



# DEVERON FLYER



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

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust



← Jim Murray and Sarah Parish

# 40

The DBI 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'.

## Season opening in association with The Deveron Single Malt Whisky

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 Deveron salmon season in association with The Deveron Single Malt Whisky (Bacardi).

The Morison Trophy will be presented at the opening ceremony on the 11th of February (10am) at Turriff Angling Association lodge and the opening ceremony will follow thereafter.

Special guests, Jim Murray and Sarah Parish will present the Morison Trophy and officially open the salmon season. Jim Murray is an actor (currently filming *The Crown* for Netflix) and avid angler who is passionate about wild Atlantic salmon and is an ambassador for the Atlantic Salmon Trust. Sarah Parish is an actress and well known for roles in television including *Broadchurch*, *Cutting It*, *Doctor Who* and most recently *Stay Close* on Netflix. In 2014, Sarah and Jim founded the hugely successful Murray Parish Trust which is dedicated to the advancement of paediatric emergency medicine across the South of England.

## First cast of the season...

Mr Richard Breakell, winner of the Morison Trophy for 2022 will make the first cast of the season. Mr Breakell secured the trophy by landing a 23lbs salmon from Ardmiddle. Thanks goes to Henderson's Country Sports (Turriff) for sponsoring the salmon rod that will be presented to Richard for carefully releasing the winning salmon.



# Scottish Invasive Species Initiative update

Since 2018, we have been part of the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI), a 5-year partnership project which aims to work with local organisations and volunteers to control invasive non-native species along riversides in Northern Scotland, for the benefit of our native wildlife and communities. SISI is led by NatureScot and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, NatureScot and by in-kind support from project partners and volunteers.

2021 was our fourth year of Giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam, Japanese knotweed and American mink control across the Deveron catchment, as part of SISI. Last year the SISI project was granted a 1-year extension and will now be running until end of October 2022, after which we strongly encourage land managers to continue building on the progress made in the last five years to control invasive species and prevent further spread.

In June 2021, our project officer Karen was joined by seasonal project officer Russell Baker to tackle our target species across the catchment.

Land managers, ghillies, contractors and volunteers also stepped in to control hogweed, balsam and knotweed throughout the growing season. Altogether, our fantastic volunteers and stakeholders put in over 547 hours of control in 2021, in at times challenging conditions of dense and high vegetation and soaring temperatures.

The Rosy burn landowner partnership to control hogweed continued, as well as the first year of our giant hogweed seedling emergence trial and third year of our sheep grazing trial at Macduff. Our best practice guidance document for land managers interested in exploring sheep as an alternative method of hogweed control, in partnership with the University of Aberdeen, is set to be published early next year – you can keep up with this trial here: <https://www.invasivespecies.scot/giant-hogweed-and-sheep-trial>.

We are very proud to say that giant hogweed control was completed catchment wide once again, some areas of Himalayan balsam are showing improvement and our known Japanese knotweed stands require only very little annual mop



'American mink control was continued by our volunteers, with catches predominantly from along the coast line and the middle Deveron'

Deploying a Mink raft

up at this point after 4 years of control. Once again, a big thank you is due to you all!

American mink control was continued by our volunteers, with catches predominantly from along the coast line and the middle Deveron – with a total of 10 mink dispatched in 2021. That is in line with a pattern observed over the last four years, with a year of higher capture rates followed by a year of decreased captures, likely due to it taking some time for mink to reinvade previously cleared habitat. To keep up the good work, we would ask everyone to keep their eyes peeled and continue to report sightings.

Earlier in the year SISI hosted a series of webinars, together with TCV Scotland, with good attendance and the benefit of reaching people much further afield. Outreach and talks are still predominantly delivered online, with a blended approach to deliver some talks in person where possible or appropriate. A talk was delivered by our project officer to SRUC and a primary school visit was delivered in person outdoors to engage pupils with invasive species and their impacts. Working with a local primary school to produce a short film about an invasive species topic is currently in the works for early next year.

**Please report sightings of our target species to [karenmuller@deveron.org](mailto:karenmuller@deveron.org), 07483 319448**



King Edward Burn - Impoundment caused by decrepit weir

## Lower Tributaries Project – King Edward

**We are pleased to report that Trex Ecology has completed a full habitat walkover survey of the King Edward system and produced an excellent detailed report on the issues facing this important tributary and highlighted some potential restorative actions for fish habitat.**

A summary of the key pressures are summarised below:

- Intensive agriculture has exacerbated the historic channel modifications on the Burn of King Edward sub catchment.
- This has led to increases in stream power, vertical incision, and loss of wetted channel area and habitats.
- It has also caused extensive fine sediment impacts on lower, potentially more productive fish habitats.
- There are numerous potential options available which could enhance fish productivity within the system, and these options can be designed in such a way as to also improve better available habitats within the system.

- Many of these options can be aligned with desired improvements for land management and regulatory objectives, resulting in multiple benefits for stakeholders.

It is now planned to identify priority sections from the survey report for restoration, obtain landowner support/permissions and compile costings. This information will then be used in a bid to the newly launched Nature Restoration Fund (Nature Scot).



Pink salmon captured from lower Deveron

## Pink Salmon

The Alaskan pink salmon fishery catch is up by 21% compared to 2019. This is interesting in the context of the increased numbers of this non-native species being reported in Scotland. A Pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*) was captured on the lower river Deveron on 7th of July and humanely dispatched. Pink salmon recorded all down east coast of Scotland and even in western isles. More than 60,000 invasive pink salmon were caught by harpoon, trap, and netting and removed from Norwegian rivers in 2021. Largest numbers in the north but catches along the entire coastline.



# 2021 Catches

The 2021 angling season proved to be challenging both nationally and locally due to a combination of poor sea survival of salmon and unfavourable angling conditions during several weeks. The easing of Covid-19 restrictions resulted in an estimated 54% increase in rod effort from the previous year but unfortunately this did not translate into an upturn in catches. Deveron anglers landed 902 salmon & grilse (94% returned), 288 sea trout (97% returned) and 17 of 52 beats reported 1301 brown trout (99% returned)

## Sundown on the Deveron 2022 in association with Bowlts Chartered Surveyors – Save the Date!

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust is holding a dinner auction on Friday the 16th of September at the Banff Springs Hotel. Come and join us for a fun evening with the opportunity to bid on several exciting and exclusive auction lots. Final event details will follow shortly.

## Conservation Status

The river Deveron has been classified by the Scottish Government as Category 2 river for the 2022 angling season. The classification requires that management action is necessary to reduce exploitation and catch and release should be promoted strongly. The need for mandatory catch and release will be reviewed annually. In line with the categorisation, the RDeVDSFB has reviewed the Deveron Angling Code for Salmon and Trout and have recommended the code remain unchanged. It is again important to highlight that it is illegal to take (kill) any salmon from 11th February to 31st March (inclusive). Anglers should always use appropriate tackle to ensure the quick and safe release of any salmon caught, e.g., spinning lures used should have one single set of hooks with a maximum size 4 crimped or barbless. We recommend that all anglers carry, or have access to, a knotless landing net to allow fish to be kept in the water after capture and released unharmed.

For further information please contact  
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