

Trout and Salmon Report

River Tay

1 July 2024

“Ben Lui”

June was a month of relatively settled weather and was generally cooler than it can be. Over the first two weeks of the month, levels were generally in the one to one and a half foot range. There was then a lift to around three feet on the 17th, the only bigger lift of the month. Thereafter, the water gradually fell, although there was a lift of about 6 inches or so in the last few days of the month.

The generally lower water and the arrival of the summer run, was good for some beats, less good for others, but did see catches start to pick up on the lower river. For example, Waulkmill saw sport pick up in June with 9. Upper Redgorton had 6, Benchil had 7, which included at least a couple of really nice fish for Bob White, and Upper Scone had four. Fishponds, however, had 15, its best June in over five years. That 15 included a number of “first ever”, a 16 pounder for David Farnworth, a 12 pounder for Kyle Goldie, a 14 pounder for August Dollenburgh from the USA and another 14 pounder for 10 year old Jess and April Murray from South Carolina. Then, at the end of the month, Sam Datta had two fish of 14 and 18 pounds in a day while Sandy Datta had one of 18 pounds!

Above Stanley, catches went up another notch, with Stobhall reporting 15 and Taymount 23. Ballathie, then, had 14, while their neighbours on Cargill had 28. On Ballathie, Omar Ayad, May Economakis, Richard Dekkers, Martine Crawford-Brunt, Henry Andrews and Cahal Dowd all caught their first ever salmon. The successful anglers on Cargill included Gavin Mason, David Tidswell, Peter Hodgkiss, David Sands and Tony Bosomworth. John Guthrie caught the first grilse of the season there, a lovely fresh five pounder.

However, the conditions really favoured Islamouth, which had 92. Again, its best June in over five years. The scoresheet there included Jim Ferrie, Caleb Sutton, Iain Wood, Simon Belford, John Furness, Mike Jennings, Peter Ancliff, James Aird, Rory Campbell, Ken Reid, Stuart Yeats and Stuart Lang. Barry Ward had something like 7 fish in two trips.

The water height didn't generally favour the Meikleour and Upper Islamouth beat so much, which reported 16. But there were a number of very memorable “first ever”. They included “Neil” and “Hedge”, both with 14 pounders, and “Hugo” with a 10 pounder. Kercock then reported 21. Among the successful there were Pete and Sue Creswick, Scott Sykes, Ken O' Donnell, Paul Temple, Alan Micklethwaite, Tony Griffiths and John Dewar. Burnbane, a noted high water beat, had three, which included a 14 pounder for John Weir and a 10 pounder for Mark Paris. Glendelvine, next, had four, which included a 10 pounder for Kevin Gilmour and a first grilse of the season for Harry Anderson, a young lad. Stenton had 7, but

the two Murthly beats did rather better. Murthly 1 had 17 and Murthly 2 had 14. Newtyle then had 13. There, Arran Lee caught his first ever salmon, Jon Amos had three in a day and Dave Maxwell had at least one. Dunkeld House had 9 and Dalmarnock two. Dalguise, above, had four, Lower Kinnaird 7 and Upper Kinnaird three.

Fish continued to push further on too into the upper Tay. Findynate, for example, had three, Edradynate had 10, Lower Bolfracks had one, Upper Farleyer had 9 and Lower Farleyer had three. However, fishing was quieter on some of the tributaries. On the Isla, for example, the Keithick Mains and Keithick Streams beats reported only one fish apiece. On the Tummel, Callum Imray had the only fish from East Haugh, and on Pitlochry Angling Club's dam beat, June's total was a 10 pounder for Jamie Howe and an 11 pounder for Jon Rae. Of course, as is typical in June, fish were still running through the beat but not hanging around to be caught. Around 800 fish were registered on the fish counter at Pitlochry Dam in June, with a total count of 1757 on 29 June. But, even so, Loch Faskally only reported two for the month, which included a 10 pounder for Simon Barton. Upstream on the Garry, two fish were reported from the Ruan Ruarie beat, which included a 10 pounder for Gordon Redmond.

So, June was a more encouraging month, the best of the season so far. The catch will have been over 500, which is much better than June 2023. Many have remarked on the quality of the summer fish now being caught in the main river. Many are good fish in the mid to high teens, fresh and in cracking condition. As I have been saying for several years, this seems to be the run that has replaced the old "autumn" run. I just hope they keep on coming for some time yet. It is nice also to see a few grilse appearing. Hopefully, there will be more of them, which if the summer weather continues as it has been, might give us a reasonable summer fishing. Of course, as I always recommend, this can be a fast changing situation, but you can keep up to date with catches, river levels and availability on the www.fishtay.co.uk website.

Tight lines

Ben Lui