

The River Deveron District
Salmon Fishery Board

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla
Rivers Charitable Trust

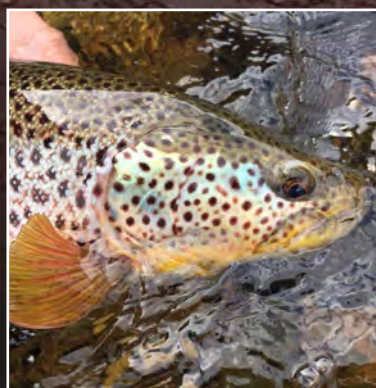


DEVERON
BOGIE
ISLA



www.deveron.org

Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19





Report by
RC Miller, MC Hay, M Walters and S Roebuck

KINDLY DONATED BY A G MORISON



The Morison Trophy

Awarded for the heaviest fly-caught salmon of the season from the Deveron

View it at Henderson's Country Sports

Catch it...
Weigh it...
Measure it...
Verify it...
Record it...
Enter it...

Release your salmon to win a Vision fly-rod



Mrs 'Tiny' Morison's magnificent 61lb Deveron salmon. The heaviest UK fly-caught salmon.



For more details contact The Deveron Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust
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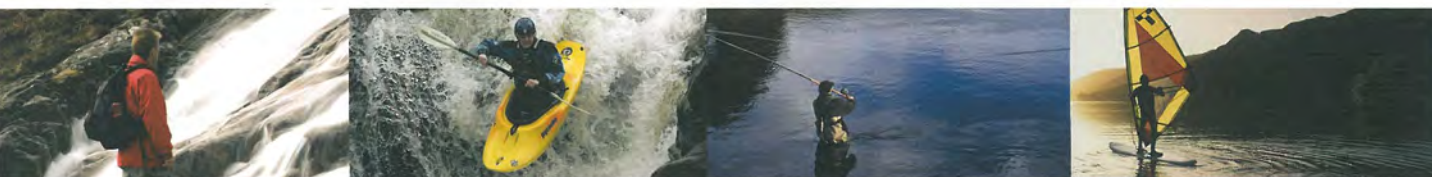
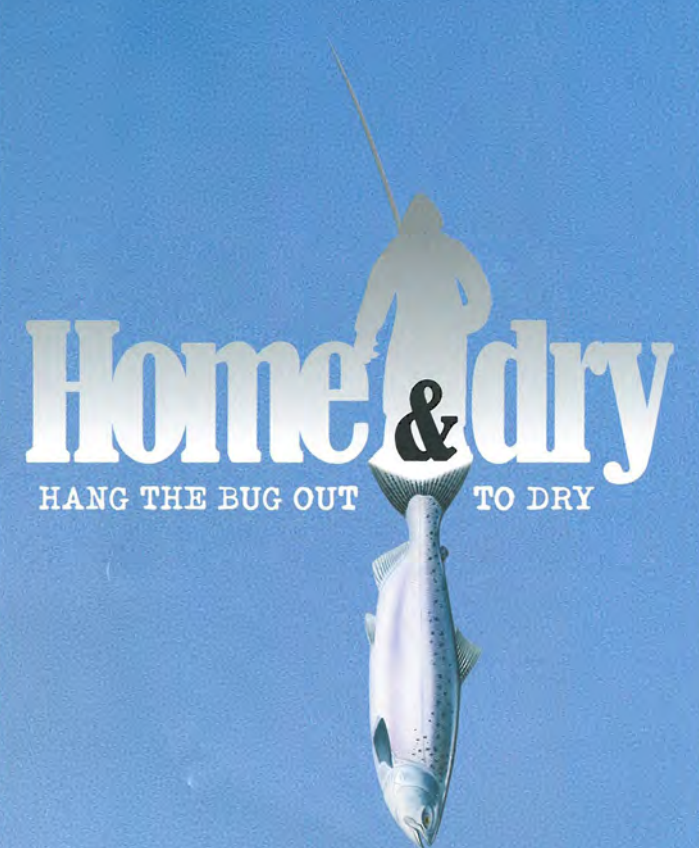
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Deveron Angling Code for
Salmon and Trout 2019





Fishing or doing water sports abroad?

Just come back from Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain or Sweden?

Ensure your equipment is not carrying the highly contagious Gs parasite which has the ability to wipe out freshwater salmon stocks.

What is the Gs Parasite?

The Gs parasite is a highly contagious bug that has devastated salmon stocks in Norway. We want to keep it out of Scotland's rivers.

Here's what you need to do

To ensure your equipment is not contaminated, please take one of the following precautionary measures:

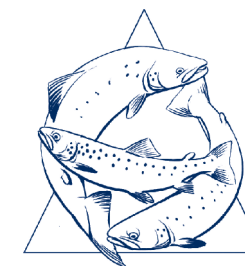
- Completely dry equipment (e.g. waders, fishing equipment, bags, canoes and windsurf gear) at the minimum temperature of 20° for at least 2 days **or**
- Heat for at least 1 hour at above 60°C **or**
- Deep freeze for at least 1 day **or**
- Immerse in a Gs killing solution for min 10 minutes



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Supporters and Funding

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (RDevDSFB) and The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (DBIT) would like to take this opportunity to thank all its supporters and funding partners who have helped implement our district fisheries management programme during 2018/19.

The RDevDSFB and DBIT would like to thank the following:

Aberdeenshire Council
Bowlts Chartered Surveyors
Chivas Regal
DBIT members
Fisheries Management Scotland
Henderson's Country Sports
Heritage Lottery Fund
Huntly Fishings
John Dewar & Sons
Longcliffe Quarries
Marine Scotland Science
Robert McConnell
Scottish Natural Heritage
Tesco
The Atlantic Salmon Trust
The Nineveh Charitable Trust
Turriff Angling Association
University of Glasgow

Volunteers (River Champions)

We thank all volunteers who have given up their own time to help with projects such as the river opening ceremony, control of American mink, invasive plant control and piscivorous bird surveys.

Ghillies and Estate Workers

We thank all the Deveron Gillies and Estate workers who have helped with many aspects of managing the fishery from assistance with piscivorous bird surveys, scale sampling, obstacle removal and biosecurity measures.



Officials and Staff

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board Members

Representatives of upper proprietors

M.C. Hay (Chairman), R.J.G. Shields, A.G. Morison, Mrs J.A. Player, R. Cooper, J.S. Cruickshank OBE, A. Allwood

Representatives of lower proprietors

C. R. Marsden, D. A. Galloway, M. C. R. Marsden

Representatives of salmon anglers

F. Henderson, R. Breakell, D. Borthwick

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Honorary Life President Prof D. W. Mackay OBE

Trustees J. S. Cruickshank OBE (Chairman), R. J. G. Shields, M. C. Hay, F. Henderson, D. Borthwick, R. Cooper

Trust Scientific Advisory Board Dr M. Stutter (The James Hutton Institute), G. Clark (SNH), P. Wright (SEPA Diffuse Pollution team), Professor R. Van Der Wal (Aberdeen University), Professor S. Martin (Aberdeen University), Professor C. Adams (Glasgow University), Dr A. Walker (Consultant), D. Roberts (GWCT), G. Pedley (Wild Trout Trust), C. Macadam (Buglife), Dr Colin Bull (Stirling University)

Hon. Membership Secretary R. F. McConnell

Ghillies Representative N. Stephen

Team

Director	R.C. Miller, BSc MIFM
River Operations Manager	M. Walters, MSc BSc MIFM
Project Officer	Dr A. Reeve, PhD MRes BSc
Seasonal Volunteer Coordinator	
& Communications Officer	K. Müller, MSc BSc (Hons)
Clerk & Administrator	S. Roebuck, BA MICB
Field Assistant	C. Grant

Chairman’s Report

Malcolm Hay, Chairman of the RDevDSFB

It is very difficult to remain positive coming off the back of the appalling 2018 season. Scottish government statistics show that salmon catches in 2018 reached the lowest levels ever recorded. Sadly, the Deveron mirrored that trend with our total catch down a whopping 64% from the previous year, which itself was well below the ten-year average. There is no doubt that the unusual weather and resulting low flows played their part, but the figures remain the worst ever in living memory.

All the news of fish returning to Scottish rivers continues to be a litany of unrelenting gloom. While 2019 has started in better shape, this has not been the case for all beats and even those who are catching fish are basically just “picking away”. Sea trout too have been in short supply, with the only bright spot being the relatively good catches of brown trout to be had in April and May.

Meanwhile, the government raised, incomprehensibly, our conservation ranking for salmon back to Level 1. It seems that annual data (which are always a year behind) are all that matters and current reality is blissfully ignored! Your Chairman has already remonstrated strongly on this ludicrous state of affairs.

Now that we have reached an absolute crisis point, with salmon in some rivers on the verge of extinction, it would appear that the Scottish government has at last begun to take note. However, despite the catastrophic collapse in wild salmon and sea trout stocks and the wealth of both circumstantial and anecdotal evidence as to why, the scientists want still more data.

I have been involved in wild fisheries management for nearly 20 years and have lost count of the numbers of bipartite, tripartite, quadripartite committees, as well as interaction and frame-working groups that have been convened to address the highly damaging impact of the salmon farming industry. Over the many years I have observed these worthy initiatives, precisely nothing has changed. I don’t even know if any of these committees still exist – they seem to vanish into the ether only to be re-convened, phoenix like, when yet another damning body of evidence comes to light.

However, now that the Rural Economy & Connectivity Committee, made up of members who appear to be serious people, has stated that the status quo is not an option, do we dare to believe that there might be a faint glimmer of hope? In the meantime, the salmon farming industry’s publicity machine churns out a volume of fake news that might make even the US President blush. The industry is, apparently, planning a near doubling of capacity.

We need to end the collective apathy and somnolence of all of us involved in wild fisheries – whether as manager or participant. There is much dark muttering on the river banks and in the fishing huts, but how many of us have written to or cajoled the Scottish Government into remedying the disgraceful state of affairs on our northern and western coasts? Many tens of thousands of our migrating fish have to run the gauntlet of a life destroying soup of dead and decaying fish, farm waste and toxic chemicals and, not least, horrific infestations of sea lice. Now that the Scottish government’s own parliamentary inquiry has aired the full horrors of what has been going on, is it not time we held their feet to the fire?

Meanwhile, there are many things we can do at a local level. Increased pressure on Scottish Natural Heritage has allowed increases in the numbers of piscivorous birds that can be removed, including the invasive non-native goosander (whose protected status beggars belief - more lobbying please!). Dr Al Reeve and his team have done tremendous work on controlling the other key INNs in our catchment – principally mink, hogweed and knotweed.



River Deveron at The Wrack

Our smolt tracking initiatives, the latest in conjunction with the Moray Firth-wide “The Missing Salmon Project”, indicate that the highest mortality (60%) occurs in the river. Pin-pointing the precise areas where the highest mortality rates occur will help us understand the causes and enable us to take the appropriate action. In addition, extending the shepherding activity to the upper river, which we intend to do in 2020, will, it is hoped, increase survival rates.

At this point I must pay tribute to our Membership Secretary, Robert McConnell, who in typical form managed to raise more than enough money to cover the cost of the extra 50 tags (at £200 each) which we added to The Missing Salmon Project’s donation of 50 to our river. This has meant that the Board and Trust did not have to raid the Improvement fund which was earmarked initially to fund the project – thus we have more to spend on habitat work.

We have identified three burns in the catchment which have had consistently poor recruitment levels of salmonids – these are the Crooksmill, Turriff and King Edward burns. Plans are being drawn up to try and improve these burns, together with key performance indicators to judge the success or otherwise.

We continue to trial possible types of and locations for a fish counter. With no modified areas – i.e. large slabs of concrete – on the river, success has so far proved elusive. It seems that sonar will be the likely winner, but there are still a few areas to be improved on, in particular getting the data into a format that can be easily analysed. These pieces of kit are complex and expensive, and there is little point in buying a machine that does not deliver what we want.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to my fellow proprietors and members of the Trust for their support and continuing investment in our river.

Finally, we are indeed fortunate to have our team of Richie, Marcus, Sarah, Al and Karen, as well as numerous volunteers, who work tirelessly on our behalf to improve our river and its tributaries. We are doing all we can, and can only hope that, over the longer term, we will see an increase in adult salmon returning to our river as a result of their sterling efforts and commitment.

Deveron Salmon - Historical

The annual salmon rod & line catch for the Deveron District was relatively stable from 1952 (when records began) until the end of the 1980s, with the 10-year average consistently sitting at just over 2000 fish per year. There was a record low catch in 1989 before catches gradually improved with the 10-year average increasing to just over 3000 (1993-2002) and increasing again to an average of 3418 for the 10 years from 2003-2012. Since then catches have fallen steeply, with 2018 being the lowest rod catch on record.

Catch and release records began in 1994 and the practice has increased from 22% of salmon returned in 1994 to 91% returned in 2018. The procedure was adopted in the river as a voluntary conservation measure to preserve fragile stocks and has been particularly encouraged by the RDevDSFB for the spring component of the salmon catch (Feb- May) and for sea trout.

Spring salmon

Spring salmon return to the river in the spring months and are available to the rod & line fishery from February onwards. They are typically Multiple Sea Winter fish, which have spent at least 2 years feeding at sea. Figure 2 shows that the spring salmon catch (Feb-May) has declined significantly since 1952. There was a steep decline in the late 1960s before a brief recovery in the late 1970s. The catch continued to decline to record low levels in the early 1990s but despite a slight recovery in the 2000s, fell again to the lowest ever spring catch on record in 2015.

The River Deveron Summer (June-Aug) and Autumn (Sep-Oct) Rod & Line catches showed a very different trend, steadily increasing until the late 2000s but have since fallen away steeply.

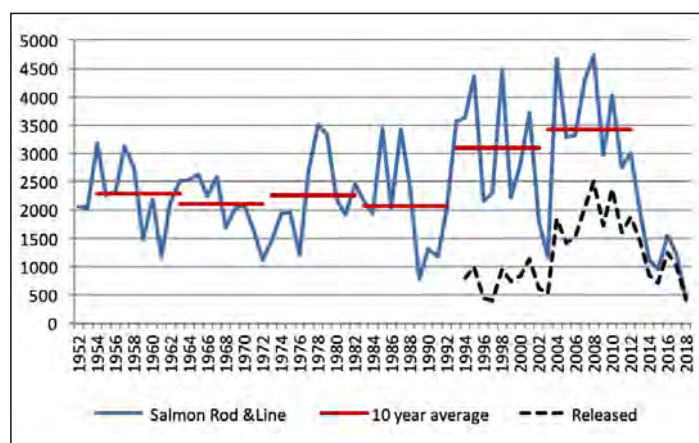


Figure 1

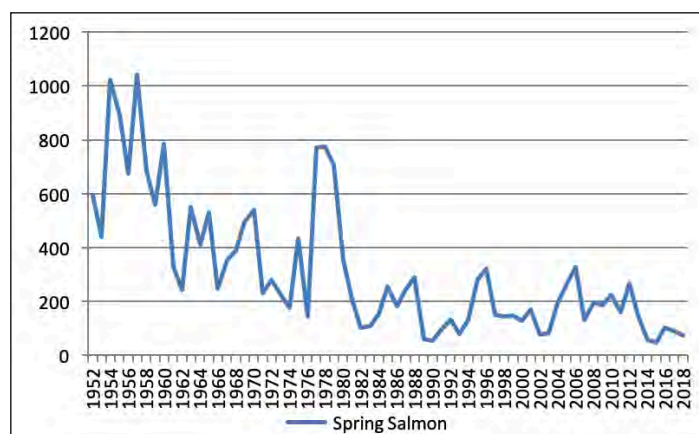


Figure 2.

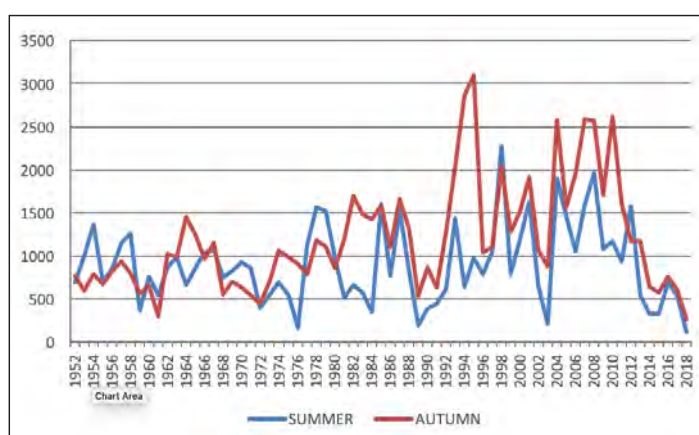


Figure 3

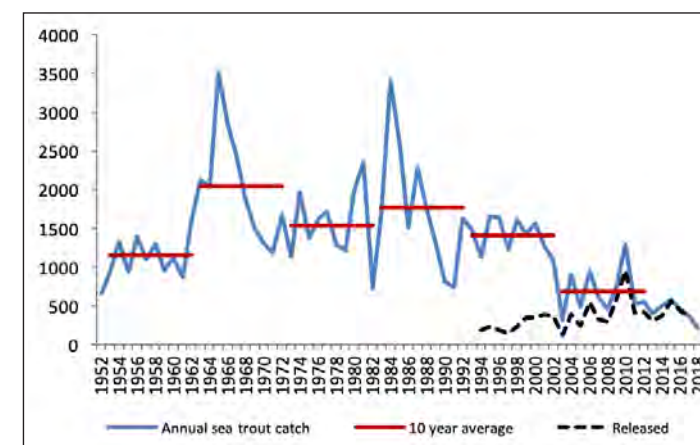
Figure 1: Annual Rod & Line Catch for the River Deveron District showing 10 year averages and the numbers released since 1994.

Figure 2: River Deveron Spring (Feb-May) Rod & Line catch.

Figure 3: River Deveron Summer (June-Aug) & Autumn (Sep-Oct) Rod & Line Catch.

Deveron Sea Trout - Historical

The Deveron sea trout Rod & Line catch (Figure 4) has shown annual variations from 1952 with two significant peaks of nearly 3500 fish. The 10-year average was consistently between 1000 and 2100 fish until 2003 when catches fell to the second lowest catch on record of 317 fish. Since then catches have remained low with the 10-year average from 2003-2012 falling to 685 fish and from 2013-2016 to 485. A similar decline has been seen across the Moray Firth region and many Scottish Rivers.



Catch and release records began in 1994 and the practice has gradually increased from 16% in 1994 to 99% of the total catch in 2018. In response to the clear decline in stocks the RDevDSFB adopted a 100% catch and release policy for sea trout in 2013.

Figure 4: Annual sea trout Rod & Line Catch for the River Deveron District showing 10 year averages and the numbers released since 1994.

Conservation Code and Statutory Regulations

To assist in protecting and improving fish stocks the RDevDSFB launched a conservation code in 2003, outlining local policy and statutory regulations. Local and visiting anglers are asked annually to observe the code to help conserve fish stocks, ensure a sustainable fishery and stop biosecurity threats such as *Gyrodactylus salaris*. The code aims to achieve a high release rate (>80%) of salmon and grilse (particularly female fish) and to protect stocks of multi-sea winter spring salmon which have declined considerably.



The Conservation of Salmon (Annual Close Times and Catch and Release) (Scotland) Regulations came into force on 9th January 2015 and made it illegal to kill wild Atlantic salmon caught before 1st April each year. The RDevDSFB conservation code recommends additional protection of this fragile stock and recommends that all salmon are released until 31st May, due to our local data showing spring salmon still make up a notable percentage of the May catch. The code also outlines measures for conservation of sea trout, recommending 100% catch and release until stocks are shown to recover. Low exploitation of resident brown trout is also encouraged to maintain the sustainability of this popular fishery.

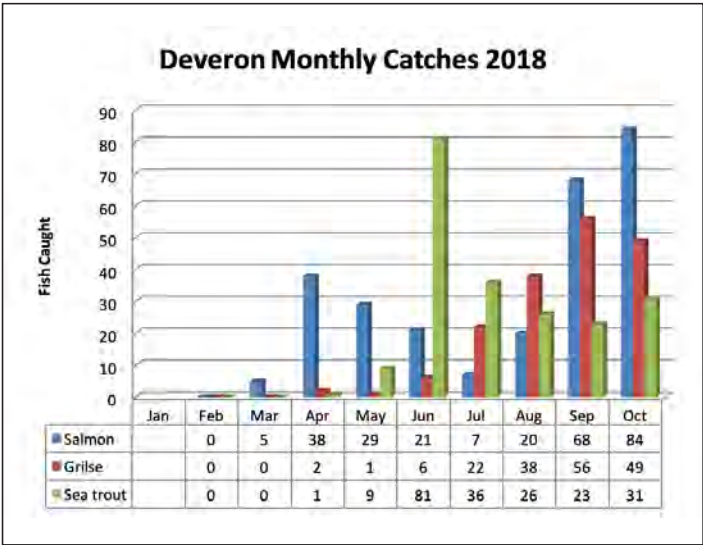
For the 2019 Angling season, the Scottish Government has classified the river Deveron as a Category 1 river having been category 2 in 2018. This improved categorisation was primarily due to changes in the way the assessment was calculated. Despite the new and improved classification, the RDevDSFB has maintained the changes made to the Deveron Angling Code in 2018 for salmon and trout and is implementing additional management measures to protect juvenile salmon during their river phase. The Water of Philorth (coastal) has been classified as a Category 3 river again, which requires all salmon to be returned by law throughout the 2019 season.

Deveron District - 2018 Catches

Rod and line

The 2018 salmon and grilse rod catch was down 64% from the catch in 2017 to 446 which is the lowest catch on record (since 1952) and well below the long-term average of 2437. Of the 446 salmon and grilse caught, 91% were returned. Spring salmon catches also fell compared to 2017, with only 75 salmon caught by the end of May. 85% were returned to the river, aided by the RDevDSFB angler reward scheme. A notable spring salmon of 22lbs was successfully caught and released in May which secured the Morison Trophy. The sea trout catch decreased by 43% to a total of 210 sea trout, which is also the lowest sea trout catch on record, of which 97% were returned. The very low catches in 2018, were due, at least in part to the unprecedented low water conditions and extremely hot weather during the angling season.

Figure 5: Rod & Line Monthly Catches 2018



22lb salmon, Muireisk

Management Report

Moray Firth Seal Management Plan

The Moray Firth Seal Management Plan (MFSMP) continued in 2018. The plan commenced in 2005, with the joint aim of protecting wild salmon and sea trout stocks, whilst also maintaining the conservation status of the Dornoch Firth Special Protection Area (SPA) for common seals. The Plan includes the Scottish Government's Marine Scotland, the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) from St Andrew's University, Scottish Natural Heritage, all of the District Salmon Fishery Boards from the River Deveron around the Moray Firth to the River Helmsdale and previously a limited number of salmon net fisheries. Overall, it provides for seal management for 16 rivers and 5 netting stations throughout the Moray Firth region.

Since 2013, the Spey Fishery Board (SFB) has coordinated the Plan's licence application. A 12-month licence was successfully granted for 2018 (after a successful appeal was made against the original decision to reduce the licence to 9 months). The licence again permitted the shooting of 18 Grey seals and 0 Common seals within the plans geographic area, between 5th March 2018 and the 31st January 2019. Nominated and qualified marksmen carried out the licence conditions on behalf of the plans partners.

Sawbill duck & cormorant management

During 2017 the RDevDSFB joined the Moray Firth Sawbill Licence Group. The group is coordinated by Roger Knight of the Spey DSFB and submits a licence application to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) on behalf of the Spey, Conon, Ness, Beauly, Kyle of Sutherland, Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie River boards. During 2018 the DBIT continued the coordination of the local Piscivorous (fish-eating) bird counts, required for the licence application. Two counts were carried out along the Deveron (Avochie Fishing's to Estuary) in March & April by DBIT personnel, Ghillies and Volunteers. Counts were undertaken during the annual smolt run. The licence was successfully granted and permitted the shooting, as an aid to scaring, of 16 Goosanders and 3 Cormorants between the 21st September 2018 to 31st May 2019 (Only male Goosanders could be shot in May).



Male Goosander

Fishery protection

Protecting local fish stocks from illegal activity, such as poaching, is enforced by the RDevDSFB. Fishery protection is essential in combating both damage to local fish stocks and the economy and is an ongoing priority. During 2018 the RDevDSFB continued to work closely with Police Scotland, and in particular, carried out a number of joint-patrols at various locations throughout the Deveron catchment. The RDevDSFB also continued to work with the SFB to undertake coastal patrols between Cowhythe Point and the Water of Philorth. The coastal patrols were used to search for the presence of any illegal fishing nets of which none were detected during 2018.

Wild fisheries reform - latest update

During 2018, the Scottish Government's Marine Scotland established a £200,000 'Wild Fisheries Governance Fund' to support the voluntary merger of District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) and/or the creation of new DSFBs in catchment areas where none currently exist. Marine Scotland (MS), in collaboration with Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS), also continued to develop a Fishery Management Plan template which will facilitate a consistent approach to be taken by local DSFBs and Trusts across Scotland. It will also inform the development/review of the National Wild Fisheries Strategy and allow Scottish Ministers to identify, quantify and prioritise action to mitigate effects on damage to wild fish and fisheries in Scotland.

Deveron Fisheries management plan

The Deveron Fisheries Management Plan was reviewed and updated during 2018. The new plan is based on a standard template created by Marine Scotland Science and Fishery Management Scotland, with a wide ranging set of local objectives and actions directly targeted at improving juvenile fish abundance and the number of returning adult fish to the river. The plan also includes a list of measureable outcomes that will be used to assess overall performance.

Scottish Government measures to control the killing of wild salmon

Atlantic Salmon face a number of pressures during their life cycle. These include but are not limited to:

- predation
- poor water quality
- disease and parasites
- barriers to migration
- poor physical habitat quality
- food availability
- factors affecting survival issues while at sea (including the challenge of warming seas)

The Scottish Government has introduced a range of measures designed to improve the conservation status of salmon by managing the pressure of exploitation through fishing within Scotland’s domestic waters. They are designed to complement, not replace, other management activities being undertaken at local, national and international level in the interests of conservation. The objective of the measures is to ensure harvesting in Scottish domestic waters is sustainable and that fishing does not damage vulnerable stocks or cause damage to the network of Special Areas of Conservation in place across Scotland.

In general terms the Regulations:

- prohibit the retention of salmon caught in coastal waters
- permit the killing of salmon within inland waters where stocks are above a defined conservation limit
- require mandatory catch and release of salmon in areas which fall below their defined conservation limit following the assessment of salmon stocks

For the 2019 season, the Scottish Government has classified the Deveron as a Category 1 river, whereby levels of salmon exploitation are sustainable and no further intervention is required.

More information on the new conservation measures, and how they are determined can be found online at www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status

In January 2019 the Scottish Government submitted a draft Implementation Plan for 2019-24 to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) setting out their plans to conserve and protect Atlantic salmon over the five-year period. This will be finalised by November 2019. The Plan can be found online at: www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status/nascoip

ASF and NASF Agreement

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) have signed new agreements with commercial fishermen in Greenland and the Faroe Islands that will protect thousands of adult wild Atlantic salmon from commercial nets and longlines, allowing them to return to North American and European rivers.

The new Greenland Salmon Conservation Agreement will be for a period of 12-years (2018-2029). Representatives of ASF, NASF, and the Association of Fishers and Hunters in Greenland (KNAPK) finalised the agreement on May 24th in Reykjavik, Iceland, after more than 12-months of negotiations. The Faroe Island agreement between ASF, NASF, and the Faroese Salmon Fishing Vessel Association (Laksaskip) was signed in Reykjavik on May 22nd, continuing a decades-long suspension of commercial salmon fishing dating back to 1991.

The coastal waters of Greenland and the Faroe Islands are critical ocean feeding grounds for large wild Atlantic salmon from hundreds of rivers in North America and Europe. Commercial catches in these areas are known as “mixed-stock” fisheries because salmon are captured from relatively healthy populations as well as endangered ones. This impacts vulnerable rivers like the Penobscot River in the US and the St. John River in Canada, as well as iconic rivers with reduced counts, such as the Tweed in Scotland, Iceland’s Bix Laxa, and the Alta in Norway. A subsistence harvest by licensed recreational fishermen for personal and family consumption will continue.

Peatland Restoration - Upper Deveron

The Dorenell wind farm development has completed the restoration of over 100 ha of blanket bog in the Upper Deveron, as part of its habitat management plan commitments, which has involved the insertion of over 2000 peat dams. The re-watering effects have shown immediate benefits and will restore an area of what was highly drained peat, into ecologically important blanket bog. Peat bogs act like giant sponges, absorbing precipitation and storing water, which reduces peak floods and help maintains more steady, prolonged flows in the headwaters and main stem. The restoration work will help provide more favourable conditions for juvenile fish and also angling.

Invasive Non-Native Species & Biosecurity Programme

With the start of the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) project in March 2018, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Scottish Natural Heritage, Project Officers Dr Al Reeve and Karen Muller were able to immediately begin work on Giant Hogweed control across the Deveron, Ythan and Ugie catchments. With the help of multiple volunteers, contractors, ghillies, farmers and landowners - and assisted by the dry weather - the hogweed across the catchments were tackled.

To help control hogweed over the next few years, funding from the SISI project has paid for a number of volunteers to be enrolled on the knapsack herbicide spraying course, which allows them to help us control hogweed (and knotweed) along the river banks in the future. This will enable us to cover the hogweed and enable us to re-treat some of the worst affected areas. The successful sheep-trial site at Auldtown continues and we have also added sheep to a new site at Kirkside Farm, Macduff to assist in the control of a heavily infested area of hogweed. So far the results are promising and over the next few years we hope to see a big change in the density of hogweed there.

In the autumn of 2018 we started picking up American Mink in our traps and caught 27 in total. The majority of mink were caught along the coast where they seem to be thriving. Over the past year we have been building up a network of volunteers to monitor mink traps along the coast and help us to begin controlling their numbers in these difficult locations.

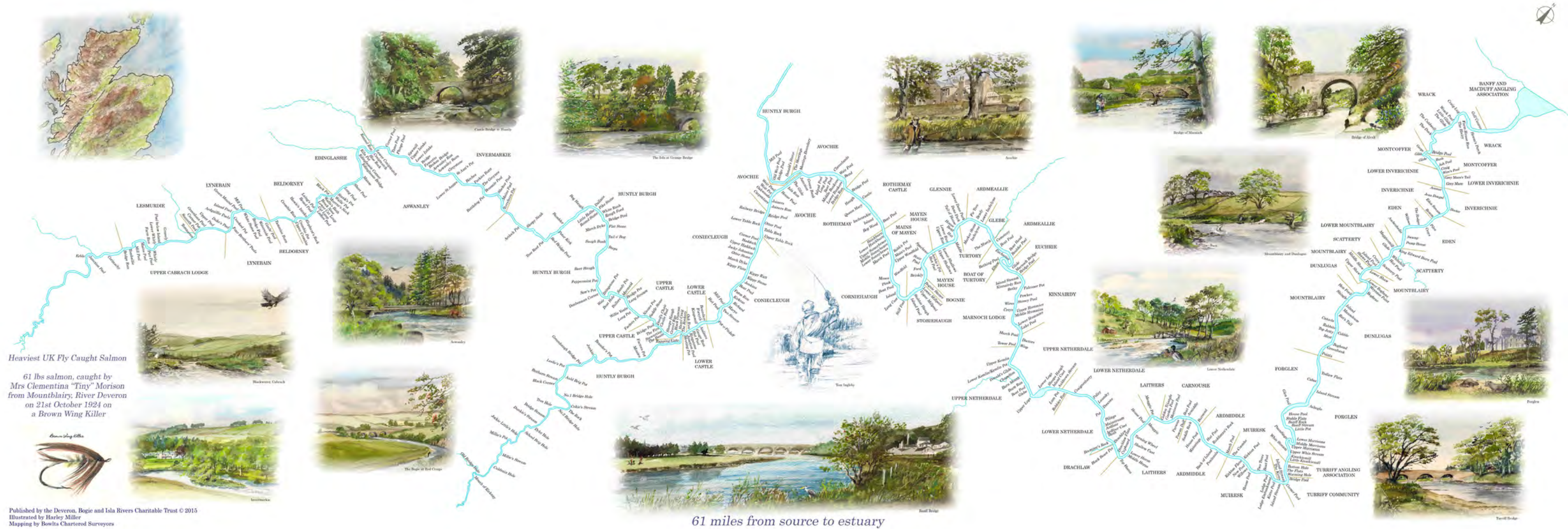
For 2019 we will continue to control invasive species and encourage and support local landowners to do the same.

You can find out more about the SISI project and the invasive species we are controlling here: www.invasivespecies.scot/



Giant Hogweed control

Angler's Map of the River Deveron - Tom Ingleby Edition



2019/20 PRIORITIES

- The Missing Salmon Project (Tag 100 salmon smolts)
- Expand Smolt Shepherding Programme
- Expand Water Quality monitoring programme
- Continue Invasive Non-Native species control through the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) Project
- Complete fish counter trial (Gemini Sonar)



Copies of the Angler's Map of River Deveron are available to buy.

The cost of the print is £35 (plus £6 p&p). It is printed on matt, coated 180gsm; print size is 100cm x 35cm. Please email office@deveron.org or call the DBIT on 01466 711 388 for further information.

Research and Monitoring

Smolt monitoring - Dorenell wind farm - 2018

The Dorenell Fishery Management Plan continued into the construction monitoring phase with construction work continuing on site through 2018 with commissioning early in 2019. This plan includes baseline water quality monitoring, fish surveys, habitat and invertebrate surveys of the Blackwater and Fiddich (Spey) that drain through the windfarm site but also includes the Allt Deveron as a suitable control site out with the wind farm area.

The surveys have established a preconstruction baseline against which further monitoring during construction, and for 2 years post construction, can be compared. The fishery management plan includes the monitoring of smolt output from the Allt Deveron (control) and Blackwater catchments through the deployment of rotary screw traps. The graph below summarises the estimated salmon smolt production from the Allt Deveron and Blackwater for 2014-2018. Despite significant variation in river conditions, the estimated smolt output over the 5 years is relatively consistent especially for the Blackwater. The smolt production estimate for the Allt Deveron was the highest since monitoring began in 2014. Reassuringly, the control site, Allt Deveron, is showing a similar pattern overall to that of the Blackwater where construction began in 2017. The 2nd graph illustrates the estimated trout parr production for the Allt Deveron and Blackwater catchments 2014-2018. The trout estimate is considerably more variable than the salmon numbers and is more complicated to understand, as it will include sea trout and brown trout juveniles of many different ages. This high in the catchment sea trout smolts are not fully developed and cannot yet be clearly defined as such.

Figure 6: Allt Deveron & Blackwater salmon smolt run estimate 2014-2018 with 95% confidence intervals shown.

Figure 7: Allt Deveron & Blackwater trout parr run estimate 2014-2018 with 95% confidence intervals shown. A trout parr estimate was not possible in 2016 due to lack of recaptures.

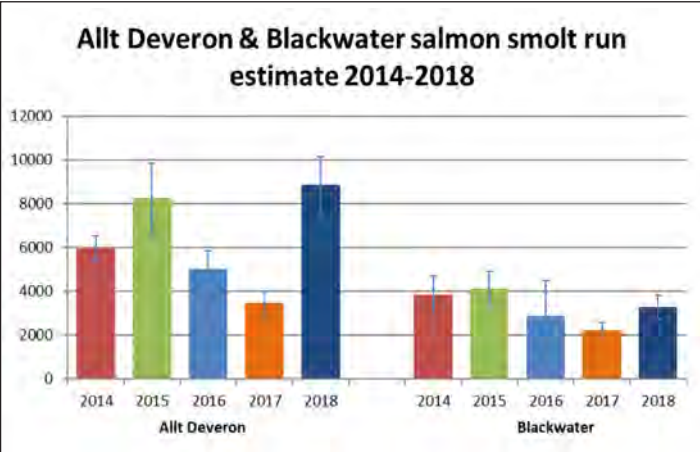


Figure 6

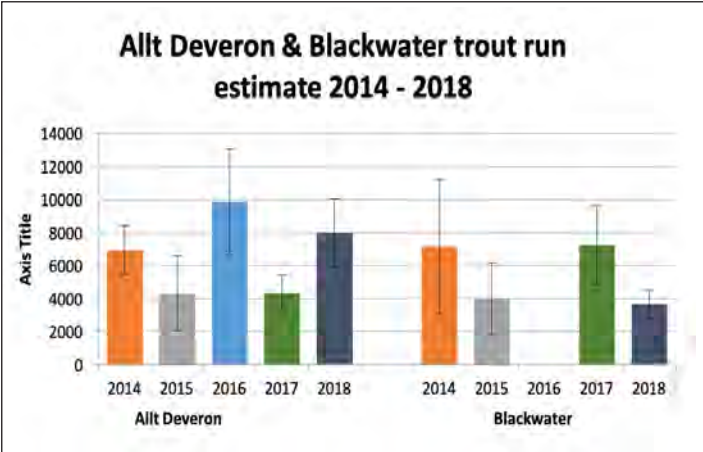


Figure 7



Dorenell Windfarm

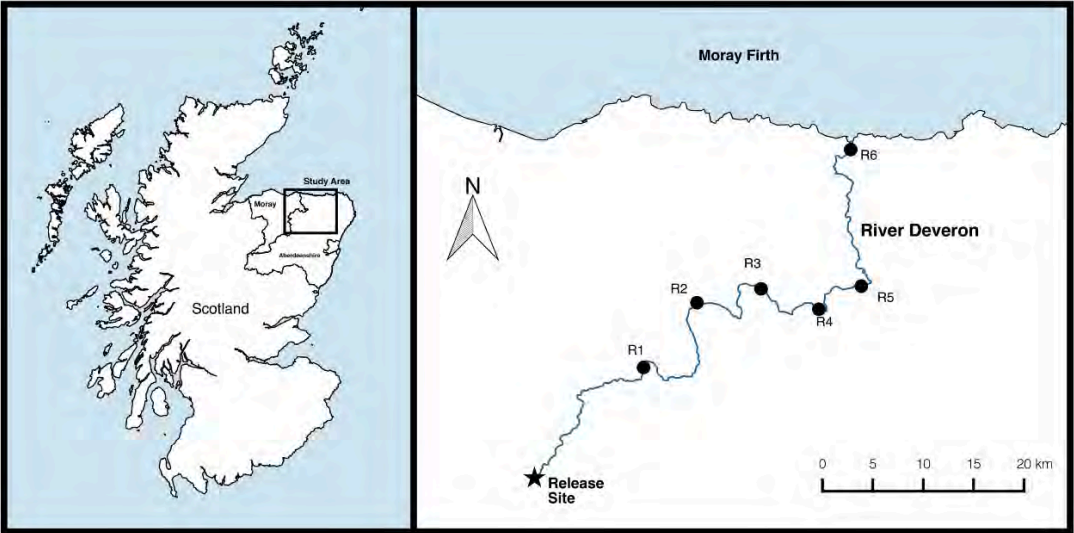


Figure 8: Map of receiver locations in the River Deveron.

River Deveron Atlantic salmon smolt tracking project 2018

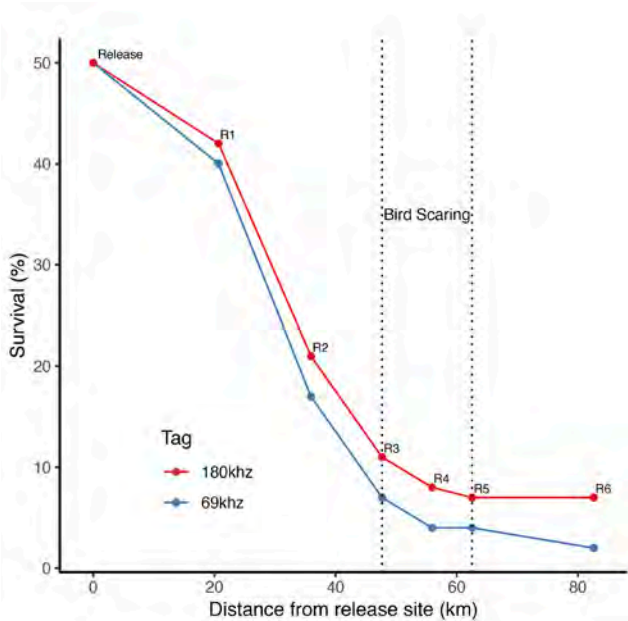
Introduction

One hundred Atlantic Salmon smolts were caught and tagged with acoustic transmitters at the beginning of the spring migration. Two different transmitter sizes were used in order to broaden the range of tag to body size ratio's (tag burden), with fifty fish being tagged with the smaller Vemco V5 180 KHz tag and 50 with larger Thelma Biotel 69KHz tag. Nine receiver pairs were located along the Deveron in order to detect acoustic pulses from the transmitters. These would give an indication of smolt losses as well as movement speed and successful passage to sea. Water level, lunar brightness, water temperature and tag burden were all assessed for their effect on rate of movement and passage success, which was classed as detection at the final receiver in the array at Banff. A trial bird scaring exercise was conducted between Bridge of Marnoch and Muiresk by ghillies, landowners and volunteers to scare and deter piscivorous birds that target the smolt run. A range of techniques were used to scare the birds including a licence from SNH to shoot as an aid to scaring. The efficacy of this active bird scaring practices on increased smolt survival was assessed through tagged smolt survival.

- Only 9 smolts successfully left the river, resulting in 9% passage success.
- Loss rate (mortality rate) was 1.102% per km. Higher than 2016 (0.77% per km) and 2017 (0.51% per km).
- Of the successful smolts, two were tagged with larger Thelma transmitters. Seven were tagged with the smaller vemco versions.
- Lunar brightness wasn't significant in explaining passage success.
- Mean rate of movement was 0.029 m/s (2.5 km/day). Notably lower than 2017 (4.9 km/day) and 2016 (4-5km/day).
- Rate of movement wasn't found to be significant to passage success however.
- Water temperature was found to have a significant effect on rate of movement with faster speeds noted at higher temperatures.
- Mean loss rate was 0.47% per km in bird scared areas whereas upstream, non-scared sections had a higher mean loss rate of 1.71% per km. The downstream, non-scared section had a lower loss rate of 0.02%, however. It should be noted that very few smolts were present between the bird scared receiver pairs making any effect difficult to distinguish.

Extract from report by Sean Garrett University of Glasgow Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment

Figure 9: Percentage smolt detections (survival) at successive receivers with distance from release site, seperated by tag type 180khz (Vemco - smaller) and 69khz (Thelma- larger). Bird scaring was undertaken in area denoted by the dotted line.



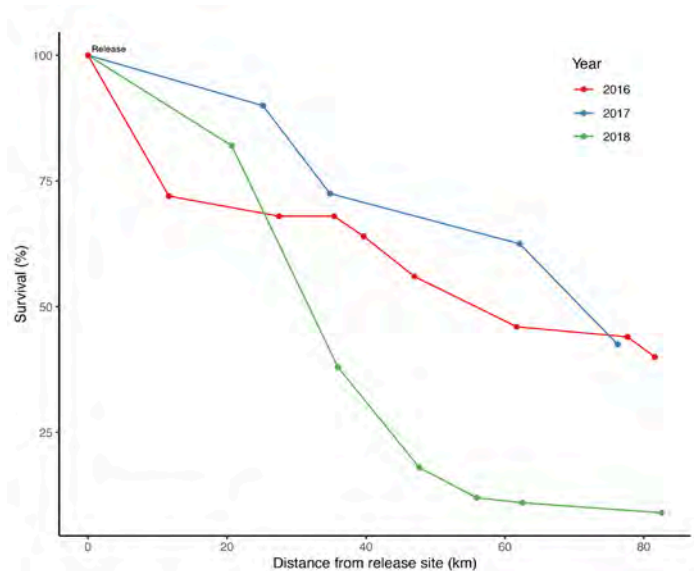


Figure 10: Smolt percentage detections (survival) on the Deveron. Comparison between this year (2018) and two previous years, data provided by Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment (2017) and Lothian etal. (2018)

The percentage of smolts making it to sea this year was much lower than previous years (9% compared to 40% in 2016 and 42.5% in 2017).

Unlike this year, there were notable increases in river discharge in 2017 and 2016. The maximum discharge was 0.82m in 2016, 1.13m in 2017 compared to 0.69 this year (2018).

Conclusion

The far higher mortality observed in 2018 was primarily due to the low water conditions in the River Deveron during the spring. The bird scaring section did show reduced rates of smolt mortality although only a small number of smolts made it this far.

The Missing Salmon Project

During 2018 the Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST) launched the Missing Salmon Project. The DBIT and RDevDSFB are partners in the exciting new project, which aims to investigate what is happening on the salmon's journey from the headwaters of the rivers to the sea and then take steps to help increase survival.

A campaign by AST to raise significant funds by the end of 2018 was successfully completed to allow tagging and tracking to begin during spring 2019. 100 salmon smolts were successfully tagged and released in the upper Deveron. It is hoped that this new initiative will help uncover the secrets of the missing salmon to help prevent further decline of this iconic species. The project is the largest acoustic tracking project for salmon in Europe and will track smolts further than ever before. The tagging project will start its work in the Moray Firth - the route taken by 20% of all salmon that leave the UK. The lessons learned from the study in the Moray Firth will provide valuable insights that are transferable to other populations of salmon around the UK.

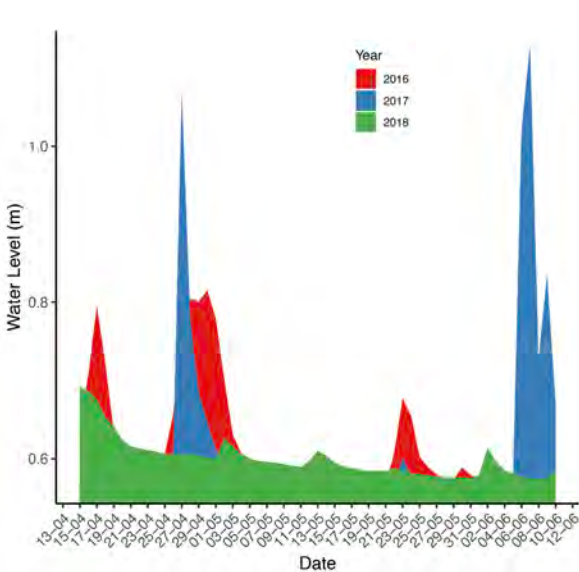


Figure 11: Water level data from the James Hutton Institute managed gauging station at Cabrach from early April - early June in 2016, 2017 and 2018



Water Quality

Following concerns being raised about water quality in the River Deveron the RDevDSFB has begun working with the James Hutton Institute (JHI) in Aberdeen to develop a routine water monitoring strategy for the catchment.

[Download an acoustic receiver near Banff Bridge](#)

The water samples will be collected annually at three sites on the Deveron Mainstem and analysed by the JHI for dissolved nutrients (nitrate, ammonium, phosphate), acidity, suspended sediment, dissolved oxygen and metaldehyde.

The analysis of initial samples showed the sample was of moderate dissolved oxygen concentration, from a low-ish alkalinity river, with no issues for pH or oxygen demand (biological oxygen demand is an indicator of organic pollution). The major elements didn't suggest any issues with metals like Zn, Cu that would relate to toxicity and were at natural levels associated with the geology. The anions and nutrients were as expected. Reactive P (as phosphate, PO4) is low, Nitrate (NO3) was moderate, but not of concern. Nitrate leaks out of farmland detected, but the observed concentrations were not of concern. Metaldehyde concentrations were low.

Only Epoxicanazole (a fungicide) and Cypermethrin (an agricultural and domestic insecticide) are above the average concentrations found at 10 comparable sites from a year long study on the nearby River Ugie. The data for the Deveron needs to be viewed with the caveat that it is from limited samples and a snap-shot in time. A longer term study is required to fully understand seasonal fluctuations. Using methods from the previously mentioned River Ugie study, Marc Stutter (JHI) compared the Deveron data to a system of ecotoxicological thresholds and applied categories of risk. He concluded the Cypermethrin was of a medium risk in the June 2017 sample, high in the October 2018 sample and medium in the April 2019 sample.

Although this is quite a 'cautious' method of assessing the threshold of risk, it has raised significant concerns about its impact on the River Deveron ecosystem and the potential source(s). Subsequently SEPA have begun their own investigations and the RDevDSFB will continue its own monitoring working with the JHI.

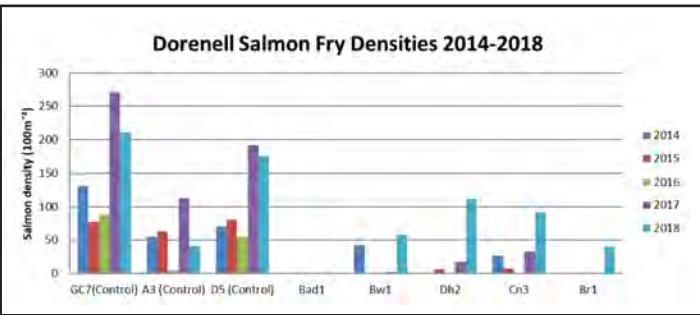


Figure 12: Comparison of salmon fry at quantitative sites (minimum density estimates).

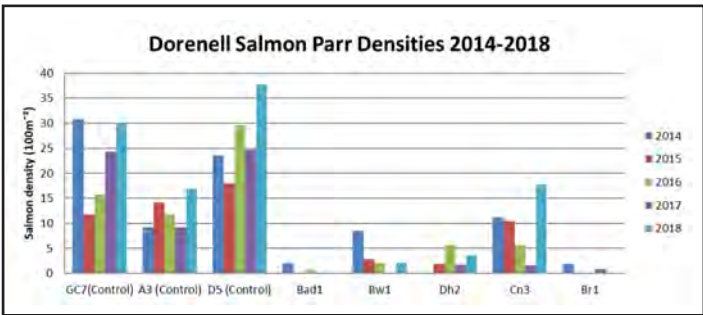


Figure 13: Comparison of salmon parr at quantitative sites (minimum density estimates).

Electrofishing surveys

The DBIT conducted juvenile electrofishing surveys at forty sites within the Deveron catchment in 2018. Ten of these were for the Dorenell Windfarm monitoring and thirty were for the National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS).

The Dorenell windfarm monitoring sites showed good salmon fry numbers at all sites compared to previous results. On the Blackwater tributary salmon fry were at the highest densities at four sites since monitoring began in 2014. Salmon parr were also found in good densities at these sites in the Allt Deveron and Blackwater as compared to previous results.

National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS)

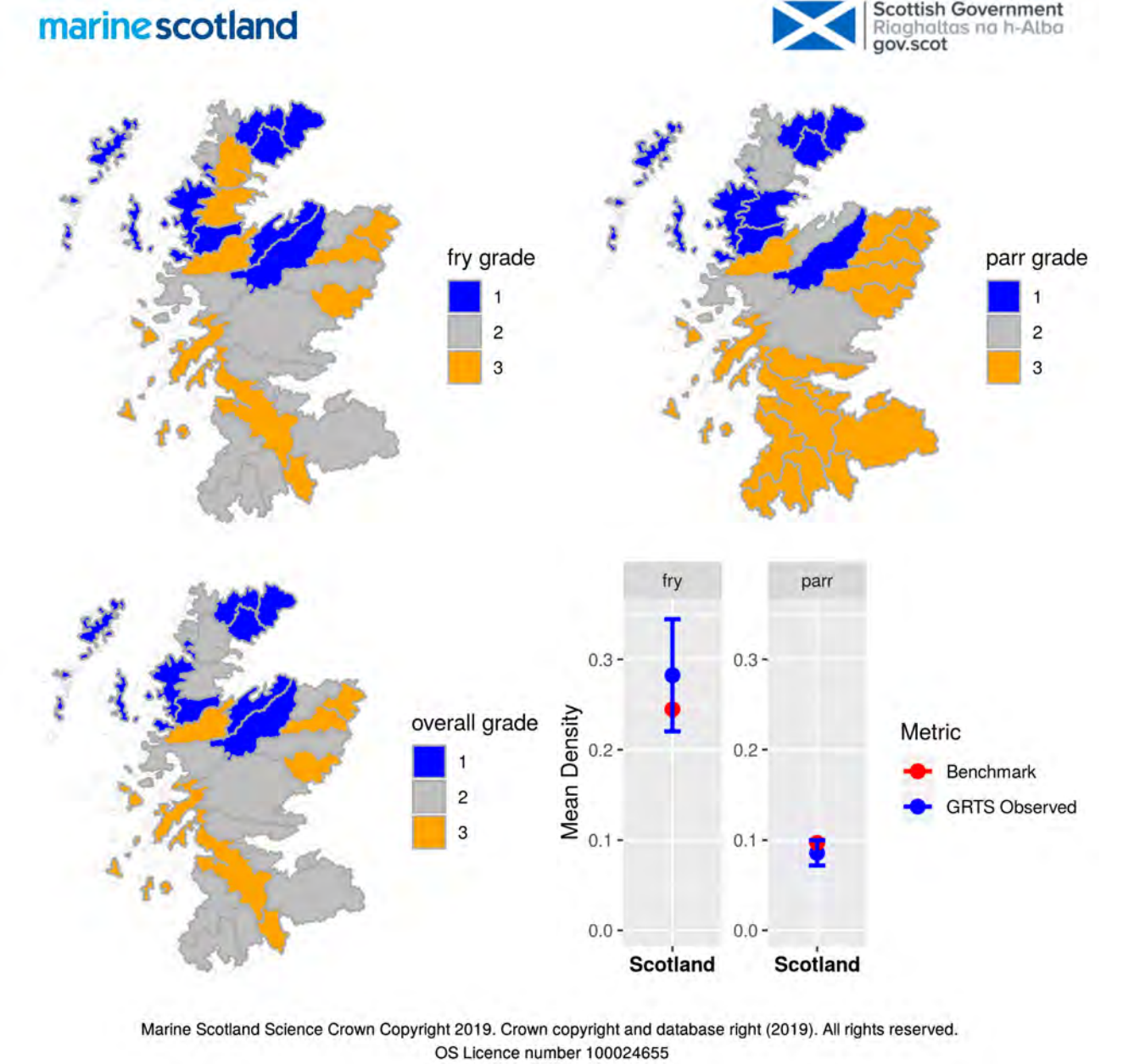
The National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS) provides the data necessary to carry out an annual assessment of the status of Scotland's salmon stocks using electrofishing data. The first national survey was carried out in 2018 and was funded by Marine Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). The survey is designed, managed and analysed by scientists at Marine Scotland Science (MSS). Data is collected by local fisheries managers (DBIT) according to protocols developed by MSS in consultation with the Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre (SFCC). A report has been prepared using data collected from the first year of NEPS in 2018, that shows how these data can be used in combination with an assessment benchmark to assess the status of juvenile salmon populations. The NEPS data can be visualised at a range of spatial scales using the NEPS R Shiny Application.

Deveron results

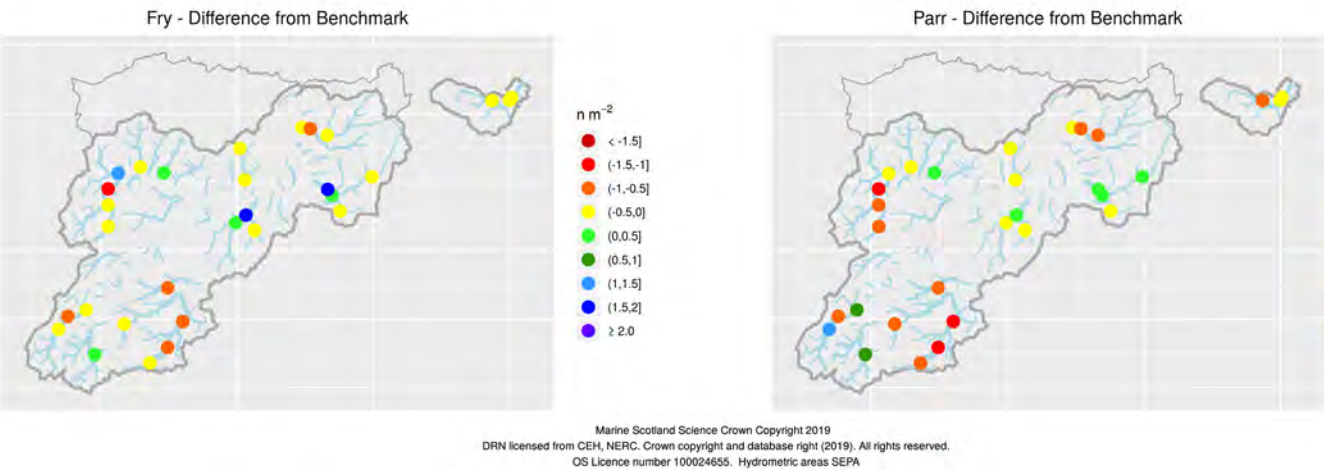
Following the NEPS survey the Deveron was assessed as a category 2 for salmon fry, Category 3 for parr and a category 2 overall (see map opposite). The NEPS survey is designed as such that survey sites are chosen at random. Although numbers were lower than expected at some sites, those that had no salmon present were nearly all in small river channels with no habitat suitable for salmon.



Salmon (top) and trout (bottom) fry



Data derived from I A Malcolm, K J Millidine, F L Jackson, R S Glover, R J Fryer (2019) Assessing the status of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) from juvenile electrofishing data collected under the National Electrofishing Programme for Scotland (NEPS) Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science Vol 10 No 2. Crown Copyright 2019.





Deveron Brown Trout



Trout research - 2018 tagging

DBIT staff floy-tagged a number of Deveron trout during the autumn of 2018. These tags are small plastic yellow cylinders with ‘Deveron’ and DBIT contact details printed on them along with the ID number. The tags are inserted in the back of the fish by the dorsal fin. We would be interested to hear from any anglers who capture a floy-tagged trout in order to build up more information on their life history, distribution, age and growth rates. If you report a tagged fish, then you will qualify for a reward. Please don’t remove the tags from the fish. We would like anglers to record where possible:

- 1. Number of the floy tag
- 2. Date and location of capture
- 3. Length and weight of the trout
- 4. A sample of scales

To report any tagged trout please contact the Trust Offices on 01466 711 388 or office@deveron.org

Fish counter

During 2017 the DBIT conducted extensive research into current fish counting technology and the most suitable options for the river Deveron. There are four current types of counter technology available: Resistivity, Optical beam, Video and Hydroacoustic (Sonar).

Resistivity technology usually requires an existing weir structure to be present to attach the electrode sensor equipment to or a new weir structure built. There are currently no suitable weirs on the Deveron main stem and to build a new weir would be very costly and would have significant associated liabilities. Optical beam counters, which use infrared beams, also require additional structures or fish passes to be present and require low water turbidity, which means the technology is unsuitable for the Deveron main stem.

Video counters function by placing cameras in fish passes or on the riverbed. The DBIT completed a trial of underwater cameras at the Eden beat during 2015. During the trial, the cameras operated successfully for around 80% of the time but the high water turbidity hampered the clarity of the video

footage. It is thought the cameras could be used to assist another counter technology, in terms of fish species ID, but not as the only counting technology deployed.

Hydroacoustic counters (Sonar) use sound wave technology to produce image data. The DBIT have completed two trials of the ARIS Sonar (Sound Metrics) technology on the Deveron mainstem at Eden and Montcoffer. The trials were successful and the sonar could operate in high turbidity conditions and size fish accurately. The technology also requires low engineering or structural requirements and produces high quality data. Unfortunately, the initial capital costs of the ARIS equipment and software are high (circa £80k) and the ongoing management of the sonar equipment and post-processing of the data is labour intensive. Validation of the counts and species identification (e.g. salmon or sea trout?) is also not always possible under certain river conditions. A predictive model for the Deveron would be required to distinguish and calculate the overall numbers of salmon and sea trout entering the river.

A further trial of sonar technology, the Gemini (Tritech) (circa £20k) was carried out in august 2018. A presentation on the results was given to the RDevDSFB by Gordon Nelson (Tritech) at the September Board meeting. It is imperative that data gathered from any new counting system is accepted and acknowledged by Marine Scotland Science (Scottish Government), as being robust, and also used in the national river classification process to determine a classification (grade 1 to 3) for the Deveron. Since the September meeting, DBIT staff and Tritech have given presentations on the trial to Marine Scotland Science and have been invited to join the Governments, Fish Counter Working Group to help move the project forward. It has been agreed by the RDevDSFB to deploy the sonar in the Deveron during July 2019 for a longer period of time, on a rent-to-buy agreement with Tritech.

The DBIT will combine the results from the local trials, along with results from similar trials ongoing in Wales to assess the devices fish counting capabilities. The DBIT will also examine the results with the Scottish Government to ascertain if they will accept the data for inclusion in the annual river classification process. The DBIT will then finally produce an estimation of staff resource required and advise the board on whether to continue with the Tritech device.

Gemini imaging sonar



Education and Community Outreach

Deveron Trout Festival - May 5/6th 2018

Another highly successful trout angling weekend was held on the Deveron over the weekend of the 5/6th of May including an informal fly tying evening in Turriff. 28 rods fished a mixture of beats over the two days and an impressive number of trout up to 6lbs in weight were landed. Thanks goes to Henderson's Country Sports and Allan Liddle for organising and running the weekend.

Ghillies Evening

The annual ghillies evening was held on the 12th of November in Turriff. Many interesting themes and issues were covered and an action plan has been drawn up by the DBIT to tackle all matters raised.

Newsletters and social media

Three editions of the popular Deveron Flyer were produced during 2018/19 and distributed to keep all DBIT members and interested parties updated on the work of the RDevDSFB & DBIT and current fisheries news. The website of the RDevDSFB & DBIT (www.deveron.org) was updated regularly with latest meeting minutes, news and announcements. Social media such as Twitter (@DBIRCT), Instagram (river_deveron) and Facebook (DeveronBogielsla) were also updated regularly by the DBIT, with latest local and national news, angling catches and opportunities, and local conservation initiatives.

Media coverage

Local press continued to cover our projects such as invasive non-native species control and educational work. SNH, STV, BBC Radio 2 and BBC News Scotland, produced coverage of projects such as the river opening ceremony, smolt tracking project and giant hogweed grazing.



Robert McConnell

River Champion Award - Mr Robert McConnell

Mr Robert McConnell, Hon Membership Secretary of the Trust was recognised as a 'River Champion' by the River Restoration Centre during 2018. The success of projects aiming to improve rivers for wildlife and people is largely influenced by the involvement of volunteers. The River Restoration Centre understands the importance of this contribution and wishes to acknowledge those that may otherwise not get recognition. 'River Champions' seeks to celebrate the outstanding efforts of individuals contributing to river restoration in their area. It aims to recognise those dedicating time outside of their day-to-day roles to contribute towards improving rivers for wildlife and people.

Robert McConnell has been instrumental in the success of the Trust membership, encouraging support and securing funding over the last 14 years. This funding has helped build fish passes for salmon and sea trout, offer educational projects for schools, carry out invasive species control projects, as well as ground breaking salmon smolt tracking and survival studies.

2019 - The International Year of the Salmon

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) is an initiative of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. It aims to inform and stimulate outreach and research that aspires to establish the conditions necessary to ensure the resilience of salmon and people throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Over the coming year the collaboration will bring people together, share and develop knowledge, raise awareness and take action. The extraordinary life histories of salmon in the Northern Hemisphere exposes them to many environmental and human-caused factors influencing their health and abundance. Partners will raise awareness of what humans can do to ensure salmon and their habitats are conserved and restored.



The IYS aims to: • develop a better understanding of the factors driving salmon abundance and the challenges facing them; • encourage scientists, decision-makers and the public to work towards solutions that overcome the challenges salmon face; • support conservation and restoration strategies to help manage salmon in the face of climate change; • enable collaboration among organisations and researchers in countries throughout the Northern Hemisphere; • inspire and support a new generation of researchers and managers, and conservationists; • help create a greater awareness of the ecological, social, cultural and economic value of salmon; and • support research and conservation of salmon species and their environments throughout the Northern Hemisphere. 2019 is the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon with the intention that outreach and research will continue through to 2022. Please visit: www.yearofthesalmon.org to find out more.



New live river cam - Eden Beat

During 2018 Farson Digital installed a brand new live river camera at the Eden beat on the lower Deveron. It can be viewed live here - www.farsondigitalwatercams.com/locations/turriff

Public Presentations

Presentations were given by DBIT staff at the following events during 2018/19:

- Fisheries Management Scotland Annual Conference, Edinburgh
- The RDevDSFB & DBIT AGM, Huntly
- Deveron Trout Festival, Turriff
- Deveron Ghillies Evening, Turriff
- x 14 separate Outreach and Educational events delivered within the Deveron catchment as part of the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) project

Deveron Opening Ceremony and Morison Trophy

The Morison Family and DBIT were delighted to announce the 2017 winner of the Morison Trophy at the river opening ceremony held in February 2018. The Morison Trophy, awarded for the heaviest fly-caught salmon of the season from the Deveron, was won by visiting angler, Mr Robin Minter-Kemp. The trophy was presented by special guest and former Scottish Rugby player, Mr Iain Milne. The award was given for a fly-caught 28lbs salmon from the Inverichnie beat. In winning the trophy. Mr Minter-Kemp was also presented with a Vision salmon fly-rod, courtesy of Henderson's Country Sports for releasing the fish, a limited edition 'Morisons' Fly box and bottle of, The Deveron malt whisky courtesy of John Dewar & Sons Ltd. Mr Robert McConnell, Hon. Membership secretary of the DBIT was given the honour of opening the Deveron salmon season. Mr McConnell blessed the river with a dram of 18 y/o Deveron malt, thereafter, Mr Robin Minter-Kemp, made the first cast of the season.



Good Governance

The RDevDSFB is established by Salmon Fisheries legislation consolidated by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Consolidation (Scotland) Act 2003 which from 16th September 2013 was amended by the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013. The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007 also applies. The Board is empowered under the legislation to take such action as it considers expedient for the protection, enhancement and conservation of Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout stocks and their fisheries. The Deveron Catchment area covers 1,266 km² and the length of the river system is 96 km.

The coastline along the Moray Firth extends from Cowhythe Point to the Water of Philorth and 3 nautical miles out to sea. There are 53 rod fisheries within the main stream of the Deveron and Netting Stations at ex adverso Auchmeddan Estate and in the Sea, Aberdour (per Lands Valuation Roll).

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 consists of several parts, the second of which relates to salmon and freshwater fisheries. The emphasis is on the duty of Boards to be open, transparent and accountable. This includes:

- a duty to publish and copy to Scottish Ministers the Annual Report and audited accounts;
- a duty to hold a minimum of one public meeting, with all Board or other meetings held in public unless there is a good reason for them to be held in private;
- a duty to deal with complaints and to maintain and keep procedures under review;
- a duty to maintain a register and declaration of relevant financial interests of Board Members and to review these at Board Meetings.

The RDevDSFB's Complaints' Procedure and Registration and Declaration of relevant financial interests are dealt with later in this report.

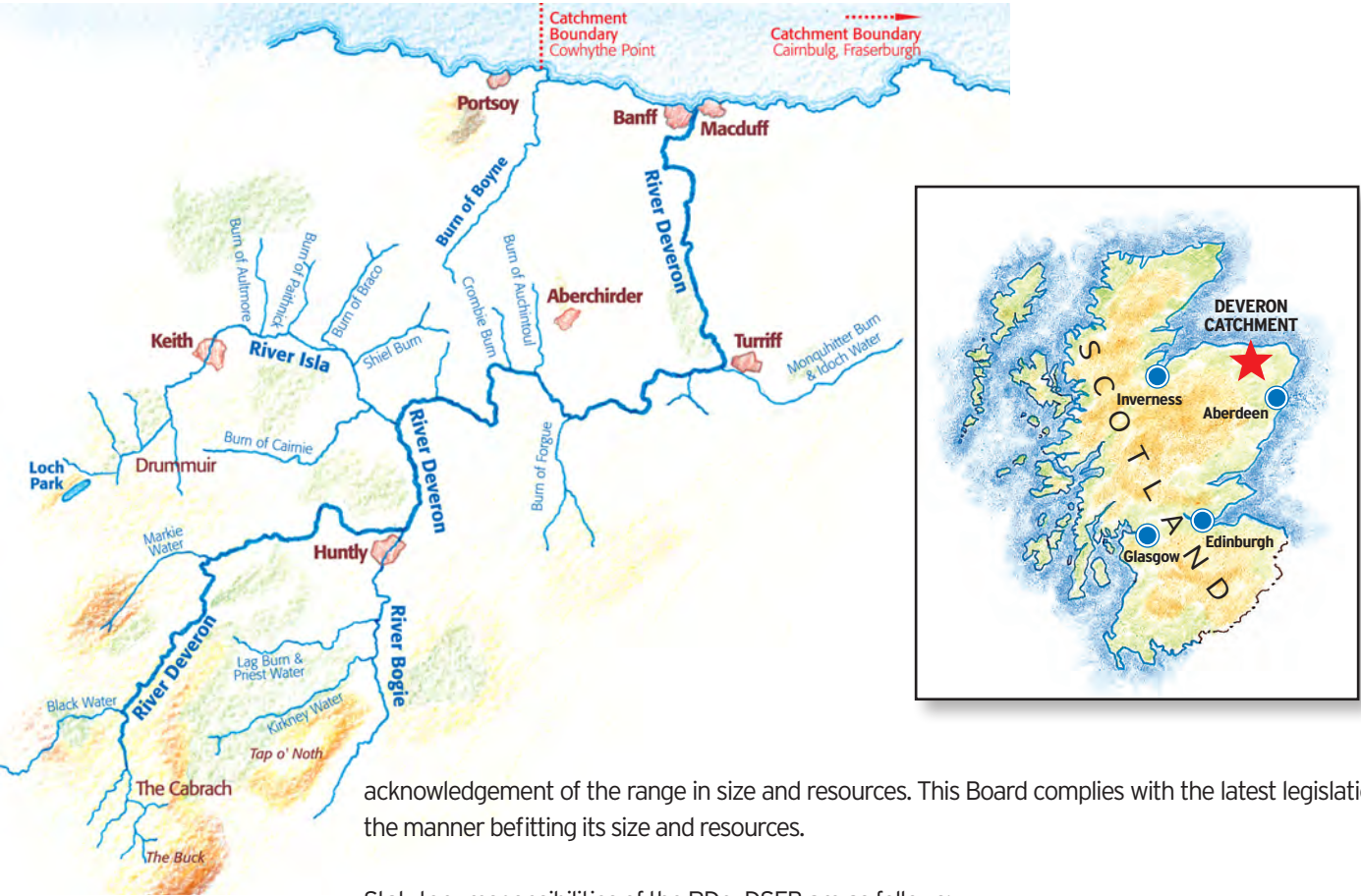
Meetings

Since the 2013 Act came into force meetings of the RDevDSFB are open to the public and the date, place and time of each meeting together with the likely agenda are published on www.deveron.org at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting.

The statutory Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors has, in accordance with Board policy over many years, been a Public Meeting although not publicised as such in the manner which is now required by the 2013 Act. Qualified Proprietors were advised to publicise the meetings which were well attended by ghillies, employees and generally members of the public, in particular anglers.

The Annual Meeting of Qualified Proprietors 2019 will incorporate a public meeting although further meetings will be held in open session and advertised on www.deveron.org. In the case of the Annual Meetings also in local newspapers to enable anglers and members of the public to attend and, at the Annual Meetings, to encourage participation (questions, comments, etc.). Board Members, the River Bailiffs and the Clerk make this information available to tenants, ghillies, employees, managers, Angling Associations, letting agents, a Tackle Shop and members of the public by personal contact.

It should be noted from the Guidance on Good Governance Obligations issued by the Scottish Government, that it is not the intention that the obligations imposed by the 2003 and 2013 Acts seek to micromanage the business of Boards – the provisions provide flexibility in terms of delivery and



acknowledgement of the range in size and resources. This Board complies with the latest legislation in the manner befitting its size and resources.

Statutory responsibilities of the RDevDSFB are as follows:

- fisheries protection (Bailiffs in co-operation with Police);
- confirm the salmon and sea trout rod fisheries season - 11th February to 31st October;
- ensure fishery closed times - midnight Saturday - midnight Sunday - are complied with (Bailiffs and Police);
- deal with the purchase and sale of illegally caught or unseasonable fish;
- ensure the free passage of fish, e.g., over obstructions, etc. (to knowingly prevent free passage is a criminal offence);
- protect spawning redds and juvenile fish (Bailiffs and Police);
- regulate the introduction of adults, juveniles and ova.

Note: Details of the RDevDSFB's powers and duties are also published on the website

Complaints Procedure

The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 amended the 2003 Act regarding openness and accountability. The 2013 Act, therefore, requires a Fishery Board to maintain and keep under review proper arrangements for dealing with complaints made to the Board about the way in which the Board have carried out or propose to carry out their functions under the Act or any other enactment.

The RDevDSFB complaints procedure can be found at www.deveron.org/wb/media/pdfs/Complaints_Procedure_2013.pdf

Register of Board Members' Interests

Board Members have completed and signed declarations of relevant financial interests. These are recorded with the Clerk and available to inspect on reasonable notice at her office. This has been so intimated on www.deveron.org. The register is reviewed at each Board Meeting and a permanent item is on the agenda. Members are required to declare any change from the previous meeting.

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers

Charitable Trust accounts

Year ended 31st March 2019

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	31.3.19 Total funds	31.3.18 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:				
Donations and legacies	46,192	80,631	127,543	45,752
Charitable activities	92,716	-	92,716	81,722
Other trading activities	4,885	-	4,885	15,478
Investments	-	1,181	1,181	3,592
Other income	4,546	-	4,546	-
Total income	149,059	81,812	230,871	146,544
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	2,425	-	2,425	4,627
Charitable activities	125,362	78,580	203,942	143,300
Other	553	-	553	2,149
Total Expenditure	128,340	78,580	206,920	150,076
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	20,719	3,232	23,951	(3,532)
Gross transfers between funds	721	(721)	-	-
Net Income/(outgoing) resources	21,440	2,511	23,951	(3,532)
Other recognised gains and losses				
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets	-	6,600	6,600	(9,826)
Net movement in funds	21,440	9,111	30,551	(13,358)
Fund balances at 1st April 2018	132,726	115,576	248,302	261,660
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	154,166	124,687	278,853	248,302

BALANCE SHEET

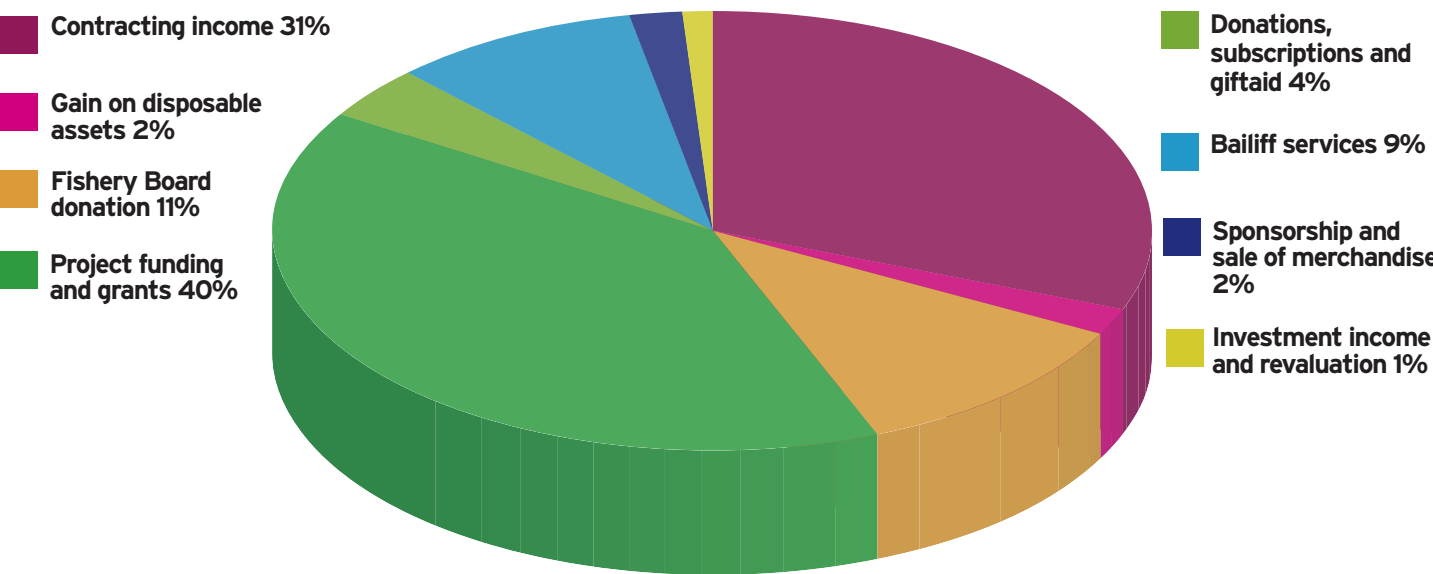
	31.3.19	31.3.18
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	53,163	50,400
Investments	124,687	125,930
	177,850	176,330
CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	27,593	10,794
Cash at bank	88,003	68,173
	115,596	78,967
Current liabilities	(14,593)	(6,995)
	101,003	71,972
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	278,853	248,302
Income funds		
Unrestricted funds	124,687	115,576
Restricted funds	154,166	132,726
TOTAL FUNDS	278,853	248,302

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The above figures have been approved by the Trustees and will be presented as such at the Annual General Meeting. These are extracts from the full financial statements. . A copy of the Trust's full Financial Statements, together with explanatory notes, will be published on its website (www.deveron.org) following the Annual General Meeting.

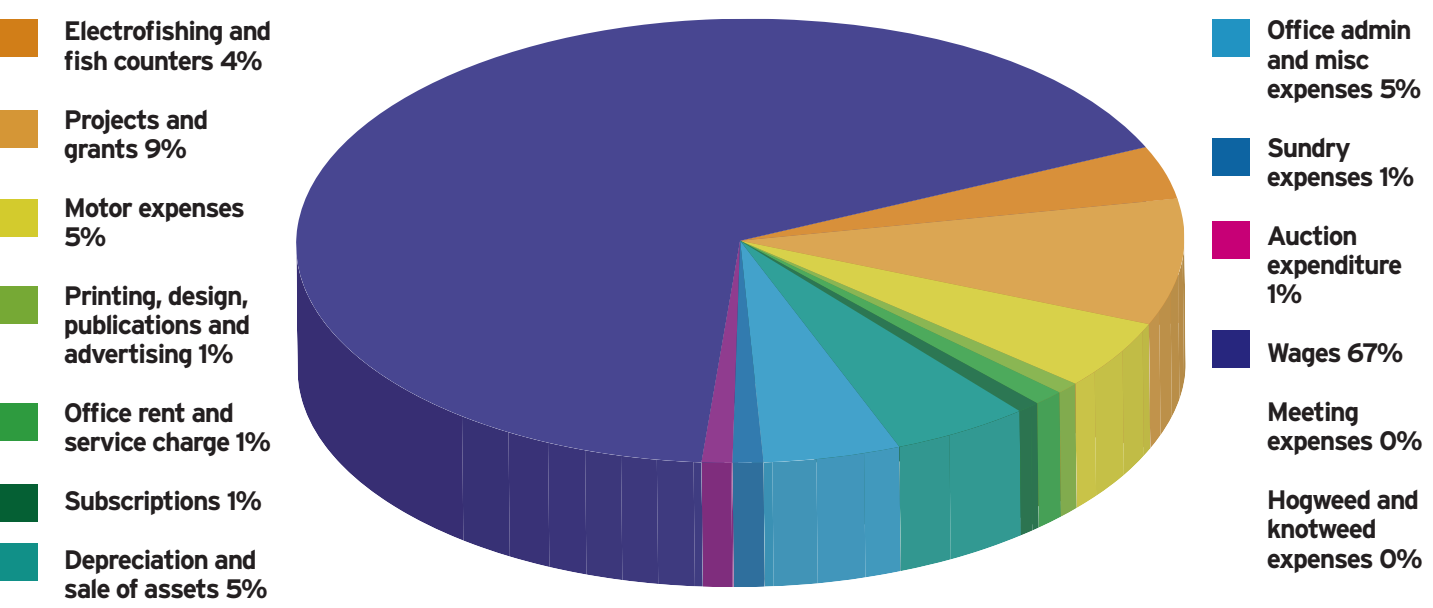
The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust accounts

Year ended 31st March 2019

Income April 2018 - March 2019



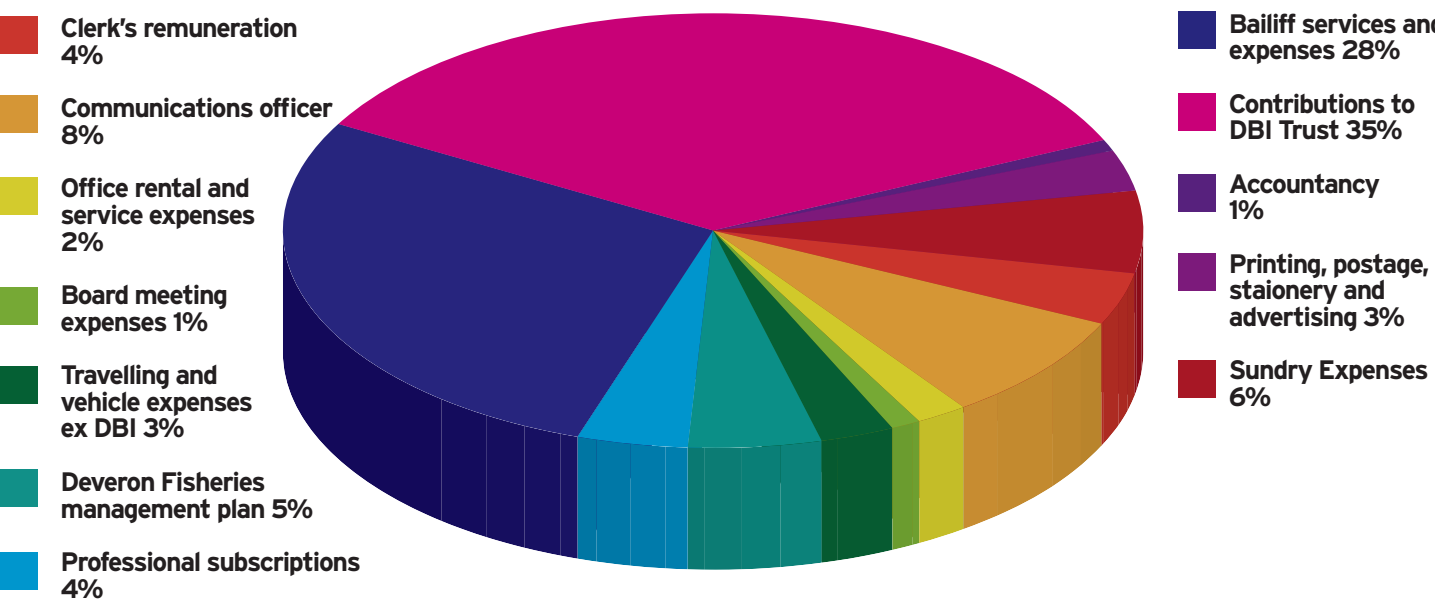
Expenditure April 2018 - March 2019



The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board

Year ended 31st March 2019

Expenditure April 2018 - March 2019



The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board accounts

Year ended 31 March 2019

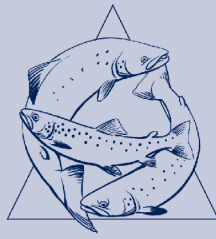
INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2019	2018
INCOME		
Assessment Income (42p in £)	71,830	71,832
	71,830	71,832
EXPENDITURE		
Clerk's Remuneration	3,092	2,952
Communications officer	6,046	-
Office rental and service expenses	1,333	-
Staff mileage expenses	-	1,800
Board meeting expenses	815	945
Travelling and vehicle expenses ex DBI	2,386	-
Deveron management plan	3,792	-
Professional subscriptions	3,376	3,929
Bailiff services and expenses	21,525	21,000
Contribution to DBI Trust	26,500	26,500
Accountancy	660	696
Insurances	186	167
Postage, Printing, Stationery, Advertising and Telephones	2,243	2,367
Sundry expenses	4,657	3,576
	76,611	63,932
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS ON GENERAL FUND	(4,781)	7,900

BALANCE SHEET

	2019	2018
	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS		
Trade and other receivables	388	-
Cash and cash equivalents	36,620	42,378
	37,008	42,378
CURRENT LIABILITIES	(3,316)	(3,905)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	33,692	38,473
General Fund		
Balance brought forward	38,473	30,573
(Decrease)/Increase for the year	(4,781)	7,900
Total General Fund	33,692	38,473

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The above figures have been approved by the Board and will be presented as such at the Annual Meeting. These are extracts from the full financial statements. A copy of the Board's full Financial Statements, together with explanatory notes, will be published on its website (www.deveron.org) following the Annual Meeting.



The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board

The Offices, The Stables, Avochie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YY Tel: 01466 711 388

Deveron Angling Code for Salmon and Trout 2019

Your Board remains extremely concerned over fragile levels of fish stocks in the river and in particular spring salmon and sea trout. Anglers are asked, therefore, to observe the following statutory regulations and guidelines throughout the season:

SALMON & GRILSE

From 11th February to 31st May (Inclusive) all salmon to be returned

It is illegal to take any salmon (dead or alive) from 11th February to 31st March (inclusive) each year

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board will donate one bottle of Scotch Whisky per angler, for safely returning a spring salmon between the 1st April and 31st May
(Follow set claim procedure and Call 01466 711 388 to claim - strictly over 18s only).

From 1st June to 31st October (Inclusive), weekly rods may retain one salmon or grilse per rod per day with a maximum of one per rod per week. Day rods to return all salmon.

Anglers are asked to observe the Board's aspiration that all hen fish, and any cock salmon over 10lbs be returned
Therefore, the Board requests that only male fish under 10lbs be retained.

SEA TROUT

All sea trout to be returned throughout the season

The guidance on sea trout will be in place until stocks recover to acceptable levels

BROWN TROUT

**From 15th March to 6th October (Inclusive), all Brown Trout under 10 inches in length to be returned.
No more than 2 brown trout per rod per week to be retained.**

It is illegal to fish without legal right or written permission from the beat owner or representative

It is illegal to kill unclean or unseasonable fish (baggots, gravid fish, kelts)

It is illegal to sell or buy wild salmon roe

It is illegal to attempt to deliberately foul-hook fish

Only knotless landing nets to be used - it is illegal to use gaffs or tailers

It is illegal to fish with prawns, shrimps or salmon roe throughout the catchment and throughout the year

Fishing for salmon and/or sea trout on a Sunday is prohibited

Spinning lures should have only one single set of hooks with a maximum sized 4 crimped or barbless

Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to sell rod-caught salmon or sea trout

Injured or damaged fish outwith the above limits must be handed to the proprietor

All farmed salmon and pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorboscha*) must be retained and notified to the RDevDSFB

All visiting anglers must read, act upon and sign a *Gyrodactylus salaris* declaration form immediately before fishing.
If disinfectant is required, please contact the DBIT or your beat Ghillie/Manager/Agent.

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