

## Fishing Newsletter January 2015

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015 and our thoughts turn to the excitement of the coming Season and of course thoughts of fish that were seen and missed last season!

We would like to welcome new anglers this season and invite them to come and sample the variety of fishing we have between our famous shell sand machair lochs on the west side of the island and vast number of hill lochs we have to offer on the East side and of course to enjoy the surrounding wildlife and scenery while fishing.

The 2014 season was good for both Brown Trout and Seatrout with good numbers caught on days when conditions were at there best, overall 2014 was very much warmer than in previous years and this can be seen with catches responding naturally to this.

Stocks returned by anglers in 2014 was good, Brown Trout we saw an 84% return and on the Seatrout we had an 87% return. We would still like to encourage all anglers to return stock and build on the figures we have achieved over the years this will guarantee keeping stock numbers healthy for the future.

There was a slight increase in salmon numbers caught in 2014 which is not a true reflection on salmon numbers entering our systems in the last few years. Numbers are low at present and this can be seen more nowadays with less surface activity on the lochs than we're used to seeing. The rest of Scotland is suffering in the same way with low numbers at the moment so we shall wait in anticipation as to what numbers will be returning in 2015.

Salmon stock released by anglers in 2015 was poor only 42% and given the low numbers returning to fisheries across the country here on South Uist steps may need to be taken to improve this situation on returning figures for 2015, any suggestions you as anglers may have would be most helpful, such as consideration to implementing a catch and return policy on all Salmon caught?

A fuller more detailed report on total catches 2014 and end of season Report can be seen on our website <http://www.southuistfishing.com/catch-statistics-returns/catch-reports/>

All burns and waterways that were cleared in September 2014 are running well this winter and coping with the relentless rainfall lately which in turn benefits the fishing in the movement of fish between lochs and also insuring good land drainage which is important to crofting and wildlife.

Fishing booking for the coming season are coming in at a steady rate, even at this early stage some weeks are full already so please book or check availability soon to avoid being disappointed.

Over The next few months boats will be checked and painted for the start of the new season with the first boats scheduled to go out to the lochs early April. We plan during the early part of the season to place a new fishing hut on Roag and some maintenance work on the Fada hut, this will of course be completed by the start of the salmon and seatrout season. Other duties across the fishery in the coming months will be the monitoring of our burns and waterways that link our lochs and insure that they are clear and running free.

Habitat will continue to be a priority over the coming season and improvements made where necessary and this will be carried out at the appropriate time during the season under the guidance of the OHFT/ SNH.

We look forward to the coming season and hope to have favourable fishing conditions for yet another year.

Tight Lines