

## Teith SAC monitoring - Electrofishing survey 2011

24 sites in and around the Teith system have been surveyed this summer. Sites of most concern are in bold at the bottom of the list.

1. Annet Burn – Salmon and Trout juveniles found below the Cauldron Linn Falls. Huge numbers of trout from all year classes suggest sea trout spawning. Healthy population of salmon, but this years juveniles missing. Excellent fishing.
2. Ardoch Burn at Auchenteck – huge number of juvenile salmon (all year classes) and some trout (all year classes). Excellent fishing
3. Ardoch Burn upstream at Balbrack – fewer salmon, but all year classes present. Larger number of trout (all year classes). Excellent fishing
4. Keltie Water at confluence with Brackland Burn – Equal (but small) numbers of trout and salmon (all year classes of both). Flow was high and will have reduced fishing effectiveness.
5. Brackland Burn just upstream of Keltie confluence – Large numbers of salmon (all year classes) and smaller number of trout (0+ only). Good fishing – flows quite high
6. Teith main channel at Cambusmore – trout and salmon present in equal numbers (all year classes)
7. Teith main channel downstream of Lubnaig – large number of salmon – mainly this years, and a few trout. Fishing not great as flows high
8. Tighanes Burn at confluence with main Teith at Strathyre – plenty of this year's salmon and reasonable numbers of this year's trout. Fishing not great as flows high
9. Gleann Riabhach at confluence with Achray Water behind Achray Hotel – 0+ and 1+ salmon in reasonable numbers and a few trout (also 0+ and 1+). Fishing ok, but flows a little high
10. River Turk near mouth – 0+ and 1+ salmon in good numbers, plenty of 0+ trout. Fishing ok, but flows a little high
11. Stank Burn near Loch Lubnaig – stuffed with salmon and trout of all age classes. Excellent fishing
12. Coillechat Burn upstream of falls – trout only, no salmon. Flows a bit high but fishing ok
13. Monochyle Burn downstream of road – no salmonids, but plenty of lamprey and minnows. Good fishing

14. Gleann Crotha Burn downstream of road bridge – thousands of minnows in breeding colour, some lamprey and trout but no salmon. Fishing good
15. Gleann Crotha Burn upstream of road – all sizes of trout present in low numbers and some 0+ and 1+ salmon
16. Buchany Burn downstream of culvert near confluence with main Teith – plenty of 0+ salmon and trout, plus a few older trout. Good fishing
17. Kirkton Burn at Balquidder – A few salmon and trout (0+ and 1+) and juvenile lamprey
18. River Larig downstream of Inverlochlarig Farm – all year classes of salmon present in good numbers. No trout. Fishing good
19. River Larig at Inverlochlarig Farm – plenty of 0+ salmon and some parr, small number of trout of all ages. Fishing good
20. Ishag Burn at ford midway up the valley – a few 0+ and 1+ salmon present. Fishing ok
- 21. River Larig at head of valley – all year classes of salmon present, but low numbers. All year classes of trout, but very low numbers. Disappointing. Fishing good**
- 22. Drunkie Burn – No trout or salmon found! Fishing conditions fine**
- 23. Calair Burn upstream – No salmon and few trout found at top of river despite good habitat! Flows a little high so fishing just ok**
- 24. Calair Burn at Ballimore Farm – Disappointing numbers of salmon found, and none from this year! Flows a little high so fishing just ok**

What can be done to improve the situation?

1. River Larig – there is plenty of juvenile salmon habitat present up near the head of the valley, but disappointing numbers of fish. It is possible that feeding is not great, plus the channel is very open and vulnerable to predation. Thought should be given to providing cover through bankside planting which will also increase allochthonous inputs and improve feeding. Might also want to consider providing artificial substrate for invertebrate life as this seems to be lacking.
2. Drunkie Burn – current and historical surveys have shown a lack of fish in this burn. Plenty of log jams seem to have slowed the flow and encouraged sedimentation, and may impede access. Suggest a closer look at this burn to see if habitat and access improvement works would be of benefit. I will chat to the Estates Manager about obtaining access permissions and stake holder buy-in. **Suggest begin with a few days of (partial) clearance next spring.**
3. Calair Burn – Salmon are apparently not spawning in the upper half of the burn like they used to, although they still spawn lower down. It is hard to see why this should be – perhaps salmon are not arriving in great enough numbers to pressure fish into going further upstream. The spawning habitat is there. Suggest three-pronged project for Calair Burn:
  - Ease or remove the weir. I will carry out SEPA barrier assessments, but complexity of the falls and weir makes this issue difficult to deal with;
  - Suggest floodplain and channel habitat improvements for the upper catchment;
  - **Policing of the river below the barriers. There seems to be evidence that poaching pressure is very heavy here and may have gone on unchecked for a long time. The group may be in a position to help with this by creating a bailiffing presence in the area.**