

Season 2002

Even with such an extraordinary summer bringing extremely low water conditions like last year, the official statistics showed a total catch for the Gaula of 33.287 kg or 73.398 pounds. This is the third best result for the Gaula since the statistics were introduced over a hundred years ago. This fantastic result once again shows that the Gaula is one of the most reliable salmon rivers in Scandinavia.

Unusually warm conditions from April onwards - (highest temperatures in 40 years)- resulted in not much snow left in the mountains at the beginning of the season. June opened with normal summer water levels and temperatures were more like July than early June. Nature generally was two or three weeks ahead of normal. The fish started to run very early and we saw plenty of action in all of our Pools even before the season began. Fishing was very good right from day one.

Salmon being caught were bright silver and had a good average weight of 18,5 lbs., with many fish over 22 pounds. They offered very exciting sport as we could already fish with floating lines, long leaders and small flies. It was amazing to see these very big fish take a fly just breaking the surface in an impressive manner. Greased Line conditions during the time of the big springers! These big fish even responded to dry flies!

As the season continued the temperatures slowly rose. June did not produce much rain and we were already facing a low water situation by the end of the month. In the first week of July fishing became rather tricky although tactics like the riffling hitch still produced a good number of salmon. With rain in week 28 fishing began to improve producing 52 fish on our water and most importantly these were mainly two and three- sea- winter fish! The average weight after week 28 was still up at 15,9 lbs. The next few weeks continued with a mixture of rain and sun. Although we never had a real flood and the water level was low compared to normal years, fishing was still very good. The natural salmon stock of the Gaula has reached a very high level and the amount of fish in the pools was just amazing.

Fishing continued to be productive with more than 50 fish caught per week and a high average weight until week 31 during which we had low water for the first few days. Our fishermen concentrated on the night hours but it proved to be difficult to hook and land the fish.

Suddenly without any hint in the weather forecast we had extremely heavy rain which was caused by a thunderstorm a little bit higher up the Gaula. The water level rose 70 cm in 2 hours and now the water level was good again. For a short while the fishing was much improved and some good fish were caught. The best one by Peter Hansen in the Tilseth Pool weighing in at slightly over 20 pounds. But from now on the heat brought the water temperature up to 22°C and the river was becoming seriously low, off the gauge for most of the time.

After the end of the season there was heavy rain and the Gaula had a peak water level of 1,50 m above normal summer level. Enormous numbers of fish, including many grilse, which had been notably few during the season, used this flood to run upstream. Test fishing later on in September confirmed both the heavy stock of spawners in the river as well as the missing grilse seemed to have finally arrived.

Fishing at the Stjørdal was quite tricky due to the hot and dry summer this year.

But at many stages the river benefited strongly from the guaranteed minimum flow which provided a fishable level during the most serious draught conditions. When the natural flow of the Gaula was badly reduced by the heat and low water we were able to organize for several of our guests to make day trips over to our Stjørdal/Forra beat. Happily these trips produced a good number of fish for our guests.

Thanks a lot, hope you have time to help us.

Best wishes,
Manfred

Please call for any vacant rods.

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