

## Fishing report September 2015

Despite the unsettled and wet conditions throughout this season the brown catches have been respectable across all the lochs, with lochs such as Lower Bornish, Upper Kildonan Grogarry, East Bee and West Ollay, returning nice baskets when weather would allow.

Largest Trout recorded on South Uist for some time was caught on loch bee in June by Mr Allan Lyburn of 8lbs 4ozs and well done to him. Grogarry has fished well this season with a number of fish being recorded between the 3lbs and 4lbs 8ozs mark and the most encouraging thing to date is the increase in numbers caught, which is more than double on last year.

Top lochs in terms of numbers caught were upper Kildonan and Lower Bornish with numbers currently showing an increase on 2014 – figures can be made available once season ends.

Weather played a large part for everyone and was challenging as always at the best of times, nevertheless most enjoyed the experience and saw the potential when weather stayed settled.

With all the rainfall this year we had hoped for a good run of migratory fish however this was not the case for the salmon and Grilse, although fish could be seen in the systems it was hard to determine numbers with so much water about, fish undoubtable have spread themselves throughout the systems much earlier this year.

Lower Kildonan has fished better this year than in previous with both Salmon and Sea Trout being seen more readily in the system and this was confirmed with the best this season of 10lbs by Mr Marshall on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Sea Trout numbers are up here also.

Catches of Sea Trout have also been slow with weather conditions again having its effects on a numbers since the beginning of July, as we moved into late September and early October catch numbers have risen steadily. Best Seatrout caught so far this year, Roag 8lbs, Fada, 5lb 8ozs, Lower Kildonan 5lbs 8ozs, 7lbs 8ozs Castle, Mill 3lbs, and Bharp 2lb 12ozs.

Other news on the fishery, This season Memorial benches were placed out for our sadly missed ghillies, Donald Campbell, Calum MacDonald, John Beaton, Nellie Johnstone, and Donald Gallaher on their favourite lochs, Grogarry, Hallan, Roag and Fada on which they enjoyed memorable days fishing on those waters. Money was raised for the benches by fellow anglers and will be removed from the lochside for storage each winter and then placed back out in the spring time.

On the drainage the burn between West Ollay and Altbrug has recently been cleared which will allow fish movement between both these lochs during the winter months. Other areas to be cleared shortly in both Howbeg and Mid Ollay which will benefit the brown Trout.

All drains and burn Habitat will continue to be monitored on Benbecula and South Uist on a regular basis and work carried out as and when required.

The fishing hut on Loch fada has been repaired with all outside sheeting and roof replaced. Work on the new fishing hut at Roag (the old stone building across from the west bay) has started and will be complete at the end of October and will be ready for anglers for the start of next season.

October bookings are looking good this year and with the sighting of late seatrout hopefully some nice catches in the run up to the end of the season.

On a final note, when time allows a detailed report of catch numbers will be produced at the end of the season.

