

River Ythan SLA Report November 2024

1. Introduction

The Don DFSB have been contracted to carry out fisheries protection, predator surveys, spawning surveys and habitat restoration activities across the river Ythan catchment throughout 2024/25 by the Ythan DSFB under a Service Level Agreement. Each activity is allocated a set number of man-days/patrols to accommodate the requirements of the annually agreed SLA. Activities are defined following consultation with the Ythan DSFB.

Any incidents relating to pollution and policing will be recorded and shared with the Clerk. Information from predator surveys will be collated and shared with the Clerk directly following the survey period. Information on spawning surveys will be collated and reported upon in a summary report following the end of the spawning period. Any seals reported above Logie Buchan Bridge will be reported to the Clerk as soon as possible.

All activities will be covered by the Don DSFB health and safety polices, as stated in the service level agreement.

2. Reporting

A log of all patrols and activities will be sent to the Clerk monthly.

SLA Activities/ Piscivorous Bird Count/November

Table 1.SLA/Activity Autumn Piscivorous Bird Surveys 2024.

Table 1. Autumn Piscivorous Bird Surveys 2024	Number of Goosanders	Number of Cormorants	Number of Mergansers
River Ythan Bird Count, Date 29th of November 2024.	23	8	0

Areas where Goosanders were identified are as follows, Blairfowl 6 goosanders, 4 goosanders were identified at Upper Haddo beat. Just above Ythanbank bridge 1 pair of goosanders were counted, along with 2 cormorants. A flock of 8 goosanders were identified at Ardlethen, a further 2 goosanders were seen just above the railway viaduct near Ellon and finally 2 goosanders were counted at Newburgh estuary along with 6 cormorants.

Pollution

No reports of pollution for the month.

Seals

No reports of seals in river.

Redd Counting

Weekly Repeat Redd counting on sections throughout the river catchment, is underway and will continue into the first week of January 2025. Early signs are that main river counts are up from the previous year, while on the tributaries they are slightly down. Earlier in the month conditions have been favourable for counting with low and clear flows however this has changed towards the end of the month.

Update on gravel washing site at Fyvie

The gravel washing site at Fyvie has paid divedens with the site be utilised further since the activity too place. This site was selected as it was within an existing repeat redd count reach. Upon completion of the redd counting period some cautious comparisons will be drawn on the total counts from this and previous years. Nonetheless the site has accumulated more salmon redds and sea trout redds from the previous report. In October I had reported 7 salmon redds and 1 Brown trout redd, the new figure is now 13 salmon redds, 3 sea trout redds and 1 brown trout redd.

Jim Kerr

Acting on behalf of the Ythan DSFB