



## THE WHITEADDER FISH COUNTER RESULTS 2013

The Whiteadder fish counter is located at the top of a Denil fish pass on the cauld next to Ahlstrom's Mill, Chirnside. The fish counter does not count all of the fish as an unknown number of them will ascend the cauld face rather than use the fish pass. The counter consists of an infrared scanner for counting and measuring the lengths of fish and a video camera for species identification.

### 2013 Summary

A full count was completed for the Whiteadder counter in 2013. Of particular interest is the increased total in 2013 compared to previous years (shown in the table opposite). In part this will be because this is the first year that the counter has been in full operation. The higher totals may also be due to the prolonged period of low water over the Summer and Autumn. Fish that passed through the counter in this period could only go through the fish pass, rather than over the face of the cauld. Fish that were delayed by the low water and went through the counter in October may have also been too unfit to ascend the cauld face and were therefore counted.

Of particular note is that through the prolonged dry period in the Summer, some fish (mainly Sea-trout) continued to pass through the counter in very low water conditions on a daily basis. The graph opposite summarises the daily movements in July and August; on most days 1-5 fish were recorded through but there were a number of days when up to 70 fish were counted. Further analysis is required to see if freshet releases from the Whiteadder reservoir can be related to increased fish movements.

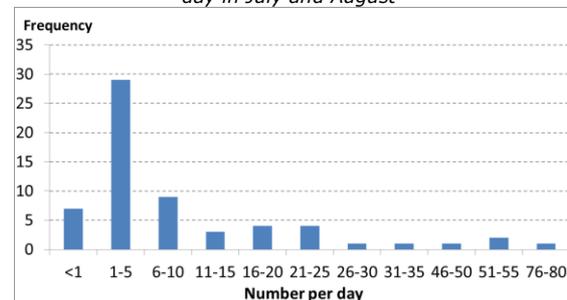
Further analysis is also being carried out on the sizes of Salmon that are recorded by the counter. On April 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 a Salmon of 109 cm was recorded through the counter, which would be at least 25lbs. A total of four Salmon over 1.0 m have been recorded since the counter was installed in September 2010.



Corrected annual totals. \*The counter was out of operation from the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 to the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2011 and 14<sup>th</sup> September to 29<sup>th</sup> September (remote access will prevent this happening again). \*\* Counter out of operation from the 4<sup>th</sup> October to the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012 due to flood damage to the counter

Year	Salmon	Trout	Generic	Total
2011*	786	617	-	1403
2012**	638	418	-	1056
2013	564	1413	-	1977

The number of fish recorded through the counter each day in July and August



109 cm Salmon on the 16<sup>th</sup> April

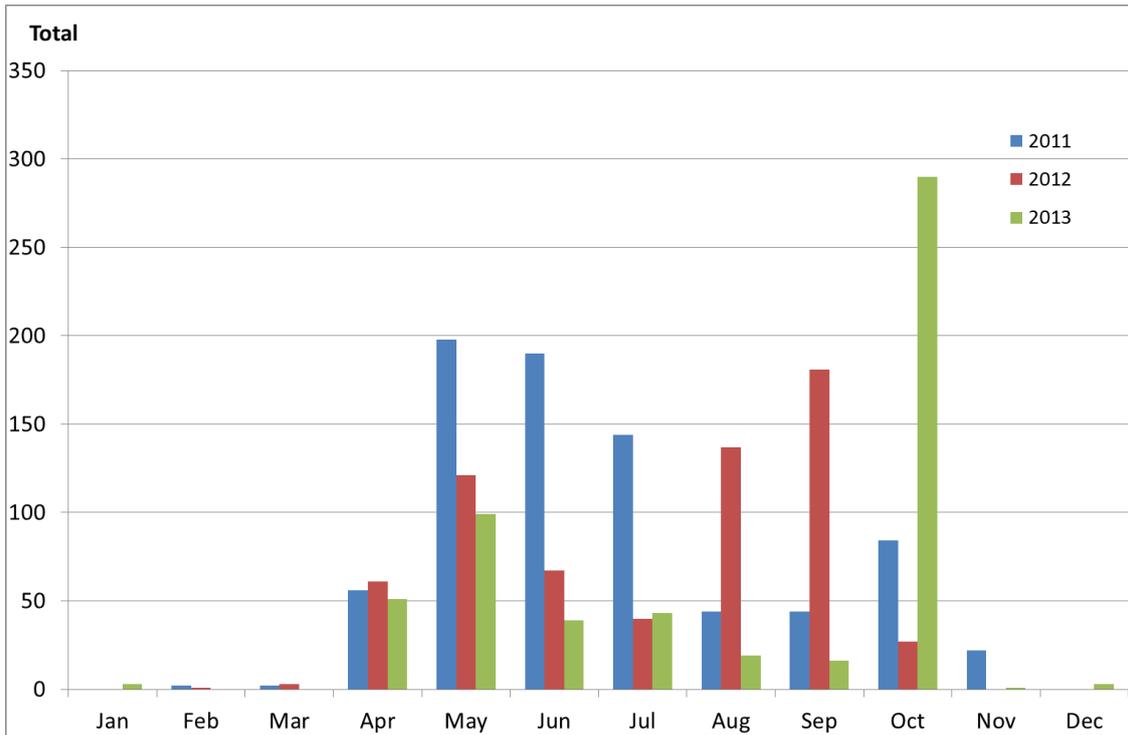




**Monthly totals**

Both graphs show run timing is highly variable for both Salmon and Trout. The results for 2013 clearly show the effect of a prolonged dry period with migration delayed to October for a significant number of Salmon and Trout.

**Salmon**



**Trout**

