



Being interested in other country pursuits comes in handy during the closed Wildfowling season and having them close at hand makes it even better. Fife, Perthshire, Coupar Angus, and Aberdeenshire not to mention our northern areas, have some of the best fresh water rivers in the world with Anglers coming from all over the world to cast a line in our crystal clear waters. Nobody ever forgets their first bar of silver and funnily enough never forget the monsters that have eluded the landing net with acrobatic leaping, rolling or head banging. Playing a big part in all of this is of course the beat Ghillies who assist you in enjoying your day by either congratulating you on your fish or consoling you over the one that got away. On the quieter days you can rest assured that boredom will never be an issue as all Ghillies have an abundance of tales to keep you smiling - to the extent that most of these guys have produced reading material that would keep most anglers laughing all day and night long.

What could be nicer than a perfectly shaped Tay hen salmon like the one above safely released to continue an amazing journey to its spawning beds further up river?!



Only the other week I found out that my presence was requested with a wee adventure up to one of our smaller northern rivers - the Findhorn. Probably to net fish for other guys luckier than myself. It's always exciting to go somewhere new and of course it all starts with the preparation and planning which involves the size of rods and lines, flies and landing nets, types of wader's footwear, life jackets, and hopefully accommodation with a bed for the night. Also some kind of eating establishment would be more than appreciated. The trip is planned for September so here's hoping circumstances stabilise a bit.

Team banter also starts early and brave is the angler who forecasts how many fish he is expecting to catch and release. If you compare it to Wildfowling, things are actually fairly similar - expectations are never high and usually any salmon caught are well respected and more than appreciated. It's looking like a team effort and to be honest it's nice to see your friends picking up the odd fish however it's nicer still when yours is larger and more handsome! (Kidding guys).

Take care, next month we may get back to the Wildfowling scene!

JM