



THE WHITEADDER COUNTER RESULTS 2015

The Whiteadder fish counter is located at the top of a Denil fish pass on the cauld next to Ahlstrom's, 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.

2015 summary

The counter was again in full operation for 2015 to provide a continuous count of Salmon and Trout. The totals of 915 Salmon and 1660 Trout for 2015 were the highest on record, although as ever, it is difficult to draw any strong conclusions regarding the total run due to the unknown number of fish that can ascend the cauld face and bypass the fish counter. It is possible that due to the prolonged period of low water over the summer and into October, fish were delayed in their migration and when suitable fish passage flows did occur, more fish than usual went through the fish counter rather than over the cauld face.

The average size of Salmon in 2015 was 65 cm, which is slightly less than previous years (minimum annual average of 69 cm and maximum average of 72 cm). The largest recorded Salmon was 97 cm (about 21 lbs).

The Trout total consists of both Brown Trout and Sea Trout but unfortunately it is not possible to differentiate these two forms using video analysis, although most Trout under (40cm) will be Brown Trout.



Corrected annual totals. Trout figures in brackets are for fish under 40 cm that are likely to be Brown Trout. * the counter was out of operation from the 6th August 2011 to the 15th August 2011 and 14th September to 29th September 2011 (remote access will prevent this happening again). ** Counter out of operation from the 4th October to the 4th December 2012 due to flood damage.

Year	Salmon	Trout	Total
2011*	786	617 (159)	1403
2012**	638	418 (179)	1056
2013	564	1413 (439)	1977
2014	539	976 (237)	1515
2015	915	1660 (357)	2575

A 40 cm Trout on the 5th August 2015



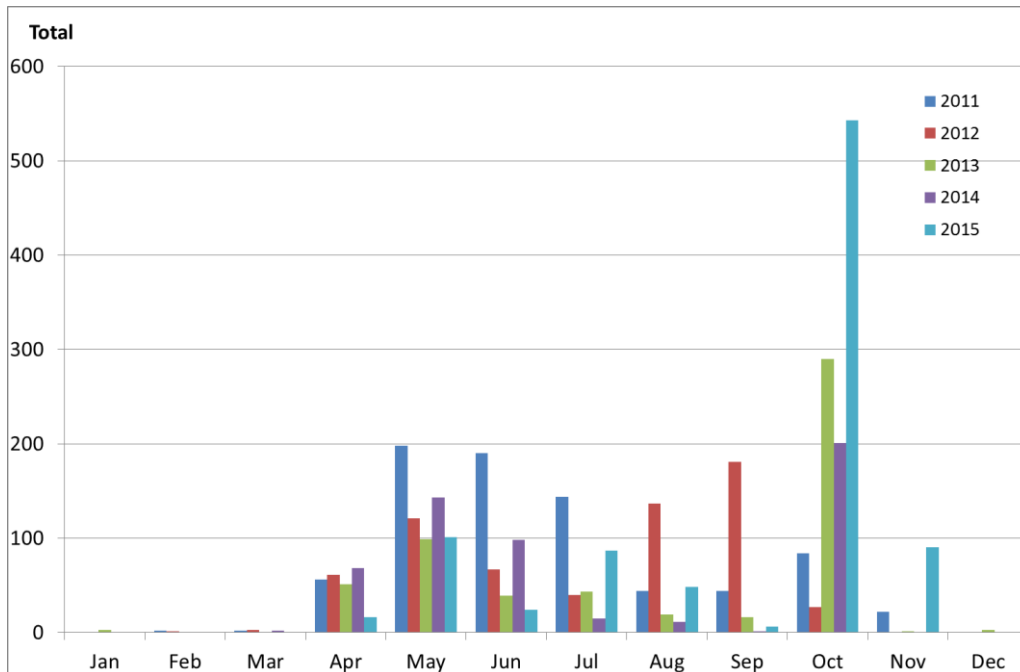
Monthly totals for Salmon and Trout are shown on the following page.



Monthly totals

Both graphs show run timing is highly variable for both Salmon and Trout. The results for 2013 and 2015 clearly show the effect of a prolonged dry period with migration delayed to October for a significant number of both Salmon and Trout.

Salmon



Trout

