

The River Tay Ghillies Association Scotland (TGA)

are a non profit organisation made up of river keepers and ghillies from all parts of the Tay catchment. A proud group of experienced professionals, the TGA are dedicated to the promotion and safe guarding of salmon fishing on the Tay. Since their inception, the TGA have supported both home based and visiting anglers alike. They are equally keen to demonstrate the potential that salmon angling offers both ladies and young people within the sport.

Their expertise in the day to day running of Tay fisheries is unsurpassed and together with the TDSFB, they are committed to maintaining a strength of partnership, that supports the natural wild salmon stocks. As an organisation, the TGA meets regularly and through the exchange of ideas, they aim to match modern expectations for the benefit of the visiting angler. Follow them on Facebook to find out more. With a Tay Ghillie at your side on the riverbank, you are in good company.



KEEPING SAFE ON THE RIVER

- FROM A SOLO BANK ANGLER'S PERSPECTIVE

Allister Wallace,
Co opted member TDSFB

Two idioms I regularly adhere to:

FAIL TO PREPARE,
- THEN PREPARE TO FAIL
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Both, can be applied to any visit to the river.

I find the following keeps me safe.

Equipment

- Safety spectacles - protection for my eyes from badly cast flies
- Whistle on a lanyard - draws attention in a given situation
- Wearing a personal flotation device
 - my lifejacket has crotch straps that prevent the PFD from rising up over my face (in the event of it being discharged)
- Wearing 2 waistbands on my chest waders
 - prevents water filling up the wader, if I take a tumble
- Using a steadying wading stick
 - also try to figure out where to exit the beat safely
- Checking the condition of the studs on my rubber and felt soled wading boots
- Carrying a basic first aid kit with you

Advice

- Have your PFD checked regularly - I have mine tested each year
- Remove yourself from the river if lightning is likely to happen
- Keep an eye on rising river levels
 - a stick stuck into the river edge, can act as an indicator
- Keep looking behind / upstream for floating logs and trees coming your way
- When fishing a new beat, ask questions beforehand about any wading hazards - With modern fly lines, there is really no need to wade deeper than knee depth
- Let someone know where you fishing and when you are leaving the beat

Let us know what you do differently to keep you safe.

Please encourage others to think SAFE. You know it makes sense.



PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE TAY RIVERS SYSTEM

- THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Dear friend of the Tay,

At a time where the protection of natural fish stocks has never been so important, we at the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board (TDSFB), are committed to doing all that we can to ensure that future generations can enjoy all its bounty. Readers may probably be aware of the significant loss of returning Atlantic salmon to Scotland's rivers. The Tay is no different in this respect. Only time will tell what the impact of salmon migration at sea is having on the numbers of returning salmon to our headwaters. With support, all that we can do is to continue to work hard and support our fish stocks as they enter our river system. History has shown that periods of declining stocks can bottom out and allow nature to take over.

The purpose of this flyer is to give the reader an insight into the challenges of the work that the TDSFB currently faces. I hope to give you an insight into our current priorities. These "top 10 objectives" focus our energies, and will change from year to year as emerging priorities surface. Surrounding the map of the Tay catchment, is the Fisheries Management Scotland / Scottish Government tool called "Mapping Atlantic Salmon Pressures in Scotland". These pressures will identify and quantify the quality feedback that we will continue to develop, for informed debate and action to take place. This valuable scientific information will give a steer to the TDSFB priorities and subsequently enable a more coordinated approach to the national management action plan. With the support of our scientific personnel and volunteer workforce, our vision for the future of the TDSFB is clear, "TO MAKE THE TAY SYSTEM AS GOOD AS IT CAN BE FOR ALL TO ENJOY". All our Board activity is structured with the aim of returning the Tay rivers system, to as healthy a natural environment that it can be.

If you are an angler, please understand the reasons why we ask you to observe the 100% Catch and Release Code for the duration of the forthcoming season. Until there is a surplus of returning fish, we believe that each and every salmon and sea trout is precious, and needs to be conserved.

We are proud of the work we do with the following organisations who also share our values:

Tay Rivers Trust
Tay Ghillies Association
Marine Scotland
Fisheries Management Scotland
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Natural Heritage
Riparian owners and angling clubs
Local Authorities



The Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board is open to hearing the thoughts of others. If you feel you can assist in supporting our improvements, then please get in touch. Together, we should leave the Tay better than we found it.

Iain McLaren
Chairman TDSFB

We are keen to hear from you. To contact us you can write to our office administrator, email: ingamcgowan@btconnect.com

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

or call 01738 583 733



PROTECTING AND IMPROVING THE TAY RIVERS SYSTEM

Over the years, we who represent the Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board have always made the protection and improvement of the salmon our central mission. This means trying to stop damaging impacts happening and, where possible, reversing previous damage.

While there is an enormous amount still to do, we can be proud of recent successes. Our unique kelt reconditioning hatchery is very much a "first" in the industry. Showing how much this work is recognised, in October 2019, we were privileged to have a visit by HRH The Duke of Kent. The Duke was able to see at first-hand how we strip a hen salmon for eggs. Through all our efforts, the hatchery continues to attract support from benefactors and yet again the work that we do was magnificently supported by John Apthorp.

But many things that need to be done can only be achieved in conjunction with a wide range of others. We work tirelessly with partners such as Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS), and other important conservation agencies.

We can only influence key decision makers if we can prove our case. Our knowledgeable

personnel are now contributing statistical data to government that will support more-informed decision making for the benefit of returning fish stocks. The new Marine Scotland / FMS Pressures Tool will provide a vital route for our knowledge to influence scientific and political decision making. By recognising the difficulties we face in terms of reduced numbers of returning salmon, we are committed to doing all that we can, to reverse this trend. For more detailed information into our year's work, the reader should refer to the Annual Report which can be accessed via our refreshed website.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our superb workforce and our partners who also share our vision. Together, by harnessing individual energy, we can work towards a better collective future. By doing as much we can, I truly believe that the entire Tay catchment, with all support, can return to the premier Atlantic salmon system, it is justly famous for. If you wish to offer your support, please let us know what you have to offer.

Dr David Summers
Fisheries Director
Tay District Salmon Fisheries Board



TOP TEN OBJECTIVES for 2020

Piscivorous bird counting

River Garry restoration and monitoring

**Control of invasive species
- spraying Japanese knotweed**

River Tummel smolt tagging project

**Supporting the kelt reconditioning
- hatchery work**

**Highlighting River Lochay
water abstraction**

Highlighting River Ericht water abstraction

Mitigating the effects of beaver damming

Control of signal crayfish through trapping

Repairs and improvements to Shochie weir

CATCH AND RELEASE REGULATIONS AND CODE SEASON 2020

Salmon

All salmon and grilse should be released throughout the entire season.

Sea trout

All sea trout should be released throughout the entire season.

NEW LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Government regulations introduced in 2015 mean that it is now the law that -

All salmon must be released to the water between 15 January and 31 March.

This is a legal requirement, even if a fish is dead. Failure to do so may result in a criminal conviction.

WORMING DISCOURAGED

The Board has long requested that worms should not be used before 1 June nor after 31 August in any part of the district. As many fish are deeply hooked, the Board considers this method of fishing incompatible with conservation.

Now the Board is requesting 100% catch and release throughout the season, it would discourage anglers from worming in summer. However, should it be undertaken, only Circle hooks or Shelton release hooks, which are designed to prevent deep hooking, should be used.

November 2019

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Tay Rivers Catchment

Mapping Pressures on Atlantic Salmon in Scotland -
A joint initiative between Scottish Government
and Fisheries Management Scotland

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES

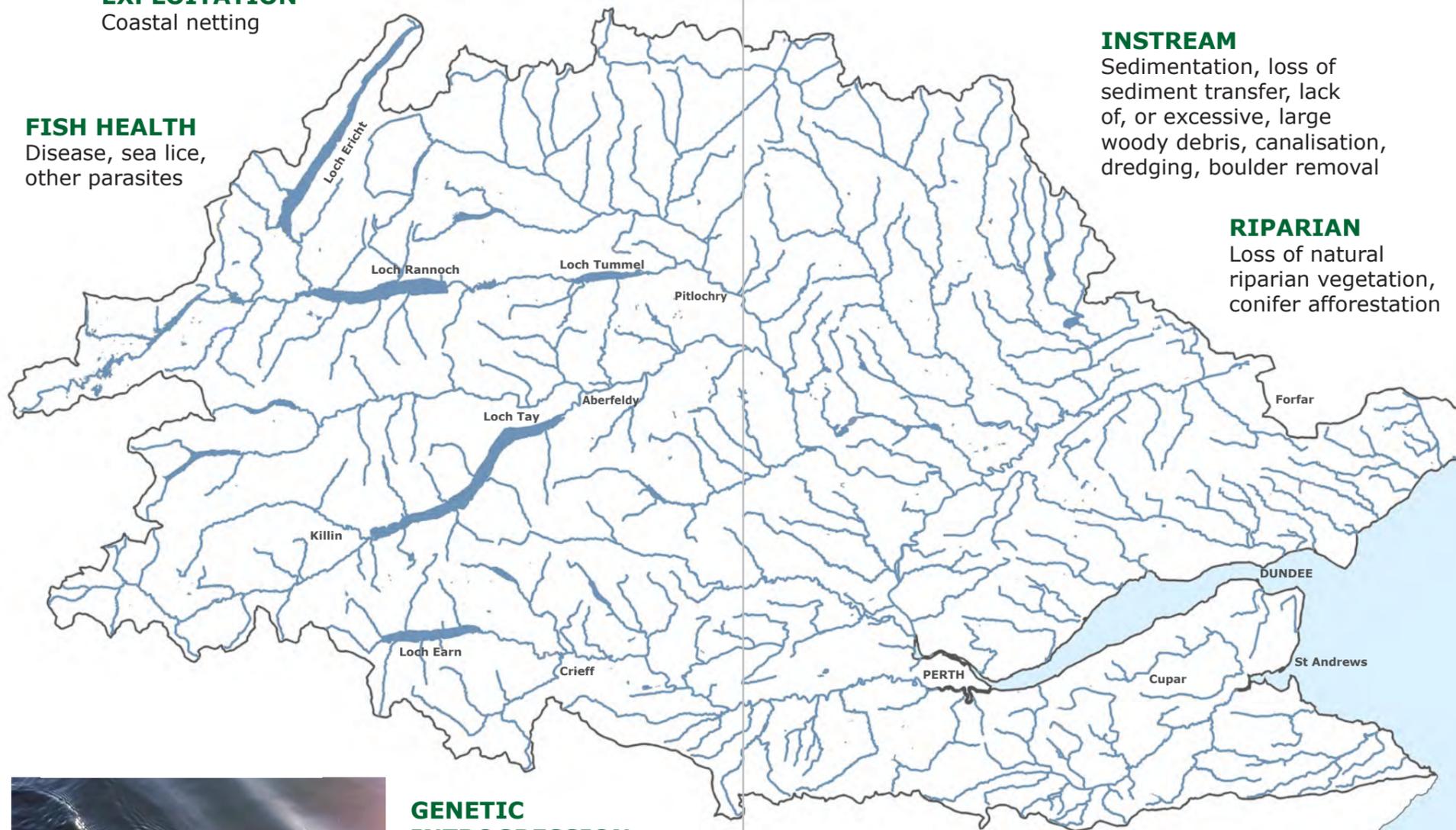
Signal crayfish, pink salmon

EXPLOITATION

Coastal netting

FISH HEALTH

Disease, sea lice,
other parasites



HABITAT

THERMAL

Loss of shading, over shading,
changing temperature patterns,
thermal discharge

WATER QUANTITY

Abstraction, flow regulation
Upland/ agri land use and
drainage, forestry drainage

WATER QUALITY

Acidification,
point-source
pollution, diffuse
pollution,
changing rainfall
patterns, other

INSTREAM

Sedimentation, loss of
sediment transfer, lack
of, or excessive, large
woody debris, canalisation,
dredging, boulder removal

RIPARIAN

Loss of natural
riparian vegetation,
conifer afforestation

GENETIC INTROGRESSION

Stocking, farmed escapees

BARRIERS TO MIGRATION

Upstream
passage,
downstream
passage

EXEMPLAR - PREDATION / COMPETITION

Tracking of smolts research
using PIT TAGS by TDSFB
scientific staff

PREDATION / COMPETITION

Piscivorous birds,
piscivorous fish,
seals, dolphins



Please handle your fish with care and safety when returning it to its natural environment. You know it makes sense.