

River Ythan SLA Report August 2024

1. Introduction

The Don DFSB have been contracted to carry out fisheries protection, predator surveys, spawning surveys and habitat restoration activities across the river Ythan catchment throughout 2024/25 by the Ythan DSFB under a Service Level Agreement. Each activity is allocated a set number of man-days/patrols to accommodate the requirements of the annually agreed SLA. Activities are defined following consultation with the Ythan DSFB.

Any incidents relating to pollution and policing will be recorded and shared with the Clerk. Information from predator surveys will be collated and shared with the Clerk directly following the survey period. Information on spawning surveys will be collated and reported upon in a summary report following the end of the spawning period. Any seals reported above Logie Buchan Bridge will be reported to the Clerk as soon as possible.

All activities will be covered by the Don DSFB health and safety polices, as stated in the service level agreement.

2. Reporting

A log of all patrols and activities will be sent to the Clerk monthly.

SLA Activities/ Table 1. Aug, SLA Activity/Policing Patrol allocation of shifts

Date	Patrol Area	Time of Patrol	Notes/Incidents
1/8/24	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary.	14.00pm to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Beats all quite with very few anglers on the river today.
8/8/24	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary.	14.30pm to 18.30pm 2 staff = 1 day	Ramornie pollution check at 16.30pm all clear.
14/8/24	Ardlethan to Newburgh Estuary.	14.30pm to 18.30pm 2 staff = 1 day	A few anglers on the main river today, all fishing permits checked.
27/8/24	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	13.30pm to 17.30pm 2 staff = 1 day	High winds today at Newburgh was churning up the estuary water, no anglers to be seen.

Policing

On the Newburgh estuary, anglers were still finding good sport landing sea trout, but in less numbers than the previous month. High winds on many days hampered the fishing effort.

Checks for pollution on the Ramornie beat, has been carried out regularly when bailiff staff have been out on patrol. On the Esslemont beat no further illegal activity has been found to have occurred since my last report.

On the 23rd of August we received a report of 3 suspicious persons fishing early morning, above Ellon bridge at the weir. This incident has been pursued by the bailiff staff and a trail camera will be set up to gain further intelligence. Permissions for the trail camera have been granted.

SLA Activities/Table 2, Follow up survey Mill of Elrick

Date	Follow up Survey/Mill of Elrick	Time
22.08.2024	Survey & Report writing	1 day

A follow up survey was carried out to establish, if any of my previous concerns had changed since my last report to the Ythan DSFB. Since my last visit in early January 2024, the water levels had dropped back giving better visibility below the water surface.

I have compiled a report of my findings and have submitted this to SEPA, asking if it possible for them to carryout an investigation into my concerns. Currently, I have not had any response yet from SEPA.

Pollution

Regular pollution checks have been made throughout the month, on the Ramornie fishing's. Periodic checks will continue for the foreseeable future.

Seals

No reports this month.

Jim Kerr

Acting on behalf of the Ythan DSFB