

LUCE DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD

2014 Head bailiff's report

This year seatrout fishing started in June. I had been watching fish run into the sea pool at the beginning of June but they never seemed to go any further, quite happy to run in and out with the tides.

It was the second week of the month when the first fish was caught in the pots. Two days later a second fish was caught in the Turnwheel. Fishing continued through the summer until the end of August when by then most of the fish are starting to colour up.

All through the summer fish could be seen running into the pools just before dark because this was a very dry summer it was excellent for summer seatrout fishing. The only complaint, which is a bit of a nit-pick, was the cool evenings, clear skies and the temperature would drop quickly and the seatrout would go down. This year was one of the best seatrout years we have had in ages numbers of seatrout were quite encouraging, certainly the number I have seen running this year was quite positive.

For every good there is a bad and the salmon season was dire. First fish was caught 10th of August, four days later and the water had gone. That was it until 6th October when the weather finally broke.

Fishing continued through to the 20th Oct fairly steady but no big numbers of fish. I fully expected for a big run after the dry summer with fish desperate to enter the river when water came at last.

There were no really big fish this year although Peter Crawford did get a fish of 18lb which he returned. Bryce Greenhill also had one of 15lb which was also returned.

This year we have struggled to obtain fish for the hatchery we have managed to get a few. At the moment they are still at egg stage and should start to eye up around end of Feb / early March.

NO major poaching incidents to report, just the usual holiday makers' chuck and chance it brigade.

Over the 2013 winter there have been massive amount of gravel movement this can be seen on the lower reaches with gravel banks appearing from nowhere. One pool that has filled in is the mill stream the amount of gravel movement is huge with these large spates that we are getting in a more frequent frequency. Another pool is the Ladies Cast which has totally filled in.

Over the winter we are hoping to start some tree trimming to give us a head start for the coming season there are also a few trees and limbs that need to be removed from the river that have been carried down in the floods.

Martin Lock

Head Baliff