

Salmon Fishing “The Madness”

Salmon fishing why do we do it? After all we are fishing for a fish that does not feed in freshwater.

The non fishing population is apt to regard salmon fishing as a form of eccentricity or madness, they may be correct.

I remember fishing the Helmsdale in April with a north east sleet storm coming down the Strath, fingers and feet numb from wading in an apparently fishless river? You have to remind yourself we are doing this for fun! and also paying for this “fun”

However the fascination remains and when the line tightens, a fish is on, the elation is incredible and the reward great.

A lifetime of salmon fishing is not long enough to learn all there is to know about salmon fishing and this fish. We are always learning, this is what makes it the fascinating sport it is. Any man that says he knows it all is not only a fool but a liar.

We put many fruitless hours in pursuit of the elusive salmon, but the days when it all comes together, you put out the perfect cast then the line tightens, the feeling of elation that a fish is “on” then the moment of trepidation whether it stays on? Then you land the sea liced silver prize.

Our surroundings also play a large part of the enjoyment of fishing, this is often overlooked until we fish beside a busy main road with constant traffic noise, cars, lorries sirens etc. Our own Stoddart Pot is a prime example of this. Albeit an excellent holding pool.

**Meanwhile the 2021 season is fast approaching with the call back to the river and anticipation of what the new season will bring? Personally I can’t wait.
Tight lines and good fishing.**

Neil Barcock, CAA, AAPGAI