

DDSFB Hatchery Report 2014/15

In what seems like a trend the absence of broodstock ascending the ladder through late October, November and December and very poor fishing late season capturing our fish was a struggle. Traditionally broodstock have been available in the ladder right through to late December, indeed our aim always was to target these late fish. Again, despite being fully prepared, this tail end run failed to materialise.

The Galloway Fisheries Trust team repeatedly tried in the ladder but only one salmon was obtained from Tongland as the run had dried up completely by the first week of November. In the process of electrofishing as is often the case a good number of sea trout were caught and helped over the dam. The anglers were called upon to provide some fish and Rod and Line proved an equally difficult task. It took several weeks effort to provide a nice hen and cock fish.

The fish were stripped of 13,000 ova by mid-December and returned to the Linn Pool at Tongland. Temperatures were very stable and low over winter, on several occasions to the point of freezing up the water supply but without incident. Egg development and overall survival was exceptional with no silt problems and the stable cool temperatures

In February the GFT took two batches of eyed 100 ova for the Salmon in the Classroom Project for Dalry High, an important role of the hatchery in educating local children about the lifecycle of salmon and issues facing local salmon populations. The school visited the hatchery in March to learn about the hatchery and release their alevins into the Dullarg Burn where they will return in the summer to observe how they have fared in the wild.



Fig.1 Redd ready for eggs



Fig.2 Ideal Habitat on the Polharrow Burn

12,000 ova were stocked out at a site agreed on with the GFT in the Polharrow Burn. The ova were spread between 12 redds (Fig.1) were dug over 500m of ideal habitat (fig.2) and will be monitored annually. A further 500 ova were held in the hatchery until swim up and released into the Dullarg Burn at the hatchery site.

In light of the past two seasons difficulty obtaining broodstock this year we will examine the possibility of taking fish for the hatchery throughout October unless weather and fish counter data point to this not being feasible.