

River Ythan SLA Report August 2022

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 2022/23 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 policies, as stated in the service level agreement.

2. Reporting

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

August, SLA Activity/Policing Patrol

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

Date	Patrol Area	Time of Patrol	Notes/Incidents
4/8/22	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.00pm to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Estuary still producing excellent sized sea trout
17/8/22	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.00pm to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	River slightly coloured due to heavy cloud bursts
19/8/22	Ardlethan to Newburgh Estuary	14.45pm to 18.45pm 2 staff = 1 day	Lot of anglers at Newburgh today
24/8/22	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	9am to 13.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	None
25/8/22	Ardlethan to Newburgh Estuary	14.00pm to 18.00pm staff = 1 day	All quite on the Beats this evening.

Angling activity on the Newburgh section has been high for most of the month. Sea trout catches have been plentiful, with fish up to 6lb being landed. Above Newburgh the fishing effort has been poor with the low summer flows.

SLA Activity/Bronie weir removal

Jim Kerr supported the delivery of the work on site by meeting with SEPA and the contractor McGowans on behalf of the Ythan DSFB. Works commenced on the 8th of the month, where progress moved swiftly with the dry conditions prevailing. Prior to the works a fish rescue was undertaken by the River Dee Trust, which removed a total of 440 trout, parr and fry, 450 salmon parr and fry and 50 eels from the Bronie burn reach to be dewatered. By the third week of August the weir was removed and restructuring of the banks and bed of the stream was well underway. Please see pictures below.

Fig 1, weir now removed, and graded rock placed on bed of stream.



Fig 2, A meander has been added to the section upstream of the weir.



Predators

There have been no reports of Seals over the past month.

Jim Kerr

Senior Fisheries Officer

Acting on behalf of the Ythan DSFB