Jón Kristjánsson
Fisheries consultant
Skipasund 90
Reykjavík

May 2003

Salmon in Haffjardara 2002

Introduction

The salmon parr population in Haffjardara was investigated August 1 and 2, 2002. The river was fished with electricity at 6 sites and the tributary Flatna was fished above the bridge. The fish were aged and density of the various year classes estimated. Water level was high, 10 cm over normal.

Results

Table 1 shows the results from the electrofishing. Water level was high, making fish sampling difficult, therefore density was on the low side. Growth was good and the condition of the parr was very good. Salmon fry of the year (age 0+) were found below Sheep and in Flatna. Growth of parr in Flatna vas excellent, comparable to growth on the best sites in Haffjardara. Table 3 shows results from surveys in the upper part of Haffjardara since 1994.

Table 1. Mean length at age, and number of salmon parr caught at various sites in Haffjardara and the tributary Flatna, August 1 and 2, 2002. Number of fish in brackets.

				Year classes			
				-	-	-	Density
Site No	Location	Date	Area (m^2)	0+	1+	2+	3+	Fish/100 m^2
1	Upper Luncheon	2/8	40		5.9 (10)	8.4 (7)	10.4 (2)	48
2	Below Long Pool	2/8	40		6.0 (6)	7.8 (5)	9.2 (2)	33
3	Above Falls Pool	2/8	60		6.1 (5)	8.6 (10)		25
4	Below Falls Pool	1/8	60		5.5 (13)	7.3 (9)	10.7 (1)	38
5	Home Pool	1/8	100		5.8 (14)	7.8 (1)		15
6	Below Sheep Pool	1/8	50	3.6 (10)	6.4 (9)	8.2 (8)	10.7 (1)	56
7	Flatna	2/8	50	3.7 (1)	6.5 (6)			14
Total:			400	(11)	(63)	(40)	(6)	30

The salmon catch in 2002

The total catch in 2002 was 943 fish, which is the best catch since 1986. The catch of grilse and salmon from 1983 is shown in table 2. Out of the 943 fish caught in Haffjardara, 493 (52%) were released. 91 fish were tagged and 17 (19%) were recaptured in the river 6-60 days after tagging. Therefore, we can assume that approximately 100 fish were captured twice in 2002.The increase in catch between years is due to increased catch of grilse. This suggests good runs of II SW salmon (5 kg +) in 2003.

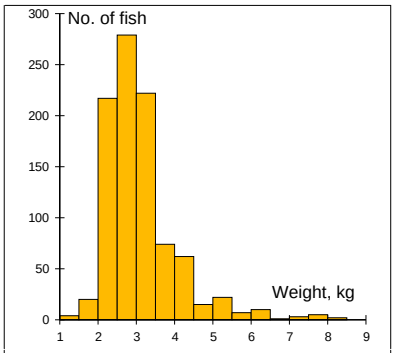


Fig. 1. Weight distribution of the salmon catch in Haffjardara in 2002.

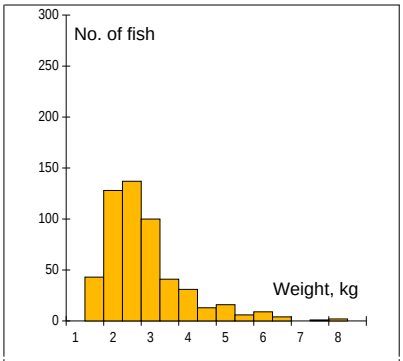


Fig. 2. Weight distribution of the salmon catch in Haffjardara in 2001.

Table 2. Catch of grilse (I SW) and salmon (II SW) in Haffjardara 1983-2002.

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
00	612	60	672
01	465	67	532
02	**847**	**96**	**943**
Avg:	565	136	701

Table 3. Mean length at age, and number of salmon parr caught in the upper part of Haffjardara 1994-2002. Number of fish in brackets. Numbers are high in year 2001 in very low water resulting in high concentration of parr.

Area	Age:				Density		
(m^2)	0+	1+	2+	3+	Fish/100 m^2	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
60	4.0 (9)	6.8 (5)	8.7 (6)	-	33	2000	25/8
40	4.0 (17)	6.8 (19)	10.0 (8)	-	110	2001	1/9
80	-	6.0 (16)	8.2 (12)	9.8 (4)	38	2002	1/8

Tagging Experiment

From the third fishing week, 91 fish were tagged and released. 17 (19%) were recaptured in the river 6-60 days after tagging. Results are shown in table 4. Ten fish were recaptured above the tagging site, eight below and one on the tagging site, 20 days later.
Table 4 and fig. 3 show tagging and recapture by week.

Tagged					Recaptured			
Tag No	Date	Sex	Weight Kg	Pool No.	Date	Pool No.	Timeout Days	Up/down No.pools
67881	1.7	m	3.5	23	30.8	20	60	-3
67963	4.7	fe	2.3	2	18.7	4	14	2
67971	6.7	fe	3	2	21.7	24	15	22
67974	6.7	fe	2.3	2	28.8	36	53	34
75351	15.7	m	2.6	24	24.7	24	9	0
75353	15.7	m	2.6	24	18.8	26	34	2
75355	16.7	fe	2.6	20	22.7	17	6	-3
75356	16.7	m	2.8	20	23.7	2	7	-18
75358	16.7	fe	2.4	2	24.7	24	8	22
75359	16.7	m	3.4	1	24.7	24	8	23
75360	16.7	fe	2.8	1	24.7	2	8	1
75327	16.7	fe	7.6	24	5.8	24	20	0
75345	17.7	m	5	23	11.8	7	25	-16
75328	19.7	fe	2.4	24	5.9	43	48	19
75451	19.7	m	3.5	4	21.8	20	33	16
75365	19.7	fe	2.3	20	24.8	13	36	-7
75376	10.8	m	2.2	26	28.8	31	18	5

Table 4. Tagged and recaptured salmon in Haffjardara 2002. 'Time out' is the time between tagging and recapture. 'Up/down' is the movement of the fish, how many pools the fish moved up or down (minus sign).

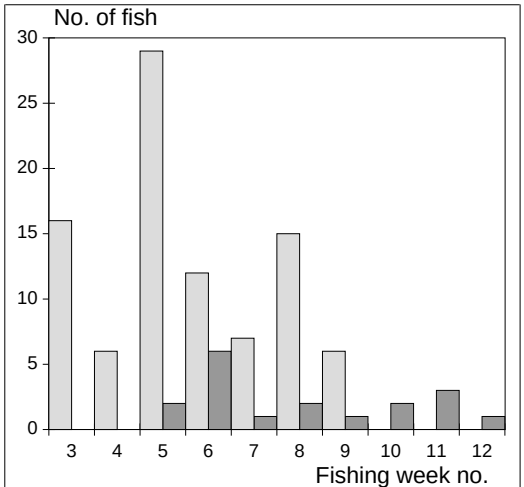


Fig. 3. Tagging and recapture of salmon in Haffjardara 2002 by week. Grey columns show number tagged per week. Dark columns show recaptures per week. Week 12 is the last fishing week.