

Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board

Convener's Report 2014

2014 has been a largely uneventful year with few problems for the board to deal with. Fish returns have shown a slightly better year than last year which is to be welcomed.

With the installation of a Logie fish counter we are getting a much clearer picture of the returning adult salmon and trout populations. We have still to look at the data for the whole season before we come to any conclusions, and will probably need several year's figures before we can see patterns developing which will help us see the way forward with river management.

Changes to existing salmon regulations are being considered by the Scottish Government. The proposals are being considered by the various stakeholders at the moment and if implemented will bring in major changes for both upper and lower proprietors and for all the district salmon fishery boards. A conservation order is about to come in force in 2015 which will limit the killing of salmon before 1st April.

Seals continue to be a major problem on the coast with many colonies being established locally. This is bound to have an impact on returning salmon and sea trout, but there are no signs of the Scottish Government being willing to tackle this ever growing menace on our coastline.

As Convener, I thank the members and staff of the Ugie board, as they continue in their efforts to protect and improve the habitat of the stocks of wild salmon and trout in the river. We look forward to rising to the challenges and changes that are inevitably coming our way, and to continue to carry out the various tasks of the board with determination and enthusiasm.



Joseph Yule

Convener