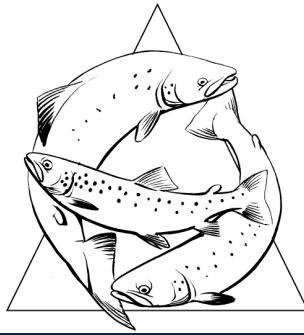


• **Cypermethrin menace**

Victory for anglers as sheep dip is suspended [See back page](#)



• **No through flow**

Obstacles blocking our burns cause more problems than just obstruction [See back page](#)

# THE DEVERON FLYER

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

Newsletter 09, Spring 2006

**Welcome to the ninth 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'

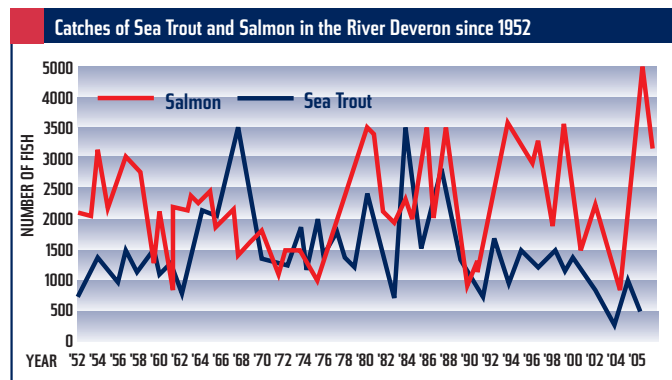
## Board with wind farms

As expected, the recent Board meeting was dominated by issues surrounding the proposed wind farm at Clashindarroch, and particularly the effects on the Bogie of damage done to the blanket bog from which so many tributaries are sourced. In addition, there are issues associated with the accelerated clear felling and road construction and associated excavations – all in all, a major environmental impact. The project could affect a combined total of 47 named burns and tributaries – to put this in to perspective, each of the other nine wind farms planned for our catchment are likely to impact on only one or two watercourses.

The Public Inquiry opens in Huntly on May 15th, so please register any comments with the Scottish Executive Reporters and Inquiry Unit as soon as possible.

Following the Scottish Executive's desire to see unitary management bodies for all species of fish in individual catchments, the Board plans to open up discussions with trout, coarse and sea fishing interests to air issues of mutual concern and define areas for cooperation in the future.

Meanwhile, the Trust is continuing its excellent work on habitat restoration and clearing obstacles impeding access by



The 2005 salmon catch dropped by 33 per cent on 2004. But it is still well above average over the 54 years since records began. The decline in the sea trout catch continues with only 450 caught last year – a 54 per cent decrease on 2004.

migratory fish. The electro-fishing results from the Bogie were particularly encouraging with 15 of 18 sites surveyed showing juvenile salmonids and densities in two areas as high as some of the best rivers in Scotland. This compares extremely well with a 1991 Department of Fisheries survey which showed 9 out of 11 sites surveyed as having no juvenile fish present at all. Clearly, there is a strong recovery evident in the Bogie system and we must do all we can to ensure that it continues.

This good news is tempered by the poor sea trout returns last year. There were many anecdotal reports of undersized fish and fish

in poor condition, all of which would appear to indicate problems with feeding grounds out at sea. Catches of sea trout were generally poor all down the east coast last year, and we fervently hope that the same experience is not repeated this year. Overall salmon catches were down, but still well above the lows of 2002/3 and the figures for fish returned at 76 per cent (over 91 per cent of sea trout) are a credit to the good sense exercised by our fisherman. The Board is extremely grateful for the voluntary restraint being shown by anglers and which can only bode well for the long term sustainability of our fishery.

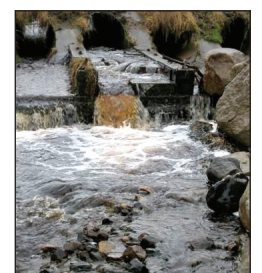


ROLL OUT THE GARREL: before the modifications...

## Problem solved on the Garrel

The apron at the Garrel Burn bridge has long been an obstruction for fish making their way up from the Isla. Before its construction in the 1970s the burn was well-known locally for its sea trout. A fish pass was installed in 2002 but was ineffective. Modifications have been made recently and since then we think we have resolved two problems; the ladder no longer blocks up and the downstream pool remains free of gravel. This has been achieved by placing boulders on one side.

With such a mobile substrate we will need to monitor this regularly to assess the work.



...and after

# Dip suspended

The Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA) celebrated a unanimous decision by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to suspend cypermethrin sheep dip in the UK with immediate effect. Cypermethrin sheep dip caused catastrophic damage to the wildlife of river systems throughout the country by polluting water with poisonous toxins.

Stoneflies (pictured above), and Mayflies, are an essential



part of trout diet and cypermethrin kills these invertebrates. They need clean, well oxygenated water in which to thrive and are therefore susceptible to any decline in water quality – particularly agrochemicals. The adult flies are taken by trout when the females return to the water to lay their eggs on the surface.



Cypermethrin sheep dip caused catastrophic damage to wildlife

## Briefly

• **Supporter of the Trust, Robert McConnell has initiated a membership drive on our behalf. A membership pack is being mailed to Deveron anglers asking them to join up. If you would like a pack sent to friends please send us their details.**

• We have successfully reared 150,000 eggs to the alevin stage in the hatchery at Drummur, including 5,000 sea trout. The alevins are housed in incubation boxes and will emerge as fry when they have absorbed their yolk sac and search for food.

• **The Flyer, beats to let and much more are available at [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org). If you would like to receive the Flyer by email and help reduce our printing and postage costs send your email address to: [robinvasey@deveron.org](mailto:robinvasey@deveron.org)**

• The Trust has received a HIE Moray grant of £2000 to control giant hogweed on the Isla. Work has begun and will carry on over the summer. Could all riparian owners be aware that hogweed needs to be controlled.

## Clearing the way

River bailiff, Jimmy Minty, helped the Trust remove this obstacle on the river Isla after just one spate at the end of last year.

It is proof that the time consuming inspections of our burns are essential especially in areas of the system that are not so accessible or noticeable. Sadly, this is not untypical and farmers do not see this as a problem until the river bank is washed away by which time the damage to the habitat downstream has been done with the silting up of the spawning gravels. Fences are often left dangling in mid-air which allows stock to access the banks thus creating more erosion. Please be on the look out for such obstructions and contact the Trust.



**BLOCKAGE:** Fallen tree on the river Isla last Autumn which has since been cleared by the trust

• **The Wallakirk bridge at Glass has collapsed leaving it strewn across the Deveron. The bridge was a well-used resource next to the Wallakirk cemetery. Aberdeenshire Council are going to recover the debris and once this is done the issue of financing and rebuilding it can begin.**



Cabrach school children and Robin Vasey with their salmon

## Fish in schools

Six primary schools have had a lot of fun looking after salmon eggs this spring. Whilst in their care, the kids made sure that the water temperature was as cool as possible by changing ice packs through their school day. All the children have taken a lot of interest in the project and are looking forward to releasing them in their nearby burn next term. The participating schools are: Cairney, Glass, Cabrach, Grange, Rhynie & Ordiquill. The Trust received a grant of £1,700 from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) this year for this very worthwhile educational project.

## Please help us to help the river and its area...

You can now become a member of The Trust for as little as £25 per year as an individual or £50 as a small business.

### ...for further information please contact:

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Telephone/fax: 01466 711388; email: [robinvasey@deveron.org](mailto:robinvasey@deveron.org) or visit the Trust's website [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)  
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