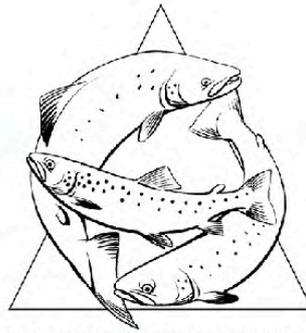




www.deveron.org

The River Deveron District
Salmon Fishery Board

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla
Rivers Charitable Trust



DEVERON
BOGIE
ISLA

Annual Report
and Accounts
2017/18





DEVERON
BOGIE
ISLA

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

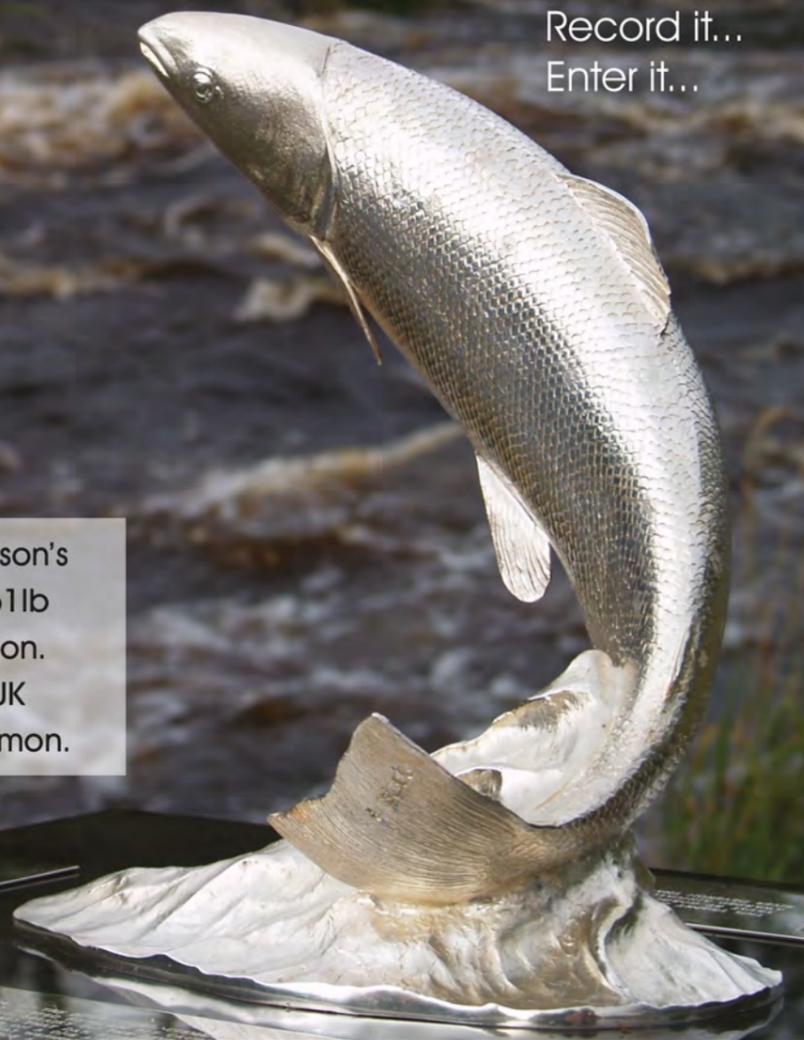
View it at Henderson's Country Sports

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
Tel 01466 711388 www.deveron.org

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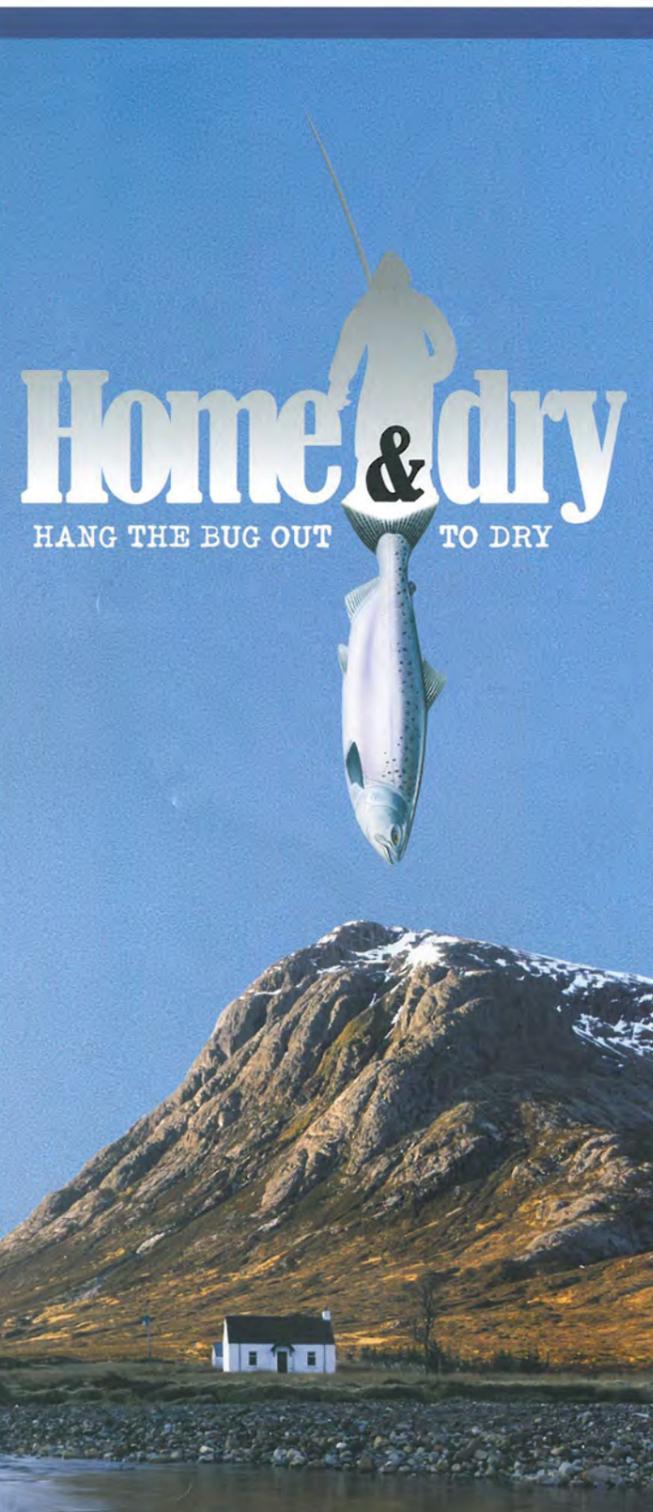
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Salmon and Trout 2018



Home & dry

HANG THE BUG OUT TO DRY



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



Gyrodactylus salaris parasite magnified



For more info call: 0131 244 6225 or go to: www.infoscotland.com/gsbug



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 organisations who have helped implement our district fisheries management programme during 2017/18.

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

Representatives of lower proprietors
C. R. Marsden, D. A. Galloway, M. C. R. Marsden (Co-Optee)

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)

Hon. Membership Secretary R. F. McConnell

Ghillies Representative N. Stephen

Staff
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 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 difficult to overstate the crisis currently afflicting Scottish rivers. While of some small comfort that it is not only the Deveron which is suffering, the global figures are sobering. In a period of just over 40 years, wild Atlantic salmon numbers have more than halved. It is reckoned that the total population in the Atlantic has fallen from 8-10 million fish in the early 1970's to 3-4 million today.

While this report is supposed to address the 2017 season, I cannot ignore what is happening to our river today. The extraordinary and extended period of hot weather and concurrent low water has resulted in the worst fishing conditions in living memory and certainly much worse than those of the oft compared 1976.

The early spring was wet and quite cold; river levels ran high through March and it was April before numbers of fish were encountered; May did not continue the promise of April, despite some water, and what little catches there had been tailed away as we entered into a remarkable dry and hot spell with the river temperature exceeding 20 degrees centigrade for a number of consecutive days.

Indeed, prior to the recent welcome rain, your Board issued advice to anglers to restrict fishing to the cooler parts of the evening and early morning, and serious consideration was given to whether we should close the river to all fishing, such was the concern over stressing those few fish left in the system. Unless we get a bonanza in the back end, the 2018 season is likely to be the worst for the rod catch since records began.

The unusual weather also took its toll on our smolt tracking. The preliminary findings show only 9 of the 100 tagged smolts reached Banff. The extreme low river conditions are likely to have significantly reduced the smolt survival to the mouth. The full report will be available in the Autumn.

This contrasts starkly with the 2017 smolt tracking project which resulted in 17 of the 40 tagged smolts reaching the sea, giving a survival rate of 42.5% (versus 40% in 2016). Out of the 23 tags that did not make it to the sea, two were detected inside birds, 11 were found in the river and 10 were not found.

Meanwhile, the key catch statistics for the 2017 season will follow later in this report. The overall season was again categorised by a reduced grilse run and a paucity of fresh fish in the autumn. While the total catch of 1,345 salmon & grilse was, once again, well below the long-term average of 2,437, a creditable 82% were returned.

It has been abundantly clear for some time that our wild fish stocks have been under serious pressure and for the 2018 season, the government reduced the Deveron's conservation status, along with many other rivers, from Category 1 to Category 2. As a result, your Board reviewed and updated the Angling Code to reflect this.

Many riparian owners and anglers are quite rightly concerned that a disproportionate effort has been placed on controlling exploitation in fisheries rather than addressing the underlying factors responsible for population declines, and that a significant element of this has been predation by piscivorous birds. For many years we have been granted only pitifully small quotas to deal with these birds despite endless hours collating data on sightings, conducting bird counts and submitting the most up to date research. As a result, your Board is determined to collate all the facts and evidence we can to enable us to present the most robust and scientifically based case to achieve better protection for our smolts as they migrate downstream. This will be combined again with a shepherding programme to try and keep the worst of the predators at bay while the smolts migrate through the main stem.

We intend, also, to throw our weight fully behind the "Missing Salmon" project which is seeking to address what is happening to our dwindling salmon populations. Smolt tracking is a key part of this, and we plan to raise funds to purchase an additional 50 tags over and above the 50 which the project team plan to supply. The data provided by these tags are extremely important in verifying evidence of piscivorous bird predation. In addition, the array of receivers proposed for the outer Moray Firth will yield valuable evidence on what happens to the smolts once out a sea. More can be found on the Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST) website.

The draft of the new Deveron Fisheries Management Plan has been prepared and will shortly be released for consultation. Other ongoing and important work includes continuing fish counter (sonar) trials and constructive dialogue with Pernod Ricard and SEPA regarding long term fish passage solutions for the weirs on the river Isla in Keith. We are also collaborating closely with the Spey on coastal patrols and with Police Scotland on river patrols.

Earlier in the year, Robert Shields stepped down as Trust Chairman and James Cruickshank has taken over the role. Robert was the inspiration behind the founding of the Trust, and his leadership and significant financial backing of the Trust not only ensured its survival during some difficult early years, but has enabled it to evolve into the ground breaking and leading edge organisation it has become today.

I wish also to pay tribute to Shona Paxton who stepped down from her role as Clerk and who shepherded both the Board and Trust safely through the often turbulent and chaotic period of Wild Fisheries Reform. We welcome Sarah Roebuck as our new Clerk and Administrator as well as Dr Al Reeve and Karen Muller who have joined us to spearhead our new INNS eradication project.

During the year, Robert McConnell, our Trust Membership Secretary, and tireless and hugely successful promoter of all things Deveron-related, received the prestigious "River Champion" Award from The River Restoration Centre.

It is with great sadness that we record the passing earlier this year of Andrew D Tennant. It is difficult to think of anyone who has shown a greater passion for and interest in our river. Even up to his last days, he was in regular contact with your Board Chairman and the Trust, brimming with ideas and passing on constructive advice - and often criticism! - of our efforts to improve our stocks of salmon and sea trout. During his many years as Chairman of the Board, he presided over the crucial buy outs of the estuarine and coastal nets, a major contributing factor behind the increases in the rod catch over the 1980's and 1990's. He was greatly concerned by the apparent lacuna in the government's position on sea trout, campaigning tirelessly to have this reversed. He will be sorely missed by many of us on the river as both a passionate fisherman and a very good friend.

It only remains for me to thank our team of Richie, Marcus, Al, Karen, Sarah and Colin, my fellow Board and Trust members, and all the Ghillies, volunteers and contractors, for all their hard work and dedication to our river during a particularly trying and frustrating year. Let's hope we will have to wait at least 42 years for another season like this one!



**The Blackwater:
hot weather and low water...**

Deveron Salmon

The total annual salmon Rod and Line catch for the Deveron District was stable from 1952 (when records began) until the end of the 1980s. The 10-year average was consistently between 2,000 and 2500 fish per year. From 1990 catches gradually improved with the 10-year average increasing to around 3,000 (1993-2002) before increasing again to an average of 3,418 from 2003-2012. Since then catches have fallen steeply, with 2014 and 2015 being the second and third lowest catches on record.

Catch and release records began in 1994 and the practice has increased from 22% to 82% in 2017. 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 catch (Feb- May) and for sea trout.

Spring salmon

Spring salmon return to the river in the spring 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 show 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. It then 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 and Line catches showed a very different trend, steadily increasing until the late 2000s but have since fallen away steeply.

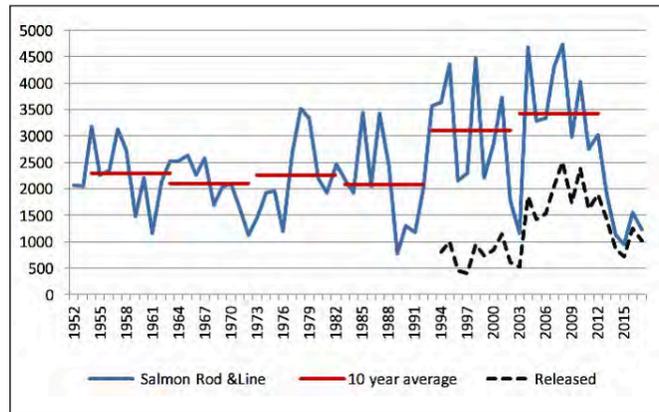


Figure 1

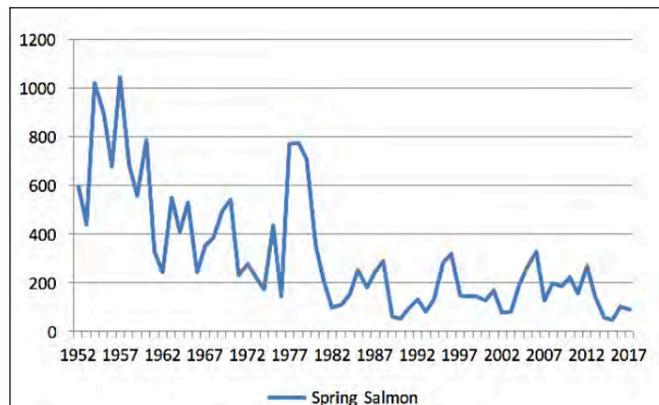


Figure 2.

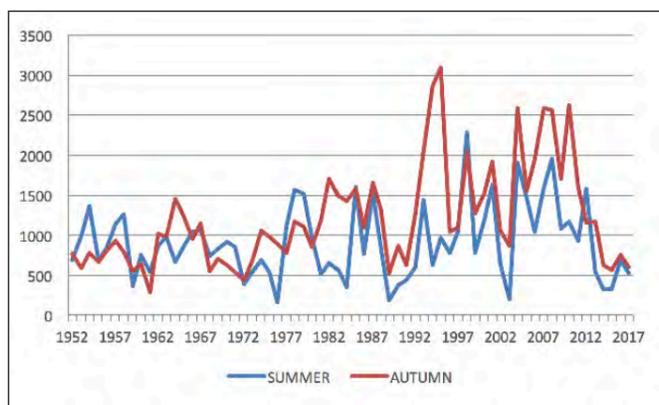


Figure 3

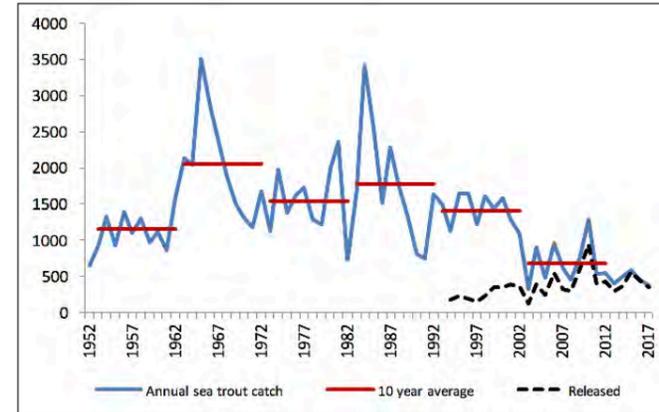
Figure 1: Annual Rod and Line Catch for the River Deveron District showing 10 year averages and the numbers released since 1994.

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 and 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 a record low 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 97% of the total catch in 2017. 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 and 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 local 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 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.

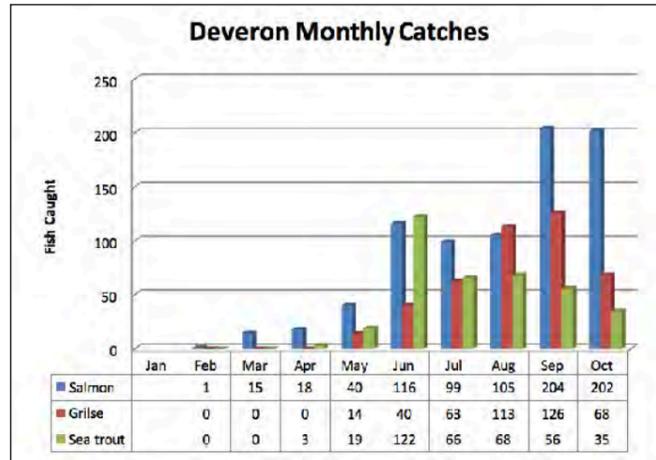
For the 2018 Angling season, the Scottish Government has classified the river Deveron as a Category 2 river. The new classification requires the RDevDSFB to take the necessary management action to reduce salmon exploitation. Mandatory catch and release will not be required in the first instance, but the Government will review this annually. In line with the new categorisation, the RDevDSFB has reviewed and updated the Deveron Angling Code 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, which requires all salmon to be returned by law throughout the 2018 season.

2017 Catches

Rod and line

The 2017 rod catch of 1345 salmon and grilse was a fall of 14% on the 1563 caught in 2016 which is again, significantly below the long-term average of 2437. Of the 1345 salmon and grilse caught, 82% were returned. Spring salmon catches decreased from the previous year to 97 salmon by end of May, with 85% returned to the river, aided by the Chivas Regal spring salmon conservation scheme. A notable salmon of 28lbs was successfully caught and released during October which secured the Morison Trophy. The sea trout catch decreased by 15% from 444 to a total of 386, of which 97% were returned.

**Rod and Line
monthly catches 2017**



Mains of Mayen, 2018

Management Report

Moray Firth seal management plan

The Moray Firth Seal Management Plan (MFSMP) continued in 2017. 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 a limited number of salmon net fisheries which have been active in the region. 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 licence was again successfully granted for 2017, which permitted the shooting of 18 Grey seals and 0 Common seals within the plans geographic area, between 1st February and the 31st January. 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 SFB 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 2017 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. Following an increased number of birds in 2017; the RDevDSFB allocation as part of the licence has been increased. The licence now permits the shooting, as an aid to scaring, of 17 Goosanders and 2 Cormorants from the 1st October 2017 to 31st May 2018 (Only male Goosanders can be shot in May).



Cormorant

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 2017 the RDevDSFB worked closely with Police Scotland, and carried out a number of joint-patrols at various locations throughout the Deveron catchment. On Thursday the 7th of September, RDevDSFB Bailiffs responded to a poaching report near Huntly. Bailiffs attended the fishing beat and a male was detained and handed over to the police. Police Scotland charged the male with fishing for salmon without written permission, and his fishing gear was seized. A report was subsequently sent to the procurator fiscal. The RDevDSFB also continued to work with the SFB to undertake coastal patrols between Cowhythe Point and the Water of Philorth. Patrols were used to search for the presence of any illegal fishing nets. No illegal nets were discovered during 2017.



Avochie

Wild fisheries reform

In January 2014, the First Minister announced that a Wild Fisheries Review would be undertaken.

The aims of the review were to:

- develop and promote a modern, evidence-based management system for wild fisheries fit for purpose in the 21st century, and capable of responding to the changing environment;
- to manage, conserve and develop our wild fisheries to maximise the sustainable benefit of Scotland's wild fish resources to the country as a whole and particularly to rural areas.

On 8 October 2014, the review submitted its final report and 54 recommendations to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. During 2015, a consultation paper was published which set out the Government's response to the Wild Fisheries Review. The RDevDSFB and DBIT submitted a joint response to the consultation in advance of the 7th August deadline.

On the 3rd February 2017 the Scottish Government issued a press release announcing a new approach to Wild Fisheries Reform. Proposals to introduce rod licences and a new wild fisheries levy were dropped. The Scottish Government ruled out these measures, as well as the criminalisation of freshwater fishing without written permission and proposals to overhaul the structure and remit of District Salmon Fishery Boards. The Scottish Government stated that they would however facilitate work streams which encourage, empower and support the modernisation of fishery management, including the piloting of voluntary fishery board mergers to identify any existing legislative issues.

Recent work has been undertaken by Government to develop fishery management plans, which may become a legal requirement for DSFB's and also consideration of additional fishery protection issues has been undertaken.

Scottish Government measures to control the killing of wild salmon

Following on from the Wild Fisheries Review, Marine Scotland embarked up on a programme of Wild Fisheries Reform (WFR), including a package of Conservation Regulations. During early 2016, Scottish Ministers confirmed they would be progressing with the below salmon regulations from 1st April onwards:

- Killing outwith estuary limits by net fisheries will be prohibited for a period of three years due to the mixed stock nature of the fishery and the limited data on the stock composition of the catch. This will be reviewed after three years.
- The killing of Atlantic salmon will be managed on an annual basis by categorising fishery districts in relation to their conservation status and with accompanying guidance and/or regulation.

For the 2018 season, the Scottish Government has classified the Deveron as a Category 2 river. The new classification requires the RDevDSFB to take the necessary management action to reduce salmon exploitation. Mandatory catch and release will not be required in the first instance, but the Government will review this annually.

In line with the new categorisation, The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board has reviewed and updated the 2018 Deveron Angling Code for Salmon and Trout (found at www.deveron.org.) and are implementing other management measures to protect juvenile salmon during their river phase.

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

Invasive Non-Native Species & Biosecurity Programme

As reported previously, current funding for Invasive control ceased in July 2016. To consolidate many years work and to allow control to continue in 2017, the DBIT applied for a Tesco 'Bags of Help' grant in December 2016 and secured £5000.

DBIT Staff and Huntly Fishing's (Colin Grant) carried out Giant Hogweed control on the river Bogie and its tributaries and DBIT Staff, Volunteers and Contractors carried out control on the river Isla system. Control throughout the main stem of the river Deveron and tributaries was completed by DBIT Staff, Ghillies, Landowners, Farmers, and Volunteers. The Auldtown Giant hogweed grazing project using Black Face sheep continued for the 5th consecutive year and has again been extremely successful.

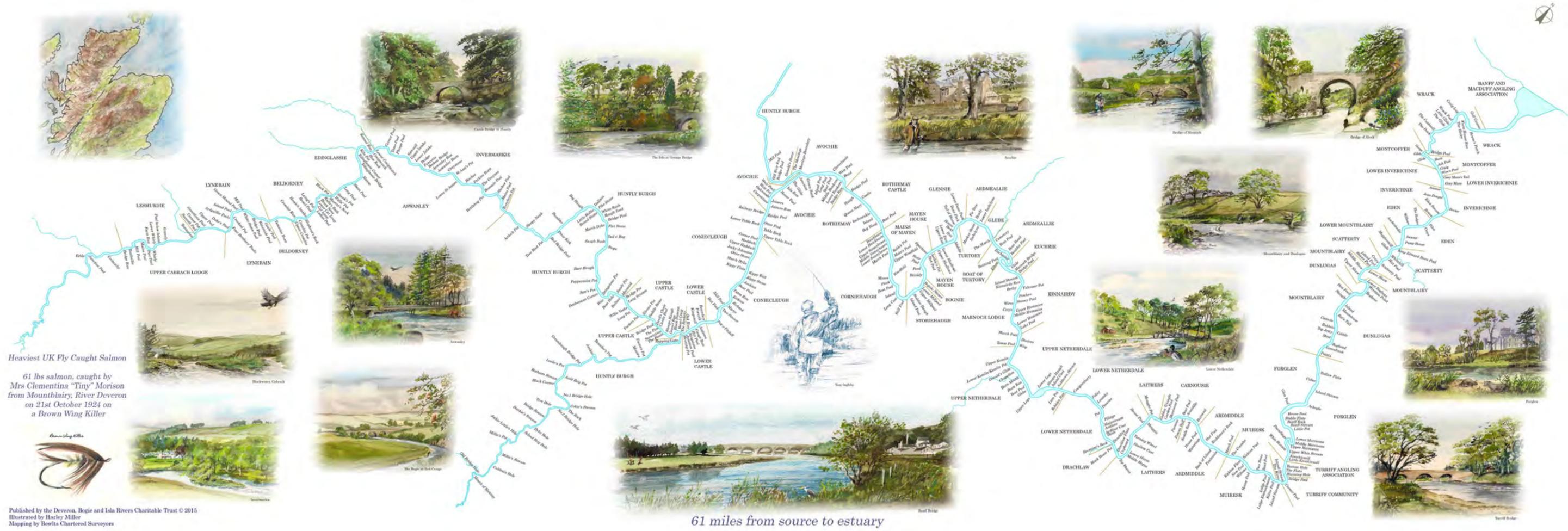
In March 2018 the DBIT welcomed Dr Al Reeve and Karen Müller as Project Officers. They will tackle invasive non-native species (INNS) in the Deveron, Ythan and Ugie catchments going forward as part of the new Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI). SISI is a four-year partnership project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), involving many volunteers, fishery boards and trusts and the University of Aberdeen. The project's target species include the most vigorous INNS, such as Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and American Mink, which damage the natural environment and have significant impacts on biodiversity, the economy and human health.

To find out more about these species and their management visit: www.deveron.org/biosecurity

Giant Hogweed control



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



- ### 2018/19 PRIORITIES
- Salmon smolt tracking project (phase III) & The Missing Salmon Project
 - Smolt Shepherding Project
 - Water quality monitoring programme
 - Continuation of district wide invasive non-native species control
 - Fish counter



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 richiemiller@deveron.org or call the DBIT on 01466 711 388 for further information.

Research and Monitoring

Smolt monitoring - Dorenell wind farm

The Dorenell Fishery Management Plan moved into the construction monitoring phase with work beginning on site in the spring of 2017. This plan includes baseline water quality monitoring, fish surveys, habitat and invertebrate surveys of the Blackwater, Fiddich and also the Allt Deveron (selected 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 fish monitoring includes the measuring of smolt output of the river stretches of the Allt Deveron and Blackwater catchments through the deployment of rotary screw traps. Figure 7 summarises the estimated salmon smolt production from the Allt Deveron and Blackwater for 2014-2017. Despite significant variation in river conditions, the estimated smolt output over the 3 years is relatively consistent especially for the Blackwater. Reassuringly, the control site, Allt Deveron, is showing a similar pattern to that of the Blackwater where construction has begun in 2017. Figure 8 illustrates the estimated trout parr (many trout have not yet smolted this high in the catchment) production for the Allt Deveron and Blackwater catchments 2014-2017. 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.

Dorenell Windfarm river crossing and fish pass



Figure 7: Allt Deveron & Blackwater salmon smolt run estimate 2014-2016 with 95% confidence intervals shown.

Figure 8: Allt Deveron & Blackwater trout parr run estimate 2014-2016 with 95% confidence intervals shown. 95% confidence intervals could not be calculated for the Blackwater in 2016.

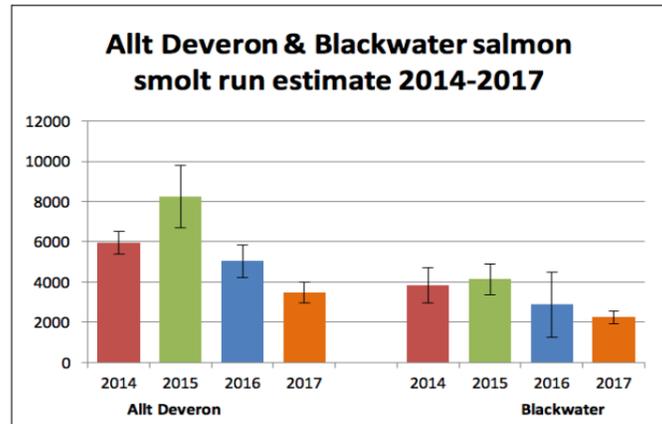


Figure 7

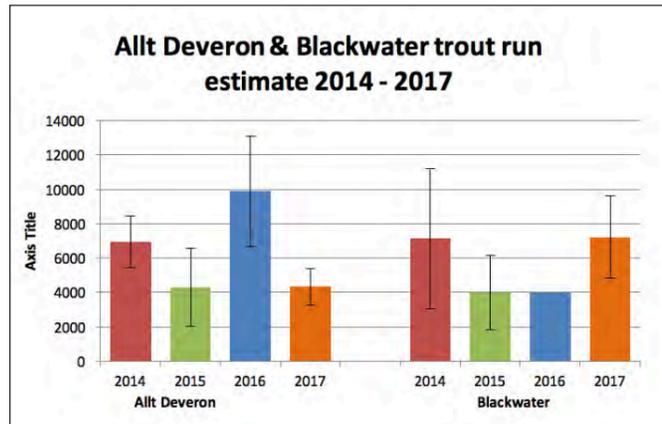


Figure 8

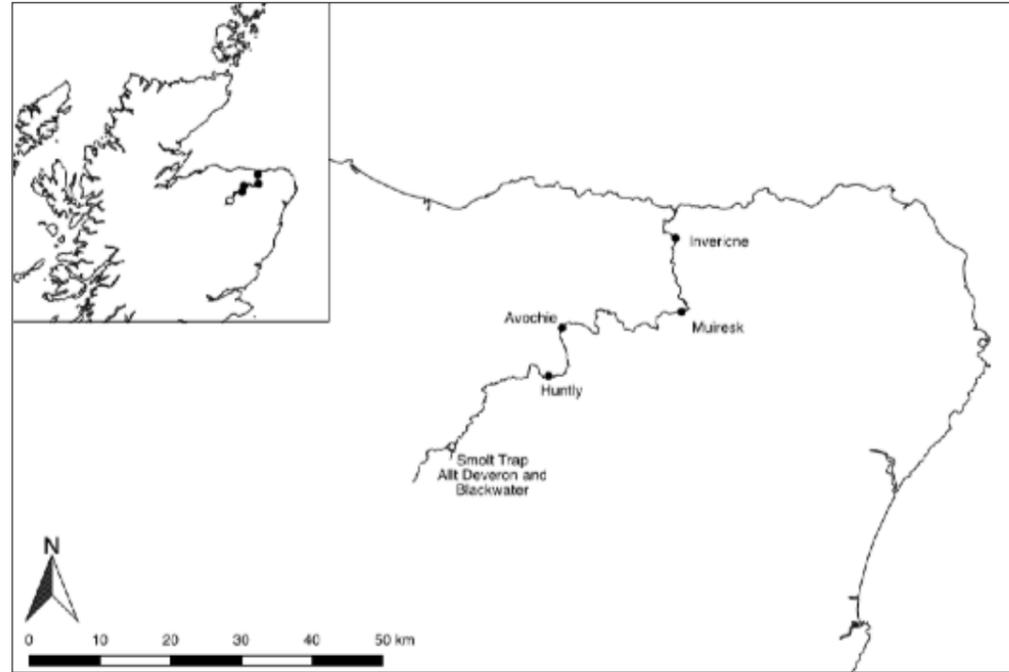


Figure 9: Map of the study site with the smolt trap (white circles) and receiver (black circles) locations highlighted.

River Deveron Atlantic salmon smolt tracking project 2017

Introduction

The life cycle of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) is characterised by extensive migrations. After reaching a size threshold, 1998) the salmon parr go through a process called smolting where changes in the animals' physiology, morphology and behavioural characteristics prepare the fish for marine life. The smolt migration is initiated by a variety of environmental cues and their relative importance is likely to vary between different regions and populations but river discharge and water temperature are believed to be the most important factors.

While migration to the sea will lead to increased fitness it also carries a high risk of predation. Because of this, high mortality smolt migration is a critical life stage in the Atlantic salmon life history. Many studies have reported heavy predation on salmonid smolts during their seaward migration by both fishes and birds.

Method

Smolts were captured using two 4 feet rotary screw traps, located in each of the Blackwater and Allt Deveron. A combined total of 40 Atlantic salmon smolts from the two traps were tagged with radio telemetry tags. To minimise tag burden, only smolts that were 129 mm fork length and longer were used for tagging. Four radio telemetry receivers (R4500C series data logger, Advanced Telemetry Systems) were used in the study at following locations: Huntly, Avochie, Muireisk and Inverichne (see Figure 9). The receiver in Huntly was also used for active tracking and thus was not present in Huntly at all times. The active tracking took place daily, when the whole length of the study site was covered to establish the location of each tagged fish if possible. The detection efficiency of the three fixed receivers was very good with only one occasion of fish passing a receiver undetected.

Blackwater smolt trap



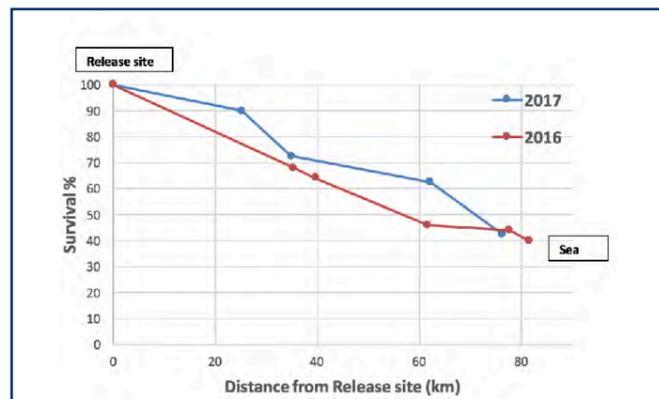
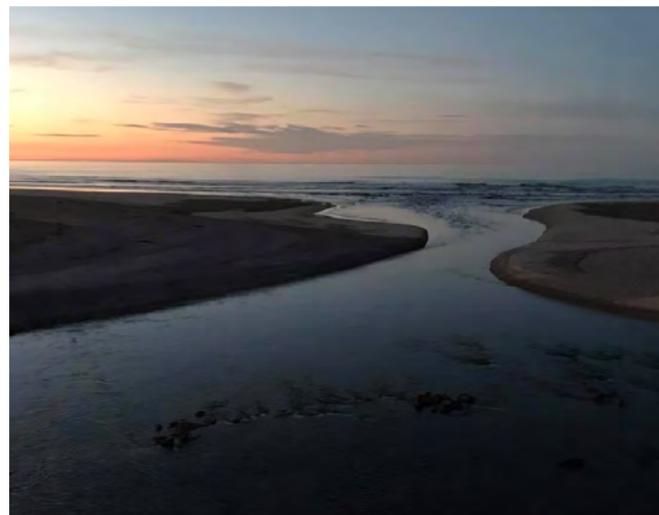


Figure 10: A comparison between the 2016 and 2017 results showing the losses of smolts between the Cabrach and the mouth at Banff.



The Deveron mouth at Banff

Results

- 40 Atlantic salmon smolts were tagged with radio tags between 13th and 25th April 2017. The smolts had mean fork length of 136.4 mm and mean weight 25.1 g. The mean tag burden (% of body weight) was 8.11%.
- 17 smolts were estimated to have reached the sea, a total survival rate of 42.5% (cf. 40% in 2016).
- Survival to sea was statistically modelled and it was found that it was best explained by a negative effect of tag burden and interaction between the release date and river discharge.
- Out of the 23 tags that did not make it to the sea, two were detected inside birds, 11 were found in water and 10 were not found.
- Overall mortality rate was 0.51%/km (cf. 0.77% in 2016). Mortality rates varied from 0.40%/km (section 1: release site - Huntly) to 2.27%/km (section 4: Muiresk - Inverichne).
- The overall mean speed for the smolts was 0.57 m/s (=2.05 km/h) (cf. 5.03 km/h in 2016). It varied between the different migration sections but not significantly. Those smolts that successfully migrated out to sea had a higher mean speed than those that died in the river.
- Smolts took advantage of a high river discharge event, with 70.6% of the smolts arriving to the last receiver during the same night (despite being tagged across 12 days) after the day of the highest river discharge record in April.
- There seemed to be no difference in the movement activity of the smolts between day and night until arrival to the last receiver. 89.5% of the smolts arrived to Inverichne during darkness, in a similar pattern to that found in the 2016 study.



Salmon smolt tracking

The mortality rates found in this study are similar to the results found in a previous study on this system. Lothian et al. (2017) found an overall mortality rate of 60% which equals to 0.77%/km. Previous studies on Atlantic salmon smolt mortality have noted river migration survival rates as low as 0.3%/km and as high as 7.0%/km.

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our thanks to the Atlantic Salmon Trust for helping to fund the project and the DBIT Membership for their tag sponsorship. Without which the project would not have been possible.

Juvenile monitoring and invertebrate surveys

During 2017 there were 42 juvenile electrofishing surveys completed throughout the Deveron catchment and coastal district. Core monitoring sites were again re-visited to maintain long-term data sets. A large number of sites were surveyed to monitor any potential impacts of renewable energy projects on fish stocks and the remainder of the sites were visited to monitor habitat and fish passage restoration works. During 2017 invertebrate samples were again collected from each juvenile electrofishing site and used as an indicator of water quality.

Armada Tracking Project

On behalf of Marine Scotland Science (MSS) the DBIT deployed two acoustic listening stations in the Lower Deveron in early 2017. This was to help with the Government's Armada Tracking Project, which aims to find out more about the homeward migration of salmon around the Scottish coast in relation to commercial netting and renewable energy. This investigation had hoped to acoustically tag 750 salmon at Armadale on the north coast and track their subsequent distributions. Unfortunately, only 70 salmon were tagged in total. The tagging at Armadale ended on 25th August with no further salmon tagged over the last 12 days. This suggested to MSS that the grilse run had finished. The DBIT has now recovered the receivers from the Deveron and returned to MSS.

A full report of the project findings can be found online at www.data.marine.gov.scot/dataset/application-acoustic-tagging-satellite-tracking-and-genetics-assess-mixed-stock-nature

Water Quality Monitoring

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.

As a first step, an initial water sample was taken from the lower Deveron in June 2017 that was subsequently analysed by the JHI for; dissolved nutrients (nitrate, ammonium, phosphate), acidity, Suspended sediment, Dissolved Oxygen and Metaldehyde. The analysis 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, 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 yearlong study on the nearby River Ugie. The data for the Deveron needs to be viewed with the caveat that it is a single sample and a snap-shot in time and 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 that it is only the Cypermethrin that is of a medium risk, approaching (half) the predicted no effects concentration. This is however quite a 'cautious' method of assessing the threshold.

Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)

During 2017 anglers in Scotland (Rivers Ness, Dee and Helmsdale) reported several captures of fresh run non-native Pink Salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*). Some captures have also been reported in some salmon net fisheries in Scotland and both rod and net fisheries in England and Ireland. These



fish are not native to Scotland and are likely to have 'strayed' from some of the rivers in northern Norway or Russia. These fish were originally introduced to some Russian rivers in the 1960s, have slowly spread westwards and have now colonised some northern Norwegian rivers.

Pink salmon

These fish spawn at a different time from Atlantic salmon, have a 2-year lifecycle and generally spawn in summer (and often in main river channels, in the lower reaches of rivers, and sometimes in upstream tributaries). Due to their 2 - year lifecycle, the progeny will be derived from distinct 'odd' or 'even' years, with the Russian/Norwegian fish being odd-year stocks. It is therefore possible, and likely, that they will occur again in 2019. Whilst it is theoretically possible that these non-native species could establish themselves in Scottish rivers, the higher water temperatures make this unlikely. Whilst the risks are not known, in terms of their interaction with Atlantic salmon and other native Scottish fish, they are unlikely to have a positive impact.

Three Pink salmon were caught on the Deveron in 2017. Following the FMS/MSS protocol, all 3 salmon were killed and removed from the river and anglers were notified to report any further sightings and captures. On Thursday the 7th of September, Trust staff also visited the lower river at the Wrack and excavated and destroyed 4 potential Pink salmon redds. No eggs were located.

Trout Research - 2017 Tagging

DBIT staff floy-tagged (shown inside red circle below) a number of Deveron trout during the autumn of 2017. 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.

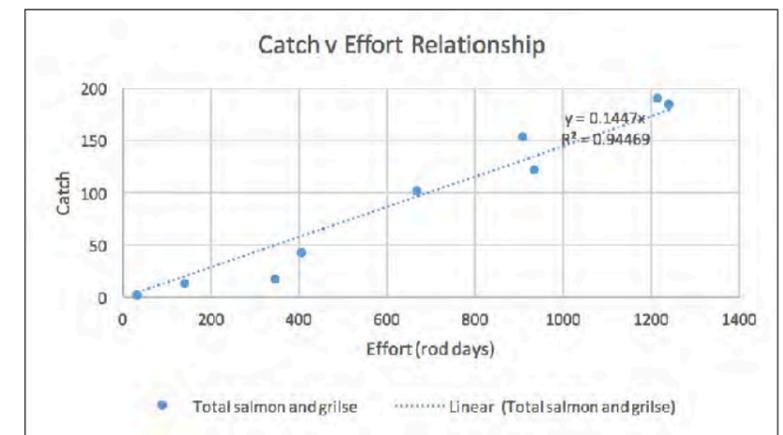
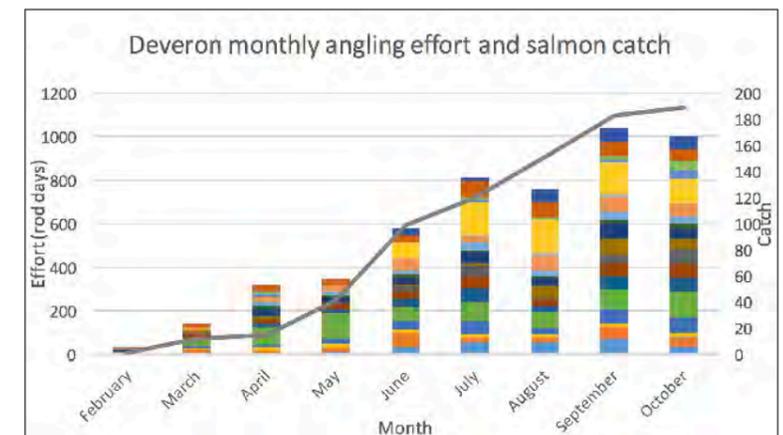
Optical beam counters, which use infrared beams, also require additional structures or fish passes to be present and require low water turbidity, which means the technology is unsuitable for the Deveron main stem.

Video counters function by placing cameras in fish passes or on the riverbed. The Trust 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 technology on the Deveron mainstem at Eden and Montcoffer. The trials have been successful and the sonar could operate in high turbidity conditions. The technology also requires low engineering or structural requirements and produces high quality data. Unfortunately, the initial cost of the equipment is quite high, and management of the sonar equipment and post-processing of the data can be labour intensive. Validation of the counts (e.g. salmon or sea trout) is also not always possible under high turbidity conditions, so a run-timing model may need to be developed. A final trial of sonar technology (Tritech) is planned for August 2018 and the results will be presented to the RDevDSFB for consideration.

Figure 11: Total monthly salmon catch for the Deveron (green line) shown against the total angling effort each month. Each coloured segment represents a different beat.

Figure 12: The relationship between Angling Effort and rod catch shows a strong correlation.



Monthly rod catch and angling effort

For the first time the RDevDSFB collected monthly angling effort data from the fishing beats alongside the normal annual catch return figures. Figure 11 shows the monthly catch from beats that returned effort data (grey line) against the total monthly effort (stacked coloured bars). It is clear that angling effort increases through the season with a peak in September before falling back. The rod catch increases in line with the total effort throughout the season. Figure 12 is a regression analysis between salmon catch and angling effort and shows that there is a strong relationship between the angling effort and the number of salmon caught. The R2 value of 0.94 shows that salmon catch is strongly correlated with angling effort.



Education and Community Outreach

Deveron Trout Festival - May 6/7th 2017

The DBIT, Henderson's Country Sports and The Wild Trout Trust organised a mini trout festival over the weekend of 6th and 7th May. The weekend was well attended with x25 anglers buying permits to fish participating beats over the two days and an informal evening of talks and fly tying was also held in Turriff. A large number (300+) of impressive trout were caught during the weekend and participating anglers were extremely complimentary about the trout fishing on offer.

Ghillies Evening

The annual ghillies evening was held on the 2nd of November in Turriff. Many interesting themes were covered and an action plan has been drawn up by the DBIT to tackle all matters raised.

Newsletters and social media

Two editions of the popular Deveron Flyer were produced during 2017 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) and Facebook (DeveronBogielsla) was 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. 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. The Deveron also featured on the front cover of Trout and Salmon magazine for June.

Rivers and Wildlife Education Programme 2017

It is essential to provide learning variety for pupils inside and outside the classroom and local schools often collaborate with outside organisations to achieve this goal. Working with local schools and the public is a key objective of the DBIT. During summer term 2017, the DBIT teamed up with three local schools (St Thomas Primary, Markethill Primary and Gartly Primary) to carry out our Rivers and Wildlife Education Programme. Presentations were given in the classroom about the importance of local rivers and their wildlife. Pupils were then taken to visit local rivers and got to see live trout and salmon and aquatic invertebrates such as mayfly and stonefly. This programme was kindly funded by The Nineveh Charitable Trust.



St Thomas' Primary School on the River Isla, Keith



Public Presentations

Presentations were given by DBIT staff at the following events during 2017:

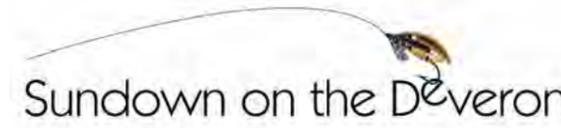
- The Institute of Fisheries Management Annual Conference, Belfast
- Fisheries Management Scotland Annual Conference, Perth
- The RDevDSFB & DBIT AGM, Huntly
- Deveron Trout Festival, Turriff
- Conference: From Headwater to Headland, Berwick-upon-Tweed
- Deveron Ghillies Evening, Turriff



Above: The Institute of Fisheries Management Annual Conference, Belfast.
Below: Sundown on the Deveron

Sundown on the Deveron sponsored by Bowls Chartered Surveyors

On the evening of the 10th of June the DBIT held a dinner and charity auction at the Fife Lodge Hotel in Banff. The event was an enjoyable evening with a total of £5777 raised after costs to help support local river conservation projects.



Deveron Opening Ceremony and Morison Trophy

The Morison Family and DBIT were delighted to announce the 2016 winner of the Morison Trophy at the river opening ceremony held in February 2017. The Morison Trophy, awarded for the heaviest fly-caught salmon of the season from the Deveron, was won by visiting angler, Mr Robert Craig. The trophy was presented by special guest and former national football team captain, Mr Colin Hendry. The award was given for a fly-caught 34 lbs salmon from the Kinnairdy beat. In winning the trophy, Mr Craig 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 Shields, founding Chairman of the Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust and member of the RDevDSFB, was given the honour of opening the Deveron salmon season. Mr Shields blessed the river with a dram of 18 y/o Deveron malt, thereafter, Mr Robert Craig, made the first cast of the season.



A magical trip to the Deveron

by Nathan Krelle, Australia

Scotland has always seemed like a magical place to a boy from the antipodes. As a young child it was the excitement and awe of reading about fierce Scottish warriors in their castles, and the untamed beauty of the Highlands, lochs and glens. Growing older brought an interest in Scottish engineering and academic exploits; and an appreciation of the whisky exports. Fast-forward to 2018, and finally a boyhood dream of exploring Scotland was realised.

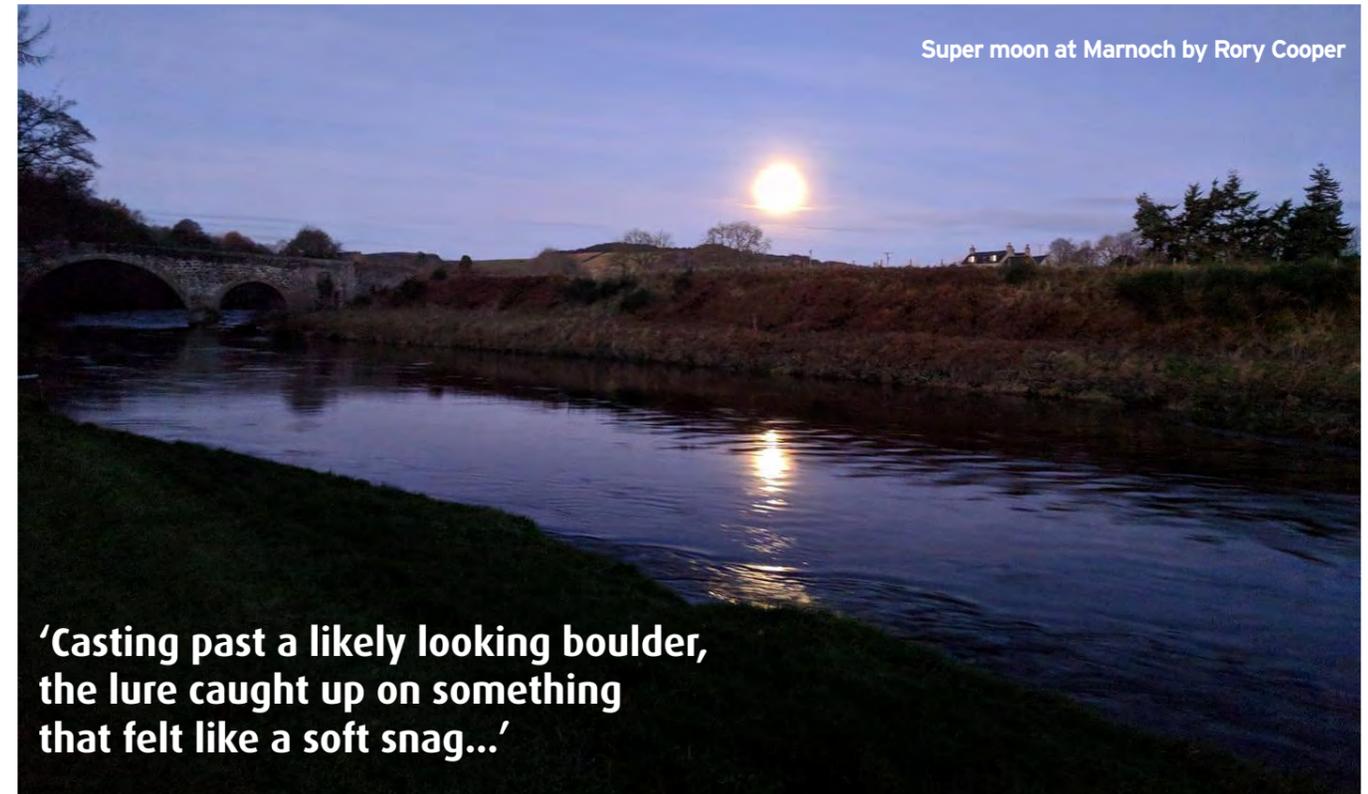
My wife Felicity and I visited Scotland for the first time in March this year, travelling from Melbourne, Australia. As a 'dream destination', we decided to spend our 18 days solely in Scotland; self-driving ourselves on a tour to see as much of the country as we could. After landing in Glasgow, we travelled north to Loch Lomond, and the following day around to Tarbet. We hit our first obstacle when it was discovered that the ferry to Islay was fully booked for vehicles over the Easter weekend; so we resolved to carry on as foot passengers (which, on an island boasting no less than eight distilleries, wasn't such a bad thing). With the assistance of the amazing Emma Clark

at Glenegedale House, the local bus service and a friendly local lorry driver, we were able to make it to our target destination of Bunnahabhain distillery (amongst others). After Islay, we continued north to Oban; sampling the exquisite local seafood at the Green Shack, before continuing on to the Isle of Skye. From beautiful clear mornings to being snowed-on at the Old Man of Storr, we explored Skye before heading east to Inverness and Aberchirder beyond. We'd now reached the portion of the journey reserved for fishing. Salmonids are a bit of an exotic beast where I grew up, about 4 hours east of Melbourne, Australia - so it's really only been in the last seven or eight years that trout and salmon fishing has become a favoured pastime. My wife is a Kiwi, and every chance we get to visit the family in Christchurch is an opportunity to get out for a fish (the trout and salmon fishing in New Zealand is truly spectacular).

In some respects our choice of fishing the River Deveron was pure luck; having only Google as a reference, we started out searching for trout and salmon rivers throughout Scotland. Whilst rivers such as the Spey looked spectacular there was something altogether more 'manageable' about the Deveron (particularly where travel rods are concerned), and combined with the location and holding the record of Scotland's largest fly-caught salmon it seemed like the perfect choice.

We had booked a day of fishing at Coniecleugh on Friday. The Thursday driving into town was beautiful; warm, with clear skies and barely a breeze. Friday was the polar opposite; freezing cold, windy and continuously threatening to pour with rain. But we'd made a commitment, and we were going to see it through. We were shown over the beat by Robbie Brown, who gave us a few tips on the preferred tackle, before setting out into the cold. It was about an hour in before the first signs of life; a strike from a large brown trout in fast water. But a practiced shake of the head threw a poorly seated hook without any trouble, and he darted off to safety. The next half an hour brought nothing but the risk of hypothermia, so it was back to the hut for a cup of tea.

With feeling once more returned to the extremities, it was down towards the rail bridge. The first fish



Super moon at Marnoch by Rory Cooper

'Casting past a likely looking boulder, the lure caught up on something that felt like a soft snag...'

landed was a feisty brown, about a pound and a half, landed on a black and copper Celta. Venturing on, the next fish was another brown; this time two pounds, and caught on a red and gold Celta. Another half an hour or so, and several lure changes later, another brown; this one larger still at two and a half pounds.

By this stage we were quite happy. Despite the cold we'd landed some nice fish, and our thoughts were starting to wander to hot food in front of the fire. And then it happened. Casting past a likely looking boulder, the lure caught up on something that felt like a soft snag; perhaps a bit of weed. But in a moment annoyance turned to glee as a rippling silver shape billowed in the water. It was a fish. A very big fish. As the line screamed off the reel, all I could think of was the leader; as much as I'd dreamed of catching a salmon on the Deveron, all I was expecting was trout - and was fishing 5lb accordingly. I gingerly played the fish, gaining a few feet before another run; eventually reaching the point where I was gaining more than I lost. After about five minutes my thoughts changed from "don't lose this" to "how the heck am I going to land this". The bank was steep, and we weren't travelling with a landing net. But it was obviously meant to be; the fish tired, and keeping its head up I was able to manoeuvre it in towards the bank where I could swiftly pluck it from the water.

After a quick measure and a couple of photos, it was away again; a silver ribbon melting into the depths. At 35 inches it was a personal best - and a Scottish springer to boot! Feeling that it was now impossible to top that result, we returned to the New Inn in Aberchirder for some real ales (and a wee dram of Glendronach) and told our story in front of the fire.

All too soon we were on the road again; to Newtonmore and the Cairngorms, a stop for the engineer to ogle the Falkirk Wheel, and finally a tour of Edinburgh before boarding the long flight home. And so the journey was finished; with so much yet unseen, and so many whiskies untasted. But the boyhood dreams of seeing Scotland had been satisfied, for now, and the memory of that fish would never be forgotten!

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.

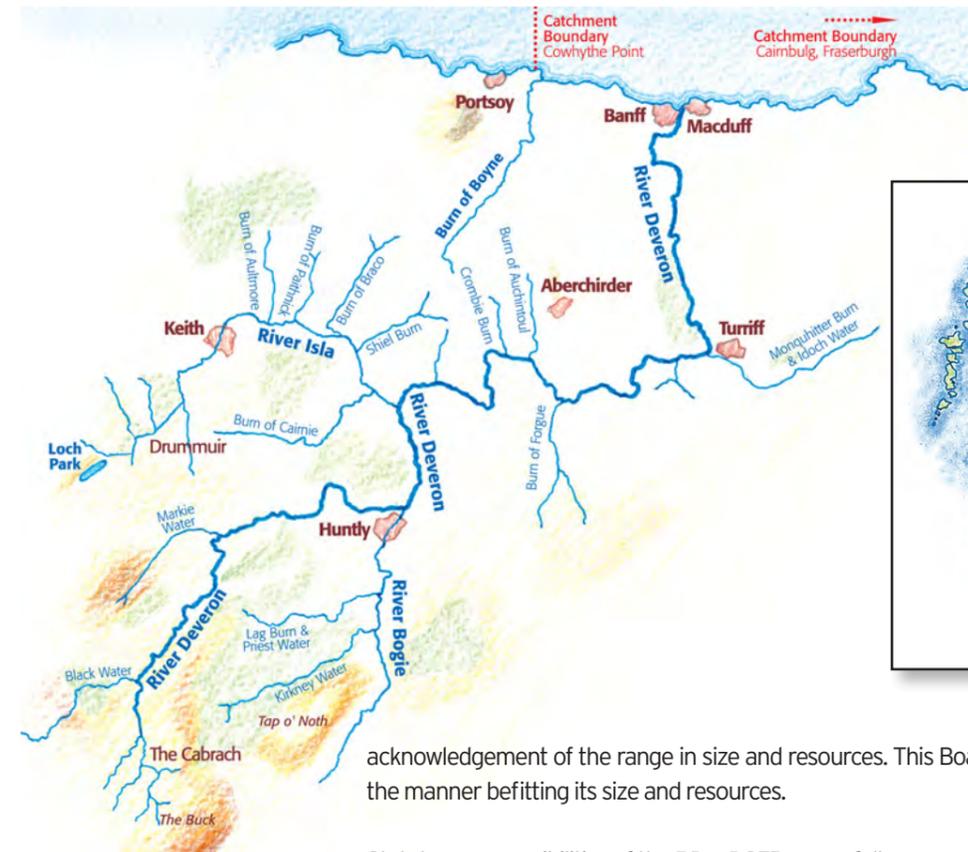
Meetings

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 2018 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 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	31.3.18 Total funds	31.3.17 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:				
Donations and legacies	48,174	10,115	58,289	206,222
Charitable activities	81,722	-	81,722	74,051
Other trading activities	2,941	-	2,941	2,967
Investments	-	3,592	3,952	2,178
Total income	132,837	13,707	146,544	285,418
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	2,050	27,578	29,628	25,856
Charitable activities	120,448	-	120,448	126,523
Total Expenditure	122,498	27,578	150,076	152,379
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net Income/(Expenditure)	10,339	(13,871)	(3,532)	133,039
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed asset	-	(9,826)	(9,826)	3,950
Net movement in funds	10,339	(23,697)	(13,358)	136,989
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	122,387	139,273	261,660	124,671
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	132,726	115,576	248,302	261,660

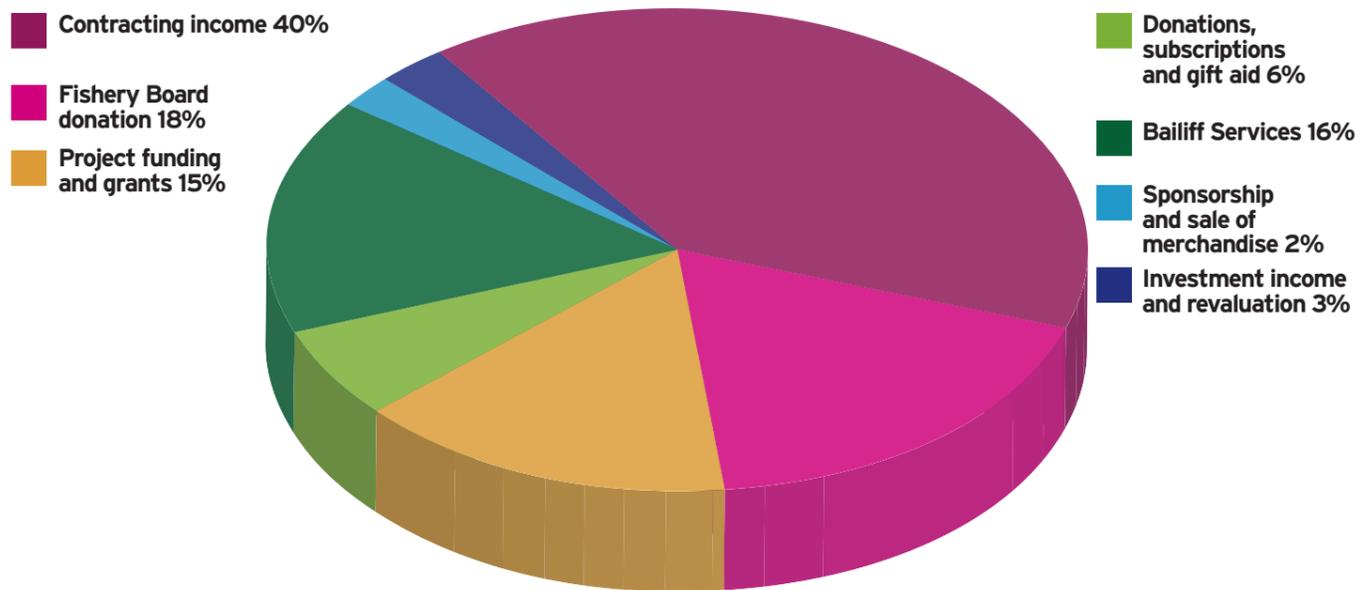
BALANCE SHEET

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted funds	31.3.18 Total funds	31.3.17 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	49,679	721	50,400	54,607
Investments	-	125,930	125,930	132,164
	49,679	126,651	176,330	186,771
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and prepayments	10,794	-	10,794	8,537
Cash at bank	79,248	(11,075)	68,173	78,660
	90,042	(11,075)	78,967	87,197
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(6,995)	-	(6,995)	(12,308)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	83,047	(11,075)	71,972	74,889
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	132,726	115,576	248,302	261,660
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-	-	-
NET ASSETS	132,726	115,576	248,302	261,660
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			132,726	122,387
Restricted funds			115,576	139,273
TOTAL FUNDS			248,302	261,660

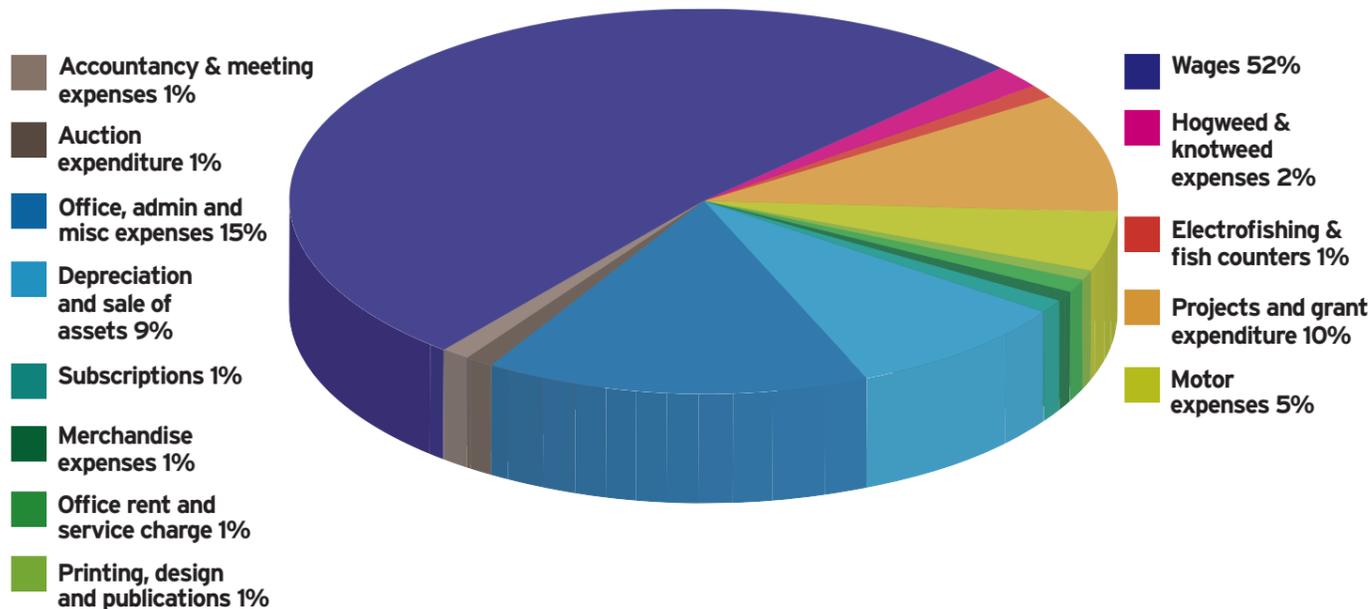
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). The above figures have been approved by the Trustees and will be presented as such at the Annual General Meeting. These are extracts from the full financial statements. 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 2018

Income April 2017 - March 2018

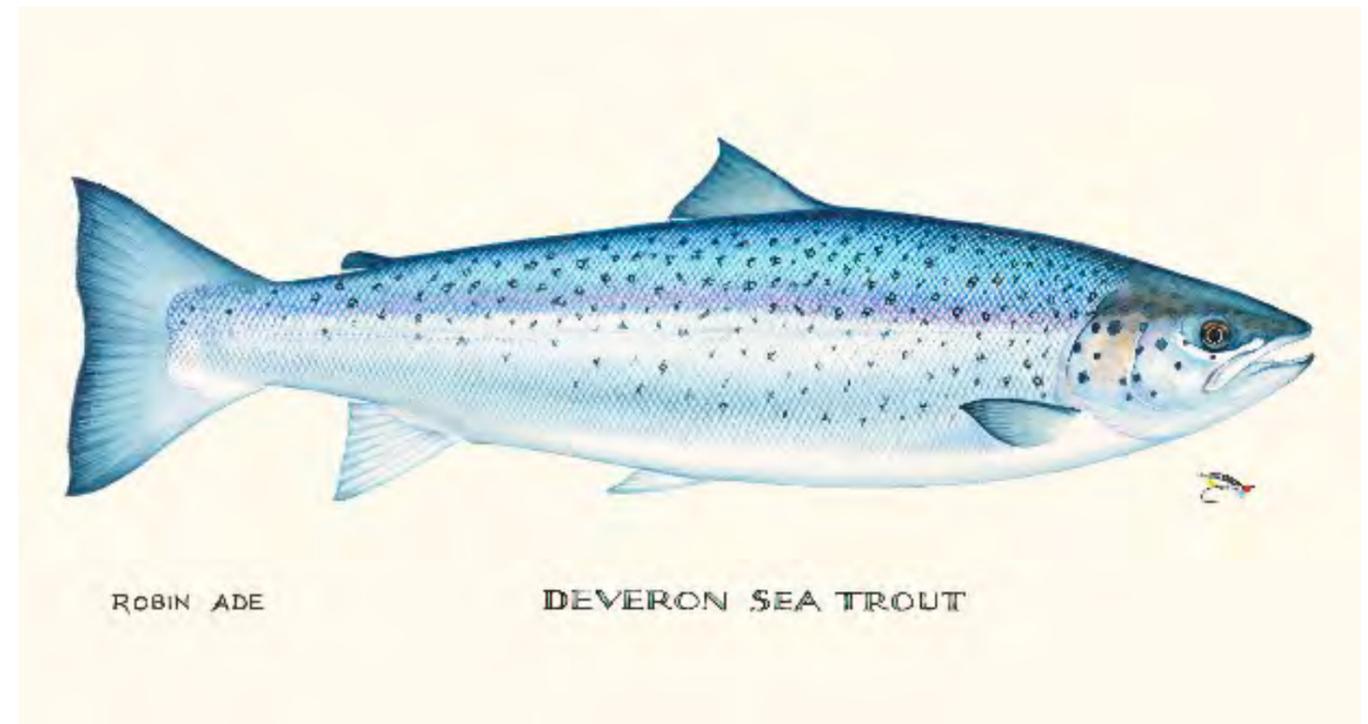
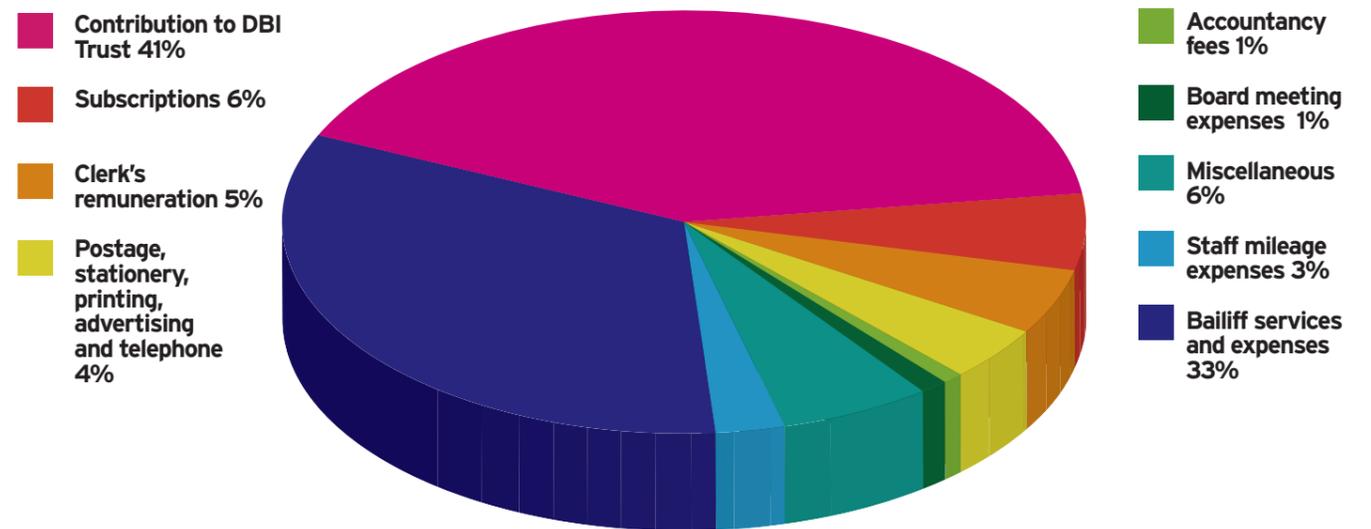


Expenditure April 2017 - March 2018



The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board Year ended 31st March 2018

Expenditure April 2017 - March 2018



The River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board accounts

Year ended 31 March 2018

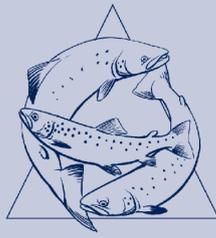
INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2018	2017
INCOME		
Assessment Income (42p in £)	71,832	71,971
Bank Interest	-	-
	71,832	71,971
EXPENDITURE		
Wages and Social Security Costs	-	9,042
Staff mileage expenses	1,800	2,448
Bailiff services and expenses	21,000	9,888
Contribution to DBI Trust	26,500	26,500
Telephone	-	155
Subscriptions	3,929	3,944
Clerk's Remuneration	2,952	3,937
Insurance	167	615
Bank Charges	-	-
Postage, Printing, Stationery, Advertising and Telephones	2,367	2,717
Accountancy Fees	696	672
Board Meeting Expenses	945	879
Gifted asset donation to DBI Trust	-	12,430
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,573	3,747
	63,932	76,974
Transfer to Improvement Fund	-	12,945
Expenditure April 2017 - March 2018	63,932	89,919
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS ON GENERAL FUND	7,900	(17,948)

BALANCE SHEET

	2018	2017
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
IMPROVEMENT FUND INVESTMENTS	-	-
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank Account	42,378	31,560
Improvement Fund Account	-	-
	42,378	31,560
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	3,905	987
NET CURRENT ASSETS		38,473
		30,573
		38,473
		30,573
Represented by:		
CAPITAL ACCOUNT		
General Fund		
Balance as at 1 April 2016	30,573	48,521
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	7,900	(17,948)
		38,473
		30,573
Improvement Fund		
Balance as at 1 April 2016	-	111,094
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	-	(111,094)
		-
		38,473
		30,573

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 2018

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.