

Salmon in Haffjardara 2004

Introduction

The salmon parr population in Haffjardara was investigated August 6 and 7, 2004. The river was fished with electricity at 5 sites. The fish were aged and density of the various year classes estimated. All summer, water temperature was high and water level low.

Results

Table 1 shows the results from the electrofishing. Density of parr was high in the lower part but on the low side in the upper part. Growth was very good and the parr was in good condition. Fry (age 0+) was found at all sites, sometimes in very high numbers. This is unusual so early in the growing season. This is related to the unusually favourable growth conditions, i.e. early spring and high water temperature. One year old parr (1+) were also numerous due to favourable conditions last year.

Table 1. Mean length at age, and number of salmon parr caught at various sites in Haffjardara August 6 and 7, 2004. Number of fish in brackets.

Site No	Location	Date	Area (m ²)	-	-	Year classes	-	Density
				0+	1+	2+	3+	Fish/100 m ²
1	Upper Luncheon	7/8	100	4.3 (6)	7.3 (17)	9.7 (9)		32
2	Below Long Pool	7/8	90	4.2 (5)	6.8 (9)	8.9 (4)	9.6 (1)	21
3	Below Falls Pool	6/8	70	3.9 (3)	6.3 (16)	8.6 (8)		39
4	Home Pool	6/8	50	3.8 (16)	6.4 (10)	7.9 (4)		60
5	Below Sheep Pool	7/8	50	4.0 (22)	6.8 (7)	8.7 (6)		70
Total:			360	(52)	(59)	(31)	(1)	40

The salmon catch in 2004

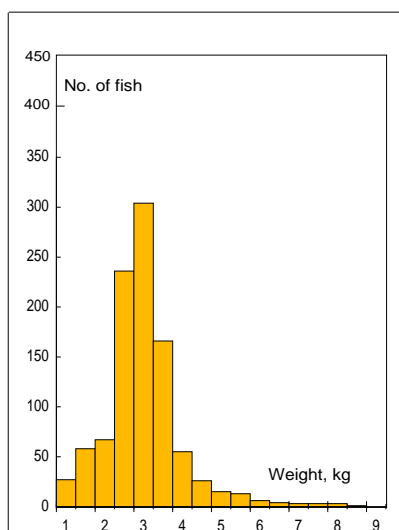


Fig. 1. Weight distribution of the salmon catch in Haffjardara in 2003.

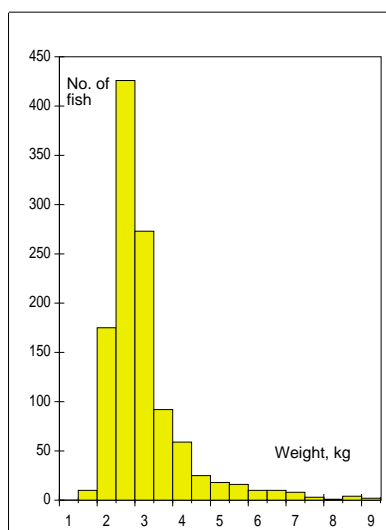


Fig. 2. Weight distribution of the salmon catch in Haffjardara in 2004.

The total catch in 2004 was 1133 fish, which is the best fishing since 1986. The catch of grilse and salmon since 1984 is shown in table 2. Out of the 1133 fish caught in Haffjardara, 618 (55%) were released. 96 fish were tagged and 18 (19%) were recaptured in the river 4-52 days after tagging. The catch of salmon (2 SW fish) almost doubled from the catch in 2003, indicating higher survival in the sea. The catch of grilse was also high and good catch in 2005 can be expected.

Table 2. Catch of grilse (I SW) and salmon (II SW) in Haffjardara 1984-2004.

Year	I SW	II SW	Total
84	202	351	553
85	364	215	579
86	978	161	1139
87	309	226	535
88	744	130	874
89	533	130	663
90	475	148	623
91	594	126	720
92	703	122	825
93	550	83	633
94	567	103	670
95	577	155	732
96	533	69	602
97	490	70	560
98	678	74	752
99	668	122	790
00	612	60	672
01	465	67	532
02	847	96	943
03	912	95	1007
04	954	179	1133
Avg:	607	132	740

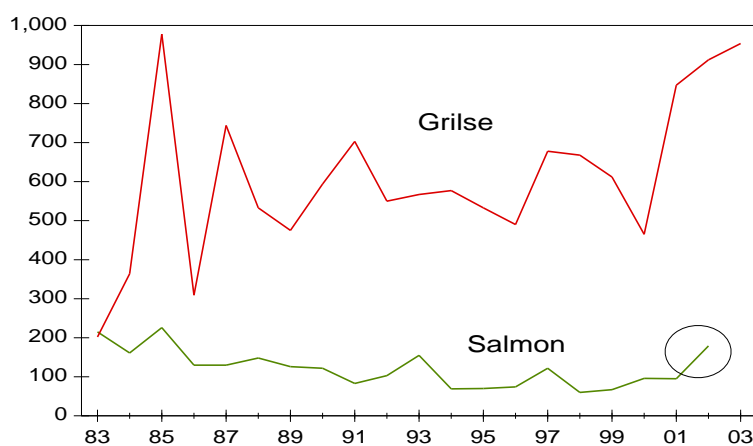


Fig. 3. Catch of grilse (1 SW) and salmon (2 SW) in Haffjardara originating from the smolt year-classes 1983- 2003. Catch of salmon in 2004 (encircled) was back to the pre 1988 levels.

Tagging Experiment

From 29/6 to 27/8, 96 fish were tagged and released. 18 (19%) were recaptured in the river 4-52 days after tagging. Results are shown in table 3. Nine fish were recaptured above the tagging site, two below and five on the tagging site. Two fish were recaptured without noting the tag number. Since 2001, 274 fish have been tagged in Haffjardara. 61 (22.3 %) have been recaptured. All were recaptured the same year they were tagged. Results of the tagging in 2001-2004 are shown in table 4.

Tagged			Recaptured			
Tag No.	Date	Pool No.	Date	Pool No.	Timeout Days	Up/Down N.of Pools
79829	29.6	7	6.7	7	7	0
79806	29.6	2	17.7	31	18	24
79813	30.6	2	4.7	2	4	0
79830	30.6	2	30.7	32	30	30
79823	1.7	2	7.8	33	37	31
79817	1.7	2	16.7	17	15	15
79822	1.7	2	20.8	20	50	18
79820	1.7	2	7.7	7	6	5
79812	2.7	2	19.7	36	17	28
79811	2.7	2	18.8	7	47	-1
79839	3.7	2	6.8	2	34	0
79836	3.7	2	2.8	33	30	31
79844	6.7	7	1.8	2	26	-5
79871	17.7	1	23.7	1	6	0
79870	17.7	2	7.9	7	52	5
79960	27.8	7	8.9	7	12	0
?			26.7	33		
?			27.7	33		

Table 3. Tagged and recaptured salmon in Haffjardara 2004. 'Time out' is the time between tagging and recapture. 'Up/down' is the movement of the fish, how many pools the fish moved up or down (minus sign).

Year	No. tagged	No. recaptured	% rec.
2001	14	4	29
2002	91	17	19
2003	73	22	30
2004	96	18	19
Total:	274	61	22.3

Table 4. Tagging results 2001-2004.