River Ythan SLA Report August 2026

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 2026/27 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/ Table 1. August SLA Activity/Policing Patrol allocation of shifts

Date	Patrol Area	Time of Patrol	Notes/Incidents
06/08/26	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.00pm to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	No anglers seen on main River this afternoon. On the Newburgh estuary fishing's, just a small number of anglers identified.
12/08/26	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.00pm to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Main River beats quite today. 3 anglers fishing the Newburgh section, all fishing permits checked.
13/08/26	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.30pm to 18.30pm 2 staff = 1 day	At Newburgh Estuary today, Sea trout being landed in better numbers and 1 Grilse reported caught and released.
20/08/26	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	12.00pm to 14.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Pollution checks were carried out on he mainstem of the river. On the Ebrie burn at the village of Auchnagatt, the outflow pipe was checked. no pollution found. Good numbers of Finnock showing at Newburgh estuary, only a small number of anglers fishing.
27/08/26	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	16.00pm to 20.00pm# 2 staff = 1 day	On the Newburgh stretch of the River, Sea trout numbers being caught are starting to fall back, but Finnock in good numbers still giving sport. Due to the low water conditions on the main river, fishing effort has been low.

30/08/26	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	13.30pm to 17.30pm 2 staff = 1 day	Foot patrols on the lower river were carried out today, no one seen. Gale force winds at Newburgh estuary, very few anglers seen fishing.

SLA Activities/ Willow Bank Repair/ Ebrie Burn-Update.

In the spring report, I reported on the completion of a 16-meter willow bank repair.

Since the bank repair was completed, it has taken an over whelming transformation. I went back to the site at the end of July, just under 4 months since completion, to check on the live willow. To my delight I was met with a stream embankment lush and green and thriving. See pictures of before and after below. If you did not know of the erosion that had occurred at this site, it would be very hard to see that a repair had been carried out at all. Now this embankment has been repaired, it will help reduce the fine sediments from smothering spawning gravel directly below the site.

Fig 1, Picture taken March 2026 below.

Fig 2, Picture taken 3rd of April 2026, willow bank Repair completed below.

Fig 3, Picture below taken on the 28th of July 2026. Note the young willow shoots all in leaf.

Pollution.

No reports for the month**.**

Seals.

None reported for month.

Upcoming tasks.

From mid-September Gravel washing will commence on Ebrie burn, where several sections were I identified through previous habitat improvement surveys.