

Board report

Your Board met on the 11th August and the triennial elections members was completed.

We were sorry to lose David MacGregor, our co-optee from the Turriff Angling Association, who has retired. David's sound advice will be sadly missed. However, we are delighted to welcome Frank Henderson as his replacement. In running the Turriff tackle shop, Frank is extremely well placed to act as a conduit for the views of our fishermen. We look forward to his being able to sort out a complete web service for the river, so that we can develop an efficient method of putting fishermen in touch with beats which have fishing available.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Stancioff who has returned to the Board balancing representation of proprietors which had become skewed towards the upper reaches.

We were delighted also to retain the services of Norman Wilson for the Huntly Anglers and Don Galloway for their counterparts in Banff.

Given the extraordinary weather witnessed this summer, fishing has been mixed. Of huge concern is the diminishing sea trout run, a feature common to many other east coast rivers over recent years. While we are pretty sure this is a result of problems at sea, your Board is taking steps to ensure that our in-river environment is as good as we can make it. To this end, we are arranging a visit from the Wild Trout Society later in the year to look at our more important and prolific spawning burns.

Your Chairman is a member of the Executive Committee of the Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland ('RAFTS') through which our concerns can be raised at national and governmental levels. In addition, he is also a member of the new North East Scotland Area Advisory Group for River Basin Management Planning, which is charged with improving water quality in compliance with the Water Framework Directive. We have also retained the Carnie Consultancy to update our catchment improvement plan in line with the new legislation.



RAINBOW TROUT: How and why have these escapees got into our river?

While all of this involves a frightening amount of time and an almost intolerable burden of bureaucracy, I believe very strongly that it's only by joining such bodies and participating in the legislative process that we can ensure that the interests of our river, its proprietors and fishermen are properly looked after in the long-term.

Two further items were discussed and which are causing concern. Firstly, many fishermen have reported catching thin grilse. In some cases, these have been covered with large numbers of sea lice. Simon McKelvie of the Conon Trust is collecting scales for analysis by the Fisheries Research Lab in Montrose to determine whether their poor condition is as a result of parasitic overload, or starvation at sea.

The second item of concern is the significant number of rainbow trout being caught in the river. These have been taken from as far a field as Netherdale, near Turriff, and Edinglassie, in Glass, right at the top of the river. While unlikely to have much breeding success, these fish are, nevertheless, voracious predators of our native species and are a most unwelcome alien intrusion into our hitherto pristine and natural environment. Your Trust and Board are in the process of trying to identify how these escapees have got into the river.

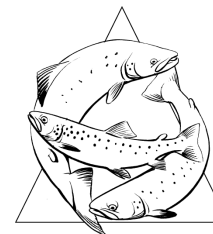
Several, luckily fairly minor, incidences of point source pollution were discussed. Your Chairman is corresponding with SEPA over better methods of monitoring these incidents. All of you are encouraged to report such incidents directly to the Chairman.

Finally, we hope the back end produces some fish and that we get some reward for our efforts after a pretty dismal summer. My thanks to the Board for their unstinting support, to Jimmy Minty for his sterling dedication and commitment to the river and to the Clerk for keeping us all on the straight and narrow.

Malcolm Hay, Chairman

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- **Electro-fishing survey 2006**
The highs and lows [See centre pages](#)



- **Wind farm latest**
The Board challenges Clash proposal
- **Membership up** [See centre pages](#)

THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 10, Summer 2006

Welcome to the tenth newsletter of the Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust.

The Trust's objectives are to 'conserve, protect and rehabilitate salmon, sea trout and trout and other indigenous species of animal, bird, insect and plant life and more generally to promote the ecological cycle for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Deveron'

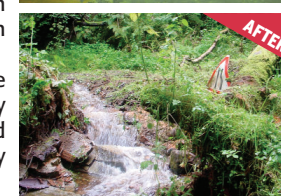


• **We reared and planted out 60,000 fed fry and 5,000 sea trout fry this year. We fertilised over 140,000 eggs but lost many to a fungal infection. A mishap to cure the fungus meant a loss of 50,000 fry – treatment has been made difficult since Malachite Green was recently banned. The number of fry released since the hatchery opened is 270,000**

Tree's a crowd

Tree obstacles at the Kinminitie Burn have been removed. The burn which meets the Isla near Keith has limited spawning potential with large areas of bedrock but it will now provide suitable parr habitat and a juvenile nursery. Both obstacles were taken away with help from Colin Grant and Graeme Cowe.

Two other trees have been removed from the upper Isla with the help of Board bailiff Jimmy Minty during the summer. Although these would not have blocked upstream migration, they would have done in time with further spates.



New Board and Trust positions

Professor David Mackay has, sadly, resigned from the Trust for personal reasons. The position of Chairman has been taken by Robert Shields who instigated the setting up of the Trust. Robert's enthusiasm, drive and financial support has been instrumental in the Trust's achievements.

Malcolm Hay, who replaced Robert Shields as Chairman of the District Salmon Fishery Board in mid-term has been re-appointed at the triennial meeting.

New Board members include Frank Henderson who owns the Turriff Tackle Shop and Mrs Stancioff who owns Dunlugas near Turriff. We are sorry to lose David McGregor of Turriff Fishing Association.

Full board report – back page

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The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is a registered charity. No. SC 032131

Stunning success?

The Trust has carried out a comprehensive electro-fishing survey with the help of two members of the Huntly Angling Association Colin Grant and Graeme Cowe. Here we print the highlights of our findings

LOWER DEVERON

Very high density of salmon fry (three per square metre) in **Blind Burn** which enters the Deveron at Carnousie. **Monquhitter** has high trout populations above the fish ladder at Cuminestown which appears to be proving a success with salmon spawning above.



MIDDLE DEVERON

Zero salmon fry and three parr (16 fry & 15 parr in 2005) in **Auchintoul Burn** above Kinnairdy. This may be the result of a diesel spill in May but more likely dredging which has removed all the in-stream habitat (see photo showing the boulders and cobbles on the bank, leaving shallow, featureless water). After huge outlay in 2001 to remove the dam the Trust is disappointed to see environmental vandalism. We hope the Water Framework Directive will protect these water courses in future.

Upstream of these sites we found fry and parr which gives us some comfort that our work is bearing fruit. (Salmon couldn't access this burn for 100 years.)

The **Crombie Burn** is now producing salmon after severe damage from silage effluent many years ago.

UPPER DEVERON

Salmon parr at the top of the **Glen Burn** but no fry which will be due to blockages caused by fallen trees. These will be



Colin Grant & Graeme Cowe from Huntly Fishing Association counting fish on the River Bogie during the Trust's 2006 electro-fishing survey

removed by Forest Enterprise in November. There are High salmon fry numbers in **Burn of Bank** and **Allt Deveron** shows healthy salmon fry populations.

ISLA

No salmon fry in **Davidston Burn** above the weir. This provides proof that the Scottish Water weir requires a fish ladder. Adult fish can only negotiate the weir during protracted spells of high water as in 2004.

No salmon in top of **Aultmore Burn**. This deserves further investigation as the habitat is

suitable and we know of good spawning gravel throughout the Aultmore burn.

Good salmon fry in the middle section of the Aultmore where bank revetment work by the Trust was carried out 2 years ago.

We were disappointed to discover only one salmon fry and no parr in the **Garrel Burn** site after stocking with fed fry in 2005. Very high density of salmon fry in **Drum Burn** which has been affected by poaching in the past.

We were delighted to find salmon parr in **Towie Burn** which was stocked with fed fry in



autumn 2005 after the removal of the dam. A major exercise in tree clearance is planned for this lovely burn which offers ideal in-stream habitat but is over-shaded in places.

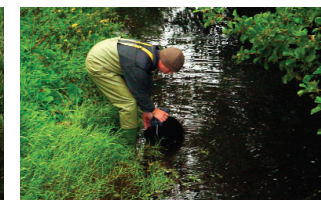
BOGIE

All three River Bogie sites had excellent salmon and trout fry numbers.

Kirkney Water has high populations of trout.

Ealachie has high populations of trout but salmon numbers down from previous survey.

Lag Burn sites above modified



Featureless water of Auchintoul Burn (top left); Boulders replaced to add habitat for fry and parr (top right); Ideal Habitat of Aultmore Burn (left) and releasing fish (above)

Irish fords show high populations of trout and salmon

The **Priest Water** and **Ness Bogie** had high populations of both salmon and trout of all ages.

The very top section of the **Craigwater** had 17 trout (zero in 2005) after Forestry Commission removed obstructive fallen trees and branches.

A quick presence/absence survey in the **Thains Burn** which enters the Bogie at Huntly confirmed that salmon are not spawning. We think this is probably due a culvert under the Huntly by-pass.

BRIEFLY...

Clash update

At the recent Clashindarroch wind farm public inquiry the Board made a submission that it was concerned at the prospect of construction activity equating to the building of twenty four supermarkets on the blanket mire system which forms the headwaters of the Bogie and the crossing of forty six tributaries of the Deveron and Bogie by construction traffic over 5 years. The matter is now with the Reporter, Mrs Jill Moody.

Membership up

As a result of a recent membership drive we have fifty eight new members, several of whom have made other donations adding £1,980 to the Trust's fund. Finance available to the Trust is now £4,355 – thank you to all rods who have supported us. There are still a between sixty and a hundred rods who fish our rivers who don't contribute. Any reader who wishes to join should contact the Trust office. See over.

Tiger spirit lives



John 'Tiger' Thouron, OBE has sadly died after a long illness.

His family part-owned the Forglan Estate fishing beat where he spent his fishing holidays. He spent his adult life promoting academic exchange between the US and UK for which he received his OBE. He was devoted to the natural environment and was a keen supporter of the Trust. A friend to many, he will be missed by all who knew him.