

Salmon Research Report 2010

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ABSTRACT

Welcome to the *2010 Salmon Research Report* from the Salmon & Trout Research Centre on the River Frome, Dorset. This is the second annual report of research and salmon numbers produced by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT).

Counts of salmon running upstream in the 12 months between 1 February 2010 to 31 January 2011 were 1,058 fish. This is the highest adult count since 1998 and well above the 10-year average.

In addition to adult fish, parr are counted and we mark over 10,000 of them every year with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags. The high number of tags ensures that about 10-15% of the entire population are marked, therefore ensuring we get good survival data. Parr numbers in 2009 showed the highest count we have recorded in eight years of counting.

We also count smolts when they emigrate out to sea past our facility at East Stoke in April and May each year. We estimate that 13,265 smolts emigrated in 2010, again a high count.

We continue to monitor the migration of parr down the river in the autumn and are investigating what may be the cause of this phenomena, as well as assessing any impact on migrating smolts after they have been caught in a Rotary Screw trap.

We are grateful for all those who have helped secure the site and the valuable data collection on salmon into the future. Our next challenge is to understand what these data tell us about salmon in their freshwater phase, what might be going wrong, but most importantly, what we can do to put it right.

Citation

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