



Cramond Angling Club

Cramond
Angling Club



Spring 2011

Chairman's Report

This season has seen a substantial rise in members who are actively fishing the river and it was pleasing to see so many new members getting their first "Almond Brown" in spring. It looks as though the habitat improvements over the past few years is now paying off with access to many runs and pools improved and lies created.

Special points of interest:

- Chairman's Report
- Fish Go To Class
- Spinning for Sea Trout
- Riverfly Partnership AMI

Many methods have been employed in luring these sometimes "fickle" trout to the net. Some prefer the stalking approach, some downstream nymph and others the traditional wet. They all work in certain conditions. Just do what you are comfortable with, and enjoy your day.

The fish are well spread throughout our 3 beats and it is encouraging that a few members are venturing up to beat 3 where the bigger fish reside. Anyone looking for a class fish in the 3lb range should be heading up there. The Flies that seemed to be successful varied as the weeks progressed with the more flashy types working in the first two weeks (Dunkeld variants and Jersey Herds). Once the olives started to hatch, Emergers, Klinks and traditional dries

were the fly of choice when the fish were surface feeding. Deer hair emerger, parachute, klinkhammer and Grey Duster were possibly the most successful. The trusty Peter Ross, Silver March Brown and Silver Invicta being the wets of choice and Olive Crunchers, P.T.N's and G.R.H.E being the Nymphs of choice. Trout fishing this spring has been exceptional by all accounts.

The season will only get better as time progresses and traditionally the river fishes well in early morning and early evening during the summer months. We still have the Sea Trout to look forward to as well as the occasional summer Grilse. "A dry line has never caught a fish", getting on the river and learning its little traits can be

rewarding for those who persevere. Without doubt the most rewarding feature of the opening months of the 2011 season has been the fact that so many new faces including juniors are fishing the river for the first time. This is what Cramond Angling Club is about and we wish them success and extend a warm welcome to them.

Good luck for the summer months and lets hope the next newsletter features some Sea trout and Grilse.

Millar Haxton Laing.



Fish In The Classroom 2011

Cramond Primary School

CAC, in conjunction with the River Forth Fisheries Trust (RFFT), arranged for this project to be rolled out on an initial basis to Cramond Primary School. The project's aim was to enhance learning outcomes within the Environmental Studies curriculum.

Dr Joanne Girvan (RFFT Biologist) gave an initial presentation to the P5 class during which full audience participation was encouraged and duly delivered by the pupils. The hatchery was then installed in

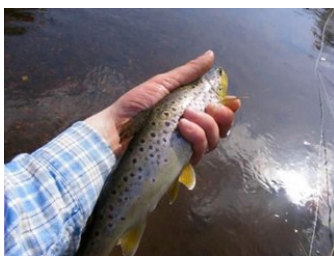
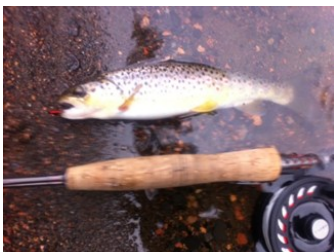
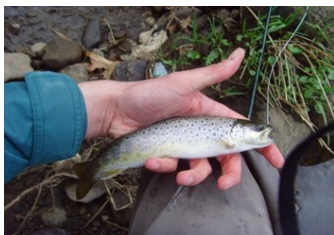
the classroom and 250 eggs introduced into their new home. The pupils were then responsible for monitoring the water temperature throughout the growth period. All credit goes to the staff and pupils for achieving a nearly 100% success rate through-out the hatching and growth stages. The final stage of the project was the release of the fry into The River Almond on 24th March and the sun came out to make it a great afternoon. As each of the fry made there way to freedom it was accompanied by a chorus of loud cheers much to the amusement of the passing public.

CAC is looking into securing funding in order that this initiative can be rolled out next year to additional schools within The River Almond catchment area. CAC would like to give a special thanks to Cramond Primary School teachers, staff and pupils for embracing the project with such enthusiasm and vigor.

Jim Madden

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Almond Brown Trout

Vice Chairman's Report

2011 has been an extremely busy start to the season, the committee have been working tirelessly. Ensuring that fallen tree's were removed from the River. Paths were open and as much debris as possible was removed.

As you'll see several initiatives have been delivered, with the very popular Fish Go To Class and the Anglers' Monitoring Initiative and these have been greatly appreciated amongst the community and I'm sure we'll benefit from all these extra monitoring sites.

The Management Plan has continued to progress, with the final version of the Weirs Report due out shortly (although already about 6 months late), the invasive surveys have fed into a much larger plan that the Forth Fisheries Trust will be assisting us with delivering. At the time of writing it's anticipated that West Lothian Council will assist with

funding training, tools and insecticide. As usual I'll provide more information once I have it too hand.

2011 will be very much more of the same, getting to know every nuke and cranny, with the GIS records building on an almost daily basis.

While researching the Linn Burn a serious blockage was found, which was caused by fly tipping and I'm pleased to say that following the help and support of so many people we were able to deal with this and restore the burn to it's former self. Work continues on the Burn and soon we'll have addressed almost all of the small issues and we'll have added another mile of spawning habitat, with an excellent food supply for juvenile (and adult) Trout.

It's also excellent news that we now have the West Lothian Angling Association, based up in

Livingston. The Association have approx. 7 miles of double bank fishing and like Cramond at a reasonable price. I'm very fortunate in that the WLAA committee have co-opted me onto their committee. So I'm able to assist them where possible.

It's very pleasing to see so many skilled anglers joining us for 2011 and I hope the Sea Trout play ball this year!

Tight Lines and all the very best for 2011

Fen Howieson
Vicechaiman@fishalmond.co.uk

Spinning for Sea Trout on the Almond

Many people look upon spinning as the lowest form of angling - standing in one spot for hours at a time, cranking back the same lure at the same speed regardless of water height and conditions. It's true that eventually these anglers will probably catch a fish, but they will also spend many hours trying and probably lose a good few lures in the process as they hook snag after snag.

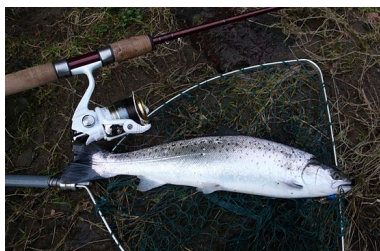
As with all forms of angling, the person who changes their approach to suit the conditions is the one who will do the best and this is equally true on the River Almond. For targeting sea-trout you should tackle up with a rod of 6 to 8 feet, a fixed spool reel loaded with nylon of 4lbs (low, clear water) to 6lbs (higher water) and an assortment of lures. Don't go overboard with your lures - a few Mepps in gold, size 0 and 1 will be fine in low, clear water and for higher water choose silver or silver/blue in size 2 or 3. Some Rapala's in Floating, 7cm or 9cm will also prove useful. You can fish these lures, cast in any direction but in low, clear water a lure cast up-

stream and across and wound back as fast as you can manage will prove very successful. Don't worry that you are winding too fast - trust me, the fish will swim faster! Ensure you fish all the likely water, but concentrate on the very head of the pools, ensuring you are fishing right up into the white water. As the water height increases you will find more success by fishing your lure across the current and slightly downstream and winding back a bit slower. Make sure you are thorough in searching out all the small pots and runs - sea-trout are very adept at squeezing into the smallest piece of water and this is where your river craft will pay dividends. Travel light and travel far - covering plenty of water will ensure you are covering plenty of fish - I'll regularly fish from the top of Beat 3 to the bottom of Beat 2 in the space of 3 or 4 hours. If you snag any rocks, check your hooks to ensure they are still sharp - you don't want to miss the opportunity when you hook your sea-trout because you couldn't be bothered changing your lure or sharpening the hook!

Sea-trout often travel in small groups, so when you hook one, get right back in the water. The 4lbs sea-trout left was followed by another of 2 1/2lbs caught from exactly the same piece of water just a couple of casts after the first.

Finally, remember that your sea-trout is too precious to be caught only once. Please return your fish safely to the water.

Calum McRoberts



River Almond—Sea Trout

"Cramond Angling Club, as featured in Fly Fishing and Fly Tying April 2007, written by John Pass and also featured in Trout & Salmon Magazine February 2011"

Outings Secretary's Report

This season we have arranged 5 outings and our annual Junior Event.

29th April 2011—River Tummel at West Haugh & Dunfallandy), what a great day out and 1 Springer landed and safely released by Mark McGillivray.

4th June 2011—River Almond Outing, this is more a social event on our very own stretch, catch and release for Brown Trout followed by a BBQ.

18th June 2011—River Isla at Islabank for 8 rods.

20th August 2011—North Third Fishery, annual Cramond Angling Club competition, 8 boats available.

8th October 2011—River Tweed at Lower Caberston for 10 rods.

Junior Outing is on the 24th July 2011 at Selmmuir, the club have exclusive access to the fishery and we'll have 22 places available, free of charge on a first come first served basis for our Junior Members, with tuition provided by Gordon Graham from Scottish Salmon and Trout.

To book any of these outings, then please contact myself Adam 07752 084959 or outings@fishalmond.co.uk

As the season progresses we may also book up other venues and like the ones I've mentioned already, full details are on the Clubs' Website.

Adam Cross



Jo Girvan RFFT Biologist
Fish Go To Class
2011

Secretary's Report

One of the interesting jobs for the Secretary of the club is fielding enquiries from the website. This year there has been a wide range of requests for information from those who have never fished before (who I send on to Millar for his special 'introduction to the river') and those from far a field

- Taiwan, being the furthest but others from Spain, Poland and even a few from Englandshire (have I spelt that correctly....!). I always hope that the welcome that all enjoy from the members of the club will not only ensure that they join as members, but also that the word spreads of the good

fishing and bonhomie at the club (not to mention any reciprocal rights we might get from these far flung picadors!!!!). The main aim of the club is to provide good fishing and welcome anyone who wishes to join us in the sport and if this year is anything to go by the reputation of the club will be

wide spread indeed. Thanks to all who have helped welcome all the new members this year and let's hope this year will surpass last year for fish caught (and released).

Alison Baker

Treasurer's Report

Season ticket sales have been very positive again this year and there are only a limited number of tickets still available. Every season ticket member should be in possession of a copy of the following documents: 2011 Rules & Regulations, Beat maps, Scale sample, Catch return and Cramond Boat Club Terms & Conditions. If you require any additional

copies then please contact **Jim Madden**

CAC were delighted to secure a **£1,620 Waste Action Group** grant funding from the **City of Edinburgh Council** in March of this year. This will enable **CAC** to purchase much needed equipment for the work party

volunteers to assist them in the various projects carried out along the length of the river.

treasurer@fishalmond.co.uk.

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Opening Day 2011

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We aim to promote fishing on the River Almond at a very affordable price.

It is also the club's interest to maintain the river's general health and well being. The club also runs some riverbank maintenance to keep it clean and accessible, in partnership with the Edinburgh Ranger Service and Rosebery Estate.

Please report pollution to SEPA on 0800 807060

Club Rules and membership details can be found at www.fishalmond.co.uk

Forth District Salmon Fishery's Board (Superintendent 07887 835549)

The well being of the River Almond, first and foremost.

**We're on the Web ! www.fishalmond.co.uk (Official Website)
& www.fishalmond.co.uk/cac (Official Forum)**

Awards for All Scotland and The Riverfly Partnership Project



CAC had previously secured funding from "Awards for All Scotland" to help establish an Almond Monitoring Initiative on the river. The ultimate goal is to establish an invertebrates monitoring programme along the length of the River Almond tributary system.

The training event was held at our partners premises the Cramond

Boat Club on Monday 4th April with Louis Kitchen (Riverfly Partnership Tutor) and Jill Gillard (SEPA Ecology Contact) presenting the course material to the participants. The group then travelled up-river with the kick sampling exercise taking part at the Almondell & Calderwood Country Park. After returning to the Cramond Boat Club, the participants then had an opportunity to compare and contrast their findings using microscopes.

CAC is currently looking to establish a database in order that the participants can remotely key-in their results and view a historical record of their results. This will also enable the data to be consolidated for the whole catchment area and be made available to the interested user groups.

CAC would welcome any members wishing to register their interest in participating in this initiative going

forward. Please note that no previous experience is required as training and kit would be provided through CAC. This is an ideal opportunity to learn about the invertebrates that inhabit our water system and improve your catch rate as a result.

Please contact Jim Madden (Club Treasurer) to register your name.



AMI Course - April 2011