Jón Kristjánsson
Fisheries Consultant
Skipasund 90,
Reykjavik

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Salmon in Haffjardara 1998

Introduction

The salmon parr population in Haffjardara was investigated August 21-23, 1998. The river was fished with electricity at six sites, from Sheep Pool to Upper Junction. The tributary Flatna was fished at one site close to the bridge. The fish were aged and density of the various year classes estimated.

Results

Table 1 shows the results from the electrofishing. Length of the parr at given age is above average and the density is normal for Haffjardara. The density in Flatna is lower but growth is good. **The year of 1998 was good with respect to parr production.** If environmental conditions remain stable this will lead to a good smolt run in the spring of 1999.

Table 1. Mean length at age, and number of salmon parr caught at various sites in Haffjardara August 21-23, 1998. Number of fish in brackets.

Site No	Location	Areal (m^2)	0+	1+	Density 2+	3+	Fish/100 m^2
1	Upper Junction	40	4.1(6)	6.6(11)	9.9(11)		70
2	Below Long Pool	50	3.8(5)	6.0(3)	8.2(10)	10.4 (2)	40
3	Flatna	50	4.3(7)	6.7(1)	9.1(2)	10.6(1)	22
4	100 m below Falls Pool	40		6.5(6)	8.9(10)	11.0(4)	50
5	100 m below Stone	40	4.1(18)	6.3(7)	10.2(1)		65
6	Above Home Pool	50	3.5(3)	6.0(11)	9.5(7)		42
7	Below Sheep Pool	100	4.3(8)	6.8(8)	10.2(7)		23
Total:		370	(47)	(47)	(48)	(7)	40

The salmon catch in 1998

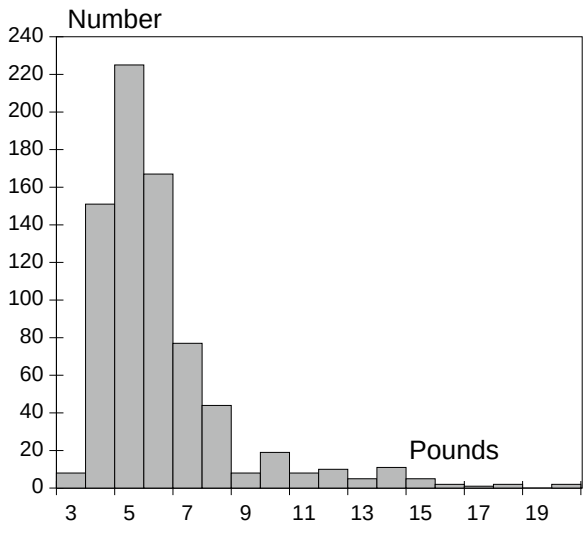
The total catch in 1998 was 752 fish, which is 34% above the catch in 1997, and 8% above the average from 1983, 1998 inculded.

In addition to the salmon, 117 char and 25 trout were caught. Most of the char were caught in Sea-Pool.

The catch of grilse and salmon since 1983 is shown in table 2. The grilse catch was very good, the highest since 1992.

The salmon catch, fish larger than 8-9 pounds, was rather low or 74 fish, but catch of two sea -winter salmon was low in Iceland generally speaking in 1998.

Fig.1. Weight distribution of the catch in Haffjardara 1998.



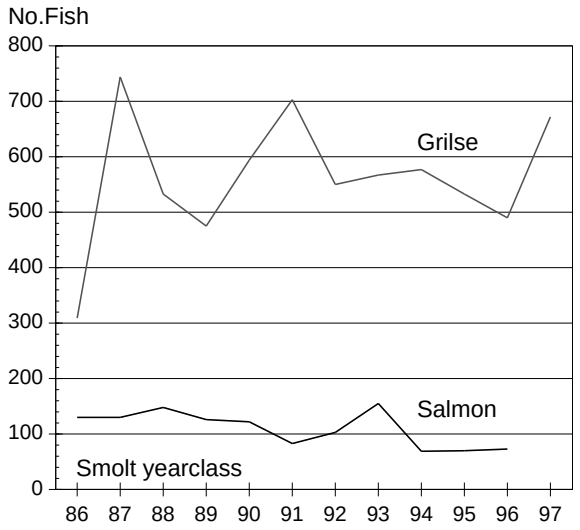


Fig. 2. Catch of grilse and salmon originating from the 1986-1997 smolt year classes. Smolts leave the river in the spring, grilse spend one year at sea (I SW), salmon spend two years at sea (II SW).

Year	I SW	II SW	Total
83	414	211	625
84	202	351	553
85	364	215	579
86	978	161	1139
87	309	226	535
88	744	130	874
89	533	130	663
90	475	148	623
91	594	126	720
92	703	122	825
93	550	83	633
94	567	103	670
95	577	155	732
96	533	69	602
97	490	70	560
98	**678**	**74**	**752**
Average:	544	148	692

Table 2. Catch of grilse (I SW) and salmon (II SW) in Haffjardara 1983-1997

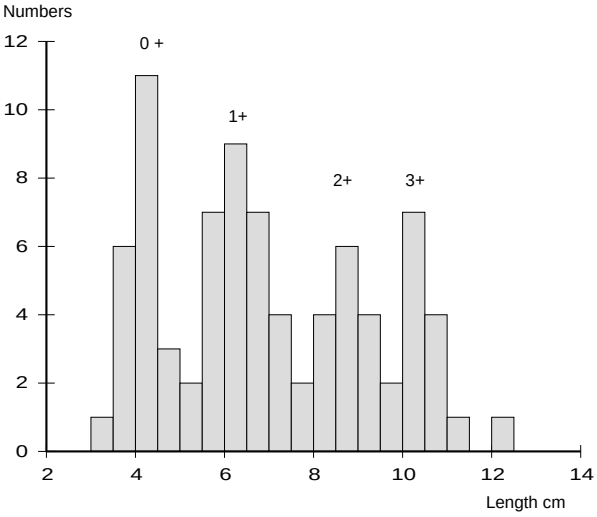


Fig 3. Length distribution of parr caught in the lower part of Haffjardara 1998, showing distinct year classes. Fish of age 0+ were hatched in the spring of 1998. Age 2+ and 3+ fish are the smolt candidates for the 1999 smolt run, their number is relatively high, compared to last years. The state of parr production is good.

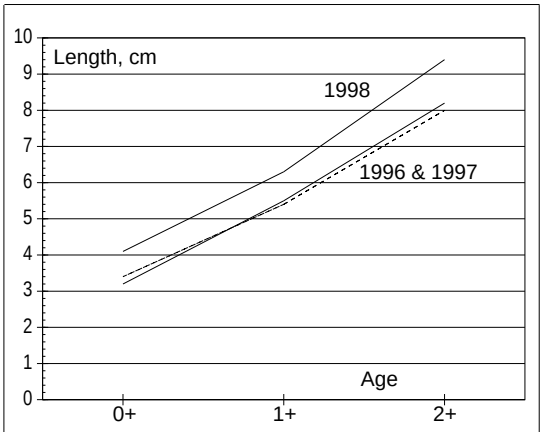


Fig 4. Growth of salmon parr in the lower part of Haffjardara in 1996-98. The growth in 1998 is better than in 1996 and 1997, manifesting good growth conditions in the summer of 1998.