

Trout and Salmon Report

River Tay

20 November 2024

“Ben Lui”

I’m writing this report on 20 November, a good month and more since the Tay salmon season ended. As ever, these few weeks are a welcome break from fishing for all those involved with the river. And, here, it’s a short one too! It’s already less than two months, to the new season. By the time you read this it will only be weeks away!

But, it’s been an unusual period.

We have had no appreciable rain for weeks. The Tay has been falling steadily since late October and, as I write, is down to little over 6 inches on the Ballathie gauge! There has been no rain over the spring salmon spawning period, which must mean fish won’t have been able to spread out into the smaller burns at least.

It has generally been relatively mild, but in the last few days we have experienced this plunge of cold air, with temperatures way below freezing at night. I’ve just been sent a photo of some grue on the Tay at Luncarty! That’s quite unusual anyway, but especially so in November!

I would love to think these sort of conditions will remain through until the new season and there might be a spring of legend with springers held up by the cold in lower beats. That, of course, is very much wishful thinking! The weather, no doubt, will change. We could get anything before the year is out!

By my next report we will, of course, have more idea as to what fishing conditions will be like for the start of the season. I will speculate more on opening day prospects then.

In the meantime I wish you all the very best for Christmas and a happy New Year.

Ben Lui