



2010 Season Review

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2010 was a bit of a mixed bag, with some anglers reporting good catches and others having less success than in previous years. While one angler reported his worst season since starting fishing in 1996, another reported a 6½lb salmon from East Linton. The river was very low through the summer months, which affected overall angling activity. However, things did seem to pick up towards the end of the season.

463 permits were sold in 2010 and 64 catch returns were completed (13.8%). These returns show catches of 1561 brown trout, 20 sea trout (12 returned), and 2 salmon. Median brown trout weight was ¾ lb, with 6 brown trout over 2lb. Otters were reported by 11 anglers and 1 mink sighting was reported.

Eight Committee members completed log books which showed that 421 trout 94 smolts and 2 sea trout were caught in 133 trips to the river in 2010 (but no salmon). Compared to last year this represents a slight overall increase.

The ELAA Committee has worked on a number of issues this season including the Management Plan, new stocking policy and wild fishery, Haddington Show, weirs and fish passes, poaching, the Five-year Plan and the ongoing physical habitat survey. Planning permission for a proposed opencast coalmine at Cousland, was denied by Midlothian Council in October. However, Scottish Coal were considering an appeal.

2011 AGM

**Monday
January 24th
7:30 PM**

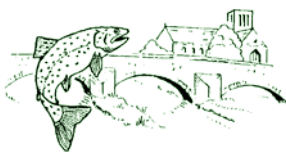
**The Town House
Haddington**

**Guest Speaker
from
Forth District
Salmon Fisheries
Board**



(Photo Hugh Dignon)

Not a monster yet, but a perfect wild brownie, taken on a dry fly at Clerkington



Do we still stock the river? Yes we definitely do.

From conversations on the riverbank it seems that some anglers believe that the Tyne is no longer stocked. So to clear up any misunderstanding:

ELAA still stocks the Tyne.

In 2010 about 1,300 brown trout of takeable size were put into the river at various points. ELAA President John Proctor can confirm this because he still has a sore back from carrying the buckets! (see photo below) and the cost of stocking is recorded in the 2010 accounts at £1,692.50.

New stocking policy – wild fishery

The location of stocking is the only thing that has changed. Last year it was decided to establish a trial wild fishery. So although no fish will be stocked upstream of Westmills weir, Haddington, (for three years at least) stocking will continue downstream from that point.

Why the new policy?

Research indicates that, in the longer term, a well managed and well monitored wild fishery will be more productive and more genetically sustainable than a stocked fishery.

ELAA's aim is to improve the river habitat and enhance the fishing potential. This involves preparing and implementing a Management Plan which will include surveying the river and monitoring fish populations through electro-fishing.

Catch-and-release

We strongly recommend that whenever possible you practice catch-and-release on the Tyne and use barbless hooks, particularly in the wild fishery.

See the website

www.elaa.co.uk
for the full stocking policy.

Where does my permit money go?

The permit now costs £30 (£25 if you complete the previous season's catch return). This still represents great value for money, with over 20 miles of river to fish between March and October, all for the price of a few pints - and the possibility of catching (at no extra cost!) a sea trout - or even a salmon.

Many anglers wonder how their money is spent. So here are a few of the major items of expenditure in 2010:

- Fishing Rates and rents (to riparian owners) **£2210**
- Stocking **£1692**
- Forth Fisheries Trust (contribution to weir surveys) **£2500**
- Haddington Show **£724**
- Printing (Permits etc) **£718**
- Postage **£221**

Fishing rates have increased considerably, while the cost of Haddington Show includes banners and other publicity material that can be used for many years at future events.

(For full details see the ELAA Accounts at the AGM)



(Photo David Elder)

"I don't remember seeing this in the President's job description!"
John Proctor (right) proves that ELAA continues to stock the Tyne.



Weir and fish pass update

For a number of years now ELAA has been working to improve the passage of migratory fish in the Tyne. This is very much a long-term project, but progress is gradually being made and negotiations are presently underway between the Forth Fisheries Trust and SEPA to address the fish pass problems on the river.

Seven weirs surveyed

All seven weirs have now been professionally surveyed by a fish pass consultant, and this work was funded by SEPA, with

contributions, both cash and in-kind, from the Forth Fisheries Trust and ELAA.

Next Stage - funding

The next stage is to move forward with the recommendations in each report to provide proper fish pass solutions at each weir. This is taking a little time as detailed discussions about funding the works are ongoing with SEPA – it is hoped that significant funding to support the work can be secured in a relatively swift way, with a view to at least addressing one or two of the weirs in 2011.

Brian Davidson

Management Plan

Patrick Fotheringham, Director of the Forth District Salmon Fisheries Board, attended a committee meeting earlier in the year and explained the role of the Board as the body responsible for monitoring, managing and protecting the fisheries for the entire Forth catchment.

He also outlined the important part played by angling associations in ensuring the wellbeing and protection of river habitats. He went on to explain the need for each river to have a Management Plan.

What is a Management Plan?

The Plan is a document put together by various groups with an interest in the river, not necessarily just anglers. It would contain, the type of information that ELAA has already collected to some

extent through ongoing projects like electro-fishing, the habitat survey, weir improvements, and the Five-year Plan.

Why a Management Plan?

The reason for producing a Management Plan is to build over time a detailed picture of the river which would ensure a more co-ordinated, more effective approach to habitat and fisheries management.

Benchmark

For example, the data contained in the Plan could be used as a benchmark to monitor the effectiveness of future ELAA activities such as habitat improvement.

Future funding applications

A Management Plan would also help future funding applications because it would demonstrate that ELAA as an organisation is



(Photo Tony Hawkins)

Knowes Weir – the first obstacle for migratory fish on the River Tyne.

serious about its responsibilities towards the river and therefore a serious candidate for financial support. For example, the collection of information under the Management Plan, such as electro-fishing survey results, helps provide hard evidence to support funding applications. The Plan will be an ongoing project that will be added to gradually over the years.

More information - links

A guest speaker from the Board has been invited to the **2011 AGM, Monday January 24th 7:30 PM, Town House, Haddington.** For further information on the Forth Fishery Management Plan and examples of Management Plans produced by other angling associations in the Forth catchment :

<http://www.rafts.org.uk/projects/fishesmanagementplanning.asp>

fishforth.co.uk/fdsb/



Haddington Show 2010

In 2010 the Association participated in Haddington Show at the invitation of the Show Committee.

As the county show for East Lothian the ELAA Committee felt it presented a great opportunity to raise the profile of the Association and to let the wider public know about our angling and conservation activities - with a view to attracting more people to fish the Tyne. It was also an important opportunity to meet riparian owners.

Expertise

ELAA are fortunate to have as Committee members Adam Love-Rodgers, Chris Thomas and John Knox.

Adam's day job as an events organiser and education professional enabled him to provide valuable expertise in planning, organising, and making sure that everything that needed to be done was done properly and on time.

He handled a number of issues ranging from advice on the display area and layout, to ensuring that there were sufficient colouring pens and sweeties for the children's activities, and on top of all that he gave several accomplished fly tying demonstrations throughout the course of the day.

Chris Thomas is a geologist by profession, but an incredibly enthusiastic champion of angling and conservation in his spare time. Chris' role consisted mainly of driving the whole project forward, motivating the team, acquiring some stunning ELAA display banners which can be used for future events and obtaining some exceptional raffle prizes - including an Orvis Battenkill reel worth over £100.

Exhibits

Exhibits ranged from an aquarium containing river invertebrates (most notably some blue winged olive nymphs that actually emerged and flew away before our very eyes) to a children's colouring competition, also posters and information from the Wild Trout Trust, half-price permit sales, a raffle, and Adam's fly tying

John Knox entertained riparian owners with a wee dram (sponsored by Glenkinchie).

Celebrity visitor

We even had a visit from an angling celebrity. Spey casting champion Eoin Fairgrieve, who had earlier given a fantastic demonstration in the main showing, stayed to chat for a while.

He was very impressed with the work that ELAA had done, both on the stand and generally in promoting angling and conservation on the Tyne. He

pointed out the potential of the riverside setting for future shows and made everyone involved feel proud that they had done a good job.

Aims

The ELAA stand achieved its aims in that it enabled members of the public, of all ages, whether anglers, non-anglers or potential anglers to find out more about angling and wildlife on the Tyne. It also inspired those involved to seriously consider doing it all again next year.

Well done to everybody who played a part in the show's success. There was even time for a spot of fishing afterwards!



(Photo Clive Baker)

Eoin Fairgrieve (left) visiting the ELAA stand at Haddington Show July 2010.



Top flies for the Tyne

We asked Tyne anglers what their favourite flies were in order to produce a top-ten chart for the river. However, with the exception of the pheasant tail nymph, no two flies were mentioned twice, so we have simply listed all the flies that people told us have worked for them over the years.

If you want to know how to tie any of these flies there are hundreds of books, videos, DVDs and websites to help you - the Internet is particularly useful. Simply Google the name of the fly you want to tie, or better still, go to Youtube where you will find footage of many of these patterns being tied by experts.

Davie McPhail and Oliver Edwards give particularly clear demonstrations - and don't forget, your fellow anglers will be happy to talk all day and all night about fly tying!

Nymphs (14 & 16)

- Pheasant tail nymph – fished up or downstream, with or without an indicator.
- Gold ribbed hare's ear



Wet Flies (14 & 16)

- Butcher (various types)
- Spiders: black, snipe & purple, partridge & orange/yellow, red
- Peter Ross
- Jingler (a Borders fly with both wet and dry hackles)



Dry Flies & Klinkhamers (14,16 & 18)



- Ginger quill
- March brown
- Black gnat/Griffiths gnat
- Gold ribbed hare's ear (light ginger hackle)
- Grey duster
- Parachute Adams
- Greenwell's glory klinkhamer

So now we know what the most popular flies are, we just need to know how to use them.

While there are plenty of books, DVDs and websites to show you how, thankfully there's no substitute for practice. So the only real option is to get out there on the river as often as you can - for research purposes of course!



Secretary's Appeal for EL AA Memorabilia

If you have any ELAA memorabilia – permits, badges, day tickets or other items of interest please get in touch with Geoff via the website

www.elaa.co.uk

e-mail: fishing@elaa.co.uk

Poaching and Wildlife Crime

Sadly poaching continues on the River Tyne and in 2010 several incidents were reported of nets set in the river – though there were also a number of successful prosecutions.

The main areas of activity are Cascades Weir by Haddington Golf Course, Stevenson Weir, Sandy's mill, The Rat Trap (deep pool 1km downstream from Sandy's Mill), Knowes and Mosshead point.

Lothian and Borders Police work closely with Forth District Salmon Fisheries Board to tackle illegal activities on the Tyne, but they also rely on your support. Constable **Gavin Ross** at **Dunbar Police Station** is the Division's Wildlife Officer and regularly liaises with Superintendent **Bill Cunningham** who is the **Head Bailiff** for the Forth district,

So if you find any nets, see anything suspicious or have any intelligence about poaching or wildlife crime, please contact the nearest police station as soon as you can. Calls can be made in confidence

Dunbar 01368 8627180

Haddington 01620 824101

Bill Cunningham 07887 835549.

• Remember that anglers are the eyes and ears of the river •

Many thanks to everyone who supported angling and conservation on the River Tyne in 2010 by buying a permit and sending in a catch return.

ELAA wishes you tight lines in 2011!

