

## Season 2018 On The Gaula

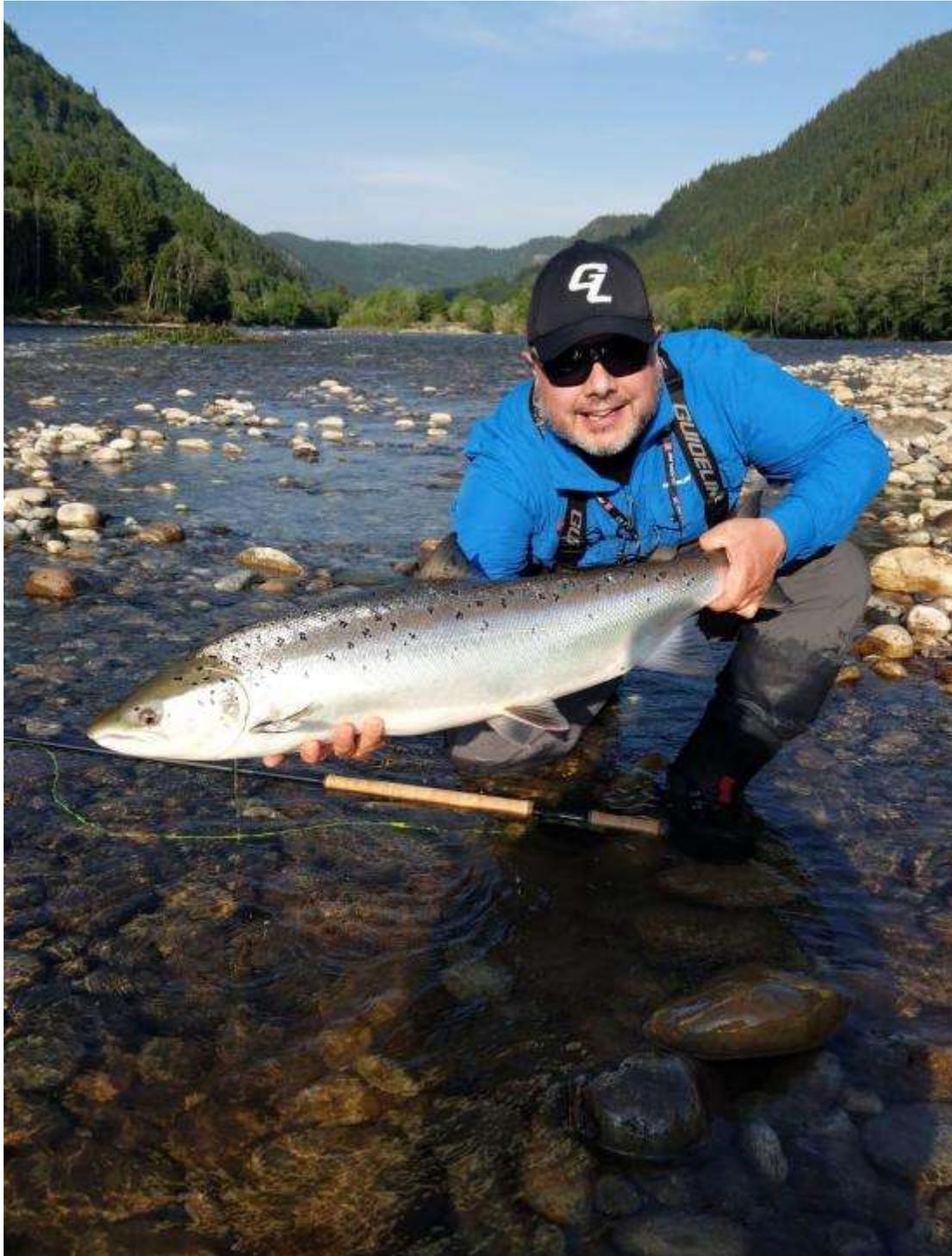
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### Unusually season start on the NFC Beats on the Gaula

03.07.2018

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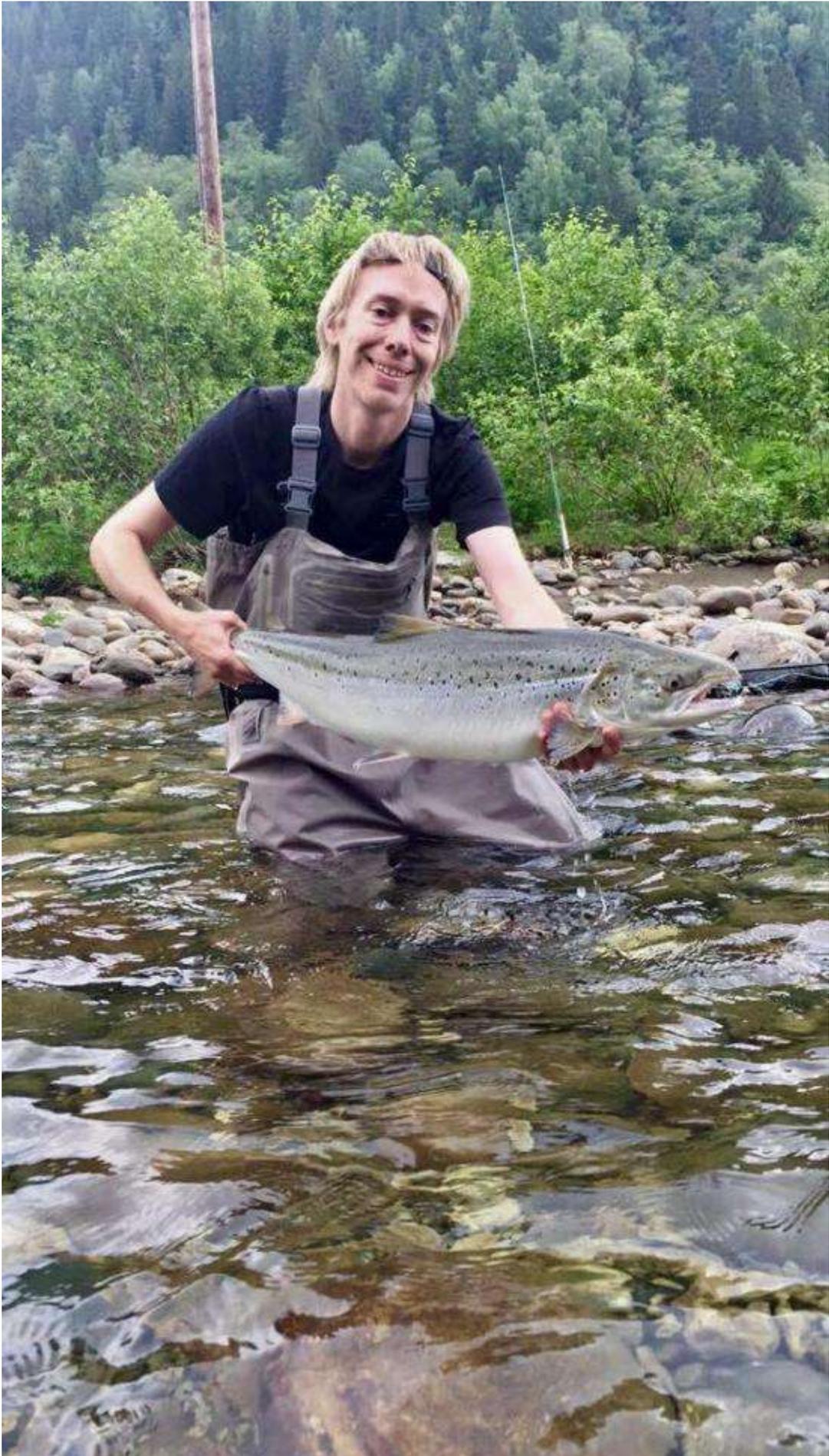
May was in Norway almost as warm as in the rest of Europe and we found conditions for the season, which we have never seen before. The thermometer did show 15 degree, not in the shadow... it was the water temperature. Usually the water level is high and the water temperature is cold, but this year the Gaula had only 60 m<sup>3</sup>/second on the Gaulfossen.



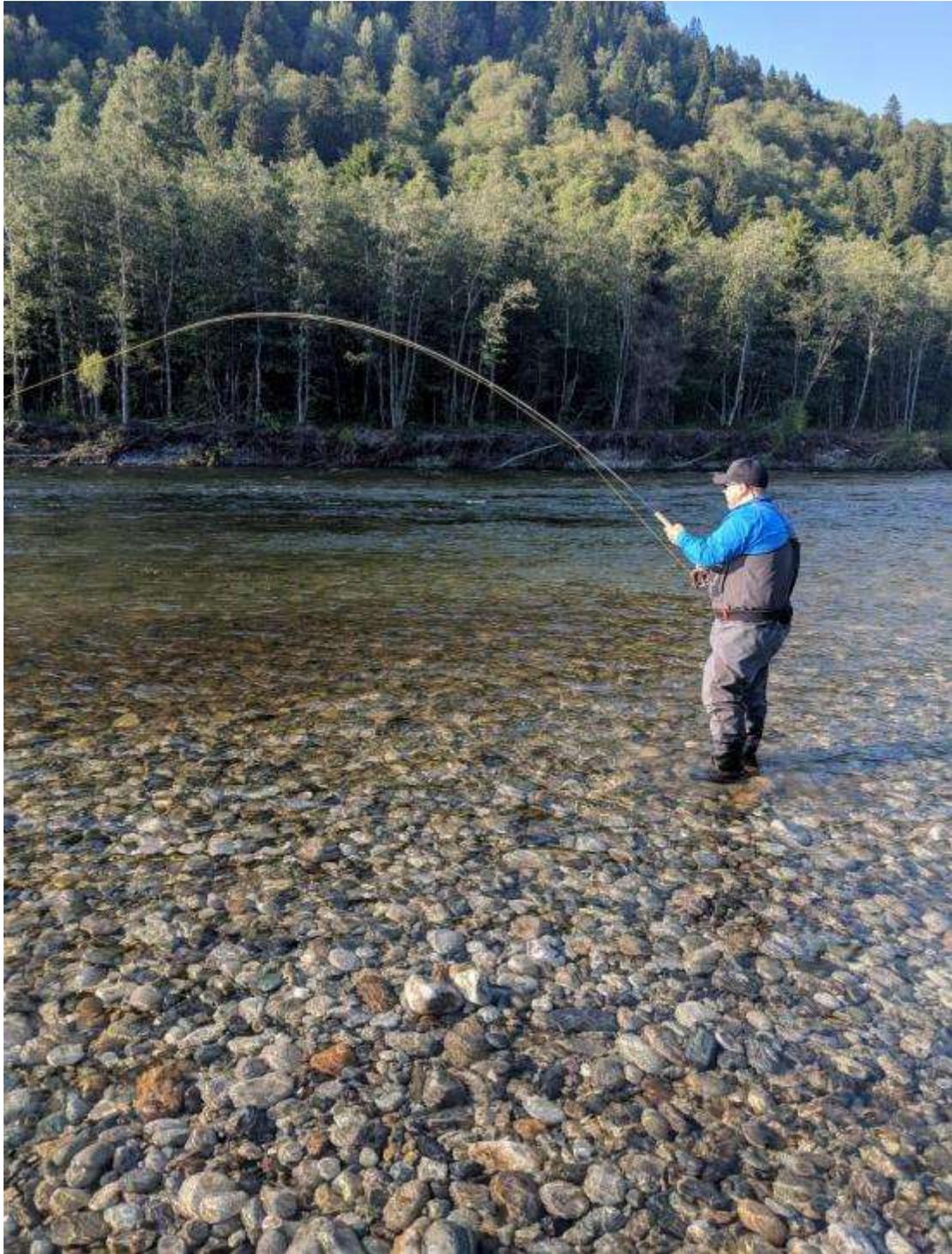
Alessio with his salmon of 99 cm length from Beat D2a.

The salmon were already two weeks before the start of the season able to pass the Gaulfossen easily. So it was not a big surprise that we were able to see fish above the Gaulfossen several days before the season started. All guests have been very

exited when they saw the crystal clear water in front of the lodge on the 31. May. The guests rigged their rods and started to fish all the beats from Kotsoy all the way down to Kval. Unfortunately some heavy rain with substantial hail made the fishing during the first night quite difficult. The river came up to 108 m<sup>3</sup>/second on the Gaulfossen and in addition the lower beats in Kval were heavily coloured. But it only took until 13:00 until the first fish was landed on the NFC Beats. It was Thies Reimers who landed the first fish, weighing approx. 7,5 kg, on the Beat BS1. After a quick picture Thies was able to release the fish carefully.



In the afternoon it was Alessio Farloni who was able to land a nice salmon of 99 cm on Beat D2a. Also he was able to release his salmon carefully after a quick picture.



Alessio Farloni is fighting his first salmon of the season 2018.

As well Hernan Garcia lost a nice salmon on the Beat BS1. Even with some quite difficult conditions a good result for the first day of the season. On Saturday 3 more salmon have been caught on the NFC Beats. Philip Burcher caught a nice fish of approx. 7,5 kg on beat BS1, Thies Reimers landed his second fish of the season of approx. 7 kg on beat E7 and Daniel Stephan was able to land a nice fish of approx. 8,5 kg on beat C1. All fish were carefully released.



Thies with his second fish of the season from beat E7.

This looks like a very good season start on the NFC Beats on the Gaula.

There are a few rods vacant during the following weeks. If you would like to fish the Gaula during the following weeks, please do not hesitate to contact us by Email: [raguse@t-online.de](mailto:raguse@t-online.de) or by phone: 0049 (0) 40 589 2302.

**Good season start but historical low water conditions followed afterwards**

*03.07.2018*

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The 2018 season start on the NFC Beats was quite successful. Following the two nice salmon caught by Thies Reimers and the fish caught by Alessio Farloni the guests of the Norwegian Flyfishers Club were able to land 13 further salmon on the NFC Beats. The biggest salmon so far was caught by Dominique Slansky on Beat E1A and measured 104 cm. He released his fish after a quick picture.



Dominique and Thies with Dominique's salmon of 104 cm. (Photo: Nic Schwerdtfeger)

Also Matt Harris was able to land two salmon during his week. He landed his first fish of 7-8 kg on beat C2 and his second fish of approx. 8 kg on beat E1A. He released both fish carefully.



Matt with his first salmon of approx. 7 kg from beat C2.

Also Alessandro Negri was able to land a nice fish of 95 cm length and approx. 8,5 kg on beat D2a.

It was the warmest May since the weather records started in 1900. Kotsoy, where the Bogen Beat is located, was the warmest place in Norway. They measured 29,9 degrees on 30. May 2018.

The fishing got quite difficult during the last two weeks. An almost historical low water situation made it very difficult for the fishermen. The water level on the Gaulfossen dropped to 11,6 m<sup>3</sup>/second, a low water situation which we usually expect to happen not before August, if at all. But there is some rain in the forecast and this should improve the fishing a lot. We are very excited because the amount of fish in the Gaula river is quite impressive. We see every day bigger and smaller groups of fish passing by the lodge. Large and medium size fish are coming up the river in big numbers, but also the first grilse have already been spotted. A very impressive spectacle.

It already started to rain, the water level came up quite a bit and the first salmon have been landed. We will let you know more about the details in due course.

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### Some rain improved the fishing

03.08.2018

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After two weeks with a extremely low water level, considering it was just middle of June (the water level at Gaulfossen dropped to 11 m<sup>3</sup>/second), we finally got some rain and the river rose for a short while up to a normal summer level. We saw a large number of fish running and anticipated rightly the fishing to improve as soon as the water was falling again.



Thomas Mahnke and his guide Simon with his nice salmon of 105 cm.

Thomas Mahnke experienced some good fishing. He managed to land a nice salmon of approx. 6,5 kg on Beat B1 in the morning and in the afternoon he caught a beautiful salmon of 105 cm and approx. 11 kg on Beat E2.

But as well during the low water the guests managed to catch some nice fish. For example Kerry Hardy, who landed a nice salmon of approx. 5 kg on Beat BS1.



Kerry Hardy with his salmon of approx. 5 kg from Beat BS1.

Also Eilif Eckhoff landed a nice salmon of approx. 8 kg on Beat E6. The water level on the Gaulfossen measured at this time only 11 m<sup>3</sup>/second.



Eilif released his salmon carefully.

Short before the water started to rise Takuo Noda from Japan managed to land a nice fish on Beat E1a.



Takuos salmon from Beat E1a.

Even whilst the water was rising quickly a few fish still took our flies. So did for example Thomas Mechler manage to land a nice salmon of 85 cm on Beat C2.



Thomas Mechler with his salmon from Beat C2.

On the next morning the water was up to 60 m<sup>3</sup>/second on the Gaulfossen and Fabrice Bergues used his chance on the pool below the Lodge and landed a beautiful salmon of approx. 13 kg.



Fabrice playing his fish of approx. 13 kg.



Fabrice releasing his beautiful salmon...

Also Johan Bstieler managed to land a beautiful salmon of approx. 8 kg on Beat B1 and also Dieter Brede landed a nice fish of approx. 3,5 kg on Beat E1.



Dieter Brede with his salmon from Beat E1.

During the evening Mawill Lüdenbach showed once again that Beat BS2 provides always a good chance when the water has come up. He managed to land a beautiful fish of 11,6 kg. Sadly, the fish was deeply hooked and was bleeding so that it could not be released.



Mawill with his nice salmon of 11,6 kg.

Rodney Boswell was the next fisherman who landed a nice fish of 5 kg after only one hour of fishing. Also, Rainer Heneka caught a nice fish of approx 8 kg on Beat BS1 and Thies Reimers managed to land another fish of approx. 9 kg, this time on Beat G1. All these fish were carefully released.



Thies Reimers landed this fresh salmon on Beat G1.

Like mentioned above, Thomas Mahnke managed to catch a super nice fish on Beat E2. In the following picture you can see that the fish was in great conditions.



Salmon like this one caught by Thomas Mahnke are the dream of every salmon fisherman.

After that it was Andreas Winter, the new chef at the Lodge who was able to land two nice fish at the Lodge Pool.



Andreas with his first salmon.



Andreas with his second salmon of the day.

Erlend Granøien landed the next salmon of the day. He fished Beat C2 and was able to land a nice salmon of approx. 5kg. It looks like that there are a lot of these medium sized fish in the Gaula this year.



Erlend with his nice salmon from Beat C2.

As well Thies Reimers managed to land another nice salmon of approx. 6 kg on Beat BS1.



Thies with his salmon from Beat BS1.

Although the water level dropped back to 10m<sup>3</sup>/second at the Gaulfossen, week 27 started with a few nice fish caught. We will show you these fish in our next update.

### **Historical low water conditions, but still some fish were caught**

*03.08.2018*

The Gaula has as early in the season never been so low as it is at present – certainly not during the last hundred years. The water level has dropped to almost 5 m<sup>3</sup>/sec. and surprisingly fresh fish still seem to run upstream. And some of our fishers are catching fish.

Andreas Winter caught two more fish on our Beat at the Lodge – one of 6kg (13b) and another of about 7kg (15.5lb).



Andreas Winter with his 2nd fish of this session – approx. 7kg (15.5lb).

Also newly arrived guest Robert Ramisch from Germany caught a nice fish on the same stretch slightly upstreams. Robert's fish measured 93cm and was estimated to weigh about 8kg (17.5lb).



Robert Ramisch with his salmon of 93cm.

The same evening Thomas Mahnke caught another fish at the same spot measuring 82 cm, as well Jean-Luc Verstraeten who was able to catch and release a great fish of 91cm, approx. 8,5kg (18.5lb).



Thomas Mahnke with his salmon of 82 cm caught on the small pool just above the Lodge.

On the E-Beats a grilse was landed by Adrian Kendrick. Manfred Raguse landed a grilse and a 66cm fish within halve an hour and returned both fish carefully. Mathias Vorweg and Werner Brinker were successful and caught some seatrout.



Manfred Raguse with a fresh run fish covered in sea lice, measuring 66 cm.

Gust Florus from Belgium, managed to land a nice salmon fishing beat E1a, which he estimated to weigh about 6,5kg (14.5lb).



Gust Florus with his nice salmon weighing approximately 6,5kg (14.5lb) from Beat E1a.

Sacha Pütz, well known fly tier from Germany, had a good start of his week with a fish of 6kg (13b) on Beat C1 followed by two big fish on Beat E6 on the next day of about 8kg (17.5lb) and 8,5kg (18.5lb).



Sacha Pütz with his first fish weighing approximately 8kg (17.5lb), caught on Beat E6.



Sacha Pütz with his second fish, weighing in with 8,5kg (17.5lb).

It seems the number of seatrout has increased again, as some were caught during salmon fishing on the lower Gaula. All seatrout were released carefully.

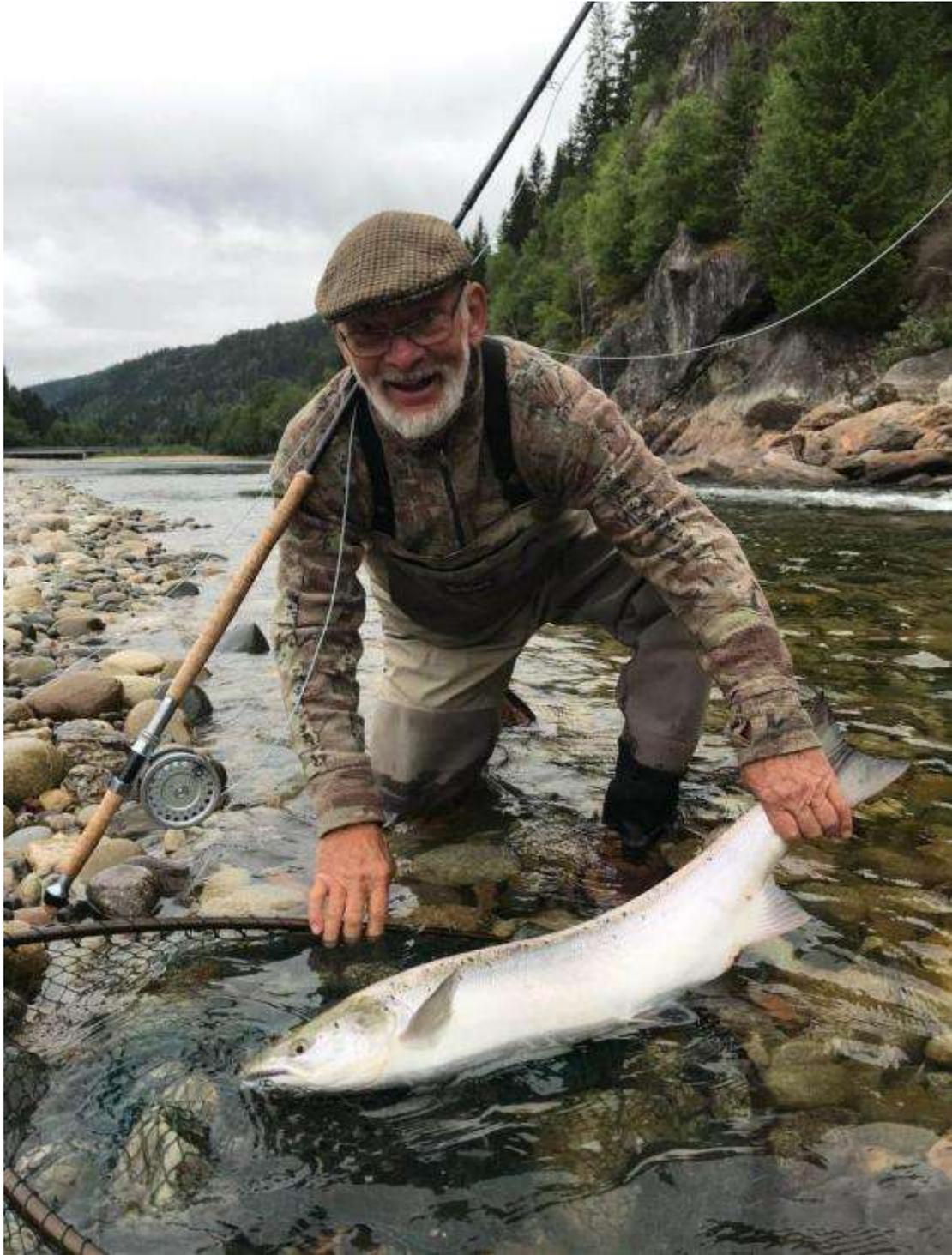
Jan Hocke from Germany landed a nice fish from Beat E2 measuring in at 86cm.



Jan Hocke with his salmon from Beat E2 – measuring 86cm.

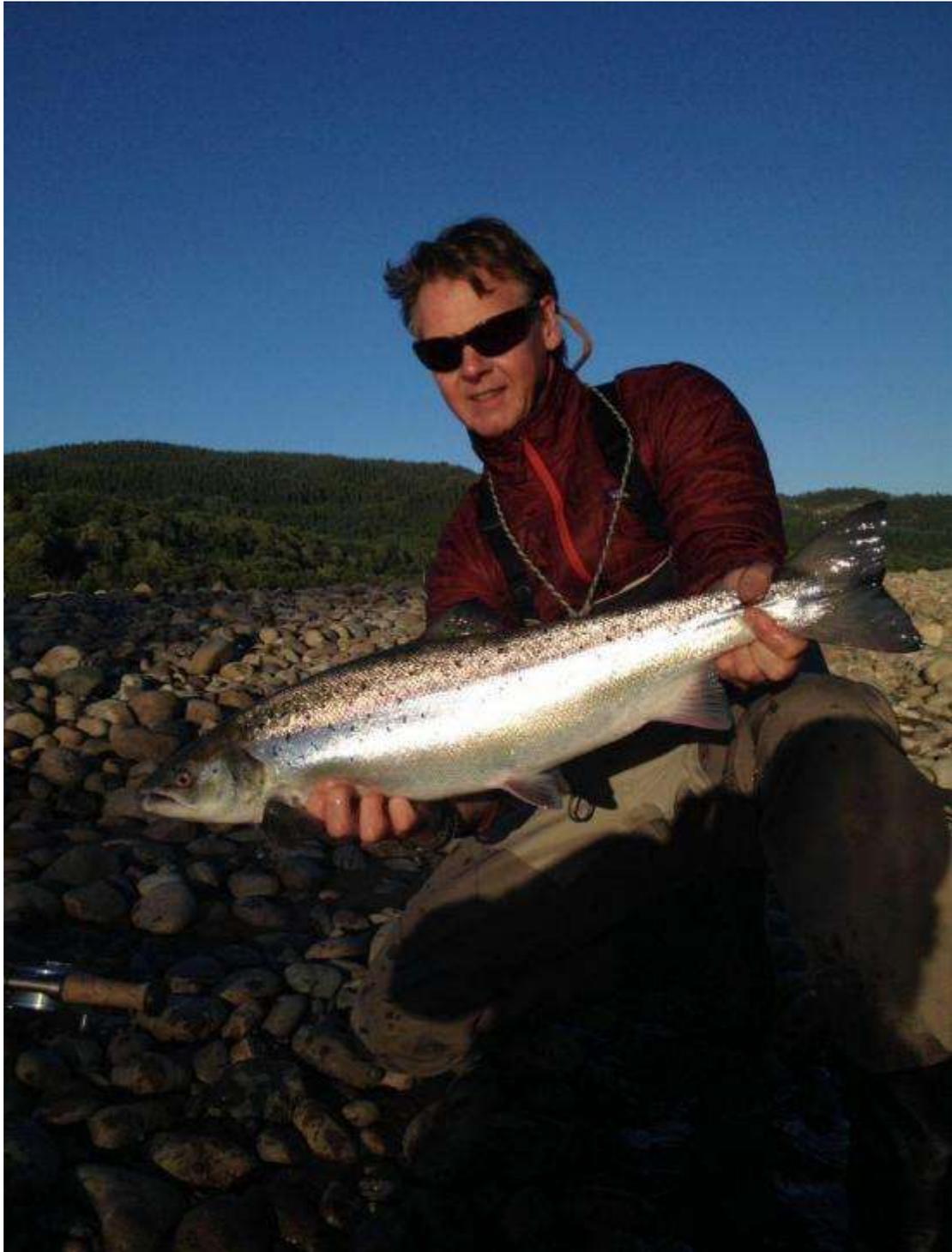
During the following days the river continued to drop to even lower levels and fish began to concentrate in the more oxygenated faster water at the heads of the pools.

Despite the low level, Danish guest Poul Nielsen fished Beat BS2 and found responsive fish. After two fish boiling under his fly he hooked a nice fish and was able to catch and release a salmon measuring 88cm, estimated to weigh about 6,5kg (14.5lb).



Poul Nielsen with his beautiful salmon from Beat BS2.

As well Andreas Winter succeeded again, he managed to catch and release his next salmon, this time on Beat E7.



Andreas Winter with a fresh fish of about 4kg (9lb).

Some fish were caught until the end of last week by Mathias Vorweg, Hans E-Wolff, Hernan Garcia and Christian Tamcke, they were able to catch a few more grilse. Christian Tamcke also caught a good sized fish of 90cm estimated to weigh about 7kg (15lb) on Beat E6.

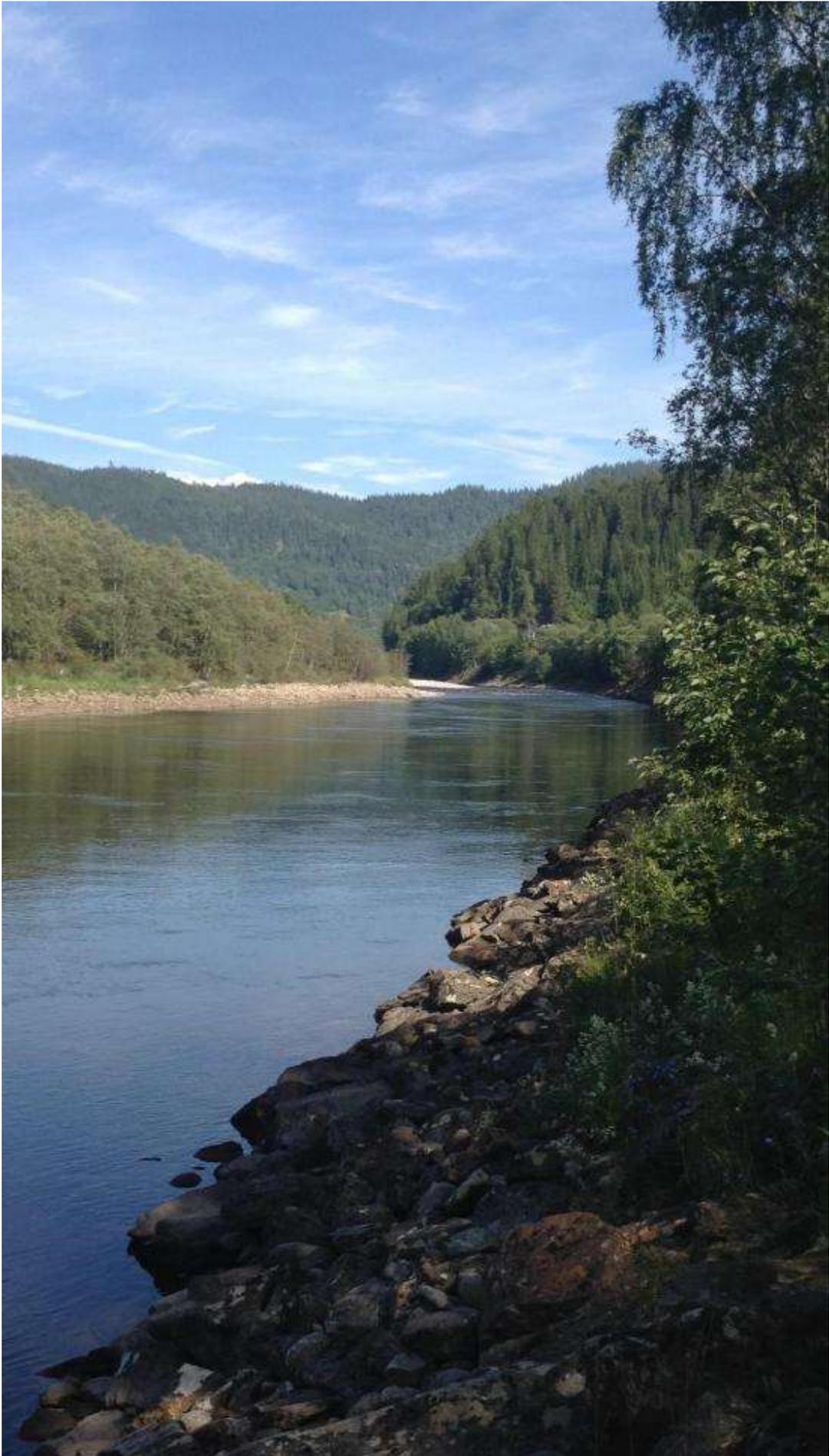
With the river level still historical low for this time of year the chances to catch fish are best in the lower reaches of the river. Higher upstream the fast pieces of water are best. Some of the fishers had response to dry flies and hitched tube flies. From Sunday to Monday it rained again a bit and the river came up to 30 m<sup>3</sup>/ sec. at Gaulfossen and following this rise some more fish were caught. We keep you posted.

**Low water and temporary closure of the Gaula**

*19.08.2018*

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Who followed our last updates about the fishing on the Gaula noticed one thing: the words low water level or low water was mentioned quite often. This did not really change during the last weeks. It was extremely hot in the Gaula valley and the common Norwegian summer rain never came. It was only a question of time until the water temperature and the water level would get into a critical level for the fish.



Low Water on the Gaula, here you can see the Lodge Pool.

The water level dropped to 7 m<sup>3</sup>/Second on the Gaulfossen and with air-temperatures of up to 32 degrees in the day time and sometimes more than 20 during the night, the water temperature came up to over 20 degrees.



Water temperature in the evening at the Lodge, the thermometer shows almost 24 degrees.

The logical consequence was that the Gaula got completely closed for fishing on the 28.07.2018, until the situation changes.

But before the river got closed, some nice fish have been caught on the NFC Beats. It was once again nice to see that especially the lower Gaula beats were producing constantly fish even in these low water conditions.



Guy Stamet with a grilse from Beat E6.

Guy Stamet managed to land a nice grilse of approx. 2kg. Also Uwe Zdralek and Roger Pit were able to land one nice grilse each on Beat E6. Also Andre Scholz caught a nice salmon of approx.. 6,5 kg. But also the NFC-Beats above the Gaulfossen produced some nice fish. For example managed Vladimir Samarin to land a nice salmon of approx. 6 kg on Beat C2, which he released carefully.



Vladimir Samarin playing his fish on Beat C2.

In the meantime, we have experienced a clear change of weather on the Gaula. The daytime temperatures and especially the nighttime temperatures have dropped significantly, and the water is slowly getting cooler again. On Friday morning, the water temperature was a little less than 18 degrees and, in the afternoon, it finally started to rain. This good news has been the reason why the river management decided to reopen the river after 6 days closure on Thursday evening at 6pm. We are curious to see what will happen in the next few days and keep you up to date.

**After brief closure, the Gaula is reopened - the highest water level of the season also ensures the best fishing of the season**

*19.08.2018*

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For a long time we have been waiting for the rain and seeing the river so low and without anglers, was very unusual during the season. As we wrote in our last update, the Gaula reopened on Thursday evening as the weather forecast for the coming

days predicted much cooler weather with rain. This time, the weather report should finally be right and on Friday afternoon it finally started to rain. The water level rose to over 100 m<sup>3</sup> / second on the Gaulfossen and with the fresh water, the fish were immediately active.



Thies with his salmon of approx. 9 kg from Beat B1.

Thies Reimers was able to land one fish of approx. 7,5 kg on Beat BS1 and later in the evening he caught another salmon of approx. 9 kg on Beat B1. He released both fish carefully.

Also, Hernan Garcia landed a nice salmon of 88 cm on Beat C2.

In the evening it started again to rain heavily and on the next day the Gaula rose to 323 m<sup>3</sup>/ sec. at the Gaulfossen. This was the highest water level of the season so far! Already in the morning Thies Reimers and Daniel Stephan fished Beat BS2. What they experienced there, is almost unbelievable. Within 3 hours they landed together 7 salmon between 4 and 8,5 kg. A fishery which you do not experience every day on the Gaula.



Daniel with a female salmon of approx 8,5 kg from Beat BS2.



Thies with a salmon of approx. 7 kg, which he landed as well on Beat BS2.

The river has already dropped to below 60 m<sup>3</sup> / second, but the Norwegian weather forecast also predicts the next rainfall. The net fishing in the fjord is closed since Friday, August 3, for this year and the strong increase in water flow should motivate the salmon, which have been waiting for a long time now in the fjord for a better water level, to enter the river very soon. We are curious how things will continue in the next few days and keep you up to date.

There are some rods vacant until the end of the season. If you would like to fish the Gaula during the current 2018 season, please do not hesitate to contact us by Email: [raguse@t-online.de](mailto:raguse@t-online.de) or by phone: 0049 (0) 40 589 2302. With still some rain in the forecast the fishing should be good in the coming days.

**Great season ending on the Gaula and a very promising forecast for the season 2019. 13.09.2018**

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As difficult as the fishery was in June and July, with historical low water conditions most of the time, so exiting was August, the last month of the season. August was colder and we had more rain than in an average year. Whenever the water level had just dropped to a slightly lower level, the next rain came and provided gave us with new water. It is not an exaggeration to talk about top conditions in most parts of August.



Very impressive tail of an Atlantic Salmon. Some of the fish in August were huge!

The water level was quite high during the last three weeks of the season and we experienced some very good fishing. The salmon which have been in the river for some time started to move further upstream and also some fresh fish came into the river. It is quite some time ago that we saw so many fresh and silver fish running in late August, like we did this year and we are not only talking about small Grilse, we are also talking about fish exceeding the meter mark and bigger!



A very fresh and completely silver fish from late August which was caught at BS2 and was estimated to weigh approx. 6,5 kg.

David Williams, who is an enthusiastic, but not very experienced salmon fisher, enjoyed the first week of August on the NFC Beats and managed to land 3 fish during his week. Two smaller Grilse in the lower Gaula Beats and a very nice female of approx. 6,5 kg on the Lodge Beat. He returned all fish carefully.



David and his Guide Hernan with Davids salmon of approx. 6,5 kg from the Lodge Pool.

Like you can see on the picture, the Gaula already rose quite a bit and got a fishy colour due to a lot of August rain - finally promising nice conditions following a long and dry summer.

Anna Lunde was able to land as well a good conditioned salmon on Beat C2. She estimated the weight to approx. 9kg and released the fish carefully after a quick picture.



Anna Lunde with her salmon of approx. 9kg from Beat C2.

Andreas Grass from Germany, who fished on the Gaula during the difficult conditions earlier during the season, came up for a short visit and this paid off immediately. Although he only had 4 days of fishing, he managed to land 9 salmon! He landed the first salmon of his trip in the morning after he arrived on Beat BS2. The water level at the Gaulfossen was almost 700m<sup>3</sup>/second and it took only a few casts until he hooked the first fish in the top of BS2.



High and brown water, which is covering the bank high up into the trees, made wading in some places almost impossible. Experienced anglers like to see the river like this. The Gaula is hardly ever too

High and brown water, which is covering the bank high up into the trees, made wading in some places almost impossible. Experienced anglers like to see the river like this. The Gaula is hardly ever too high to be fishable.



Already after a few casts managed Andreas to hook his first fish.



The reward for a long journey, following a decision in favor of a short notice trip to the Gaula: a beautiful salmon of about 8.5 kg.



Andreas released his salmon after a quick picture.

Andreas was able to land his largest fish in Beat C2. The slightly coloured hen fish measured 97 cm and was estimated to weigh around 10 kilo.



Andreas with a nice female of 97 cm from Beat C2.

Also Thies Reimers managed to land two nice fish. At first he landed a nice coloured female of 103 cm on Beat C1 and one day after he caught a almost silver male of 102 cm on Beat BS1.



This releases a female of 103 cm from Beat C1.



This person also released this cock fish measuring 102 cm from Beat BS1 carefully.

Also Kristoffer Lokken managed to land a beautiful fish on Beat C2. His salmon was 110 cm long and he released the fish after a quick picture.



Kristoffer with his salmon of 110 cm from Beat C2.

Big coloured fish, which entered the river earlier during the season, started to move again and came on the take. The three largest fish of the season on the NFC Beats were all caught during the last week of the season! Daniel Stephan was the first one who hooked one of the really big fish, whilst he fished Beat A1 in almost 400m<sup>3</sup>/second (at Gaulfossen), after he finished his job at the lodge. He got a massive take in the lower part of the pool and the fish was not really moving. Thies Reimers was fishing the upper part and came down quickly with the landing net. But there was no need for any hurry, the fish was slowly moving through the pool. As soon Daniel was able to get one or two meters of line back onto his reel, the fish turned around and took some more line. After some time Thies saw the fish in the water and he was sure that this fight will not end very quickly. Just a short time after the fish did leave the pool through the side channel on the right side down streams of New Pool. Daniel and Thies did not had a choice and followed the fish almost all the way down to Maela rock. When the big male salmon was finally in the net, both could not believe what they saw. Daniel measured the fish and he estimated the weight of this 120 cm long fish to approx. 18,5 kg/ 41lbs. It was worth to get wet for this fish. Daniel released the salmon after a very quick picture.



Daniel with his

Also Thies was rewarded for his efforts and landed first a fresh salmon, covered in sea lice of about 7 kg and a little later he caught a female of approx. 9 kg.



Thies with his sea liced salmon form Beat A1.



Thies with a hen fish of approx. 9 kg, landed on Beat A1.

Erlend Granoien managed to land the next really big fish - this time in Lodge Pool. He fished upper part of the pool with a friend, when he got a nice take which acted in a very weird manner. It looked a little bit like that the fish did not realize that he was hooked. After a sort fight Erlend managed to land his biggest salmon so far. It was a big male, measuring 112 cm and estimated to weigh approx. 14 kg/ 31 lbs. Also Erlend released the fish carefully after a quick picture.



Erlend Granoien with his salmon measuring 112 cm and estimated to weigh approx. 14 kg caught on the Lodge Pool.

As well Nic Schwerdtfeger managed to land some very nice fish during the last days of the season. He caught 3 salmon between 7,5 and 8 kg on Beat E7 and E7a and a nice fish of 80 cm on Beat A1.



Nic with a good salmon from Beat A1.

Also Simon Kitcher managed to land some nice fish up to 8,5 kg. Sadly he lost a very big fish on Beat E1A. Simon estimated the length far over 100 cm. As a small compensation, he landed this female of about 6.5 kg on Beat E2.



Simon with his salmon from Beat E2.

Thies Reimers managed to land the last fish of the season on the NFC water on Beat G1. After a hard take and a strong fight Thies managed to land a beautiful female salmon measuring 114 cm. Sadly he was on his own and did not get any nice picture. He released the fish carefully after taking a picture with the exhausted fish under water.



The last fish of the season on the NFC Beats, a nice female of 114 cm.

The final result for the Gaula (05.09.2018) is 25.616 kg/ 56,483 lbs. (24.726 kg in 2017) with 5.499 (5.095 in 2017) salmon landed. This is not the final result, usually some fish will be registered after the season. The catch breaks down to 1.836 Grise under 3 kg with a total weight of 3.127 kg, 2.518 medium sized salmon (between 3 and 7 kg) with a total weight of 12.512 kg and 1.145 large salmon over 7 kg with a total weight of 9.976 kg. Compared to 2017 the numbers for Grise and 3 sea winter fish are a bit lower but the amount of medium sized salmon increased by 815 registered fish!

The forecast for the season 2019 is looking very good (by having a look at the catch reports from 2018). The big increase of medium sized fish should be a good basis for massive returns of large three sea winter salmon (over 7 kg) during the season 2019.

Despite the difficult conditions during most part of the 2018 season, the booking situation for 2019 is already very good and only a few rods are available during the "Prime Time" weeks. If you would like to fish at the Gaula next season, it is now the time to reserve your rods, to avoid disappointment. Please bear in mind that August fishing is available at roughly only the half of what fishing in June and July costs. For a specific offer, please contact us by email at [info@internationalflyfishersclub](mailto:info@internationalflyfishersclub) or by phone at: 0049 (0) 40 589 23 02.