

# Meikleour Fishings

## Newsletter June 2016



## 2016: not exactly your typical spring conditions!

The 2016 Salmon Fishing on the Tay opened on the most glorious sunny January day. It was hard to believe that only 2 weeks earlier our painstakingly built flood defenses were broken by the sheer destructive power of the Tay and an unprecedentedly high Isla. But on opening week fish were here, running through fresh gravel brought by the successive floods. We cheerfully christened our new boathouse, the previous one having been damaged not by water but by fire! In February we were delighted to welcome our new ghillie John Ross who is a tremendous asset to our beat. I met John while fishing on the river Nith last November and I was impressed by his river skills and determination to always go the extra mile for his customer. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your positive and constructive feedback about John.

Fishing in March was above our 5 year average and we were full of hope for the core of the spring season. April was unusually dry and an urgent request from our farm manager for an extra irrigating system didn't fill me with confidence. After a flood we were faced with the lowest water conditions ever recorded in spring. Indeed, on May the 10th, the water was at the lowest it had been in 2015, and 2015 was hot and dry! However, on the weeks of April and May where we were blessed with some rain (or a snow storm!) our customers did enjoy some thrilling sport. 51 salmon and 3 sea trout for Spring is however good considering the conditions, and on a positive side plenty of juvenile fish were seen and low water meant that the estate could repair bank and flood defenses. We are also pleased that Scottish National Heritage has given us a 5

year license to manage the right bank above the tunnel stream, which includes the removal of self seeded trees and invasive plant species in order to promote habitat for ground nesting birds. The initiative will indirectly open more fly water for our bank rods and should be an excellent spot of fast running water in low water conditions.

**E**ven though this spring was not typical, most of you will agree that there is nothing like the Tay at this time of the year. We would like to thank warmly those of you who already have contacted Betty for potential Spring bookings next year. I have enclosed our pricing for the Jan-May 2017 period. We will put our availability on our website and on Fishpal at the end of August, so if you have any particular dates in mind you can contact Betty in the meantime.

**T**he Tay District Salmon Fishery Board is joining us once again in sending a warm thank you for returning safely all your springers. With the Scottish Government in the process of

reforming both net and recreational fisheries, demonstrating good conservation practice throughout the Tay system is essential. That said, considering that the backbone of the Atlantic salmon conservation is the European Water Framework Directive, it will be interesting to see how the wild fisheries reforms will be impacted. Ironically one of the key architects of the European Water Framework Directive was a certain Stanley Johnson, whose son Boris you may have seen quite a lot of recently!

**T**here is something magically calming and reassuring in watching salmon returning to their place of birth and smolt leaving for the big wild unknown sea. We are all waiting for the grilse now. Have a wonderful summer. Calum, John, Betty and myself are very much looking forward to welcoming some of you in the coming months.

**Tight lines,**

Claire

**Claire Mercer Nairne.**



# 2017 SPRING FISHING PRICE

SALMON FISHERIES 2017				
Meikleour House & Upper Islamouth Beat				
2 Boats (each with 2 Rods) and 4 Wading / Bank Rods				
£ per day including VAT				
Week Commencing:	Mon-Fri		Sat	
	Boat	Bank	Boat	Bank
16 January	139	36	153	40
23 January	139	36	153	40
30 January	139	36	153	40
06 February	139	36	153	40
13 February	139	36	153	40
20 February	139	36	153	40
27 February	139	36	153	40
06 March	156	36	172	40
13 March	187	48	206	53
20 March	187	48	206	53
27 March	187	48	206	53
03 April	228	60	251	66
10 April	240	60	264	66
17 April	240	60	264	66
24 April	240	60	264	66
01 May	240	60	264	66
08 May	240	60	264	66
15 May	240	60	264	66
22 May	240	60	264	66
29 May	240	60	264	66

If you require a personal ghillie for your bank rods please let Betty know with reasonable notice.  
 Price for a personal bank ghillie: from £110 + VAT a day.

## Meet the team



**Calum McRoberts**  
 Head Ghillie  
 Tel: 07713565983  
 Email: calum@islamouth.co.uk



**Betty Martin**  
 Estate Office Secretary  
 Tel: 01250 883 424  
 Fax: 01250 883 309  
 Email: fishing@islamouth.co.uk



**John Ross**  
 Ghillie  
 Tel: 07713565984