

**THE YTHAN DISTRICT SALMON FISHERY BOARD
NOVEMBER MONTHLY REPORT 2025**

River Ythan SLA Report November 2025

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 2025/26 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 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/ Piscivorous Bird Count/November

Table 2. Autumn Piscivorous Bird Surveys 2025.

Autumn Piscivorous Bird Surveys 2025	Number of Goosanders	Number of Cormorants	Number of Mergansers
River Ythan bird count 28 th of November	24	7	0

Location of Birds

8 goosanders were seen from Blairfowl downstream to Methlick bridge, along with 2 Cormorants. A further 3 Goosanders were counted just above loxies bridge at Methlick. Down at Ellon a flock of 6 Goosanders were counted. On the tidal reaches of the river 7 Goosanders and 5 Cormorants were counted.

Seals

No reports this month.

Saprolegnia Infection

While carrying out the Bird surveys, we were also looking for any signs of fish still in the river system showing signs of Saprolegnia, I am glad to report that no further signs of his infection was found.

Redd Counting

The Redd counting on the catchment has continued throughout the month and will also continue through December. Indications at this stage is that counts are down from the previous year. River levels from the middle of November have been fluctuating and some areas of the river have been difficult to survey, due to poor water clarity.

Jim kerr
Senior Fisheries officer
Acting on behalf of the Ythan DSFB