting. This vital top source is at last in hand because of the SISI Project.

Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board
Site 6, Cromwellpark, Almondbank, PH1 3LW

01738 583733

admin@tdsfb.org
director@tdsfb.org

www.tdsfb.org