

Ythan Estuary fishing stretch opening fully to public again

Private lease at popular spot comes to an end after 21 years – main article by David McKay

An Aberdeenshire fishery is to open fully to the public for the first time in more than 20 years.

Management of the Ythan Estuary at Newburgh said a 21-year private lease had come to an end, opening up the three-and-a-half-mile stretch fully for the first time since 1990.

The popular spot, known throughout the UK and Ireland for its sea trout, is split into five sections, or beats.

Manager Audrey Forbes-Clarke, who has been in the job for 33 years after taking on the fishery with her late husband, Eddie, in 1978, said there was a common misconception that the area was entirely closed to the public. She said: "We have had the private scheme in place since 1990. At the time, 21 years seemed like forever.

"The lease ran out at the end of last season. People thought they needn't bother going to the Ythan Estuary, but that is not the case.

"My late husband felt very strongly that we needed to keep fishing for the locals as well."

The 2011 fishing season begins on May 1, when three beats will be opened until June. Then, the whole fishery will be available until the end of September.

Anglers from throughout the UK and Ireland regularly make the trip to the north-east to fish

the waters, part of the Udney and Dudwick Estate. July is already almost fully booked.

Permits are available for a day's fishing at £30 but they must be reserved and bought in advance.

Mrs Forbes-Clarke, 63, who lives at Lea Cottages, Newburgh, is hoping for another year like 2010, when a total catch of 1,197 sea trout was recorded.

That represented a marked increase from the previous year's total of 707, a rise due in part to the introduction of technology to deter seals, which feed on trout and salmon.

The equipment, provided by Aberdeen University's subsea research facility Oceanlab, at Newburgh, emits sound waves that act as a humane deterrent to the seals.



UNIBS DP: Ythan Estuary fishery manager Audrey Forbes-Clarke. Kevin Embley

PUBLIC SET TO REEL IN BIG CATCH

FISHING fans are hoping to reel in a bumper catch in the Northeast. Ythan Estuary has opened fully to the public for the first time in more than 20 years – with a three and a half mile stretch now available to fishers. Anglers are set to visit the area, Known for its sea trout, when the fishing season starts on May 1st.

Permits are available for newly-open trout stretch

ANGLERS looking to fish at the Ythan Estuary for the upcoming season are reminded to contact fishery management for permits.

For the first time in more than 20 years, the entire three-and-a-half-mile stretch at Newburgh will be open to the public

The new season begins on May 1. Three of the fishery's five beats will be opened until June, when the whole area will be available through to the end of September.

Anglers from throughout the UK and Ireland regularly make the trip to the north-east to fish the waters, known for their sea trout.

Fishery manager Audrey Forbes-Clarke is the point of contact for anyone looking to book spots along the river.

Permits are available for a day's fishing at £30, but they must be reserved and bought in advance from Mrs Forbes-Clarke of Lea Cottages, Newburgh. She can be contacted on **01358 789297**.

Further information can be found on the fishery website <http://ythanfishery.co.nr>
