

Tay Salmon News

from the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board

Looking forward to the new season

The 2009 Tay salmon season will open on Thursday 15 January 2009. After a welcome break anglers and ghillies alike look forward in anticipation of what the new season might hold.

2008 produced some surprises. Some more spring salmon than in 2007, but more big three sea winter fish than for quite some years. Is this the start of a new trend? We certainly hope so. But what is quite possible is that the existence of a greater number of three sea winter fish in the sea last year should mean there is a better chance of some four sea winter fish returning this year. With a bit of luck someone might get that elusive 40 pounder this year!

Tight lines and best wishes for 2009.

Building on catch and release success

Last season the Board's catch and release policy was seriously strengthened, a move which was widely supported and applauded by anglers, ghillies and proprietors alike. The result was that the spring catch and release rate rose from 40—50% to 75% immediately. This will have resulted in many more precious spring salmon eggs being laid which is essential for the future well being of the spring salmon stock and angling itself.

Now that the vital corner has been turned this success must be maintained and hopefully improved on. For the sake of the future, thank you in anticipation for releasing at least your first salmon of each day.

The 2009 Catch and Release Code

For the 2009 season, the Board is again recommending the successful catch and release code which was implemented in 2008:

Start of the Season to 31 May

The first fish caught each day by each individual angler must be released. Each individual angler then has the option of keeping one subsequent fish only, per day.

No worming.

From 1 June to end of season

All hen fish to be released. The aim should then be to release at least 50% of cock fish caught, in particular cock fish weighing over 15 lbs.

No worming in September and October.

All season

All coloured fish should be released.

All Sea Trout should be released*

***(See page 2)**

Only one treble hook should be used on Rapala type lures.

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Restoration of the Malloch Challenge

The most prestigious and historic trophy in the Scottish Angling world, the Malloch Challenge Trophy (latterly known as the Tennant's Malloch Trophy) is being reinstated after an absence of 10 years having been acquired by the TDSFB.

The Trophy will be awarded annually to the angler catching the heaviest salmon of the season on a fly on any Scottish River.

The new criteria for the Award reflects the Tay Boards' promotion of conservation in that the fish must be safely released back into the water.

For further details see the TDSFB website.

Save Sea Trout!



The Board is recommending that all sea trout should be released in 2009.

On the Tay, Sea Trout have long been overlooked, but to some Tay anglers, and especially those on the River Earn, the sea trout is a very special fish.

The River Earn especially has a reputation as a prime sea trout water. But, even on the Earn, as in other rivers in north eastern Scotland, sea trout numbers have plummeted in recent years.

Marine problems seem almost certain to be the main factor, as evidenced by starving sea birds. While industrial fishing must be contributing to this, other natural factors seem to be at work. Sandeel fishing has been significantly curtailed in recent years and while we would like to see this eliminated altogether a position has been reached where everything possible must be done to maintain the spawning stock. Hence the recommendation to release and return all Sea Trout.

River Tay Dinner Thursday 11th June 2009

The fourth Tay Salmon Conservation Award Dinner will be held at Ballathie House Hotel on 11 June 2009, with a prize draw and Auction to raise funds for River Tay Conservation and Development projects. The guest speaker will be Jim Davidson.

The following awards will be presented at the dinner:

The Ballathie Trophy for the Tay Salmon Conservation Award;

The Redford Trophy for the largest fish caught and released on Opening Day;

River Tay Long Service Awards.

Tickets are £75 with a limited number of discounted tickets available for angling club members and river workers. For further details contact Lorna Bromley-Martin at TDSFB offices.

New staff appointments

The Board's team has recently been strengthened by the following appointments:

Office Manager: Murray Smith.

Murray is from a land agent background and previously managed Dupplin Estate. He brings extensive management skills which will be important in implementing improvement projects.

Development Manager: Lorna Bromley-Martin. Lorna is a native of Perthshire and keen angler and comes to us from a fundraising and marketing background. Lorna's main role will be to promote and market the River Tay and develop fundraising initiatives to help conservation development and projects.

New Board Elected

In December 18 proprietors were elected to the Board and four salmon anglers have been co-opted. A large number are new to the Board and include members from as far afield as Killin and, for the first time, the River Eden.

John Milligan is again interim chairman until the first meeting in February.