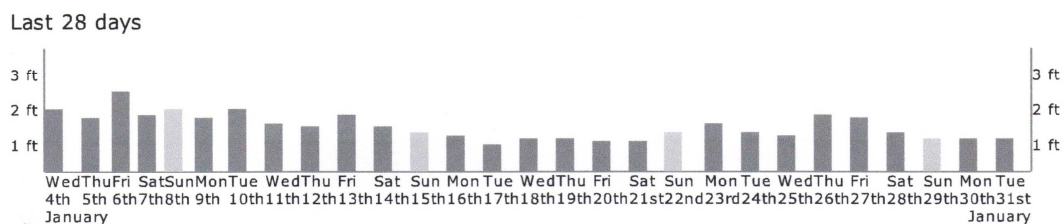


**THE DON DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
SUPERINTENDENTS JANUARY MONTHLY
REPORT 2012**

State of River

River flows for the month, were fluctuating between 1 and 2ft above summer low flows. There was only one occasion, when the river levels increased above the 2ft mark to almost 3ft on the 6th of the month as the Graph below shows.



Fish in River

River levels have stayed at a good level throughout the month. The river temperature has also been above normal for this time of year at an average 38-40f, normally at this time of year you would expect it to be 34-36f. The above average temperature should encourage spring salmon to spread themselves out over the catchment. On the third week of the month I saw a nice fresh spring fish in the upper Inverurie stretch of the river, as it leapt out of the water for a split second, the light flashed of its flank a beautiful steely blue; a short stocky fish of 7lb, spring salmon are definitely in the system. Kelts are still plentiful over the middle to lower river and I suspect Kelts will hang around right through till the month of March or even longer. On several beats on the river, dead Kelts have either been washed up on the river banks or been taken out by scavengers. The Bailiffs have been putting these Kelts back into the system as they come across them, as they give nutrients to the river as the body breaks down.

Hatchery

All the stock have survived the winter, and will be stocked out into the recommended areas of the upper catchment next month, weather permitting.

Mink Monitoring Program

Bailiff S Murphy has taken on the new task of Mink Monitoring, he has now placed 19 Mink rafts over the middle to Lower River, and he has also taken on several Mink rafts on the Leochel catchment at Alford, where volunteers have fallen away.

Breda Fishing's

The Breda beat will be ready for the angling season with new signs now in place over the beat, this will give the angler better information on parking and upper limit and lower limit marches of the beat. I will also put simple seating benches on some of the pools, along with rod rests at the seating. This will be at no cost to the Board as the material is from cut offs from past projects.

Wildlife Crime Officer

The river has now got in place a wildlife crime officer, his name is Sergeant Jamie Harrison. He is a local officer based at Inverurie and is very keen. His contact details are as follows.

Tel; 0845 6005700 Email: James.Harrison@grampain.pnn.police.uk

The launch of the new wildlife crime poster for the Don will be launched at the opening of the angling season, at Inverurie on the 11th of February. I have a number of copies of the poster at the Cluny office, where the Bailiff staff are now based full time.

Annual Report 2011

This has now been completed and has been submitted.

Jim Kerr
River Superintendent