

*The River Deveron*

**Deveron District  
Biosecurity & Fisheries  
Development Project;  
A model to copy?**

**RAFTS Conference  
2011**

**Richard Miller & Alastair Fenn**



The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development:  
Europe investing in rural areas



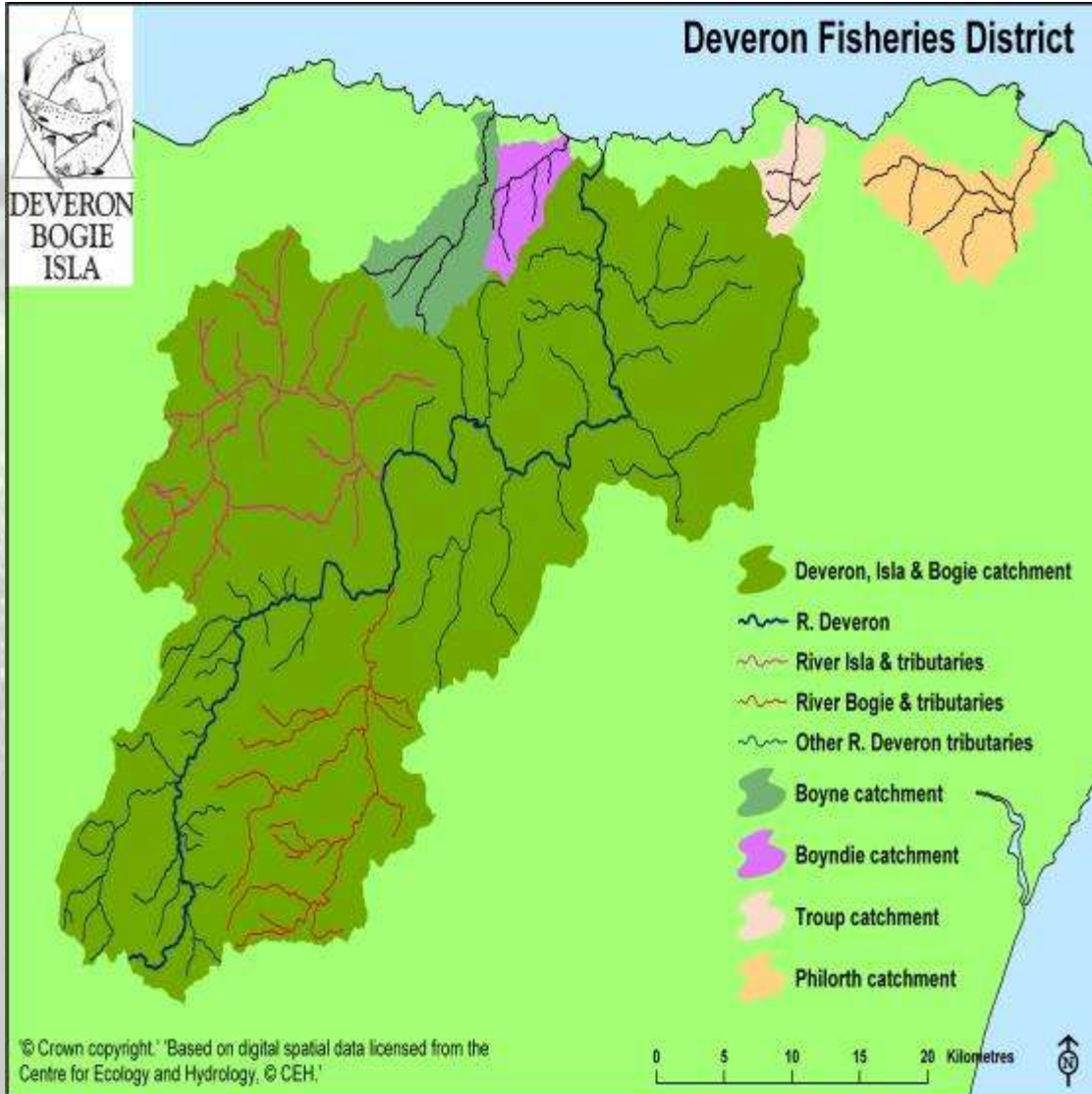
The Scottish  
Government



**SCOTTISH  
NATURAL  
HERITAGE**



# Deveronside



•The Deveron is situated in North East Scotland within the counties of Aberdeenshire and Moray.

•Catchment area of 1266 km<sup>2</sup> with a main stem length of 96kms (60miles).

•There are two main tributaries, namely the river Bogie and the river Isla.

The main towns are Huntly, Turriff, Banff and Keith.

•The District has four significant coastal river systems.

• In terms of rod & line catch the Deveron is consistently the 5th highest in Scotland.

(2010 – 5300 salmon & sea trout)

# Historical Invasive Control



## The early years:

- The Trust commissioned a hogweed control scoping study of the river Bogie shortly after its formation.
- In partnership with Huntly Fishing's, hogweed control was then instigated within this catchment and is still on-going to date.
- Hogweed control of the river Isla (a major seed source) was then commenced internally by the Trust around the same time.
- Control of other non-native species such as American Mink and Japanese Knotweed was also carried out on a small scale but not on a district wide approach.

# RAFTS Biosecurity Planning



During October 2008 the DBIT was selected as a trial area by RAFTS to write a Biosecurity Plan which helped consolidate and coordinate invasive control in the district. The main overall aim was the production of local Biosecurity plans for each of the then 20 trusts.

## Key project outputs and actions:

1. Bio-security plans for each of the 20 member trusts;
2. Formulation of a bio-security plan template;
3. Rapid response protocols and database
4. Awareness raising and training.

## Deveron District Bio-Security Plan

2009 - 2015



*DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION*



Prepared by

The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust

2009

Scottish Charity (SC 032131)

# Funding ?



- **District Biosecurity Plan Completed 2009**
- **Existing Known Invasive Species Mapped**

• **How are we going to implement the plan? No existing personnel time or funds available.....**

**A two tier project was formed:**

**Fisheries  
Development**



**Biosecurity**



# Deveron District Biosecurity and Fisheries Development Project



Launched November 2009

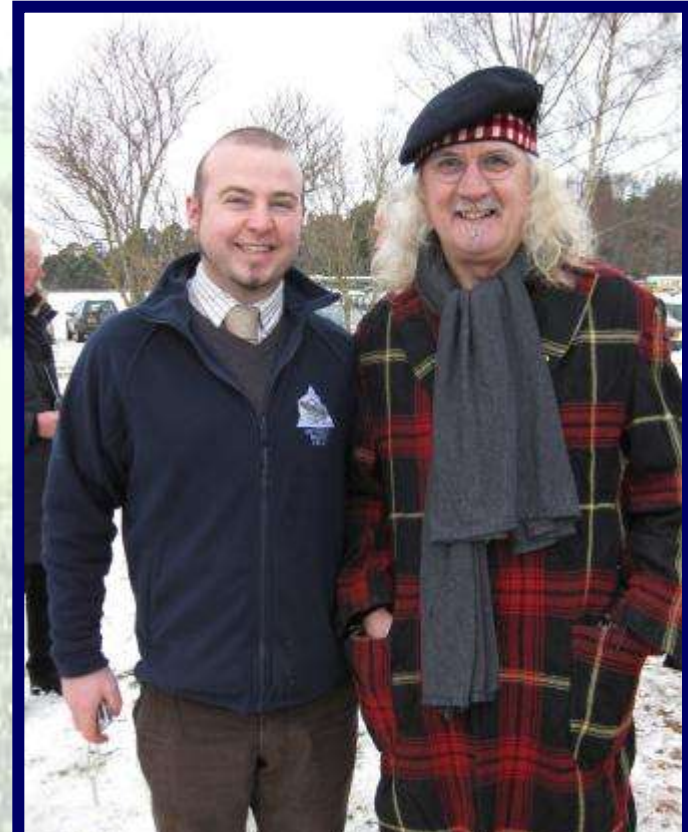
- to control and eradicate invasive non-native species (INNS) such as Giant Hogweed and American mink
- to promote Deveronside both locally and nationally as a top angling and visitor destination

A 3 year funding package (£120,000) was granted by:  
Aberdeenshire LEADER, SNH, The Scottish Government, Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council which allowed the Trust to employ a full-time Officer and also purchase the required project equipment.

# New Officer Profile.....



- Alastair Fenn Bsc (hons) - District Biosecurity & Fisheries Development Officer
- 4 years as Fisheries Officer (N.Ireland)
- River Bush Salmon Research Station, Bushmills
- Commenced with DBIT November 2009



*River Dee opening 2010*

# Responsibilities Include.....



*Mrs. "Tiny" Morrison, 61 lbs Salmon, 21<sup>st</sup> October 1924, Lower Shaws, River Deveron*

- **Enlistment & Co-ordination of 'River Champions' (volunteers) to carry out control work of invasive plant species and American Mink**
- **Establishment of Deveron Biosecurity Group**
- **Completion of Invasive non-native plant surveys**
- **Fisheries Development Programme**
- **Organisation of Deveron Fishing Festival 2011**

# Part 1..... Biosecurity



The following objectives are paramount to Part 1 of project;

- 1. Prevent the introduction and spread of INNS species within the district.**
- 2. Develop optimum detection and surveillance of, and rapid response to, new INNS.**
- 3. Develop effective control and eradication programs for INNS.**

# American mink – Case Study 1



## Progress so far:

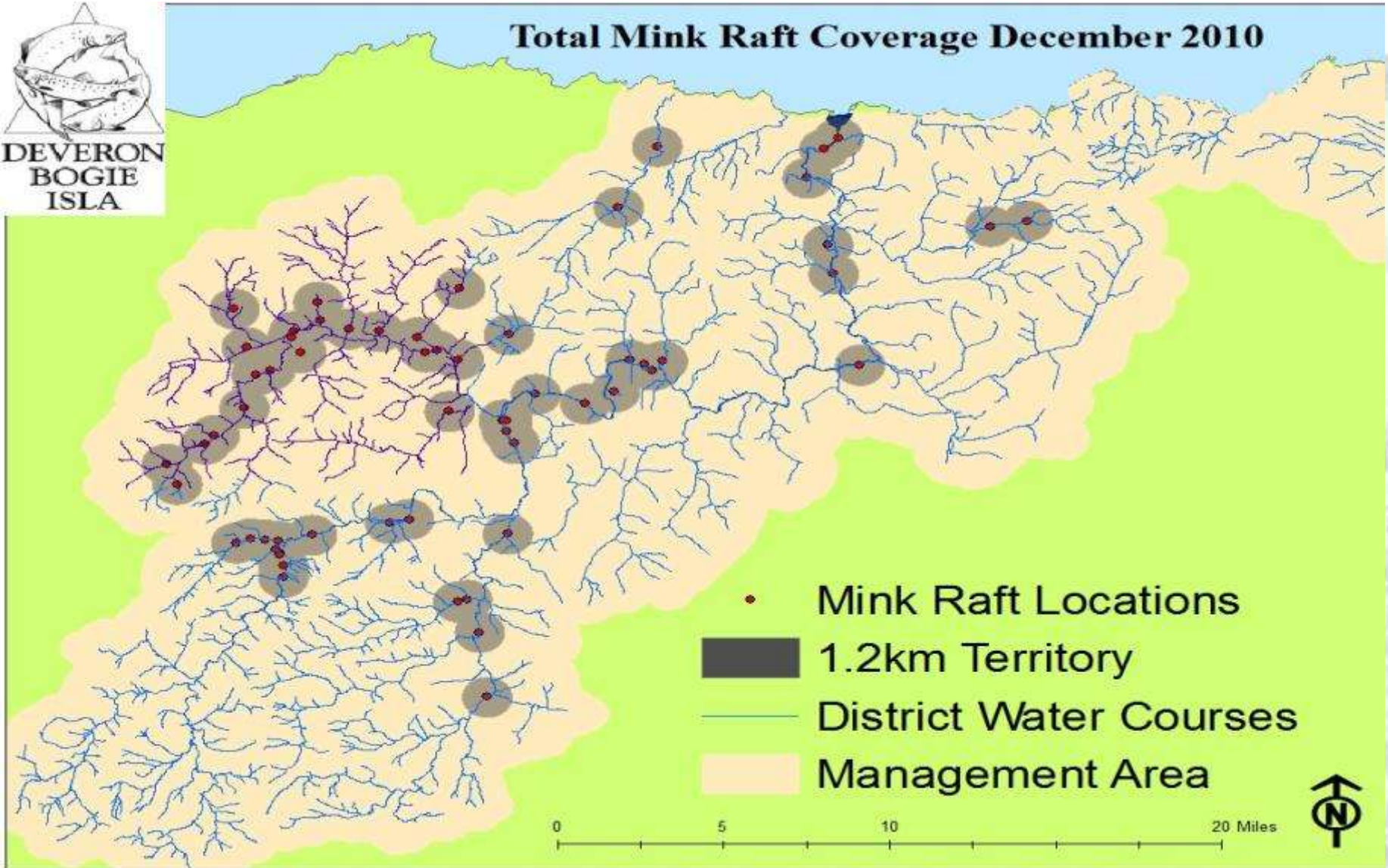
- 52** Volunteers enlisted to control Mink.
- 72** Mink Survey Rafts deployed into district.
- To date **118** Mink have been caught and dispatched.



# American mink – Case Study 1



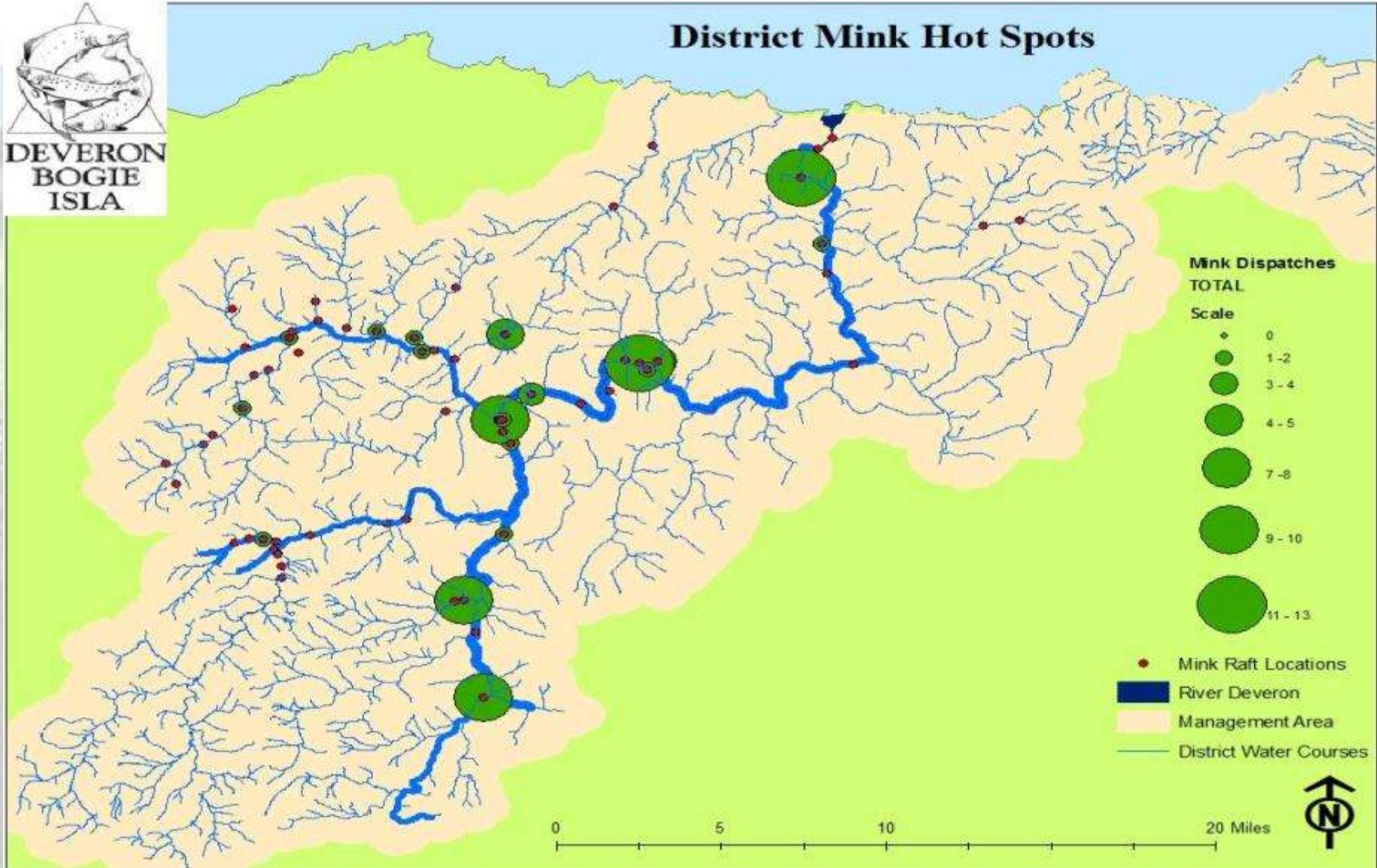
Total Mink Raft Coverage December 2010



# American mink – Case Study 1



## District Mink Hot Spots



# American mink – Case Study 1



*Paul Gambling*



*John McAvoy*

## Points of Interest;

- Since November 2009 only three members out of the public contacted have been fundamentally against mink control and its aims.
- Small holdings adjacent to watercourse and shooting syndicates have been very useful in gaining volunteers due to the threat of mink to poultry/game birds.
- Volunteers are often willing to check more than one trap if on the way to their work for example
- It seems Mink have no boundaries, many have been caught within town centers throughout the district!

# Biosecurity



Other species being controlled and prevented as part of the project are as follows;

- Giant Hogweed
- Japanese Knotweed
- Himalayan Balsam
- Gs

# Part 2.... Fisheries Development



The following are the main objectives of Part 2 of project;

- To promote Deveronside both locally and nationally as a top angling and visitor destination
  - Angling Youth Development



# Strategy



## Angling Youth Development Progress So Far;

### Children Learning to Fly !



- Purchase of 10;

Lifejackets

Fly Rod & Reels

Protective Glasses

- Presentations to various local Schools on angling and biodiversity


- X2 fly-fishing experiences completed with 40+ children on both river and still water



# Morison Trophy



KINDLY DONATED BY A G MORISON



INTRODUCING...



## The Morison Trophy

Awarded for the heaviest fly-caught salmon of the season from the Deveron

View it at Turriff Tackle and Trophies

Release your salmon to win a G-Loomis fly-rod worth £700

Catch it...  
Weigh it...  
Measure it...  
Verify it...  
Record it...  
Enter it...



Mrs 'Tiny' Morison's magnificent 61lb Deveron salmon. The heaviest UK fly-caught salmon.

**Closing date 4th November 2011**

For more details contact The Deveron Bogie & Isla Rivers Trust, Avochie, by Huntly AB54 7YY  
Tel 01466 711388 [www.deveron.org](http://www.deveron.org)

- Trophy named after Mrs 'Tiny' Morison whom caught Britain's largest fly-caught salmon from the Deveron.

- Made by Tarratt's from Silver and Belgian Limestone to simulate the famous dark pool.

- Awarded for the heaviest fly-caught salmon of the season from the Deveron.

- Commences 2011 season

**Trophy was kindly donated by  
Mr A.G. Morison of Mountblairy**

# Deveron LIVE



- The Trust partnered Farson Digital for Scotland's first network of live 'river cams' during March 2010.
- Gives recreational river users the ability to check and see the river conditions and colour.
- The cameras have been strategically positioned in the upper, middle and lower river to allow the monitoring of angling opportunities throughout the system.
- The webcams also give additional benefits such as flood monitoring.



# Case Study 2

## The Deveron Fishing Festival

**16-22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011**

- The generous donation of 19 of the district's famous beats.
- Hosting the beats will be a leading tackle manufacturer (Hardy / G-Loomis etc) or prominent angling organisation (GAIA), whose well known instructors will coach visiting anglers .
- From Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th "rods" will be open to members of the public who have applied in advance on-line to fish.
- On Thursday 19th to Saturday 21st festival trade tenants will invite their own guests, who are associated with fishery promotion throughout the UK

In association with



In association with



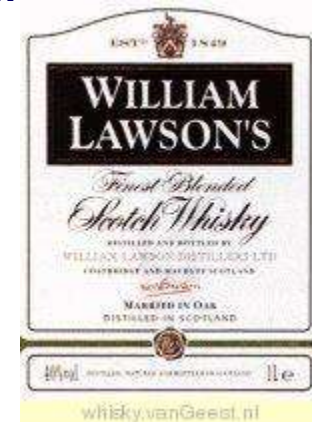
# Case Study 2

## The Deveron Fishing Festival

The story so far;

- Close to 300 anglers have now applied thus the 'fishing ballot' has now closed.
- Anglers not successful in the 'fishing ballot' are also invited to the beats to try out the various fishing tackle in a 'live river' situation.
- Evening entertainment has now been organised for festival participants such as two whisky tasting evenings in association with John Dewars and Sons Ltd.

In association with



# So the message is.....



## Come to Deveronside The Sun Always Shines!.....



This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Rural Aberdeenshire Leader 2007-2013 Programme