

# Abernethy & Aviemore Angling Improvement Association

## NEWSLETTER 2019

The Office Bearers are:

Chairman	Duncan Ferguson	07823 334747
Secretary	Stuart Voce	01479 851727
Treasurer	Joan Jeffers	01479 821803

**The River Spey opens on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

**Abernethy New Season opens on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

### Overview 2018

For the first time since 1976, the river suffered badly from the lack of water due to the summer weather conditions. Despite good water earlier on in the season salmon were still not running the river in the same numbers as previous years, then when we hit prime time later in the year, the water levels dropped to their lowest for 50 years! Despite this the seatrout did manage to show with some large fish being landed.

The largest salmon recorded was estimated at over 25lb and seatrout 8lb. The catch numbers are attached, showing a 3 year trend which is self-explanatory.

Visitor numbers were up both on Abernethy and Aviemore and as a result we have had the benefit of the increased income.

### Members' Fishing Permits

Having increased ticket prices last year and taken into account our end of year financial position, it has been agreed that all current prices will remain the same for this year (details of which are on our website [www.abernethyangling.co.uk](http://www.abernethyangling.co.uk)).

The only change is that all membership fees are to be paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 as the larger part of our expenses falls due at this time. Those members not renewing by this date will have to rejoin and pay an additional rejoining fee of £50.00.

Again, there will be no free tickets for friends/family, so please be aware.

There is still half price day/week tickets until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

For the benefit of our local children and to support us all going forward, those under 16 years of age can fish free but only when they have obtained a ticket from the treasurer Joan Jeffers on 01479 821803.

Visitor tickets for Abernethy will be available from Boat of Garten Post Office and Aviemore permits from Cairngorm Mountain Sports and Rothiemurchus Fishery.

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### Reporting of Catch Returns and Catch Return Forms

Please note that all catches for salmon and sea trout are reported to the Secretary, Stuart Voce, within **24 hours** of capture on 01479 851727. (This reporting is important as it is posted on "FishPal" where guests can see that it's worthwhile visiting us and it keeps us all able to pursue our sport we love).

Regarding the half year and end of year catch return form, sadly only 36% of the returns were sent in. These returns are required by the Spey Fishery Board, so they can monitor the movement of fish on the whole of the Spey which in the end benefits ourselves for our future fishing, so can you please return these forms by the time stated on the forms. Just a polite reminder that it is a rule and it is clearly stated in your ticket rules. "If catch returns including nil returns are not reported, members will not be allowed to rejoin the following season".

**Important notice:** The Spey Fishery Board Rules apply to us all and these appear on our website [www.abernethyangling.co.uk](http://www.abernethyangling.co.uk) but for the purpose of this newsletter, the Association's additional rules which came into force last year still apply for the forthcoming year and beyond:

- No Boats
- No Camping
- No Campervans overnight
- No Dogs

In line with the above just as a reminder, we as an Association do not have the legal rights to fish for migratory fish in the river Spey, the legal rights are owned by the Landlord Viscount Reidhaven of Reidhaven Estates and we have the **privilege** to fish the river by way of a legal lease document drawn up in the joint names of Viscount Reidhaven and the Abernethy Angling Association – the lease is due to expire in 4 years time.

Alongside this lease is our Constitution Document which again is a binding agreement and gives an assurance to the Landlord that we agree as an Association to uphold those conditions in the said agreement.

Our Constitution has been passed to us by our Landlord as a reminder. As we would not wish to prejudice the renewal of our next term of lease, it has been decided by the committee to adhere to the conditions of the Constitution Document to protect our position in 4 years time.

One of the stated "objectives" of our Association Constitution is "to prevent illegal fishing".

In the last season, some methods of fishing have been used which fall within this category. The committee has taken the necessary steps to see this does not happen again in the future together with looking at the "membership" to fall in line with the Constitution.

For those members not aware, the Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries (protection) (Scotland) Act 1951 states "rod and line fishing precludes the use of fish roe (putty) or light (luminous) as a **lure** also "set lines", i.e. static baits (ledgering).

The Committee has also decided that light flashing rapalas fall in this category.

Our Constitution Document is on our website.

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### Rubbish

We have received a complaint from one of the local farmers about rubbish being left on the river bank including fishing line – please take your rubbish home with you.

### AGM Meeting and Presentation of Trophies

This year's AGM meeting is arranged at the Boat Hotel for 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The agenda is available on the day with previous Minutes. We, the Committee, look forward to seeing you.

### Opening Day Ceremony

The Opening Day Ceremony will be held at the bridge in Boat of Garten on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 11 am. Public notification of the Opening Ceremony will be in the Strathy the next few weeks.

### In Conclusion

Your membership form is enclosed. Bear in mind the additional rules as mentioned above. Please return your form to Joan Jeffers as soon as possible, bearing in mind the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, in order that your ticket can be posted to you. Any enquiries please contact Joan.

We hope this Newsletter has been of interest to you and hope it highlights that your input is an important part of the good management of this lovely river, the Spey. Many thanks for your continued support.

Good health, good fishing, good luck.

Regards

The Committee