



Opening Day on the Don

Welcome to another season on the river, with opening day for salmon anglers on the 11th of Feb.

During the day the Jamie the biologist visited some of the more popular beats to catch up with some of the anglers. It became apparent that there were plenty of kelts in the system a good sign of healthy spawning last autumn. Jamie took this opportunity to pass on some scale packets to anglers to enable them to collect scales from their catches over the season.

Word soon spread that spring fish were caught on some of the lower beats with the ADAA, Grandhome and Stonewood waters bearing a total of 10 spring fish.

The opening ceremony was held on the 12th of Feb at Inverurie hosted by the Inverurie Angling Association once again. The event was well attended and thanks must go to the minister for his blessing of the river and to the hosts for their welcome and the of course the dram.



The Rev Graeme Longmuir blessing the River Don and the new season.

Scale Sampling

The Scale sampling report for the 2010 season will be available to download from the website shortly. The project's success has resulted in the continuation of the programme into the 2011 season and with a training session for anglers scheduled for March (see website for updates). If you are interested in joining the programme please get in touch at present we have an under representation of anglers/beats from the Lower and Upper catchment. Scale packets are available to anglers by contacting Jamie on biologist@riverdon.org.uk.

If there are any scales which have been collected by anglers from the 2010 season and are outstanding please return them to the address at the bottom of the page.

Planting out Broodstock

The Trust has been in the process of assisting the Don District Salmon Fishery Board (DDSF) with their broodstock programme for 2010/11. One of the initiatives that the Trust has assisted with is the identification of appropriate broodstock progeny planting locations, densities and methods. The biologist Jamie prepared a document outlining these suggestions using guidance from Marine Scotland. Following discussions with the DDSFB the programme of planting out started in early Feb.



Stephen Murphy illustrating how to create an artificial redd, using a milk carton to assess survival of eggs. These cartons allow survival to be estimated from an artificial redd site, by collecting the cartons after the alevins have emerged and counting any eggs that have not hatched.

This document has already been prepared by the Trust will be available to download from the website shortly.

Bio-Security Plan

The River Don Trust Bio Security Plan has been completed and a copy will be available on the website for all to download shortly. The Trust would like to thank all of those who have provided comments and been involved in the consultation process. Some of the initiatives are already underway and we have also made a bid for an invasive plant control programme for the upper Don, which if successful will start this year, keep an eye on the website for regular updates.

You may already have seen some of our leaflets and posters across the catchment. We have produced a document identifying locations for the provision of disinfecting services for *Gyrodactylus salaris* as indicated in the last newsletter. The Trust office is also able to provide this service in return for a small donation.

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