

BEAULY DISTRICT FISHERY BOARD

Chairman's Summary Report for the year 2011

1. Catches

In the 2011 season 1,154 fish were reported as being caught. Previous years catches are shown below.

Previous years:	2010 - 1,714
	2009 - 1,295
	2008 - 1,186
	2007 - 1,335
	2006 - 1,265

The catch figure for 2011 marked a return to near average levels following the significantly higher catch of 2010. This is reflected in the fish counter totals below. Following a reasonably encouraging spring run, the grilse run was disappointing.

76% of the fish caught were returned. As in previous years, the Board's recommended Conservation Policy was circulated to all Proprietors. I would encourage all Proprietors to comply with this.

2. Fish Counter – Cumulative Totals

<u>Kilmorack</u>		
Figures for	2011	2,849 accurate figures not available
	2010	4,705
	2009	4,233
	2008	5,100
	2007	3,689
	5 year average	4,405

<u>Aigas</u>		
Figures for	2011	2,825
	2010	5,100 approx
	2009	3,810
	2008	4,264
	2007	4,013
	5 year average	4,260

<u>Beannachran</u>		
Figures for	2011	184
	2010	493
	2009	214
	2008	295
	2007	195
	5 year average	301

As in 2010, the Kilmorack counter was not fully operational for a period in 2011. Accurate figures are not currently available.

These figures mark a significant reduction on 2010, however it is believed that the average size of the fish running in the river was larger and therefore the cumulative impact on fish spawning would be reduced as the larger fish will lay more eggs.

3. Licences

An interim licence was obtained for the control of piscivorous birds. This licence was organised by Keith Williams in conjunction with the Spey District Fishery Board and was for the period 18 January 2011 to 30 April 2011. The total licence was for two cormorants, both of which were shot.

A licence for 2 mergansers and one cormorant has been received in 2012.

In 2011 the District Fishery had a licence to shoot two common seals and two grey seals under the Moray Firth Seal Management Plan. One seal were shot within the river.

A licence for 2 common and 2 grey seals has been received for 2012.

4. Baillifs

A Warrant Card has recently been issued to Alastair Fraser (Glass), bringing the total number of warranted baillifs in the Beaully District to four. The other three baillifs are:

Keith Williams (NBFT)

Nick Barker (NFBT)

Robert Smart (Lower Beaully)

An Application has been received from Donald Fraser (Middle Beaully) to be issued a Warrant Card also. Donald has recently completed the IFM Baillif's exam.

A number of minor poaching incidents were attended to in the last year, with one recent arrest taking place on the Middle Beaully. This is now in the hands of the Procurator Fiscal.

5. Ness & Beaully Fisheries Trust

Dr. Keith Williams will update Proprietors on current progress on habitat management and fish genetics at the Proprietors' meeting.

6. Consultations

The following consultations were responded to on behalf of the Board up until May 2012:

- Aquaculture & Fisheries Bill
- Proposed Beaully to Mossford 132kv transmission reinforcement
- Kirkton Farms Burns Fish Survey
- Neatty Burn Hydro Project
- Planning Application by Aggregate Industries to extend Balblair Quarry, Beaully
- Consultation by SEPA on Scottish Water application to amend CAR Licence discharge limits for Cannich septic tank
- Consultation by ASFB on proposed Code of Governance for District Fishery Boards.

Nick McAndrew

Chairman

June 2012.