

MONTHLY BRIEFING

November 2003

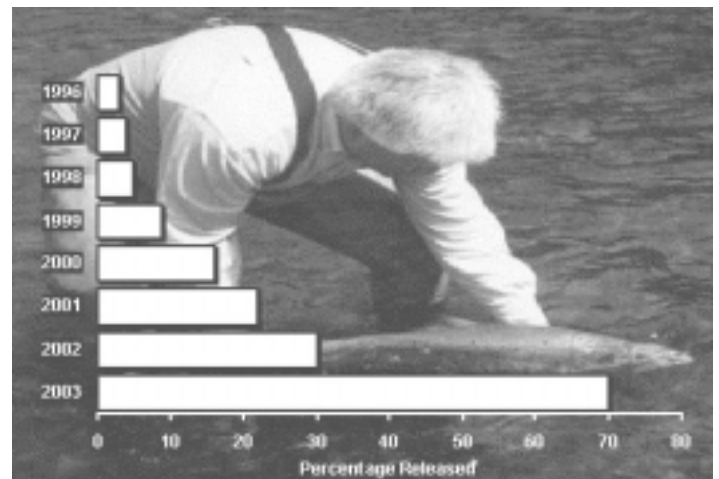
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ANGLERS RELEASE 70% OF SALMON ON THE SPEY

The 2003 fishing season has seen significant progress with general public acceptance of the need for salmon conservation on the Spey. Earlier this year the Spey Fishery Board (SFB), as part of its long term commitment to the protection of salmon stocks, promoted a Salmon Conservation Policy with the aim of achieving the release by anglers of at least 50% of salmon and grilse. Initial results showed that 63% of fish had been released until the end of June. By the end of the season this figure had risen to 70%, with a total of approximately 4,300 fish released.

While the practice of catch and release has been promoted since 1996, the percentage released has doubled since the 2002 season (see graph). The SFB regards this as excellent progress and applauds the efforts of all Proprietors, Ghillies, and Anglers concerned. The SFB has decided to continue the existing Salmon Conservation Policy for the 2004 season (see overleaf).

The SFB will continue to monitor fish catches to ensure their accuracy and future progress with the policy. The need to maintain a healthy salmon population is of paramount importance and the honest efforts of all anglers to comply with the Conservation Policy will help achieve this aim.



The SFB were saddened to receive news that the former Rothes ghillie, Charlie Suttie, has passed away. Charlie was well known to anglers and ghillies throughout the Spey. Prior to his retirement in 2001 he was closely involved with the inception of the Spey Ghillies Association, serving on the organising committee and representing ghillies' views to both the Spey Research Committee and the Board.

Staff and Board members extend their condolences to Charlie's family and friends.



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SALMON CONSERVATION POLICY 2004



1. Catch & Release

- Until 30th June each angler must return the 1st, 3rd, 5th etc., salmon and grilse caught
- After 30th June all hen salmon and hen grilse must be returned
- Throughout the season all stale or gravid fish must be released
- Escaped farm salmon must be retained

2. Method

- Where possible anglers should be encouraged to fish with a fly
- All hooks should be 'pinched' or barbless
- Where spinning is allowed only one set of barbless hooks may be used on a lure

3. Fishing Effort

- Where possible the numbers of hours and rods fished should be limited



Forceps, donated by Sportfish,
are available **FREE** from the
SFB Research Office,
Tel 01340 810841.

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