**NEWS 2018**

**\*\*\*\* Welcome to the New NAA Website \*\*\*\***

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**Update on the Nairn Angling Association 2018 AGM meeting**

**Salmon and grilse catches for 2018 were actually quite respectable considering the low water levels for most of the 2018 season. The recorded catches were 223 salmon and 21 seatrout.**

**Worthy of special mention was that the club not only met but significantly exceeded the Nairn fishery board recommendations with 82% of salmon being released by members. This shows the club is really taking conservation seriously and club members deserve a lot of credit.**

**The club has voted to change the opening day which will now be the 11th February 2019 rather than 1st Saturday in March, the close season date remains the same. As it is not practical to have this during the week the official opening ceremony will be on Saturday 16th February at 10:00 a.m at the Jubilee Bridge in Nairn.**

**There will be no change to permit prices for 2019. A new rule will be introduced to stop high bank fishing from the following pools - Howford Pot, Hanger and Firhall. The new permit will also have now have a space so you can record the amount of time you have spent fishing, this is a new legal requirement for all angling clubs.**

**The club have also decided that when river levels reach 0.4 m on the Sepa "Firhall" gauge that the river should be fly only.**

**It is hoped that all members will respect this new recommendation. The website for the sepa Firhall gauge can be found at**

**http://apps.sepa.org.uk/waterlevels/?sd=t&lc=234218**

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**The club will for 2019 have Exchange tickets with Dingwall Angling club who have salmon and seatrout fishing on the lower river Conon. To find out more about the fishing on the Lower Conon have a look at the clubs website www.rivercononfishing.co.uk**

**The main advantage of having access to this fishing is the Conon does not suffer from low water as it is Hydro controlled.**

**There has also been a change to the award of the cup for the first fish of the year. There is now no requirement to kill any fish and bring it into Pat Frasers. In 2019 the cup  will be awarded to the angler catching the first clean salmon after opening day.**

**To be considered for the cup a clear photo of the fish with a date stamp must be provided to the committee as soon as possible after the catch. Alternatively if the fish is witnessed as a clean fish by another member this could also be acceptable. Ultimately the final decision will be made by the clubs committee.**

**During peak season the bailiff will now receive additional assistance for the checking of permits up and down the river.**

**Tight lines to all for 2019 !!**

**\*\* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 \*\*\***

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The Nairn angling association AGM will take place on the 11th December 2018  at 19:30. The venue will  the usual place at St Ninian Bowling Club, Viewfield Drive Nairn. All club members are strongly encouraged attend, this is your chance to air your views and listen to the what work the committee have been and are carrying out to benefit your club.

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**7th October 2018**

**This was a week of nice water levels, but catches were disappointing. On Monday Cameron Macleod had a grilse, Wednesday and Davie Campbell had 2 grilse and Gordon Rennie also had 2 grilse. Saturday and Gordon had another grilse and Billy Hossack a grilse, all released. The season has now ended and it has not been a memorable one due the the months of low water. Fresh fish were a rarity and most fish that were caught were coloured. The best month was September when about 70 fish were caught, but most were released. Members are requested to put their catch returns in to Pat Frasers as soon as possible and within the next 2 weeks. This is vital as it is catches that will keep our river grading category of 1. Hopefully the powers that be will realise that this has been an exceptional year with a very dry summer, and will take this into account. Have a good close season everyone !!**

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**1st October 2018**

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**Another great week for catches, and we are catching up fast for the previous 3 months of low water. Monday and Ron Cameron was on the mark with a fresh 10 lb salmon, Gordon Rennie and Davie Campbell had a grilse each and Billy Milne had a great couple of hours, with 4 grilse and an 8 lb salmon. Prior to that he had hooked a huge fish that cruised up and down the pool for 10 minutes with not a show, and finally broke him on an underwater snag. Tuesday and Charlie Black had a grilse, Billy Maitland a grilse and Gordon Rennie on the mark again with 2 grilse. Wednesday and Gordon once again had a grilse. Thursday and the river had a good flood, and nothing was caught. Friday was a good level and Billy Milne had another great catch of 2 salmon of 16 lbs and 14 lbs, and 2 grilse on his Allys and Stoats tail flies and Gordon Rennie another grilse. All the above fish were safely released. Saturday and a gale put off most anglers from having a cast. A significant number of salmon have been seen to quickly move up the river over the last weeks this shows the Nairn is not sufferring any real downturn in numbers of migratory fish. It is also greatly encouraging to see the very high number of fish being returned by members. This coming week is the last week of the season.**

**Season 2018 saw the passing of long term Nairn fisher and expert local gardner James Mackenzie. A picture of the great wee hut built for him by a fellow member at his favourite pool Graemes can be seenon gallery page.**

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**23rd September 2018**

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**This was a great week for water, and at last we had 2 good floods. Catches were up to normal for the Nairn but no fresh fish were caught, which sums up the poor season with little or no water for months. Monday and in low water Gordon Rennie managed a grilse. Tuesday saw the best spate of the year and because of the slime on the river bed and assorted rubbish coming down, it was blank. Wednesday saw a nice water colour and plenty were caught. Dr Marc Macmillan had 2 salmon of 8 and 10 lbs and 2 grilse, Billy Milne had his first fish of the season, a grilse, Gordon Rennie a grilse and a sea trout and Adrian Ormerod 2 grilse. Thursday saw another spell of heavy rain and very high water and 1 grilse was caught by Cameron Macleod. Friday and levels were perfect and Billy Milne had 2 grilse, Davie Campbell had his first fish of the season 3 grilse, David Johnstone had 4 grilse and Jake Steven 2 grilse. Saturday with levels dropping back saw Davie Campbell having another grilse, Pat Jackson having his 1 st success of the season with 2 grilse, John Mackintosh a sea trout and Gordon Rennie with another 3 grilse. All the above fish were coloured and released. With only 2 weeks to go before the season ends, the weather seems to be getting good again and low water appears to be coming once again**

**15 September 2018**

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**Monday saw a rise in levels of a few inches and catches were quite good for the next few days. Levels dropped away by the end on the week though, and we badly need a decent flood now, to get rid of the slime on the river bed. Monday and Billy Maitland broke his duck with 2 grilse, Davie Mackintosh also had a grilse, Gordon Rennie 4 grilse and James Dunbar 3 salmon. All the fish were red and released. Tuesday and Thomas Lobar landed 3 grilse, Gordon Rennie a grilse and Billy Milne opened his season with a grilse, all released. Wednesday and Thomas Lobar landed another 2 grilse. Thursday and Charlie Black had a grilse on a small Flamethrower. All fish were released. The forecast looks promising with heavy showers coming most days next week, so maybe we will get good water for the last 3 weeks of the season.**

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**9 September 2018**

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**Finally heavy rain up in the mountains gave us a rise of several inches . The river became filthy due to the sediment on the bottom, on friday evening the Nairn came up about 7 inches.  
Saturday and with a dropping level plenty fish were caught in the bottom half of the river. Many fish were seen running hard from pool to pool up at Milton but they would not take.**

**Cameron Macleod had his ever salmon ever of 10 lbs, and also a grilse, so well done Cameron !**

**David Johnstone returned a 7 lb salmon and a grilse, Davie Mackintosh also had two a 10 lb salmon and a grilse, George Liddell from Falkirk had a 10 lb salmon, James Dunbar also had a 10 lb salmon and Billy Hossack with a grilse we also had a late report that Stewart Davis also landed 2 grilse. The majority of these fish were released to continue their journey upstream.**

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**The level has dropped away again but with heavy showers forecast all week, hopefully we will get another rise. The Nairn has never suffered a shortage of fish but we do need the water and this has been an exceptionally dry year. With only 4 weeks left of the season, many anglers are still to break their duck but conditions are finally improving tight lines to all our members !!**

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**2nd September 2018**

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**This week we had a small rise of an inch and this seemed to stir things up for a day or 2 but the river has now dropped back to its very low level again. Fishing very small flies was the method used and the successful anglers were Thomas Lobar with 2 grilse, Hughie Fraser with a grilse and his Czech workmate also had 2 grilse, all fish were released. There may be a chance of rain later in the week but it needs plenty to give us a decent rise in levels now.**

**\*\*\* Nairn Angling Association special notice to members \*\*\***

**Due to the very low water, the River Nairn association committee is recommending that members r*efrain from fishing all the clubs water from the Howford Bridge down to the sea*, this is purely a recommendation and not mandatory.**

**Fishing can be resumed once the water level reaches 0.4 meters on the SEPA website on the Firhall station. Link to Sepa water levels is on this page.**

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**Members are reminded that the *mandatory* ban on fishing the Howford Pot continues until the water level reaches 0.4 meters on the Firhall Sepa gauge, at this point fishing can then continue normally.**

**Thanks in advance to all members for their co-operation in these exceptional circumstances.**

**12th August 2018**

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**Yet another week passes with no rise in levels and the resulting no catches. Fish are plentiful in the harbour area and can be seen swimming back and forth with the tide but its too low to allow any to get up. With the season only having 8 weeks left, and no foreseeable rain on the horizon, it is looking grim for our members. With only a handful of fish caught so far this season, things can only get better.**

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**29th July 2018**

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**The long dry spell continues, most rivers including the Nairn have plenty of fish in the Estuary waiting for rain. Some rain around today but it probably wont be enough. Some fish have been picked up in the low water during last week Gordon Rennie and Charlie Black were both successful. Committee members have been out last week clearing paths with strimmers so thanks to them it cant have been much fun in the blistering heat.**

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**22nd July 2018**

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**At last we had a spell of heavy rain on friday, but the river only rose a paltry 3 inches on saturday and promptly fell back to well below summer level. Plenty fish were seen running up on saturday and Gordon Rennie had a sea liced grilse and lost another 2. Sandy Wallace also had 2 grilse fishing in the evening both 4 lbs. Wednesday and Sandy Ord had a sea liced 7 lb salmon in Town Water. We badly need  a good flood to get things moving but the signs are not good, with seemingly no rain in the coming week.**

**The following is an update from Fisheries management Scotland regarding Pink Salmon :**

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**We have been informed of a recent capture of a pink salmon on the south coast of Norway by an angler, and we understand that a pink salmon may have been caught in commercial nets in NE England. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all DSFBs and Trusts to remain vigilant to the possibility of these fish turning up again in Scotland this year. It is important that anglers, and other stakeholders are also made aware of this possibility.**

**Whilst it was initially felt that the odd-year class of fish were likely to be most prevalent, it is possible that stocks from even-year classes may occur. As before, Fisheries Management Scotland will assist with the collection of any information on incidences of these fish, and if you do record any sightings or captures, please advise us as soon as possible. Please record the following information, and, where possible, retain whole fish, scale or tissue samples.**

**Date caught**

**Location with approximate grid reference  - (you can use https://gridreferencefinder.com/)**

**Method of capture (or details of mortality)**

**Sex of fish**

**Size of fish length (cm) weight (kg)**

**Scale sample retained (y/n)**

**Frozen sample retained (y/n)**

**Any other relevant information**

**Contact the Nairn Bailiff if you have one of these fish.**

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**1st July 2018**

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**Week beginning 18th June and the drought conditions continued and the level on the upper river dropped below the previous record, and was within 2cm of the record on the lower river. Heavy showers gave some relief to the Findhorn but missed the Nairn catchment - a one inch rise was all we got. This however was enough to stimulate at least one fish and Tackie Mackintosh landed a 4lb grilse on the lower river. Shoals of grilse have been seen at the mouth of the river.  
  
  
Week beginning 26th saw a 12lb fish to Tomma Reay, Tackie Mackintosh also had a 12lb fish, John Main a 7 pounder, and Stuart Hayden a 14 pounder (returned). A few grilse in the 4lb range were also landed. Shoals of grilse are still to be seen at the river mouth so sport could be good when we get rain, but at the time of writing the settled spell seems set to continue.  
  
  
Important notice for all members "until further notice fishing at the the Howford Pot is not allowed".**

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**3rd June 2018**

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**Well the rain last week never really came to anything and the Nairn remains extremely low it looks like we heading for a mini heatwave next week which is the last thing we need. Seldom has there been such a prolonged shortage of rainfall on the river much to the dismay of Nairn anglers. The Nairn is not alone as many other spate rivers are in the same predicament.**

**An interesting point is that Hydro controlled rivers in particular the Conon have in the last 2 weeks seen the appearance of a reasonable number of Grilse. This is much earlier than normal usually it is mid July before they are seen in any numbers. There is no doubt the long cold winter has impacted spring fish coming into the river unfortunately since it warmed up we haven’t had any rain to speak of. For sure when it does come there should be a large number of fish coming into the river.**

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**28th May 2018**

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**The river reached its all time low at Balnafoich last week, since SEPA started recording. This did however benefit some of the planned river work to  rebuild some damaged croys and also remove trees that were embedded in some of the pools in the Kildrummie area. The landowners had given us permission and after a presentation to SEPA which got approval, the work was carried out last week. Hopefully this will benefit our members and also the river itself. What we need now is some water and it may be coming later on this week on Thursday. Thanks to our committee members and other members who gave their time to assist with this work.**

**28th May 2018**

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**River levels are back down and we have a bit of a heatwave so prospects are not good. Mike Hendry hooked a big fish in Cawdor Pot and lost it on Friday then Saturday Davie Mackintosh hooked the fish of a lifetime in the Howford Pot and after a 20 minute battle it took him through a root and broke him - says it was at least 20 lbs. Goes to show some decent fish have moved in with that last rise in water.**

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**23rd May 2018**

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**Well the river did come up but not to a level you could described as a spate, however it should have been enough to entice some fish in. Unfortunately the expected influx of fish did not materialise. A large number of anglers were out early doors but results were in the main disapointing although there were some successful anglers. There are unconfirmed reports of a 17lb and 8lb fish caught. However a nice sea-liced fish of 11lb was caught and safely returned by Dave Johnstone see gallery. Another fish was reported caught by Eddie Wallace from Budgate at 12lb.**

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**21st May 2018**

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**Things have been very quiet of late with no rain the river has dropped a significant amount as can be seen from photos from above and below the bridge at Milton. No doubt there will be large number of fish now waiting in the harbour to run the river. However things may just be about to change as the current rain which will continue into tomorrow morning will no doubt put the river up enough to encourage these fish to run the river. These will all be springers and there will be some big ones among them so make sure you use appropriate leader material within the clubs limits....tight lines !!**

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**16th May 2018**

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**Nothing to report although this should not be a surprise due to the lack of rain and low water. It has been reported that there are plenty of salmon smolts being seen in most of the pools seen so thats a good sign.**

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**Our Bailiff Alastair has asked should anyone spot any diseased fish in the river that they contact him 0782 5554808 and do not try to remove the fish themselves, he will take care of the fish.**

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**9th May 2018**

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**Nothing to report for last week aside from the fish landed by Gordon. The river has dropped back once again to summer level and more rain is urgently needed but the forecast for this week is dry, so low levels are going to be the norm. Even the smolt trap has stopped working due to low river level. The outlook does not look good as no rain seems to be the forecast for the next 2 weeks​**

**Recently the bailiff has found some anglers fishing with fixed spool (spinning) reels and weights while the red marker on the gauge is visible. Members are reminded of the LOW WATER rules (11, 12 and 13 in the permit)**

**When the red marker is exposed:**

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* **Spinning reels are NOT permitted while worm fishing (only a centre pin fly reel can be used).**
* **Weights are NOT allowed (other than a single size 4 swivel).**
* **Spinning is NOT allowed.**
* **Weighted flies e.g. brass or copper tubes, or weighted leaders are NOT allowe**d.

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**3rd May 2018**

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​**A small rise on the river today did put some fish on the move, Gordon Rennie caught and released a nice sea-liced fish from the Howford see gallery.**

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**28th April 2018**

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​**A quiet week on the Nairn with the river falling away to almost summer level. No catches to report this week. On the flip side the next lift in water will be as a result of rainfall and not snowmelt this should bring in good numbers of fish. Last May Charlie Black took an amazing picture (see 2017 gallery) showing the fish that had built up in the harbour when the river level was low.**

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**The Bailiff has still been busy spraying hogweed on the paths at Colins and the Green road so please do not touch these plants. He will be doing more spraying next week. Also he reports that unfortunately the smolt trap has had to be de-activated due to the low water level level.**

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**Members will see signs on different parts of the river recommending all anglers return all fish up to the 1st May, thereafter to aim for a 75% return rate until the end of the season. It is great to report  that at the end of April anglers have been following this with a 100% of all fish caught having being returned, well done to all anglers concerned !**

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**22nd April 2018**

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​**The river dropped back this week as have the catches, John Mackintosh from Inverness caught and released a fish of 7lbs from the run above the Hut pool and David Mackintosh had a nice 3lb Seatrout.**

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**15th April 2018**

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​**Late report of another fish was reported off the Nairn. Peter Fletcher took out a day ticket on Thursday and was rewarded with an 8 lb salmon which he released. Friday and 2 sea trout were caught by Davie Campbell, Dr Marc MacMillan both released. A seatrout was also returned earlier in the week by Scott.The smolt trap was also installed on wednesday to sample the annual smolt migration, the smolt trap is downstream of the Milton pool and already getting smolts so its a good sign of a healthy river. The numbers will likely rise significantly when temperature rises next week. Its very interesting to see, if you would like to come and watch and or help the team are there every morning from 08:00 see gallery.**

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**11th April 2018**

**Another fish has been reported off the Nairn on Tuesday, this time a real beauty of 17lb caught and safely returned by Gordon Rennie see gallery. Late report of another fish caught today by Marc MacMillan who landed and safely returned a lovely fish of 12lb also on gallery page.**

**10th April 2018**

**The Nairn 2018 season is finally off the mark with a cracking 10lb fish landed by Kevin Graham on Monday the 9th April. The fish was caught in the Hanger pool on a Cascade Monkey Conehead. Kevin carefully returned the fish to resume its journey upstream. Photo of the fish can be seen on the Gallery page.**

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**6th April 2018**

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**Unusually we are still awaiting the first fish of the year from the Nairn despite a number of anglers putting a significant amount of time on the river.**

**In line with a lot of other rivers the cold weather has really made the start to the 2018 season a slow one. The middle of April is normally the time a reasonable number of springers come into the Nairn system so with an uplift in temperature over the next week, it can’t be long before catches are showing in the books. April and May can also see some decent large seatrout come into the system last year there were a sizeable number of fish in the 3-4lb bracket.**

**Small reminder to all Anglers to please ensure they carry their Photo ID Permit with them whenever fishing on the River. If you are approached by our river Bailiff and do not have it in your possession you may be asked to leave the river.**

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**25th March 2018**

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**The river has remained at a good height since opening day but this has almost exlusively been due to snow melt. Despite plenty of anglers out on the water nothing has so far been caught and the forecast in the short term is still to remain cold.**

**There is always a chance of a springer in March, last year the club had 8 in the book at this time. Normally the middle of April sees a reasonable number of springers entering the river this continues up to the end of May so the best time is still to come.**

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**18th March 2018**

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**The river opened on the 3rd of March but so far it has been disappointing, with only a few salmon and sea trout kelts caught. Last year at this time we had 3 springers, the river has been at good height but this is due to snow melt and likely the cold water and air temperature and weather is stopping fish from coming in from the sea, the river temperature is only 3 C. This coming week sees a rise in temperature so hopefully we will see the first salmon caught.**

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**3rd March 2018**

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**A good turnout for the opening day with the anglers all in good spirits .....nothing to do with the beverages of course !**

**The river was opened by Alastair Skinner with a few kind words for the veteran anglers attending. Low water and ice forming along the edges of most of the river did not make the prospects very good although a numbers of anglers did venture for a cast. A rise in temperature will definitely make the Nairn a worthwhile prospect for an early springer.**

**1st March 2018**

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**Only 2 days to go and the opening day looks like it will be a cold one but there are fish in the system. Check out the excellent new page on the website with Beat information kindly supplied by experienced Nairn angler Gordon Rennie.Also the Nairn Angling Association can now also be found on Facebook.**

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**5th Feb 2018**

**Huge thanks to all the members who turned up we had a great turn out of 14 on sunday a record number ! So no more work parties are required. Blair-na-fade is now cleared and fishable which is great news. Also below Milton to Cawdor Pot has been cleared too  so much more fishing available.The opening day is fast approaching and there are already reports of fish  in the system, there are always springers around opening day so start getting your gear ready !!**

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**29th Jan 2018**

**An excellent turnout was achived for the first work party thanks to all who attended. We are having another one this Sunday 4th Feb this time we meet at Milton at 10:00 a.m.**

**River work parties**

**We are starting our work parties on sunday 28th January meeting at Kildrummie at 10.00am each sunday, until we finish the work. Please try to attend as the work benefits all anglers.**