Jón Kristjánsson
Fisheries consultant
Reykjavík

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Salmon in Haffjardara 2014

1. Parr survey

Parr survey took place on August 6 and 7. The main river was fished with electricity at four sites. Also the tributary Flatna was fished at one site, below the first waterfall, in a very good habitat for parr. This site is a better nursery area for salmon fry than the previous one which was located above the bridge. Results are shown in table 1.

				Age classes							
Site No.	Location	Date	Areal	0+		1+		2+		Sum	Density
			m^2	no	ml	no	ml	no	ml		Fish/100 m^2
1	Below Falls Pool	7/8	50	1	3.6	5	5.8	4	9.1	10	20
2	Home Pool	7/8	50	32	3.3	10	6.3			42	84
3	Sheep	6/8	40	6	3.7	12	6.6	2	10.1	20	50
4	Above Sea Pool	6/8	60	38	3.4	9	6.8	1	8.5	48	80
5	Flatna	7/8	25	7	3.3	8	5.5	9	7.2	24	96
Total 2014:			**225**	**84**	**3.5**	**44**	**6.2**	**16**	**8.7**	**144**	**64**
Fish/100m^2:				37		20		7		64	

Table 1. Mean length at age (ml), and number of salmon parr (no) caught at various sites in Haffjardara August 6-7 2014.

The salmon catch in 2014

The total catch in 2014 was 821 fish. The catch of grilse and salmon since 1990 is shown in table 2.

Out of the total caught in Haffjardara, 630 (77%) were released.

The catch of grilse (I SW fish) was 539 fish and the catch of salmon (II SW fish) was 282 fish, 34% of the total catch (fig 3). This was obtained using the weight distribution, 50% of 3.5 kg fish and all larger fish were classified as II SW fish. Weight distribution of the catch is shown in fig. 1.

Year	I SW	II SW	Total	II SW%	Rel.	% Rel.
1990	475	148	623	24%		
1991	594	126	720	18%		
1992	703	122	825	15%		
1993	550	83	633	13%		
1994	567	103	670	15%	4	1%
1995	577	155	732	21%	0	
1996	533	69	602	11%	24	4%
1997	490	70	560	12%	0	
1998	678	74	752	10%	193	26%
1999	668	122	790	15%	302	38%
2000	612	60	672	9%	278	41%
2001	465	67	532	13%	246	46%
2002	847	96	943	10%	493	52%
2003	912	95	1007	9%	525	52%
2004	954	179	1133	16%	616	55%
2005	1075	215	1290	17%	929	72%
2006	874	203	1077	19%	749	70%
2007	899	141	1079	13%	767	71%
2008	1740	271	2011	13%	1599	80%
2009	1344	278	1622	17%	1227	76%
2010	1672	297	1969	15%	1509	77%
2011	1189	337	1526	22%	1274	83%
2012	921	225	1146	20%	854	75%
2013	1633	524	2157	24%	1821	84%
2014	539	282	821	34%	630	77%
Avg 90-01:	**576**	**100**	**676**			
Avg 02-07:	**927**	**155**	**1088**			
Avg 08-14:	**1291**	**316**	**1607**			

Table 2. Catch of grilse (I SW), salmon (II SW) in Haffjardara 1990-2014, number and percentage of released fish. Averages 1990-2001, 2002-2007 and 2008-2014.

The sharp decrease in grilse catch 2014 is shown in fig. 2. The salmon catch was normal, and the percentage of II SW fish was the highest since 1987.

This means that the the catch reduction was due to very low run of grilse. This was common all over Iceland, the catch in 2014 was one of the lowest for a long time. On the average, the grilse 2014 were smaller than in 2013 which indicates worsening feeding conditions in the sea between 2013 and 2014.

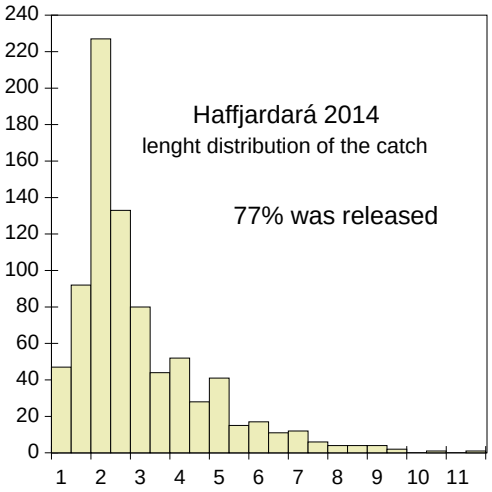

Fig. 1. Weight distribution of the salmon catch in Haffjardara in 2014. Four 9 kg kilo fish, three 10 kg and one 11.5 kilo fish were caught.

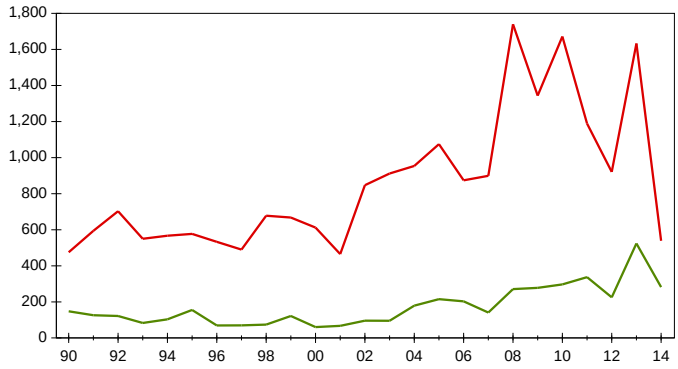

Fig. 2. Number of I and II SW fish in Haffjardara 1990 - 2014.

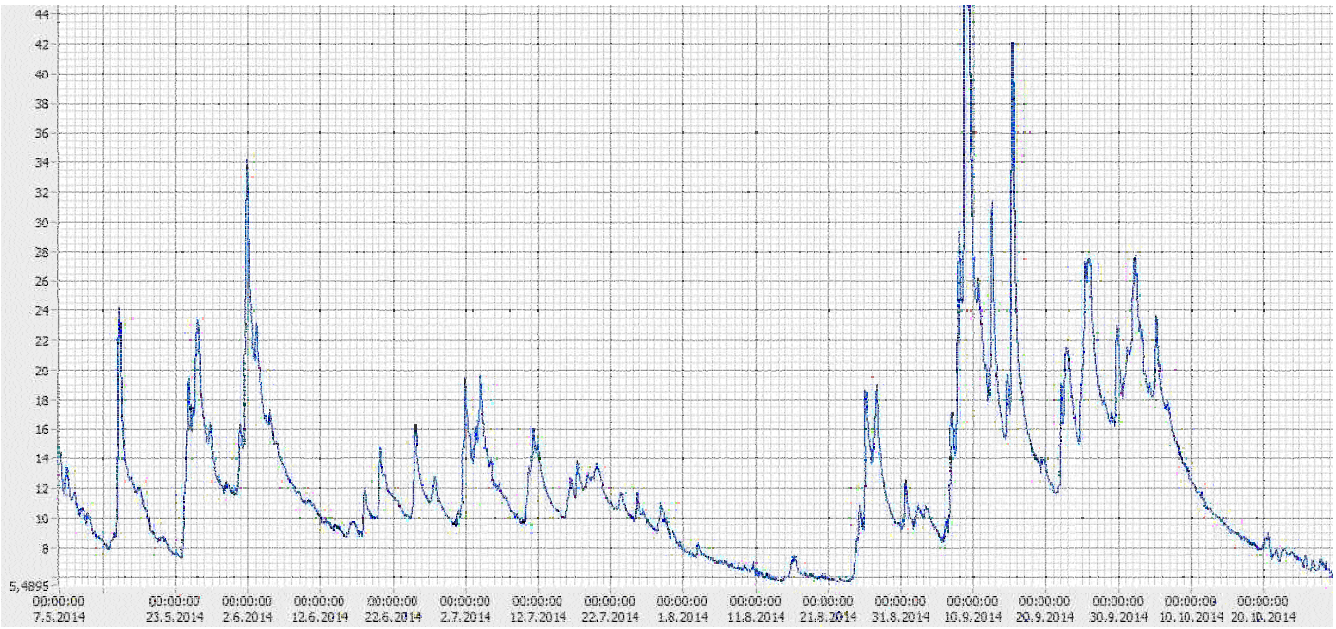

Fig 3. Water flow, m³/s, in Haffjardara May 7- October 25 2014.

Temperature measurements

Temperature recorder was situated at the Old Bridge and the temperature was recorded at three hours interval from the middle of April until late September (fig 4).

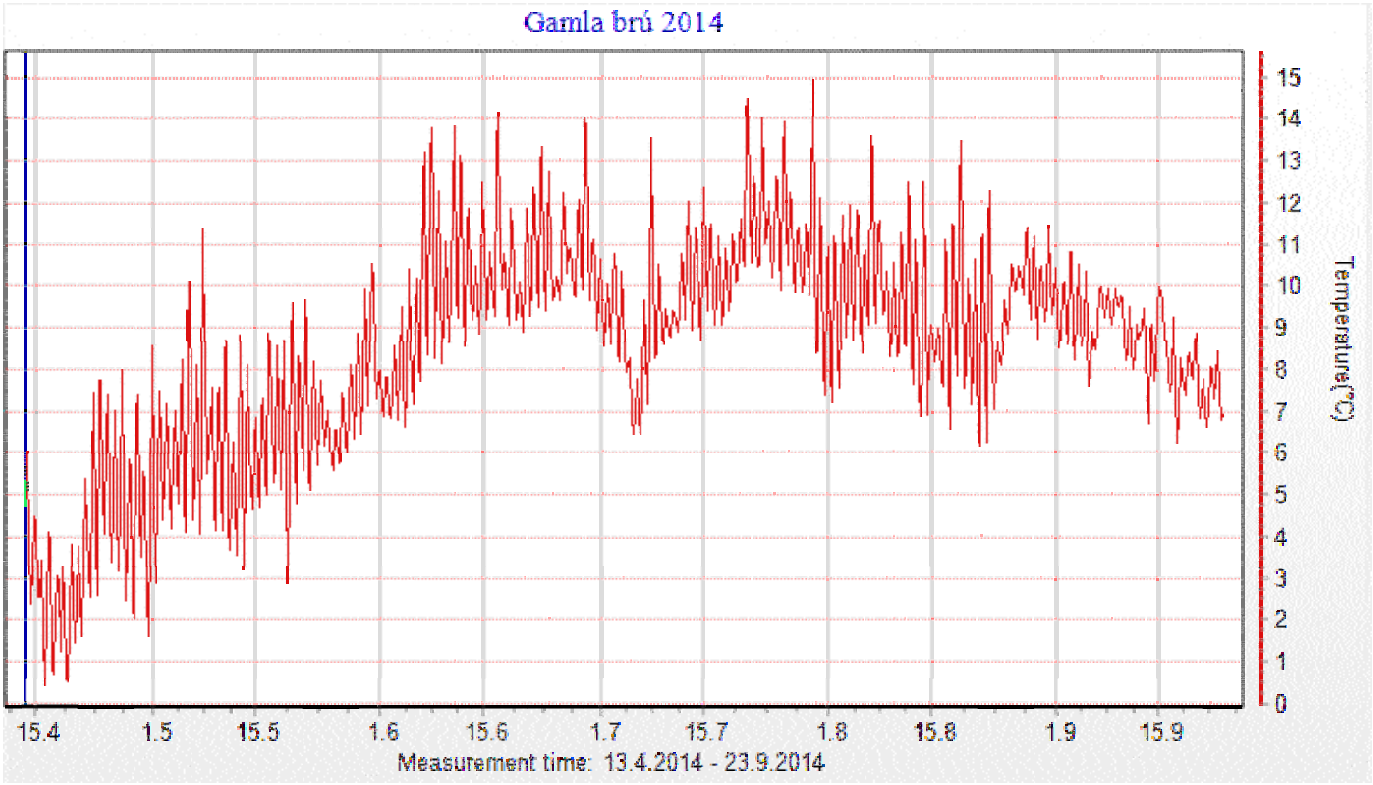

Fig 4. Temperature at Old Bridge 13/4 - 23/ 9 2014

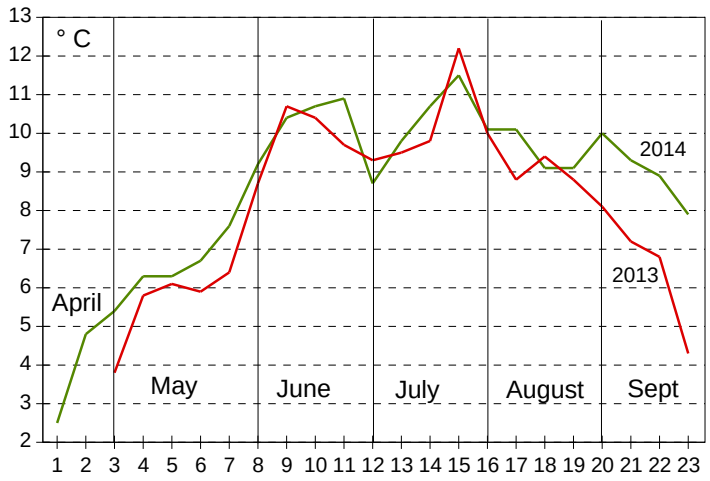

Fig 5. Mean weekly temperature at Old bridge 2014 (green) and 2013 (red) 15/4-22/9. The spring in 2014 was warmer than in 2013. The temperature in the period from April to the middle of June is important for the smoltification process. Low temperatures retard and prolong the smoltification.