

Season 2001 on the River Gaula, Stjördal and Forra, Norway

After the all time record season on the Gaula in season 2000, the new season 2001 was met on the water of the Norwegian Flyfishers Club with high hopes. The winter in the Trøndelag area was extremely dry with very little rain and only little snow. Therefore we did not expect a spring flood caused by the snow melt early in the season. Early in May the temperatures reached a very comfortable level and the first salmon have been seen in the middle parts of the Gaula around Stören. Temperatures went down again with the end of May and the needed rain filled the river again. We started our season on June 1st with a gauge of 105 cm at Frøseth bridge and water temperatures which just had fallen from 8° to 5° Celsius. Ken Sawada took the first salmon at 13 hours midday in our Bridge Pool. The salmon had a weight of 19 lbs and took an "Orange Flame". In the Lower parts of the Gaula some very big salmon have been caught with spoons, the biggest had a weight of 47 lbs.

Due to the cold water temperatures fishing was done with heavy sinking lines and large flies, mostly tubeflies. Although the water temperatures were very low we saw several fish jumping which is unusual in beginning of June. Some of these fish were very big indeed. Even with fish showing on the surface and jumping completely out of the water the fishing was very difficult and not many fish took the fly. Most of these fish were lost. On June 5th Rory Wolf Muray managed to catch a fish which weighted 23 lbs. He took the fish in Lower Langøy Pool. Meantime the water temperatures reached 9° Celsius, the rain continued and the water level went up to 160 cm at the gauge. Roland Puff had a good start and took a salmon of 20 lbs, his personal best so far; right on his first day. More fish were taken within the next days: Ken Sawada (19 lbs), Rory Wolfe Muray (10 lbs), Roland Puff (12 lbs) and Chris Vanseer (24 lbs). Many fish were seen and several of our guests reported about very hard fights with big salmon which they finally lost. Especially the famous Bridge Pool was the starting place of a number of dramatic fights. Dr. Jens Fischer from Germany managed to hold his salmon of 29 lbs in the Pool and landed this fish safely. Some days later he had a second salmon this time 24 lbs. Other salmon left the pool forcing the fishermen to follow them over the "Gauntlet". Unfortunately all of these fish were lost close to the landing place some 500 m downstream. Roland Puff was one of the actors who had to follow his salmon. During the fight of more than 1 hour 15 minutes he had to hand over his rod to another fishermen because the fish was too strong. It was a very hard fight until finally the fish was lost. Chris Tarrant had a somewhat similar experience some days later. He followed the fish the whole way downstream and finally managed to get the 250 yards of Backing which the fish took back on his reel. Terry Oldfield was already waiting with the landing net. As close as 2,5 meter from the net the fish made another turn and sadly the hook came out. The salmon had a weight of about 30 lbs or even more.

Such hard fights are not normal but this seems to be different this season. Two more fish left Bridge Pool. Mr. Bauer from München was fishing alone during the night hours. The salmon took his fly with a very heavy take and left the pool immediately. During the fight the salmon took the complete Backing down to the knot. After more than one hour both the fish and the fishermen were tired. Mr. Bauer had the fish close to the bank but he could not land it alone. He managed to figure the size of this salmon and he said that this was a fish of more than 120 cm length and a weight of 40 lbs plus! He went back to the pool after finally loosing this monster, and hooked another big fish which he lost after some minutes before he caught a salmon of 12 lbs.



Andreas Witt caught this nice 21 pounder in the Junction pool



A perfect fishing week for Mr Dietrich in early June. He caught 5 salmon between 14 lbs and 27 lbs.



Dr. Jens Fischer from Kiel, Germany caught two excellent salmon in our famous Bridge Pool. The one on the photo weighted 24 lbs and another one of 29 lbs some days before.



Lars Terkildsen took five fish up to 20 lbs on the wtare of the Norwegian Flyfishers Club.

During week 25 the water temperatures reached 13 ° Celsius. All of our guests reported that they have seen many fish in the Pools of the Norwegian Flyfishers Club. The fishermen had many contacts and they caught a good number of nice and complete fresh fish between 12 and 20 lbs. Again the biggest fish have been lost. Mr. Schneid lost a fish of more than 30 lbs in our Long Pool while another salmon of 46 lbs was caught in the Lower parts of the Gaula. On the Gaulfossen pool a harling boat hooked a salmon which was played for 20 minutes in the pool. Then the salmon decided to go upstreams and entered the Gaulfossen rapids. Several guides and guests hold their breath: He went upstreams and took the flyline, plus 50 meter shooting line and 200 meter backing and broke the backing at the reel! The total catch statistics of the Gaula shows a good number of those very big 4-seawinter fish which we expected for this season. With the season progressing the average weight is slightly decreasing. On the NFC fly water there have been caught 88 salmon in June, with the average weight being around 14 pounds. Fishing improved tremendously thereafter. Week 27 begun with heavy rainfalls and a spate which resulted in a waterlevel of 2 meter at the gauge. The fishing started well with 15 fish being caught within the first two days of the week. This included a beautiful fresh 21 pounder caught and released by Barrie Welham .



Mr. McRory caught this fresh June salmon of 23 lbs.

Week 27 ended with 51 fish caught. After our record season in 2000 with a terrific total catch on the water of the Norwegian Flyfishers Club, it was hard to believe even from a very optimistic point of view that this result could be matched again. But week 28 had an even better result. The catch statistics showed an amazing 122 salmon at the end of the week. The average weight was high at 10.7 lbs. including the Grilse! This is an even higher average weight than last year. Most of the salmon caught are very strong two-seawinter fish. It was amazing to see that fish were taken in nearly all of our pools and the contacts with salmon and the number of lost fish was without a number. Week 29 brought a weeks catch of 91 fish. Honestly, our experienced rods have never before seen so many fish running the Gaula as in season 2001.

Now it is evident: Season 2001 has surpassed the all time record season 2000! On the 26th of July with a salmon of 20 lb, caught by Gerd Hemmrich from Nuernberg the result of the year 2000 was surpassed and since then quite a number of salmon have been caught. Week 30 showed another 58 fish in the NFC statistics.

The Official statistics shows (2nd November 2001) for the Gaula River the annual catch for season 2001 of 50.319,80 kg or 105.923 lbs! The catch consists of 48.945,5 kg salmon and 1.374,35 kg sea trout. The number of salmon up to 3 kg was 5.249, the major share of the catch had 5036 two sea winter salmon totalling 25.187,6 kg and there were 1.437 large salmon (larger than 7 kg) included with a total of 12.266,6 kg. This was the best season since the Official statistics were introduced more than 100 years ago!

Fishing in August was very nice as well. The pools were filled up with fish of all sizes. We have hardly seen as many fish in the pools before in the past years. Experienced rods had great catches of up to 11 fish per week. But August was also a very good start for many newcomers on our water and especially newcomers to salmon fishing. Robin Gow, head instructor of Orvis UK, came over from England to teach interested fishermen the art of salmon fishing. All participants during his course in week 33 caught fish. Some of them up to 18,5 lbs. Another group of fishermen from Potsdam, Germany, all of them new to salmon fly fishing, which came with their local Orvis dealer, also enjoyed a fantastic fishing. Among their catches

there salmon of 22 lbs, 21,6 lbs and 17,6 lbs. Week 32 for example produced a total of 35 salmon with only 10 rods and an average weight of 9,1 lbs. Orvis has been definitely the month which permitted quite a number of beginners to catch their first salmon ever, whilst experienced rods did very well.

Fishing continued on this high level until the end of the season. The last fish on the water of the Norwegian Flyfishers Club was a nice 18-pounder on the last day which was caught and carefully released by Terry Oldfield.

Our new beat on the Stjørdal and Forra had good results as well. Individual rods have been taking up to 10 fish per week. The biggest fish was a cracking 46-pounder which was kept for the local hatchery. We are sure that this beat will provide us with very interesting fishing during the next years. This beat is historical known for his qualities especially for very big salmon. During the last two years it produced four salmon of 43,7 lbs, 46 lbs, 47 lbs and 51,4 lbs ! This beat might be the quest for those fishermen who think that they have already reached the top. Some of the top places require an experienced rod to cover the water properly but there are also very good chances for less experienced fishermen. The part of the Forra which is included in this beat can also be fished with a single handed rod and beginners as the pools are smaller in size are nicely structured.

After all we have to conclude again. Fishing has reached a level which we did not dare to dream about only a few years ago. Due to the amazing number of salmon which are seen in the river preparing for spawning we can have the realistic hope that this trend continues for the next years. Based on the fact that the dominant group of fish last season were the two seawinter fish, we should see very many large salmon of around 9-11 kg next season. The high number of grilse this year indicates we will be seeing a good number of two seawinter fish included in the catch next season again. Finally the beautiful size of around 13 -. 14 kg, the "30 pounders" should be more numerous than in normal years next year. But we will have to wait and see, the salmon biology is always good for a surprise.

9. Nov. 2001

Welcome to the UK Salmon Spey Casting School

During the last years we had salmon fishing courses on our water regularly. New from 2001 onwards: A professional English casting tutor will be leading one fishing course next season: Robin Gow, APGAI instructor, the official leader of the "Orvis School of progressive Fly Casting" in England. We are sure that this is one of the best ways to learn salmon fishing. For the more experienced of our guests this offers the possibility to learn more tricks and special casts. The first three days will be a combination of tuition with fishing, but the emphasis will be on the casting. The later part of the week we will concentrate on the fishing aspect, and allowing you to fish without being pestered by the instructors, however we will be keeping a watch full eye on you from a distance and being on hand if requested. The main point of the week will be to have fun while fishing. This is an ideal opportunity to learn fishing on nice salmon water with the chance to catch salmon



Bridge Pool, Foto: A. Witt

Programme for 2002:

Dates August 18-25, 2002

Instructor: Robin Gow

This week' s course will cover the following aspects of Salmon fishing

Salmon Habitat
Life cycle
Casting
Overhead
Roll cast
Single and double Spey (both banks)
Shooting line
Ariel mends
Tackle choice and set up
Leader construction and knots
Downstream Tactics and methods
Playing a fish
Catch and release
Safe wading
Fishing etiquette

We will cover the basics of over-head, roll, shooting line and most of the week will be learning how to 'Spey'cast from both sides of the river bank. We will also show some of the more fun casts such as the Anaconda roll, Ariel mends, Devon Switch, etc.

Private courses If you intend improve your casting or to learn special casts you can always book one of our guides. It is also possible to organise a private course for single fishermen or a small party. If you might be interested in such a special offer please contact us as soon as possible.

Please contact us directly in Germany:

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Tilseth Pool, Foto: A. Witt



Long pool, Foto: A. Witt



New pool, Foto: A. Witt