

River Ythan SLA Report August 2023

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 2023/24 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.

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

Date	Patrol Area	Time of Patrol	Notes/Incidents
09/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.30pm to 18.30pm 2 staff = 1 day	River at low levels, all quiet on the beats
11/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.00pm to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	None
14/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.00 to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Good numbers of anglers at Newburgh, little being landed. Salmon appearing now in low numbers.
18/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	17.00pm to 21.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Catches of sea trout now falling away at Newburgh Estuary.
23/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.00 to 18.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Salmon now showing at Ardlethen.
25/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	9.00 to 13.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Machar pool hold good number of Finnick
29/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	12.00pm to 16.00pm 2 staff = 1 day	Quite on the river beats today
31/08/23	Methlick to Newburgh Estuary	14.30pm to 18.30pm 2 staff = 1 day	None

Angling

Newburgh estuary was still showing good numbers of Anglers and success was had with sea trout being landed. By the middle of August, the Sea trout catches tailed off slightly. On the Machar pool ADAA anglers were reporting seeing good numbers of Finnick showing in the pools. Further upstream at Ardlethen, salmon were now showing in the pools.

Hotel Visit

The Bailiff staff paid a visit to Newmachar Hotel, after a report of them selling Ythan caught sea trout on their menu. It turned out that after checking their invoices to where the sea trout were sourced it was confirmed that the sea trout were purchased legally. Following a warning from the bailiff team they have now changed the wording on their menu.

Table 2. August, SLA Activity/Obstacle Removal

Date	Activity-Obstacle Removal	Time	
3/08/2023	Fyvie Castle water/Home Farm section	9am to 1pm 1 staff member = ½ day	Easing of debris build up to allow ease of juvenile/adult fish movement.
10/08/2023	Ebrie Burn, Grid Ref NJ 93375/38755	9.30am to 5.30pm 2 staff = 2 days	Bridging Fir trees left, further trees were removed along with debris to allow safe fish passage.
11/08/2023	Fordoun Burn/Rootie Lin, Grid Ref NJ 75317/37335	9am to 5pm 2 staff = 2 days	Timber obstruction removed.
31/08/2023	Fordoun Burn at Rothie-May Grid Ref NJ 73373/36520	9am to 5pm 2 staff = 2 days	Timber obstruction removed.

Fig 1, Ebrie Burn, Before obstruction removal.



Fig 2, Ebrie Burn, After obstruction removal.



Fig 3, Rootie Lin, Before timber removal



Fig 4, Rootie Lin, After timber removal



Fig 5, Rothie-May, Before obstacle removal



Fig 6, Rothie-May, After obstacle removal



Pollution

There were no incidents reported this month.

Seals

None reported this month.

Jim Kerr
Senior Fisheries Officer
Acting on behalf of the Ythan DSFB