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Salmon in Haffjardara 1999

Introduction

The salmon parr population in Haffjardara was investigated September 12-16, 1999. This is later than in previous years and should be kept in mind when growth in different years is compared. The river was fished with electricity at six sites, from Sheep Pool to Upper Lunceon. Results from Upper and Lower Lunceon were combined as there was no significant difference between these two sites. The fish were aged and density of the various year classes estimated.

Results

Table 1 shows the results from the electrofishing. Growth of parr is normal or good, density of one year old parr is above average for Haffjardara but larger (older) parr are less numerous than in previous years. Whether this will affect the salmon runs in the coming years is doubtful. If so, it would be first noticed in year 2001. In last year report, a good run of smolts in 1999 was predicted. Environmental conditions were good during the seaward migration in the spring of 1999 so year 2000 is expected to be a good salmon year in Haffjardara.

Table 1. Mean length at age, and number of salmon parr caught at various sites in Haffjardara September 12-16, 1999. Number of fish in brackets.

Site No	Location	Area (m^2)	0+	1+	2+	3+	Density Fish/100 m^2
1	Upper and Lower Lunchion	120	3.9(10)	6.8(17)	9.1(3)	10.4(7)	31
2	Below Long Pool	30	3.6(1)	6.5(8)	9.0(4)	12.3 (2)	45
4	80 m below Falls Pool	50	3.6(10)	6.5(14)	9.7(3)	11.6(1)	46
6	Home Pool	50	3.5(6)	6.9(17)	10.9(4)		54
7	Below Sheep Pool	200	3.9(8)	7.0(14)	9.5(3)		15
Total:		450	(35)	(70)	(17)	(10)	29

The salmon catch in 1999

The total catch in 1999 was 790 fish, which is the highest since 1992.
The catch of grilse and salmon since 1983 is shown in table 2. The grilse catch in 1999 was good and the salmon catch, fish 4 kg and larger, increased considerably compared to previous years.
This year the weight of the fish was recorded in kilos, a procedure introduced in all Icelandic rivers in 1999. Out of the 790 fish caught, 302 were released and 45 of them were tagged with numeric tags in order to identify them later. Only one of the tagged fish was recaptured in the river before the end of the fishing season. This was a 1.6 kg male, caught and released in Home Pool July 26. and caught two days later in Sheep.

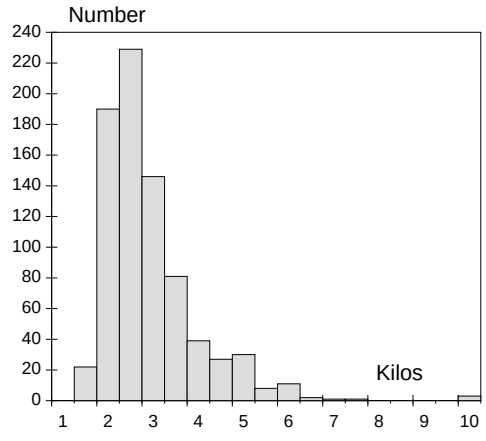


Fig 1. Weight distribution of the salmon catch in Haffjardara in 1999. Weight is in kilos.

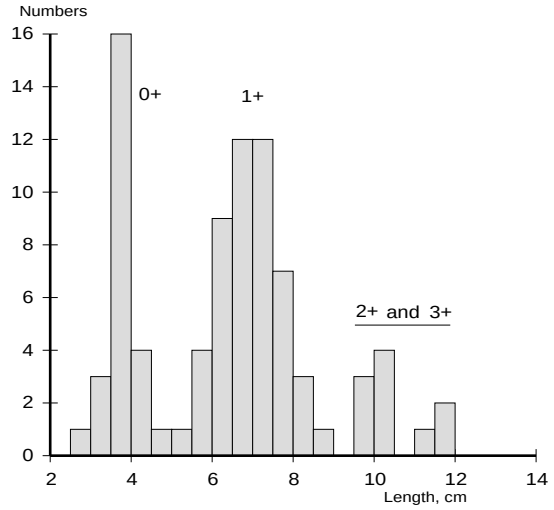


Fig 2. Length distribution of parr caught in the **lower part** of Haffjardara in 1999. Fish of age 0+ were hatched in the spring of 1999. Age 2+ and 3+ fish are the smolt candidates for the year 2000 smolt run. Number of two and three year old parr is lower than in 1998 but one year old parr are numerous and the growth is good.

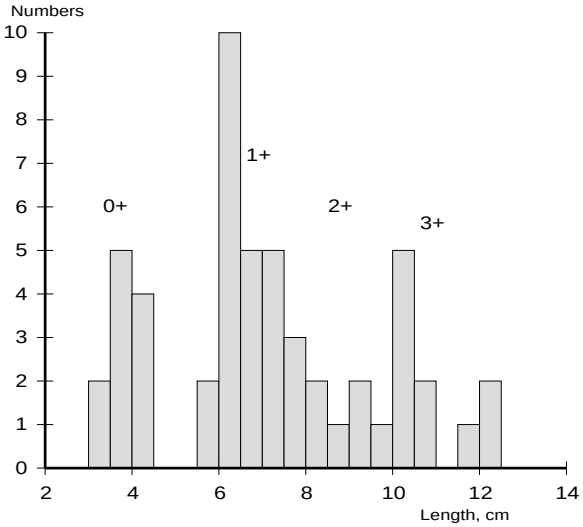


Fig 3. Length distribution of parr caught in the **upper part** of Haffjardara 1999. Growth rate of older parr is better than it has been previously but the density is lower.

Table 2. Catch of grilse (I SW) and salmon (II SW) in Haffjardara 1983-1999.

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
99	**668**	**122**	**790**
Avg:	552	147	699

Table 3. Mean lengths at age, and number of salmon parr caught below Long Pool in Haffjardara 1994-1999. Number of fish in brackets. This shows remarkable stability between years during the research period.

Area	Age:				Density		
(m2)	0+	1+	2+	3+	/100 m2	Year	Date
70	3.7 (7)	6.1 (5)	7.8 (4)	9.7 (4)	29	1994	12/9
50	3.4 (6)	6.3 (7)	8.5 (2)	10.2 (2)	38	1995	10/9
50	3.3 (12)	5.9 (6)	7.4 (5)	9.6 (3)	52	1996	23/7
50	3.4 (15)	5.5 (11)	7.9 (6)	9.4 (1)	66	1997	16/8
50	3.8 (5)	6.0 (3)	8.2 (10)	10.4 (2)	46	1998	22/8
30	**3.6 (1)**	**6.5 (8)**	**9.0 (4)**	**12.3 (2)**	**45**	**1999**	**16/9**