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Salmon in Haffjardara 1995

Introduction

The salmon parr population in Haffjardara was investigated September 9 th -10 th 1995.
The river was fished with electricity at five sites, from Sheep Pool up to Long Pool. The fish were aged and density of the various year classes estimated. In this report, the results from 1995 are compared with results from previous years obtained by similar methods.

Results

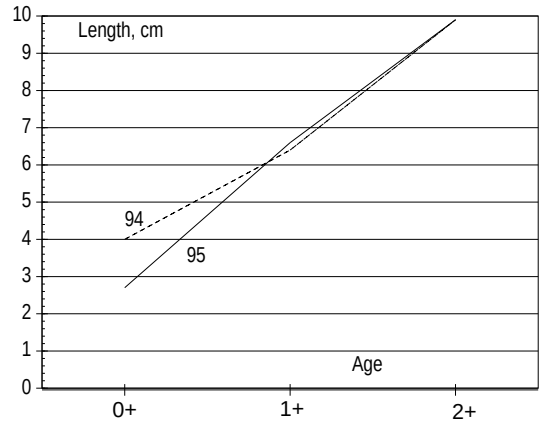
Table 1 shows how many parrs of each year class were caught at each site. The length distribution of the salmon parrs caught at sites 1-3 is shown in fig. 4 and the length distribution of the parrs caught at sites 4 and 5 is shown in fig. 5. '

Table 1. Mean lengths at age, and (numbers) of salmon parrs caught at various sites in Haffjarðará September 9th - 10th 1995. No. fish in brackets.

Site no	Location	Aereal (m^2)	0+	1+	2+	3+	Density Fish/100 m^2
1	Below Sheep Pool	100		6.7 (17)	10.1 (10)		27
2	Home Pool	100	2.7 (1)	6.8 (13)	10.1 14)		28
3	100 m below Falls Pool	80		5.9 (8)	9.1 (8)		20
4	Below Long Pool	50	3.4 (6)	6.3 (7)	8.5 (2)	10.2 (2)	38
5	Upper Junction	30	3.4 (6)				20
Total:			(17)	(45)	(34)	(2)	27

Only 0+ parrs were caught at site 5. This was expected, as the river bed at that site consists of fine gravel, a suitable habitat for small parrs only.
The growth is very good, similar to that in 1994 except for the 0- group. This is natural, the spring was 2-3 weeks later than normal in 1995. This late spring also seems to have affected the survival of the 0 group, as fewer were were found now than in previous years, especially in the lower part of the river. The bottom vegetation in the river was unusually dense in 1995. That makes catching of small parrs very difficult. They lack muscle power to swim through the vegetation towards the electrical pole.
When fishing typical nursery areas for the 0- group, like Upper Junction, many were found, showing normal recruitment.

Fig 1. Mean length of parrs 1994 and 1995 in the lower part of Haffjardara.



Numbers of 2 year old parrs (smolt candidates) are high, much higher than in previous years. This indicates healthy state of production. However, density figures of parrs are to be interpreted with caution, as fishing conditions are extremely variable from year to year and from one site to another.

Fig 2. Weight distribution of the catch in Haffjardara 1995.

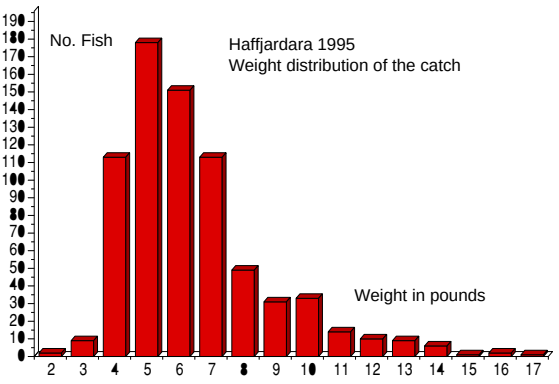
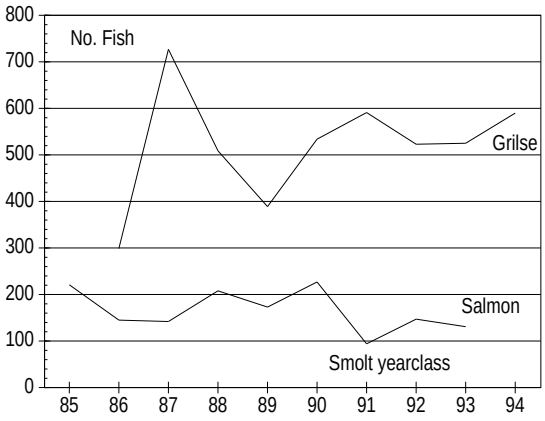


Fig. 3. Catch of grilse and salmon originating from the 1985-1994 smolt year classes.



The salmon catch in 1995

Total catch of salmon in 1995 was 728 fish, 596 grilse and 132 salmons. The weight distribution of the total catch is shown in fig. 2. Grilse weigh 2-7.5 pounds, salmons are 7.5-17 pounds. The catch since 1987, grilse and salmon separately, is shown in table 2. The catch of salmon and grilse originating from the 1985-1994 smolt year classes is shown in fig. 2. The grilse catch has been fairly stable the last 4 years, 500-600 fish, slightly increasing in 95. The salmon catch is rather low, a trend since 1990.

The parr population is in a very good state and it can be expected that the grilse catch in 1996 will increase compared to previous years. The salmon catch in 1995 will probably increase up to 150-200 fish.

Table 2. Catch of grilse (ISW) and salmon (IISW) in Haffjardara 1987-1995

Year	ISW	IISW	Total
1987	300	221	521
1988	730	145	875
1989	519	142	661
1990	391	208	599
1991	538	173	711
1992	591	227	818
1993	523	94	617
1994	525	147	672
1995	**596**	**132**	**728**
Mean:	521	165	689

Fig 4. Length distribution of salmon parrs at sites 1-3 in Haffjardara September 9 th 1995

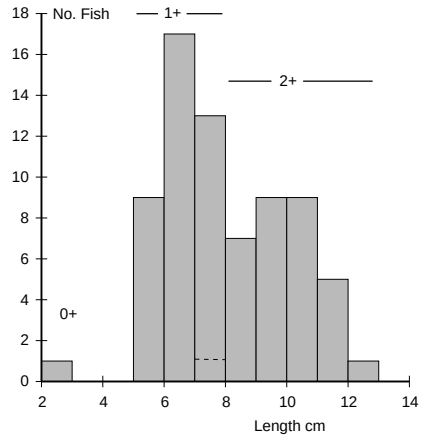


Fig 5. Length distribution of salmon parrs at sites 4 and 5 in Haffjardara September 10 th 1995

