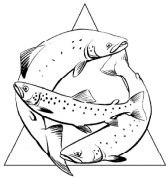


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Tracking salmon on the Deveron **Inside**



# THE DEVERON FLYER

**The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust** **Newsletter 32, February 2017**

**Welcome to the 32nd 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'.

## Open all ours

The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board (RDevDSFB) and The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust (DBIT) are delighted to announce the opening of the river Deveron salmon season in association with The Deveron (Single Malt) and presentation of the Morison Trophy. The trophy will be presented at the river opening ceremony on 11th February at 10am, Turriff AA lodge by kind permission of the Turriff Angling Association and the opening ceremony will follow thereafter.

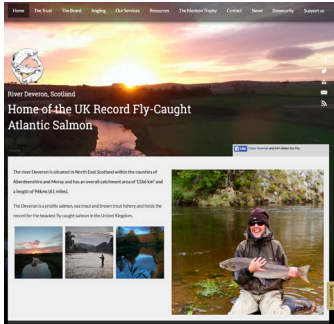
Special guest, Mr Colin Hendry (right) will present the Morison Trophy. Mr Hendry, born locally in Keith and talent spotted by the great Sir Alex Ferguson, won 51 caps for Scotland and captained the national side at the 1998 World Cup. During his career, he won the English Premier League title with Blackburn Rovers and led Rangers to the Scottish domestic treble. Mr Hendry was also named player of the year for Manchester City for the 1989/90 season.

Mr Robert Shields (above right), founding Chairman of the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust,

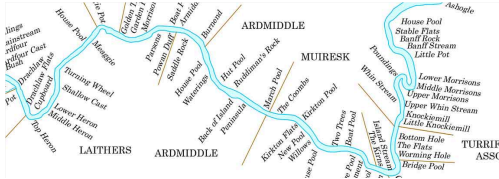


member of the Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board and Avochie Fishing's proprietor has been given the honour of opening the Deveron salmon season.

Mr Shields will bless the river with a dram of Deveron malt, thereafter, Mr Robert Craig, winner of the Morison Trophy for 2016; will make the first cast of the season. Mr Craig secured the trophy by landing a 34 lbs salmon from Kinnairdy.



### Take a look at our new website [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)



See live webcams, choose where to fish and read about 'Tiny' Morison's famous record-breaking fly-caught salmon. You will find links to all of our newsletters and you can catch up on all the latest news and events.

# Smolt tracking project 2016

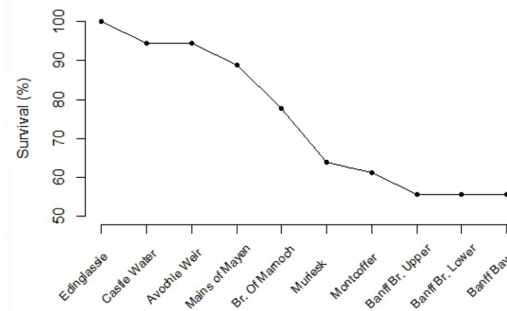
In April (2016) fifty salmon smolts from the Upper Deveron rotary screw trap were surgically implanted with acoustic identification tags and tracked through the river and the immediate Moray Firth using Automatic Listening Stations (ALS). The tags emit unique acoustic high frequency pulses that identify the specific fish when detected by an acoustic receiver. Nine ALS receivers were deployed along the length of the River Deveron at the following locations; Edinglassie, Castle Water, Avochie, Mains of Mayen, Br. Marnoch, Montcoffer and two at Banff Bridge (see map). A further 5 receivers were deployed in Banff Bay as a curtain stretching across the bay from Banff Marina towards Macduff Harbour. All the receivers were successfully retrieved at the end of June and the data downloaded. The tagging was conducted by Dr Matt Newton from SCENE at Glasgow University and was written up and submitted as scientific paper by Angus Lothian as part of his MSc at Glasgow University.

## Summary Results

Overall survival of smolts in the River Deveron was 40%, with a higher observed mortality in the river (0.77% per km) (Figure 1) than in the marine stage of migration (0% per km), resulting in a significantly higher survival rate in the marine stage than the river. There was no observed effect of a tag influencing whether a smolt left the river or not and the smallest fish tagged was detected on the marine array.

A greater swim speed was observed in the marine environment than in the river. The main smolt trajectory leaving the river was north-easterly (Figure 2). Mortality in the river is most likely due to predation, although the exact cause cannot be determined. The absence of mortality in marine migration is uncommon; a potential result of the river mouth morphology. High swim speed of smolts in the marine environment could be due to passive displacement by high river discharge. But the trajectory of travel indicates an active swim, along with a potential innate navigational mechanism which should be the focus of future research.

In 2017 the DBIT is planning to build on the success

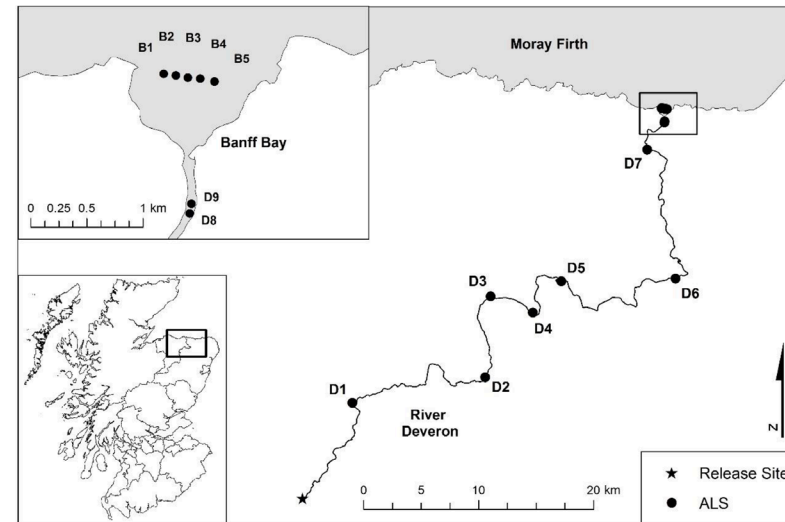


**Figure 1**  
Survival curve of the Atlantic salmon smolts tagged on the river Deveron (not standardised for river length)

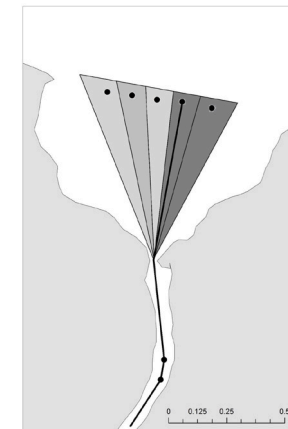
of the 2016 project by investigating the in river mortality in more detail. The project will not only quantify smolt survival in the river but will importantly investigate the sources and location of the observed smolt mortality.

## Wild salmon conservation measures

The Deveron has been classified as a Category 1 salmon river by Scottish Government, which indicates that 'exploitation is sustainable therefore no additional management action is currently required. This recognises the effectiveness of existing non-statutory local management interventions.' The Water of Philorth has been classified as a Category 3 river, which requires all salmon to be returned by law throughout the 2017 season (Scottish Government 2016).



**Figure 2 (right)**  
The median *S. salar* smolt travel vector into the bay (solid line) with distribution of smolts upon first entry into the bay - light grey represents two smolts (B4a(B1 and B3), medium grey represents four smolts (B2) and dark grey represents six smolts (B4)



Fifty salmon smolts from the Upper Deveron were surgically implanted with acoustic identification tags and tracked through the river.

Our sincere thanks should be extended to the following people who made the project possible:

- DBI Trust membership
- The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board
- Muirek Fishing's
- Mr Robert McConnell – Trust Membership Secretary
- Mr James Mann for helping to build the receiver moorings
- Mr Rory Cooper for the use of his boat and time in deploying the Banff Bay Receivers
- The Divers (Matty & Kyle) for their help with deploying and in particular retrieving the Banff Bay Receivers
- Dr Matt Newton and the Glasgow University team for their help with the project and in particular their dedication to get the tagging done late in the evening
- The Tweed Foundation for equipment

## 2016 catches

The provisional rod-catch returns for salmon show a 59% increase from 2015, with Angler's landing a total of 1563 salmon and grilse. 100 salmon were caught during the spring (Feb-May). 444 sea trout were landed and 14 beats recorded 533 brown trout. 80% of salmon (85% of spring salmon), 94% of brown trout and 96% of sea trout were returned to the river. The fixed engine (nets) stations did not operate during 2016. The Water of Philorth, which enters the sea near Fraserburgh, recorded 14 sea trout and 2 grilse.



## Comings and goings...

At the end of last season, Mr Jimmy Minty and Mr Robin Vasey retired from working on the river. Jimmy worked for the RDevDSFB for over 38 years as River Superintendent, while Robin worked for the DBIT since its conception in 2001 as Project Officer. We wish both Jimmy and Robin all the very best in their retirement.

We welcome Marcus Walters (left) to the DBIT as River Operations Manager. He will be involved with all aspects of river management and fishery protection.



## Spring salmon reward scheme

**Help conserve Deveron spring salmon by returning your catch to the river and claim\* a bottle of Chivas Regal 12 year old Scotch whisky (70cl). To claim call the trust on 01466 711388 or visit Turriff Tackle and Trophies.**



Chivas Brothers Ltd have again very generously sponsored our spring salmon reward scheme for 2017. Any angler safely returning a salmon caught between 1st April and the 31st May, can follow the set claim procedure below and receive a bottle of Chivas Regal 12-year-old Scotch whisky (70cl). Strictly over 18s only – limited to one bottle per angler.

To claim call **01466 711388**

### Claim Procedure

1. Take a scale sample (6-10 scales from behind and below dorsal fin) from salmon, place in scale packet/dry envelope and record details of fish to allow fish to be verified.
2. Take photo of fish (If possible)
3. Return salmon to river unharmed.

## River Deveron Conservation Code for salmon and trout 2017

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 guidelines during the forthcoming 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.*

*In conjunction with Chivas Brothers, The Deveron Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust will donate one bottle of Chivas Regal 12 Year Old Scotch Whisky (70cl) per angler, for safely returning a spring salmon between the 1st April and 31st May (follow set claim procedure and Call 01466 711388 to claim) (strictly over 18s only)*

- From 1st June to 31st October (Inclusive), anglers may retain one salmon or grilse per rod per day with a maximum of two fish per rod per week

*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 two 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 four crimped or barbless*
- *Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to sell rod-caught salmon or sea trout*
- *Injured or damaged fish out with the above limits should be handed to the proprietor*
- *All farmed fish must be retained and notified to the RDevDSFBB.*

*All visiting anglers must read, act upon and sign a Gyrodactylus salaris declaration form immediately prior to going fishing. If disinfectant is required please contact RDevDSFB Office (01466 711388) or your beat Ghillie/Manager/Agent.*

For further information please contact:

**The Offices, Avochie, Rothiemay, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 7YY**

**Telephone: 01466 711388**

**email: [office@deveron.org](mailto:office@deveron.org)**

**[www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)**

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